

CRITERION
travel

JAPAN by Sea



Miyajima Torii Gate

Land of the Rising Sun: Kanazawa to Kobe

Aboard the 59-Cabin *Island Sky*

APRIL 10-20, 2027



DEAR TRAVELER,

Join Criterion Travel on a remarkable 8-night journey through Japan aboard the elegant Island Sky, when temples, shrines, gardens, and castles are enhanced by the fresh greenery of spring. This thoughtfully curated program features expert guides and an outstanding lineup of speakers. We are pleased to share this voyage with travelers from Cornell's Adult University, Dartmouth Alumni Travel, Harvard Alumni Travel, National Trust Tours, and World Affairs Council of Philadelphia.

Begin in Kanazawa, a refined coastal city often called a "mini-Kyoto," known for its preserved samurai and geisha districts, exquisite seafood, and Kenroku-en, one of Japan's top three landscape gardens. Immerse yourself in Japanese traditions and customs with a traditional tea ceremony or a hands-on workshop crafting delicate wagashi Japanese sweets.

Explore historic castles, from Matsue Castle, featuring Japan's second largest original wooden keep, to Kokura Castle, Fukuoka's only castle with a main keep. Discover the artistic wonders of Naoshima Island and stroll the serene paths of Ritsurin Garden, one of Japan's most exquisite and beautifully preserved landscapes. Marvel at the iconic red torii of Itsukushima Shrine in Miyajima, appearing to float on the sea at high tide, and spend a day in South Korea, visiting Gyeongju, the ancient capital of the Silla kingdom and a UNESCO World Cultural Site.

Along the way savor the flavors of Japanese and Korean Cuisine. At each port, a variety of thoughtfully designed excursions allows you to personalize your journey, from exploring sacred temples and celebrated gardens to visiting contemporary art sites or participating in hands-on activities.

Aboard the all-suite Island Sky, every cabin offers sweeping sea views and marble-appointed bathrooms. Enjoy attentive, personalized service from the dedicated crew, dine on international cuisine, relax in the lounges, browse the library, or take in the scenery from the observation deck.

Enhance your voyage with a 2-night pre-extension in Tokyo, or continue with a 3-night post-extension exploring the cities of Nara and Kyoto.

Sincerely,



Steve Ridgway
President, Criterion Travel



SCAN QR CODE WITH
YOUR PHONE OR TABLET
TO REGISTER ONLINE



Kokura Castle

THROUGHOUT THE PROGRAM

Experts from co-sponsoring organizations such as Dartmouth Alumni Travel, Harvard Alumni Travel, National Trust Tours, and World Affairs Council of Philadelphia, will be giving lectures.



Kenroku-en Garden



Matsue Castle



Bulguksa Temple

HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Customize your experience with curated excursions, from **Shirakawa-go's UNESCO-listed thatched village** to **Yamanaka Onsen**, made famous by the haiku poet Basho.
- ◆ Immerse yourself in Japanese culture with a **traditional tea ceremony in Kanazawa** or a **hands-on wagashi sweets workshop**.
- ◆ Explore two remarkable and historic castles, **Matsue Castle** and **Kokura Castle**.
- ◆ Visit the **Hiroshima Peace Park**, which transforms a site of absolute devastation into a hopeful testament to lasting world peace.
- ◆ Discover South Korea with a visit to **Gyeongju, the ancient capital of the Silla kingdom** and a **UNESCO World Cultural Site**.
- ◆ Marvel at **Itsukushima Shrine's iconic "floating" red torii gate** in Miyajima, rising from the sea at high tide.
- ◆ Walk the paths of **Kenrokuen Garden, one of Japan's top three**, and **Ritsurin Garden, the country's largest Cultural Property Garden**.
- ◆ Sample **authentic dishes** rooted in Japanese and Korean tradition.



**SATURDAY-SUNDAY,
APRIL 10-11**

Home/Kanazawa

Depart home on an overnight flight to Komatsu, arriving on April 11. Upon arrival at Komatsu Airport (KMQ), you will be met and transferred to the Hyatt Centric Kanazawa, conveniently located near Kanazawa Station and close to the city's renowned gardens and samurai districts.

