

VMFA

VIRGINIA MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS

Ancient Traditions of Japan's Inland Sea

featuring guest speaker
Emmy-winning news correspondent

Jim Laurie

aboard the exclusively chartered, small ship

Five-Star LE SOLÉAL

April 18 to 29, 2023

Miyajima

Destinations including:

Kyoto

Hiroshima

Hagi

Matsue

Gyeongju

Okayama

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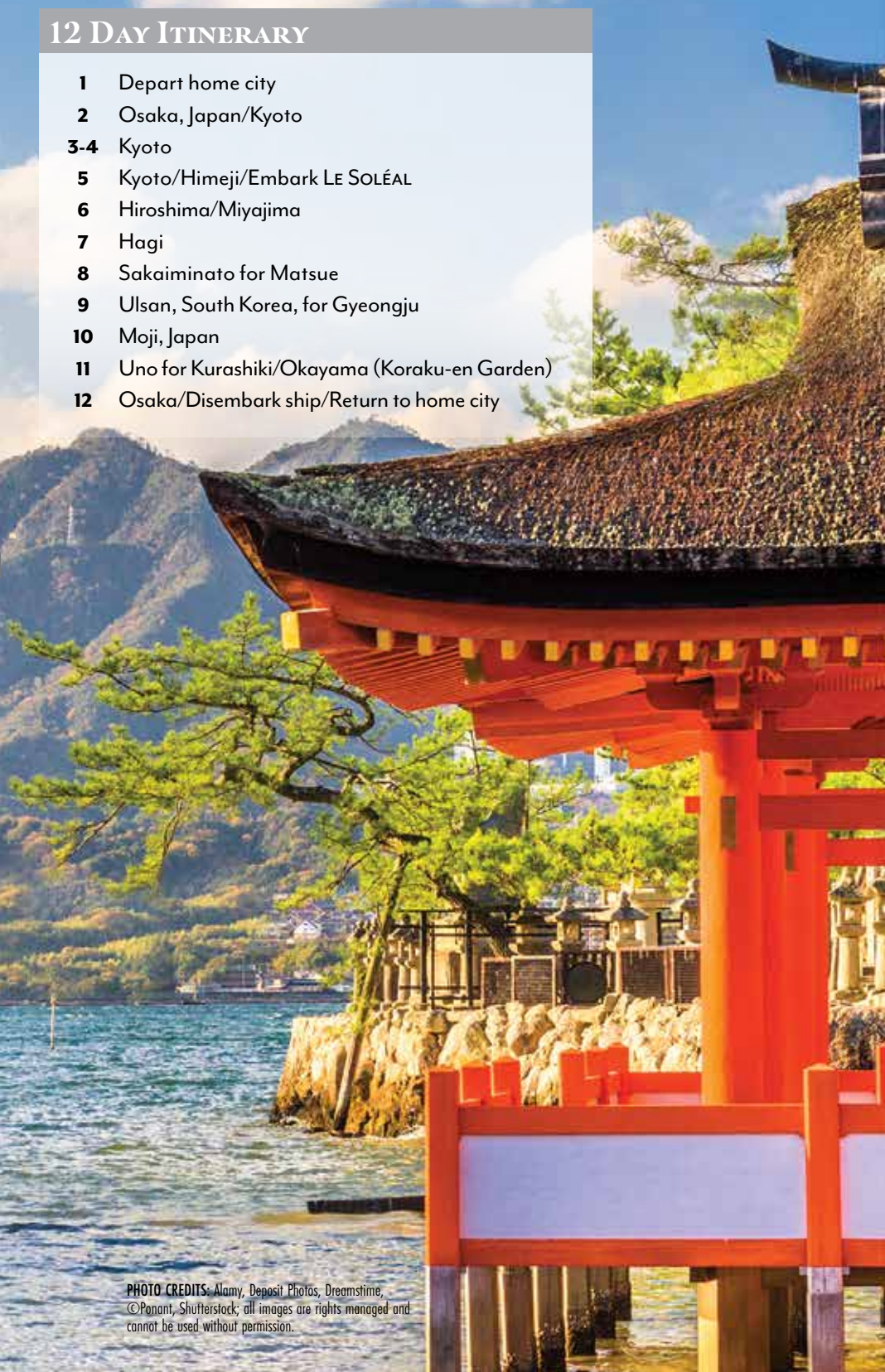


Jim Laurie

A distinguished international broadcaster, writer, and media consultant who has witnessed defining moments in Asia's history for more than 50 years, Jim Laurie first visited Japan as a young writer/reporter in 1970 before embarking as a war correspondent in Indochina. He served as ABC News bureau chief in Tokyo in the late 1980s. Laurie's Emmy Award winning documentary film, *Myths Behind the Miracle*, examined Japan's economic success in the late 20th century and some of the social reasons that it could not be sustained.

