

**BOOK BEFORE 30 NOVEMBER 2009 AND RECEIVE A  
COMPLIMENTARY POST-CRUISE EXTENSION IN TOKYO**

# Timeless Japan

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*An exploration of Japan and Korea aboard the MS Clipper Odyssey*

*10th to 24th May 2010*



**NOBLE CALEDONIA**

The perfect way to explore Japan is by sea. Nowhere in this 'Land of the Rising Sun' is far from the sea and indeed most of the more beautiful and interesting places are on the coast or on offshore islands. Our itinerary is a marvellous balance of ancient castles, serenely beautiful gardens and opulent temples and shrines combined with Japan's lovely natural landscapes. Like all well-planned itineraries we will include some of the country's best known highlights, but equally we will also take you to some places that foreign tourists rarely set foot.

Our vessel, the 128-passenger *MS Clipper Odyssey*, allows us to visit out of the way destinations and remote stretches of coast which would not be practical on a regular land tour. It is in such places that we find timeless villages, rural landscapes and a rich cultural heritage that are a million miles from the densely populated cities of central Japan. Such places provide the strongest of memories and allow you to immerse yourself in the myth and mystique of this ancient land. In addition, as our course takes us past the south eastern tip of Korea, we cannot resist a day in Kyongju, the 'Museum without Walls' where history comes vividly to life among the tombs, temples, shrines and pleasure gardens. Join us on this voyage of discovery and venture along the historic shores and off the well beaten tourist paths. May is the ideal time to see the countryside at its most verdant and whilst temperatures are still pleasant.

**Please note that although we do not class this cruise as an expedition cruise, Zodiac landing craft will be used on some day for landings or to explore coastal regions.**

### The Itinerary

**Day 1 London to Osaka.** Fly by scheduled indirect flight.

**Day 2 Kobe.** Arrive this afternoon and transfer to the Kobe Okura Hotel for an overnight stay. Remainder of day at leisure.

**Day 3 Himeji.** This morning we will visit Japan's most famed castle, a designated World Heritage Site and a national treasure. The castle's name means 'white egret,' and, indeed, the gleaming white walls that soar high above the plains below do resemble that beautiful bird. This afternoon, transfer to the *MS Clipper Odyssey* which is moored in the city. Sail this evening.

**Day 4 Okayama.** A full day excursion will include the Ceramic Museum and one of Japan's most famed gardens, Koraku-en. This 17th-century formal garden has 28 acres of walking trails, ponds, plum and cherry trees, and a classic teahouse.

**Day 5 Takamatsu & Cruising the Inland Sea.** Today we arrive in Takamatsu on the island of Shikoku. We will tour the city and



also visit the gardens of Ritsurin-Koen, designed at the behest of an early 17th century feudal lord, who envisioned a fantastic garden set against the beautiful backdrop of Mt. Shiun. Spend the afternoon cruising the Inland Sea. Designated a national park, the Inland Sea is an area of great natural beauty with its emerald green waters dotted with thousands of islands.

**Day 6 Hiroshima & Miyajima.** Arrive in Hiroshima to visit the compelling Peace Memorial Park. The park is dotted with memorials, including the cenotaph that contains the names of all the known victims of the Abomb. Return to the ship for lunch and then continue to Miyajima. Considered one of Japan's top scenic wonders, Miyajima provides a picture-postcard vista of the scarlet Torii gate, the giant camphor wood gates at the entrance to the Shinto Shrine. We will go ashore to explore the Itsukushima Jinja Shrine, founded in the 6th century and dedicated to three sea goddesses. The shrine is a designated World Heritage Site.

**Day 7 Uwajima.** Situated deep inside the saw-toothed coast of Uwajima Bay, the city of Uwajima is emerging as the nation's largest pearl cultivation centre. Learn the process of implanting, harvesting, extracting and sorting pearls on a visit to a pearl farm and explore the beautiful and rarely visited Tenshaen Garden, boasting a colourful array of wild irises, wisteria and over 20 species of bamboo. Afternoon cruising.

**Day 8 Yakushima.** After a morning at sea, arrive at Yakushima. The Island became Japan's first UNESCO World Heritage site in 1993, and its natural wonders will astound you. Yakushima has a particularly diverse flora and we will spend our time here on nature walks.