This evening, gather for a welcome orientation and dinner at the hotel. *Hyatt Centric Kanazawa (D)*

MONDAY, APRIL 12

Kanazawa/Embarkation

Enjoy a choice of full day excursions. Visit the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Shirakawa-go, renowned for its traditional gassho zukuri farmhouses with steeply pitched thatched roofs, or travel to Yamanaka Onsen, set along the scenic Kakusenkei Gorge and long celebrated for its restorative hot springs. Both options include a traditional Japanese lunch.

Embark the *Island Sky* in the late afternoon. This evening, attend the Captain's welcome dinner on board. *Island Sky (B,L,D)*

TUESDAY, APRIL 13

Kanazawa

After Lecture #1, visit Kenroku-en, one of Japan's most celebrated landscape gardens, known for its winding paths, tranquil ponds, and seasonal beauty. Continue to Kanazawa's preserved samurai district, where narrow lanes and earthen walls reflect life in the Edo period. Enjoy free time for lunch ashore or return to the ship.

World Heritage Shirakawa



In the afternoon, take part in a traditional tea ceremony and visit the 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, or join a hands-on wagashi workshop and learn about local arts and crafts. *Island Sky (B,L,D)*

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14

Shakaiminato/Matsue

Arrive in Matsue and choose your morning adventure: visit the Adachi Museum of Art, famous for its exceptional Japanese gardens and collection of modern Japanese paintings, or explore Matsue Castle, one of Japan's few remaining original castles, and enjoy free time wandering the charming Samurai Quarter with its traditional streets and historic homes. In the afternoon, relax at sea while attending Lectures #2 and #3. *Island Sky (B,L,D)*

THURSDAY, APRIL 15

Ulsan/Gyeongju, South Korea

Spend a full day in Gyeongju, the ancient capital of Korea's Silla Kingdom, uncovering its remarkable history and culture. Begin with the Flying Horse Tomb, famed for its intricate carvings, then explore the National Museum to view treasures from Korea's past. Enjoy a traditional Korean lunch before visiting the UNESCO-listed Bulguksa Temple, a stunning example of Buddhist architecture, and experience local cultural entertainment. Attend Lecture #4 during the day. *Island Sky (B,L,D)*

FRIDAY, APRIL 16

Sasebo

Attend Lecture #5 in the morning before heading out to explore this

lesser-known corner of Nagasaki Prefecture.

Choose between two memorable excursions. Take a scenic cruise aboard a *Kujukushima* sightseeing boat, weaving through 208 islands stretching from Sasebo to Hirado, followed by sweeping views from Tenkaiho Observatory over Sasebo Port and the island-dotted horizon in spring bloom.

Alternatively, take a short boat ride to Hirado Island, where April brings vibrant green terraced rice fields around Kasuga Village. Once a center of early European trade and missionary activity, Hirado preserves this history in its churches and landmarks. During your visit, tour St. Francis Xavier Memorial Church. *Island Sky (B,L,D)*

SATURDAY, APRIL 17

Shimonoseki

Begin the morning with Lecture #6, followed by a visit to the TOTO Museum to explore the history and innovations behind one of Japan's most iconic companies. Continue to the Mojiko Retro Area, a historic port district known for its preserved early 20th-century architecture and charming streets. In the afternoon, choose your excursion: explore Kokura Castle and its scenic gardens, or venture into the Akiyoshido Limestone Cave, one of Japan's largest cave systems, famous for its dramatic stalactites and stalagmites. This evening, settle in for Lecture #7. *Island Sky (B,L,D)*

SUNDAY, APRIL 18

Kure/Miyajima

This morning, arrive in Kure and transfer 45 minutes to Hiroshima. Visit Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park and the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum, where exhibits provide context for the events of 1945 and the city's commitment to peace. Pause at the Atomic Bomb Dome, a symbol of resilience, and place paper cranes at the Children's Peace Monument in remembrance.

Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park



After lunch on board, continue to Miyajima by Zodiac, one of Japan's most celebrated scenic islands. Explore the iconic Itsukushima Shinto Shrine, known for its "floating" torii gate at high tide, and enjoy free time to stroll the streets and browse local shops. Return to the ship and spend the late afternoon cruising the Inland Sea. *Island Sky (B,L,D)*

MONDAY, APRIL 19 **Naoshima**

Spend the morning on Naoshima Island, touring the remarkable Chichu Art Museum, the

contemporary Benesse House Museum, and the innovative Naoshima New Museum of Art. In the afternoon, join your fellow travelers for the captain's farewell dinner. *Island Sky (B,L,D)*

TUESDAY, APRIL 20 **Kobe/Disembarkation/ Home**

Disembark in Kobe and transfer by motorcoach to Osaka Itami Airport (ITM) for flights home, or continue your journey with an optional extension to Nara and Kyoto. (B)

PRE-TRIP EXTENSION

April 8-11, 2027 • Tokyo, Japan

THURSDAY-FRIDAY, APRIL 8-9 **Home/Tokyo, Japan**

Arrive at Tokyo Narita (NRT) or Haneda (HND) Airport, where you will be met and transferred as a group to The Prince Park Tower in the heart of Tokyo. This evening, dine at a local restaurant. *The Prince Park Tower (D)*

SATURDAY, APRIL 10 **Tokyo**

Tour the Tokyo National Museum, home to Japan's finest collection of

art and antiquities, then explore the historic Asakusa district at leisure, including a visit to the iconic Sensoji Temple, Tokyo's oldest and most revered Buddhist temple. *The Prince Park Tower (B,L)*

SUNDAY, APRIL 11 **Kanazawa**

Start the day with a morning excursion to Tsukiji Fish Market and the Kappabashi Culinary District, where you can experience Japan's vibrant food culture. Afterward,

board the bullet train to Kanazawa, where the main tour begins. (B,L)

Senso-ji Temple



POST-TRIP EXTENSION

April 20-23, 2027 • Nara and Kyoto

TUESDAY, APRIL 20 **Kyoto/Nara**

Continue your journey by disembarking in Kobe and traveling to Nara, one of Japan's ancient capitals. Visit the Nara National Museum and Todai-ji Temple, home to the monumental Great Buddha.



Fushimi Inari Shrine

Then continue to Kyoto and check in to The Westin Miyako Kyoto, set amid serene gardens with city and mountain views. Conclude the day with dinner at a local restaurant. *Westin Miyako Kyoto (L,D)*

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21 **Kyoto**

Visit Tenryu-ji Zen Temple and stroll through the serene Arashiyama Bamboo Grove, an enchanting forest of towering bamboo. Walk beneath the iconic red and orange torii gates of Fushimi Inari Taisha, one of Japan's most celebrated Shinto shrines.

In the afternoon, explore the Miho Museum, known for its striking architecture and extensive collection. The evening is at leisure to relax or explore Kyoto independently. *Westin Miyako Kyoto (B,L)*

THURSDAY, APRIL 22 **Kyoto**

Visit the UNESCO World Heritage Site Kinkaku-ji (Golden Pavilion) and stroll through its landscaped gardens. Explore the lively Nishiki Food Market, sampling local delicacies along the way.

Enjoy lunch and the remainder of the afternoon on your own to explore Kyoto at your own pace. In the evening, celebrate with a farewell dinner at a local restaurant in the historic Gion geisha district. *Westin Miyako Kyoto (B,D)*

FRIDAY, APRIL 23 **Kyoto/Home**

After breakfast take a group transfer to the Kansai International Airport (KIX) for flights home. (B)

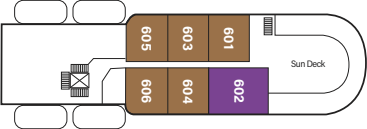


ISLAND SKY

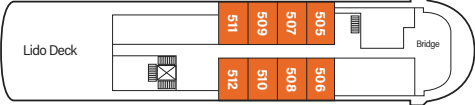
The *Island Sky* is a 59-cabin, all-suite expedition ship. All cabins have an ocean view, en-suite bathroom with marble-topped vanity unit and walk-in shower, sitting area, spacious wardrobe, safe, minibar, individually controlled heat/air-conditioning, television and dressing table. The ship's amenities include complimentary WiFi, a dining room, two lounges with bar service, a small library, an observation deck with comfortable lounge chairs, a hairdresser and laundry service. An elevator services all passenger cabin decks. The *Island Sky's* chefs prepare quality international meals, predominantly Western-style, served at a single open seating. A friendly crew provides exceptional, personalized service, with more than a 1:2 crew-to-passenger ratio. The ship features advanced satellite navigation and communication equipment, roll stabilizers and a fleet of Zodiac landing craft.

