

SPECIAL
OFFER – SAVE
£300
PER PERSON

ETERNAL JAPAN

AN IN-DEPTH DISCOVERY OF THE CULTURAL
& ANCIENT WONDERS OF JAPAN INCLUDING A CALL
IN SOUTH KOREA WITH GUEST SPEAKER REVEREND
DR JUDITH THOMAS ABOARD THE MS CALEDONIAN SKY

9TH TO 23RD MAY 2020



NOBLE CALEDONIA



Koraku-en Gardens

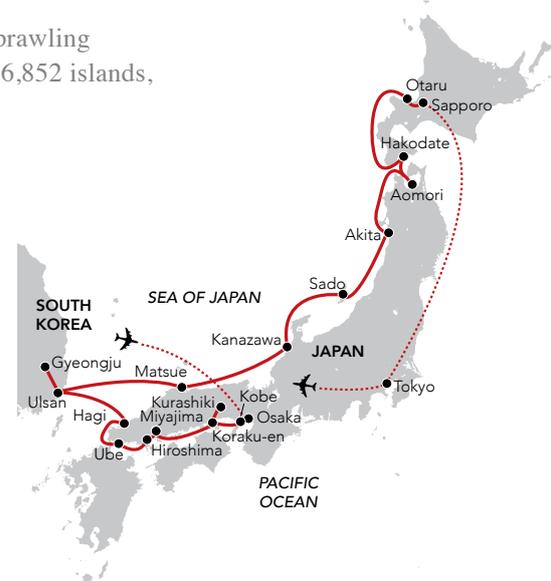


Pagoda, Miyajima

Japan is a fascinating balance of unique heritage and culture contrasting with the sprawling metropolises of the world's most advanced technological civilisation. Made up of 6,852 islands, the perfect way to explore the Land of the Rising Sun is by sea.

During our voyage aboard the all-suite MS Caledonian Sky, we will visit the historic and serene castle town of Matsue and the ancient feudal town of Hagi, experience the tranquility of sacred Miyajima and discover one of Japan's most famed gardens, Koraku-en. Although we will also visit the awe-inspiring contemporary landscape of Tokyo, what makes our itinerary truly unique is our visits to parts of Japan where relatively few tourists set foot such as our excursion inland to the picturesque five-storied Pagoda of Rurikoji Temple which dates back to 1442.

In addition to visiting the major sites on Japan's main island of Honshu, our course also takes us to the islands of Sado and Hokkaido as well as spending a day in Gyeongju in South Korea, the 'Museum Without Walls' where we visit the Haeinsa Temple, considered one of the three great temples in Korea.



Guest Speaker



Reverend Dr Judith Thomas Judith has lived and worked in many countries including the USA, Indonesia,

New Zealand, the Middle East and Japan. Her early work as a Management Training specialist for overseas assignments developed her interest in globally mobile families and the cultural changes they confront. Her experience of Japan dates from the 70's up to the present day, including two extended periods of living and working there. Her expertise is Japanese Culture; gardens are a cultural expression in their own right. Traditional Cultures adapting to the modern world are also of particular interest to her.

The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Kobe, Japan. Fly by scheduled indirect flight to Osaka.

Day 2 Kobe. Arrive this morning and transfer to the MS Caledonian Sky moored in Kobe. Enjoy welcome dinner and drinks as we sail this evening.

Day 3 Koraku-en & Kurashiki. From the port of Uno-Ko we will visit one of Japan's most famed gardens, Koraku-en, which translates as "Garden of pleasure after". This 17th century formal garden has 28 acres of walking trails, ponds, plum and cherry trees. After a Japanese lunch in a local restaurant we will continue to Kurashiki where we explore the old merchant quarter and its fine 17th century wooden warehouses painted white with

traditional black tiles, along a canal framed with weeping willows and filled with koi. There is also a chance to visit the Ohara Museum of Art which includes rare works by Matisse, Picasso and Renoir as well as collections from Japan's mingei movement including ceramics by Hamada Shoji.

