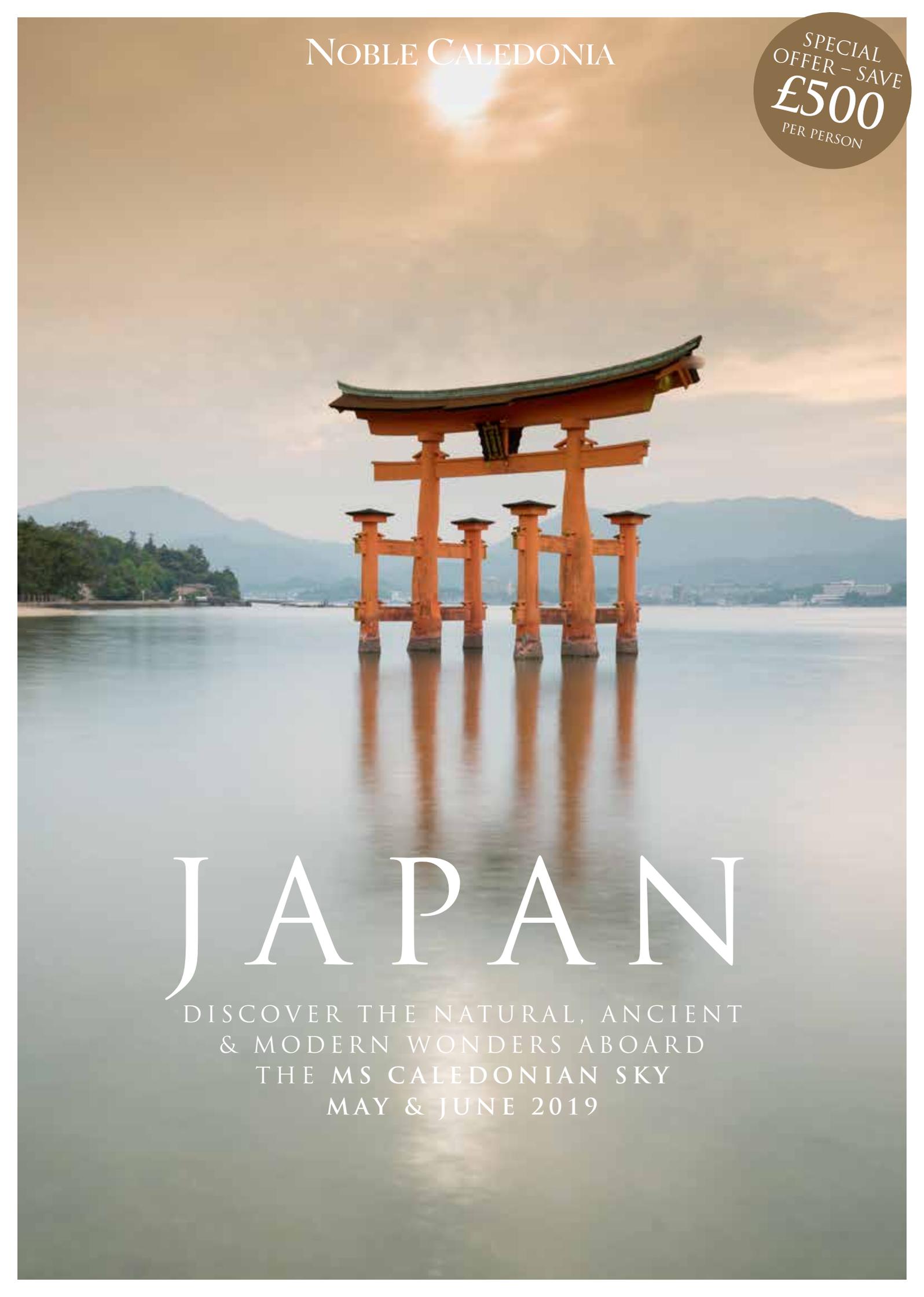


NOBLE CALEDONIA

SPECIAL  
OFFER - SAVE  
**£500**  
PER PERSON



# JAPAN

DISCOVER THE NATURAL, ANCIENT  
& MODERN WONDERS ABOARD  
THE MS CALEDONIAN SKY  
MAY & JUNE 2019

# MS CALEDONIAN SKY



Deluxe Balcony Suite



On Deck



The Restaurant

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



## Your Suite

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

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

## Your Dining

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



Library



Standard Suite



The Lounge

### 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 Lounge on the Panorama Deck which has a bar, library with two computers offering complimentary internet access and further seating ideal for watching the world go by. Outside there is a rear Lido Deck where meals are served in warm weather under shade. On the top deck there is a further observation and Sun Deck with bar service and comfortable deck furniture for sun bathing or relaxing with a book. There is also a small beauty salon with appointments made on request. Throughout the vessel carefully chosen artwork and photos reflect the destinations we sail to.

