



## LUXURY EXPEDITION CRUISES

## Wonders of Japan Cruise 2020

14 days from **\$16,495** per person *was* \$19,495

Limited to 199 guests

**OFFER**

Book by Mar 31, 2020 and save \$3,000 per person on all staterooms and suites, plus 50% on the single supplement on stateroom categories 1-3.

Experience fascinating Japan with A&K's passionate experts and enrichment specialists, cruising on exclusively chartered 'Le Soleal' to stunning, unique ports that include Takamatsu, Hiroshima, Karatsu, Matsue, Kanazawa, Sado-ga-shima, Noshiro/Aomori and South Korea's Ulsan.

### Included With This Luxury Expedition Cruise

- An Exclusively Chartered, All-Inclusive Voyage Led by A&K's Expedition Team
- Pre- and/or Post-Cruise Stays at Stylish, Ideally Located Hotels and A&K-Led City Tours
- Airport Meet and Greet and Transfers
- Private Balcony with Every Onboard Accommodation and Butler Service with Every Suite
- Maximum Personnel-to-Guest Ratio of 1 to 1.3
- Culinary Program Featuring French-Inspired Cuisine, Including House Drinks, Afternoon Tea and Pastries
- 24-Hour Room Service and Breakfast in Bed
- Complimentary Expedition Parka, Backpack and Water Bottle, and Use of Waterproof Pants, Boots and Trekking Poles
- Zodiac Excursions Led by Expert Naturalist Driver-Guides
- Traveller's Valet@ Laundry Service
- All Gratuities, Port Charges and Taxes
- Complimentary Wi-Fi on Board and in Hotels
- Onboard Service from an English-Speaking Staff, Including an Accredited Physician
- 24/7 A&K On-Call Support

### A&K Advantages

- Cruise for 11 nights on stunning, luxurious 'Le Soleal,' enjoying A&K exclusives that include all-balcony accommodations and a capacity limited to no more than 199 guests
- Begin your adventure with a two-night stay in bustling Osaka and enjoy a choice of fascinating excursions
- Sail with a remarkable team curated by A&K, featuring our passionate enrichment specialists and local guides, a skilled service staff and crew, and one of the best personnel-to-guest ratios at 1 to 1.3
- Enjoy all-inclusive cruising with included gratuities, unlimited house drinks, every onboard meal and most meals ashore, port charges, complimentary Wi-Fi, and Traveller's Valet laundry service
- Design Your Day and choose from an array of included, expertly led shore excursions that delve deeper into Japanese culture, art, gardens, history and economics
- Witness a private performance by the world-renowned Kodo taiko drummers
- Immerse in mesmerizing Japanese art, perhaps visiting the Chichu Art Museum and Adachi Museum of Art
- Visit Gyeongju, South Korea, ancient dynastic capital and UNESCO World Heritage Site
- Reflect on Japan's turbulent history and witness its miraculous resurgence at Hiroshima
- Enjoy fascinating onboard lectures and presentations led by our knowledgeable enrichment specialists on Japanese history, art, culture, gardens and nature

# Itinerary

## JUN 13 ARRIVE OSAKA, JAPAN

Cross the International Dateline and arrive at Osaka's Kansai International Airport. After clearing customs and immigration, meet your A&K representative and transfer to your ideally located hotel. Spend the remainder of the day at leisure.

Imperial Hotel, Osaka

## JUN 14 OSAKA | CULTURAL WONDERS

Today, choose from a selection of tours, such as an enlightening, full-day excursion to Kyoto, where you visit the Golden Pavilion (Kinkakuji Temple); attend a talk about Zen Buddhism at Tenryuji Temple; and explore the Nijo Castle. Or, you may visit historic Nara, the first Japanese capital, including Houryujii, the country's oldest temple. Alternately, pay a visit to a tea factory to experience matcha-making and tea brewing, followed by a visit to Byodoin Temple, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Gather this evening for a welcome reception and dinner with fellow guests.

Imperial Hotel, Osaka | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

## JUN 15 OSAKA | THE ADVENTURE BEGINS

After breakfast at your hotel, enjoy the morning at leisure or join a panoramic tour of Osaka that includes a visit to the Dotonbori district and the imposing Osaka Castle. This afternoon, transfer to the port where you board luxurious 'Le Soleal,' your floating home for the next 11 nights. Throughout your journey, enjoy access to experts both on board and ashore, as well as ongoing conversations with our Expedition Team.

'Le Soleal' | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

## JUN 16 TAKAMATSU | EXPLORE YOUR WAY

Arrive this morning in Takamatsu, gateway to Shikoku Island. Choose from an array of intimate, thoughtfully planned excursions. Whether revolving around nature, gastronomy, arts or culture, each has been designed to reveal Japan at its most authentic. You may, for example, travel to Naoshima Island by ferry for a full-day excursion, celebrating its architecture and art museums. Visit the breathtaking hillside Chichu Art Museum and stop at Benesse House, a complex featuring unique work by Japanese and international artists. Alternately, board a high-speed boat to Shodoshima, or Shodo Island, the heart of Japan's olive-growing industry for a full-day tour. You may otherwise remain on Shikoku Island, experiencing Takamatsu's most acclaimed features. Begin with a visit to Ritsurin Park, one of Japan's finest gardens. Next, visit the Kinashi area of Takamatsu, among the country's main bonsai production centers, where you learn of the traditional methods for growing and caring for these highly cultivated little trees. Enjoy the rest of your time at leisure in the lovely port of Takamatsu.

