

TIMELESS JAPAN

DISCOVER THE CULTURAL TREASURES OF
JAPAN & THE ANCIENT WONDERS OF SOUTH KOREA
ABOARD THE MS CALEDONIAN SKY
29TH MAY TO 11TH JUNE 2019

SPECIAL
OFFER - SAVE
£500
PER PERSON

NOBLE CALEDONIA

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.



Haeinsa

Oki Islands



Itsukushima jinja shrine, Miyajima



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.

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, 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 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



Kenroku-en Garden

Old Merchant Quarter, Kurashiki



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 Korakuen & Kurashiki.

From the port of Uno-Ko we will visit one of Japan's most famed gardens, Korakuen, which translates as "Garden of pleasure after". This 17th century formal garden has 28 acres of walking trails, ponds, plum and cherry trees, and a classic teahouse where we will experience a traditional tea ceremony. After a Japanese lunch in a local restaurant we will continue to Kurashiki where we

explore the old merchant quarter and its fine 17th century wooden warehouses painted white with traditional black tiles, along a canal framed with weeping willows and filled with koi. There is also a chance to visit the Ohara Museum of Art which includes rare works by Matisse, Picasso and Renoir as well as collections from Japan's mingei movement including ceramics by Hamada Shoji.

Day 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.

Pre & Post-Cruise Extensions



Tokyo Pre-Cruise Extension

27th to 30th 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 your hotel for your stay. Remainder of the day 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

11th to 13th 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.

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	£9995	£9495

PRICE INCLUDES: Economy class scheduled air travel • Overnight hotel accommodation in Tokyo on breakfast only basis • 11 nights aboard the MS Caledonian Sky on a 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.

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

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.



Standard Suite



Panorama Lounge



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.

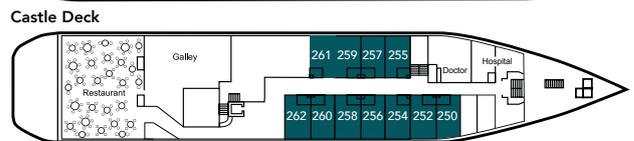
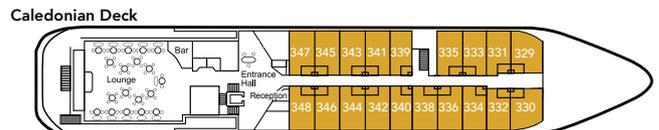
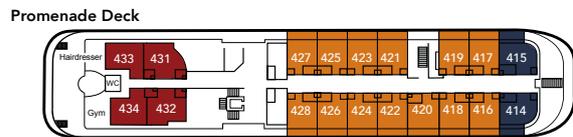
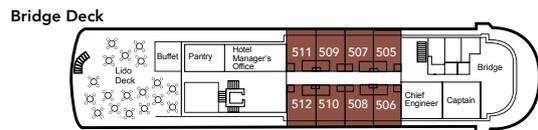
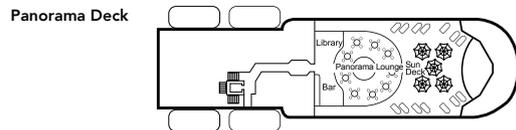
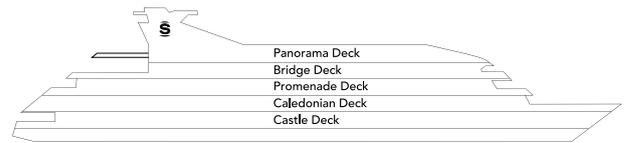
Your Life On Board

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.

MS CALEDONIAN SKY DECK PLAN



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

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

NOBLE CALEDONIA

2 Chester Close, Belgravia, London, SW1X 7BE

+44 (0)20 7752 0000 | info@noble-caledonia.co.uk | noble-caledonia.co.uk



All special offers are subject to availability. Our current booking conditions apply to all reservations and are available on request.
Cover image: Matsue Castle