### Your Comfort

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

### Your Life On Board

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

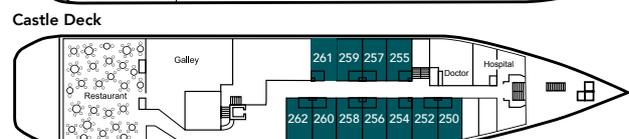
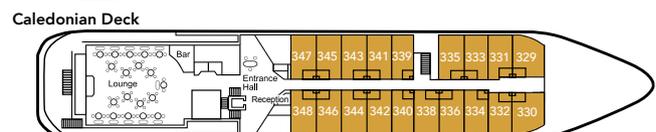
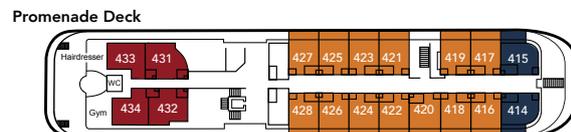
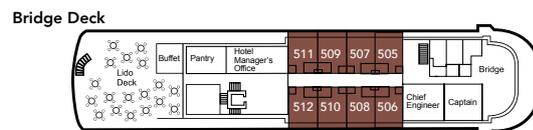
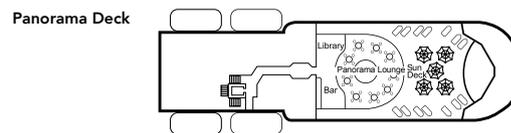
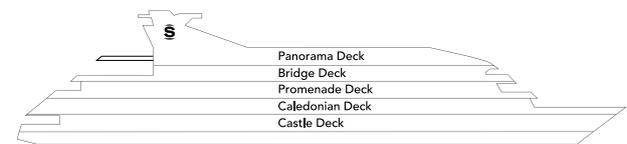


Alfresco Dining



Panorama Lounge

### MS CALEDONIAN SKY DECK PLAN



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

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

# Circumnavigation of Hokkaido

An exploration of Japan's remote island wilderness with Judith Thomas

17<sup>th</sup> May to 1<sup>st</sup> June 2019

Hokkaido, Japan's northernmost and least developed island is often considered by the Japanese to be the country's last frontier and is a world away from the traditional view of Japan. Every year the island emerges from a bitter Siberian winter into the warmth of spring, when the thaw reveals a glorious landscape littered with wild flowers. Only colonised by Japan in the past 150 years, we won't find a land of ancient temples and shrines or developed cities with skyscrapers during our visit, but what the island lacks in regard to 21st century development, it more than makes up for in natural wonders with large swathes of wild, open spaces, primeval forests, crystal clear lakes, beautiful alpine flowers, active volcanoes and bubbling hot springs. During our circumnavigation of this remarkable island, we will visit the outlying Rebun and Rishiri Islands, explore nature trails, watch for wildlife in the national parks, learn more of the indigenous Ainu people and hopefully see the multitude of colourful flowers that should be in bloom to coincide with our visit.

More than two million acres on Hokkaido are dedicated to national parkland and we will visit some of the most remarkable including the Shiretoko National Park located on the north eastern tip of the island and which in Ainu means 'end of the world'. UNESCO has called it one of the richest integrated ecosystems in the world and in 2005 designated it as a World Heritage Site. We will have a full day to explore the national park, home to brown bears, Yezo shika deer and red fox whilst birders can keep an eye out for Steller sea eagles, Blakiston fish owl and white-tailed eagles. Whilst in the Kushiro Marshlands we visit the home of Hokkaido's resident red-crowned cranes, Japan's iconic bird, known as the bird of happiness. We hope you can join us for this rare circumnavigation of Japan's most enchanting isle.

## Guest Speaker - Judith Thomas



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

## The Itinerary

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

**Day 2 Otaru.** Arrive today in Sapporo and transfer to Otaru on the west coast of Hokkaido Island. Transfer to our hotel for an overnight stay and spend the rest of the day at leisure to explore or relax in the hotel.

**Day 3 Otaru.** This morning is at leisure. You may wish to explore independently and visit Sakaimachi Street where you find seafood vendors, cafes, shops selling some of Otaru's famous glassware and the town's steam clock situated outside the Music Box Museum. In the early afternoon we will check out of the hotel and spend some time at the Otaru Art Base, a series of former office buildings that have been renovated to house exhibitions of Japanese and Western art, before continuing to the Tanaka Sake Brewery to learn more about this famous Japanese drink. After our visit we will transfer to the MS Caledonian Sky for embarkation and enjoy Welcome Dinner and Drinks as we sail this evening.

**Day 4 Teuri-Jima & Rishiri Island.**  
At dawn we arrive at the tiny island of Teuri Jima, part of the Shokanbetsu-Teuri-Yagishiri National Park and an important sanctuary for nesting seabirds including common murre and black-tailed gulls. We will use our ship to sail by the cliffs and, if time permits, we will use the Zodiacs for a closer look. Later this morning we continue our journey to the Rishiri-Rebun-Sarobetsu National Park, arriving at lunchtime. At Rishiri Island the skyline is dominated by the dormant volcano of Mount Rishiri which climbs to 1721 metres. On an afternoon tour we will see the beautiful scenery and alpine wildflowers in bloom at Himenuma Pond and Kutsugata Cape Park whilst we hope to see Black Woodpecker during a walk at the Forest Park.

