Wonders of Japan Cruise: Cherry Blossom Season 2021
14 days from $17,995 per person was $19,995
Limited to 148 guests

OFFER
Save $2,000 per person on all stateroom categories and suites.

Experience fascinating Japan during springtime with a chance to witness the country’s iconic cherry blossoms alongside a professional photographer. Spanning five islands, this all-encompassing cruise explores Japan’s culturally rich coastline with a pre-cruise stay in Osaka and included shore excursions throughout, including a visit to Hiroshima's Peace Memorial Park, the Adachi Museum of Art and its gardens, and Kanazawa's historic district.

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

- Witness private performances by the world-renowned Kodo taiko drummers, Kabuki warriors and geishas
- Immerse yourself in mesmerizing Japanese gardens, perhaps visiting the Adachi Museum of Art gardens
- Visit Gyeongju, South Korea, ancient dynastic capital and UNESCO World Heritage Site
- Reflect on Japan’s turbulent history and witness its miraculous resurgence in Hiroshima
- Enjoy fascinating onboard lectures and presentations led by our enrichment specialists on photography, Japanese history, culture and gardens
Featured Experts

MICHELLE VALBERG
Photographer, Nikon Ambassador
An award-winning photographer, Michelle is a Canadian Nikon Ambassador and a Canadian Geographic photographer-in-residence. She looks forward to shooting the idyllic Japanese spring.

SUZANA MACHADO DOLIVEIRA
Expedition Director
Leading A&K cruises for nearly 30 years, Suzana has travelled everywhere, including Greece, the Arctic and Antarctica. She has led A&K's Japan program for years with a strong passion for Japanese culture.
**Itinerary**

**MAR 25 ARRIVE OSAKA, JAPAN**
Meet your A&K representative and transfer to your ideally located hotel. Spend the remainder of the day at leisure.

The Ritz-Carlton Osaka

**MAR 26 OSAKA | CULTURAL WONDERS**
Begin your adventure with a chance to explore one of Japan’s most vibrant cities: Osaka. On a full-day excursion to Kyoto, visit the Golden Pavilion (Kinkaku-ji Temple), attend a talk about Zen Buddhism at Tennyu-ji Temple, and explore Nijo Castle. You can also enjoy a historic voyage to Nara, the first Japanese capital, including Horyu-ji, the country’s oldest temple. For an incredible overview, take a scenic drive to Uji, possibly enjoying the sight of cherry trees blossoming along Uji River. Gather this evening for a welcome reception and dinner with fellow guests.

The Ritz-Carlton Osaka | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**MAR 27 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 Dotombori district and the imposing Osaka Castle. Enjoy lunch followed by a stroll through the wandering paths of Taiko-en Garden, admiring its ponds and stone bridges. This afternoon, transfer to the port where you board luxurious ‘Le Laperouse,’ your floating home for the next 11 nights.

‘Le Laperouse’ | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**MAR 28 TAKAMATSU | EXPLORE YOUR WAY**
Wake up in charming Takamatsu, the gateway to Shikoku Island. Opt for a boat ride to Shodoshima, the heart of Japan’s olive-growing industry, for a full-day tour. You may otherwise remain on Shikoku Island. Here, your day starts with a visit to picture-perfect Ritsurin Park, one of Japan’s finest gardens. Next, explore the Kinashi area of Takamatsu, among the country’s main bonsai production centers, where you learn about traditional methods of growing and caring for these meticulously cultivated little trees. A few others may travel to Naoshima Island by ferry for a full-day excursion, celebrating its architecture and art museums. Visit the hillside Chichu Art Museum and stop at Benesse House, a complex featuring unique work by both Japanese and international artists.

‘Le Laperouse’ | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**MAR 29 HIROSHIMA & MIYAJIMA | MEMORIALS & SHRINES**
Vibrant and full of historical significance, Hiroshima is home to magnificent memorials and shrines. Start the day with a visit to the beautiful Peace Park and Museum, with its somber cenotaph containing names of atomic bomb victims. Then, take a speedboat ride to Miyajima Island, site of the iconic Torii Gate and the Daisho-in Buddhist temple. Or enjoy a full-day excursion through Hiroshima, visiting the Hiroshima Castle and namesake Peace Memorial Park and Museum, where you attend a private talk with an atomic bomb survivor. If you prefer a day in nature, head out to the tranquil island of Miyajima. Ascend Mount Misen by cable car for a hike, admiring the Shinto shrine and Torii Gate from above.

‘Le Laperouse’ | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**MAR 30 UWAJIMA | SEASIDE SPLENDOR**
Spend the day in Uwajima, situated on the west coast of Shikoku and home to Japan’s main producers of pearls, for a glimpse of small-town living. While there, learn the process of cultivating and sorting pearls during a visit to a pearl farm. Continue to the samurai-era gardens of Tensha-en, with their spectacular mountain backdrop. Alternatively, explore Nanraku-en Garden, the largest on Shikoku, and enjoy a scenic hike in picturesque Yakushidani Canyon. Another option is a hike, admiring the Shinto shrine and Torii Gate from above.

