

NOBLE CALEDONIA

JAPAN

Discover the Ancient and Modern Wonders
of Japan & South Korea

March to May 2017 & May 2018



Cherry Blossom in Imperial Japan

A 14 day overland escorted tour
21st March to 4th April 2017

The cherry blossom (sakura) is Japan's unofficial national flower. It has been celebrated for many centuries and takes a very prominent position in Japanese culture. This, along with the many gardens, shrines and temples, makes spring the perfect season to glimpse some of the facets of modern Japanese life and cultural achievements. Japan is a fascinating balance of unique heritage and culture contrasting with the sprawling metropolises of the world's most advanced technological civilisation. Our escorted overland tour concentrates on a small area of Japan, in and around Kyoto, giving an in-depth view and allowing you to discover some hidden gems. Kyoto, with its hundreds of temples and gardens, was the former imperial capital and remains the cultural centre of Japan. With an astonishing 1600 Buddhist temples, 400 Shinto shrines, a trio of palaces and dozens of gardens and museums, Kyoto is Japan's cultural treasure house with seventeen of Kyoto's ancient structures and gardens having been declared UNESCO World Heritage sites. Following on from our exploration of the region surrounding Kyoto we will travel by bullet train to Tokyo for two nights of exploration of this vibrant metropolis before returning to London.

The Itinerary

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

Day 2 Osaka to Kyoto. Arrive and transfer from Osaka to the Kyoto Tokyu Hotel in Kyoto for a five night stay. Remainder of day at leisure. Dinner will be at the hotel this evening.

Day 3 Kyoto. Enjoy a relaxing morning at leisure. After lunch, we will embark on a guided sightseeing tour visiting Kyomizudera, the beautiful Kodaiji Temple with its famous garden. This evening we will enjoy dinner at a local restaurant.

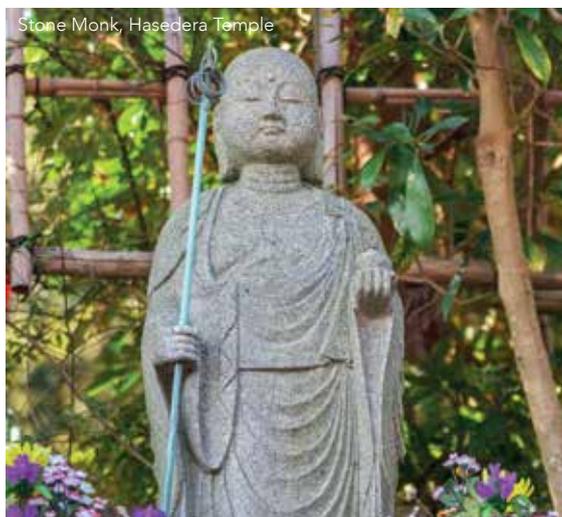


Day 4 Kyoto. This morning embark on a full day guided excursion of Kyoto including visits to the Kinkakuji Temple and Nijo Castle. We also experience a traditional Japanese Tea Ceremony. Tonight dinner will be at a local restaurant or alternatively, for an additional cost, you have the opportunity to stay in a traditional inn known in Japanese as a ryokan. The inn will be a traditional wooden building dating back more than 100 years. Your room will be decorated with classic Japanese simplicity and you will sleep on thick futons. Dinner will be a feast of Kyoto 'Kaiseki' cuisine served to you in your room. A stay in a ryokan is an opportunity to experience the true essence of Japanese culture, refinement and service. Those taking this option will be escorted to the ryokan in the afternoon and picked up the following morning after breakfast in time to join the excursion.

Day 5 Kanazawa. Today we will embark on a full day excursion by train to the famous garden city of Kanazawa, 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. 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. We will tour the city including the famous Kenrokuen gardens which is ranked among the country's top gardens. Bukeyashiki samurai houses and the Ninja Temple. Dinner this evening will be a Japanese 'bento' box meal eaten on the train.

Day 6 Kyoto. Morning free for individual sightseeing. In the early evening we will travel to Gion for a walking tour of the Geisha Districts followed by an 'enkai' party with dinner and Geisha entertainment at a local restaurant.