12 DAY ITINERARY

- 1 Depart home city
- 2 Osaka, Japan/Kyoto
- 3-4 Kyoto
- 5 Kyoto/Himeji/Embark LE SOLÉAL
- 6 Hiroshima/Miyajima
- 7 Hagi
- 8 Sakaiminato for Matsue
- 9 Ulsan, South Korea, for Gyeongju
- 10 Moji, Japan
- 11 Uno for Kurashiki/Okayama (Koraku-en Garden)
- 12 Osaka/Disembark ship/Return to home city





Walk through the elaborately decorated karamon (Chinese-style gate) to enter Nijo Castle

VMFA

VIRGINIA MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS

Dear VMFA Members:

From the ethereal temples, jewel box pagodas, and shogun castles of Kyoto to the latticed merchant houses of Hagi's earthen-walled samurai district, Japan's ancient cities and towns hold an enigmatic fusion of religious rituals and spiritual symbolism. Join us on this carefully crafted itinerary that unveils Japan's and South Korea's cultural treasures and divine mystique in each port of call.

This 10-night journey provides unparalleled access to the region's vast architectural riches, bountiful landscapes, and venerable heritage. Spend three nights in Japan's spiritual and cultural capital, Kyoto, home to a sublime concentration of UNESCO World Heritage-designated historical monuments, including the celebrated temples of Kiyomizu-dera, Ryoan-ji, and Kinkaku-ji and the imposing Nijo Castle. Cruise for seven nights along the coast of the Inland Sea to South Korea on board the exclusively chartered, five-star small ship LE SOLÉAL—featuring only 110 ocean-view suites and staterooms.

Enjoy excursions to seven UNESCO World Heritage Sites, including the 17th-century Himeji Castle, Japan's largest surviving feudal complex; Hiroshima's poignant Peace Memorial Park; Miyajima's Itsukushima Shrine; and in Gyeongju, South Korea, the ancient Silla Kingdom Royal Burial Mounds and the glorious Bulguksa Temple, the embodiment of Buddhist utopia on Earth.

VMFA is proud to be sharing this departure with travelers from Bucknell University, Harvard University, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and other fine organizations. This program is an excellent value with five-star accommodations and daily excursions; we encourage you to book now while space and early booking savings are still available.

Sincerely,

Adele "Hutch" Livingston
VMFA Coordinator of Member Travel

The safety and well-being of our travelers remains our highest priority. Cruise lines and some other providers of services (as well as, potentially, some countries) require all passengers traveling on our programs to present confirmation of a full COVID-19 vaccination, and, as well, passengers may have to produce evidence of a recent negative COVID test. All our staff are committed to adhering to all health and safety protocols from the start of your trip to the end as directed by the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, overseas health officials as well as those protocols mandated by your cruise company (if applicable) and other suppliers of services. Detailed protocol information tailored to your travel program will be mailed to you along with additional pre-departure information.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



Tradition, Ceremony, and Ritual



A mysterious island nation, one of unsurpassed natural beauty and way of life, Japan and its fascinating culture are laden with ancient spiritual rituals, symbolism, and rich, storied tradition. Tea ceremonies, *Noh* drama, *ikebana* (flower arrangement, also known as *kado* or “the way of the flowers”), *matsuri* (the many seasonal festivals of worship), and classical landscape gardens are just some of the long-held traditions. Look for these different types of gardens: the paradise garden, *kare-sansui* (dry landscape) garden, strolling garden, and tea garden—each with a different symbolic interpretation. Silent contemplation will reveal the lessons of the *kare-sansui* rock garden at Ryoan-ji, Kyoto’s Temple of the Peaceful Dragon, founded in 1450. This garden, one of the most famous in the world, represents the ultimate expression of Zen Buddhism. Legend says that only 14 of the 15 rocks in the garden can be seen at once, and only when one attains spiritual enlightenment does the final stone reveal itself.





DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

Home City/ Osaka, Japan/Kyoto

Day 1 and Day 2

Depart the home city and cross the International Date Line. Arrive in Osaka, then transfer to impeccably preserved Kyoto. Check into the KYOTO HOTEL OKURA and enjoy an evening at leisure.

Kyoto

Day 3

Visit the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Kinkaku-ji Temple, the vaunted “Golden Pavilion.” Continue on to Ryoan-ji Temple, constructed as an aristocrat’s villa during the Heian Period (794 to 1185).

