

Ancestral Japan

From **23/09/2020**
to **05/10/2020**

Ship: **LE LAPEROUSE**

From **Manila**
to **Osaka**

PONANT takes you to the crossroads of three cultures and religions during an exceptional sea voyage between **the Philippines, Taiwan and Japan**.

Aboard *Le Lapérouse* from Manila to Osaka, this **13-day** cruise will have you discovering stunning scenery, places which have significant history as well as traditional villages and crafts.

From **Manila**, a city full of contrasts, you will join Hualien on the lush island of Taiwan, before heading towards the Japanese islands in the country's south.

Okinawa, famous for having been the theatre of one of the bloodiest battles of World War II, is also known for its centenarians, who may just reveal to you the secret of their longevity!

Le Lapérouse will then sail to Hiroshima, now proclaimed "City of Peace": Facing the Inland Sea, only the **Hiroshima Peace Memorial** stands as a reminder of past events. You will also be able to admire the remarkable **Shukkeien Garden**, which stretches out over some 4 hectares.

Miyajima, the island where people and gods live together, is also accessible from Hiroshima. The **Itsukushima Shrine**, a Shinto sanctuary listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is a fine example of exceptional artistic and technical ability.

You will then cruise to **Osaka**, the second largest city in Japan which is home to a fortified castle dating back to the 16th century.





The information in this document is valid as of 28/03/2020

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YOUR STOPOVERS :

MANILA

Embarkation 23/09/2020 from 16h00 to 17h00

Departure 23/09/2020 at 18h30

On first sight, the Philippines' capital shows its highly Americanised Asian megalopolis side, with ultramodern skyscrapers set all along the waterfront. But when you stroll through the cobbled streets of the **Intramuros** district, you'll discover a different side of **Manila**, one that's full of old-world charm. An enchanted pause in the middle of urban bustle, Rizal Park's 60 hectares of magnificent green parkland is perfect for recharging your batteries. To see the city from a different angle, take a walk along Roxas boulevard, a popular seaside promenade.

AT SEA

Arrival 24/09/2020

Departure 25/09/2020

During your day at sea, make the most of the many services and activities on board. Treat yourself to a moment of relaxation in the spa or stay in shape in the fitness centre. Depending on the season, let yourself be tempted by the swimming pool or a spot of sunbathing. This day without a port of call will also be an opportunity to enjoy the conferences or shows proposed on board, to do some shopping in the boutique or to meet the PONANT photographers in their dedicated space. As for lovers of the open sea, they will be able to visit the ship's upper deck to admire the spectacle of the waves and perhaps be lucky enough to observe marine species. A truly enchanted interlude, combining comfort, rest and entertainment.

HUALIEN

Arrival 26/09/2020 early morning

Departure 26/09/2020 mid afternoon

Nicknamed "the beautiful island" by Portuguese sailors, 70% of the island of Taiwan is covered in lush, subtropical vegetation. When your ship stops in Hualien discover the stunning Taroko Gorge, one of the island's must-see sites. This natural masterpiece, sculpted by the pure waters of the Liwu River, is known for its 1,200 metre-high marble cliffs, from which a unique panorama unfolds. During your stop here, discover the Eternal Spring Shrine, a complex clinging to the side of a mountain, made up of several small temples and overlooking a glistening waterfall. Then, along the Tunnel of Nine Turns, you will be able to admire the spectacular gorges which wind their way through deep canyons over some twenty kilometres.

ISHIGAKI

Arrival 27/09/2020 early morning
Departure 27/09/2020 late evening

Located to the south of the main island of the **Yaeyama archipelago**, **Ishigaki** boasts all the aspects of an authentic **piece of paradise**. You've guessed it, you don't come here for its skyscrapers but for its pure emerald waters and idyllic beaches. The waters off Shiraho, on the island's south-west coast, have one of the largest areas of blue coral in the world.

MIYAKOJIMA

Arrival 28/09/2020 early morning
Departure 28/09/2020 mid afternoon

Situated between the East China Sea and the Philippine Sea, **Miyakojima** is the main island of the Miyako Islands, in the **Sakishima archipelago**. The fourth largest island in the Okinawa prefecture, it is known for its many sugar cane plantations and some of Japan's most beautiful beaches. **Myriad multicoloured fish** await you during unforgettable swims and snorkelling.

NAHA, OKINAWA

Arrival 29/09/2020 early morning
Departure 29/09/2020 evening

Capital of Okinawa Prefecture, the town of **Naha** is located on the south-west of the island. You'll love its lively atmosphere, particularly along **Kokusai Dori**, otherwise known as 'international street'. The picturesque **Makishi Public Market**, nicknamed 'Naha's kitchen' offers a profusion of colourful fish, Okinawan foodstuffs and local spices and you can sample delicacies cooked on the spot.

AMAMIOSHIMA

Arrival 30/09/2020 late morning
Departure 30/09/2020 early evening

Situated in the East China Sea in the Nansei archipelago, a group of islands also known as the Ryuku Islands and lying to the south-west of Japan between Kyūshū and Taiwan, **Amami Oshima** (literally "Amami Big Island") is the largest of the Amami Islands. It is influenced by the culture of the great **Okinawa** archipelago. **Amami Oshima** is a world apart, with wild and pristine nature in which you will experience the tranquillity of the place. The **old-growth forest** covers 95% of the island's surface and can be discovered along hiking trails. Its 700,000 m² of **mangrove**, the second largest in Japan, are breathtaking.

MIYANOURA, YAKUSHIMA

Arrival 01/10/2020 early morning
Departure 01/10/2020 late afternoon

Yakushima is a striking island in the South of Japan, covered in forest and listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Hikers are very fond of this destination because of the lush vegetation, Mount Miyanoura, the waterfalls and cascades. But without a doubt, the symbol of the island remains its many age-old cedar trees which is said to have inspired

some of the scenes in the animated film Princess Mononoke. On this island, you will also find wildlife including the Japanese macaque, the sika deer, and green sea turtles which lay their eggs on the magnificent sandy beaches here.

UWAJIMA

Arrival 02/10/2020 midday

Departure 02/10/2020 evening

Located on the west coast of Shikoku island, Uwajima will delight lovers of history and traditional customs. The magnificent **Uwajima Castle** was built in the 17th-century by the powerful Date clan and has a beautiful ornamental garden and bridge. The much-visited **Taga Shrine** is dedicated to fertility and is full of phalluses. As for eating, you must taste *jakoten*, a local delicacy based on fried fish.

HIROSHIMA

Arrival 03/10/2020 early morning

Departure 03/10/2020 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 03/10/2020 early afternoon

Departure 03/10/2020 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.

TAMANO

Arrival 04/10/2020 early morning

Departure 04/10/2020 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 05/10/2020 early morning
Disembarkation 05/10/2020 at 06h30

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.