Day 7 Kyoto to Ise. This morning travel to Ise. On the way we will



Stone Monk, Hasedera Temple



Kiyomizu-dera Temple, Kyoto

make a stop at Byoudoin Temple to see the unique 'pure land' stroll garden and the famous 'Phoenix Hall' which is depicted on the 10 yen coin. We arrive mid-afternoon at the Prime Resort Kashikojima for a two night stay. Dinner is served both nights at the hotel.

Day 8 Ise. Today, there is a full day of sightseeing. In the morning, set out for Mikimoto Pearl Island for the chance to view the process of pearl cultivation. Later we will visit one of Shinto's most sacred shrines, Ise Jingu. The shrine consists of Geku, the outer shrine, dedicated to Toyouke, the kami of clothing, food and housing, and the inner shrine, Naiku, which enshrines Amaterasu, the Sun Goddess. Alternatively, relax at the hotel and enjoy some free time to explore Ise independently.

Day 9 Ise to Nara. After a relaxing morning we will head for Nara, stopping on the way at Hasedera to visit the beautiful temple on a hillside famous for the eleven face statue of Kannon, the Goddess of mercy. Afterwards, transfer to the Hotel Nikko Nara for a two night stay. Dinner will be at the hotel.

Day 10 Nara. Today visit the major sights of Nara. See the giant Buddha at Todaiji Temple and spend some time at the gorgeous Isuien, a refined Meiji period garden. Our final stop of the day will be Kasuga Shrine.

Day 11 Nara to Hiroshima. After breakfast transfer to Shin-Osaka Station and board the Nozomi Shinkansen, the world-renowned 'Bullet Train'. The 211 mile journey takes just 1 hour and 25 minutes. We will arrive in Hiroshima mid-morning and our half day tour will include the moving Peace Memorial Park and museum which commemorates the dropping of the atomic bomb over Hiroshima in 1945. There are a variety of monuments and buildings in the park, each dedicated to a different

aspect of the bombing. We stay for two nights at the Hotel Granvia Hiroshima. Dinner will be at the hotel this evening. *N.B. Your luggage will be transferred to Tokyo so just a small bag will be needed for two nights.*

Day 12 Miyajima. This morning we take a full day excursion to Miyajima Island. Travel by tram through Hiroshima and take the ferry across to the island. We will spend all afternoon exploring the island including the World Heritage site of Itsukushima Shrine and the cable cars which go to the top of Mount Misen for stunning views of the inland sea. In the late afternoon return to Hiroshima. This evening dinner will be the local speciality of Okonomiyaki, a kind of pancake with cabbage, noodles and a variety of fillings.

Day 13 Hiroshima to Tokyo. This morning we take the bullet train to Himeji to visit the immaculate White Heron castle and Kokoen Gardens before continuing our journey on to Tokyo. On arrival we check into the New Otani Tokyo Hotel for a two night stay.

Day 14 Tokyo. Today we will experience the highlights of Tokyo on a guided tour. The day begins with a visit to the Imperial Place. We then continue to Asakusa, Tokyo's old town, where you can soak up the atmosphere of the Tokyo of the past. This afternoon we take a boat cruise on the Sumida River passing under twelve bridges before disembarking in Hamarikyu Garden, an Edo Period Japanese garden surrounded by the Shiodome district's futuristic skyscrapers. Our final stop for today is a visit to Tokyo Tower observatory at 250 metres to get a bird's eye view of Tokyo. This evening we will meet for our Farewell Dinner.

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

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Room Description	Price
Twin	£5245
Single	£6125

Price Includes: Economy class scheduled air travel, 13 nights hotel accommodation as described on breakfast only basis, all evening meals except day 13 (please note that some evening meals will be at local restaurants, whilst others will be taken at your hotel), guided excursions as stated in the itinerary, all entrance fees and transportation, Japanese tour escort, Noble Caledonia Tour Manager, gratuities, airport taxes.

Not Included: Travel insurance, meals other than those stated, visas, Ryokan stay available on day 4 (Twin: £90 per person; Single: £170).