Day 4 Hiroshima & Miyajima. Arrive this morning in Hiroshima for our visit to the compelling Peace Memorial Park. The park is dotted with memorials, including the Cenotaph which contains the names of all the known victims of the A-bomb and the permanently lit "Flame of Peace". Just outside the park, the A-Bomb Dome is a haunting reminder of the destructive forces that were unleashed on the city being one of

the few original buildings to survive. In the museum we will see photos, videos and victim's personal effects relating to the bomb. Over lunch we sail 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 use the vessel's Zodiacs to go ashore and explore the Itsukushima Jinja Shrine, founded in the 6th century and dedicated to three sea goddesses.

Day 5 Ube. We continue our exploration of Japan and visit some sites of the historic, southern Yamaguchi prefecture. From our base at the port of Ube we will travel inland to visit the picturesque five-storied Pagoda of Rurikoji



Sado Island



Kenroku-en Gardens, Kanazawa



Gyeongju

Temple and the surrounding park. Dating back to 1442, the pagoda was built in memory of Yoshihiro Mori Terumoto who ruled this area during this period. We also hope to visit the Fujigochi Tea Plantation and enjoy a tour of the tea factory and plantation where the local Ono Tea is produced from 70 hectares of gentle rolling countryside.

Day 6 Hagi. Hagi was a minor fishing port until Mori Terumoto fortified it in 1604 and it was Mori Samurais that helped spark off the anti-Tokugawa revolt in the mid-19th century. Today it is better known for its traditional pottery making traditions. On our morning tour we will explore the Teramachi District with its temples and shrines, the Jokamachi District, where we find the old samurai houses and also take time to explore Hagi Castle, Shizuki Park and Tokoji Temple. Return to the vessel for lunch and this afternoon is free to relax or perhaps travel to the outskirts of the city and the Yoshika Taibi Memorial Museum which is dedicated to a large collection of Hagi-yaki pottery.

Day 7 Ulsan, South Korea. Today we embark on a full day excursion to magnificent Gyeongju, a World Heritage Site, which is often described as the world's finest open-air museum embracing ancient Korean history and Buddhist culture. As the ancient capital of the Shilla Dynasty, Gyeongju 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 of finely worked gold jewellery, metal weapons and distinctive pottery. At lunch time, we will sample Korean delicacies and enjoy a cultural performance of traditional dance.

Day 8 Matsue, Japan. Spend the morning at sea as we return to Japan and the port of Sakaiminato. This afternoon choose to either visit Matsue, the 'town of water,' which nestles between a scenic lake and a large lagoon. We will visit the cultural attractions of the town including the 17th century Matsue Castle before enjoying a boat ride on the local canals. Alternatively visit the Adachi Museum of Art which is set in a beautiful natural environment and well known for both its superb Japanese gardens and its collection of contemporary Japanese paintings, comprising approximately 1500 of the country's most highly regarded paintings produced after the Meiji period.

Day 9 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, delicate hand painting of silk for kimonos and Noh theatre dramas. The narrow and winding cobblestone streets have a quaint photogenic charm with old-fashioned streetlamps and wooden-lattice windows hiding elegant restaurants and craft galleries. Around each bend is a traditional house, museum, art gallery, craft 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 and local handicrafts. Next to the Kanazawa Castle ruins is one of Japan's premier highlights, the famed Kenroku-en Garden, ranked among the country's top three gardens. Enjoy a morning garden visit and an afternoon city walking tour.

Day 10 Sado Island. Sado is Japan's sixth largest island, made up of two parallel mountain chains, between which lies an extensive plain with small rice farms. In its early history, the island was a place of exile for intellectuals and political dissidents whilst in the Edo Period a rich gold mine was found. Sado Island is now famous for its premium quality rice and sake (rice wine) and is also the home base for the taiko drumming group, Kodo ("heartbeat"). During our full day call we will visit the Taiko centre to learn more about the history of the drums and visit the picturesque fishing village of Shukunegi, where over one hundred traditional Edo period houses line the narrow streets. You may wish to take a ride aboard one of the unique local boats called tarai-bune. These circular wooden tub boats are rowed with a single oar and designed to be capable of tight turns in order to manoeuvre through the deeply indented shores of the island as locals head out to collect shellfish and seaweed.

