

SPECIAL
OFFER - SAVE
£300
PER PERSON

ETERNAL JAPAN & SOUTH KOREA

A VOYAGE FROM KANAZAWA TO KOBE
ABOARD THE MS ISLAND SKY
WITH GUEST SPEAKER YOKO TAKENAMI

25TH APRIL TO 8TH MAY 2026

NOBLE CALEDONIA



Matsue castle



Gyeongju, Bulguksa Temple

Japan is a fascinating combination 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 and the 118-passenger MS Island Sky is the ideal vessel for such a voyage. Our fascinating itinerary offers the opportunity to visit ancient castles, serenely beautiful gardens and opulent temples and shrines combined with witnessing some of Japan's most stunning natural landscapes and the futuristic city of Tokyo.

Highlights of our voyage will include the historical city of Kanazawa with its traditional crafts and one of Japan's most famed landscape gardens, Koraku-en, the historic and serene castle town of Matsue and Nagasaki where Japan's first contact with the West took place. Here we will learn of the more somber history of the Atomic Bomb attack at the Peace Museum and Peace Park and we will also explore Dejima Island which served as a trading post during Japan's isolation period. We will also visit the awe-inspiring contemporary landscape of Tokyo but what makes our itinerary truly unique is our visits to parts of Japan where relatively few tourists set foot such as Yakushima Island with its towering mountains and ancient forest and where we can enjoy nature at its best with walks to appreciate the diverse fauna including the impressive old cedars.

In addition to our partial circumnavigation of Japan, our course takes us past the southeastern tip of South Korea where we will spend a day in Gyeongju, the 'Museum Without Walls' and we will also visit the Haeinsa Temple, considered one of the three great temples in Korea. 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. Helping us understand all we will see and experience will be our expert Guest Speaker and Japanese guides who will travel on board with us and will add immeasurably to your enjoyment and understanding of this captivating country.



Guest Speaker – Yoko Takenami



Born and raised in Japan, with a year in the US as an exchange student, Yoko has always been interested in people and art. She started Japanese calligraphy at the age of seven and was qualified to teach in 1990 by Zen-Sho-gei, one of the major calligraphy organisations in Japan. Since 1994, Yoko has been working in London as an interpreter originally at BBC

World TV and then as freelance. She published 'Simple Art of Japanese Calligraphy' (Cico Books) in 1994 which was translated into several languages and was reprinted last summer. She has held calligraphy workshops in various venues such as British Library, West Dean College and Japan Society. Travelling is her passion as she goes back to Japan periodically for inspiration.

The Itinerary

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

Day 2 Tokyo. Arrive and transfer to our centrally located hotel for an overnight stay. The remainder of the afternoon and evening are at leisure.

Day 3 Tokyo to Kanazawa. After breakfast in the hotel, a morning city tour will include the Meiji Shrine and Sensoji Temple. Continue to the train station to join our bullet train to Kanazawa where, on arrival, we transfer to the MS Island Sky. Enjoy welcome drinks and dinner as we moor overnight.

Day 4 Kanazawa. Kanazawa is a thriving centre of the arts, long known for its lacquer ware, outstanding collectable pottery of the Kutani style, gold leaf workmanship, delicate hand painting of silk to 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, we will visit one of Japan's premier highlights, the famed Kenroku-en Garden, ranked among the country's top three gardens.

Day 5 Matsue. From the port of Sakaiminato we 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 1,500 of the country's most highly regarded paintings produced after the Meiji period. Return to the ship for lunch as we sail for South Korea this afternoon.

Day 6 Ulsan, South Korea. Crossing over to South Korea 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'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.

Day 7 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 AD 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 this afternoon where you may want to visit the vibrant fish market.

