National Trust *for* Historic Preservation
National Trust Tours

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

May 26 – June 5, 2028
(11 days)

For 2028, Criterion has secured an **8-night Japan charter** aboard the 59-cabin *Island Sky* in May, after Golden Week and before the rainy season—when crowds are thinner, the weather is temperate and fresh greenery enhances temples, shrines, gardens, and castles. Excursions reveal Japan's rich traditions alongside its modern achievements, design innovations, and culinary delights. The journey begins in **Osaka**, a thriving modern city with a rich culinary tradition, often referred to as "Japan's Kitchen." 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 the trip with a **3-night pre-extension** to Nara and Kyoto to explore Japan's Buddhist heritage and historic identity. Or enjoy a **3-night post-extension** to Tokyo, Japan's vibrant capital, where ancient traditions and contemporary life coexist in fascinating harmony.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Experience **Osaka after dark**, where **Dotonbori's** neon lights and energy bring the city to life.
- Customize your experience with an array of **cultural excursion options throughout the voyage**.
- Explore the celebrated **art museums of Naoshima** or the **historic streets and gardens of Kurashiki and Okayama**.
- 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.
- Spend a full day in **South Korea featuring a visit to Gyeongju**, the ancient capital of the Silla kingdom and a UNESCO World Cultural Site.
- Cruise among the **Kujukushima Islands or explore Hirado's terraced rice fields** and Christian heritage.
- Explore three remarkable castles: **Osaka Castle, Kokura Castle, and Matsue Castle**, with Japan's second-largest original wooden keep.
- Sample **authentic dishes rooted in Japanese and Korean tradition**.

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SHIP INFORMATION



With an intimate ambiance, the 59-cabin, all-suite expedition *Island Sky* is perfect for exploring picturesque coastlines. The ship features the latest safety, navigation and communications equipment along with roll stabilizers to minimize the ship's motion.





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, flat-screen 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. 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.

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ITINERARY MAP



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ITINERARY OUTLINE

DATE	OVERNIGHT	HOTEL	ACTIVITIES
Fri., May 26	Depart U.S.		Overnight flight to Osaka, Japan (OR arrive early for pre-trip extension to Kyoto).
Sat., May 27	Osaka, Japan	*Imperial Hotel Osaka or similar*	Arrive Osaka (KIX); individual meet-and-greets at airport and group transfers to hotel. Early evening welcome reception and orientation; optional nighttime panoramic tour of Osaka with a stop in Dotonbori to experience its neon lights, sights, smells, and energy. R
Sun., May 28	Osaka / Kobe	*Island Sky-1*	**Lecture #1**; choice of morning excursions: Tour **Osaka Castle, Nishinomaru Garden, and Toyotomi Stone Wall Museum**; OR guided walk through **Kuromon Market** with indepenent time for tastings and exploration, followed by **Shitennoji Temple**. Continue on to **Kobe** and enjoy lunch at a local restaurant; then embark the ship; Captain's welcome reception and dinner. Ship remains in port overnight. BLD
Mon., May 29	Kobe	*Island Sky-2*	Choice of morning excursions: visit **Kitano Ijinkan**, then ride the **Kobe Nunobiki Ropeway** to the Herb Gardens; OR visit **Hamafukutsuru Ginjo Brewery** to learn about the art of sake making and enjoy a tasting. Lunch aboard and afternoon at leisure; dinner aboard. Evening departure. BD
Tues., May 30	Naoshima	*Island Sky-3*	**Lecture #2**; choice of morning excursions: visit **Naoshima Island** to tour Chichu Art Museum, Benesse House Museum, and Naoshima New Museum of Art; OR explore the **Kurashiki Bikan Historical Quarter** and **Korakuen Garden** in Okayama; **Lecture #3** in the afternoon; potential guest lecture by author Pico Iyer TBD. BLD
Wed., May 31	Kure / Hiroshima / Miyajima	*Island Sky-4*	Arrive at Kure port; scenic transfer to **Hiroshima**; 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
Thurs., June 1	Shimonoseki	*Island Sky-5*	**Lecture #4**; choice of morning excursions: visit the **TOTO Museum and Kokura Castle**; OR explore **Akiyoshidai Plateau and Akiyoshido Cave.** Afternoon tour of Mojiko Retro and the Kokura area; **Lecture #5**. BLD

DATE	OVERNIGHT	HOTEL	ACTIVITIES
Fri., June 2	Sasebo, Japan	*Island Sky-6*	Choice of morning excursions: scenic cruise through the **Kujukushima Islands** and visit Tenkaiho Observatory; OR explore **Hirado island**, including the terraced rice fields around Kasuga Village and St. Francis Xavier Memorial Church. Return to the ship for lunch; afternoon cruising. BLD
Sat., June 3	Ulsan / Gyeongju, South Korea	*Island Sky-7*	**Lecture #6**; full day in **Gyeongju**, the ancient capital of Korea's Silla Kingdom: visit the Flying Horse Tomb and Gyeongju National Museum; **traditional Korean lunch**; UNESCO-listed Bulguksa Temple and local cultural entertainment. BLD
Sun., June 4	Sakaiminato / Matsue	*Island Sky-8*	Choice of morning excursions: visit the **Adachi Museum of Art** and admire its exceptional gardens; OR explore **Matsue Castle** with free time in the Samurai Quarter. Afternoon at sea; **Study Leader Q&A**; Captain's farewell reception and dinner. BLD
Mon., June 5	Kanazawa / Return to the U.S.		Disembark in Kanazawa; group transfer(s) to Komatsu Airport (KMQ) for flights home or continue on the optional post-trip extension in Kanazawa. B

NOTE: Itinerary and sailing schedule are subject to confirmation with our suppliers and may require future updates.

