

JAPANESE ANCESTRAL TRADITIONS AND LEGENDARY SHRINES SMALL SHIP CRUISE

Take a cruise along the Seto Inland Sea and the Sea of Japan to discover authentic Japan , a land shaped by centuries-old traditions. Each stop will reveal legendary and iconic sites , from historic castle towns and serene gardens to sacred shrines, fishing villages and the enduring legacy of the samurai era, all inviting you to immerse yourself fully in the spirit of Japan. Marvel at the succession of emblematic landscapes forming the backdrop to your journey, including lush forests sheltering centuries-old temples, peaceful green valleys, striking dunes and enchanting bays. Here, every horizon tells the story of an archipelago rich in traditions and invites quiet contemplation.



ITINERARY

Day 1 - Osaka

Like its big sister Tokyo, Osaka is the product of ancestral traditions and amazing **technological innovations.** And despite its size, its location on the Pacific Ocean give it a sense of **serenity**. The main historic landmark is the 16th century **Osaka Castle,** which stands proud in the midst of majestic skyscrapers. The lively streets of Dotomburi and the bizarre Shinsekai district attract thousands of locals and visitors. A multitude of restaurants offer menus full of regional specialities: takoyaki, made with octopus, and other succulent dishes such as kushikatsu kebabs.

Day 2 - 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 3 - Hiroshima

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 3 - Miyajima Island

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.

Day 4 - 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 5 - Hagi

In the south of **Honshu island** , surrounded by mountains, **Hagi** is a city of water. For good reason; it was built on the delta of the Abu-gawa river. Its **castle** was built in the 17th century and its outer walls remain in the lovely**Shizuki Park**. The old town was one of the cradles of the **Meiji revolution**. You will discover its rich past in streets lined with old houses and samurai manors, or within the walls of the many museums and **Hagi-yaki** ceramics workshops.

Day 6 - Tottori

On the San-in coast, **Tottori** , the Japanese island of Honshu's northernmost city, offers **tranquillity and a change of scenery.** Lined with lush forests containing **mountain sanctuaries** long considered to have been the homes of the gods, Tottori has retained its authenticity of yesteryear. **A symbol of Japan off the beaten track** , this city in the eponymous region promises to be a surprising interlude on your cruise. With good reason, since this ancient fortified city with vestiges of its past is home to **the largest sand dunes in Japan**. Bright sunshine, golden dunes edged by the Sea of Japan, camels with a captivating gait... Here, in this majestic landscape where wind waves rise to caress the sand giants,



time seems to stand still.

Day 7 - Ine

In the north of the Kyoto prefecture, along the Sea of Japan and anchored in the Bay of Ine, this **small fishing village nestling between lush green mountains and emerald waters** is considered to be one of Japan's most beautiful villages. **Calm and picturesque** , Ine has successfully preserved its authenticity of yesteryear, as evidenced by the Funaya, these traditional wooden dwellings built above the water to house fishermen and store their small boats. **Ine** will take you on a beguiling voyage into the 18th century, to the epoch of Edo and the Kitamae trade route.

Day 7 - Miyazu

In Kyoto Prefecture, along the coast of the Sea of Japan, lies the charming city of **Miyazu**. As you explore this interesting blend of lush nature and rich heritage, you will be captivated by the numerous places of worship that dot the town, such as the Manai Shrine and Nariai-ji Temple. You will also discover one of the "Three Views of Japan", the country's most beautiful panoramas: **Amanohashidate** , a sand bar covered with 8,000 pine trees, lying between the Asokai Inland Sea and Miyazu Bay. It is known as the "bridge to heaven" and legend has it that this sand bank is a ladder that fell out of the sky and was once used by the gods **Izanagi and Izanami** to ascend into the clouds.

Day 8 - Sakaiminato

Located on the south-west coast of Honshu Island, the busy fishing port of Sakaiminato celebrates the comic writer and artist **Shigeru Mizuki,** who was born here. As well as a museum a dedicated tourist route leads through streets and squares that feature **134 bronze statues** representing his beloved characters. This isn't the only thing Sakaiminato has to offer; try some local seafood specialities and enjoy the stunning views of**Mt Daisen** and the Yumigahama peninsula.

Day 9 - 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.

Please note:

Itineraries are subject to change.