**Day 9 Nagasaki.** We will spend the full day here in this second city destroyed by an A-bomb in World War II. Tour the Atomic Bomb Museum and Glover Garden.

**Day 10 Pusan for Kyongju.** Today embark on a full-day excursion to magnificent Kyongju, a World Heritage Site which is often described as the world's finest open-air museum. As the ancient capital of the Shilla Dynasty, Kyongju's cultural heritage dates back to the first millennium. Today, as we stroll through some of the hundreds of excavated monuments, temples, tombs and pagodas, there will be time to explore the National Museum with its exceptional collection



Kenrokuen Gardens

of finely worked gold jewellery, metal weapons and distinctive pottery. At lunch, sample Korean delicacies and enjoy a cultural performance of traditional dance.

**Day 11 Hagi.** Japan's revolution began here in Jokamachi's old samurai residential quarter, where we will tour a samurai's home. Also visit Daisho Temple, the resting place of the two first Mori daimyo and all the even-numbered daimyo.

**Day 12 Matsue.** Matsue, called the 'town of water,' nestles between a scenic lake and a large lagoon. We will visit the cultural attractions of the town including a 250-year-old samurai house complete with tatami rooms and Matsue Castle. Afternoon cruising. The San-in coastline along the north shore of Honshu offers splendid views of craggy rock faces and rugged shores sculpted by waves. There is a wide range of environments set in the stunning natural landscape of the Izumu Plain - serene lakes, clear rivers and a backdrop of high mountains.

**Day 13 Kanazawa.** Kanazawa is a thriving centre of the arts, long known for its lacquer ware, outstanding collectible pottery of the Kutani style, gold-leaf workmanship, and delicate hand-painting of silk for kimonos and Noh theatre dramas. The narrow and winding cobblestone streets have a quaint photogenic charm. Around each bend is a traditional house, museum, art gallery, crafts shop, historic

samurai residence and even a geisha house to explore. The fascinating open-air market displays a vast variety of items from flowers to fish to local handicrafts. Next to the Kanazawa Castle ruins is one of Japan's premier highlights – the famed Kenrokuen Garden, ranked among the country's top gardens.

**Day 14 Niigata & Tokyo.** Disembark this morning in Niigata and take a bullet train to Tokyo. Transfer to the Imperial Hotel Tokyo for an overnight stay. Enjoy an afternoon tour of this vibrant capital.

**Day 15 Tokyo to London.** Transfer to the airport for the return scheduled indirect flight to London.

### Prices per person

Based on double occupancy Tour code: SCCO100510

CAT	CABIN DESCRIPTION	DECK	
1	Twin with portholes	A	£5995
2	Forward twin with window	Main	£6395
3	Twin with window	Main	£6795
4	Twin with window	Lido	£7295
5	Twin with window	Bridge	£7895
6	Deluxe with veranda	Bridge	£8595
7	Suite with veranda	Bridge	£9195
1	For sole use	A	£6995
2	For sole use	Main	£7695

**Price includes:** Economy class scheduled air travel, overnight accommodation in Kobe and Tokyo on breakfast only basis, 11 nights aboard the *MS Clipper Odyssey* on full board, shore excursions, expedition team, local guides, guest speaker, transfers, port taxes, airport taxes.

**Not included:** Travel insurance, gratuities.

*NB. Ports subject to change.*



Itsukushima Shrine, Miyajima

## OPTIONAL EXTENSIONS

### PRE-CRUISE: KYOTO

8th to 11th May 2010

This three-night extension includes an exploration of Kyoto and Nara. This is an interesting area of Japan, full of hidden gems and some amazing cultural treasures.



Kinkakuji, Kyoto

#### The Itinerary

**Day 1 London to Osaka.** Fly by scheduled indirect flight.

**Day 2 Osaka to Kyoto.** Arrive and transfer from Osaka to the Kyoto Okura Hotel for your three night stay. Remainder of day at leisure.

