



## LUXURY EXPEDITION CRUISES

## Wonders of Japan Cruise 2020

14 days from **\$16,495** was \$19,495

Limited to 199 guests

**OFFER**

Book early and save \$3,000 per person on stateroom categories 1-3.

Experience stunning and ever-compelling Japan on an 11-night cruise with A&K's renowned Expedition Team and enrichment specialists, exploring unique ports and enjoying included shore excursions, all from aboard exclusively chartered, all-balcony 'Le Soleal.'

### A&K Advantages

Cruise for 11 nights on exclusively chartered 'Le Soleal,' enjoying A&K exclusives that include all-balcony accommodations and a capacity limited to no more than 199 guests

Begin your adventure with a two-night stay in bustling Osaka, where you enjoy a choice of fascinating excursions

Sail with a remarkable team curated by A&K, featuring our award-winning Expedition Team and local guides, a skilled service staff and crew, and one of the best personnel-to-guest ratios at 1 to 1.3

Enjoy all-inclusive cruising with included gratuities, unlimited house drinks, every onboard meal and some meals ashore, port charges, Wi-Fi, and Traveller's Valet® laundry service

Design Your Day® with a choice of included shore excursions on offer daily throughout your voyage, offering you abundant opportunities to delve deeper into Japan's culture, arts and architecture, history, and natural wonders

Witness a private performance by the world-renowned Kodo taiko drummers

Immerse in Japanese art, perhaps visiting the Chichu Art Museum and Adachi Museum of Art

Visit Gyeongju, South Korea, ancient dynastic capital and UNESCO World Heritage Site

Reflect on Japan's turbulent history and witness its miraculous resurgence at Hiroshima

Enjoy fascinating onboard lectures and presentations led by our knowledgeable enrichment specialists on Japanese history, art, culture, gardens and nature

# Itinerary

## JUN 13 ARRIVE OSAKA, JAPAN

Cross the International Dateline and arrive at Osaka's Kansai International Airport. After clearing customs and immigration, meet your A&K representative and transfer to your primely located hotel. Spend the remainder of the day at leisure. Alternately, with insight from our experts, set out to explore Osaka at your own pace.

Imperial Hotel, Osaka

## JUN 14 OSAKA | CULTURAL WONDERS

Today, choose from a selection of tours, such as an enlightening, full-day excursion to Kyoto, where you visit the Golden Pavilion (Kinkakuji Temple); attend a talk about Zen Buddhism at Tenryuji Temple; and explore the Nijo Castle. Or, you may visit historic Nara, the first Japanese capital, including Houryuji, the country's oldest temple. Alternately, pay a visit to a tea factory to experience matcha-making and tea brewing, followed by a visit to Byodoin Temple, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Gather this evening for a welcome reception and dinner with fellow guests, and the A&K specialists and local guides who will be accompanying you on this enriching voyage.

Imperial Hotel, Osaka | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

## JUN 15 OSAKA | THE ADVENTURE BEGINS

After breakfast at your hotel, enjoy the morning at leisure or join a panoramic tour of Osaka that includes a visit to the Dotonbori district and the imposing Osaka Castle, which towers above a moat and surrounding park. This afternoon, transfer to the port where you board luxurious 'Le Soleal,' your floating home for the next 11 nights. Throughout your journey, enjoy access to experts both on board and ashore, as well as ongoing conversations with our Expedition Team.

'Le Soleal' | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

## JUN 16 TAKAMATSU | EXPLORE YOUR WAY

Arrive this morning in Takamatsu, gateway to Shikoku Island. Choose from an array of intimate, thoughtfully planned excursions. Whether revolving around nature, gastronomy, arts or culture, each has been designed to reveal Japan at its most authentic. You may, for example, travel to Naoshima Island by ferry for a full-day excursion, celebrating its architecture and art museums. Visit the breathtaking hillside Chichu Art Museum and stop at Benesse House, a complex featuring unique work by Japanese and international artists. Alternately, board a high-speed boat to Shodoshima, or Shodo Island, the heart of Japan's olive-growing industry for a full-day tour. You may otherwise remain on Shikoku Island, experiencing Takamatsu's most acclaimed features. Begin with a visit to Ritsurin Park, one of Japan's finest gardens. Next, visit the Kinashiarea of Takamatsu, among the country's main bonsai production centers, where you learn of the traditional methods for growing and caring for these highly cultivated little trees. Spend the rest of the day at your own pace in the lovely port of Takamatsu, with time to explore the shops and enjoy the lively atmosphere. Return to the ship at leisure.