NB: Itinerary and hotels are subject to change.



Matsue Castle



Cherry Blossom



Memorial Park, Hiroshima



Detail of Nijo Castle



Nara Park

Temples & Gardens of Ancient Japan and South Korea

A voyage from Niigata to Osaka including South Korea aboard the MS Caledonian Sky
23rd April to 8th May 2017

Immerse yourself in the mythology of Japan and the serene beauty of South Korea on this incredible voyage. Embark the MS Caledonian Sky in Niigata and set sail to discover Japan's cultural legacy in its castles, gardens and shrines. Along the way we visit the historic and serene castle town of Matsue; the ancient feudal town of Hagi; Nagasaki, where we visit the famed Peace Memorial Park and Glover Gardens and experience the tranquility of sacred Miyajima.

Due to its wealth of ancient wonders, beguiling landscapes and 5000 years of culture and history, we will spend three days in South Korea. Discover Kyongju, the 'museum without walls', where history comes alive among tombs, temples, shrines and pleasure gardens. We also visit Haeinsa Temple, considered one of the three great temples in Korea and before returning to Japan's shores, make a call to the volcanic Jeju Island, Korea's largest island and UNESCO Biosphere Reserve.

The Itinerary

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

Day 2 Tokyo. Arrive this morning and transfer to the New Otani Hotel (or similar) for an overnight stay. Remainder of day at leisure.

Day 3 Tokyo to Niigata. After breakfast in the hotel we will enjoy a city tour of Tokyo including the 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.

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.

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, 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. 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.

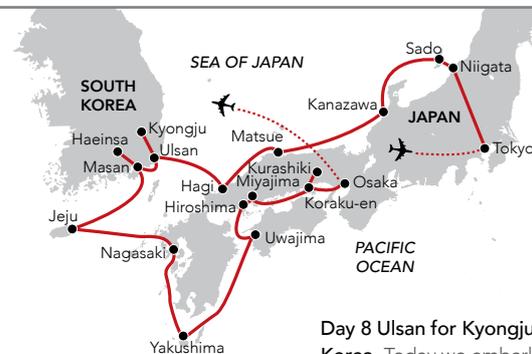
Day 6 Matsue. Matsue, called the 'town of water,' nestles between a

scenic lake and a large lagoon. We will visit the cultural attractions of the town including 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.



Haeinsa

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 Tokoiji 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 Hagiaki pottery.



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. At lunchtime, we will sample Korean delicacies and enjoy a cultural performance of traditional dance.

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. 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 10 Jeju Island. Korea's largest island is situated forty miles off the south coast and was designated a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve in 2002. We have the day to explore this island of volcanoes,



Kenrokuen Gardens, Kanazawa



Jeju Island



Yakushima



Miyajima

lush countryside and ancient traditions. The active may choose to climb the 182 metre Seongsan Ilchulbong tuff volcano which rose out of the sea over 100,000 years ago. Alternatively walk one of the 'olle routes' referring to the lanes which run through villages and through forests and which provide an insight into daily life and natural beauty of the island. See the Haenyeo, woman divers who, since the 17th century, have collected shellfish and seaweed from the waters around Jeju without using any diving equipment and visit the museum dedicated to their methods.

Day 11 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 flowered 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.

Day 12 Yakushima. After a morning at sea we arrive on the island of Yakushima which became Japan's

first UNESCO World Heritage site in 1993 and has a particularly diverse flora. We will spend our time here on a choice of nature walks in Yakusugi Land, a nature park populated by a number of the island's ancient cedar trees.

Day 13 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.

Day 14 Hiroshima & Miyajima. Arrive 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. Return to the MS Caledonian Sky for lunch as 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 a designated World Heritage Site.

Day 15 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. 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.

Day 16 Osaka to London.

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

Kyoto Post-Cruise Extension - 8th to 10th May 2017



For those wishing to spend some time in Kyoto, we are offering a two night post-cruise extension. Our stay includes visits to the Kasuga shrine and Todai-ji Temple in Nara as well as the Kinkakuji Temple, Golden Pavillion and Kiyomizu Temple in Kyoto.

