

## A Historical Walk Around Kyoto

### Hanaikada

In April, we can see beautiful scenery of the cherry blossoms all around Kyoto.

The cherry blossom is the symbol flower of Japan has been composed for *Waka* (a Japanese poem) since ancient times and might be the most familiar flower to Japanese.

Their petals floating down on the river called “*Hanaikada*” linked to the appearance to the “*Ikada*”, which is a kind of a simple raft constructed of logs bind together.

By the way, there is a flower named “*Hanaikada*”. It blooms a small flower on its leaf in spring named as the leaf related to *Ikada*.

### Hanaikada floating on the river

There are many calm rivers in Kyoto city, such as the “*Biwako Sosui*” which is a canal to transport water of Lake Biwa to Kyoto city in addition to Takase river, Shirakawa river. We can admire the cherry blossoms both of the ones blooming over the river sides and floating on the water as the “*Hanaikada*”. *Tetsugaku no Michi* (a Philosopher’s walk), in Sakyo-ku , which is one of the 100 best Japanese walks, is the representative scenes capable being enjoyed the tunnel of the cherryblossoms both sides of the river and pink petals *Hanaikada* floating on the water at the same time. It is crowded with people to view the blossoms every year.

### Beautiful words related to cherry blossoms

It might be romantic and elegant to walk talking casually about the words related to cherry blossoms while viewing them of the trees and their appearance as if they bloom again on the rivers.

There are many beautiful Japanese words related to cherry blossoms in addition to *Hanaikada*, “*Sakura-bito*”, representing the people admiring the cherry blossoms, “*Sakura-ame*” meaning the rain in this season, “*Hana-bie*” representing a sudden cold spell during this season etc.

How about you enjoy the cherry blossoms in this spring not to overdo it until being “*Hanadukare*” which means to get tired by frolic for the cherry blossoms.

Cherry Blossoms and their Hanaikada by Tetsugaku no Michi



Flower of Hanaikada

