

ALICIA COOK

Gateway Travel

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EXPEDITION CRUISES

## Wonders of Japan Cruise

14 10 148

DAYS CITIES GUESTS (MAX)

Explore the rich cultural tapestry of Japan on this 14-day voyage visiting five islands, each gifted with its own distinct customs, creative arts and cuisines. In Osaka, board Le Jacques-Cartier, an elegant small explorer ship with high-tech comforts, then set sail to learn the art of bonsai in Takamatsu, explore the geisha houses of Kanazawa and attend a mesmerizing private performance of traditional Kodo taiko drumming in Sado-ga-shima.

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- ✦ Kick things off with a stay in one of Osaka's most luxurious hotels
  - ✦ Cruise Japan's diverse islands and ports for 12 days aboard an exclusive charter of Le Jacques-Cartier
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- ✦ Choose from a menu of included shore excursions spanning interests such as art, architecture, horticulture and cuisine
  - ✦ Reflect on Hiroshima's World War II legacy at the city's Atomic Bomb Dome and Peace Park
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- ✦ Kodo taiko drummers and geishas bring culture alive with private performances
  - ✦ In South Korea, explore the ancient dynastic capital Gyeongju or Busan's bustling seaside
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- ✦ Encounter a unique fusion of horticulture and sculpture at the Adachi Museum of Art

# Wonders of Japan Cruise

14 DAYS | MARCH 17 - MARCH 30  
FROM - | 148 GUESTS



## Day 1 | Arrive Osaka, Japan – Neon Lights and Delicious Bites

Crowned by an awe-inspiring castle, Japan's third largest city is arguably its coolest. The food is sensational, whether you're grabbing a bite at a Michelin-starred kappo counter or exploring Dotombori, a neon-lit strip dominated by street-food hawkers.

🏨 THE RITZ-CARLTON, OSAKA  
🍽️ DINNER

## Day 2 | Osaka – Choose Your Own Adventure

Dive into your Japan adventure with a visit to Kyoto's Golden Pavilion and an exploration of Zen Buddhism, a journey to Nara revealing Japan's oldest temple, or a scenic drive amid Uji's iconic cherry trees.

🏨 THE RITZ-CARLTON, OSAKA  
🍽️ BREAKFAST, LUNCH

## Day 3 | Osaka – Welcome Aboard

After exploring more of Osaka or nearby Kobe, board your small explorer ship.

🏨 LE JACQUES CARTIER  
🍽️ BREAKFAST, LUNCH, DINNER

## Day 4 | Takamatsu – Bonsais and Sakura Trees

Wake up in the port town of Takamatsu, the gateway to Shikoku island, where visitors can wander through Ritsurin Garden, an intricately landscaped park known for its meticulously designed ponds and springtime cherry blossoms. Shodoshima, the heart of Japan's olive-growing industry, is a short boat ride away and has excellent walking trails among the groves. You can also visit Kinashi Bonsai Village, where you will talk to longstanding masters of the ancient art of bonsai care.

🏨 LE JACQUES CARTIER  
🍽️ BREAKFAST, LUNCH, DINNER

## Day 5 | Miyajima and Hiroshima – Shrines and Solemn Memorials

Miyajima is home to the iconic Itsukushima Shrine, with a pier-like structure that appears to float over Matsushima Bay. After visiting the shrine, linger in Miyajima to explore Mount Mizen or continue on to Hiroshima. Few people leave this intriguing city without a better understanding of the impact of the atomic bomb, dropped here in 1945 — be it through the moving Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum or during a moment's pause in the stirring Peace Memorial Garden.

🚢 LE JACQUES CARTIER

🍽️ BREAKFAST, LUNCH, DINNER

## Day 6 | Kitakyushu – In the Footsteps of the Samurai

Today, explore the sights of Kitakyushu, a port city renowned for its samurai history and classic gardens. Experience a microcosm of Kitakyushu at Kokura Castle. In the shadow of the castle's imposing white tower, a small, tranquil garden leads to a mansion where samurai once trained. Alternatively, venture into Japan's largest limestone caves at Akiyoshidai Quasi-National Park.

🚢 LE JACQUES CARTIER

🍽️ BREAKFAST, LUNCH, DINNER

## Day 7 | Busan, South Korea – Exploring Distant Shores

Disembark in South Korea's second city, Busan, home to seaside temples, jade-green mountains and color-splashed cafés. Delve deeper into Busan or continue on to Gyeongju, the former capital of the ancient Silla kingdom. Here, palaces stand over quiet lily ponds and royal tombs that harbor gilded treasures. Return to the ship for a rousing traditional musical performance at the pier.

🚢 LE JACQUES CARTIER

🍽️ BREAKFAST, LUNCH, DINNER

## Day 8 | Karatsu, Japan – Stunning Seaside Castle

Karatsu Castle is a dazzling 17th-century keep rearing above Karatsu Bay in blinding white with elegant black trim. Explore the castle's manicured grounds or venture to nearby Imari. This is the birthplace of Imari ware, expertly handcrafted porcelain showcased in museums, galleries and pottery shops — the perfect spot in which to pick up an ornately enameled tea set.

🚢 LE JACQUES CARTIER

🍽️ BREAKFAST, LUNCH, DINNER

## Day 9 | Matsue – City of Water

Bucolic Matsue is a patchwork of gleaming waterways and emerald swatches of peaceful countryside. The Adachi Museum of Art is the big draw, comprising six sprawling gardens and around 1,500 exhibits of rare Japanese artworks. A visit to Yakuma-mura village is brilliant for learning about the noble art of Japanese papermaking from a veritable master.

🚢 LE JACQUES CARTIER

🍽️ BREAKFAST, LUNCH, DINNER

## Day 10 | Kanazawa – Tradition and Modernity Meet

History comes alive among the twisted acer branches of Kanazawa, a glorious coastal city far from the bustling tourist trails. Here, explore Kenrokuen Garden, a 17th-century oasis with tranquil paths, graceful arched bridges and serene waterways. At Omicho Market, experience the city's bustling hub for local seafood and fresh produce. Then, visit the historic geisha houses of the Higashi Chaya-gai district. Alternatively, hike Kakusenkei Gorge and soak in a soothing onsen (hot spring), cook with a local chef, or explore the Shogawa River valley. This evening, attend an exclusive geisha performance.

🚢 LE JACQUES CARTIER

🍽️ BREAKFAST, LUNCH, DINNER

## Day 11 | Sado-Ga-shima – Rich History and Serene Nature

Today, Le Jacques-Cartier docks at Sado Island, framed by crystal-clear waters and pristine countryside. Take in an exclusive performance by Kodo taiko drummers, followed by a trip to the Hakusanmaru Exhibition Hall and the Ogi Folk Museum, home to a fascinating collection of more than 30,000 objects from the Showa period.

🚢 LE JACQUES CARTIER

🍽️ BREAKFAST, LUNCH, DINNER

## Day 12 | At Sea – Relax and Unwind Onboard

Cruise toward Hokkaido, Japan's northernmost island, making the most of Le Jacques-Cartier's onboard facilities and the Expedition Team's enriching lectures.

🚢 LE JACQUES CARTIER

🍽️ BREAKFAST, LUNCH, DINNER

## Day 13 | Otaru – Traditional Tipple with a View

Otaru — known for its sinuous canals, old distilleries, historical architecture and views of Mount Tengu — has grown from a small but prosperous fishing village into the jewel of Hokkaido. It's a great spot for drink enthusiasts, with visits to sake distilleries on offer. Alternatively, explore nearby Sapporo's parks, landmarks and market.

🍷 LE JACQUES CARTIER

🕒 BREAKFAST, LUNCH, DINNER

## Day 14 | Depart Sapporo – The Voyage Ends

Disembark Le Jacques-Cartier in Otaru and transfer to the airport in Sapporo for your homebound flight.

🕒 BREAKFAST

## Extensions

+4 DAYS

### Kyoto Pre-Tour Extension

Discover timeless Kyoto, visiting its temples and gardens, exploring its buzzy districts and witnessing its traditions.



+4 DAYS

### Tokyo Post-Tour Extension

Explore Tokyo's museums, experience hands-on artmaking and sample distinctive cuisines at local markets.



#### DATES & PRICES

### Plan Your Trip for 2026

24/7 A&K On Call Support

English speaking staff, including a doctor

Complimentary Wi-Fi on board and in hotels

All gratuities, port charges and taxes

Traveller's Valet® Laundry Service

Private balcony with every stateroom and butler service with every suite

Airport meet and greet with transfers

Food and drink with a la carte menus and unlimited house drinks, including Champagne

Your choice of expertly guided shore excursions

Engaging onboard lectures and workshops from our acclaimed Expedition Team

Prices are in USD, per person, based on double occupancy.

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|-------------------------|---------------|
| Classic Stateroom       | From \$25,695 |
| Deluxe Stateroom        | From \$28,195 |
| Prestige Stateroom      | From \$29,295 |
| Deluxe Suite            | From \$36,395 |
| Privilege Suite         | From \$42,595 |
| Prestige Two-Room Suite | From \$52,345 |
| Grand Deluxe Suite      | From \$56,395 |
| Owner's Suite           | From \$64,095 |



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## Le Jacques Cartier

Chartered exclusively for A&K, your small explorer ship is specially configured to limit capacity to 148 total travellers (from a maximum of 184). The all-English-speaking ship staff is complemented by A&K's expert Expedition Team. All staterooms and suites feature a private balcony, and every suite offers complimentary butler service. The vessel also features multiple observation, lounge and dining areas, as well as a library, theater, outside heated pool, fitness center, spa, 24-hour medical facility with a certified doctor and a fleet of Zodiac boats for shore expeditions. A&K also includes complimentary wireless Internet and Traveller's Valet laundry service.