**Day 3 Kyoto.** With its hundreds of temples and gardens, Kyoto was the former imperial capital and remains the cultural centre of Japan. On a full day sightseeing tour, firstly visit Nijo Castle which dominates the centre of Kyoto and is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Intended to impress visitors, this elaborate castle is more palace than fortress, with defences designed for looks rather than combat. Continue to Kinkakuji, or the Temple of the Golden Pavilion, a famous structure dating from the Muromachi period (1136-1573) and is also on the UNESCO World Heritage List. The upper storeys are covered in gold leaf and the roof is topped by a bronze phoenix. After lunch, we visit Kiyomizu, a Tendai Buddhist temple dating back to 798, although its present buildings were constructed in 1633. It takes its name from the waterfall within the complex which runs off the nearby hills. We will then take a drive to the Sagano and Arashi-yama districts which are located in the western part of Kyoto. In the 8th century, this was a popular area with aristocrats who often came to enjoy the bamboo woods and go boating and the landscape is still reminiscent of that period. See the Tenryu-ji Temple, a world Heritage Site erected in the 14th century by the then shogun, Ashikaga Takauji.

**Day 4 Nara.** Today we have a full day exploring Nara. Todaiji (Great Eastern Temple) is one of Japan's most famous and historically significant temples. Not only does it house Japan's largest Buddha statue, but it is also the world's largest wooden building. Continue to Kasuga Taisha, Nara's most celebrated shrine. It was established at the same time as the capital and dedicated to the deity responsible for the protection of the city. After lunch, visit Horyu-ji, a Buddhist temple in Ikaruga, one of the most celebrated temples in Japan. It is a World Heritage Site and many of its structures, sculptures and artefacts are listed as National Treasures.

**Day 5 Himeji.** Continue as per day 3 of main itinerary.

**Twin: £1145 per person      Single: £1375**

**Price includes:** Three nights accommodation at the Hotel Okura Kyoto on bed and breakfast basis, full day tours of Kyoto and Nara including lunch, transfers, tour manager.

**Not included:** Travel insurance, gratuities.

#### Stay in a Ryoken

On the evening of day 4, there will be the opportunity to spend the night at a traditional Ryokan. You will experience true Japanese culture and customs, staying in a living room with *Tatami* (straw mat) flooring, taking an *Onsen* (hot-spring bath) and sleeping on a *Futon* (bedding) directly on the floor. A typical *Yukata* (robe) will be provided and dinner is also included.

**Twin Share: £150 per person      Single: £300**

### POST CRUISE: TOKYO

24th to 26th May 2010

After disembarking the *MS Clipper Odyssey*, join us for this two-night extension in Tokyo, visiting many of the major sights and a choice of optional excursions to either the beautiful region of Nikko or scenic Fuji and Hakone.

#### The Itinerary

**Day 15 Tokyo.** This morning enjoy a morning sightseeing tour of Tokyo. Visit Meiji Shrine located in Shibuya, a Shinto shrine dedicated to the deified spirits of Emperor Meiji and his wife, Empress Shoken. An iris garden was chosen as the shrine's location, where the Emperor and Empress were known to visit. We will then continue to the Imperial Palace Plaza which comprises the moats and spacious plaza between the east side of the Imperial Palace and the Marunouchi office buildings. Here we see many commemorative sculptures and a lawn with pine groves. Next we visit Nakamise, a 250-metre approach to Sensoji Temple, one of the oldest streets in Japan. The arcade dates from the late 17th century, when local people were granted the special right to open shops along the approach to the temple. The street bustles in colour. Return to the Imperial Hotel Tokyo and enjoy the remainder of day at leisure.

#### Day 16 Nikko or Fuji & Hakone.

Today, enjoy the day at leisure for further independent exploration or choose between two optional full day excursions.

The first is to Nikko, where we will visit Nikko Toshogu Shrine, dedicated to the first shogun of the Tokugawa era, and then to Lake Chuzenji, formed by the eruption of Mt. Nantai. We will see Kegonotaki waterfall, considered one of the most beautiful in Japan.

Alternatively take a full



Mt. Fuji

day trip to Fuji and Hakone. Take in the amazing views from Mt. Fuji Fifth Station before continuing to Hakone, where we will board a cruise boat and travel across Lake Ashi. Stay overnight at the Imperial Hotel Tokyo.

