PRIMORSKY KRAI TO RYUKYU

Explore the Ryukyus (Okinawa) Islands and enjoy ceremonies and performances by the locals, such as the traditional Cossack song and dance.

ITINERARY

Day 1 – Otaru, Japan
Emark the Silver Discoverer for this stunning Silversea Expedition – Primorsky Krai to Ryukyu. This afternoon, you will be introduced to your Expedition Team and attend a safety briefing, and tonight we invite you to familiarise yourself with your new home away from home, meet some of your fellow travellers and enjoy the first of many memorable meals in The Restaurant.

Day 2 – Korsakov (Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk), Sakhalin Island, Russia
Today we clear into Russia. Time permitting, we will explore part of this city founded in 1853 as Sakhalin’s first Russian military post. From here we drive to Yuzhno Sakhalinsk, the capital of the island. Founded as a small Russian settlement in the
1880s, the city became a Japanese prefect capital when the southern half of Sakhalin was declared a Japanese colony in 1905; after WWII it was returned to Russia. Highlights include a visit to the Russian Orthodox Church, the Regional Museum housed in an impressive former Japanese mansion, and the bustling market. We’ll also celebrate with the locals and enjoy a performance of traditional Cossack song and dance.

Day 3 — At Sea
A leisurely day at sea to exchange notes with fellow travellers and take advantage of the luxurious amenities aboard Silver Discoverer. Help our birders spot some of the seabirds found far away from their nesting grounds. Enjoy a lecture, an interesting book, or just relax in the comfort of your suite and watch a movie on the in-suite interactive television.

Days 4 — Olga Bay, Russia
Today we arrive by Zodiacs at Olga Bay, located in the Sea of Japan, at the East coast of Primorsky Krai. Olga Bay is quite calm and inviting at only (11 km long, 4 km wide). Upon arrival we will be treated to a ceremonial greeting by the locals, after which a visit to the local lore museum is in store.

Day 5 — Petrov & Zakatnaya, Russia
Join your Expedition Team for a walk across the wide tundra valleys where once – ages ago – stood an enormous glacier.

Days 6-7 — Vladivostok, Russia
Charming and picturesque, Vladivostok will draw you in with its unique nature, lovely sceneries, military-historical monuments and shade of sea romance. Take in the culture and history of the area as we visit the Vladivostok Railway Station – terminal of the Trans-Siberian railroad, the C-56 WWII submarine on the harbor embankment, and the highly regarded Arsenyev Regional History Museum.

Day 8-9 — At Sea
A leisurely day at sea is yours to enjoy. Begin perhaps with a late breakfast and another cup of coffee or tea during the first of the day’s lectures. Join the lectures and hear fascinating tales of adventure and learn more about the region’s endemic wildlife and remarkable nature. Our knowledgeable Lecture Staff members are experts in a variety of scientific fields.

Day 10 — Kumamoto, Japan
From emerald fields to architectural wonders of a time past, Kumamoto is a real treat for the eyes. We’ll begin our day at Mt. Aso, the largest active volcano in Japan, as well as one of the largest in the world. Taking the ropeway cable car, we’ll arrive at the top of the mountain for an up close view of the caldera, which measures 75 miles in circumference. After a delicious lunch, we’ll head to the awe-inspiring Kumamoto Castle for a tour of this magnificent structure.

Day 11 — Yakushima, Japan
As if out of a storybook, the island of Yakushima, famous for its “Yaku-sugi,” cedars more than 1000 years old, will fill you with childlike wonder. On our hiking tour through Yakusugi land park, we will pass through the groves of ancient Yaku-sugi where Buddhasugi, a 2500 year old cedar mightily stands. The Yaku-sugi and indigenous fauna earned the island a UNESCO World Heritage Site designation in 1993.