YOUR SHIP: LE SOLEAL

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VESSEL TYPE:

LENGTH:

PASSENGER CAPACITY:

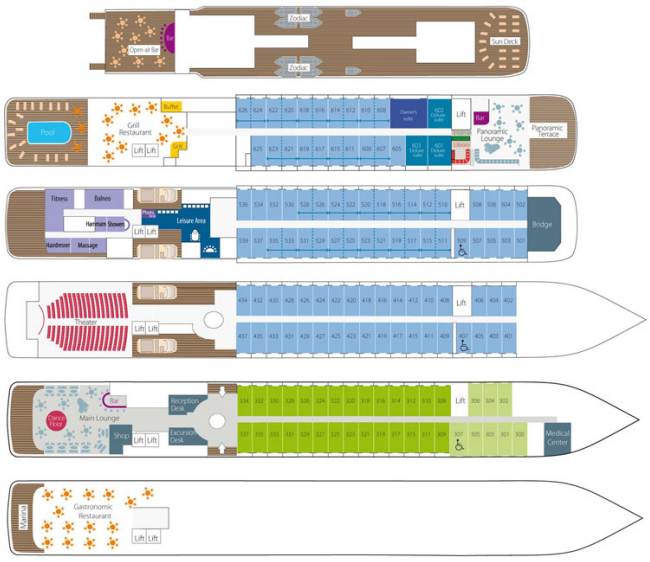
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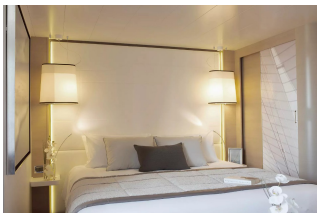
Luxury Small Ship A sleek silhouette, a welcoming intimate atmosphere, and the same philosophy that has made her sister ships, L'Austral, Lyrial and Le Boreal, such a success. This magnificent yacht of only 132 staterooms and suites, all with balconies, has contemporary decor inspired by the luxury yachting 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.



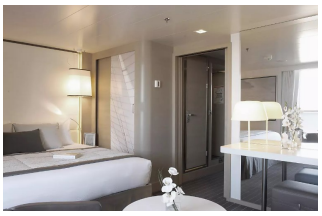
INSIDE YOUR SHIP



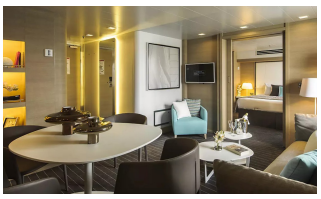
Deluxe Stateroom



Deluxe Suite



Owner's Suite



Prestige Stateroom Deck 4



Prestige Stateroom Deck 5



Prestige Stateroom Deck 6



Prestige Suite Deck 5



Prestige Suite Deck 6





Superior Stateroom





PRICING

29-Sep-2027 to 07-Oct-2027

Prestige Stateroom Deck 4	£6925 GBP pp
Prestige Suite Deck 5	£14185 GBP pp
Prestige Stateroom Deck 6	£7645 GBP pp
Owner's Suite	£22615 GBP pp
Deluxe Stateroom	£6265 GBP pp
Superior Stateroom	£5795 GBP pp
Deluxe Suite	£10555 GBP pp
Prestige Suite Deck 6	£14915 GBP pp
Prestige Stateroom Deck 5	£7255 GBP pp

09-Mar-2028 to 17-Mar-2028

Prestige Suite Deck 6	£13955 GBP pp
Owner's Suite	£22615 GBP pp
Prestige Suite Deck 5	£13275 GBP pp
Superior Stateroom	£5445 GBP pp
Prestige Stateroom Deck 4	£6495 GBP pp
Prestige Stateroom Deck 5	£6805 GBP pp
Deluxe Stateroom	£5885 GBP pp
Prestige Stateroom Deck 6	£7175 GBP pp
Deluxe Suite	£9885 GBP pp

12-May-2028 to 20-May-2028

Deluxe Stateroom	£6265 GBP pp
Deluxe Suite	£10555 GBP pp
Prestige Stateroom Deck 5	£7255 GBP pp
Prestige Suite Deck 5	£14185 GBP pp
Superior Stateroom	£5795 GBP pp
Prestige Stateroom Deck 4	£6925 GBP pp
Prestige Stateroom Deck 6	£7645 GBP pp
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