



National Trust for Historic Preservation

National Trust Tours

JAPAN BY SEA

Land of the Rising Sun: Kanazawa to Kobe **Aboard the 59-Cabin *Island Sky***

April 10–20, 2027
(11 days)

For 2027, Criterion has secured an **8-night Japan charter** aboard the 59-cabin *Island Sky* in April, the height of springtime—when cherry blossoms and fresh greenery enhance temples, shrines, gardens, and castles. Excursions reveal Japan’s rich traditions alongside its modern achievements, design innovations, and culinary delights. To avoid crowds and keep a relaxed pace, the journey begins in **Kanazawa**, a tranquil and artistic city seldom visited by travelers. At each port, options include sacred temples, celebrated gardens, contemporary sites, and hands-on cultural activities.

The all-suite *Island Sky* offers sea views in every generously sized cabin, marble-appointed bathrooms, a dining room, two lounges, library, observation deck, and elevator service. International cuisine is served at a single seating, complemented by service from a crew-to-passenger ratio better than 1:2.

Enhance your trip with a **2-night pre-extension** to Tokyo—or a **3-night post-extension** to Nara and Kyoto.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Customize your experience according to your interests with a menu of excursion options throughout, beginning with UNESCO World Heritage Site **Shirikawa-go’s thatched homes** or **Yamanaka Onsen**, made famous by haiku poet Basho.
- Immerse in the culture during a traditional **tea ceremony** in Kanazawa or a hands-on workshop making **wagashi Japanese sweets**.
- Explore two incredible castles - **Matsue Castle** has the second largest, original wooden keep in Japan and **Kokura Castle** is the only castle in Fukuoka Prefecture with a main keep.
- Meet celebrated author **Pico Iyer** during a private lecture on **Naoshima**, an island **mecca for cutting-edge art**.
- Spend a **day in South Korea** featuring a visit to **Gyeongju**, the ancient capital of the Silla kingdom and a UNESCO World Cultural Site.
- Marvel at **Itsukushima Shrine** in Miyajima with its iconic red torii, a grand wooden gateway that appears to float on the sea at high tide.
- Walk along the paths of **Kenroku-en Garden**, one of Japan’s top three gardens, and **Ritsurin Garden**, the largest Cultural Property Garden in all of Japan.
- Visit **Nagasaki’s Dejima**, the only artificial island allowed to interact with other countries during the national isolation period of the Edo period, a nationally designated historic site representing Nagasaki.
- **Savor the flavors of East Asia** including fresh sushi in Kanazawa, BBQ in South Korea, and Champon noodles in Nagasaki, each meal offering a taste of local culture.

JAPAN BY SEA

Land of the Rising Sun Aboard the 59-Cabin *Island Sky*

ITINERARY OUTLINE

DAY	OVERNIGHT	HOTEL	ACTIVITIES
April 10 Sat	Depart U.S.		Overnight flight to (Tokyo or) Komatsu, Japan (OR arrive early for 2-night pre-trip extension to Tokyo).
April 11 Sun	Kanazawa, Japan	Hyatt Centric Kanazawa	Arrive Komatsu (KMQ); Individual meet-and-greets at airport and group transfers to hotel. Gather for welcome orientation and dinner at hotel. D
April 12 Mon	Kanazawa	<i>Island Sky</i>	Choice of FD excursion: UNESCO World Heritage Site Shirikawa-go with thatched-roof dwellings; OR Yamanaka Onsen along the Kakusenkei Gorge, both including traditional Japanese lunch. Embark the ship in late afternoon; Captain's welcome reception and dinner. Overnight in port. BLD
April 13 Tue	Kanazawa	<i>Island Sky</i>	Lecture #1: Visit Kenroku-en garden , one of Japan's top three; samurai district with free time for lunch ashore or return to ship. Afternoon traditional tea ceremony and 21 st Century Museum of Contemporary Art; OR wagashi Japanese sweet workshop and traditional arts and crafts. Early evening departure. BLD
April 14 Wed	Sakaiminato for Matsue	<i>Island Sky</i>	Arrive Matsue for choice of morning excursions: visit Adachi Museum of Art with its exceptional garden; OR Matsue Castle with free time in the Samurai Quarter ; afternoon at sea with lectures #2 and #3 . BLD
April 15 Thu	Ulsan, South Korea	<i>Island Sky</i>	Full day in South Korea: Flying Horse Tomb, National Museum, and UNESCO Bulguksa Temple in Gyeongju with Korean lunch and entertainment. Lecture #4 BLD
April 16 Fri	Nagasaki, Japan	<i>Island Sky</i>	Lecture #5 Morning arrival into Nagasaki with visits to Museum of History and Culture ; local noodle lunch; afternoon Glover Garden or Dejima Island. BLD
April 17 Sat	Shimonoseki	<i>Island Sky</i>	Lecture #6 Morning tour of the TOTO Museum and Mojiko Retro Area; Choice of afternoon excursion options: visit Kokura Castle and its gardens OR explore Akiyoshido limestone cave . Lecture #7 BLD
April 18 Sun	Hiroshima / Miyajima	<i>Island Sky</i>	Morning visit to Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park & Museum ; see Atomic Bomb Dome; leave paper cranes at the Children's Peace Monument; lunch on board; afternoon zodiac transfer to Miyajima; Itsukushima Shinto Shrine with free time. Evening cruise of Inland Sea. BLD
April 19 Mon	Naoshima	<i>Island Sky</i>	Morning on Naoshima Island to tour Chichu Art Museum, Benesse House Museum, and Naoshima New Museum of Art. Guest lecture by author Pico Iyer ; Afternoon Captain's Farewell Dinner. BLD
April 20 Tue	Kobe/Return to the U.S.		Disembark in Kobe; group transfer(s) to Osaka Itami Airport (ITM) in Osaka for flights home (OR Optional Extension to Nara and Kyoto). B