Day 12 — Motobu, Okinawa, Japan
Okinawa is a typical Japanese subtropical region with a warm climate where cherry blossoms bloom in late January, and the
swimming season lasts from April to October. There are more than sixty islands between the main island, Okinawa, in the North and Yonaguni Island at the southwestern end. Once called Ryukyus, these Islands were unified into a kingdom in the 12th century, while a dynasty was established in the 15th century by the Sho Clan. In the 17th century, the Islands had come into the joint possession of China and Shimazu Clan of Japan. Later, the region became a prefecture of Japan. Today we explore the Yamburu Discovery Forest. Here, you will walk along the nature trail with a local guide for about 1.5 hours. At the beginning of the trail, you will see a small traditional house with a thatched roof. The house was relocated from the small village of Kunigami, which is located in the north of this forest. If you are lucky, you will see some indigenous species such as, Ishikawa frogs, hanasaki frogs, and some of the migratory birds that stop by this area in winter.

Day 13 — Miyako-Jima, Japan
320km southwest of the Main Island of Okinawa, this Miyako-Jima Island is the largest of the eight islands of the Miyako Island Chain. The island bears many historical relics and beautiful white sandy beaches including Maehama, Painagama, Sunakawa, and Shigira Beach. A scenic drive tour and glass bottom boat ride are the best ways to experience Miyako-Jima, mostly known as one of the world’s best diving destinations. Plenty of photo opportunities will also be had at Higashihennazaki Cape and Ikema Ohashi Bridge.

Day 14 — Iriomote-Jima and Taketomi Island, Japan
Often known as the Galapagos of Japan, Iriomote-Jima is one of today’s wonderful treats. Unique animals such as the Iriomote wildcat and crested eagle, along with the various and rare flora and fauna indigenous to the island will dazzle. A one-hour mangrove cruise tour is one of the best ways to see the Island, and features the massive 400 year old Sakishimasuou tree, the largest of it kind in the country. We continue on to Taketomi Island. The many hibiscus and deigo flowers fascinate as they create an unforgettable colour scenario. The Ryky village, at only 9 km, is a National Traditional Architecture Preservation District. This beautiful village boasts houses topped with red clay roofs, coral stone garden walls, and sandy streets. A water buffalo carriage tour will move us slowly through the quaint village.

Day 15 — Hualien, Taiwan
Satisfy your mochi rice cake cravings and feast your eyes on the gorgeous Taroko Gorge scenery. The region is a locus of Han Chinese and indigenous culture, as well as of Taiwan-based Japanese culture. It boasts scores of historical sites, remnants of immigrant villages, temples, tea plantations, and more – all from the period of Japanese occupation.

Day 16 — Taipei, Taiwan
Expedition highlights and wildlife listed here are possible experiences only and cannot be guaranteed. Your Expedition Leader and Captain will work together to ensure opportunities for adventure and exploration are the best possible, taking into account the prevailing weather and wildlife activity. Expedition team members scheduled for this voyage are subject to change or cancellation.
YOUR SHIP: SILVER DISCOVERER

YOUR SHIP: Silver Discoverer
VESSEL TYPE: Luxury Expedition
LENGTH: 338 Feet/102.9 Metres
PASSENGER CAPACITY: 116 passengers
BUILT/REFURBISHED: 2016

Her small size and shallow draft allow close-up access to rugged coasts well beyond the reach of ordinary vessels. And she has been newly refurbished to help guests maximize their experience and build a genuine connection with the regions they visit.

Spacious decks and panoramic public rooms mean the drama of the unexpected is never far from view. A fleet of Zodias allows exploration from the water or remote landings anywhere nature or curiosity dictate. Since many of our expeditions sail to some of the world's most pristine coral reef systems, there's a glass-bottom boat for underwater viewing along with a full complement of snorkelling equipment and a dive programme for advanced divers.

We've also taken great care to assemble a truly outstanding Expedition Team, composed of experts in the culture, history and wild life of the destinations, to present informal talks, guide Zodiac outings and lead small-group explorations ashore.

While back on board, every creature comfort awaits: an ocean-view suite, in-suite bar and the head-to-toe pampering of a butler; elegant lounges and open bar where fellow travellers gather to swap tales about their day's adventures; and cuisine that meets high standards of culinary excellence -- which are lofty, indeed. Imaginative menus in The Restaurant feature both regional offerings and dishes inspired by Relais & Chateaux. Additional amenities include a sun-catching pool deck, an internet cafe, a fitness centre, and a beauty and massage centre -- particularly alluring after an adventurous day ashore.
PRICING

Air Charter Package From 279 GBP pp

ADDITIONAL CHARGES: