

# **EXPEDITION "SOUTH SEAS OF JAPAN": THE YIN AND YANG OF PARADISE ISLANDS**

Redefine your image of Japan and join the HANSEATIC spirit on this unique premiere cruise. According to the Japanese saying, "seeing something once is better than hearing it a hundred times", take a look behind the scenes of geishas, tea ceremonies and animes.



## **ITINERARY**

Day 1 Hong Kong/China Hong Kong/China, departure 21.00 hrs

Day 2 Relaxation at sea

Day 3 Hualien/Taiwan Hualien/Taiwan, 13.00 - 19.00 hrs

Hualien, a lively city on the east coast of Taiwan, is known for its





casual atmosphere and charming blend of tradition and modernity. The promenade along the Pacific is ideal for a relaxed stroll with views over the sea and mountains. From fresh seafood to traditional Taiwanese cuisine: the outstanding culinary scene here is on display in a wide selection of restaurants and cafes. Nature lovers will be in their element on a discovery of the surrounding area.

Day 4 Keelung (Taipei)

Keelung (Taipei), 07.00 - 19.00 hrs

Impressive examples of Taiwanese culture can be found in the temples of the port city of Keelung. An excursion\* to the capital city, Taipei, will reveal yet more about the soul of the Far East: elaborately decorated temples, the air scented by incense, contrast with modern street life. The National Palace Museum houses 5,000 years of cultural history with invaluable works of art. Taipei 101, the world's tallest building until 2007, is particularly striking: the skyscraper inspired by bamboo shoots symbolises the connection between the old and the new and has become a landmark of the city.

Day 5 Ishigaki/Japan

Ishigaki/Japan, 08.00 - 16.00 hrs

Does the legendary fountain of youth actually exist? Unravel the mystery on Okinawa Island - nowhere else do people live for longer than here. See the island from on board the ship as a timeless beauty surrounded by shallow turquoise water. Ishigaki is one of Japan's masterpieces of nature, with its tropical vegetation, fine sandy beaches and coral reefs. Rice fields and sugar cane plantations in the interior represent one of the island's livelihoods. Together with the other islands in the

Okinawa Prefecture, Ishigaki is a centre of Japanese pearl farming.

Days 6 - 9 Nansei Islands

Nansei Islands

Zamami-Shima , Okinoerabu-Shima, Amami-Oshima, Yakushima)

The Nansei Islands, often referred to as the "South Seas of Japan", reveal a little-known side to the country. The idyllic chain of islands stretches for over 1,000 km (621 miles) between Japan and Taiwan. Lush green islands with white sandy beaches and the scent of flowers bring to mind Hawaii or Bora Bora.

The subtropical Kerama islands are a picturesque idyll. For the first time, a Hapag-Lloyd Cruises ship will visit Zamami-Shima. On an independent shore visit, idyllic sandy beaches and crystal-clear waters with colourful corals will awaken your spirit of discovery. In this practically untouched Garden of Eden, you will feel like Robinson Crusoe.

Let your experts on board inspire you with the special geological features of the island of Okinoerabu-Shima. Originally formed from coral, the island is now home to some of the largest limestone caves in Japan. And so your time in paradise becomes an excursion into the diversity of the Pacific region.

Explore the bright subtropical character of Amami-Oshima. Fruit plantations and sandy beaches surround crystal-blue bays with a Japanese South Seas flair, providing an inviting spot for relaxation. Swimming, snorkelling or other watersports: how will





you spend your time in paradise? Those thirsty for knowledge may be interested in the 1,300-year-old history of Oshima Tsumugi silk, which is produced here. The fabric has been used for centuries to make kimonos.

Lush green scenery awaits your visit to Yakushima. As you approach the island, you will see from the many open deck areas on board the ship why the mountains here are known as the "Alps on the ocean". There are eight mountain peaks on the island, reaching up to 1,900 m (6,234 ft) above sea level. At the foot of the mountains are mossy forests of Japanese cedars, which are estimated to be several thousand years old. The area is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and looks particularly enigmatic when the mist hangs over the rhododendrons, mosses and lichens.

#### Day 10 Kamikoshiki-Shima

If the weather permits, go on a Zodiac cruise around the Koshikishima Islands to see these natural beauties of the East China Sea. The many islands and cliffs formed 80 million years ago are one of Japan's most important bird conservation areas. To know more is to see more, as you will discover once again on this cruise when you land on Kamikoshiki-Shima, one of the three main islands, with the Zodiacs. Explore the island on your own or together with your experts on walks and hikes. The island idyll is also an invitation just to gaze over the sea, coast, sand banks and lagoons: the Japan you see here is both rugged and picturesque.

#### Day 11 Goto Islands

Your route towards understanding the Japanese soul will also take you off the typical tourist routes in the Goto Islands. The archipelago in the south-west of Japan is made up of 140

islands, only 20 of which are inhabited. This is where Christianity had its origins in Japan, but it was only with the proclamation of religious freedom at the end of the 19th century that the Christian faith was practised publicly. The Goto Islands are famous for their many churches dating from this period - all with different architecture and made of different materials.

