

Eternal Japan

Discover the cultural treasures of Japan & the ancient wonders of South Korea aboard the MS Caledonian Sky

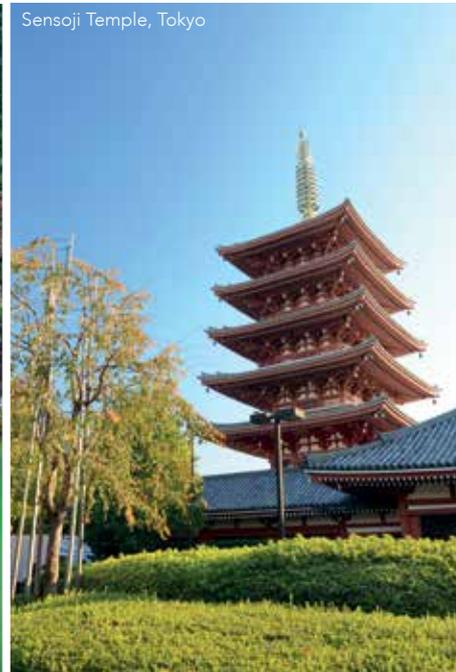
31st May to 14th June 2018



NOBLE CALEDONIA



Kenrokuen Gardens, Kanazawa



Sensoji Temple, Tokyo

Japan is a fascinating balance of unique heritage and culture contrasting with the sprawling metropolises of the world's most advanced technological civilisation and our unique itinerary is a marvellous balance of ancient castles, serenely beautiful gardens, opulent temples and shrines combined with lovely natural landscapes. Like all well-planned itineraries we have included some of the best known highlights, but equally we will also take you to some places where relatively few foreign tourists set foot in.

The MS Caledonian Sky allows us to visit out of the way islands and remote stretches of coast which would not be practical on a regular land tour and it is in such places that we find timeless villages, rural landscapes and a rich cultural heritage. Such places invoke the strongest of memories and allow you to immerse yourself in the myth and mystique of these ancient lands whilst returning each evening to the peace and comfort of our vessel.

In addition to our partial circumnavigation of Japan, our course takes us past the south eastern tip of Korea, where we will visit Haeinsa Temple, regarded as one of the three great temples in Korea and will also spend a day in Kyongju, the 'Museum Without Walls'. Here, history comes vividly to life among the tombs, temples, shrines and pleasure gardens.

Our View

"We have been operating cruises in Japan for many years and I believe that our Timeless Japan itinerary is the perfect combination of cities, islands, the natural world and cultural experiences. One of the highlights of my time in Japan was visiting the charming old merchant quarter of Kurashiki. Perfectly preserved, the quarter resembles the images which your mind conjures up of how Japan was in the 17th and 18th centuries with traditional wooden warehouses, canals framed by weeping willows and filled with koi. With our free time in Kurashiki we visited the Ohara Museum of Art which houses a truly astounding collection of paintings including pieces by Monet, Matisse and Gauguin so is most definitely worth a visit. I also thoroughly enjoyed exploring Koraku-en gardens which are so peaceful and serene and present such perfect vistas and photographic opportunities. Returning to the vessel each evening to learn more about all we had seen from local guides and onboard experts greatly added to my experience and knowledge of this complex country which I will definitely be returning to."

Laura Cochrane, Director of Marketing & Sales



The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Tokyo, Japan. Fly by scheduled flight.

Day 2 Tokyo. Arrive this morning and transfer your hotel for an overnight stay. Remainder of the day is at leisure to explore the vibrant metropolis independently.

Day 3 Tokyo to Niigata. After breakfast in the hotel we will enjoy a city tour of Tokyo including Meiji Shrine, Sensoji Temple and the Imperial Palace Plaza. We will then transfer to the train station to join our shinkansen service to Niigata enjoying lunch along the way. On arrival in Niigata we transfer to the MS Caledonian Sky. Enjoy a Welcome Dinner on board and sail this evening.

Day 4 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 5 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 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



Miyajima



Women in traditional costume



Old Merchant Quarter, Kurashiki



Yakushima

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 6 Matsue. Called the 'town of water,' Matsue 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. This afternoon is free to relax or explore the town at leisure. Alternatively join a full day excursion visiting both Matsue Castle and 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 7 Hagi. Hagi was a minor fishing port until Mori Terumoto fortified it in 1604 and it was Mori Samurai 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 travel to the outskirts of the city and the Yoshika Taibi Memorial Museum which is dedicated to a large collection of Hagi-yaki pottery

which was highly prized in the Edo Period as wares for tea ceremonies.

Day 8 Ulsan for Kyongju, South Korea. Today we 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 embracing ancient Korean history and Buddhist culture. 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 of finely worked gold jewellery, metal weapons and distinctive pottery. At lunchtime, we will sample Korean delicacies and enjoy a cultural performance of traditional dance.



