

# JAPAN

## KOBE TO OTARU, HOKAIDO



Nothing says Japan more than Kimonos, tea ceremonies and perfectly manicured gardens. A country that is a combination of modern and traditional, man-made and natural, and spirit and human worlds join us to explore the southern tip of this wonderful island. Deepen your Asian experience by crossing the sea to South Korea and the Kingdom of Silla, to see the country's largest traditional village.



**DATES:** June 01-14, 2019

**DURATION:** 14 DAYS

**EMBARK:** KOBE, JAPAN

**DISEMBARK:** OTARU, JAPAN

**SHIP:** Silver Explorer

**FROM:** \$7,400

*All inclusive: Port charges, gratuities, all beverages, excursions and internet are included*

## ITINERARY

### DAY 1 – JUN 01 - KOBE, JAPAN

Embark the *Silver Explorer*. Depart at 11:00 PM. We recommend adding at least one overnight hotel prior, which we are happy to arrange for you.



Located on the calm waters of the Inland Sea, Kobe has served as an important port town for hundreds of years. It was one of the first harbors to accept foreign traders in 1868 when Japan was just emerging from its centuries of isolation. What followed was a surge of Western trade and exports. Today, Kobe is quite multicultural, with expatriates from 98 different nations in residence, providing a cultural diversity most easily visible in restaurants serving every kind of cuisine, including world famous Kobe beef. The Great Hanshin Earthquake of 1995 set back Kobe's development, but not for long. Kobe emerged more vibrant than before - with additional attractions, hotels and urban redevelopment, and only a few remnants of the extensive damage.

### DAY 2 – JUN 02 – OKAYAMA, JAPAN

Okayama is an important transportation hub and one of the largest cities of the Chugoku Region. It is famous because it has one of Japan's most significant gardens. Although the "Korakuen" Garden was severely damaged by bombs in WWII, the descriptions and paintings from the Edo period permitted an exact reconstruction. It is one of the "Three Gardens of Japan" and has been designated a "Special Scenic Location". Known formerly as the center of rice-distribution in the Okayama area, many old warehouses next to the preserved canal have been converted into museums, boutiques and cafes. Another attraction is the Ohara Museum, which was the first Japanese Museum to permanently exhibit Western Art.

### DAY 3 – JUN 03 – TAKAMATSU, JAPAN

Takamatsu city is the capital of Kagawa prefecture which is Japan's smallest prefecture. This city is a vibrant blend of natural beauty and cosmopolitan functionality with a population of 420,000 people. The port of Takamatsu used to be the main gateway to Shikoku Island until the opening of the 37km long Seto Ohashi Bridge in 1988. Takamatsu city has flourished along with the Seto Inland Sea since 17th century

when Matsudaira family, the relatives of the Tokugawa Shogun, ruled this area. Matsudaira family has completed the famous Japanese "Ritsurin Garden". It took more than 100 years to complete this spacious garden with 75 hectares of land which features 13 landscaped hills, 6 ponds and many stone arrangements that have been placed in perfect balance in front of a vast green vista of Mt. Shiun. This garden was constructed as a villa of Matsudaira family and it attracts many visitors from all over the world.

### DAY 4 – JUN 04 – MIYAJIMA & HIROSHIMA, JAPAN

The small island of Miyajima ("The Shrine Island") is known for the Floating Torii Gate, which is one of "The Three Most Beautiful Views" of Japan. Built in the water, the Torii Gate leads to the Itsukushima Shrine and at high tide it seems to float. The Torii Gate is one of the most photographed sites in all of Japan. There are many more shrines and paths on Miyajima that are inviting to walk. Mount Misen has a cable car leading partly up to the top with nice views and wild monkeys and deer roaming the trails.

Despite being devastated in 1945, this Japanese city is known to all for its commitment peace – its ruin on the 6th August 1945 led to the end of the war and today, the Peace Memorial (a UNESCO World Heritage Site), is a constant reminder of the destruction that war brings. A walk in the leafy boulevards of Peace Memorial Park brings quiet contemplation. The Flames of Peace – set in the park's central feature pond – burn brightly and will continue to do so until all the nuclear bombs the world have been destroyed. There are many other inspiring messages of hope around the city too; the Children's' Peace Monument just north of the park is a homage to little Sadako Sasaki, who was just two in 1945. When she developed leukemia in 1956, she believed that if she folded 1,000 paper cranes – a symbol of longevity and happiness in Japan – she would recover.