'Le Soleal' | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

## JUN 17 HIROSHIMA & MIYAJIMA | MEMORIALS & SHRINES

Arrive in Hiroshima, where you may opt to visit the Hiroshima Peace Park and Museum, its cenotaph containing names of victims of the atomic bomb. Then, take a speedboat ride to Miyajima Island, site of the iconic Torii Gate and the Daisho-in Buddhist shrine. Or, take a full-day excursion through Hiroshima, visiting the Hiroshima Castle and namesake Peace Park and Museum, where you attend a private talk with an atomic bomb survivor. Alternately, spend a full day on the tranquil island of Miyajima. Ascend Mount Misen by cable car for a hike, and admire the Shinto Shrine and Torii Gate from above.

'Le Soleal' | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

## JUN 18 KARATSU | ANCIENT TRADING POST

This afternoon, 'Le Soleal' arrives at the port of Karatsu. Once an early trading post between Japan and mainland Asia, Karatsu still maintains its medieval heritage. Visit Karatsu Castle, known as the "flying crane castle." Pay a visit to the Hikiyama Exhibition Hall, which houses the floats and artifacts used in the annual Karatsu Kunchi autumn festival. You may also visit Ningyo Joruri (puppet theater) and the Nakazato Taroemon Kiln, a ceramic studio that has been active since the late 16th century. Alternatively, visit the Kitahata Shige region to meet green tea farmers, along with the chance to pick your own tea leaves.

'Le Soleal' | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

## JUN 19 GYEONGJU, SOUTH KOREA | KOREAN CAPITAL

Disembark and spend a full day exploring Gyeongju, South Korea, ancient capital of the Shilla Dynasty and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Gyeongju's cultural heritage dates back to the first millennium. Witness its excavated temples, tombs and pagodas. Then, unearth the treasures of the National Museum, which houses an exceptional collection of jewelry, weapons and pottery. Sit down to a lunch of Korean delicacies and witness a traditional dance performance. Alternately, gain insight on South Korean culture and join a special visit to the Hyundai Motor factory.

'Le Soleal' | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

## JUN 20 MATSUE, JAPAN | VERDANT GARDENS

Return to Japan and disembark at Sakaiminato to visit Matsue, the "town of water." Choose to explore the countryside, pausing to wander through the picturesque Yuushien Garden. Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant before visiting historic Matsue Castle, one of Japan's few remaining medieval castles, built in original wooden form. Alternately, visit the Adachi Museum of Art, which melds the founders' passions for art and garden design. After a traditional lunch at a *ryokan* (inn), visit Yakumo-mura village to learn about the art of Japanese papermaking.

'Le Soleal' | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

## JUN 21–22 KANAZAWA | IMMERSION INTO THE ARTS

Spend the day in the thriving art center of Kanazawa, known for its Kutani-style pottery and gold-leaf workmanship, followed by a visit to Edo-period Kenrokuen



Garden, considered among the best in Japan. Or, choose from other excursions, including a more active hike in Kakusenkei Gorge with an *onsen* (spa) experience in the Yamanaka Onsen district. The next day, wander its Omicho Market at your leisure, featuring everything from fresh flowers to fish and local handicrafts. Take a stroll in the Higashi Chaya-gai geisha district, where the slatted wooden façades of the geisha houses are still preserved.

'Le Soleal' | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

#### **JUN 23 SADO-GA-SHIMA | KODO TAIKO DRUMMERS**

Arrive at pastoral Sado Island, with its rice paddies, bamboo groves and surf-pounded seacoasts. Political exiles and deposed emperors were once “banished” to live on this beautiful isle. Today, enjoy an exclusive, private performance by the Kodo taiko drummers. Next, visit the Hakusanmaru exhibition hall and Ogi Folk Cultural museum, followed by a farmer’s talk at the rice paddies.

'Le Soleal' | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

#### **JUN 24 NOSHIRO/AOMORI | PICTURESQUE CALDERA LAKE**

Disembark in Noshiro and head to Towada-Hachimantai National Park, passing en route through the mountain plateau region of Hachimantai. Visit the Great Drum House to witness the drums used in the Tsuzureko Shrine Festival. Then, hike or take a boat ride at Lake Towada, formed by the eruption of a volcano. For a more in-depth nature experience, choose a trekking excursion to Juniko Lake alongside an A&K naturalist and a national park nature guide.