Enjoy the afternoon at leisure and a welcome reception this evening.

Kyoto

Day 4

Visit the UNESCO World Heritage-designated monument of *Kiyomizu-dera* (“Pure Water Temple”), where the main hall and veranda were built without a single nail. Experience the serenity of the temple’s monumental *hondo* (main hall) and visit Otowa Falls, where a sip of the “pure water” is reputed to bestow health, success or beauty.

This afternoon, learn more about shogun history at the UNESCO-designated Nijo Castle, built for shogun Tokugawa Iyasu.

Kyoto/Himeji

Day 5

Enjoy a guided visit of the grounds surrounding UNESCO World Heritage-designated Himeji Castle, Japan’s most stunning and best-preserved feudal fortress. Embark the ship this afternoon.

Hagi

Day 7

Tour Hagi’s 17th-century Toko-ji Temple on Kikuyake and walk past dwellings that once housed samurai in the city’s old castle town. Visit the Kikuyake House—one of the best-preserved examples of merchant-style architecture



Hiroshima/Miyajima

Day 6

Drive to the solemn Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park in central Hiroshima—marking the spot where on August 6, 1945, the first atomic bomb used in war left only structural remnants of Hiroshima’s Genbaku Dome—and visit the Peace Memorial Museum.

Call at the island of *Miyajima* (“Shrine Island”) to tour the sixth-century Itsukushima Shrine. The shrine’s impressive Great Torii Gate—appears to float on water during high tide. Attend the Captain’s Welcome Reception on board the ship.

from the Edo period (1603 to 1868)—and explore the Hagi Uragami Museum.

Sakaiminato for Matsue

Day 8

Tour the Adachi Museum of Art, where 20th-century and modern Japanese art coalesce with six landscaped gardens as “living paintings,” and see 17th-century Matsue Castle. Enjoy onboard lectures this afternoon while cruising the Sea of Japan.

Ulsan, South Korea, for Gyeongju

Day 9

Travel from Ulsan in rural South Korea to the cradle



of the Silla Kingdom (57 B.C. to A.D. 935) in historical Gyeongju. Visit the stunning eighth-century Bulguksa Temple and learn about Silla history in the Gyeongju National Museum, which houses more than 30,000 artifacts, before touring the Royal Burial Mounds at Tumuli Park.

Moji, Japan

Day 10

Visit the striking 12th-century Akama Shrine, dedicated to the

child emperor Antoku. Enjoy the Captain's Farewell Reception on board the ship this evening.

Uno for Kurashiki/ Okayama (Koraku-en Garden)

Day 11

Travel to the Kurashiki Bikan District to visit the old merchant quarter and see the traditional black-tiled houses—painted white and situated along a canal framed with weeping willows. This afternoon, walk through

the beautiful Koraku-en in Okayama. This strolling garden is unique for its large, grassy areas and distinctive wooden Ryuten, a pavilion with a stream running through it.

Osaka/Home City

Day 12

After breakfast, disembark and continue on the Osaka and Nara Post-Program Option or transfer to the airport for your return flight home.



Kinkaku-ji Temple

ALWAYS INCLUDED WITH GOHAGAN & COMPANY

- ◆ Transfers and luggage handling abroad if your arrival(s)/ departure(s) coincide with the scheduled group transfer(s).
- ◆ Experienced, English-speaking local guides for included excursions.
- ◆ Gratuities to local guides and drivers on included excursions and transfers.
- ◆ Complimentary bottled water in your suite or stateroom and on excursions.
- ◆ Hospitality desk aboard the ship.
- ◆ Experienced Gohagan & Company Travel Directors at your service.
- ◆ Complimentary use of an audio headset during guided excursions.
- ◆ Automatic \$250,000 flight insurance policy for each participant ticketed on flights by Gohagan & Company.

BOOK WITH CONFIDENCE!

No cancellation fees for new bookings until 95 days prior to trip departure.



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Join us aboard the exclusively chartered, five-star LE SOLÉAL, where distinctive French sophistication meets innovative nautical design. The ship's efficient electrical propulsion system and custom stabilizers provide an exceptionally smooth, quiet, and comfortable voyage. Complimentary alcoholic and nonalcoholic beverages and internet access are available throughout the cruise. All meals aboard ship are included.

Elegant Suites and Staterooms—95% Include Private Balconies

Each of the 110 five-star staterooms and suites (up to 484 square feet) features an ocean view and most have a private balcony. All accommodations feature individual climate control, two twin beds or one queen bed, a private bathroom with shower, and luxury hotel-style hotel amenities, including a flat-screen television, a safe, a full-length closet, plush robes, and slippers.



