

ALASKA TO JAPAN: RING OF FIRE TO AINU CULTURE EXPEDITION CRUISE

Trace the Pacific's "Ring of Fire" between Alaska's volcanic Aleutian Islands and the rugged island of Hokkaido, Japan. Discover the wild, seldom-visited islands of the Bering Sea, encountering millions of seabirds as well as northern fur seals and bears in the Pribilof and Aleutian Islands. View the towering volcanic cones that frame Hokkaido--home to more than 51 volcanoes--and explore how these dramatic landscapes have shaped Ainu and Shinto traditions and centuries of Japanese history.



ITINERARY

Day 1 Sapporo, Japan

Arrive in Sapporo and transfer to your hotel.

Day 2 Sapporo / Otaru / Embark Ship

The capital of Hokkaido, Sapporo is known for its relaxed



atmosphere compared to Japan's more bustling cities. Enjoy the city of Sapporo and the culinary delicacies of the region before embarking the ship in Otaru this afternoon.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 3 Southern Hokkaido Island

Today the ship arrives at the southern tip of Hokkaido Island. Rapid modernization in the late 1800s transformed this region, creating a unique blend of contemporary development, traditional fishing villages, and historic castles and fortifications from earlier eras of Japanese history. Explore the preserved buildings and walls of these landmarks or simply soak in the natural beauty overlooking the Tsugaru Strait.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 4 Aomori

On the northern coast of Japan's main island of Honshu is Aomori City. With the Hakk da mountains in the distance, this bountiful countryside is known for its apple orchards, world-famous seafood, local treasures of Tsugaru lacquerware and painted kites. Explore the tranquil Seiryu-ji Temple with its impressive bronze statue of Dainichi Nyorai. Learn about Nebuta Matsuri, the summer festival with colorful papier-mache floats, and see the amazing artistry up close.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 5 Muroran

Dock at Muroran and choose to drive to Shikotsu-T ya National Park, filled with mirror-like lakes and forest-covered hills set against the silhouette of the Mount Y tei stratovolcano. Alternatively, drive to the lush town of Shiraoi to visit the newly opened National Ainu Museum and Park, an open-air museum where visitors can experience various elements of Ainu culture.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 6 Kushiro

Arrive on the northeastern shore of Hokkaido. With a deep connection to the sea, Kushiro is known for a variety of seafood, fresh from the sea. Experience the bustle of the local market, where the daily catch is on display. Explore the Kushiro City Museum and delve into the rich history of the city and the traditions of the Ainu people. Following your morning of



exploration, enjoy a meal loved by locals: robata-yaki, or "fireside grilling." You will select your favorite seafood and grill it over the hot coals at your seat--a very special treat.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Days 7-11 At Sea

As the ship sets a course for the Aleutian Islands, enjoy discussions with your naturalists. Join them on deck to identify the seabirds that follow the ship and the volcanic cones in the distance that make up the "Ring of Fire." Be on the lookout for unexpected visits from whales and other marine mammals. There is also an array of shipboard activities to enjoy: attend a photo workshop with your National Geographic photographer, treat yourself to a massage or a wellness class or cozy up in the library with a good book. As you make your way toward North America, you will gain a day crossing the International Date Line.

International Date Line note: This itinerary crosses the International Date Line, resulting in the repeat of one calendar day (July 19) as you sail from Japan to the Aleutian Islands.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Days 12-15 Exploring the Aleutian Islands

With 69 islands, countless islets and tens of millions of seabirds, the Aleutians offer much to discover. Spend four days exploring these rugged and remote volcanic islands--some of which still harbor active volcanoes. Learn about the culture of the Aleuts, fishing and hunting people who have inhabited these islands for millennia. Observe marine mammals such as northern fur seals, Steller sea lions and a variety of whales, as well as prolific birdlife. Witness how the weather--wind, rain, fog and glorious sunshine--impacts all aspects of life in this spectacularly scenic region.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 16 Baby Islands / Dutch Harbor

The westernmost tip of the Alaska mainland gives way to a 1,100-mile-long string of islands that separate the Bering Sea from the northern Pacific: the Aleutian Islands. Explore this wildlife-rich archipelago in the Baby Islands, east of Unalaska. Here, dynamic tides offer the chance to look for sea otters and fur seals, as well as rare seabirds. Stand on deck as the ship navigates Baby Pass and be on the lookout for the islands' wildlife. Arrive at Dutch Harbor, site of a fierce World War II battle and now one of the world's most important fishing ports.



Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Days 17-19 Pribilof Islands / St. Paul and St. George Islands / At Sea

A naturalist's paradise, the Pribilof Islands welcome three million seabirds and a million marine mammals each summer during the breeding season. Cruise beneath the cliffs of St. George, rocky outcrops that harbor one of the largest seabird colonies in the Northern Hemisphere. Watch for horned and tufted puffins, red-legged kittiwakes, crested auklets and rare Asian vagrant species seldom seen in North America. Go ashore on St. Paul, home to the majority of the Pribilofs' more than half a million northern fur seals. After two days exploring these remote islands, strike off across the Bering Sea toward Nome, Alaska.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 20 Nome, Alaska / Disembark Ship / Anchorage

This day has a recommended group flight.

Arrive in the remote city of Nome, on the coast of the Bering Sea. Enjoy breakfast on board and disembark to explore the town prior to your flight to Anchorage. Lunch is included in town before boarding the flight. In Anchorage, transfer to the airport for flights home.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch

Please Note:
Itoneraries are subject to change.