**Day 5 Rebun Island.** We remain at anchor overnight in the National



Park and will spend the day at neighbouring Rebun Island which is famous for its rich flora, including many alpine flowers, some of which cannot be found anywhere else in the world, and which carpet the island from late April to mid September. Today we will take a series of walks around the coastline offering views over to Rishiro volcano and Cape Gorota. Return to the ship for lunch and sail this afternoon. We will clear immigration formalities from Japan this evening as we sail to Russia.

**Day 6 Korsakov, Russia.** Arrive this morning at Korsakov where we will clear into Russia. Once the formalities are concluded we will explore part of this city which was founded in 1853 as Sakhalin's first Russian military post. From here we drive to Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk, the capital of the island with a population of just over 160,000. Founded as a small Russian settlement in the 1880s, the city became a Japanese prefect capital when the southern half of Sakhalin was declared a Japanese colony in 1905; after World War II it was returned to Russia. Highlights include a visit to the Russian Orthodox Church, the Regional Museum housed in an impressive former Japanese mansion, and the bustling market. Return to the ship this afternoon as we return to Japanese waters.

**Day 7 Shiretoko National Park, Japan.** We return to Hokkaido this morning at the port of Abashiri where we will spend a day and a



Lake Toya and Mount Usu



Steller Sea Eagle



Canal, Otaru



Rishiri Island

half. From here we will make a full day excursion to the Shiretoko National Park which covers the majority of the Shiretoko Peninsula. This remote and untouched park combines rivers, forests, mountains and waterfalls and is home to an array of wildlife including brown bears, Yezo shika deer and red fox whilst birders can keep an eye out for Steller sea eagles, Blakiston fish owl and white-tailed eagles. If weather permits we will also take the Shiretoko pass offering stunning views of Mount Rausu. We will return to the ship via the Koshimizu Gensai-kaen, an eight kilometre long dune covered in over 40 varieties of wildflowers against a backdrop of the Sea of Okhotsk. Return to the ship this evening as we moor overnight in Abashiri.

**Day 8 Abashiri.** There will be a choice of activities this morning. Chose to take a trip to Lake Kussharo, a beautiful caldera lake

where we can enjoy the scenery or join a nature walk and maybe take a dip in one of the hot spring baths. We return to the ship via the eight hectare Shibzakura Park in Ozora where we hope to see it covered in the tiny red, pink, white and purple flowers of spring. Alternatively spend a more leisurely morning in Abashiri and learn more about the Ainu at the Hokkaido Museum of Northern Peoples and visit the Okhotski Sea Ice Museum which offers insight into the sea ice that surrounds the city during the winter. Return to the ship for lunch and spend the afternoon on deck as we sail this afternoon around the Shiretoko Peninsula and into the Nemuro Channel where we will keep an eye out for wildlife, the abundant birdlife and minke, orca and sperm whales who inhabit these waters.

**Day 9 Kushiro.** Today we will visit Kushiro Marshlands, Japan's largest wetland and marsh habitat

and home to the only known population of Japan's sacred red-crowned cranes. The cranes were thought to have been made extinct due to overhunting and habitat destruction. However in 1926 a group of 20 birds were discovered in this area and with conservation efforts now number more than 1000. We will visit the observatory with displays of the fauna and fauna of the region and views over the marshlands before taking the walking trails. Return to the ship via the small but excellent Kushiro City Museum that offers an insight into Ainu culture and natural history of the area.

**Day 10 Tomakomai.** Spend the morning at sea as we arrive into Tomakomai in the early afternoon. Choose to visit Nibutani, one of the country's best museums about the Ainu people, the indigenous people of Hokkaido. See some of the traditional clothing and hunting implements, learn about

their legends and literature and see displays of traditional dancing. Alternatively, visit Hokkaido's capital city of Sapporo where we can explore the colourful botanical gardens, visit the small Ainu museum displaying around 2500 artefacts and enjoy a tour of the famous brewery.

**Day 11 Muroran.** We will spend our morning around the Shikotsu-Toya National Park, named after the two caldera lakes which offer wonderful scenery and excellent hiking and walking opportunities. This is still an active area and a geological wonder with the volcano Showa Shin-zan only created in the 1940s. Our day will be flexible around the weather but if clear we may take the cable car to the top of Mount Usu for the wonderful views to Lake Toya, visit Jigokudani, "Hell Valley", a steaming lunar like valley of steam vents and sulphurous streams formed over 10,000 years ago or enjoy scenic walks in the



volcanic peaks that surround Lake Shikotsu. Return to the ship for lunch and spend the afternoon at leisure in Muroran, maybe visit the scenic cape and lighthouse or the active may wish to walk up Mount Sokuryo offering views to the city below.

**Day 12 Hakodate.** Our final day in Hokkaido will be at the southern port of Hakodate. We will make our way to Onuma Park, on the outskirts of the city and known for its picturesque, island-dotted lakes and majestic dormant volcano, Mount Komagatake. We have the option to take a series of walks around the lake's peninsulas and islands, several of which are connected with each other by small bridges and surrounded by birch and maple forests. Return to the ship for lunch and this afternoon either relax on board or join a city tour including the 19th century Fort Goryokaku, built as a citadel but now a public park. We will remain in Hakodate till late for anyone who wishes to take an after dinner stroll or perhaps even the cable car up Mount Hakodate for the spectacular night views.