Day 11 Akita. Arrive this morning in the Akita Prefecture, known for its rice farming, traditional festivals, and treasured dog breed of the same name. This morning choose to either drive inland to Kakunodate which was established in 1620 by

the Lords of Akita as a military outpost with a castle built on Mount Furushiroyama. Two distinct areas were then developed, one for samurai and the other for merchants. Today it remains one of the best examples of a castle town in Japan and the Uchimachi samurai quarter maintains a number of the original wooden houses and well-maintained gardens which we can explore. Alternatively explore Akita at your own pace. Return to the ship for lunch and enjoy a relaxing afternoon of cruising.

Day 12 Aomori. From our berth in Aomori there will be a choice of tours today. Maybe head inland to the spectacular Towada Hachimantai National Park which involves a scenic drive through the Kayano plateau, Hakkoda mountains to the scenic Oirase Valley and Lake Towada, a magnificent ancient caldera lake surrounded by deciduous forests. We will wander the trails at the Tsuta Nana-numa Ponds a collection of seven lakes which are surrounded by a forest of Japanese Beech trees before continuing to Oirase Gorge. The gorge runs for 14 kilometres from Lake Towada to Yakeyama and we will walk alongside the crystal clear Oirase Stream seeing the beautiful scenery and waterfalls. Alternatively, visit the former Feudal town of Hirosaki which was the political capital of the region in the Edo period. A tour of the city will include the three-story castle, which was the focal point of the old city and the base of the powerful Tsugaru Clan.



Matsue Castle

Surrounding the castle was the samurai and merchant district where we can visit the preserved houses and the Fujita Kinen Teien, a Japanese landscape garden built in 1919. Both tours will return to Aomori for some free time before we set sail later this evening.

Day 13 Hakodate. Today we are on the island of Hokkaido at the southern port of Hakodate. This morning we will make our way to Onuma Park, on the outskirts of the city and known for its picturesque, island-dotted lakes and majestic dormant volcano, Mount Komagatake. We have the option to take a series of walks around the lake's peninsulas and islands, several of which are connected with each other by

small bridges and surrounded by birch and maple forests. On our return to the ship we will see the 19th century Fort Goryokaku, built as a citadel but now a public park. After lunch on board we will spend the afternoon at sea.

Day 14 Otaru to Tokyo. Disembark this morning and transfer to Sapporo airport for our scheduled flight to Tokyo. On arrival transfer to our hotel and enjoy an afternoon and evening at leisure for independent exploration.

Day 15 Tokyo to London. After breakfast in the hotel we will check out and transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight arriving into London this afternoon.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

SPECIAL OFFER – SAVE £300 PER PERSON FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY

Deck	Suite Category	Brochure Price	Special Offer Price
Castle	Standard	£8995	£8695
Caledonian	Superior	£9245	£8945
Promenade	Premium	£9595	£9295
Bridge	Deluxe Balcony	£9995	£9695
Promenade	Premium Balcony	£10595	£10295
Promenade	Owners Corner Suite with balcony	£10995	£10695
Castle	Standard for sole use	£10495	£10195
Caledonian	Superior for sole use	£10795	£10495

PRICE INCLUDES: Economy class scheduled air travel • 12 nights aboard the MS Caledonian Sky on a full board basis • Wine, beer & soft drinks with lunch & dinner • Shore excursions • Noble Caledonia onboard team • Overnight hotel accommodation in Tokyo with breakfast • Gratuities • Transfers • Port taxes.
Not Included: Travel insurance.

Pre-Cruise Kyoto & Nara Extension 7th to 10th May 2020



If you would like to spend some time in Kyoto and discover the city of Nara, we are offering a two night pre-cruise extension.

The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Osaka, Japan. Fly by scheduled indirect flight to Osaka.

Day 2 Kyoto. On arrival transfer to our hotel in Kyoto and check-in for your two-night stay. The remainder of the day is at leisure.

Day 3 Kyoto. After breakfast at the hotel discover Kyoto, Japan's former historic capital and Emperor's home for nearly 1000 years. A morning tour will include the Kinkakuji Temple (Golden Pavilion), which was built as a retirement villa for the Shogun which was converted to a Buddhist Temple after his death, and the Ryoanji Temple which is the site of one of Japan's famous rock gardens. After our visit return to the hotel and enjoy an afternoon and evening at leisure.

