



## **SAKURA DAYS JAPAN FAIR, THE BIG PICNIC, AND SPRING LIGHTS ILLUMINATION HIGHLIGHT BUSIEST WEEKEND OF VANCOUVER CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL**

**Vancouver, BC (April 11, 2018)** – This Saturday and Sunday (April 14 & 15) will be the busiest weekend of the Vancouver Cherry Blossom Festival, with three spectacular public events taking place within walking distance of each other at VanDusen Botanical Garden and Queen Elizabeth Park.

### **SATURDAY, APRIL 14**

#### **SAKURA DAYS JAPAN FAIR PRESENTED BY JTB INTERNATIONAL & SILKWAY TRAVEL**

VanDusen Botanical Garden  
(11am-7pm)

Presented by [JTB International](#) & [Silkway Travel](#), the Sakura Days Japan Fair is one of Vancouver's largest celebration of Japanese culture. Thousands of people are expected for this family-friendly festival that celebrates traditional and modern Japanese culture. Experience Japan with hands-on workshops and try your hand at calligraphy, origami and other Japanese arts and crafts demonstration. This year, Waraku once again presents sublime Japanese traditional folk music, featuring Tsugaru Shamisen (Japanese three-string instrument) musician Kohei Honda and world-renowned Japanese drum player, Keita Kanazashi.

Sakura Days Japan Fair is produced by the [Japan Fair Association of Vancouver](#) (JFAV), the all-volunteer organizing committee of this two-day event. Admission to VanDusen Botanical Garden is required and early bird tickets are available online at the VCBF.ca website until April 13 (11:30pm PDT). For more information, visit <http://www.vcbf.ca/community-event/sakura-days-japan-fair>

### **SATURDAY, APRIL 14**

#### **THE BIG PICNIC PRESENTED BY TD BANK GROUP**

Queen Elizabeth Park (33<sup>rd</sup> and Cambie)  
(12pm-3pm)

Presented by [TD Bank Group](#), The Big Picnic is Vancouver's largest spring picnic and the ideal place to view and celebrate some of Vancouver's largest and most spectacular cherry trees. Hundreds of Vancouverites and visitors are expected for this spring celebration near the park's 33<sup>rd</sup> and Cambie entrance, where 20 Akebono and Yoshino cherry trees, along with 10 more cultivars, will be in full bloom. Family-friendly activities will include face-painting, walking meditation, life-size jenga, connect four, and performances by local artists. YYoga is offering a free 45-minute yoga class. (Spots are first come first serve. Bring your own mat.) In addition, the Vancouver Fire & Rescue Services will display a big fire truck for fun family photos. Bring your own picnic lunch or visit our three food trucks on site (Tacofino, Disco Cheetah, and McCafé, which will be handing out free espresso, hot chocolate and coffee). For more information, visit <http://www.vcbf.ca/community-event/the-big-picnic>

**SATURDAY, APRIL 14**  
**SPRING LIGHTS ILLUMINATION**

Queen Elizabeth Park (33<sup>rd</sup> and Cambie)  
(Dusk-10pm)

Spring Lights Illumination will see artists [Hfour](#) illuminate Queen Elizabeth Park's largest cherry tree canopy with vibrant projections and multi-coloured lanterns, along with a new walkthrough experience this year. The illumination will be set up for unobstructed views ideal for night photography and picnicking in the spring evening air under cherry blossoms! Choreographer [Heather Laura Gray](#) and [Lamondance](#) will be returning with their spring interpretive dances performed throughout the evening. We'll also have three food trucks on site: Tacofino; Disco Cheetah; and McCafé, which will be handing out free espresso, hot chocolate and coffee). For more information, visit <http://www.vcbf.ca/community-event/spring-lights>

**SUNDAY, APRIL 15**  
**SAKURA DAYS JAPAN FAIR PRESENTED BY JTB INTERNATIONAL & SILKWAY TRAVEL**

VanDusen Botanical Garden  
(11am-5pm)

Presented by [JTB International](#) & [Silkway Travel](#), day two of the Japan Fair will also feature a wide range of Japanese cultural activities such as ikebana floral displays, shamisen & percussion performances, cooking demos, garden displays, martial arts demonstrations, origami lessons, tea ceremonies, haiku workshops, woodworking demos, sake tasting workshops, and lots of festival food!

"I encourage everyone in the Lower Mainland to join us at VanDusen Botanical Garden and Queen Elizabeth Park for a special weekend of Festival programming," says Festival Executive Director Linda Poole. "The beauty of the blossoms in peak bloom and the opportunity to enjoy blossom-inspired music, food, song and dance with old friends and new friends is sure to lift everyone's spirits as we celebrate Spring together. Our sincere thanks to Japan Fair Association of Vancouver and all our wonderful Festival and event sponsors for making this special weekend possible."

**About the 2018 Vancouver Cherry Blossom Festival:**

Presented by Coromandel Properties and the Vancouver Board of Parks & Recreation, the Vancouver Cherry Blossom Festival is a charitable not-for-profit organization whose mission is to sustain and renew Vancouver's cherry tree heritage, and to actively engage diverse communities through accessible arts and culture that celebrates the transcendent fragile beauty of the cherry blossom. Cherry blossom viewing has become a joyful springtime tradition in our city now as people marvel as 54 different varieties blossom across our city. Raffle tickets offering a one-in-500 chance to win an Economy Class Round-trip, Air Canada System Wide Ticket, valid on flights operated by Air Canada, Air Canada Rouge and Air Canada Express. Raffle tickets are available at all VCBF events. For more information, visit: [www.vcbf.ca](http://www.vcbf.ca)

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