Day 8 Nagasaki, Japan. This morning we explore Nagasaki, the second city destroyed by an A-bomb in World War II. Tour the Peace Memorial Park, Atomic Bomb Museum and Glover Garden. This afternoon we will visit Dejima Island, built during the Edo Period to house 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 to the world. Alternatively, there will be a visit to the abandoned Gunkan-jima, or Hashima Island* that lies just off the coast of Nagasaki. The island was populated until 1974 and served as a coal mine with more

than 5,000 residents living on an island only 480 metres long and 150 wide. To accommodate so many people in such a small area every piece of land was built on, so the island came to resemble a battleship and was given the name Gunkan-jima or Battleship Island. In 1974 the coal mine closed and the residents had to leave the island. Over the years the natural elements have taken hold giving the island an eerie atmosphere. In more recent years the island has become a set for several films. We will take a guided walk through the island to the observation areas before boarding the local ferry back to the mainland. **Please note that the visit to Hashima Island is weather/tidal dependent. If the ferry is unable to access the pier, a cruise around the island will take place instead.*

Day 9 Miyagaura, Yakushima. Sailing down the coast of Kyushu this morning we arrive this afternoon on the island of Yakushima which became Japan's first World Heritage Site in 1993. Yakushima is famous in botanical circles for many great garden plants, including dwarf plants that have evolved to grow smaller than their mainland cousins. We will spend time here on nature walks, including Yakusugi Land, a nature park populated by a number of the island's ancient cedar trees.

Day 10 Hososhima, Kyushu. We sail into Hososhima on the south side of the island of Kyushu today. The area is full of beautiful beaches, rugged coast and natural beauty. We will have a choice of options today. There will be the chance to visit the iconic Takachiho Gorge, a volcanic canyon formed over 100,000 years ago, with the Gakose river flowing through it. While there we will walk through the forests on top of the gorge, taking in wonderful views as we cross bridges from one side to another. We will also visit the Takachiho Shrine built in 1778. After lunch in a local restaurant we will drive to the Hyuga Cape, part of a national park the area is recognised for its untamed volcanic coastal formation and unique flora. There will be the chance to walk along the observation trails offering wonderful views of the sea and the coastline. Alternatively, we will offer a morning tour to see the Saitobaru Burial Mounds that encompass over 300 burial tombs, dating back over 1,700 years. This is one of the only places in Japan where you can see pristine burial mounds. As we explore, hear about the history of the area and the mysteries surrounding the burial mounds.

Day 11 Matsuyama, Shikoku Island. Today we arrive at the island of Shikoku. From the port of Matsuyama we will visit the old town of Ozu starting with the Garyu Sanso, a subtle yet outstanding villa. Built in 1907, it is rustic in appearance but traditional in its construction offering a wonderful architectural view. It took over four years and 9,000 artisans to build the villa and each room has its own features. The villa also has a beautiful garden with its own tea house. Afterwards we will explore the old town which grew as a castle town during the Edo Period and today retains an atmosphere of a bygone era with stone paved alleys, houses from the Edo and Meiji Periods, as well as merchant and samurai houses. Alternatively spend the morning on a panoramic drive through the island, taking in the coastal road before crossing a section of the Kurushima Kaikyo Bridge, a suspension bridge crossing the Seto Inland Sea. We will cross to the island of Oshima, and from



Meiji Shrine

the Mount Kiro Observatory Park we will see the very impressive bridge as it crosses the sea connecting islands along the way. After lunch on board there is the option to explore Matsuyama on a walking tour which will include the grounds of the city's original castle, one of a dozen left in Japan, along with the lovely Ishiteji Temple as well as seeing the famous Dogo Onsen.

Day 12 Himeji. We will set out this morning to explore the city of Himeji, known for its castle, one of the largest in Japan. The towering white building dominates the skyline of the city and we will climb through the various levels of the outer keeps before entering the main castle building. Next to the castle is Koko-en, a beautiful 3.5-hectare garden which is separated into nine different style gardens of different sizes of which there are various themes, from the Edo Period garden to the Tea Ceremony Garden. After lunch on board, spend the afternoon relaxing or visit the Shoshazan Engyo-ji Temple. The temple is located on Mount Shosha, just outside of Himeji, and covers over 31 hectares. It was established in 966 by a monk and over the years the temple received the patronage of aristocrats and the imperial family. During our visit we will explore some of the areas of the temple complex taking in its history and beautiful setting.

Day 13 Kobe to London. Disembark this morning and transfer to Kansai airport for the scheduled flight to London.

Day 14 London. Arrive today.