**Day 13 Aomori.** This morning we arrive on the northern coast of Honshu. From our berth in Aomori we offer a choice of options. Maybe join the tour to Towada Hachimantai National Park which involves a scenic drive through the Kayano plateau, Hakkoda mountains and scenic Oirase Valley. We will take the Hakkoda cable car which climbs to 1324

metres above sea level and offers stunning views before continuing to Lake Towada, a magnificent ancient caldera lake surrounded by deciduous forests. Enjoy walking along the paths and through the woodlands to the viewpoints around the lake. Alternatively, visit the former Feudal town of Hirosaki which was the political capital of the region in the Edo Period. A tour of the city will include the three story castle, which was the focal point of the old city and the base of the powerful Tsugaru Clan. Surrounding the castle was the samurai and merchant district where we can visit the preserved houses and the Fujita Kinen Teien, a Japanese landscape garden built in 1919.

**Day 14 Akita.** Spend the day in the Akita Prefecture, known for its rice farming, traditional festivals, and treasured dog breed of the same name. This morning we will drive inland to Kakunodate which was established in 1620 by the Lords of Akita as a military outpost with a castle built on Mount Furushiroyama. Two distinct areas were then developed, one for samurai and the other for merchants. Today it remains one of the best examples of a castle town in Japan and the Uchimachi samurai quarter maintains a number of the original wooden houses and well maintained gardens which we can explore. The afternoon is free to explore Akita. At the centre lies Senshu Park, built from the ruins of Kubota Castle, a former samurai

fortress. Lotus flowers now fill the remnants of old moats, and tree-lined walking trails lead to its watchtower, temple, and shrine. You may also wish to visit the Akita Museum of Art which includes a large collection of work by Fujita Tsuguharu including his giant "Annual Events in Akita" mural.

**Day 15 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 our hotel for an overnight stay.

**Day 16 Tokyo to London.** After breakfast in the hotel we transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to London. Arrive this evening.

### SHIP TO SHORE

The ship will be at anchor at Teuri Jima and Rebun Island and Zodiacs or tenders will be used to transport passengers ashore.

### PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

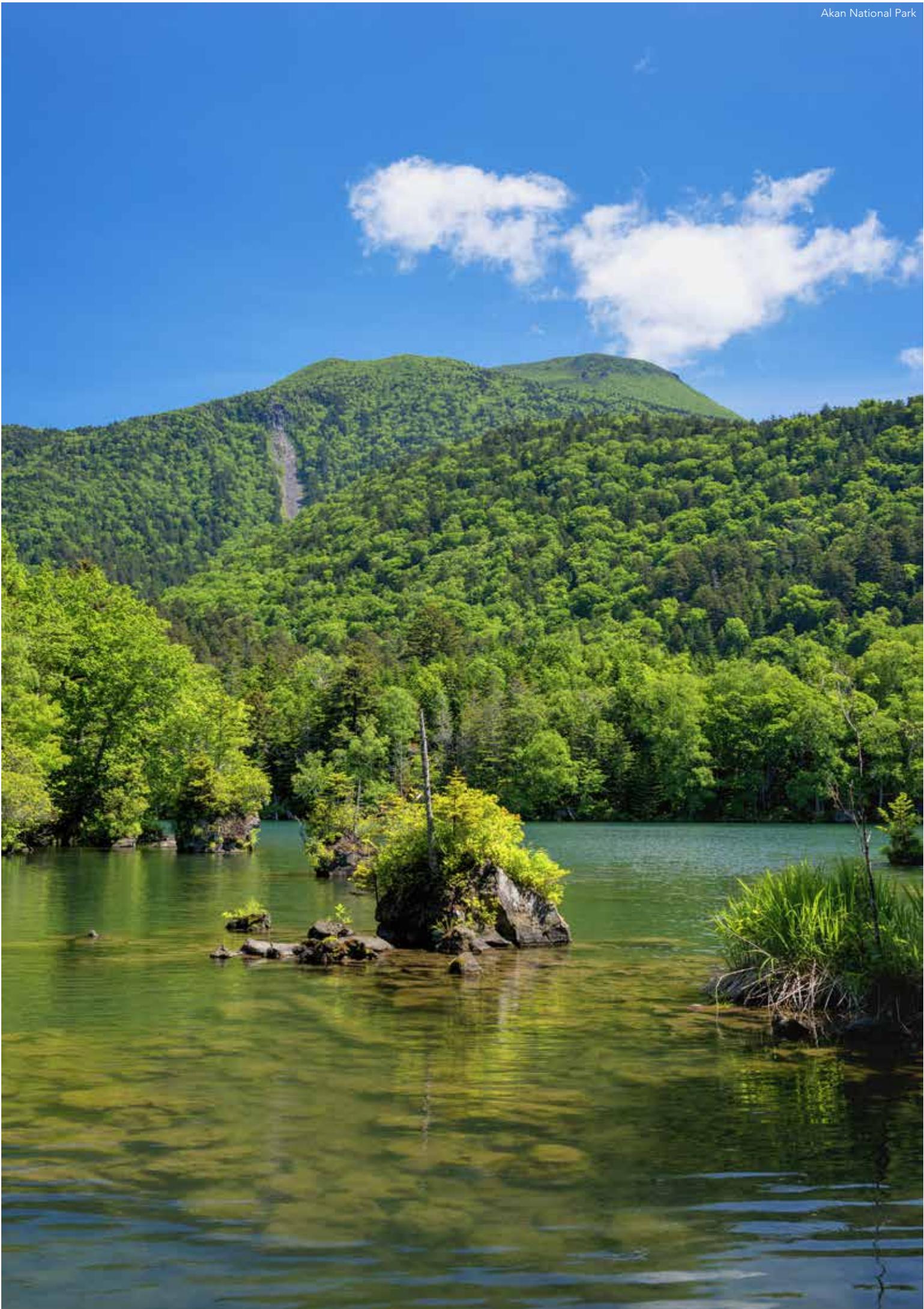
#### SPECIAL OFFER – SAVE £500 PER PERSON FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY

