

The Small Cruise Ship Collection

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COASTAL JAPAN & KOREA: WARTIME HISTORY AND SAMURAI HERITAGE CRUISE

Set sail on a journey tracing the length of Japan from the atomic legacy of Hiroshima to the wild frontiers of Hokkaido - an ultimate exploration of the maritime crossroads where ancient history, artistic heritage, and dynamic modern culture converge across Japan and South Korea. This deep-dive into regional contrasts navigates the dramatic Kanmon Strait and traces a route through culturally rich ports and islands accessible only by sea, culminating in the scenic shores of Hokkaido. Your journey begins on Japan's western coast in the samurai heartland of Hagi and the artistic Noto port of Wajima, famed for its thousand-year-old lacquerware. Sail to the historic, resilient cities of Nagasaki and Hiroshima. Cross the sea to Busan, South Korea's vibrant coastal hub, then explore the volcanic south in Kagoshima before heading north to Hakodate and the charming gateway of Otaru. Along the way, discover cultural enclaves like Sado Island (Ogi) and mainland ports including Uwajima, Sakaiminato, Maizuru, and Sakata. Engage in onboard lectures on East Asian history and artistic traditions, refine your skills in photography workshops, and choose from exceptional shore excursions: visiting historic castles and samurai districts in Hagi, exploring Wajima's ancient morning market, reflecting at Hiroshima's Peace Memorial Park, experiencing Busan's lively seafood markets, and discovering the canal-lined streets of Otaru. Every stop reveals new wonders in history, heritage, and human spirit: an unforgettable adventure across one of the world's most historically and culturally rich seas.



ITINERARY

Day 1 Hiroshima (Japan)

Hiroshima is a city of peace and resilience. The Hiroshima Peace Park and Museum, designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site, vividly portrays the aftermath of the atomic bombing. Designed by Kenz Tange and inaugurated in 1955, the museum serves as

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a global symbol of peace, featuring a solemn cenotaph bearing the victims' names and the Flame of Peace, lit in 1964. The Genbaku Dome stands as the sole original structure left at the blast site.

Day 2 Uwajima (Japan)

Uwajima, a bustling coastal city, is anchored by the elegant Uwajima Castle, one of twelve Edo-period survivors, with spectacular cityscapes for hikers ascending to its keep. The Tensha-en Garden is a tranquil space with bamboo groves, towering culms and seasonal blooms. In the nearby village of Uchiko, the Old Quarter's streets are lined with well-preserved wooden houses and merchant buildings, frozen in time from the 18th and 19th centuries.

Day 3 Kagoshima (Japan)

Kagoshima, on the southwest tip of Japan's Kyushu Island, is home to several glassmakers and potteries where artisans specialise in making Satsuma pottery and delicately cut Kiriko glassware. This city is a mix of classic Japanese architecture, modern high-rises and a spattering of Art Deco buildings. Observation points around the city provide dramatic views of Mount Sakurajima, an active volcano on a nearby island that regularly smokes.

Day 4 Nagasaki (Japan)

Though devastated by an atomic blast in 1945, this resilient harbour city of Nagasaki still stands. The Atomic Bomb Museum and adjoining Peace Memorial Hall document the tragic history. A cable car ascends Mount Inasa for sweeping city views, while leafy Glover Garden features historic Western mansions. On tiny artificial Dejima Island, reconstructed 17th-century warehouses recall the former Dutch trading post.

Day 5 Busan (South Korea)

Busan, South Korea's second city, blends beaches and mountains with boutiques, lively cafes and delicious seafood in food alleys. The 120m-tall Busan Tower offers a sense of the skyscraper cityscape. Six beaches, including Haeundae and Gwangalli, attract visitors year-round. Gamcheon Culture Village, previously a slum, is now a kaleidoscopic haven of art nestled on the coastal mountain foothills, affectionately dubbed the "Machu Picchu of Busan."

Days 6 - 7 Sakaiminato (Japan)

A haven for seafood lovers, manga fans and nature enthusiasts, Sakaiminto's offerings are fairly eclectic for the seemingly slow-paced port town. Fish markets and world-class seafood restaurants line the streets, offering delights including local delicacy, Matsuba snow crab. You can also feast on Pacific bluefin tuna, Sakaiminto salmon, Natsuki rock oysters, swordtip squid and plenty more. The city was also once home to local hero, Shigeru Mizuki, a celebrated manga comic artist. Visit the Mizuki Shingeru museum for a fascinating insight into his life and the world of manga. Stretch your legs and enjoy a hike up the volcanic Mount Daisen, the highest mountain in the region (1730m). Or you may wish to take a gentler trek through the tranquil and restorative beech and cedar forests whilst connecting with nature and indulging in the Japanese pastime of 'forest bathing'.

Day 8 Maizuru (Japan)

Day 9 Wajima (Japan)

Wajima, a port town on the northern Noto Peninsula, is famed for its Wajima-nuri lacquerware, which is renowned for its durability and displayed at the Museum of Lacquer Art. The



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thousand-year-old daily Asaichi (Morning) Market is the primary hub, buzzing with locals selling fresh seafood, produce and the distinctive lacquerware. Nearby, Kiriko Hall displays huge illuminated festival floats, some 15 metres tall, used in summer celebrations

fishermen.

Please Note:

Itineraries are subject to change.

Day 10 Ogi, Sado Island (Japan)

Sado, Japan's sixth largest island, has a quaint port at Ogi known for tarai-bune, traditional wooden boats. The island is also famous for its world-renowned taiko drummers, continuing a rich cultural tradition. Once a place of exile for artists and academics, Sado now draws visitors to its rugged coasts, hidden beaches and lush terrain for outdoor activities.