JAPAN BY SEA

Land of the Rising Sun Aboard the 59-Cabin *Island Sky*

Tour Cost (per person, sharing)

Standard Suite, Magellan Deck, 226 sq ft, portholes.....	\$9,990
Superior Suite, Columbus Deck, 217–264 sq ft, picture window	\$11,990
Premium Suite, Marco Polo Deck, 226 sq ft, sliding glass door	\$13,400
Corner Suite, Marco Polo Deck, 237 sq ft, sliding glass door	\$14,900
Deluxe Balcony Suite, Erikson Deck, 225 sq ft, balcony & sliding glass door.....	\$16,900
Owner's Balcony Suite, Explorer Deck, 237 sq ft, balcony & sliding glass door.....	\$17,400
Island Suite, Explorer Deck, 344 sq ft, balcony & sliding glass door.....	\$18,990

Standard Suite, single occupancy.....	\$15,890
Superior Suite, single occupancy.....	\$18,990

*A limited number of Triple Cabins are available. Please call for pricing.

Fees and services are based on current exchange rates and are subject to change.

Program Length, Capacity:

11 days roundtrip from the U.S.

Minimum capacity: 70; Maximum capacity: 94 (all sponsors) plus staff.

Fees Include:

One hotel night and eight nights aboard *Island Sky* • Meals and excursions as specified in the itinerary • 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*

Fees 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

JAPAN BY SEA
Pre-Trip Extension to Tokyo
April 8–11, 2027

After an initial night in Tokyo to get oriented,. 4B/4L/2D

PRE-TRIP EXTENSION ITINERARY OUTLINE

DAY	OVERNIGHT	HOTEL	ACTIVITIES
April 8 Thu	Depart U.S.		Overnight flight to Tokyo, Japan.
April 9 Fri	Tokyo, Japan	The Capitol Hotel Tokyu	Arrive Tokyo (NRT or HND); Individual meet-and-greets at airport and group transfers to hotel.
April 10 Sat	Tokyo	The Capitol Hotel Tokyu	Tour the Tokyo National Museum; then explore Asakusa district and Senso-ji Temple at leisure. BL
April 11 Sun	Kanazawa		Morning excursion to Tsukiji fish market and Kappabashi culinary district; bullet train to Kanazawa; main tour begins. BL



JAPAN BY SEA

Post-Trip Extension to Nara and Kyoto

April 20–23, 2027

After disembarking the ship in Kobe, travel to the historic city of Nara, known for its temples and artistic heritage. Tour the Nara National Museum and see the Great Buddha before continuing to Kyoto, the cultural heart of Japan, for a three-night stay at the elegant Westin Miyako Kyoto with onsite onsen. Visit many iconic sites plus enjoy free time to explore this unique and beautiful city. 3B/2L/2D

POST-TRIP EXTENSION ITINERARY OUTLINE

April 20 Tue	Kyoto	Westin Miyako Kyoto	visit the Nara National Museum and Todai-ji Temple with Daibutsu (Great Buddha); continue to Kyoto and check in to hotel; dinner at local
April 21 Wed	Kyoto	Westin Miyako	Bamboo Grove; walk through iconic red/orange torii gates of Fushimi Inari Taisha Shinto shrine;
April 22 Thu	Kyoto	Westin Miyako Kyoto	(Golden Pavilion), and its gardens; explore vibrant pedestrian-only Nishiki Food Market; lunch and afternoon free; festive farewell dinner at local
April 23 Fri	Return to U.S.		Morning group transfer to Kansai International Airport (KIX) for flights home. B

