

Treasures of Japan by Sea – with Smithsonian Journeys

From **15/04/2022**
to **22/04/2022**

Ship: **LE SOLEAL**

From **Kobe**
to **Osaka**



Shore excursion in each port of call + transfers included

In alliance with Smithsonian Journeys.

This cruise is part of a collection of PONANT voyages that are specially-tailored for English-speaking travelers who want to engage with the world. In addition to the usual elements of the PONANT experience, the listed price for these voyages includes transfers to and from the ship, talks and discussions aboard ship by world class experts, and a shore excursion or activity in each port of call that encourages guests to embrace the sights, sounds, tastes, and smells of the local environment and culture.

Set sail with PONANT aboard *Le Soléal* for an **8-day cruise** to discover the many traditions and emblematic sites of the **Land of the Rising Sun**.

Your voyage begins in endearing **Kobe**, one of the first Japanese ports to open to international trade in the 19th century and home to its famous eponymous marbled beef.

Arrive in the port of **Takamatsu**, the largest city on the island of Shikoku. You will find the splendid **Ritsurin Garden** here, a masterpiece constructed during the early Edo period as an escape from the bustle of daily life. Takamatsu is also renowned for its most famous dish – **udon noodles**.

Continue to **Hiroshima**, whose UNESCO World Heritage-listed **Hiroshima Peace Memorial** bears witness to the horrific aftermath of the world's first atomic bomb explosion on August 6, 1945.

You will then call at **Miyajima**, the gateway to the majestic **Itsukushima Shinto Shrine**, listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site, whose magnificent vermilion torii gate appears to float on water.

Le Soléal sails on to **Hagi**, whose contributions to Japan's industrialization and modernization have been honored by UNESCO. At **Hagi Castle Town**, walk in the steps of the samurai as you stroll its beautifully-preserved streets.

You continue to **South Korea** to discover **Busan**. A place of great contrasts, Busan offers a spectacular view over its port, as well as over the ancient

district of **Jalgachi** and its emblematic fish market.

Back in Japan, call in **Moji**, which enjoyed its heyday in the early 20th century as the center for Japanese trade with China. Nearby is **Kozan-ji Temple**, founded in the Kamakura period and the oldest Zen style temple in Japan.

End your voyage in the small Japanese city of **Tamano**, a former feudal domain with a unique cultural heritage. Here you will be able to admire its famous **Korakuen Garden**, one of the country's must-see landscaped gardens.

You will disembark in **Osaka**, a modern city in the heart of the Japanese archipelago.



The information in this document is valid as of 25/10/2021

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YOUR STOPOVERS :

KOBE

Embarkation 15/04/2022 from 16:00 to 17:00

Departure 15/04/2022 at 18:00

A coastal city on the **main island of Honshu**, Kobe is a vital Japanese port. You will be inspired by the **authenticity, way of life and heritage** of the capital of Hyogo 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 Rokko 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.

TAKAMATSU

Arrival 16/04/2022 early morning

Departure 16/04/2022 evening

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.

HIROSHIMA

Arrival 17/04/2022 early morning

Departure 17/04/2022 midday

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.

MIYAJIMA ISLAND

Arrival 17/04/2022 early afternoon

Departure 17/04/2022 evening

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 vermilion “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.

HAGI

Arrival 18/04/2022 midday

Departure 18/04/2022 late afternoon

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 12th-century and its outer walls remain in the lovely **Shizuki Park**. The old town was one of the cradles of the **Meiji revolution**. You'll 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.

BUSAN

Arrival 19/04/2022 early morning

Departure 19/04/2022 late afternoon

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 delightfully 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.

MOJI, KITAKYUSHU

Arrival 20/04/2022 early morning

Departure 20/04/2022 early afternoon

At the mouth of the **Kanmon Straits** lies Mojiko, the northernmost port of Kyushu, one of Japan's four main islands. For many years, Mojiko was the gateway to the island. Today, the old boats are gone, but as you stroll around the picturesque streets you will discover a **well-preserved architectural heritage** that evokes traditional Japan from the first Meiji era of the late 19th century. From the heights of the Mojiko Retro Observation Room, you can enjoy the amazing views that take in the **Shinto shrine** and coastal landscape like a postcard of the Land of the Rising Sun.

TAMANO

Arrival 21/04/2022 early morning

Departure 21/04/2022 evening

Located on the **island of Honshu**, hugging the banks of the Seto Inland Sea, **Tamano** is a popular destination thanks to its sun-drenched climate. Upon arrival, marvel at the way in which the city has been built along the coast at the foot of a deep, dark forest. In the area surrounding Tamano, stroll down the streets of **Kurashiki**, known as the 'white-walled city' in a nod to the pretty façades of the houses that line the streets of this ancient Edo-period trading town. Another major regional attraction is the **Seto Ohashi bridge**. Its 12.5 kilometres make it the world's longest double-

decker bridge.

OSAKA

Arrival 22/04/2022 early morning

Disembarkation 22/04/2022 at 06:00

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.