'Le Soleal' | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

## JUN 17 HIROSHIMA & MIYAJIMA | MEMORIALS & SHRINES

Arrive in the port of Hiroshima, where you may opt to visit the Hiroshima Peace Park and Museum, its cenotaph containing names of the known victims of the atomic bomb. Then, take a speedboat ride to Miyajima Island to witness the scarlet Torii Gate at the entrance to the sacred Shinto Shrine. Or take a full-day excursion through Hiroshima, visiting the Hiroshima Castle and Hiroshima Peace Park and Museum, where you attend a private talk with an atomic bomb survivor. Alternately, spend a full day on the tranquil island of Miyajima, including the Itsukushima-Jinja, the shrine complex listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site and National Treasure. Ascend Mount Misen by cable car for a hike. Then, admire the Shinto Shrine and Torii Gate. Return to your vessel and continue sailing through the Kamnon Strait en route to the Korea Strait.

'Le Soleal' | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

## JUN 18 KARATSU | ANCIENT TRADING POST

This afternoon, 'Le Soleal' arrives at the port of Karatsu. Once an early trading post between Japan and mainland Asia, Karatsu still maintains its medieval heritage. Visit Karatsu Castle, known as the "flying crane castle." Pay a visit to the Hikiyama Exhibition Hall, which houses the floats and artifacts used in the annual Karatsu Kunchi autumn festival, recently inscribed on the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage list. You may also visit Ningyo Joruri (puppet theater) and the Nakazato Taroemon Kiln, a ceramic studio that has been active since the late 16th century. Alternatively, visit the Kitahata Shige region to meet green tea farmers, along with the chance to pick your own tea leaves.

'Le Soleal' | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

## JUN 19 GYEONGJU, SOUTH KOREA | KOREAN CAPITAL

Disembark and spend a full day exploring Gyeongju, South Korea, ancient capital of the Shilla Dynasty and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Gyeongju's cultural heritage dates back to the first millennium. Witness its excavated monuments, temples, tombs and pagodas, gaining insight from your cultural historian. Then, unearth the treasures of the National Museum, which houses an exceptional collection of jewelry, weapons and pottery. Sit down to a lunch of Korean delicacies and witness a traditional dance performance. Alternately, gain insight on South Korean culture and join a special visit to the Hyundai Motor factory.

'Le Soleal' | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



#### **JUN 20 MATSUE, JAPAN | VERDANT GARDENS**

Return to Japan and disembark at Sakaiminato to visit Matsue, the “town of water,” nestled between a scenic lake and a large lagoon. Choose to explore the countryside, pausing at the Peonies Village to wander through its picturesque Yuushien Garden. Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant before visiting historic Matsue Castle, one of Japan’s few remaining medieval castles, built in original wooden form. Alternately, visit the garden-frosted Adachi Museum of Art, which melds the founders’ passions for art and garden design. Following a traditional lunch at a ryokan (inn), visit Yakumo-mura village to learn about the art of Japanese papermaking.

'Le Soleal' | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

#### **JUN 21–22 KANAZAWA | IMMERSION INTO THE ARTS**

Spend the day exploring the thriving art center of Kanazawa, known for its Kutani-style pottery and gold-leaf workmanship, followed by a visit to Kenrokuen Garden, an Edo-period garden considered to be among the best in Japan. Or, choose a more active excursion that includes a hike in Kakusenkei Gorge; lunch at a local restaurant; and an onsen (spa) experience in the Yamanaka Onsen district, or a visit to scenic Shirakawa-go and the Shogawa River Valley. The next day, wander through its Omicho Market at your leisure, featuring everything from fresh flowers to fish and local handicrafts. Take a stroll in the Higashi Chaya-gai geisha district, where the slatted wooden façades of the geisha houses are still preserved. Tonight, join fellow guests for a private event featuring live entertainment before dinner.

'Le Soleal' | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

#### **JUN 23 SADO-GA-SHIMA | KODO TAIKO DRUMMERS**

Travel off the beaten path and arrive at pastoral Sado Island, with its rice paddies, bamboo groves and surf-pounded seacoasts. Political exiles, deposed emperors and intellectuals were once “banished” to live in this beautiful setting. Today, enjoy an exclusive, private performance by the fabled Kodo taiko drummers. Next, visit the Hakusanmaru exhibition hall and Ogi Folk Cultural museum, followed by a farmer’s talk at the rice paddies. Return to your ship and set sail for the west coast of Japan’s mainland.

'Le Soleal' | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

#### **JUN 24 NOSHIRO/AOMORI | PICTURESQUE CALDERA LAKE**

Disembark in Noshiro and head to Towada-Hachimantai National Park, passing en route through the panoramic mountain plateau region of Hachimantai. Visit the Great Drum House to witness the drums used in the Tsuzureko Shrine Festival. Then, hike or take a boat ride at the ancient caldera of Lake Towada, formed by the eruption of a volcano. For a more in-depth nature experience, you may choose a trekking excursion to Juniko Lake alongside an A&K naturalist and a national park nature guide. Later this afternoon, re-board your vessel in Aomori.