Price per person based on double occupancy

Twin: **£695** Single: **£945**

Price Includes: Two nights accommodation at the Hotel Granvia Kyoto (or similar) on a bed and breakfast basis, tours in Nara and Kyoto and ship to hotel and hotel to airport transfers. **Not Included:** Travel insurance, visas.

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 Forward	£8295	£7995
Castle	Standard	£8595	£8295
Caledonian	Superior	£9095	£8795
Promenade	Premium	£9495	£9195
Bridge	Deluxe Balcony	£10295	£9995
Promenade	Premium Balcony	£10795	£10495
Promenade	Owners Corner Suite with balcony	£11295	£10995
Castle	Standard for sole use	£11495	£11195
Caledonian	Superior for sole use	£11995	£11695

Please refer to page 11 for deck plan.

Price Includes: Economy class scheduled air travel, overnight hotel accommodation in Tokyo on a breakfast only basis, 13 nights aboard the MS Caledonian Sky on a full board basis with house wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner, guest speaker, shore excursions, gratuities, transfers, port taxes, airport taxes.

Not Included: Travel Insurance, visas.

Please note that whilst we expect to be berthed alongside on most days, we will on occasion use the vessel's Zodiacs.

Timeless Japan

A cultural voyage around Japan including South Korea aboard the MS Caledonian Sky
7th to 19th May * & 16th to 28th May 2017

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. On our journey we will voyage around the stunning coastline and offshore islands of the archipelago, and discover ancient castles, serenely beautiful gardens and opulent temples and shrines. Although we will 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.

Our vessel, the 114 passenger MS Caledonian Sky, allows us to visit out of the way destinations and remote stretches of coast that would not be practical on a land tour. In addition to our partial circumnavigation of Japan, our course takes us past the south eastern tip of Korea, where we will spend a day in Kyongju, the 'Museum Without Walls'. Here, 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.

The Itinerary

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

Day 2 Tokyo. Arrive this morning and transfer to the New Otani Hotel (or similar) for an overnight stay. Remainder of the day at leisure to explore the vibrant metropolis independently.

Day 3 Tokyo to Kanazawa. 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 Kanazawa enjoying lunch along the way. On arrival in Kanazawa we transfer to the MS Caledonian Sky. Enjoy a welcome dinner and drinks on board as we moor overnight.

Day 4 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 Kenroku-en Garden, ranked among the country's top gardens.

Day 5 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 Matsue Castle. This afternoon is free to relax or explore the town at leisure. Alternatively join the excursion to the Adachi Museum. Set in a beautiful natural environment, Adachi Museum of Art is 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.

Day 6 Hagi. Japan's revolution began here in Jokamachi's old samurai residential quarter, we will tour a samurai's home and visit Daisho Temple, the resting place of the two first Mori daimyo and all the even-numbered daimyo. We will also take time to explore Hagi Castle, Shizuki Park and Tokoji Temple.

Day 7 Ulsan for Kyongju, South Korea. 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 of finely worked gold jewellery, metal weapons and distinctive pottery. At lunch, sample Korean delicacies and enjoy a cultural performance of traditional dance.

Day 8 Nagasaki & Dejima, Japan. Arrive this morning in Nagasaki the second city destroyed by an A-bomb in World War II. We will tour the Peace Memorial Park, Atomic Bomb Museum and Glover Garden. We will continue to Dejima Island which was built during the Edo Period

to accommodate Portuguese Christian missionaries and prevent the propagation of their religion. It also used to be 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.



Day 9 Yakushima. This morning we arrive on the island of Yakushima which became Japan's first UNESCO World Heritage site in 1993. Its natural wonders will astound you as Yakushima has a particularly diverse flora. We will spend our time here on nature walks including Yakusugi Land a nature park populated by a number of the island's ancient cedar trees, such as the Buddhasugi, Futagosugi and Sennensugi. This afternoon we relax at sea.

Day 10 Uwajima. Arrive this morning at 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

continue to Sakiiya Square and Dairakuji Temple.

Day 11 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 A bomb. 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 12 Okayama & Kurashiki.