Category	LAND/CRUISE RATES <small>excluding taxes</small>	Early Booking Savings through Sept. 21, 2022	Rate after Sept. 21, 2022
5	Superior stateroom, large window and bathroom with shower. <i>Deck 3, forward.</i> (limited availability)	\$6,595	\$7,585
4	Deluxe stateroom, single door to partial-wall balcony. <i>Deck 3, midship.</i>	\$7,695	\$8,845
3	Prestige stateroom, expansive sliding glass door, private or partial-wall balcony. <i>Deck 4, forward and midship.</i>	\$8,995	\$10,345
2	Prestige stateroom, sliding glass door, some have partial-wall balconies, private balcony, shower or tub/shower. <i>Deck 5, forward.</i>	\$9,995	\$11,495
1	Prestige stateroom, sliding glass door, private balcony, shower or tub/shower. <i>Deck 6, midship.</i>	\$10,995	\$12,645
Deluxe Suite	Expansive sliding glass door, large private partial-wall balcony, tub/shower, sitting area with sofa. <i>Deck 6, midship.</i> (limited availability)	\$12,395	\$14,255
Prestige Suite II	Two rooms, expansive sliding glass door, large private balcony, two bathrooms: tub/shower and shower, large sitting area with sofa, two closets. <i>Deck 5, midship.</i> (limited availability)	\$12,995	\$14,945
Prestige Suite I	Two rooms, expansive sliding glass door, large private balcony, two bathrooms: tub/shower and shower, large sitting area with sofa, two closets. <i>Deck 6, midship.</i> (limited availability)	\$13,995	\$16,095
Owner's Suite	One bedroom, sitting room with sofa, table and four chairs, expansive sliding glass doors, larger private balcony, one and a half bathrooms, separate tub and shower. <i>Deck 6, midship.</i> (limited availability)	\$15,995	\$18,395

Single supplements apply across all categories at 160% of the per person double price.

Taxes are an additional \$450 per person.

LE SOLÉAL has been specially contracted for this program and the deck plan is available online or upon request from Gohagan & Company.



PRE-PROGRAM OPTION

Iconic Tokyo

April 15 to 19, 2023

Explore Tokyo on a comprehensive three-night itinerary that includes a full-day excursion to Hakone, home to majestic Mount Fuji, and a journey aboard the high-speed *Shinkansen*, or bullet train, to Kyoto. Pass through the Kaminari Gate to visit the Senso-ji Temple, originally built in the seventh century. Accommodations are at the five-star ANA INTERCONTINENTAL HOTEL TOKYO.

Price per person, based on double occupancy: \$1,695

Price per person, based on single occupancy: \$2,295



POST-PROGRAM OPTION

Osaka and Nara

April 29 to May 1, 2023

Extend your time in Osaka on a two-night itinerary that includes a visit to the Osaka History Museum, showcasing Osaka's interesting culture of a merchant city. Enjoy an excursion to the tranquil city of Nara, Japan's oldest capital. Visit the iconic Horyu-ji Temple, where a seventh-century, five-story pagoda stands as a testament to Japan's history, and Todaiji, the "Great Eastern Temple," one of Japan's most famous and historically significant temples. Accommodations are for two nights in the five-star INTERCONTINENTAL HOTEL OSAKA.

Price per person, based on double occupancy: \$1,145

Price per person, based on single occupancy: \$1,545

Further details will be provided with your reservation confirmation.

RESERVATION FORM

Send to: Virginia Museum of Fine Arts
c/o Gohagan & Company
209 South LaSalle Street, Suite 500
Chicago, Illinois 60604-1446 104-04/18/23-346

Please make my/our reservation(s):

Category: **1st Choice** _____ **2nd Choice** _____

- Double (two twin beds).
 Double (one queen bed).
 Single accommodations.
 Single but prefer to share and will allow you to select my roommate (shares cannot be guaranteed).

Iconic Tokyo Pre-Program Option

April 15 to 19, 2023

- Double \$1,695 per person.
 Single \$2,295 per person.
 I am reserving as a single but prefer to share accommodations.

Osaka and Nara Post-Program Option

April 29 to May 1, 2023

- Double \$1,145 per person.
 Single \$1,545 per person.
 I am reserving as a single but prefer to share accommodations.

I/We want you to book my/our air from:

(fill in departure city)

I/We will make my/our own air arrangements.