Deck	Suite Category	Brochure Price	Special Offer Price
Castle	Standard	£7995	£7495
Caledonian	Superior	£8295	£7795
Promenade	Premium	£8795	£8295
Bridge	Deluxe Balcony	£9295	£8795
Promenade	Premium Balcony	£9595	£9095
Promenade	Owners Corner Suite with balcony	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT
Castle	Standard for sole use	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT
Caledonian	Superior for sole use	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT

**COMBINATION CRUISE:** If you would like to combine this voyage with our Timeless Japan voyage shown on the following pages, please refer to [www.noble-caledonia.co.uk](http://www.noble-caledonia.co.uk) for further information.

**PRICE INCLUDES:** Economy class scheduled air travel • Overnight hotel accommodation in Otaru and Tokyo on bed and breakfast basis • 12 nights aboard the MS Caledonian Sky on full board basis • House wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner on board • Noble Caledonia onboard team • Shore excursions • Gratuities • Transfers • Permits • Port taxes • Group Russian Visa.

**Not Included:** Travel insurance.



# Timeless Japan

Discover the cultural treasures of Japan & the ancient wonders of South Korea  
with Judith Thomas

29<sup>th</sup> May to 11<sup>th</sup> June 2019

Japan is a fascinating balance of unique heritage and culture contrasting with the sprawling metropolises of the world's most advanced technological civilisation. Made up of 6,852 islands, the perfect way to explore the Land of the Rising Sun is by sea. During our voyage we will visit the historic and serene castle town of Matsue and the ancient feudal town of Hagi, experience the tranquility of sacred Miyajima and discover one of Japan's most famed gardens, Koraku-en. Although we will also visit the awe-inspiring contemporary landscape of Tokyo, what makes our itinerary truly unique is our visits to parts of Japan where relatively few tourists set foot such as the remote and fascinating Oki Islands and our excursion inland to the picturesque five-storied Pagoda of Rurikoji Temple which dates back to 1442. 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' and also visit the Haeinsa Temple, considered one of the three great temples in Korea.

## The Itinerary

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

**Day 2 Tokyo.** Arrive this morning and transfer to your hotel for an overnight stay. Remainder of the day at leisure.

**Day 3 Tokyo to Niigata.** After breakfast in the hotel we will enjoy a city tour of Tokyo. Continue to the train station to join the bullet train to Niigata enjoying

lunch along the way. On arrival in Niigata we will transfer to the MS Caledonian Sky. Enjoy Welcome Drinks and Dinner on board. Sail this evening.

**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 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 5 Urago, Oki Islands.**  
We have a real treat in store today as we will venture off the beaten track and call into the remote and fascinating Oki Islands. The archipelago is made up of four large inhabited islands and 180 smaller uninhabited islands. The natural beauty of the islands led to them being included in the

Daisen-Oki National Park in 1963 and more recently, in 2013, they were classified as a UNESCO Global Geopark. From the port of Urago on Nishinoshima we will offer a choice of tours that will enable us to fully appreciate this tranquil and stunning part of Japan.

**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.



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 Tokoji Temple. Return to the vessel for lunch and this afternoon is free to relax or perhaps travel to the outskirts of the city and the Yoshika Taibi Memorial Museum which is dedicated to a large collection of Hagi-yaki pottery 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 lunch time, 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 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, 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 10 Ube, Japan.** After a morning at sea we continue our exploration of Japan and visit some sites of historic, southern Yamaguchi prefecture. From our base at the port of Ube we travel inland to visit the picturesque five-storied Pagoda of Rurikoji Temple and the surrounding park. Dating back to 1442 the pagoda was built in memory of Yoshihiro Mori Terumoto who ruled the area during this period. We also hope to visit the Fujigochi Tea Plantation and enjoy a tour of the tea factory and plantation where the local Ono Tea is produced from 70 hectares of gentle rolling countryside.