YOUR SHIP: NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC RESOLUTION

YOUR SHIP: National Geographic Resolution

VESSEL TYPE:

LENGTH:

PASSENGER CAPACITY:

BUILT/REFURBISHED:

A next-generation expedition ship, purpose-built for polar navigation. National Geographic Resolution is a next-generation expedition ship, purpose-built for polar navigation. A twin to National Geographic Endurance, she is a fully stabilized, highly strengthened, ice-class Polar Class 5 (PC5) vessel, it is designed to navigate polar passages year-round, and safely explore uncharted waters, while providing exceptional comfort. Its patented X-BOW® is key to its design; its powerful wave-slicing action provides an extremely smooth ride in even adverse conditions, and even reduces spray on deck, for superior observation. She carries a full suite of expedition tools and offers a variety of experience-enhancing amenities. The luxury of comfort on expedition. National Geographic Resolution comfortably accommodates 126 guests in 69 outside-facing cabins. Cabins are efficiently designed, with sizes range from the 140-square-foot solo cabin to the 430-square-foot category 7 suite. Fifty-three of the 69 cabins, including all 12 of the solo cabins, will feature small balconies with floor-to-ceiling sliding doors that bring in the spectacular views and ample natural light. Comfort & convenience in every room. Every cabin has two portholes, a large window or balcony, and temperature controls. Bathrooms are modern and stocked with botanically inspired hair products, soap, and shower gel, plus a hairdryer. Cabins are equipped with expedition command centers with tablets and USB/mobile device docking, TVs, Wi-Fi connections, and hair dryers. Dining. Food served aboard is fresh, local, and delicious, and sourced from suppliers who share our values of sustainable use whenever possible. Meals aboard are almost always served in the dining room, located aft of the lounge deck. When weather conditions allow, lighter fare may be served on the observation deck. There is no assigned seating and our dining room accommodates the entire expedition community in a single seating. During meals your expedition leader, naturalists, and any guest speakers aboard will join you. Public Areas: Two restaurants, a Chef's Table for small group dining, Observation Lounge with bar, gym, Wellness area, infinity-style outdoor hot tubs, library, main lounge with full service bar, 24-hour beverage, state-of-the-art facilities for films, slideshows and presentations, and a photo workshop area; plus, an expedition base with lockers for expedition gear, and an "open bridge" for access to our captain, officers and the art of navigation. Meals: Two restaurants, featuring local, sustainable choices and unassigned seating for flexible, inclusive dining; plus a Chef's table for intimate, small group dining. Main restaurant has 270° views, and the Observation deck restaurant features lighter, made-to-order fare. Special Features: A full-time doctor, undersea specialist, National Geographic photographer, Lindblad-National Geographic certified photo instructor and video chronicler, an internet cafe and laundry. Wellness: The vessel is staffed by our wellness specialists and features a



glass-enclosed yoga studio, gym, treatment rooms and spa relax area, and high- and low-heat saunas with ocean views. Expedition Landing Craft. Key to our operation is our fleet of expedition landing craft, which we use to land in places that would otherwise be inaccessible. With 14 of these boats and two loading stations used every time we disembark, we're able to transfer guests off the ship quickly, so you can be out on adventures, not idly waiting. The expedition landing craft we use are 19 feet long, powered by four-stroke outboard engines, and are capable of comfortably carrying 10-12 people. They are widely recognized as the safest and most versatile small boats afloat. Remotely Operated Vehicle. Capable of reaching 1,000 feet, far beyond the range of any Scuba diver, the ROV allows you to literally view parts of the undersea that are as unexplored as the moon. Chances are you, like many of our guests, will be struck by how surprisingly colorful undersea life is in these unlikely places. And this glimpse may fundamentally change how you view the ocean. Kayaks. National Geographic Resolution will be equipped with a fleet of kayaks large enough to ensure everyone who wants to can paddle at every opportunity. Consequently, prior kayaking experience isn't necessary--many of our guests have their first kayaking experience in extraordinary locations. Our custom-designed floating platform lets us deploy kayaks from the ship, or any location we want--including far from shore. Kayakers are usually free to explore where they want within boundaries set by the undersea specialist and officer of the watch. Underwater camera. Our undersea specialist will dive often during your expedition, even in polar regions, with cold-water gear, to shoot high-definition, Cousteau-like footage of the deep. Colorful nudibranchs, swimming, plant-like crinoids, and mysterious fish with antifreeze blood that thrive in the frigid sea will give you an entirely new appreciation of the marine environment. Video microscope. Naturalists will use the video microscope to help explain all elements of the environment, including tiny organisms that are the building block of the marine ecosystem. Spellbinding live views of krill at 80x magnification fills the high-definition screens in the lounge with vivid detail, and fills every onlooker with a sense of wonder at the importance of otherwise unobservable creatures. Hydrophone. This underwater microphone is deployed to listen to the vocalizations of marine mammals. Real time transmissions of their eerie, haunting sounds can be broadcast through the ship or recorded for later playback. Few experiences in nature are as captivating as watching humpback whales feed close to the ship as their vocalizations play through the ship's PA system. Electronic charts. An electronic chart showing the ship's location, course, and speed is almost always on display in the lounge. Open bridge. You'll find our captains are engaged, knowledgeable members of your expedition who are eager to share their passion with you. National Geographic Resolution's open bridge features comfortable spaces to sit, enjoy the view, drink your morning coffee, or simply chat with the officers. Snorkeling gear & wetsuits. On warm weather itineraries where there will be snorkeling, you'll select a mask, snorkel, fins, and wetsuit that remain yours for the duration of the expedition. There's no need to pack and tote your own gear, although guests who prefer to are welcome to bring





their own.

The Small Cruise Ship Collection
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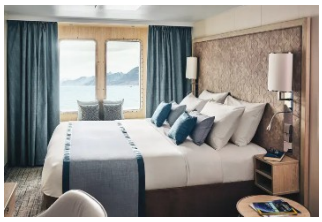
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INSIDE YOUR SHIP

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