



The Small Cruise
Ship Collection

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ALASKA TO JAPAN: RING OF FIRE TO AINU CULTURE EXPEDITION CRUISE

Follow the Pacific's "Ring of Fire" from Alaska's volcanic Aleutian Islands to the rugged island of Hokkaido, Japan. Discover the wild, seldom-visited islands of the Bering Sea, encountering millions of seabirds as well as northern fur seals and bears in the Pribilof and Aleutian Islands. View towering volcanic cones in the distance on the way to Hokkaido--home to more than 51 volcanoes.



ITINERARY

Day 1 Anchorage, Alaska / Nome / Embark Ship

Arrive in Anchorage and fly to Nome, Alaska. Embark National Geographic Resolution in the afternoon.

Arrival Time: Arrive before 9:00 a.m. local time.

Arrival City: Anchorage, Alaska

Meals Included: Dinner

Days 2-3 Pribilof Islands / St. Paul and St. George Islands

A naturalist's paradise, the Pribilof Islands welcome three



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million seabirds and a million marine mammals each summer during the breeding season. Cruise beneath the cliffs of St. George, rocky outcrops that harbor one of the largest seabird colonies in the Northern Hemisphere. Watch for horned and tufted puffins, red-legged kittiwakes, crested auklets and rare Asian vagrant species seldom seen in North America. Go ashore on St. Paul, home to the majority of the Pribilofs' more than half a million northern fur seals.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

[Day 4 Baby Islands / Dutch Harbor](#)

The westernmost tip of the Alaskan mainland gives way to a 1,100-mile-long string of islands that separate the Bering Sea from the northern Pacific: the Aleutian Islands. Begin your exploration of this wildlife-rich archipelago at the Baby Islands, east of Unalaska. Here, dynamic tides offer the chance to look for sea otters and fur seals, as well as rare seabirds. Stand on deck as the ship navigates Baby Pass and be on the lookout for the islands' wildlife. Arrive at Dutch Harbor, site of a fierce World War II battle and now one of the world's most important fishing ports.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

[Days 5-8 Exploring the Aleutian Islands](#)

With 69 islands, countless islets and tens of millions of seabirds, the Aleutians offer much to discover. Spend four days exploring these rugged and remote volcanic islands--some of which still harbor active volcanoes. Learn about the culture of the Aleuts, a fishing and hunting people who have inhabited

these islands for millennia. Observe marine mammals such as northern fur seals, Steller sea lions and a variety of whales, as well as prolific birdlife. Witness how the weather-wind, rain, fog and glorious sunshine-impacts all aspects of life in this spectacularly scenic region.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

[Days 9-12 At Sea](#)

As the ship sets a course for Japan, enjoy discussions with your naturalists as they set the stage for your time exploring the northern shores of Hokkaido. Join them on deck to identify the seabirds that follow us and the volcanic cones in the distance that make up the "Ring of Fire." Be on the lookout for unexpected visits from whales and other mammals. There is also an array of shipboard activities to enjoy: attend a photo workshop with your National Geographic Photography Expert, treat yourself to a massage or a wellness class or snuggle up in the library and enjoy a good book. As you make your way to Asia, you will lose a day crossing the International Date Line.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

[Day 13 Kushiro, Japan](#)

Arrive on the northeastern shore of Hokkaido, your first stop in Japan. With a deep connection to the sea, Kushiro is known for a variety of seafood, fresh from the sea. Experience the bustle of the local market, where the daily catch is on display. Explore the Kushiro City Museum and delve into the rich history of the city and the traditions of the Ainu people. Following your morning of exploration, enjoy a meal loved by locals: Robata-yaki, or

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"fireside grilling." You will select your favorite seafood and grill it over the hot coals at your seat--a very special treat.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 14 Muroran

Dock at Muroran and choose to drive to Shikotsu-T ya National Park, filled with mirror-like lakes and forest-covered hills set against the silhouette of the snowcapped Mount Yotei stratovolcano. Alternatively, drive to the lush town of Shiraoi to visit the newly opened National Ainu Museum and Park, an open-air museum where visitors can experience various elements of Ainu culture.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 15 Aomori