**Day 11 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 12 Uno-Ko for 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



Tokyo



Oki Islands



Old Merchant Quarter, Kurashiki



Matsue Castle



Kenroku-en Garden



Himeji Castle

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 13 Himeji.** Today we arrive at Himeji where we will visit the recently renovated Himeji Castle. Built in the 16th century, Himeji Castle is a World Heritage Site and a national treasure being one of the few original feudal era fortresses remaining. The castle's name means "white egret," and the gleaming white walls that soar high above the plains below justify its name. A guided tour will take us through the castle, past the main keeps walls featuring "ishiotoshi", narrow openings that allowed defending soldiers to fire arrows or pour boiling oil onto anyone trying

to scale the walls. From the top of the keep there are wonderful views to the inland sea. Continue to the Himeji Koko-en, a reconstruction of the former samurai quarters containing nine Edo period style homes and gardens including koi ponds and intricately pruned trees. Return to the ship for lunch and this afternoon is free to explore further independently.

**Day 14 Kobe to London.**

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

**SHIP TO SHORE**

The ship will be at anchor at Miyajima and the Oki Islands and Zodiacs or tenders will be used to transport passengers ashore.

**PRICES PER PERSON**

Based on double occupancy

**SPECIAL OFFER – SAVE £500 PER PERSON FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY**

Deck	Suite Category	Brochure Price	Special Offer Price
Castle	Standard	£7495	£6995
Caledonian	Superior	£7795	£7295
Promenade	Premium	£8295	£7795
Bridge	Deluxe Balcony	£8995	£8495
Promenade	Premium Balcony	£9295	£8795
Promenade	Owners Corner Suite with balcony	£10495	£9995
Castle	Standard for sole use	£8995	£8495
Caledonian	Superior for sole use	<b>SOLD OUT</b>	<b>SOLD OUT</b>

**COMBINATION CRUISE:** If you would like to combine this voyage with our Circumnavigation of Hokkaido voyage shown on the previous pages, please refer to [www.noble-caledonia.co.uk](http://www.noble-caledonia.co.uk) for further information.

**PRICE INCLUDES:** Economy class scheduled air travel • Overnight hotel accommodation in Tokyo on breakfast only basis • 11 nights aboard the MS Caledonian Sky on full board basis • House wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner • Noble Caledonia onboard team • Shore excursions • Gratuities • Transfers • Port taxes • Airport taxes.

**Not Included:** Travel insurance, visas.

**Pre & Post-Cruise Extensions**



**Tokyo Pre-Cruise Extension**

27<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> May 2019

If you would like to spend some more time in Tokyo 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. The remainder of the day is at leisure to explore the vibrant metropolis independently.

**Day 3 Tokyo.** Full day tour of Tokyo, including Hamarikyū garden, Edo Tokyo Museum and Tokyo Tower.

**Day 4 Tokyo.** Day at leisure (main group arrive).

**PRICES PER PERSON**

Based on double occupancy

Twin: **£695** Single: **£985**

**Price Includes:** Two nights hotel accommodation in Tokyo on bed and breakfast basis, full day tour, transfer from airport to hotel. **Not Included:** Travel insurance.



**Kyoto Post-Cruise Extension**

11<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> June 2019

If you would like to spend some time in Kyoto after your cruise we are offering a two night extension.

**The Itinerary**

**Day 1 Kobe to Kyoto.** Disembark this morning in Kobe and join a tour of Kyoto and Nara, before transferring to your hotel for a two night stay.

**Day 2 Kyoto.** Day at leisure to explore.

**Day 3 Kyoto to London.** Check-out this morning and transfer to Osaka airport for the return scheduled indirect flight to London. Arrive this evening.

**PRICES PER PERSON**

Based on double occupancy

Twin: **£765** Single: **£995**

**Price Includes:** Two nights hotel accommodation in Kyoto on bed and breakfast basis, full day tour, transfers. **Not Included:** Travel insurance.



# Island Realms of Japan

A voyage from Kyoto to Taiwan exploring Japan's many island groups  
8<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> June 2019

Join the MS Caledonian Sky for this unusual voyage which focuses on the small islands and ports of southern Japan. Sailing south from the cultural capital of Kyoto, we visit Japan's intriguing and diverse islands including the subtropical Amami and Yaeyama Islands where a slower pace of life is enjoyed and which offer an altogether different experience from Japan's mainland. Over the course of just twelve nights we will be able to see a variety of cultures, natural wonders and architectural styles. Amongst the many highlights will be the iconic gardens of Koraku-en and Ritsurin, the shrines and pagodas at Miyajima and Rurikoji and Obi Castle which harks back to an era dominated by feudal lords. For the natural world enthusiasts we will explore the natural and underwater worlds of the southern archipelago and for those who prefer a historical perspective, we will see the Peace memorial at Hiroshima and the remnants of the World War II battle at Okinawa. Our expert Guest Speaker and local guides will provide an insight into Japanese culture and history along the way.