Haeinsa

Day 9 Masan for Haeinsa. From our berth in Masan we head inland to the Haeinsa Temple. Regarded as one of the three great temples in Korea it was first settled in 802 A.D. and its name derives from a verse in a Buddhist Sutra as "reflections on a smooth sea". In the 13th century when Korea was at war with the Mongols, the government commissioned the

Triptaka Koreana, a complete copy of Buddhist scriptures, in the hope of Buddha's intervention in the war. They were carved onto 81,258 double sided wooden blocks and stored on floor to ceiling shelves in the Janggyeong Panjeon building. We also visit the Daejokkwangjeon, the main worship hall of the temple. After lunch in a nearby restaurant we will return to Masan where you may want to visit the vibrant fish market selling the daily catch as well as dried and salted fish and seaweed and try a sample at one of the raw fish restaurants.

Day 10 Nagasaki & Dejima, Japan. Arrive this morning in Nagasaki, the second city destroyed by an A-bomb in World War Two. We will tour the Peace Memorial Park, Atomic Bomb Museum and Dejima Island which was built during the Edo Period to accommodate Portuguese Christian missionaries and prevent the propagation of their religion. It was also the residential quarters of the Dutch, the only foreigners allowed to trade in Japan during the Sakoku (Isolation) Period. For 200 years, until Japan reopened the country in the 19th century, Dejima was its only window to the world. With the reopening of the port to Westerners in the latter half of the 19th century, Nagasaki flourished as a prosperous and sophisticated international city. Suitable housing was required for the sudden influx of foreigners who made their homes here. Many of the comfortable stone and clapboard residences that were built during this period survive today and are preserved in Glover Garden which we will visit this afternoon. The best known European-style residence here is Glover House. Built in 1863,

it was the setting for Puccini's opera Madame Butterfly.

Day 11 Yakushima. Arrive this morning to the very south of Kyushu and the island of Yakushima which became Japan's first UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1993 and has a particularly diverse flora. We will spend the afternoon on a choice of nature walks in Yakusugi Land, a nature park populated by a number of the island's ancient cedar trees, such as the Buddhasugi, Futagosugi and Sennensugi, which are over 3000 years old.

Day 12 Uwajima. This morning we land on Shikoku Island and the port of 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. We will also see Uwajima Castle, which is built on top of the hill with panoramic views over the town and harbour, Tensha-en Garden, built in the Samurai era and the Date Museum which exhibits items dedicated to the Date family, who ruled Uwajima from the castle for 250 years during the Tokugawa period.

Day 13 Miyajima & Hiroshima. 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. The shrine is a designated World Heritage Site. Over lunch we sail



Matsue Castle

to 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.

Day 14 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, and a classic teahouse where we will experience a traditional tea ceremony. 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 15 Kobe to London.

Disembark this morning in Kobe and transfer to Osaka airport for the return scheduled indirect flight to London. Arrive this evening.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Deck	Suite Category	Brochure Price
Castle	Standard Forward	£6995
Castle	Standard	£7295
Caledonian	Superior	£7795
Promenade	Premium	£8295
Bridge	Deluxe Balcony	£8995
Promenade	Premium Balcony	£9495
Promenade	Owners Corner Suite with balcony	£9995
Castle	Standard for sole use	£9495
Caledonian	Superior for sole use	£9995

Price Includes: Economy class scheduled air travel, overnight hotel accommodation in Tokyo on bed and breakfast basis, 12 nights aboard the MS Caledonian Sky on a full board basis, house wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner, Cruise Director, Guest Speaker, shore excursions, gratuities, transfers, port taxes, airport taxes.

Not Included: Travel insurance, visas.

Ship to Shore: Please note that the ship will be at anchor at Miyajima and Zodiacs or tenders will be used to transport passengers ashore. In the event that we are unable to anchor off due to bad weather we will call into larger nearby ports where we are able to berth.

Pre & Post Cruise Extensions



Pre Cruise Tokyo Extension

29th May to 1st June 2018

If you would like to spend some time in Tokyo before embarking the MS Caledonian Sky we have arranged a two night extension.

The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Tokyo, Japan. Fly by scheduled flight.

Day 2 Tokyo. Arrive this morning and transfer to your hotel for your two night stay. Remainder of the day at leisure to explore the vibrant metropolis independently.

Day 3 Tokyo. Today's full day tour will include Hamarikyu Garden, the Edo Tokyo Museum, Tokyo Tower and lunch in a local restaurant.

Day 4 Tokyo. Enjoy a day at leisure to explore further.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: **£625** Single: **£895**

Price Includes: Two nights hotel accommodation on bed and breakfast basis, full day tour with lunch, transfers, gratuities.

Not Included: Travel insurance, visa.



