

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

# TIMELESS JAPAN

DISCOVER THE CULTURAL TREASURES &  
ANCIENT WONDERS OF JAPAN INCLUDING A CALL  
IN SOUTH KOREA ABOARD THE MS ISLAND SKY

16<sup>TH</sup> TO 31<sup>ST</sup> MAY 2027

NOBLE CALEDONIA



Kinkakuji Temple (Golden Pavilion), Kyoto



Tokuji Temple, Hagi

Join us for this comprehensive exploration of Japan which is a marvellous balance of ancient castles, serenely beautiful gardens, opulent temples and shrines combined with beautiful natural landscapes. Like all well planned itineraries we have included some of the best known highlights, but equally will also take you to some places where relatively few foreign tourists set foot. So many of Japan's treasures are accessible from the coast and our twelve night cruise allows you to immerse yourself in the myth and mystique of these ancient lands whilst returning each evening to the peace and comfort of the all-suite MS Island Sky.

During our voyage we will be able to see a variety of cultures, natural wonders and architectural styles. Amongst the many highlights will be our visit to Kyoto including the breathtaking Golden Pavilion, and the beautiful iconic gardens of Ritsurin and Koraku-en, both of which date back to the Edo Period. We will also discover the shrines and pagodas of Miyajima and the 17th century Matsue Castle, one of only a dozen original castles in Japan. For the natural world enthusiasts we will visit the Mount Fuji National Park and see the ancient pilgrimage trails at Kumano and, for those who prefer a historical perspective, we will visit the Peace Memorial at Hiroshima and South Korea's World Heritage Site of Gyeongju with its abundance of archaeological sites.

All of this will be achieved with great ease in the company of just over 100 fellow, like-minded passengers. In addition, helping us understand all we will see and experience will be our expert Guest Speaker and Japanese guides who will sail with us on board the MS Island Sky and will add immeasurably to your enjoyment and understanding of this captivating country.



## The Itinerary

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

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

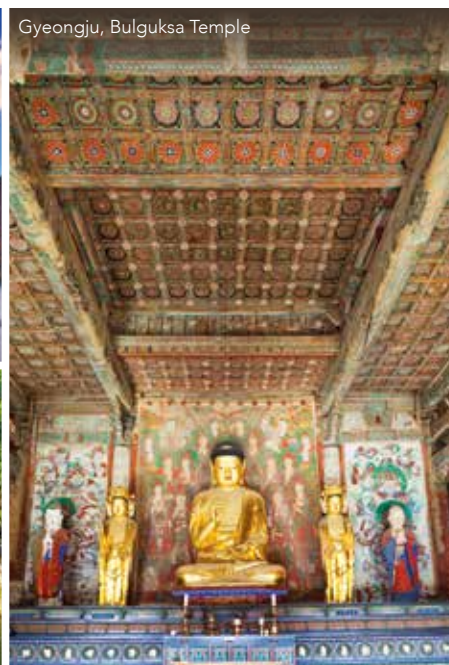
**Day 3 Tokyo to Kanazawa.** After breakfast in the hotel, a morning city tour will include the Meiji Shrine and Sensoji Temple. Continue to the train station to join our bullet train to Kanazawa where, on arrival, we transfer to the MS Island Sky. Enjoy welcome drinks and dinner as we moor overnight.

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

**Day 5 Kyoto.** From our berth in Maizuru, we drive inland to Kyoto, Japan's former historic capital and Emperor's home for nearly 1,000 years. Our full day tour begins with a visit to the bamboo forest before continuing to the World Heritage Site of Tenryu-ji Temple, ranked first amongst the city's five great Zen Temples. After lunch we continue to the Kinkakuji Temple (Golden Pavilion), which was built as a retirement villa for the Shogun and converted into a Buddhist Temple after his death. Built on the edge of a tranquil pond with the second and third stories covered in gold leaf we can walk through the peaceful gardens and marvel at the reflection in the still waters. Alternatively, spend the morning at the quaint fishing village of Ine, famous for its "funaya" boat houses which line the bay. Enjoy a walk through the village and a boat tour in the bay for the picturesque views from the sea.

**Day 6 Matsue.** From the port of Sakaiminato we visit Matsue, the 'town of water,' which nestles between a scenic lake and a large lagoon. We will visit the cultural attractions of the town including the 17th century Matsue Castle before enjoying a boat ride on the local canals. After lunch on board maybe spend the afternoon at leisure or visit the Adachi Museum of Art which is set in a beautiful natural environment and well known for both its superb Japanese gardens and its collection of contemporary Japanese paintings, comprising approximately 1,500 of the country's most highly regarded paintings produced after the Meiji period.





**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. This morning 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 to visit the Yoshika Taibi Memorial Museum. The museum 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, South Korea.** Crossing over to South Korea we embark on a full day excursion to magnificent Gyeongju, a World Heritage Site, which is often described as the world's finest open-air museum embracing ancient Korean history and Buddhist culture. As the ancient capital of the Shilla Dynasty, Gyeongju's cultural heritage dates back to the first millennium. Today, as we stroll through some of the hundreds of excavated monuments, temples, tombs and pagodas, there will be time to explore the National Museum with its exceptional collection of finely worked gold jewellery, metal weapons and distinctive pottery. At lunchtime, we will sample Korean delicacies and enjoy a cultural performance of traditional dance.