This morning we will visit

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 where we will experience a traditional tea ceremony. After a local lunch 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.

Day 13 Osaka to London.

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

**Please note that the 7th May departure operates in the reverse direction to that shown. Full details can be viewed online at www.noble-caledonia.co.uk*



Pre and Post-Cruise Extensions



Tokyo extension

For those that wish to enjoy more time in Tokyo our two night extension will include accommodation at the New Otani Hotel (or similar) on a bed and breakfast basis, airport transfers and a full day tour to Nikko. This is a post-cruise extension for the 7th May departure and a pre-cruise extension for the 16th May departure.

Price per person based on double occupancy

Twin: **£595** Single: **£845**

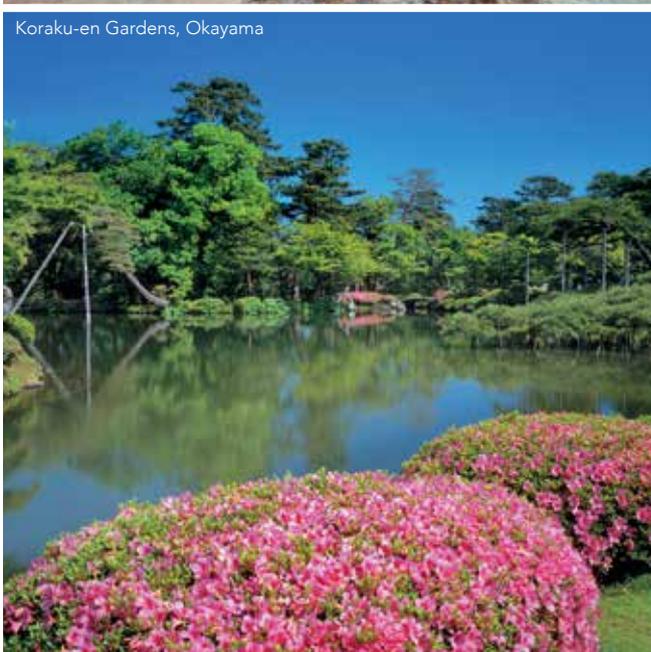


Kyoto extension

Join our two night stay in Kyoto which includes two nights at the Hotel Granvia Kyoto (or similar) on a bed and breakfast basis, a full day tour of Kyoto & Nara and transfers. This is a post-cruise extension for the 16th May departure and a pre-cruise extension for the 7th May departure.

Price per person based on double occupancy

Twin: **£695** Single: **£945**



PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

SPECIAL OFFER – SAVE £400 PER PERSON FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY			
Deck	Suite Category	Brochure Price	Special Offer Price
Castle	Standard Forward	£6695	£6295
Castle	Standard	£6995	£6595
Caledonian	Superior	£7495	£7095
Promenade	Premium	£7895	£7495
Bridge	Deluxe Balcony	£8695	£8295
Promenade	Premium Balcony	£9195	£8795
Promenade	Owners Corner Suite with balcony	£9695	£9295
Castle	Standard for sole use	£9495	£9095
Caledonian	Superior for sole use	£9995	£9595

Please refer to page 11 for deck plan.

Price Includes: Economy class scheduled air travel, overnight hotel accommodation in Tokyo on breakfast only basis, 10 nights aboard the MS Caledonian Sky on a full board basis with house wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner, cruise director, guest speaker, shore excursions, gratuities to crew and whilst on excursions, transfers, port taxes, airport taxes.

Not Included: Travel Insurance, visas.

Eternal Japan

Discover the cultural treasures of Japan and the ancient wonders of South Korea aboard the MS Caledonian Sky - 8th to 22nd May 2018

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. 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.

The Itinerary

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

Day 2 Kobe. Arrive today in Osaka and on arrival transfer to the MS Caledonian Sky moored in Kobe and sail this evening.



Matsue Castle

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, 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 will also be the opportunity 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 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 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 5 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 6 Yakushima. During our morning at sea we sail 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 7 Nagasaki & Dejima. 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 8 Masan for Haeinsa, South Korea. 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 this afternoon, here 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 9 Ulsan for Kyongju. 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.