'Le Soleal' | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

#### **JUN 25 OTARU | HISTORIC CANAL**

Arrive in Hokkaido, Japan’s northernmost island. Shortly after lunch, disembark in Otaru, a picturesque city known for its canal, well-preserved architecture, handicrafts, sake distilleries and stunning views of Mount Tengu. You may opt to take a historical and cultural tour of the city, once a prosperous fishing village. At the impressively crafted “Herring Mansion,” learn the history of the prominent Aoyama family. Afterward, discover Otaru’s storied glassmaking and visit a sake distillery, where you may sample its rice wine. End with a visit to the city’s historic canal; once filled with fishing barges, it is now lined with museums and shops. Or, choose to visit Mount Tengu by gondola, taking in panoramic views of Otaru Port and Ishikari Bay. During a leisurely walk on top of the mountain, you may see the 100-year-old cherry tree. Visit the Tengu House, where nearly 700 goblin masks from throughout Japan are exhibited, before your descent back to the city to see the famous canal. Spend the evening in port in Otaru.

'Le Soleal' | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

#### **JUN 26 DEPART SAPPORO**

After breakfast on board ‘Le Soleal,’ disembark in Otaru, where you transfer to the airport in Sapporo. Board your homebound flight, join the post-cruise group extension to Tokyo or continue onward with your independent travels.

## Extensions



### NEW! Kyoto Pre-Tour extension

4 days from \$3,495  
Single Supplement from \$1,195

JUN 10

Arrive in Osaka and transfer to Kyoto, cultural and historic capital of Japan. Check into your tranquil hotel and enjoy the rest of the day at leisure.

Hyatt Regency Kyoto

JUN 11

Travel through the busy lanes of the Higashiyama district to Kiyomizu Temple. Visit its Main Hall, a remarkable 17th-century wooden structure set on a steep cliff and offering panoramic views of Kyoto. Take a guided tour of a machiya, a traditional wooden townhouse and try on a kimono. After lunch, return to your hotel for time at leisure.

Hyatt Regency Kyoto | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

JUN 12

Set out on an enlightening tour of Kyoto. Visit the iconic rock garden at Ryoan-ji Temple, considered a supreme example of an abstract Zen garden, and Arashiyama, where you take in its famed bamboo grove and stroll its Togetsukyo bridge over the picturesque Katsura River.

Hyatt Regency Kyoto | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

JUN 13

Transfer to Osaka and begin your main program.



### Tokyo Post-Tour Extension

4 days from \$4,795  
Single Supplement from \$1,595  
✈ Sapporo/Tokyo

Internal air included

JUN 26

Fly to Tokyo. Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant and check in to your hotel.

Conrad Tokyo | Meals: Lunch

JUN 27

Visit the Tsukiji Outer Fish Market and Imperial Palace Plaza or the Hakone ropeway. Then, visit Hakone's Open Air museum followed by a puzzle box-making experience.

Conrad Tokyo | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

JUN 28

Visit the Asakusa District and the Shunkaen Bonsai Museum or visit the Meiji Jingu Shrine and the Nezu Museum with an Edo-dyeing experience. Join fellow guests for a farewell reception and dinner.

Conrad Tokyo | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

JUN 29

Transfer to the airport and board your homebound flight.

# Dates & Prices

Prices are in USD, per person, based on double occupancy.

Optional pre- and post-tour extensions available on this departure.

Dates	Prices	Single Supplement	Availability
<b>Jun 13 - Jun 26, 2020</b>			
Category 1 - Classic Balcony Stateroom	\$16,495 (was \$19,495)	\$14,625	Available
Category 2 - Deluxe Balcony Stateroom	\$18,495 (was \$21,495)	\$16,125	Available
Category 3 - Premier Balcony Stateroom	\$19,495 (was \$22,495)	\$16,875	Limited Availability
Category 4 - Superior Balcony Stateroom	\$24,995	\$23,745	Waitlist - Call A&K
Category 5 - Prestige Balcony Suite	\$29,995	\$28,495	Waitlist - Call A&K
Category 6 - Premier Two-Room Balcony Suite	\$37,995	\$36,095	Limited Availability
Category 7 - Prestige Two-Room Balcony Suite	\$39,995	\$37,995	Limited Availability
Category 8 - Owners Suite	\$44,995	\$42,745	Waitlist - Call A&K

## Journey Details

This journey contains some active elements.

Butler service available in Suite categories 5-8.

First group event: morning excursion on Jun 14. Last group event: disembarkation in Otaru on Jun 26.

Prices are per person based on double occupancy. Internal and international air not included.

## Special Offer Terms & Conditions

Offer valid on stateroom categories 1-3. Subject to availability and may be withdrawn at anytime.

Prices are per person based on double occupancy. Internal and international air not included. See complete terms and conditions [here](#).