


# AUTHENTIC JAPAN - LUXURY CRUISE

Discover traditional Japan, forged by millennia of traditions, where nature and the sacred become one. Among the trade winds, the dreamlike landscapes of lush green hills, mystical mountains and ancestral temples nestling in preserved nature will fill you with wonder. Toba, Shingu, Himeji, Miyajima ... the historic cities reveal their imperial secrets throughout the different ports of call, while Zen gardens and peaceful temples celebrate Shinto heritage. This journey into the heart of the Japanese soul will also immerse you in the moving history of Nagasaki and Hiroshima , which are now some of Japan's most relaxed and fascinating destinations.




## ITINERARY

Day 1 - Busan

With around four million inhabitants, **Busan** is the second largest metropolis on South Korea, after Seoul. This dynamic harbour city, located in the south-east, surrounded by the warm waters of the Sea of Japan, benefits from a mild, pleasant climate. You'll find delightful simply to stroll around the **lively streets** and explore the city's outstanding cultural heritage of art galleries, museums, and Buddhist sites, such as the **Haedong Yonggungsa temple,** which elegantly sits on the waterfront. Rich too in magnificent beaches and superlative natural landscapes, Busan's peaceful atmosphere will win you over, as will its inhabitants, whom you'll have the pleasure of meeting.




Day 2- Nagasaki

Located on the north-west coast of Kyushu, **Nagasaki** will impress you by its rich heritage. Despite the destruction in 1945, you can visit several ancient sites, including the beautiful 19th-century **Catholic Church of Oura **and its garden, the **sanctuary of Suwa Shrine** or several Buddhist temples. A visit to the **Atomic Bomb Museum** gives you insight into the extent of the damage caused by the nuclear attack. Close by, a walk in the **Memorial Peace Park **leads you to a collection of objets d'art offered as a gift from Japan to the world.

Day 3 - Karatsu

**Karatsu Bay** is edged with long sandy beaches and a huge pine forest that was planted over 350 years ago to protect the coast from the winds and tides of the Genkai Sea. From the top of the donjon of **Karatsu Castle** or **Mount Kagami, **you will be able to admire magnificent panoramas. In the north of the Higashi-Matsuura Peninsula, the waves have eroded the lava plateau and carved a magnificent natural site, the **seven Nanatsugama Caves** , out of the basalt. The city of Karatsu is famous for the quality of its **pottery** , which is influenced by the craftsmanship of nearby Korea. Very fine pieces are displayed in the city's galleries and at Karatsu Castle, alongside magnificent **samurai armour**.

Day 4 - Kagoshima

The seaside city of Kagoshima, at the south of Kyushu Island, is best known for Sakurajima, an **active volcano** that faces Kinko Bay. A visit to this busy metropolis will remind you just how much the volcano is part of the inhabitants' everyday life: in the wake of the almost daily eruptions, a delicate layer of ash settles on everything. The top of a buried _torii_ (traditional Japanese gate) measuring three metres that was 'swallowed up' by a giant lava flow in 1914 can still be seen. The **power of nature **will send a shiver down your spine.

Day 5 - Aburatsu

Located on the south-east coast of Kyushu island in scenic Miyazaki Prefecture, **Aburatsu** is a natural port, linked to the town of **Nichinan**. Because of its position Aburatsu has become a major maritime passage into the numerous regions of Asia. It has a serene atmosphere, typical to southern Japan, with a gentle landscape of rolling hills. On the **outskirts of Nichinan, **you can visit Obi Castle, dating from the Edo period. Slightly to the north of the old town, the **Udo-Jingu shrine also **features among the region s wonders.

Day 6 - Beppu, Oita

A favourite destination for the Japanese, **Beppu** is now famous throughout the Japanese archipelago thanks to its onsen - volcanic hot springs in which people immerse themselves to relax with family or friends. From Beppu, you will set off to discover a lush, peaceful valley in which sit 60 majestic stone Buddhas carved out of the cliff face between the 12th and 14th centuries. Exuding a soothing air of serenity, the Mangetsuji site seems to have drifted off to sleep in the heart of a dense bamboo forest surrounded by rice fields. Recognised as a National Treasure of Japan, this set of sacred sculptures offers travellers a unique, wonderful experience.

Day 7 - Miyajima Island and Hiroshima

At the heart of the Inland Sea, **Miyajima** , the "island sanctuary" will reveal its treasures. In the background you will see the **Shinto Grand Sanctuary** , whose entrance is guarded by a magnificent vermillion "Torii". Considered to be




one of the most beautiful sites in the Japanese islands, you will be transported by the unique character and the serenity of this sacred site.