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GENERAL INFORMATION

Program Fees (per person, sharing)

Standard Suite, Magellan Deck, 226 sq ft, portholes	$9,990
Superior Suite, Columbus Deck, 217–264 sq ft, picture window	$11,900
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	$18,900

Standard Suite, single occupancy	$15,790
Superior Suite, single occupancy	$18,990

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

Staff costs:
- Flights – Criterion has budgeted up to $2,000 for roundtrip airfare for tour staff.
- A staff companion rate (sharing accommodations) is $2,170 plus international airfare.

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 Nara and Kyoto
May 23–27, 2028

Arrive in Kyoto for a three-night stay at the elegant Westin Miyako Kyoto with onsite onsen. Explore the cultural capital's temples, shrines, celebrated architecture, and vibrant food market before continuing to Nara to visit the Nara National Museum and see the Great Buddha. Join the main group in Osaka in the afternoon before the welcome reception and orientation. 3B/2L/2D

PRE-TRIP EXTENSION ITINERARY OUTLINE

DATE	OVERNIGHT	HOTEL	ACTIVITIES
Tues., May 23	Depart U.S.		Overnight flight to Osaka, Japan.
Wed., May 24	Kyoto	Westin Miyako Kyoto	Arrive Osaka (KIX); individual meet-and-greets at airport and group transfer to Kyoto; check in to hotel; dinner at local restaurant. D
Thurs., May 25	Kyoto	Westin Miyako Kyoto	Visit Tenryu-ji Zen Temple and Arashiyama Bamboo Grove; walk through iconic red/orange torii gates of Fushimi Inari Taisha Shinto shrine; afternoon visit to Miho Museum; evening free. BL
Fri., May 26	Kyoto	Westin Miyako Kyoto	Visit UNESCO World Heritage site Kinkaku-ji (Golden Pavilion) and its gardens; explore vibrant pedestrian-only Nishiki Food Market; lunch and afternoon free; dinner at a local restaurant. BD
Sat., May 27	Kyoto / Nara / Osaka		Depart Kyoto for Nara; visit the Nara National Museum and Todai-ji Temple with Daibutsu (Great Buddha); lunch; continue to Osaka in the afternoon and join the main group before the welcome reception and orientation. BLR (main program)

Extension Fee & Staffing:
Twin, per person, sharing.....$2,890
Single accommodations.....$3,990

Above extension fee includes one Criterion tour manager and one Japanese guide but no organization staff. Fees and services are based on current exchange rates and are subject to change.

Extension Capacity:
Maximum: 30; Minimum: 12

JAPAN BY SEA
Post-Trip Extension to Tokyo
June 5–8, 2028

Spend a morning exploring the ancient port city of Kanazawa before taking a bullet train to Tokyo, Japan's vibrant capital. Settle into the Capitol Hotel Tokyu before exploring the Tokyo National Museum and the historic Asakusa district, including the iconic Senso-ji Temple. A visit to the famed Tsukiji fish market and Kappabashi culinary district offers a flavorful exploration of Japanese culture before gathering for one last memorable meal in Japan.

POST-TRIP EXTENSION ITINERARY OUTLINE

DATE	OVERNIGHT	HOTEL	ACTIVITIES
Mon., June 5	Tokyo	The Capitol Hotel Tokyu or Similar	Disembark in Kanazawa; visit Omicho Market and Gyokusen-en Garden with tea ceremony; then take a bullet train to Tokyo Station and transfer to your centrally located hotel; enjoy dinner at a local restaurant. B (Main tour), LD
Tues., June 6	Tokyo	The Capitol Hotel Tokyu or Similar	Tour the Tokyo National Museum; then explore Asakusa district and Senso-ji Temple; enjoy lunch at a local restaurant followed by an afternoon and evening at leisure with dinner on your own. BL
Wed., June 7	Tokyo	The Capitol Hotel Tokyu or Similar	Morning excursion to Tsukiji fish market and explore the Kappabashi culinary district; enjoy lunch on your own and an afternoon at leisure; gather this evening for a farewell dinner. BD
Thurs., June 8	Return to U.S.		Morning group transfers to Narita (NRT) or Haneda (HND) International Airports for flights home. B

Extension Fee & Staffing:
Twin, per person, sharing.....$3,990
Single accommodations.....$4,990

Above extension fee includes one Criterion tour manager and one Japanese guide, but no organization staff. Fees and services are based on current exchange rates and are subject to change.

Extension Capacity:
Maximum: 30; Minimum: 12