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
Magellan	Standard	£9295	£8995
Columbus	Superior	£9595	£9295
Marco Polo	Premium	£9895	£9595
Marco Polo	Corner	£10195	£9895
Erikson	Deluxe Balcony	£11795	£11495
Explorer	Owner's Balcony Suites	£12795	£12495
Explorer	Island Suite	£12995	£12695
Magellan	Standard for sole use	£10295	£9995
Columbus	Superior for sole use	£10595	£10295

PRICE INCLUDES: Economy class scheduled air travel • Overnight hotel accommodation in Tokyo with breakfast • 10 nights aboard the MS Island Sky on a full board basis • House wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch & dinner • Noble Caledonia onboard team including Guest Speaker • Shore Excursions • Gratuities • Transfers • Airport taxes • Port taxes.
Not Included: Travel insurance, dinner on day 2.

Pre-cruise Tokyo Extension

23rd to 26th April 2026

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



Nezu Museum garden

The Itinerary

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

Day 2 Tokyo. Arrive today. Transfer to our hotel for a two night stay. Your afternoon and evening are at leisure.

Day 3 Tokyo. Enjoy a full day tour of Tokyo which will include time at the attractive Hamarikyu Gardens and the Tsukiji Outer Market where we will learn about traditional Japanese foods. After a barbeque lunch we will continue to the Nezu Museum which showcases over 7,000 objects including calligraphy, sculptures and textiles whilst outside we can stroll through the Japanese gardens. (B, L)

Day 4 Tokyo. Today is at leisure to continue exploring Tokyo. Your fellow travel companions will arrive in Tokyo today from London. (B)

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: **£1175** Single: **£1535**

Price Includes: Two nights hotel accommodation in Tokyo, meals as indicated (B - Breakfast, L - Lunch), tours as described, Noble Caledonia Tour Manager, gratuities, transfers. **Not Included:** Travel insurance.

Post-cruise Kyoto Extension

7th to 10th May 2026

If you would like to spend some additional time in Tokyo we have arranged a two night extension.



Kasuga Shrine

The Itinerary

Day 1 Kobe to Kyoto, Japan.
Disembark this morning and we will drive to Nara. 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 Todaiji Temple and Kasuga Shrine before taking lunch in a local restaurant. Later we continue our journey to Kyoto and check into our hotel. (B, L)

Day 2 Nara & Kyoto. After breakfast at the hotel discover Kyoto, Japan's former historic capital and Emperor's home for nearly 1,000 years. A morning tour will include the Kinkakuji Temple (Golden Pavilion) and the Ryoanji Temple which is the site of one of Japan's famous rock gardens. After our visit return to the hotel and the remainder of the day is at leisure. (B)

Day 3 Kyoto. Check out after breakfast and transfer to Osaka airport for our scheduled indirect flight to London. (B)

Day 4 Kyoto to London. Arrive today.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: **£1245** Single: **£1595**

Price Includes: Two nights hotel accommodation in Kyoto, meals as indicated (B - Breakfast, L - Lunch), tours as described, Noble Caledonia Tour Manager, gratuities, transfers. **Not Included:** Travel insurance.

MS ISLAND SKY



Friendly Service



Deluxe Balcony Suite



The Restaurant

The much loved MS Island Sky is one of our two flagships and sister vessel to the MS Hebridean Sky. Both vessels were built in the same shipyard in Italy at similar times and share the same excellent attributes that make them two of the finest small ships in the world. With a maximum passenger capacity of only 118, a vessel of her size is capable of carrying many more but instead the MS Island Sky has the benefit of unusually large suites, luxuriously appointed public areas and spacious outside decks.

Your Suite

On board there are 59 exceptionally spacious and well-designed suites. All feature a seating area and some have private balconies, whilst those on the Marco Polo Deck feature tinted, sliding glass doors allowing greatly enhanced viewing opportunities and quick access to the deck. The feeling of luxury is enhanced by the wood panelling and brass, which predominates throughout the vessel conveying the atmosphere of a private yacht. The passenger accommodation is arranged over five decks and each suite affords considerable comfort with en-suite bathroom featuring marble-topped vanity unit with sink and walk-in shower, a large wardrobe, dressing table and excellent storage. There is a mini-fridge, flat screen television with inbuilt DVD/CD player and a telephone in each suite. Refillable water bottles, dressing gowns and slippers are also provided for your comfort. Other facilities include a safe, hairdryer, assorted Noble Isle toiletries, air-conditioning and heating. The comfortable beds in each suite can be configured as either double or twin.

