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STEP INTO SPRING IN WASHINGTON, DC! FUN FACTS ABOUT THE 2016 NATIONAL CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL

- In honor of the National Park Service's Centennial, Festival programming encourages attendees to **connect to parks** throughout four weeks of [signature events](#) that highlight parks and green spaces, whether it's by flying a kite on the National Mall, taking a [Pups 'n' Petals](#) dog walk with a National Park Service Ranger, or enjoying the blossoms at the Tidal Basin.
- Kick-off spring with world-renowned performances at the [Opening Ceremony](#), which includes **The 6821 Quintet**, named after the amount of miles between Tokyo and Washington, DC, Pantomime-based silent comedy group **Gamarjobat**, and much more.
- **Soar through the decades** as the [Blossom Kite Festival](#) celebrates 50 years of kite flying on the National Mall with demonstrations, presentations and music from the '70s, '80s, '90s and today.
- **Paint, Pasta, and Philanthropy.** Break away from the typical night out with a potent cocktail of creativity and social connection. Join [iRicchi Ristorante](#) as Shawn Michael Perkins ("Perkasso") paints a cherry blossom adorned Washington landscape in the restaurant to be auctioned to the highest bidder.
- **Find Petal in the Parks!** Petal, the Festival's very own garden gnome, will be popping up in local parks to usher in spring. Look for clues on [social media](#) on March 20 and find Petal for a chance to win the ultimate Festival prize pack. Happy hunting!
- **Have your portrait drawn by a robot**, make your own monument for the National Mall, and create an origami garden all at [Family Day](#) presented by the National Building Museum on Saturday, March 26.
- Eat, drink, and be pink at the [Pink Tie Party](#) presented by ANA for the **first time on a Friday night**. Partygoers will be dazzled by taiko master Kenny Endo as they sip sake, cocktails, and specialty beverages in a modern interpretation of **hanami**. Enjoy the tastes of spring with DC's hottest restaurants, and bid on luxury items at the spectacular silent auction.
- **Sounds and Sights of the Festival.** Amidst the blossoms, the Tidal Basin Welcome Area and ANA Performance Stage has **over 100 free cultural performances** daily from April 2-17.
- **Enjoy a Festival-filled finale!** The [National Cherry Blossom Festival Parade®](#), airing on WJLA/ABC-7, steps off on April 16 from 10am-noon. Co-hosted by ABC's **Alison Starling**, and **Leon Harris**, the Parade features all-star celebrity talent, giant helium balloons, elaborate floats, and more. The annual [Sakura Matsuri--Japanese Street Festival](#) follows, produced by The Japan-America Society, in its 2016 location in the Capital Riverfront neighborhood. Keep the party going when [Events DC presents Cherry Blast!](#) brings all things anime to the Carnegie Library from 6pm-2am. The [Anacostia River Festival](#) returns as the official closing of the National Cherry Blossom Festival on Sunday, April 17.
- Catch a ride to the Festival on the **DC Circulator's #BlossomBus**, and look out for pink and petals throughout the area as the [City in Bloom](#) campaign returns.

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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