Day 10 Hagi, Japan. 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 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 11 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 12 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 13 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 14 Niigata to Tokyo. Disembark this morning and take the bullet train to Tokyo. On arrival we enjoy an afternoon city tour including Meiji Shrine, Sensoji Temple and the Imperial Palace Plaza. We then transfer to the New Otani hotel (or similar) for an overnight stay.

Day 15 Tokyo to London. Check out this morning and transfer to the airport for the return scheduled flight to London arriving 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

Please refer to page 11 for deck plan.

Price Includes: Economy class scheduled air travel, 12 nights aboard the MS Caledonian Sky on a full board basis with house wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner, cruise director, guest speaker, shore excursions, gratuities to crew and whilst on excursions, transfers, port taxes, airport taxes, overnight hotel accommodation in Tokyo on breakfast only basis.

Not Included: Travel Insurance, visas.

NB. 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.



MS Caledonian Sky

Formerly known as the Hebridean Spirit, the MS Caledonian Sky began her life with Noble Caledonia in May 2012. Accommodating a maximum of 114 passengers in 57 spacious outside suites, she is more akin to a country hotel than the big cruise ships of today. The vessel is the ideal partner to our MS Island Sky, both were built in the same yard and at similar times and share the same excellent attributes that make them two of the finest small ships in the world and we are very proud to have them as our flagships.



Your Cabin/Suite

On board the MS Caledonian Sky there are 57 exceptionally spacious and well designed suites, 23 of which have private balconies located on the Promenade or Bridge Decks. Each suite exudes great character and grandeur with wood

panelling and brass features found throughout. The large suites all measure between 20 and 23 square metres and the balconies range in size from 4.2 to 5.6 square metres. Suites are arranged over four decks and all have outside facing views. All suites feature a sitting room area complete with coffee table, armchairs and flat screen televisions (DVD players and DVDs can be borrowed from reception for use in your suite). The beds in each cabin offer exceptionally comfortable mattresses and pillows and can be configured as large double beds or twins.

Each suite affords considerable comfort with an en-suite bathroom featuring a country style wash basin, a hot towel rack, shaver outlet and vanity unit with sink and walk-in shower and/or corner bath tub. Towelling dressing gowns and slippers are also provided for your comfort. Further facilities in the suites include walk-in or spacious wardrobes, dressing table with large mirror and stool or desk, minifridge, cabin to cabin telephone, programmable electronic safe, hairdryer, assorted Molton Brown toiletries, individually controlled air-conditioning and heating, bottled water replenished daily, as well as extra blankets and pillows.

Your Space

The spacious and finely decorated public rooms include a large lounge featuring comfortable seating and classic winged armchairs to enhance the modern country-style furnishings throughout. Daily briefings given by the Cruise Director or Expedition Leader and talks from Guest Speakers and Expedition staff take place in the main lounge which is fitted with the highest standard of presentation equipment including multiple screens. Also featured in the Lounge is an elegant bar where the on board pianist plays periodically throughout the day. The bar also features a 24-hour tea and coffee station.

In addition to the main lounge on the Caledonian Deck, there is the Lounge on the Panorama Deck which features a bar, library and two computers 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. The main dining room which can seat all guests at one sitting is located on the Castle Deck. Outside there is a rear Lido Deck located on the Bridge Deck which is complete with deck tables and chairs where meals are served in warm weather under shade.

Further to this on the Panorama Deck towards the front of the vessel there is a further observation deck, complete with bar service and comfortable cushioned deck furniture for sun bathing, relaxing with a book or catching up with fellow travellers. On the Promenade Deck there is also a small gymnasium featuring a treadmill, bicycle and cross trainer, and a hairdressers with appointments made on request.