Day 11 Sakata (Japan)

Day 12 Hakodate (Japan)

The city of Hakodate in Hokkaido is Japan's northernmost island and is well-known for its seafood, for sale daily at the morning market. Mount Hakodate, reached by gondola, watches over the bustling city. While the area is rich in hot springs, it is best known for the famous snow monkeys who bathe in the hot springs of Yunokawa Onsen at the Hakodate City Tropical Botanical Garden.

Day 13 Otaru (Japan)

An important port on Hokkaido, Japan's northernmost island, Otaru retains original architecture. Restored warehouses along its canal, lined with Victorian street lamps, house restaurants and boutiques selling sake, music boxes and renowned Otaru glass. Rooted in the herring industry, the town's trading history is evident from Hokkaido's first railway line terminal to the Herring Mansion on the outskirts, once owned by wealthy herring



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YOUR SHIP: MINERVA

YOUR SHIP:

Minerva

VESSEL TYPE:

LENGTH:

PASSENGER CAPACITY:

BUILT/REFURBISHED:

The 5 star elegant Scandi-design boutique ship offers you an intimate setting from which you will be fully immersed in all the sights and scenery of your voyage. Introducing SH Minerva Minerva has been designed to journey to off the beaten path destinations and remote polar regions in style and comfort. The ship incorporates a PC5 ice-strengthened hull combined with extra-large stabilisers to make your journey as smooth as possible. Sophisticated Elegance We know how important outdoor space is, so our spacious, relaxing public spaces provide wide open, unobstructed views throughout the ship. The destination will always be in view. Your Wellbeing The safety & happiness of the guests is paramount to the 120-strong crew on board as well as the passionate expedition team who'll be serving up thrilling shore excursions and lasting memories. Cabin Types The 76 cabins including 6 suites have all the amenities you will need to feel comfortable including dressing gowns, hairdryers, personal safes and minibars. The stylish cabins all have desks, a dressing area and comfy seating. En suite bathrooms all feature glass-enclosed rain showers. Wheelchair access Guests who use wheelchairs must bring their own, as we have only a small number of wheelchairs stored

onboard for emergencies. To ensure ease of movement on the ship, wheelchairs and mobility aids must be no wider than 65cm. All mobility or medical equipment brought on board must be capable of being carried safely and must be declared before sailing. To ensure that all guests can safely evacuate during an emergency, guests requiring a wheelchair can only be accommodated in our ADA-accessible cabins. There is an Oceanview stateroom on Vega which is specifically designed to be completely ADA compliant and have a fully operable wheelchair-access wet unit. Vega has two lifts, serving every passenger deck apart from the Stargazing top deck, which is, therefore, more difficult to access, as are the Aft Marina and Swan's Nest forward observation platform. Also, we don't have special equipment to access the swimming pool, jacuzzi, or sauna. Otherwise, the ship is entirely at your disposal. Many of the expeditions ashore in remote places are by Zodiac. Boarding these boats and returning aboard can present challenges for wheelchair users, as can navigating uneven terrain. These challenges are by no means always insurmountable, though, and our highly experienced crew is trained to provide reliable advice and assistance. They will make every effort to ensure wheelchair-using guests enjoy a memorable experience at each destination. Our general guidance, however, is to recommend wheelchair users travel with a companion for their ease and enjoyment. If you prefer to remain aboard, our panoramic interiors and ample open decks ensure an immersive, intimate experience of your inspiring

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surroundings.

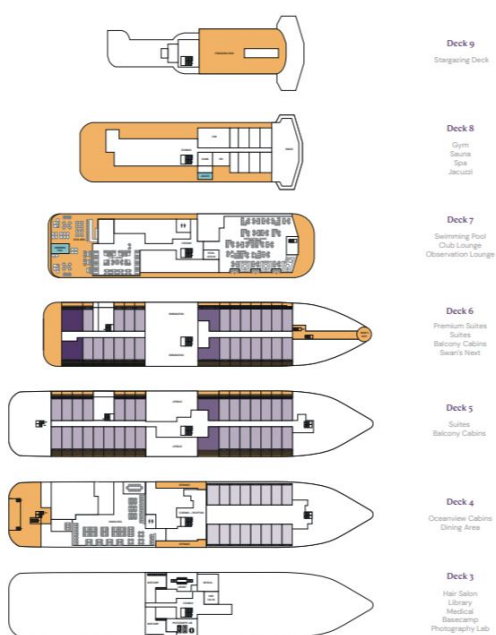
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INSIDE YOUR SHIP



Balcony D5



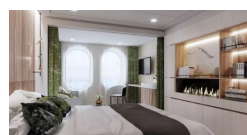
Balcony D6



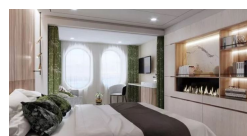
Balcony M5



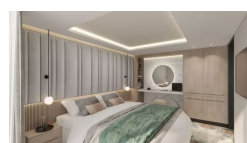
Oceanview D4



Oceanview M4



Premium Suite



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PRICING

18-May-2027 to 30-May-2027

Balcony D6	£11705 GBP pp
Balcony M5	£11215 GBP pp
Premium Suite	£19505 GBP pp
Suite	£17075 GBP pp
Oceanview D4	£9755 GBP pp
Balcony D5	£10725 GBP pp
Oceanview M4	£10239 GBP pp