Your first call on the northern coast of Japan's main island of Honshu is Aomori City. With the Hakkoda mountains in the distance, this bountiful countryside is famous for apple orchards, world-famous seafood, local treasures of Tsugaru lacquerware and painted kites. Explore the tranquil Seiryuji Temple with its impressive bronze statue of Dainichi Nyorai. Learn about Nebuta Matsuri, the summer festival with colorful papier-mache floats, and see the amazing artistry up close.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 16 Sendai

Nestled between mountains and sea, Sendai's lush greenery

earned it the nickname of "Forest City." As you tour this beautiful city, wind your way to the hills above town to the site of Sendai Castle. Built in 1600 by the powerful feudal lord, Date Masamune, the castle has survived anti-feudal warfare, bombings of World War II and the powerful earthquake of 2011. Continue on to Zuihoden, the mausoleum of the Date clan, whose spectacular grounds and intricate design pay tribute to the powerful Masamune and his descendants. Just outside of the city, explore the secluded bay on the shores of Matsushima. Known as one of Japan's three most scenic views, this gorgeous bay is dotted with pine-clad islets.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 17 Oarai / Mito City

Today long stretches of white-sand beaches welcome you to the seaside city of Oarai. Heading inland, visit Mito, a power base during the Edo period and best known today for Kairakuen Garden, considered one of Japan's three finest landscape gardens. Originally created in 1841 for the ruling lord, the park was also intended for the enjoyment of all. Paths wind through 3,000 plum trees, cedar woods and a bamboo grove. Learn about the treasures of the samurai that went beyond swords and armor. The Tokugawa Museum houses exhibits which chronicle the life of the powerful Tokugawa family, as well as those who lived under their rule.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 18 Shimizu

Be on deck as the ship sails into Shimizu to get your closest

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view of Mt Fuji yet (weather permitting). Get your morning steps in as you climb the zigzag pathway of 1,200 steps to Kunoza Toshogu Shrine, enjoying beautiful views of the coastline as you go. For those feeling a little less inclined to embark on the stairs, you can take the ropeway to the top. This complex houses many bright-red buildings, accented in gold and adorned with colorful carvings--a dazzling vision. You may also choose to visit the Ukiyoe Museum, which houses a lovely collection of Edo-period works.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 19 Osaka / Disembark Ship

Disembark in Osaka, the largest commercial center on the island of Honshu. Depart for the airport to connect to your flight home.

Meals Included: Breakfast

Please Note:

Itineraries are subject to change.



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YOUR SHIP: NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC RESOLUTION

YOUR SHIP:

National Geographic Resolution

VESSEL TYPE:

LENGTH:

PASSENGER CAPACITY:

BUILT/REFURBISHED:

A next-generation expedition ship, purpose-built for polar navigation. National Geographic Resolution is a next-generation expedition ship, purpose-built for polar navigation. A twin to National Geographic Endurance, she is a fully stabilized, highly strengthened, ice-class Polar Class 5 (PC5) vessel, it is designed to navigate polar passages year-round, and safely explore uncharted waters, while providing exceptional comfort. Its patented X-BOW® is key to its design; its powerful wave-slicing action provides an extremely smooth ride in even adverse conditions, and even reduces spray on deck, for superior observation. She carries a full suite of expedition tools and offers a variety of experience-enhancing amenities. The luxury of comfort on expedition. National Geographic Resolution comfortably accommodates 126 guests in 69 outside-facing cabins. Cabins are efficiently designed, with sizes range from the 140-square-foot solo cabin to the 430-square-foot category 7 suite. Fifty-three of the 69 cabins, including all 12 of the solo cabins, will feature small balconies with floor-to-ceiling sliding doors that bring in the spectacular views and ample natural light. Comfort & convenience in every room. Every cabin has two portholes, a large window or balcony, and temperature controls.

