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CELEBRATE SPRING IN DC WITH THE NATIONAL CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL

Outstanding family entertainment from March 20 through April 17, 2016

Washington, DC [March 2, 2016] – The [National Cherry Blossom Festival](#), the nation's greatest springtime celebration, begins the first day of spring, March 20, and continues through April 17, 2016. The 2016 Festival is where DC, our region and nation unite to welcome spring and celebrate the 104th anniversary of Tokyo's gift of cherry blossom trees through shared experiences that showcase traditional arts and culture, our natural world and a vibrant community.

Events & Tours: The Festival opens with the stylish [Pink Tie Party](#) fundraiser presented by ANA on Friday, March 18 hosted by Trade Center Management Associates at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center. The [Opening Ceremony](#), on Saturday, March 26 at the Warner Theatre, features world-class talent from the U.S. and Japan to welcome spring and celebrate the anniversary of the gift of trees. The event is free and open to the public, but advance registration is required online. There is a \$5 processing fee per ticket. The [National Cherry Blossom Festival Parade®](#) presented by Events DC is on Saturday, April 16 from 10 a.m. to noon, and the delayed telecast airs from noon - 2 p.m. on ABC7/WJLA. The Parade marches down Constitution Avenue with exciting performances, celebrity entertainment, lavish floats, giant helium balloons, dance troupes, and more.

Additional signature events that help comprise the 2016 calendar include the [Blossom Kite Festival](#) on Saturday, April 2, the [Southwest Waterfront Fireworks Festival](#) presented by Harris Teeter on Saturday, April 9, the [Sakura Matsuri – Japanese Street Festival](#) produced by The Japan-America Society of Washington DC on Saturday, April 16, Events DC presents [Cherry Blast!](#) on Saturday, April 16, and the official closing and second annual [Anacostia River Festival](#) on Sunday, April 17.

More than 40 participating organizations offer programming throughout the Festival, including rare and renowned arts and culture at institutions. [Tour Providers](#) offer multiple ways to tour the blossoms by bike, foot, and boat.

Throughout the Festival: During the fifth annual [City in Bloom](#) campaign, iconic buildings and transportation hubs light in pink to celebrate the Festival. Area businesses, organizations and individuals spread the spirit of the Festival by using bright pink blossom decals on cars, storefronts, windows, and more. The [Hotel Program](#), in conjunction with DestinationDC, provides Festival-inspired guest packages for visitors. Through the Festival's [Cherry Picks Restaurant Program](#) with Restaurant Association Metropolitan Washington, more than 35 restaurants offer spring-inspired menus.

Information & Planning: Visit Festival headquarters at Union Station, open March 14-April 19, for free information about events and programs and official [merchandise](#). The Tidal Basin Welcome Center and ANA Performance Stage, in conjunction with the National Park Service, is located near the paddle boats at the Tidal Basin and offers free performances daily from April 2 – April 17.

(more)

Bike, Walk, or Metro is best! Visitors and residents are encouraged to bike, walk, or use public transportation whenever possible. Visit goDCgo.com to explore an interactive map and learn about your transportation options. View Metrobus and Metrorail station maps, point-to-point directions, and trip planners on the [Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority website](#). For a more enjoyable trip, take Metrorail during non-rush hours to the Smithsonian Station (Blue/Orange lines). The L'Enfant Plaza Station (Blue/Yellow/Green lines) 7th Street & Maryland Avenue exit is only an extra 10-minute walk to the Tidal Basin. The National Park Service provides free bike racks near the Jefferson Memorial. [Capital Bikeshare](#), a bike rental program, has multiple stations close to the Tidal Basin and Festival events. Visitors can pay for parking through the [Parkmobile](#) app, and [Lyft](#) users can use a special code to donate to the Festival.

The National Cherry Blossom Festival is the nation's greatest springtime celebration. The 2016 Festival, March 20 – April 17, includes three spectacular weeks and four weekends of events featuring diverse and creative programming promoting traditional and contemporary arts and culture, natural beauty, and community spirit. Visit nationalcherryblossomfestival.org or call 877.44.BLOOM for more information and find us on [Facebook](#) (CherryBlossomFestival), [Twitter](#) (@CherryBlossFest), and [Instagram](#) (@CherryBlossFest).

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