PROGRAM RATES:	Double	Single
1 STANDARD SUITE 226 sq ft with portholes	\$9,990	\$9,990
2 SUPERIOR SUITE 217–264 sq ft with picture window	\$11,990	\$11,990
3 PREMIUM SUITE 226 sq ft with sliding glass door	\$13,400	_____
4 CORNER SUITE 237 sq ft with sliding glass door	\$14,900	_____
5 DELUXE BALCONY SUITE 225 sq ft with sliding glass door to 45 sq ft balcony	\$16,900	_____
6 OWNER'S BALCONY SUITE 237 sq ft with sliding glass door to 85 sq ft balcony	\$17,400	_____
7 ISLAND SUITE 344 sq ft with sliding glass door to 100 sq ft balcony	\$18,990	_____

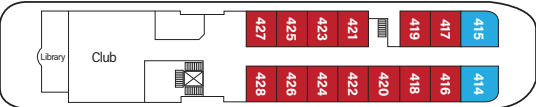
EXPLORER DECK



ERIKSON DECK



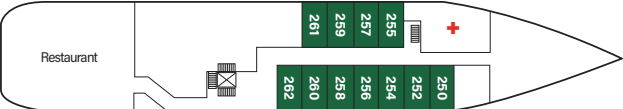
MARCO POLO DECK



COLUMBUS DECK



MAGELLAN DECK



GENERAL INFORMATION

PROGRAM RATES INCLUDE

One hotel night and eight nights aboard *Island Sky*
• Meals and excursions as specified in the itinerary include nine breakfasts, eight lunches, and nine dinners • Comprehensive program of briefings, lectures and presentations • Shared airport transfers on group arrival and departure dates • Baggage handling • Gratuities to porters, waitstaff, guides and drivers • Gratuities to shipboard personnel • Port charges • Entrance fees • Captain's welcome and farewell wine receptions • House wine, beer, and soft drinks with lunches and dinners aboard *Island Sky* • Professional tour managers throughout the program • Expert Japanese guides on shore and aboard *Island Sky*

PROGRAM RATES DO NOT INCLUDE

U.S. domestic and international airfare • Passport/visa expenses • Medical expenses and immunizations • Private airport transfers or airport transfers outside of group arrival and departure dates • Travel and trip cancellation insurance • Excursions that deviate from the scheduled tour options • Airline baggage charges • Meals not specified in the itinerary; dishes and beverages not part of the included meals; liquor or soft drinks except as noted • Laundry or dry cleaning • Telephone, Internet and email charges • Room service • Other items of a personal nature

AIR ARRANGEMENTS

U.S. domestic and international airfare is not included in the program rates. Valerie Wilson Travel, Inc. can help with airline arrangements for this trip and can be reached at 877-376-1754. You are also welcome to book your air transportation through your local travel agent, an online travel site, or the airline of your choice. Further information about making flight arrangements will be sent to confirmed participants.

WHAT TO EXPECT

This is a moderately strenuous program that is, at times, physically demanding and busy. Daily excursions involve up to two miles of walking at a time, often on uneven terrain. In some instances, elevators are unavailable, and stairs may not have handrails. You will be required to remove your shoes while visiting temples, shrines, and a number of other sites. You will need to climb into and out of Zodiacs for an onshore excursion (there will be staff and crew members on hand to assist). Meals are included as noted in the itinerary, with some dinners and a lunch on their own to explore local cuisine independently. Limited medical facilities are available at hotels, and All participants will be required to follow safety and sanitization protocols set forth by Criterion Travel, local staff, and host country laws. If the tour manager decides that a participant cannot visit a site safely or in a timely manner, their judgment will be final. Where possible, an alternate activity may be suggested. Additional costs may apply.

GROUP SIZE:

This program welcomes up to 94 participants and is co-sponsored by other organizations.

A NOTE ABOUT RATES

Program rates are based upon current fuel prices, taxes, tariffs, and a minimum number of



participants. While we will do everything possible to maintain the listed prices, they are subject to change. If there are significant changes, details and costs will be advised prior to departure.