**Day 17 Tokyo to London.** Transfer to the airport for the return scheduled flight to London.

**Twin: £545 per person      Single: £795**

**Price includes:** Two nights accommodation at the Imperial Hotel Tokyo on bed and breakfast basis, half day city tour, transfers, tour manager.

**Not included:** Travel insurance, gratuities, full day excursion including lunch (£99 per person).



Imperial Palace, Tokyo



## MS Clipper Odyssey

We have chartered this fine ship and once onboard you can unpack, relax and enjoy the best of both worlds - a superbly comfortable ship with exciting and rewarding visits ashore. After a day exploring you can return to your floating home for good food and service and a restful night's sleep as we travel on towards another endlessly fascinating day.

Accommodating a maximum of 128 guests, the *MS Clipper Odyssey* is the ideal size for an expedition cruise. Well known in the Pacific waters, she operates trips from Antarctica to the Russian Far East. The well trained crew of 70 provides an excellent service. All staterooms have an ocean view, and each feature lower beds, private bathroom, sitting area with sofa, individual temperature control, in-room

music system and television for film viewing. A lift allows easy access to all passenger decks, and an INMARSAT telecommunications system permits 24-hour e-mail access. International meals are served in the window-lined dining room, individually prepared by the excellent chefs.

Other facilities include a lounge, library, gym, outdoor pool, medical clinic staffed by a registered physician and a gift shop. A fleet of onboard Zodiac landing craft allows exploration and landings anywhere nature or curiosity dictates, accompanied by destination experts individually selected for each voyage. A customised glass-bottom boat affords us a carefree look at the magnificent underwater world.



Category 5 Cabin



Lounge



Category 1 Cabin



Category 2/3/4 Cabin



Library



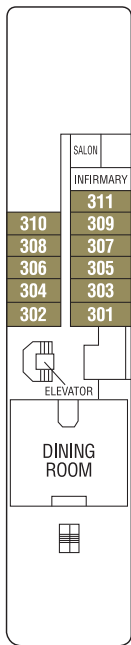
Category 7 Suite



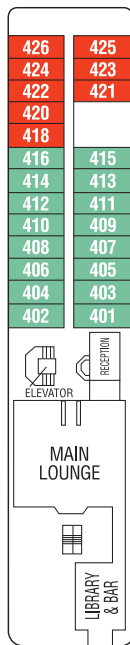
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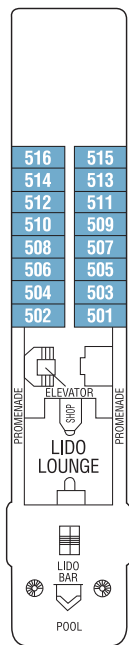
Lido Deck Pool



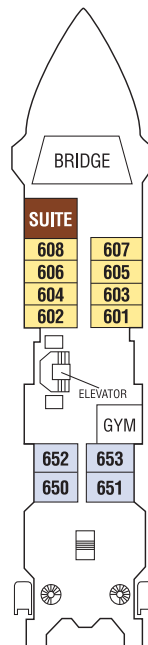
A Deck



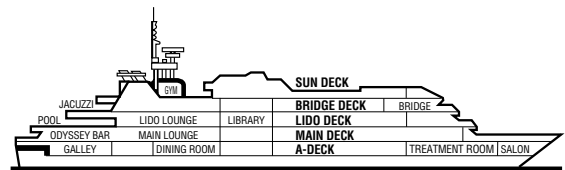
Main Deck



Lido Deck



Bridge Deck



- Category 1
- Category 2
- Category 3
- Category 4
- Category 5
- Category 6
- Category 7



EXPEDITION  
CRUISING

These cruises visit out of the way destinations. You will be accompanied by an expedition team and many landings ashore will be made by Zodiac landing craft. These cruises will appeal to the more adventurous and those who enjoy the natural world.

For Reservations: Office hours are Monday to Saturday from 9am to 5pm  
For Brochures: 24 hours a day/7 days a week

**020-7752 0000**

[www.noble-caledonia.co.uk](http://www.noble-caledonia.co.uk)

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Front cover: Matsue Castle; Geisha;  
MS Clipper Odyssey; Kyongju, Korea