Day 4 Kyoto, Nara & Kobe. Depart the hotel after breakfast and discover Nara en route to embark to the MS Caledonian Sky. During the 8th century Nara was Japan's capital for 74 years and many of the temples and shrines from this era still remain. We will see the Todaji Temple and Kasuga Shrine before taking lunch in a local restaurant. Afterwards we continue our journey to Kobe and embark later this afternoon.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: **£895** Single: **£1095**

Price Includes: Two nights hotel accommodation in Kyoto with breakfast, lunch on day 4, excursions, Noble Caledonia Tour Manager, gratuities, transfers. **Not Included:** Travel insurance.

Post Cruise Tokyo Extension 23rd to 25th May 2020



After disembarking the MS Caledonian Sky we are offering the opportunity to spend two further nights exploring Tokyo.

The Itinerary

Day 1 Tokyo, Japan. After breakfast in the hotel we will have a full day tour of Tokyo including the Hama Rikyu Gardens, an attractive landscaped garden in central Tokyo including seawater pools that change with the tides. Continue to the Edo Tokyo Museum which covers the exhibits from the Edo period to the present day. After lunch we see the imperial Palace and Tokyo Tower before returning to the hotel. The rest of the afternoon and evening are at leisure.

Day 2 Tokyo. A free day to explore at your own pace.

Day 3 Tokyo to London. After breakfast in the hotel we will check out and transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to London.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: **£795** Single: **£1045**

Price Includes: Two nights hotel accommodation in Tokyo with breakfast, excursions, lunch on day 1, Noble Caledonia Tour Manager, gratuities, transfers. **Not Included:** Travel insurance.

MS CALEDONIAN SKY



Deluxe Balcony Suite



On Deck



The Restaurant

The MS Caledonian Sky is one of our three flag ships and sister vessel to the MS Island Sky and MS Hebridean Sky. All three vessels were built in the same ship yard in Italy at similar times and share the same excellent attributes that make them three of the finest small ships in the world. With a maximum passenger capacity of only 114, a vessel of her size is capable of carrying many more but instead the MS Caledonian Sky has the benefit of unusually large suites, luxuriously appointed public areas and spacious outside decks.



Your Suite

On board there are 57 exceptionally spacious and well designed suites. The passenger accommodation is arranged over four decks and all suites have outside views. All feature a sitting area and some have private balconies. Each affords considerable comfort with en-suite bathroom featuring a country style wash basin, heated towel rail, vanity unit and walk-in shower and/or bath tub. Facilities in the suites also include walk-in or spacious wardrobes, dressing table

with large mirror and stool or desk, mini-fridge, flat screen television, telephone, programmable electronic safe, hairdryer, assorted Molton Brown toiletries, air-conditioning and heating. Refillable water bottles, dressing gowns and slippers are also provided for your comfort.

Your Dining

With only one sitting and a maximum of just over 100 passengers, the cuisine on board the MS Caledonian Sky is of a consistent superior quality that befits such a vessel. In keeping with the informal atmosphere on board, when dining you are able to choose your seating arrangements and choice of restaurants at your leisure; whether that be joining a table of four to six other passengers in the elegant à la carte Restaurant or outside buffet-style on the Lido Deck in the evening sunshine. In the main Restaurant, breakfast is served buffet-style, with certain items cooked to order on request. Lunch and dinner menus offer plenty of choice, often reflecting the daily catch and local delicacies. The Welcome and Farewell dinners are a sumptuous five course affair. To enhance your dining experience further a selection of wines is included with both meals. Afternoon tea and pre-dinner canapés take place in either the comfort of the Lounge or out on the Lido Deck when the weather is favourable. Tea and coffee are also available 24 hours a day. Special diets can be catered for with sufficient notice.