**Day 9 Kitakyushu, Japan.** After a morning at sea, we arrive into the city of Kitakyushu, located on the island of Kyushu. Here we will visit the Kokura Castle, which was originally built in 1602 but rebuilt in 1959 and is surrounded by a beautiful Japanese Garden. From here we will stop at the Moji Port Retro Area which is home to a number of historic buildings from the 19th century. The port was designated a special trade port due to its proximity to China and flourished with financial institutions and merchant companies. The architecture

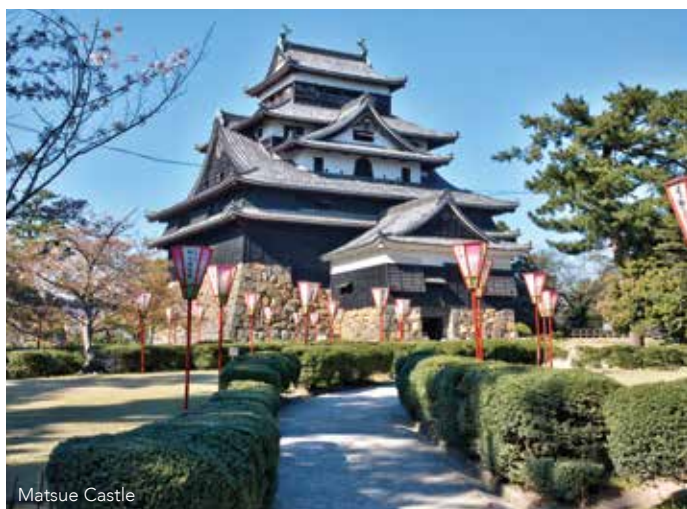
is a mix including western style buildings which always come as a bit of a surprise. There will also be the chance to visit the TOTO Museum which showcases the companies' products, the most famous being its electronic toilets which are hard to miss when visiting Japan, and Japan's passion and drive for electronics.

**Day 10 Hiroshima & Miyajima.** Arrive this morning 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 atomic bomb and the permanently lit "Flame of Peace". Just outside the park, the Atomic 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. Over lunch 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 dedicated to three sea goddesses.

**Day 11 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. 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 12 Takamatsu.** Arrive this morning in Takamatsu, located on Shikoku Island on the northern shores of the Seto Inland Sea. This morning we visit the small town of Kinashi which has 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 with ponds, historic trees and pavilions. Enjoy an afternoon at leisure exploring Takamatsu town.

**Day 13 Kumano.** From our berth in Shingu we explore the southern part of the Kii Peninsula, known since ancient times as Kumano, which was famous as a hiding place for gods and spirits of the departed. Since then, people have come to worship at the Three Grand Shrines of Kumano and the Kumano Kodo pilgrimage routes were designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2004. Today we will visit Nachi Taisha which sits alongside the 6th century Buddhist temple Seigantoji and afterwards we can see some of the trails of the pilgrimage routes before ending at the Nachi no Taki waterfall which at 133 metres is the largest single-tiered waterfall in Japan.



## Kyoto Extension 14<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> May 2027

If you would like to spend some time in Kyoto and discover the city of Nara we are offering a three night extension.



Todaiji Temple

### The Itinerary

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

**Day 2 Kyoto.** Arrive today and transfer to our hotel. The remainder of the day is free to explore independently.

**Day 3 Nara & Kyoto.** This morning we will drive to Nara which was Japan's capital during the 8th century. We will see the Todaiji Temple and Kasuga Shrine before taking lunch in a local restaurant. Return to Kyoto for an evening at leisure. (B, L)

**Day 4 Kyoto.** After breakfast at the hotel discover Kyoto, Japan's former historic capital. A morning tour will include the Kinkakuji Temple (Golden Pavilion) and the Ryoanji Temple which is the site of one of Japan's famous rock gardens. After our visit return to the hotel and enjoy the afternoon and evening at leisure. (B)

**Day 5 Kyoto to Kanazawa.** Check out after breakfast and travel by train to Kanazawa. Embark the MS Island Sky and continue with the main itinerary from Day 3. (B, L)

### PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: **£2595** Single: **£3295**

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

**NB:** Those joining the Kyoto extension will spend one less night in Tokyo as part of the main cruise package. This is reflected in the price of the extension.