‘Le Laperouse’ | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**MAR 31 KARATSU | ANCIENT TRADING POST**
This afternoon, ‘Le Laperouse’ 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.” Tour the Hikiyama Exhibition Hall, which houses the floats and artifacts used in the annual Karatsu Kunchi autumn festival. Alternatively, head to the city of Imari to visit its celebrated porcelain pottery kilns and the Mifuneyama Rakuen garden.

‘Le Laperouse’ | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**APR 1 GYEONGJU, SOUTH KOREA | KOREAN CAPITAL**
Disembark and spend a full day exploring Gyeongju, South Korea, the ancient capital of the Silla 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, view 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.

‘Le Laperouse’ | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**APR 2 MATSUE, JAPAN | VERDANT GARDENS**
Return to Japan and disembark at Sakaiminato to visit Matsue, the “town of water.” 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. Art lovers can 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 Laperouse' | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**APR 3 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. For a more active alternative, take a hike in Kakusenkei Gorge with a soothing onsen (spa) experience in the Yamanaka Onsen district. Wander Omicho Market, which features everything from fresh flowers to fish, and then stroll in the Higashi Chaya-gai geisha district, with its well-preserved historic geisha houses.

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

**APR 4 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. Enjoy an exclusive, private performance by the Kodo taiko drummers, and then visit the Hakusanmaru Exhibition Hall and Ogi Folk Museum, followed by a farmer’s talk at the rice paddies.

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

**APR 5 AT SEA | HOKKAIDO ISLAND CRUISING**
Enjoy a relaxing day on board while cruising toward Hokkaido. Share stories and photographs with newfound friends, and take advantage of the ship facilities, including relaxing lounges, the panoramic fitness room and sauna.

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

**APR 6 OTARU | HISTORIC CANALS**
Arrive in Otaru, your gateway to Hokkaido, Japan’s northernmost island. Visit the city known for its canals, sake distilleries, architecture and views of Mount Tengu. Opt for a historical and cultural tour of the city, once a prosperous fishing village. Afterward, discover Otaru’s storied glassmaking and visit a sake distillery, where you may sample the rice wine. Whiskey lovers can learn about Japanese whiskey during a visit and tasting at Nikka Whisky Yoichi Distillery, while others can choose to stroll along the city’s canals.

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

**APR 7 DEPART SAPPORO**
Disembark ‘Le Laperouse’ in Otaru. Transfer to the airport in Sapporo and board your homebound flight, or continue on the Tokyo extension.

'Le Laperouse' | Meals: Breakfast

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Extensions

Kyoto Pre-Tour Extension

Discover timeless Kyoto, visiting its temples and gardens, exploring its buzzy districts and witnessing its traditions.

4 days from $4,295 per person
Single Supplement from $2,195 per person

MAR 22
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

MAR 23
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 town house, and try on a kimono. After lunch, return to your hotel for time at leisure.

Hyatt Regency Kyoto | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

MAR 24
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

MAR 25
Transfer to Osaka and begin your main program.

Tokyo Post-Tour Extension

Explore Tokyo’s markets and museums, experience hands-on art making, and take a day trip to Hakone.

4 days from $5,995 per person
Single Supplement from $2,395 per person

Sapporo/Tokyo

Internal air included

APR 7
Fly to Tokyo. Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant and check in to your hotel.

Conrad Tokyo | Meals: Lunch

APR 8
Visit the Tsukiji Fish Market and Imperial Palace Plaza. Alternately, travel to Hakone, enjoy a boat tour on Lake Ashi and visit Hakone’s Open Air Museum, followed by a puzzle box-making experience.

Conrad Tokyo | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

APR 9
Visit the Asakusa district and Shunkaen Bonsai Museum, or visit the Meiji Shrine and Nezu Museum with an Edo-period dyeing experience, or visit a sumo training quarters and the Edo-Tokyo Museum. This evening, join fellow guests for a farewell dinner.

Conrad Tokyo | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

APR 10
Transfer to the airport and board your homebound flight.
**Dates & Prices**

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

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<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Category 1 - Classic Stateroom</th>
<th>Category 2 - Deluxe Stateroom</th>
<th>Category 3 - Prestige Stateroom</th>
<th>Category 4 - Deluxe Suite</th>
<th>Category 5 - Privilege Suite</th>
<th>Category 6 - Prestige Two-Room Suite</th>
<th>Category 7 - Grand Deluxe Suite</th>
<th>Category 8 - Owner’s Suite</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mar 25 - Apr 07, 2021</td>
<td>$17,995 (was $19,995)</td>
<td>$20,495 (was $22,495)</td>
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<td>$27,495 (was $29,495)</td>
<td>$31,995 (was $33,995)</td>
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| Optional pre-tour and post-tour extensions available on this departure.

**Journey Details**

This journey contains some active elements.

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Minimum age is 7 years.

Categories 4–8 include room upgrade at the hotel and butler service aboard the ship.

First group event: morning excursion on Mar 26.

Last group event: disembarkation by 9:00 am in Otaru on Apr 7.

**Special Offer Terms & Conditions**

Offer subject to availability and may be withdrawn at any time.

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