Our voyage will end in Taiwan. Sitting between China and Japan it is a surprisingly beautiful island about half the size of Scotland and we will visit one of its natural wonders, the Taroko Gorge National Park. Chiang Kai-shek, the Chinese nationalist leader and Mao's great adversary crossed the sea from China with a million and more of his followers in 1949, together with many great treasures from the Forbidden City. These treasures are now housed in the magnificent National Palace Museum in the nation's capital of Taipei which we will visit before returning to London, a wonderful epilogue to a fascinating trip.



## The Itinerary

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

**Day 2 Kyoto.** Arrive this morning and transfer to our hotel in Kyoto for a two night stay. Spend the rest of the evening at leisure to explore or relax in the hotel.

**Day 3 Kyoto.** After breakfast at the hotel discover Kyoto, Japan's former historic capital and Emperor's home for nearly 1000 years. On a morning tour we will visit Kinkakuji Temple and enjoy an afternoon at leisure to explore independently.

**Day 4 Kyoto to Kobe.** Depart the hotel after breakfast and discover Nara en-route to embark the MS Caledonian Sky. During the 8th century Nara was Japan's capital for 74 years and many of the temples and shrines from this era still remain. We arrive in Kobe to embark later in the afternoon and enjoy Welcome Drinks and Dinner

before sailing later in the evening, along Japan's Inland Sea.

**Day 5 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.

**Day 6 Takamatsu.** The MS Caledonian Sky will berth in Takamatsu located on Shikoku Island on the northern shores of the Seto Inland Sea. This morning we visit Kinashi Town preserving a rich history of producing bonsai for 250 years. We will explore the town, visit a Bonsai nursery and make our way to Ritsurin Garden, recognised as one of the most beautiful in Japan and built by feudal lords in the early Edo Period. With a backdrop against the wooded Mount Shiun, we will wander along the paths of this historic landscape garden dotted



Rurikoji Temple



Oshima Amami



Torii Gate, Miyajima



Yakusugi Land, Yakushima Island



Koraku-en

with ponds, historic trees and pavilions. Enjoy an afternoon at leisure exploring Takamatsu town.

#### Day 7 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 8 Ube, Yamaguchi.** We continue our exploration of Japan and visit some sites of historic, southern Yamaguchi prefecture. From our base at the port of

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

**Day 9 Aberatsu.** Today we will visit Obi castle in southern Miyazaki, a region off the well beaten tourist trail. The castle was ruled by the Ito Clan for fourteen generations during the Edo Period (1603-1867). We will see the castle and stroll in the grounds known for their serene grove of 140 year old cedar trees. The nearby town has several traditional streets, former samurai houses and quarter, as well as quaint streams. Enjoy an afternoon at leisure.

**Day 10 Yakushima Island.** 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 11 Amami Oshima, Amami Islands.

We continue sailing south and arrive this morning in Amami Oshima, a natural subtropical, paradise situated in the Amami Islands and surrounded by transparent waters, brightly coloured coral reefs and tropical fish. The island is almost entirely covered in forest and mangrove and offers fantastic bird watching and wildlife sightings. We have the whole day to explore and will visit the Nature Observation Park where we can walk through the forest and hope to see the Amami Jay, Ruddy kingfisher, Ryukyu Akashobin, butterflies and possibly the rare black hare. We will also see local industry and watch the process of making tsumugi and kasuri silk-cotton fabrics, used for making kimonos, at the Oshima Tsumugi Village, a craft complex in a beautiful hillside setting amongst flowers. Many of the local plants are used in dyeing. Enjoy an afternoon at leisure exploring the local area.

#### Day 12 Okinawa, Ryuku Islands.

Arrive today in the largest of the Ryuku Island archipelago, Okinawa. It is probably best known for the long and bloody battle of World War II which lasted 82 days. There will be a choice

of excursion this morning, either choose to learn more about this significant encounter when we visit the former Japanese Navy Underground Head Quarters, the Peace Memorial Park and Himeyuri Tower, which commemorates the fate of female high school students, who worked in army field hospitals in caves under horrendous conditions. Alternatively, stretch your legs as we walk through the Gangala Valley, a working excavation site with human pre-historic remains dating back some 18,000 years. We will walk past the "walking Banyan tree" and see the caves, the history of which our guides will explain. Before returning to the vessel we will see the Shuri Castle, perched on a hill overlooking Naha which used to be a centre of the Ryukyu Kingdom. Enjoy an afternoon of exploring independently.

#### Day 13 Miyako-Jima, Miyako Islands.

After a morning cruising we arrive around midday at Miyako-Jima, the largest of the eight islands of the Miyako Island Chain. The island bears many historical relics and beautiful white sandy beaches including Maehama, Painagama, Sunakawa and Shigira Beach. For our afternoon tour, we will embark on a glass bottom boat ride and scenic tour including a walk around the narrow Higashi Henna



Water Buffalo Cart, Taketomi



Whistling Green Pigeon, Amami Islands



Miyako-Jima

Cape the point where the Pacific Ocean meets the South China Sea. We also hope to offer a snorkelling opportunity.