### DAY 5 – JUN 05 – MOJI, JAPAN

Moji used to be an important international trading port with a number of well-preserved Western buildings. Several of these historic buildings can be seen along the attractive waterfront. Southwest of Moji, and part of the same city, is Kokura, the financial and business capital of the area. Kokura's landmark is its castle, which has been beautifully restored. The remarkable garden located next to the main castle is not too far from the Manga Museum. South of Moji is the Hiraodai Limestone Plateau, Japan's most representative karst plateau. The pure white limestone scattered throughout the landscape is often mistaken for sheep grazing in the grass. A "Natural Treasure" the plateau has underground caves as well.

### DAY 6 – JUN 06 – MASAN, SOUTH KOREA

Entry port into South Korea.

### DAY 7 – JUN 07 - POHANG, SOUTH KOREA

Pohang used to be a sleepy port on Korea's east coast until the late 1960s. Pohang is famous for its cultural villages and

the largest traditional market in the Gyeongsangbuk-do area. Nearby is the Jukdo fish market. This is the largest open-run market in the east with more than 200 fish stores –offering the best of the area’s catches.

#### **DAY 8 – JUN 08 – SAKAIMINATO, JAPAN**

Sakaiminato is a small city almost totally surrounded by water: the Sea of Japan to the east, the Sakai Channel to the north and Lake Nakaumi to the west. Across the lake the towns of Matsue and Yasugi offer interesting experiences. Matsue is known as the “Town of Water” next to scenic Lake Shinji and Lake Nakaumi. It has one of the very few wooden castles that still remain in Japan. Touring the castle and boat rides on the Horikawa River and the castle’s moat are popular. Yasugi has the Adachi Museum of Art, a private museum that houses one of the finest collections of contemporary Japanese paintings, but also has a 165,000 square meter garden –with plants and rocks collected by the museum’s founder. Six different gardens show different scenarios depending on the season. These gardens have been selected as “Japan’s best garden” for several years.

#### **DAY 09 – JUN 09 – MAIZURU FOR KYOTO, JAPAN**

Maizuru port is considered as the gateway to the Japanese most popular historic city, Kyoto. Kyoto used to be the capital of Japan in the 8th century, and it was the center for politics, economy and culture for more than 1,000 years. After capital functions were transferred to Tokyo in the middle of 19th century, luckily Kyoto did not lose its luster. As soon as you step into the city, you will see how hard the local people tried to keep the atmosphere of the heyday. Nowadays, Kyoto is not the center of attention within Japan anymore; nonetheless it is indeed the center of tourism industry. There are seventeen historic sites such as Nijo castle and Kinkakuji temple which were designated a World Heritage Site. There are also numerous sites which can be seen from your coach, so please keep your eyes wide open while you are in Kyoto!



#### **Day 10 – JUN 10 – KANAZAWA, JAPAN**

The capital of the Ishikawa Prefecture, Kanazawa once rivalled Kyoto and Edo (Tokyo) as a town rich in cultural achievements. Kanazawa escaped destruction during World War II and accordingly has been able to preserve many of the old districts in good shape. The city is famous because of

Kenrokuen. classified as “One of the Three Gardens of Japan”. The garden has an artificial pond, and hills and houses are dotted within the 11.4 hectares. It has Japan’s oldest fountain using natural water pressure and a tea-house dating back to 1774. Close by is the Higashi Chaya Gai Geisha District, designated a National Cultural Asset and the biggest of the Geisha districts of Kanazawa. Some of the houses not only retain the original structure, but still are used as Geisha houses. Some of the streets have traditional shops creating a nostalgic atmosphere.

#### **DAY 11 – Jun 11 – SADO ISLAND, JAPAN**

Sado is Japan’s sixth-largest island and depends mainly on fishing and agriculture. The island’s Tori Forest Park had been selected for the successful reintroduction of Crested Ibises into Japan –a bird that was down to what was believed to be a total world population of 12 birds in 1981. At that time the last five wild ibises found in Japan were taken into captivity on Sado and both Japan and China cooperated in a breeding program for these birds. Fortunately, the work has paid off and released Crested Ibises successfully nested in the wild again in 2012. Another attraction is the Sado Gold Mine.

#### **DAY 12 – JUN 12 – NOSHIRO & AOMORI, JAPAN**

Noshiro port is bound by the Sea of Japan on the coastal plains of Akita Prefecture. The city of approximately 55,000 provides access to nearby Shirakami-Sanchi, a natural UNESCO World Heritage Site known for its wilderness of Japanese beech trees. The mouth of the Yoneshiro River is adjacent to the port and the highest point in the area is Mount Yakeyama at almost 1000 meters or just over 3000 feet. Throughout the year you can enjoy delicious seafood from Aomori Bay, including Oma no Maguro (tuna of Oma), as well as delicious fruits and vegetables (particularly garlic).