Your Dining

With only one sitting and a maximum of just over 100 passengers, the cuisine on board the MS Island 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.



Superior Suite



The Club



The Library

Your Space

The spacious and finely decorated public rooms include a large Lounge on the Columbus Deck featuring a selection of seating options from individual armchairs and sofas to side cushioned benches. Daily briefings given by the Cruise Director and talks from Guest Speakers and expedition staff take place in the Lounge. In addition to the main Lounge, there is also The Club, located on the Marco Polo Deck which features the main bar. The Club also features a 24-hour tea and coffee station. Towards the aft of the ship on the Columbus Deck is the Library. Well stocked with reference books pertaining to the destinations the vessel is visiting and a selection of essential reads, you will not find yourself short of excellent literature on board. A collection of games as well as 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*). The main Restaurant, which can seat all guests at one sitting, is located on the Magellan Deck, and outside there is a rear Lido Deck located on the Erikson Deck where meals are served in warm weather under shade. Further to this on the top Explorer Deck there is an observation area ideal for spotting wildlife, complete with sun loungers for sunbathing, relaxing with a book or catching up with fellow travellers. The Promenade Deck wraps around the whole ship giving outstanding views. There is also a small beauty salon on board with appointments made on request.

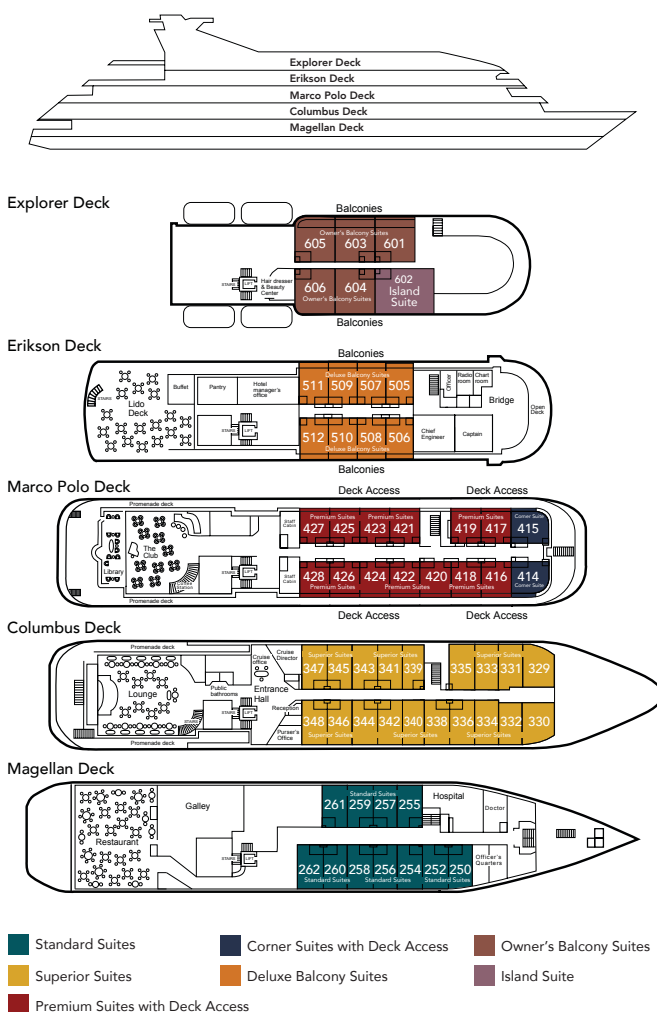
Your Comfort

The MS Island 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 wonderful destinations you are visiting in the company of like-minded people. There is a high ratio of crew to passengers and our friendly crew of 75 are mainly Filipino and Eastern European and our 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 and of course good food, all contribute to make any voyage aboard this wonderful vessel a memorable and joyful experience.

MS ISLAND SKY DECK PLAN



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