Visiting **Hiroshima** is a moving experience. The town spreads along **Honshu Island** , along the inside coasts of Seto. While firmly focused on the future, Hiroshima doesn't forget its past, and a visit to the **Peace Memorial Park **and **Genbaku Dome **is a must. You'll enjoy the city's **modern, cosmopolitan atmosphere and effervescent nightlife **just as much as the peaceful stillness of its natural parkland areas such as splendid Shukkei-en, the town's historic garden.

### Day 8 - Itozaki

Jewels of the heart of Hiroshima Prefecture, **Itozaki** invites travelers to a timeless escape. Bordered by the Seto Inland Sea, it captivates with its landscapes blending the gentle shimmer of its waters and the silent majesty of its mountains. Itozaki is a journey into the soul of Japan, a haven where time stands still. The Japanese city will serve as the starting point for discovering, just a short distance away, the historic Onomichi, renowned for its nearly twenty temples and shrines.

### Day 9 - Takamatsu

A former fortified city, ruled over by the Matsudaira clan from the Tamamo castle with its seawater moats, the city is home to one of the most beautiful classic gardens in Japan, the Ritsurin. It was created by the barons of the city at the start of the Edo period, during which time gardening became a profession in its own right. Its landscape incorporates Mount Shiun in the background, an example of what is known as the shakkei technique, which uses the surrounding landscapes to increase the beauty of the gardens.

### Day 10 - Himeji

You may get the impression that you ve already seen **Himeji Castle** , as it has been featured many times on the big screen. The feudal edifice seems to spread its wings over the town like a white heron  in fact, its nickname is  the castle of the white heron . Originally started in the 15th century and then rebuilt in the 17th-century, it is a UNESCO World Heritage site. At its feet lies the gorgeous **Koko-en garden, **which has nine different **gardens** designed to flourish in each of the four seasons.

### Day 11 - Shingu

To the south-west of the Japanese archipelago, **Shingu** is a port town in the **Kansai** region. Founded in 1933, it belongs to the **peninsula of Kii** , the country s largest. Take a trip around the Kumano Sanzan religious complex dedicated to three sacred mountains and home to two **Shinto temples, Kumano Hong? Taisha** and Kumano Hayatama Taisha. The latter features the famous **sacred nagi tree** , said to have been planted around 1159. Pilgrims flock to these two sanctuaries that feature on UNESCO's World Heritage list. Hop on a boat and journey to the **Dorokyo Gorge** , a natural beauty spot carved out by the emerald waters of the Kumano river.

### Day 12 - Toba

Toba is a coastal city located in Japan's Mie Prefecture, on the shores of the Pacific Ocean. Situated in the **Ise-Shima National Park** , Toba has given its name to majestic bay sheltering a string of small islands, famous for the beauty of their forests and the production of **cultured pearls**. You will have the possibility of discovering the **Ise Shrine** , residence of the Imperial family and venerated by the Japanese




people as the "soul of Japan".

Day 13 - Kobe

A coastal city on the **main island of Honsh ** , Kobe is a vital Japanese port. You will be inspired by the** authenticity, way of life and heritage** of the capital of Hy go Prefecture, which is bordered by the sea**.** Its beef is internationally renowned, but there is much more to the city's attractions than this delicate speciality. As soon as you arrive, you will be welcomed by the **Kobe Port Tower, **located, along with the Maritime Museum, in the much appreciated **Meriken Park**. The **Mount Rokk National Park **is a real island of greenery in the very heart of the vibrant city. Long frequented by **Shinto monks** , then popular with the expatriates who flocked to Kobe during the second half of the 19th century, it is one of the symbols of the city.




