

TREASURES OF JAPAN & SOUTH KOREA

A VOYAGE FROM KANAZAWA TO KOBE
ABOARD THE MS ISLAND SKY

27TH APRIL TO 10TH MAY 2027

SPECIAL
OFFER - SAVE
£500
PER PERSON



NOBLE CALEDONIA

Ritsurin Garden



Kanazawa

Immerse yourself in the unique heritage and culture of Japan and the serene beauty of South Korea on this remarkable voyage aboard the 118-passenger MS Island Sky. Sailing from Kanazawa, our comprehensive exploration offers a marvellous balance of ancient castles, serenely beautiful gardens and opulent temples and shrines combined with witnessing some stunning natural landscapes and the futuristic city of Tokyo. So many of Japan's and South Korea's treasures are accessible from the coast and our ten 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.

Amongst the many highlights will be our visit to the historical city of Kanazawa with its traditional crafts and the 17th century Matsue Castle, one of only a dozen original castles in Japan. We will also discover the shrines and pagodas of Miyajima and see the Peace Memorial at Hiroshima. For the garden enthusiasts we will visit one of Japan's most famed gardens, Koraku-en and on Shikoku Island, one of Japan's more traditional islands, we will learn about bonsai cultivation and explore the beautiful Ritsurin Garden which dates from the early Edo Period. In addition to our partial circumnavigation of Japan, our course takes us past the southeastern tip of South Korea where we will spend a day in Gyeongju, the 'Museum Without Walls' and visit the Haeinsa Temple, considered one of the three great temples in Korea. We will also discover the picturesque coastal city Yeosu, which translates to 'beautiful waters', from where there will be the opportunity to visit the fortress town of Naganeupseong or to explore the area's natural beauty including wildlife viewing at Suncheon Bay Wetland Reserve.

During our voyage we will be able to witness a variety of cultures, natural wonders and architectural styles and 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 travel on board with us and will add immeasurably to your enjoyment and understanding of this captivating region.



Matsue Castle

The Itinerary

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

Day 2 Tokyo. Arrive and transfer to our central hotel for an overnight stay. The remainder of the day is 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 the bullet train to Kanazawa where, on arrival, we will transfer to the MS Island Sky.

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. Alternatively, you can choose to head towards the mountains and explore the town of Inami, built by expert wood carvers, whose magnificent craftsmanship can be seen in Zuisenji Temple. Today the town is home to 120 woodworking studios, with craftsmen keeping the traditional practice alive. From here we will drive to Gokayama where we will see the traditional gassho-zukuri style houses, which are still used today as homes. Walking through the village here we will experience the history and heritage of Japan.

Day 5 Matsue. From the port of Sakaiminato we visit Matsue, the 'town of water,' which nestles between a scenic lake and a large lagoon. We will visit the cultural attractions of the town including the 17th century Matsue Castle before enjoying a boat ride on the local canals. Alternatively visit the Adachi Museum of Art which is set in a beautiful natural environment and well known for both its superb Japanese gardens and its collection of contemporary Japanese paintings, comprising approximately 1,500 of the country's most highly regarded paintings produced after the Meiji period. Return to the ship for lunch as we sail for South Korea this afternoon.

Day 6 Ulsan, South Korea. Crossing over to South Korea we embark on a full day excursion to magnificent Gyeongju, a World Heritage Site, which is often described as the world's finest open-air museum embracing ancient Korean history and Buddhist culture. As the ancient capital of the Shilla Dynasty, Gyeongju's cultural heritage dates back to the first millennium. Today, as we stroll through some of the hundreds of excavated monuments, temples, tombs and pagodas, there will be time to explore the National Museum with its exceptional collection of finely worked gold jewellery, metal weapons and distinctive pottery. At lunchtime, we will sample Korean delicacies and enjoy a cultural performance of traditional dance.

Day 7 Masan for Haeinsa. From our berth in Masan we head inland to the Haeinsa Temple. Regarded as one of the three great temples in Korea, it was first settled in 802 AD and its name derives from a verse in a Buddhist Sutra as 'reflections on a smooth sea'. In the 13th century when Korea was at war with the Mongols, the government commissioned the Tripitaka 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. After a traditional Korean lunch we will visit the Hapcheon Museum. On our way back to Masan we will stop in Okjeon to explore the ancient tombs that give an insight into Korea's early history and customs.

Day 8 Yeosu. This morning, we arrive into Yeosu whose name means 'beautiful (Yeo) waters (su)' and this picturesque coastal city lives up to

the name. The city and surrounding area has a rich history paired with beautiful scenery and coastline. We will use Yeosu as our base to explore the local area with a choice of tours this morning. You can choose to visit the historic Naganeupseong Walled Town which contains a fortress town of over 59,504 square metres in size. This UNESCO World Heritage Site is considered the best preserved fortress town in the country. We will walk through this preserved town learning of its history, witness the traditional craftsmen at work and see the traditional houses, some of which are still occupied. Many families have lived in the village for generations keeping this traditional lifestyle alive. Alternatively we will delve into the natural beauty of the area with a visit to Suncheon. We will start at Suncheon Bay National Garden, a stunning landscape of themed gardens, flower fields and ecofriendly design showcasing Korea's commitment to sustainability. From here we will travel by Skycube (a driverless electric train) to Suncheon Bay Wetland Reserve, one of South Korea's most important ecological sites, home to reed fields, mudflats and migratory birds. We will walk along the boardwalks taking in this stunning setting hoping to catch sight of some of the wildlife that inhabits the area. After lunch on board the afternoon is free to explore Yeosu and a shuttle bus will run from the ship to a central point in the city.

Day 9 Kitakyushu, Japan. After a morning at sea sailing back to Japan, 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 company's 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 Uno-Ko. 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'.