Title Full Name

Title Full Name

Street Mailing Address (no P.O. Box number please)

City State Zip Code

Home Telephone Cell Phone

Email Address Business Telephone

Program reservations require a deposit of \$800 per person.

- Enclosed is my/our check(s) for \$_____.
Make check(s) payable to **Gohagan & Company**.
- I/We authorize you to charge a deposit of \$_____ to:
 American Express Discover MasterCard Visa
- I/We request that you contact me/us via telephone or email for payment by ACH.

Card Number Exp. Date

Signature as it appears on credit card

**Please note: Terms and conditions are available at
gohagantravel.com/terms/**

First participant's signature Date

Second participant's signature Date

FINAL PAYMENT due January 13, 2023; make by check, ACH or credit card. Reservations made after January 13, 2023, require payment in full at time of booking. No cancellation fees until 95 days prior to April 18, 2023!

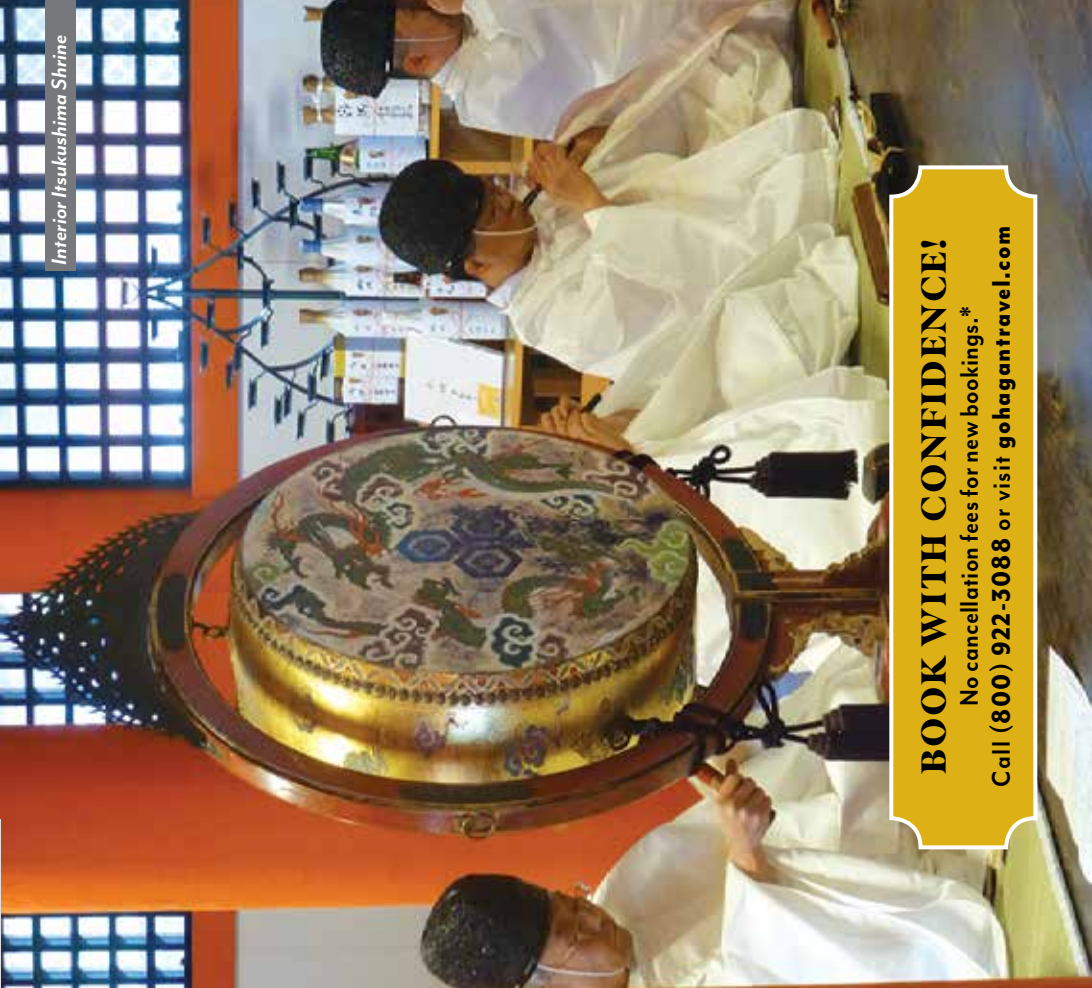
Requirement: VMFA travel opportunities are open to all members of the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts. For additional information about joining the museum, please call 804-340-1519.

VMEA

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Interior, Isukushima Shrine

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