INSURANCE

Insurance for trip cancellation and interruption, medical problems, baggage loss and delay, etc., is highly recommended. Cancellation policies that apply to this expedition are included in this brochure. Information about travel insurance will be sent to confirmed participants.

TERMS & CONDITIONS

Complete Terms and Conditions including Statement of Responsibility will be made available to you at time of registration, or in advance upon request. A signed "Terms & Conditions, Release from Liability, Assumption of Risk and Binding Arbitration Clause" is required from each applicant prior to participation.

RESERVATIONS & PAYMENTS

A deposit of \$1,000 per person is required to reserve space on this program. To register, please visit the booking website listed above the reservation form or email Criterion Travel at: res@criteriontravel.com. You may also complete the reservation form and mail it with your check or credit card information to: Criterion Travel, 4250 SW Hall Blvd., Beaverton, OR 97005. Final payment deadline is December 11, 2026. For those who register after December 11, 2026, full payment is due upon registration. Final payment may be made by check, wire transfer or credit card (credit card payments will incur a 2% fee).

CANCELLATION & REFUNDS

Upon payment of the deposit, all reservations are subject to the cancellation provisions set forth below and by which the passenger agrees to be bound. Cancellations shall not be in effect until they are received in writing and confirmed by Criterion Travel. Deposits are refundable (less a \$250 per person admin fee) if written notice of cancellation is received within 30 days of booking; after that, deposits are 100% nonrefundable. After the December 11, 2026, final payment deadline: All payments are 100% nonrefundable, regardless of booking date. If a study leader or lecturer is unable to participate, no refund will be made, but Criterion Travel will make every effort to find a replacement with similar qualifications. NOTE: Criterion Travel, the tour operator, does not accept liability for any airline cancellation penalties incurred with the purchase of non-refundable tickets.

ITINERARY CHANGES

The itinerary presented for this tour is subject to modification and change by Criterion Travel. Every reasonable effort will be made to operate the program as planned; however, should unforeseen world events and conditions require the itinerary to be altered, we reserve the right to do so for the safety and best interest of the group. Any extra expenses incurred in this situation will be the responsibility of the participant.

California Seller of Travel Program CST #2088800-40
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LAND OF THE RISING SUN:
KANAZAWA TO KOBE
April 10-20, 2027



RESERVE
ONLINE

RESERVATION FORM

Please use the link above to reserve your space online.

Alternatively, you may complete and return this reservation form with your deposit of \$1,000 per person, payable to Criterion Travel, to: Criterion Travel, 4250 SW Hall Blvd., Beaverton, OR 97005, or email the completed form to res@criteriontravel.com. For questions or more information, please call 1-888-328-2089.

NAME #1 (as it appears on passport) BIRTHDATE

NAME #2 (as it appears on passport) BIRTHDATE

MAILING ADDRESS

CITY/STATE/ZIP or POSTAL CODE

HOME PHONE

MOBILE PHONE

E-MAIL 1

E-MAIL 2

Are you traveling with any other parties on this program?

☐ Yes,

PAYMENT INFORMATION

☐ Enclosed is my check for \$_____ (\$1,000 per person, payable to Criterion Travel) for _____ place(s) on the **JAPAN BY SEA** cruise.

☐ Please charge my deposit of \$_____ (\$1,000 per person) to my (circle one): VISA/MC/AMEX

NAME ON CREDIT CARD

CARD # EXP. DATE SEC CODE

SIGNATURE AS IT APPEARS ON CREDIT CARD DATE

ACCOMMODATIONS (not guaranteed)

Cabin category preference: 1st _____ 2nd _____

Bed Preference: ☐ One bed ☐ Two beds

SINGLE TRAVELERS (choose one)

☐ I prefer to have single accommodations (limited availability)

☐ I plan to share accommodations with:

☐ I'd like to know about roommates. I understand that if a roommate cannot be found by the final payment deadline of **DECEMBER 11, 2026** I will pay the single rate.

I/We have read the tour information section of the brochure and agree to the Terms and Conditions stated therein.

SIGNATURE #1 DATE

SIGNATURE #2 DATE



JAPAN by Sea



Ritsurin Park

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CRITERIONTRAVEL.COM

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