



Ancient Traditions of Japan's Inland Sea

**12-day/10-night journey to Kyoto, Hiroshima,
Miyajima and Gyeongju, South Korea, featuring guest speaker Jim Laurie**

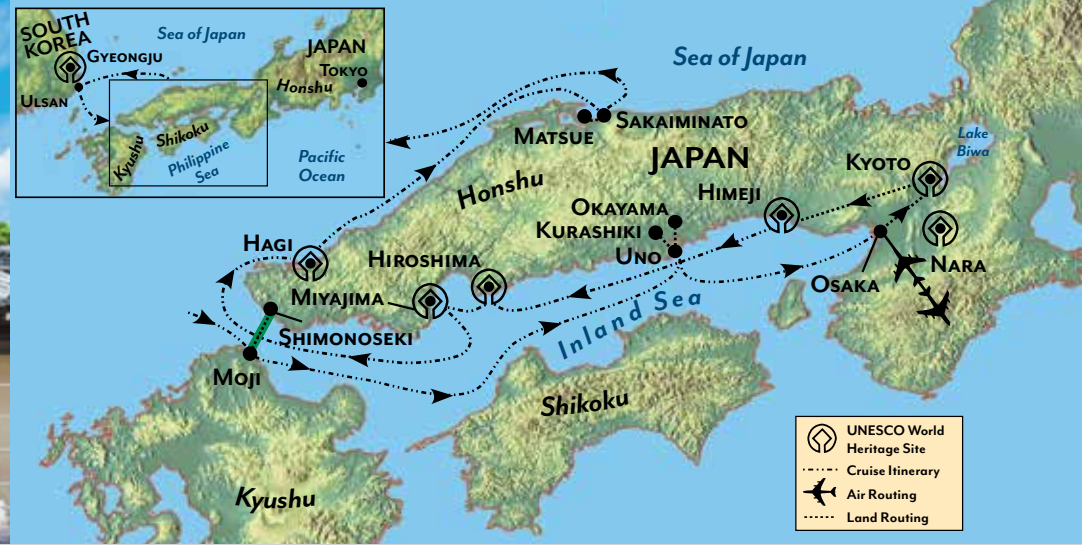
Departure: April 18 to 29, 2023



Experience the timeless splendor of Japan and South Korea **with fellow Virginia Museum of Fine Arts patrons** on this unique itinerary, featuring a seven-night, five-star cruise across the full length of the historic Inland Sea of Japan, plus three nights at a deluxe hotel in Kyoto. Enjoy port calls at captivating points of interest, including seven UNESCO World Heritage sites. From enchanting Kyoto to storied Hiroshima and on to Miyajima and the Buddhist wonders of Gyeongju, South Korea, relish in the awe-inspiring beauty of these historic ports of Japan and South Korea. Enhance your voyage with the Iconic Tokyo Pre-Program and/or Osaka/Nara Post-Program Options.



Nijo Castle



12-Day/10-Night Itinerary

- 1 Depart the U.S. or Canada**—Depart the U.S. and Cross the International Date Line.
- 2 Osaka, Japan/Kyoto**—Arrive in Osaka, then transfer to impeccably preserved Kyoto. Check into the KYOTO HOTEL OKURA and enjoy an evening at leisure.
- 3 Kyoto**—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.
- 4 Kyoto**—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 Leyasu.
- 5 Kyoto/Himeji/Embark the ship**—Enjoy a guided visit of the grounds surrounding UNESCO World Heritage-designated Himeji Castle, Japan’s most stunning and best-preserved feudal fortress.
- 6 Hiroshima/Miyajima**—Drive to the solemn Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park in central Hiroshima—which marks

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 to 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—one of the largest in Japan—appears to float on water during high tide. Attend a Captain’s Welcome Reception on board the ship.

- 7 Hagi**—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 from the Edo period (1603 to 1868)—and explore the Hagi Uragami Museum.
- 8 Sakaiminato for Matsue**—Tour the Adachi Museum of Art, where 20th-century and modern Japanese art coalesce with six perfectly landscaped gardens as “living paintings,” and see 17th-century Matsue Castle. Enjoy onboard lectures this afternoon while cruising the Sea of Japan.
- 9 Ulsan, South Korea, for Gyeongju**—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.

- 10 Moji, Japan**—Visit the striking 12th-century Akama Shrine, dedicated to the child emperor Antoku. Enjoy a Captain’s Farewell Reception on board the ship this evening.
- 11 Uno for Kurashiki/Okayama (Koraku-en Garden)**—Walk through the beautiful Koraku-en in Okayama. This strolling garden is unique for its large, open grassy areas and distinctive wooden Ryuten, a pavilion with a stream running through it.
- 12 Osaka/Disembark ship/Depart for the U.S. or Canada/ Arrive in the U.S. or Canada**



Himeji Castle

Highlights

- ◆ Meet special guest speaker Jim Laurie, international broadcaster, writer and media consultant who has witnessed defining moments in Asia's history for more than 50 years.
- ◆ Visit picturesque formal gardens and the UNESCO World Heritage-designated Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park.
- ◆ See the magnificent landscapes of Gyeongju, South Korea, and the UNESCO World Heritage site of Bulguksa Temple.



Inside Itsukushima Shrine



Bulguksa Temple



Featuring guest speaker Jim Laurie



LE SOLÉAL



Bullet train passing Mount Fuji



Horyu-ji Temple

EXCLUSIVELY CHARTERED FIVE-STAR, SMALL SHIP LE SOLÉAL

- ◆ Only 132 suites and staterooms, most with a private balcony.
- ◆ All meals included on board the ship, as well as alcoholic and nonalcoholic beverages throughout the cruise.
- ◆ Small ship cruising at its finest.

PRE-PROGRAM OPTION Iconic Tokyo

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. Accommodations are at the five-star ANA INTERCONTINENTAL HOTEL TOKYO.

POST-PROGRAM OPTION Osaka and Nara

Extend your time in Osaka on a two-night itinerary that includes an excursion to the tranquil city of Nara, Japan's oldest capital, and a visit to the iconic Horyu-ji Temple, where a seventh-century, five-story pagoda stands as a testament to Japan's history. Accommodations are for two nights in the five-star INTERCONTINENTAL HOTEL OSAKA.

2023 DEPARTURE DATE: April 18

Category	LAND/CRUISE RATES <small>excluding taxes</small>	Early Booking Savings <small>(if booked more than six months prior to departure)</small>	Rate after Early Booking Savings
5	Superior stateroom, large window and bathroom with shower. <i>Deck 3, forward. (limited availability)</i>	\$6,595	\$7,585
4	Deluxe stateroom, small window and partial wall balcony . <i>Deck 3, midship.</i>	\$7,695	\$8,845
3	Prestige stateroom, expansive sliding glass door, private, 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. (limited availability)</i>	\$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. (limited availability)</i>	\$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. (limited availability)</i>	\$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. (limited availability)</i>	\$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. The Pre-Program and Post-Program Options are available at additional cost. Details will be provided during the reservation process.

Book your spot today! Call (800) 922-3088