Post Cruise Kyoto Extension

14th to 16th June 2018

If you would like to spend some time in Kyoto after disembarking the MS Caledonian Sky, we have arranged a two night extension.

The Itinerary

Day 1 Kobe to Kyoto. Disembark this morning and enjoy a tour of Kyoto and Nara. Continue to your hotel for a two night stay. Remainder of day is at leisure.

Day 2 Kyoto. Enjoy a day at leisure to explore independently.

Day 3 Kobe to London. Check out of your hotel and transfer to Osaka airport for your return scheduled indirect flight to London. Arrive this evening.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: **£695** Single: **£945**

Price Includes: Two nights hotel accommodation on bed and breakfast basis, guided tour of Kyoto and Nara, transfers, gratuities.

Not Included: Travel insurance, visa.



MS Caledonian Sky

Formerly known as Hebridean Spirit, this 114-passenger vessel began her new life with Noble Caledonia in May 2012. Built in the same ship yard as both MS Island Sky and MS Hebridean Sky, she shares the same attributes as her sister vessels, joining them as one of the finest small ships in the world.

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 room area and some have private balconies. Each affords considerable comfort with en-suite bathroom featuring a country style wash basin, hot towel rack and vanity unit with sink 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 toiletries, air-conditioning and heating. Bottled water, towelling dressing gowns and slippers are also provided for your comfort.

Your Space

The spacious and finely decorated public rooms include a large lounge where daily briefings and talks will be provided throughout the voyage and an elegant bar where a pianist plays periodically throughout the day. The bar also features a 24-hour tea and coffee station. In addition there is the Club Lounge on the Panorama Deck which features a bar. The onboard travel library is the perfect place to relax with a book and is stocked with reference books pertaining to the places the vessel is visiting along with a selection of games and two computers with internet access. 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 gymnasium on board and hairdressers with appointments made on request.

consistent superior quality. Where possible and when it meets his high standards, our accomplished chef will obtain local produce in markets. Such purchases enhance the well stocked larders and bring a local touch to the varied menus. In the main elegant dining room, breakfast is served buffet-style, with certain items cooked to order and lunch and dinner is à la carte. To enhance your dining experience even further a selection of wines are included with lunch and dinner.



Premium Balcony Suite



Restaurant

Your Dining

With only one sitting and a maximum of just over 100 passengers, the cuisine will be of a



Panorama Lounge



Standard Suite



Dining on deck

Your Day to Day Life On Board On board the MS Caledonian Sky, you will not find endless entertainment, round the clock buffets and the people management which is so much a part of today's big ship style. Instead the atmosphere on board is warm and peaceful and more akin to a private yacht or country hotel in which you can learn more about the wonders of nature, culture and ancient civilisations in the company of like-minded people. A little music in the lounge or bar after dinner, guest speakers and informative port briefings from our expedition leader, all contribute to make any voyage aboard the MS Caledonian Sky a memorable and joyful experience. Dress on board is casual and relaxed and there will be no 'black tie' evenings.



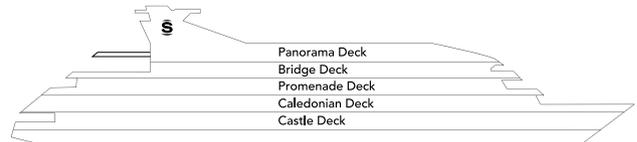
Library

Your Comfort, Safety & Security Our vessel is equipped with the latest safety, navigation and communications equipment along with roll stabilisers to minimise the ship's motion. During your voyage you will have 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.

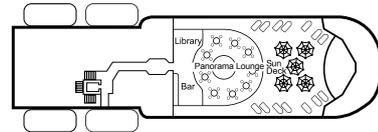


Sun deck

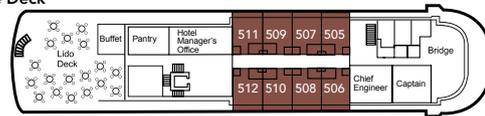
Deck Plan



Panorama Deck



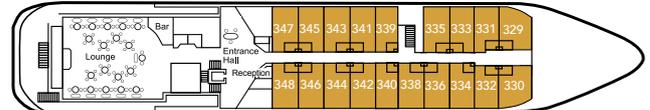
Bridge Deck



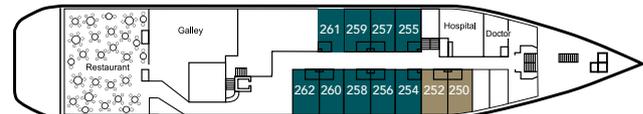
Promenade Deck



Caledonian Deck



Castle Deck



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

NB. All Suites on Castle Deck feature a minimum of two portholes.

NOBLE CALEDONIA

2 Chester Close, Belgravia, London, SW1X 7BE
+44 (0)20 7752 0000 | info@noble-caledonia.co.uk | www.noble-caledonia.co.uk

