



Awakening of the Flowers

Given its long vertical stretch from south to north, spring progresses gradually up the Japanese archipelago. The much-loved season of cherry blossoms is also when underground bulbs that have weathered the severe winter begin to stir themselves from their slumber.



Matsuyama | EHIME 愛媛

Niigata | NIIGATA 新潟



Aesthetic harmony: a famous castle, and blossoms that symbolize Japan

On the shore of the serenely beautiful Seto Inland Sea sits the city of Matsuyama in Ehime Prefecture. Matsuyama Castle, in the middle of the city, has 21 Important Cultural Properties, such as the main tower and other structures built more than 400 years ago, highly prized throughout Japan. Every April, the cherry trees all burst into bloom at the same time, making viewers feel that spring has truly arrived. Matsuyama will host the G20 Summit Labor and Employment Ministers' Meeting on September 1 and 2, 2019.

<http://en.matsuyama-sightseeing.com/>

Bulbs that have waited all winter long, now in joyous blossom

Niigata City in Niigata Prefecture, one of the largest cities on the Japan Sea coast, is a major agricultural producer. On May 11 and 12, 2019, it will host the Agriculture Ministers' Meeting of the G20 Summit. Japanese learned to cultivate tulip bulbs over a century ago from Holland. Today it has been adopted as the city's emblematic flower, with over 500 varieties of different shapes and colors that delight the eye.

<https://www.nvcb.or.jp/travelguide/en/>

