Out & About
WHERE TO GO, WHAT TO SEE, AND UPLIFTING WAYS TO ENJOY THE SEASON

ON THE ROAD

PETAL PARADE
When cherry trees explode into flush but fleeting blossoms, it’s time to get out and see them. A double allée of the ‘Kanzan’ variety and 40 other cultivars captivate crowds at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden’s Sakura Matsuri, or cherry-blossom festival (right). Live music and dance honor the trees’ Japanese heritage. Here are three more places to spot them.

WASHINGTON, D.C.
At this year’s event, which marks the 107th anniversary of Tokyo gifting our capital more than a thousand Yoshino trees, you can picnic in a grove of the blooms. March 20 to April 14, nationalcherryblossomfestival.org.

SAN FRANCISCO
Head to the Northern California Cherry Blossom Festival and take a workshop on ikebana flower-arranging, or watch taiko drums and martial-arts performances. April 13 to 21, sfcherryblossom.org.

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE
In 2018, the city met its 10-year goal of planting 1,000 trees downtown and in the suburbs. The fest kicks off with a two-and-a-half-mile walk to take them in. April 13, nashvillecherryblossomfestival.org.

ON OUR BOOKSHELF

The photos in Kengo Kuma: Portland Japanese Garden (Rizzoli Electa) capture 12 famously lush acres in Oregon that look as if they’ve been airlifted from just outside Kyoto. Multimedia maker Leanne Shapton’s Guestbook: Ghost Stories (Riverhead) lays out a mesmerizing pastiche of found photos, original art, and dinner-party anecdotes that answer the question “What haunts us?” with evidence so chilling, you’ll keep flipping through the fear. If you can’t get to the brioche-filled case at L.A.’s hottest pastry hub, grab Baking at République (Lorena Jones Books), filled with cofounder Margarita Manzke’s inventive spin-offs of French classics. Life with kids comes with décor challenges; Elements of Family Style (Touchstone) shares designer and new mom Erin Gates’s solutions, like chic Lego storage and sectionals that’ll outlast 300 Lion King viewings.

WHY NOT?

Nurture Nature
Behold something breathtaking and help save the planet on an active eco-excursion.

Huntington Beach, California
Without intervention, trash in Huntington Harbour drifts right into the ocean. The Surfrider Foundation intercepts it on scenic kayak trips that double as cleanup missions. hbsurfrider.org.

Colorado
Kid-friendly trips with Volunteer for Outdoor Colorado take groups hiking on backcountry trails and camping beneath the stars, between gardening-and-planting sessions in national forests. voc.org.

Maui, Hawaii
Help clear invasive plant species and get a close-up of Hawaiian history: The Pacific Whale Foundation puts volunteers in stunning natural areas that are otherwise closed to the public, like a decades-old archaeological site in the Honokowai Valley. pacificwhale.org.