Bathrooms are modern and stocked with botanically inspired hair products, soap, and shower gel, plus a hairdryer. Cabins are equipped with expedition command centers with tablets and USB/mobile device docking, TVs, Wi-Fi connections, and hair dryers. Dining. Food served aboard is fresh, local, and delicious, and sourced from suppliers who share our values of sustainable use whenever possible. Meals aboard are almost always served in the dining room, located aft of the lounge deck. When weather conditions allow, lighter fare may be served on the observation deck. There is no assigned seating and our dining room accommodates the entire expedition community in a single seating. During meals your expedition leader, naturalists, and any guest speakers aboard will join you. Public Areas: Two restaurants, a Chef's Table for small group dining, Observation Lounge with bar, gym, Wellness area, infinity-style outdoor hot tubs, library, main lounge with full service bar, 24-hour beverage, state-of-the-art facilities for films, slideshows and presentations, and a photo workshop area; plus, an expedition base with lockers for expedition gear, and an "open bridge" for access to our captain, officers and the art of navigation. Meals: Two restaurants, featuring local, sustainable choices and unassigned seating for flexible, inclusive dining; plus a Chef's table for intimate, small group dining. Main restaurant has 270° views, and the Observation deck restaurant features lighter, made-to-order fare. Special Features: A full-time doctor, undersea specialist, National Geographic photographer, Lindblad-National Geographic certified photo instructor and video chronicler, an internet cafe and laundry. Wellness: The vessel is staffed by our wellness specialists and features a

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glass-enclosed yoga studio, gym, treatment rooms and spa relax area, and high- and low-heat saunas with ocean views. Expedition Landing Craft. Key to our operation is our fleet of expedition landing craft, which we use to land in places that would otherwise be inaccessible. With 14 of these boats and two loading stations used every time we disembark, we're able to transfer guests off the ship quickly, so you can be out on adventures, not idly waiting. The expedition landing craft we use are 19 feet long, powered by four-stroke outboard engines, and are capable of comfortably carrying 10-12 people. They are widely recognized as the safest and most versatile small boats afloat. Remotely Operated Vehicle. Capable of reaching 1,000 feet, far beyond the range of any Scuba diver, the ROV allows you to literally view parts of the undersea that are as unexplored as the moon. Chances are you, like many of our guests, will be struck by how surprisingly colorful undersea life is in these unlikely places. And this glimpse may fundamentally change how you view the ocean. Kayaks. National Geographic Resolution will be equipped with a fleet of kayaks large enough to ensure everyone who wants to can paddle at every opportunity. Consequently, prior kayaking experience isn't necessary--many of our guests have their first kayaking experience in extraordinary locations. Our custom-designed floating platform lets us deploy kayaks from the ship, or any location we want--including far from shore. Kayakers are usually free to explore where they want within boundaries set by the undersea specialist and officer of the watch. Underwater camera. Our undersea specialist will dive often during your expedition, even in polar regions, with cold-water gear, to shoot high-definition, Cousteau-like footage of the deep. Colorful nudibranchs, swimming, plant-like crinoids, and mysterious fish with antifreeze blood that thrive in the frigid sea will give you an

entirely new appreciation of the marine environment. Video microscope. Naturalists will use the video microscope to help explain all elements of the environment, including tiny organisms that are the building block of the marine ecosystem. Spellbinding live views of krill at 80x magnification fills the high-definition screens in the lounge with vivid detail, and fills every onlooker with a sense of wonder at the importance of otherwise unobservable creatures. Hydrophone. This underwater microphone is deployed to listen to the vocalizations of marine mammals. Real time transmissions of their eerie, haunting sounds can be broadcast through the ship or recorded for later playback. Few experiences in nature are as captivating as watching humpback whales feed close to the ship as their vocalizations play through the ship's PA system. Electronic charts. An electronic chart showing the ship's location, course, and speed is almost always on display in the lounge. Open bridge. You'll find our captains are engaged, knowledgeable members of your expedition who are eager to share their passion with you. National Geographic Resolution's open bridge features comfortable spaces to sit, enjoy the view, drink your morning coffee, or simply chat with the officers. Snorkeling gear & wetsuits. On warm weather itineraries where there will be snorkeling, you'll select a mask, snorkel, fins, and wetsuit that remain yours for the duration of the expedition. There's no need to pack and tote your own gear, although guests who prefer to are welcome to bring

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their own.



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INSIDE YOUR SHIP

Category 1. From



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