### Day 12 Sasebo

Sasebo, 07.00 - 19.00 hrs

Sasebo is a diverse city, known for its picturesque coastal scenery and unique blend of western and Japanese cultures. Since the 19th century, the city has maintained close trading relations with western countries, whose influence is now reflected in the city's architecture and some of its historic buildings. The harmonious combination of modern and traditional elements will be revealed on an independent stroll around the city, whether you visit Sasebo Park or the port district. Stroll along the lively shopping streets and enjoy local specialities including the famous Sasebo burger. Nature lovers will be in their element on excursions\* to the surrounding area: the scenery is particularly appealing on the outlying Kujukushima Islands, part of the Saikai National Park.

#### Day 13 Relaxation at sea

## Day 14 Incheon (Seoul)/South Korea

Incheon (Seoul)/South Korea, arrival 07.00 hrs

#### Please note:

Itineraries are subject to change.





# YOUR SHIP: HANSEATIC INSPIRATION

YOUR SHIP: Hanseatic Inspiration

**VESSEL TYPE:** 

LENGTH:

**PASSENGER CAPACITY:** 

**BUILT/REFURBISHED:** 

The HANSEATIC inspiration, a small, state-of-the-art expedition ship with a maximum of 230 guests, offers a perfect blend of adventure and comfort for explorers seeking to uncover the world's wonders. As an international vessel conducting cruises in both English and German, it brings over 30 years of expertise from a market leader in German-speaking countries to every journey. Each expedition is a masterpiece, passionately crafted to reveal far-flung worlds--be it icy realms, tropical paradises, wildlife havens, or cultural gems--making every voyage a unique discovery aboard this exceptional ship. Features of all cabins and suites An ocean view with even more: exclusively outside cabins and suites, almost all with balconies or French balconies Spaciously designed - enjoy a relaxing stay in rooms from 21 m<sup>2</sup>/226 ft<sup>2</sup> up to 71 m<sup>2</sup>/764 ft<sup>2</sup> in size Exceptionally equipped for example, with binoculars, Nordic Walking poles, air conditioning, coffee machine and mini bar (free of charge) and 24-hour cabin service Separable beds Rain shower and heated wall in bathroom (e.g. for towels and wet parkas) Extensive infotainment with live broadcast and recordings of expert presentations, forwardview camera, navigation chart, films and much more Restaurants Aboard the HANSEATIC inspiration, a

new kind of freedom blends adventure and pleasure with a culinary journey across three exceptional restaurants. The spacious HANSEATIC Restaurant offers flexible mealtimes and a free choice of seating, serving a daily-changing menu of global flavors inspired by local specialties, paired with fine wines and supported by attentive 24-hour cabin service. At the Lido Restaurant, guests can savor breakfast under the open sky or enjoy a perfectly grilled steak from the outdoor barbecue, complete with panoramic views and an open show kitchen. The specialty restaurant Nikkei fuses fine Japanese creations with modern Peruvian cuisine, delivering a unique dining experience that elevates exploration to new heights--all while bars in the Observation Lounge and HanseAtrium offer favorite drinks against stunning backdrops, from Nordic fjords to icy Antarctic vistas. Fitness and Wellness On the HANSEATIC inspiration, an extraordinary time out awaits after thrilling Zodiac rides, challenging hikes, or Arctic adventures. Unwind in the Ocean Spa, where a Finnish sauna with stunning ocean views, a gentle steam sauna, an ice fountain, and a relaxation room rejuvenate your senses, complemented by professional massages, cosmetic treatments, and eco-friendly products made from natural, vegan ingredients. Stay active in the 100 m<sup>2</sup> fitness room or separate course room--both with ocean vistas--guided by a fitness coach offering personalized advice and a variety of courses, either indoors or on deck. The pool area, with its flexible canopy, invites relaxation year-round, featuring water loungers, a whirlpool, and a bar, ensuring a perfect blend of indulgence and revitalization against the backdrop of the open sea. Knowledge Shore excursions and Zodiac rides come alive



with deeper context through fascinating presentations in the HanseAtrium, a high-tech lounge where experts share daily precaps and recaps, doubling as an atmospheric evening bar for films and discussions. The Ocean Academy enhances the journey with a Study Wall and interactive poster of scientific insights, microscopes for exploring hidden wonders alongside experts, and Study Seats--with swivel touchscreens--for personal dives into science. Supported by travel diaries and destination videos, this immersive experience broadens horizons with cutting-edge tools and



expertise.



# **INSIDE YOUR SHIP**

Balcony Cabin. From French Balcony Cabin. From





Grand Suite. From

Junior Suite. From





Outside Cabin. From

Panoramic Cabin. From



# **PRICING**

### 31-May-2027 to 13-Jun-2027

Outside Cabin. From	£7821 GBP pp
Panoramic Cabin. From	£7821 GBP pp
French Balcony Cabin. From	£9822 GBP pp
Balcony Cabin. From	£10675 GBP pp
Junior Suite. From	£14825 GBP pp
Grand Suite. From	£20175 GBP pp