Your Dining

With only one sitting and a maximum of just over 100 passengers, the cuisine on board is of a consistent superior quality. Afternoon tea and pre-dinner canapes take place every day in either the comfort of the lounge or out on the Lido Deck when the weather is favourable. In keeping with the informal atmosphere on board, when dining you are able to choose your seating arrangements at your leisure. Whether that be joining a table of four to six other like minded passengers outside on the Lido Deck in the evening's sunshine or whether you prefer to enjoy meals in the à la carte restaurant. For those travelling alone, our on board friendly restaurant staff will take care to ensure you are seated with other like minded travellers. In the main elegant dining room, breakfast is served buffet-style, with certain items cooked to order on request. Lunch and dinner are an à la carte five course affair, with the menu reflecting the daily catch or local delicacies. To enhance your dining experience even further a selection of wines are included with both meals.

Life On board

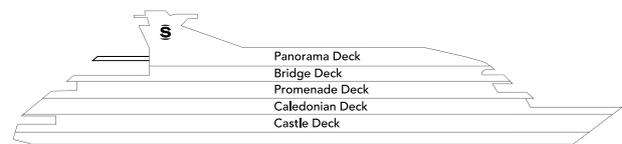
The atmosphere on board is warm and convivial and more akin to a private yacht or country hotel in which you can learn more about the wonders of nature, culture and ancient civilisations in the company of like-minded people. A little music in the lounge or bar after dinner, Guest Speakers and informative port briefings from our Expedition Leader and of course good food, all contribute to make any voyage aboard this wonderful vessel a memorable and joyful experience. After a day ashore you will return to the comfort and peace of an exceedingly comfortable ship.

The daily programme on board is in the capable hands of our Expedition Leader and staff who coordinate with the Captain and Officers to make the most of each day. Briefings and talks will be provided throughout the voyage together with a 'Daily Programme' that is distributed every evening to your suite outlining the next day's activities. .

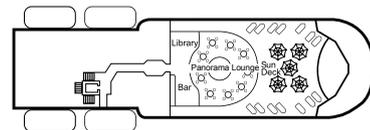
For your Comfort, Safety & Security

The MS Caledonian Sky is equipped with the latest safety, navigation and communications equipment along with roll stabilizers 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.

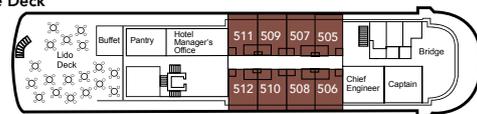
Deck Plan



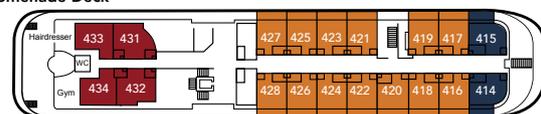
Panorama Deck



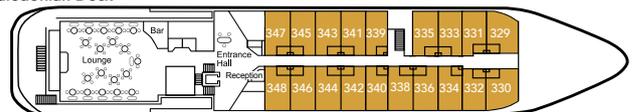
Bridge Deck



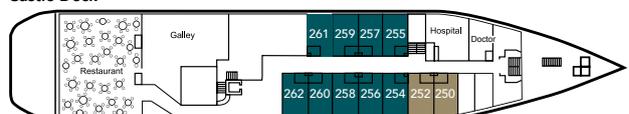
Promenade Deck



Caledonian Deck

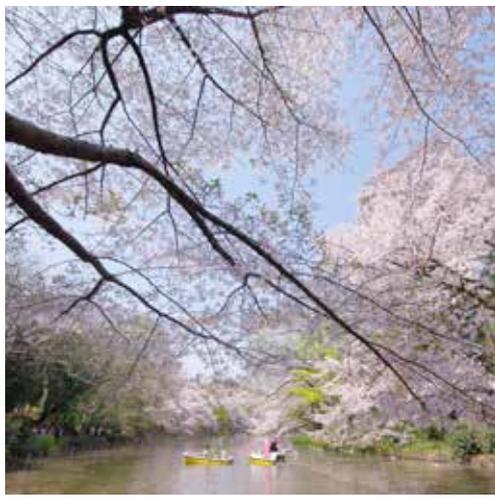


Castle Deck



- 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.



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All special offers are subject to availability. Our current booking conditions apply to all reservations and are available on request. Ports subject to change. Flight schedules for tours featured in this brochure are yet to be released and itineraries are subject to change on their release. Cover image: Miyajima