'Le Soleal' | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

#### **JUN 25 OTARU | HISTORIC CANAL**

Arrive in Hokkaido, Japan’s northernmost island and disembark in Otaru, a picturesque city known for its canal, well-preserved architecture, sake distilleries and stunning Mount Tengu views. Opt to take a historical and cultural tour of the city, once a prosperous fishing village. At the impressively crafted “Herring Mansion,” learn the history of the prominent Aoyama family. Afterward, discover Otaru’s storied glassmaking and visit a sake distillery, where you may sample the rice wine. Later, walk the city’s historic canal, now lined with museums and shops. Or, choose to venture to Mount Tengu by gondola, where you visit the Tengu House with its 700 goblin masks on exhibit. Return to the city to see its famed canal.

'Le Soleal' | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

#### **JUN 26 DEPART SAPPORO**

Disembark 'Le Soleal' in Otaru. Transfer to the airport in Sapporo and board your homebound flight.

***Note: Itinerary is for guidance purposes only and may be adjusted due to unforeseen circumstances including weather, medical emergencies and other conditions beyond A&K's control at the sole discretion of the Captain.***

## Extensions



### NEW! Kyoto Pre-Tour extension

4 days from \$3,495 per person  
Single Supplement from \$1,195 per person

JUN 10

Arrive in Osaka and transfer to Kyoto, cultural and historic capital of Japan. Check into your tranquil hotel and enjoy the rest of the day at leisure.

Hyatt Regency Kyoto

JUN 11

Travel through the busy lanes of the Higashiyama district to Kiyomizu Temple. Visit its Main Hall, a remarkable 17th-century wooden structure set on a steep cliff and offering panoramic views of Kyoto. Take a guided tour of a *machiya*, a traditional wooden townhouse and try on a kimono. After lunch, return to your hotel for time at leisure.

Hyatt Regency Kyoto | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

JUN 12

Set out on an enlightening tour of Kyoto. Visit the iconic rock garden at Ryoan-ji Temple, considered a supreme example of an abstract Zen garden, and Arashiyama, where you take in its famed bamboo grove and stroll its Togetsukyo bridge over the picturesque Katsura River.

Hyatt Regency Kyoto | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

JUN 13

Transfer to Osaka and begin your main program.



### Tokyo Post-Tour Extension

4 days from \$4,795 per person  
Single Supplement from \$1,595 per person  
✈ Sapporo/Tokyo

*Internal air included*

JUN 26

Fly to Tokyo. Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant and check in to your hotel.

Conrad Tokyo | Meals: Lunch

JUN 27

Visit the Tsukiji Outer Fish Market and Imperial Palace Plaza or the Hakone ropeway. Then, visit Hakone's Open Air museum followed by a puzzle box-making experience.

Conrad Tokyo | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

JUN 28

Visit the Asakusa District and the Shunkaen Bonsai Museum or visit the Meiji Jingu Shrine and the Nezu Museum with an Edo-dyeing experience. Join fellow guests for a farewell reception and dinner.

Conrad Tokyo | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

JUN 29

Transfer to the airport and board your homebound flight.

# Dates & Prices

Prices are in USD, per person, based on double occupancy.

Optional pre- and post-tour extensions available on this departure.

Dates	Prices	Single Supplement	Availability
<b>Jun 13 - Jun 26, 2020</b>			
Category 1 - Classic Balcony Stateroom	\$16,495 (was \$19,495)	\$7,313 (was \$14,625)	Limited Availability
Category 2 - Deluxe Balcony Stateroom	\$18,495 (was \$21,495)	\$8,063 (was \$16,125)	Limited Availability
Category 3 - Premier Balcony Stateroom	\$19,495 (was \$22,495)	\$8,438 (was \$16,875)	Waitlist - Call A&K
Category 4 - Superior Balcony Stateroom	\$24,995 (was \$27,995)	\$23,745	Waitlist - Call A&K
Category 5 - Prestige Balcony Suite	\$29,995 (was \$32,995)	\$28,495	Waitlist - Call A&K
Category 6 - Premier Two-Room Balcony Suite	\$37,995 (was \$40,995)	\$36,095	Waitlist - Call A&K
Category 7 - Prestige Two-Room Balcony Suite	\$39,995 (was \$42,995)	\$37,995	Waitlist - Call A&K
Category 8 - Owners Suite	\$44,995 (was \$47,995)	\$42,745	Waitlist - Call A&K

## Journey Details

This journey contains some active elements.

Minimum age is 7 years.

Categories 5–8 include room upgrade at the hotel and butler service aboard the ship.

First group event: morning excursion on Jun 14.

Last group event: disembarkation on Jun 26.

## Special Offer Terms & Conditions

*Offers valid for new bookings only through Mar 31, 2020. 50% savings on the single supplement valid in stateroom categories 1-3 and not combinable with Marco Polo Club discount or any other single supplement discounts. Offers subject to availability and may be withdrawn at any time. Other restrictions may apply.*

Prices are per person based on double occupancy. Internal and international air not included. See complete terms and conditions [here](#).