#### **DAY 13 – JUN 13 – HAKADOTE, JAPAN**

Facing out on two bays, Hakodate is a 19th-century port town, with clapboard buildings on sloping streets, a dockside tourist zone, streetcars, and fresh fish on every menu. In the downtown historic quarter, a mountain rises 1,100 feet above the city on the southern point of the narrow peninsula. Russians, Americans, Chinese, and Europeans have all left their mark; this was one of the first three Japanese ports the Meiji government opened up to international trade in 1859.

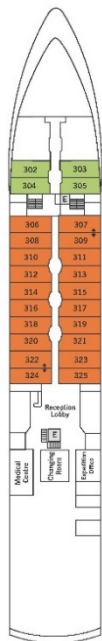
#### **DAY 14- JUN 14 – OTARU, JAPAN - DISEMBARK**

Otaru is a small harbor city west of Sapporo. Famous for its many hills and a nearby ski resort, the town has been an important trade and herring fishing center. A wide canal that led from the port to the old town’s warehouses has been maintained for touristic purposes and the old stone or brick-built warehouses have been beautifully converted to restaurants and boutiques.

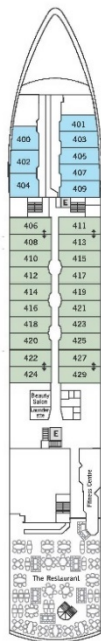
**We are happy to arrange Pre- and post-cruise programs to suit your interests.**



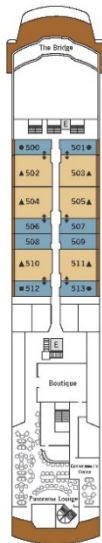
## SILVER EXPLORER – Deck Plans



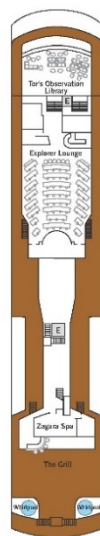
**DECK 3**  
 Reception Desk  
 Medical Centre  
 Changing Room  
 Expedition Office



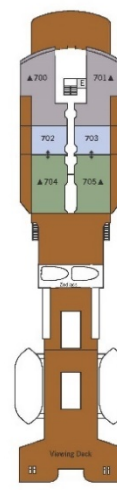
**DECK 4**  
 Beauty Salon  
 Laundrette  
 Fitness Centre  
 The Restaurant



**DECK 5**  
 The Bridge  
 Boutique  
 Connoisseur's Corner  
 Panorama Lounge



**DECK 6**  
 Tor's Observation Library  
 Explorer Lounge  
 Zagara Spa  
 The Grill



**DECK 7**  
 Viewing Deck



### SUITE CATEGORIES

- Owner's Suite
- Grand Suite
- Silver Suite
- Medallion Suite
- Veranda Suite
- Vista Suite
- View Suite
- Explorer Suite
- Adventurer Suite

### SPECIFICATIONS

- Lloyd's register
- Ice-class rating . . . . . 1A
- Crew . . . . . 118
- Officers . . . . . International
- Guests . . . . . 144
- Tonnage . . . . . 6,072
- Length . . . . . 354 Feet/107.9 Metres
- Width . . . . . 52 Feet/15.8 Metres
- Speed . . . . . 14 Knots
- Passenger Decks . . . . . 5
- 3rd Guest Capacity . . . . . ▲
- Queen beds . . . . . ●
- Connecting suites . . . . . ⇕
- 702/704, 703/705, 500/502, 501/503,  
504/506, 505/507, 510/512, 511/513,  
307/309, 324/322, 406/408, 411/413,  
422/424, 421/429
- Refurbished . . . . . 2017
- Registry . . . . . Bahamas

Suite diagrams shown are for illustration purposes only and may vary from actual square footage. Please refer to suite specifications for square footage.

REVISION 1.01 (01/2017)

## 2019 RATES: PER PERSON – DOUBLE – ALL INCLUSIVE\*

SUITE	Per Person
Adventure – Deck 3	\$7,400
Explorer – Deck 4	\$8,400
View – Deck 3	\$8,980
Vista – Deck 4	WAITLIST
Veranda – Deck 5	WAITLIST
Medallion – Deck 7	WAITLIST
Silver – Deck 5	WAITLIST
Grand – Deck 7	WAITLIST
Owner's – Deck 7	WAITLIST



## Reservations & Information

**1-855-EXPLOR1 (397-5671)**

Email - [info@explorcruises.com](mailto:info@explorcruises.com)

[www.explorcruises.com](http://www.explorcruises.com)

\*INCLUDES – Port charges, shore excursions, all beverages, gratuities to ship staff, internet.