# YOUR SHIP: LE SOLEAL

**YOUR SHIP:** Le Soleal

**VESSEL TYPE:**

**LENGTH:**

**PASSENGER CAPACITY:**

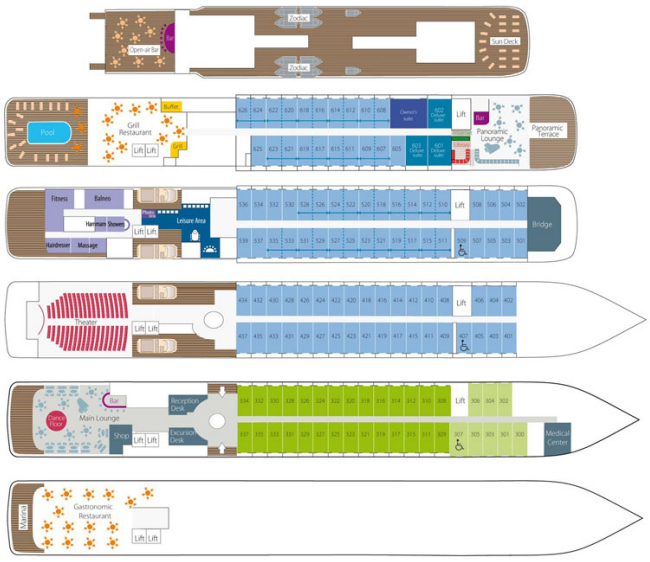
**BUILT/REFURBISHED:**



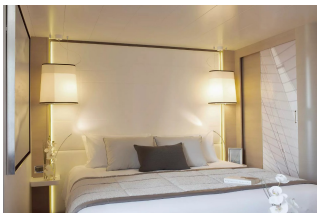
Luxury Small Ship A sleek silhouette, a welcoming intimate atmosphere, and the same philosophy that has made her sister ships, L'Austral, Lyrial and Le Boreal, such a success. This magnificent yacht of only 132 staterooms and suites, all with balconies, has contemporary decor inspired by the luxury yachting world, with fluid lines and a modern colour scheme combining natural wood with shades of grey and white. White Corian counters in the lobby contrast with the warmth of leather to recall a boat's hull, while the central scuplture of enamelled pieces takes its inspiration from the sea. In the lounge bar, the carpet picks up a tennis stripe theme symbolising a certain idea of cruising, one synonomous with French elegance and a chic seaside spirit. Wheelchairs 3 specially adapted wheelchair cabins (Deck 3 = Superior cabin no. 307, no balcony, Deck 4 = Prestige Cabin no. 407 - with balcony and Deck 5 = Prestige Cabin no 509, with balcony) and lifts to all decks/areas. Read about our recent Ponant cruise to Antarctica Please click the following links to read more about Ponant and the other Ponant cruise ships.



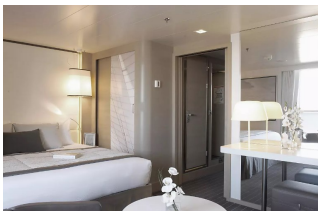

# INSIDE YOUR SHIP



Deluxe Stateroom



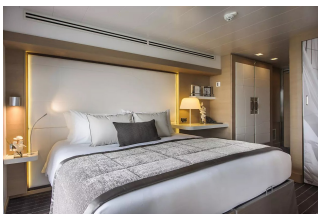
Deluxe Suite



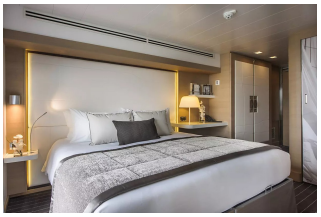
Owner's Suite



Prestige Deck 4



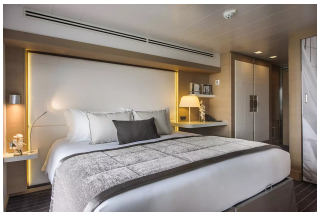
Prestige Deck 5



Prestige Deck 5 Suite



Prestige Deck 6



Prestige Deck 6 Suite






Prestige Stateroom Deck 4



Prestige Stateroom Deck 5



Prestige Stateroom Deck 6



Prestige Suite Deck 5



Prestige Suite Deck 6



Superior Stateroom






# PRICING

**14-Mar-2027 to 26-Mar-2027**

| | |
|---|---|
| Deluxe Suite | £18915 GBP pp |
| Prestige Deck 5 Suite | £25495 GBP pp |
| Prestige Deck 5 | £12945 GBP pp |
| Deluxe Stateroom | £11145 GBP pp |
| Superior Stateroom | £10305 GBP pp |
| Prestige Deck 6 | £13655 GBP pp |
| Prestige Deck 6 Suite | £26815 GBP pp |
| Prestige Deck 4 | £12335 GBP pp |

**26-Mar-2027 to 07-Apr-2027**

| | |
|---|---|
| Deluxe Suite | £19875 GBP pp |
| Prestige Suite Deck 6 | £28185 GBP pp |
| Superior Stateroom | £10805 GBP pp |
| Prestige Suite Deck 5 | £26795 GBP pp |
| Prestige Stateroom Deck 4 | £12945 GBP pp |
| Prestige Stateroom Deck 5 | £13585 GBP pp |
| Prestige Stateroom Deck 6 | £14335 GBP pp |
| Deluxe Stateroom | £11695 GBP pp |
| Owner's Suite | £32345 GBP pp |

**ADDITIONAL CHARGES:** Port Fees 530 GBP pp