**Day 14 Ishigaki & Taketomi, Yaeyama Islands.** Our final call in Japan will be at the Yaeyama Islands, a cluster of coral reefs and forested mountains. This morning, from our base in Ishigaki we take the short journey by local ferry to neighbouring Taketomi. This tiny island, just 1500 metres at its widest point and home to 300 people still offers a traditional Ryuku way of life. We will be transported by traditional buffalo drawn carts to view the traditional bungalow style houses with low slung terracotta roofs and rocky walls covered in hibiscus and bougainvillea. Alternatively enjoy a glass bottom boat experience on Kabira Bay before visiting Yaima village. We return to the ship for lunch and this afternoon is free to relax on board or ashore.

**Day 15 Hualien, Taiwan.** From our berth in Hualien we will enjoy a full day tour to the Taroko Gorge National Park. Taroko means "magnificent and beautiful" in the local Truku language and it is clear to see why the name was used. The gorge itself stretches for 20 kilometres with marble cliffs rising hundreds of metres above the Liwu River. We will see the

Swallow Grotto and the Tunnel of Nine Turns, a 1.9 kilometre path cut into the cliffs following the route of the original tracks along the gorge and the Changuang Temple, a Buddhist monastery with commanding views of the river. We will have a local lunch before returning to the ship later in the afternoon.

**Day 16 Keelung to London.** Disembark this morning and join a tour of Taipei after which we transfer to the airport for our scheduled indirect flight to London. Our tour will include a visit to the outstanding National Palace Museum, a repository of over 600,000 priceless Chinese artefacts which is located in the green hills just outside the city as well as the Chiang Kai-Shek Memorial Hall.

**Day 17 London.** Arrive this morning.

#### SHIP TO SHORE

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.

#### Post-Cruise Extension



#### Taiwan Post-Cruise Extension

23<sup>rd</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> June 2019

For those that wish to enjoy more time discovering Taiwan we are offering a three night post-cruise extension in Taipei.

#### PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: **£525** Single: **£825**

**Price Includes:** Three nights hotel accommodation on bed and breakfast basis, full day excursion, airport transfers. **Not Included:** Travel insurance, visas.

#### PRICES PER PERSON

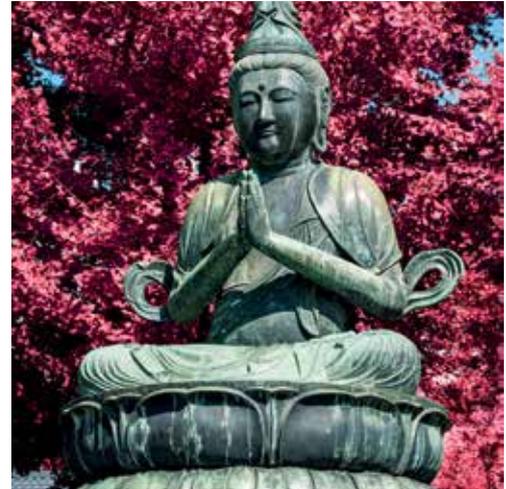
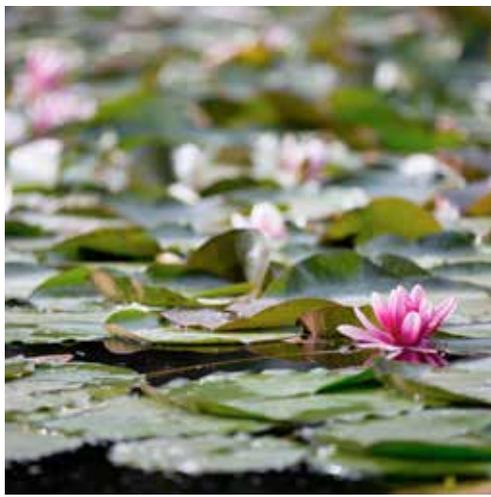
Based on double occupancy

#### SPECIAL OFFER – SAVE £500 PER PERSON FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY

Deck	Suite Category	Brochure Price	Special Offer Price
Castle	Standard	<b>£8295</b>	<b>£7795</b>
Caledonian	Superior	<b>£8495</b>	<b>£7995</b>
Promenade	Premium	<b>£8895</b>	<b>£8395</b>
Bridge	Deluxe Balcony	<b>£9495</b>	<b>£8995</b>
Promenade	Premium Balcony	<b>£9795</b>	<b>£9295</b>
Promenade	Owners Corner Suite with balcony	<b>£10795</b>	<b>£10295</b>
Castle	Standard for sole use	<b>£10495</b>	<b>£9995</b>
Caledonian	Superior for sole use	<b>£10695</b>	<b>£10195</b>

**PRICE INCLUDES:** Economy class scheduled air travel • Two nights hotel accommodation in Kyoto on bed and breakfast basis • 12 nights aboard MS Caledonian Sky on full board basis • House wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner • Noble Caledonia onboard team • Shore excursions • Group transfers • Permits • Port taxes.  
**Not Included:** Travel insurance, visas.





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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.  
Cover image: Torii gate, Miyajima