## Tokyo Extension 31<sup>st</sup> May to 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2027

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



Meiji Shrine, Tokyo

### The Itinerary

**Day 1 Tokyo, Japan.** After breakfast in the hotel, enjoy a full day tour of Tokyo which will include time at the attractive Hamarikyu Gardens and the Tsukiji Outer Market. Following a barbeque lunch we will continue to the Nezu Museum. This private museum showcases over 7,000 objects including calligraphy, sculptures and textiles whilst outside we can stroll through the Japanese gardens. (B, L)

**Day 2 Tokyo.** Today is at leisure to continue exploring Tokyo. (B)

**Day 3 Tokyo to London.** After breakfast in the hotel we transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to London. (B)

### PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: **£1495** Single: **£1995**

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

**Day 14 Shimizu for Mount Fuji.** With a commanding view of Mount Fuji, the Port of Shimizu is considered one of the most beautiful harbours in Japan. Our day will be spent learning more about this iconic symbol of Japan. At the Mount Fuji World Heritage Centre we will see exhibits revealing how the mountain formed and the way humans have interacted with it through the ages before enjoying the views from the observation deck. See the Fujisan Sengen shrine, originally built over 1,000 years ago to worship the spirits of Mount Fuji and provide spiritual offerings to reduce the number of volcanic eruptions. Later we visit the Nihondaira Outlook located in a national park with panoramic views of Suruga Bay and Mount Fuji. Take the aerial ropeway up the mountain to the Kunoza Toshogu shrine dedicated to Tokugawa Ieyasu who is credited with bringing peace to Japan in the 17th century after a long period of civil war.

**Day 15 Yokohama.** Disembark in Yokohama this morning and explore this historic port which after the Edo Period of self-isolation grew from a small fishing village to a major city. We will visit Harbour View Park, known for its roses and views of the city and Yokohama Bay Bridge, stroll through the beautiful Sankeien Garden and see the largest China Town in Japan. After lunch in a local restaurant we transfer to Tokyo and check into our hotel for an overnight stay. The remainder of the afternoon and evening are at leisure.

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

### 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
Magellan	Standard	£10995	£10495
Columbus	Superior	£11395	£10895
Marco Polo	Premium	£11695	£11195
Marco Polo	Corner	£11995	£11495
Erikson	Deluxe Balcony	£13295	£12795
Explorer	Owner's Balcony Suites	£13795	£13295
Explorer	Island Suite	£14495	£13995
Magellan	Standard for sole use	£12995	£12495
Columbus	Superior for sole use	£13395	£12895

**PRICE INCLUDES:** Economy class scheduled air travel • 12 nights aboard the MS Island Sky on a full board basis • House wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner • Lunch on day 15 • Two nights accommodation in Tokyo with breakfast • Noble Caledonia onboard team including Guest Speaker • Shore excursions • Gratuities • Transfers • Port taxes.

**Not Included:** Travel insurance, dinner on days 2 & 15.



# MS ISLAND SKY



The Library



Deluxe Balcony Suite



The Restaurant

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

## Your Suite

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

## Your Dining

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



Superior Suite



The Lounge



The Club

## Your Space

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

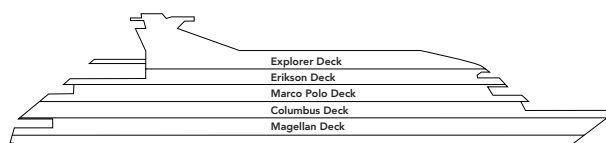
## Your Comfort

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

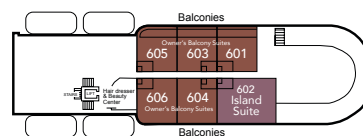
## Your Life On Board

The atmosphere on board is warm and convivial and more akin to a private yacht or country hotel in which you can learn more about wonderful destinations you are visiting in the company of like-minded people. There is a high ratio of crew to passengers and our friendly crew of 75 are mainly Filipino and Eastern European and our Captains are experienced mariners. After a day ashore you will return to the comfort and peace of a well-run and exceedingly comfortable ship where peace, high quality of service and attention to detail are the order of the day. A little music in the Lounge after dinner, Guest Speakers and informative port briefings and of course good food, all contribute to make any voyage aboard this wonderful vessel a memorable and joyful experience.

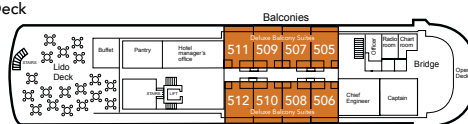
## MS ISLAND SKY DECK PLAN



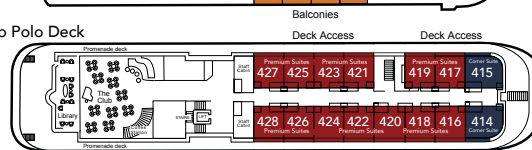
### Explorer Deck



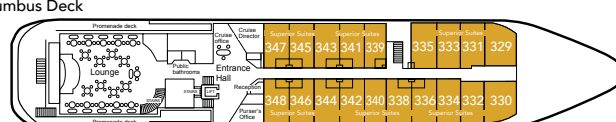
### Erikson Deck



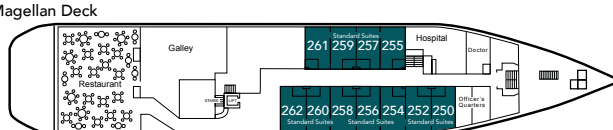
### Marco Polo Deck



### Columbus Deck



### Magellan Deck



- Standard Suites
- Superior Suites
- Premium Suites with Deck Access
- Corner Suites with Deck Access
- Deluxe Balcony Suites
- Owner's Balcony Suites
- Island Suite



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