Kokura Castle, Kitakyushu

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 the former residence of the Nozaki family. This mansion was built by Nozaki Buzemon during the Edo period and is famed for his 'Salt Farm Kingdom'. This huge estate is split into the family's living area, different gardens as well as storehouses and tea ceremony pavilions. The residence takes you back to the Edo period with its exquisite architecture and decorations.

Day 12 Takamatsu. Arriving during the night we awake 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 Kobe to London. We will disembark this morning and transfer to Kansai Airport for the scheduled flight to London.

Day 14 London. Arrive today.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

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

Deck	Suite Category	Brochure Price	Special Offer Price
Magellan	Standard	£9495	£8995
Columbus	Superior	£9795	£9295
Marco Polo	Premium	£10095	£9595
Marco Polo	Corner	£10395	£9895
Erikson	Deluxe Balcony	£11995	£11495
Explorer	Owner's Balcony Suites	£12795	£12295
Explorer	Island Suite	£13295	£12795
Magellan	Standard for sole use	£11995	£11495
Columbus	Superior for sole use	£12495	£11995

PRICE INCLUDES: Economy class scheduled air travel • 10 nights aboard the MS Island Sky on a full board basis • Overnight hotel accommodation in Tokyo with breakfast • House wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch & dinner • Noble Caledonia onboard team including Guest Speaker • Shore excursions • Gratuities • Transfers • Airport taxes • Port taxes.

Not Included: Travel insurance, dinner on day 2.

Pre-cruise Tokyo Extension

25th to 28th April 2027

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

The Itinerary

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



Meiji Shrine, Tokyo

Day 2 Tokyo. Arrive and transfer to our hotel for a two night stay. The remainder of the day is free to explore independently.

Day 3 Tokyo. Enjoy a full day tour of Tokyo which will include time at the attractive Hamarikyu Gardens and the Tsukiji Outer Market where we will learn about traditional Japanese foods. After a barbecue lunch we will continue to the Nezu Museum. This private museum showcases over 7000 objects including calligraphy, sculptures and textiles whilst outside we can stroll through the Japanese gardens. (B, L)

Day 4 Tokyo. Today is at leisure to continue exploring Tokyo. Your fellow travel companions will arrive today from London. Continue with the main itinerary from Day 2. (B)

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: £1895 Single: £2495

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

NB. Minimum numbers apply.

Post-cruise Kyoto Extension

9th to 12th May 2027

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



Kinkakuji Temple, Kyoto

Day 1 Kobe to Kyoto, Japan. We will disembark this morning and drive to Nara.

During the 8th century Nara was Japan's capital for 74 years and many of the temples and shrines from this era remain. We will see the Todaji Temple and Kasuga Shrine before taking lunch in a local restaurant. Afterwards we continue our journey to Kyoto and check into our hotel. Enjoy an evening at leisure. (B, L)

Day 2 Kyoto. After breakfast at the hotel we will discover Kyoto, Japan's former historic capital and Emperor's home for nearly 1000 years. A morning tour will include the Kinkakuji Temple (Golden Pavilion) and the Ryoanji Temple which is the site of one of Japan's famous rock gardens. After our visit we will return to the hotel and enjoy an afternoon and evening at leisure. (B)

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

Day 4 Kyoto to London. Arrive today.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: £1645 Single: £1995

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

NB. Minimum numbers apply.

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.

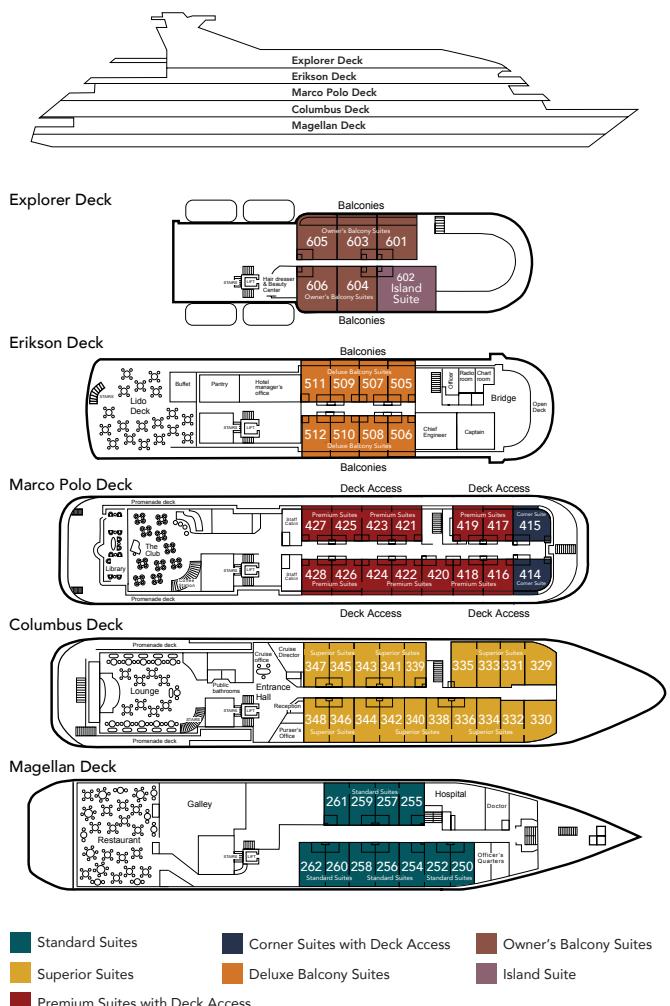
Your Comfort

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



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All special offers are subject to availability. Our current booking conditions apply to all reservations and are available on request.
 Cover image: Sensoji Temple, Tokyo.