Standard Suite



Caledonian Lounge



The Library

Your Space

The spacious and finely decorated public rooms include a large lounge where briefings are given by the onboard team and talks from Guest Speakers take place. Also in the Lounge is a 24-hour tea and coffee station along with an elegant bar where the onboard pianist plays periodically throughout the day. In addition there is the Lounge on the Panorama Deck which has a bar, library and further spacious seating arrangements, ideal for watching the world go by as you cruise to your next destination. The Travel Library is the perfect place to relax with a good book and is well stocked with reference books pertaining to the destinations the vessel is visiting. A selection of games and devices to access the internet via the ship's satellite can also be found in the library. Access to the ship's satellite Wi-Fi via your own device is complimentary on board (signal strength varies depending on location and demand). Outside there is a rear Lido Deck where meals are served in warm weather under shade. On the top deck there is a further observation and Sun Deck with bar service and comfortable deck furniture for sun bathing or relaxing with a book. There is also a small beauty salon with appointments made on request.

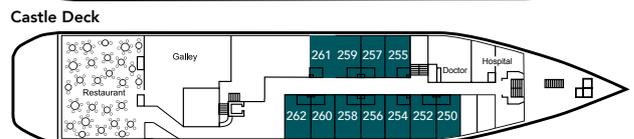
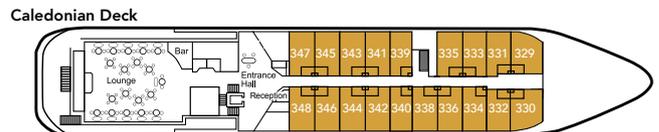
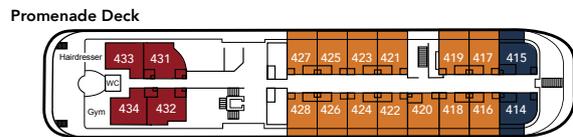
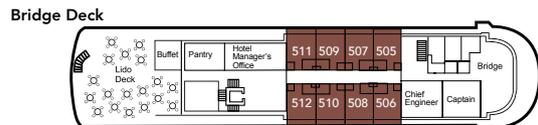
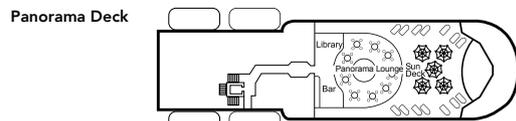
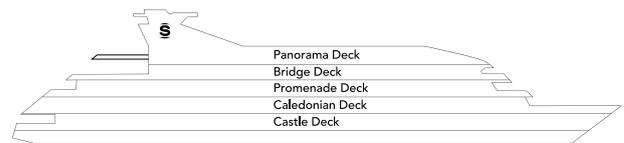
Your Comfort

The MS Caledonian Sky is equipped with the latest safety, navigation and communications equipment along with roll stabilisers to minimise the ship's motion. During your voyage we hope to offer you the opportunity to visit the Captain and Officers on the Bridge to check the vessel's progress by charts and learn more about your journey. On board you will also find a clinic and Doctor and a lift that serves all decks. When at anchor our nimble Zodiacs will ferry you ashore or, on select cruises, enjoy Zodiac cruises getting you closer to the natural world.

Your Life On Board

The atmosphere on board is warm and convivial and more akin to a private yacht or country hotel in which you can learn more about the wonderful destinations you are visiting in the company of like-minded people. Dress on board is casual and relaxed and there will be no "black tie" evenings. On board there is a high ratio of crew to passengers. Our friendly crew of 75 are mainly Filipino and Eastern European and our Scandinavian Captains are experienced mariners. After a day ashore you will return to the comfort and peace of a well-run and exceedingly comfortable ship where peace, high quality of service and attention to detail are the order of the day. A little music in the Lounge after dinner, Guest Speakers and informative port briefings from our Expedition Leader or Cruise Director and of course good food, all contribute to make any voyage aboard this wonderful vessel a memorable and joyful experience.

MS CALEDONIAN SKY DECK PLAN



- Standard Suites
- Premium Suites
- Premium Balcony Suites
- Superior Suites
- Deluxe Balcony Suites
- Owner's Corner Suites with Balcony

Please note that all suites on Castle Deck feature a minimum of two portholes.



NOBLE CALEDONIA

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All special offers are subject to availability. Our current booking conditions apply to all reservations and are available on request.
 Cover image: Torri Gate, Miyajima