

The best of Japan

From **16/5/2022**
to **24/5/2022**

Ship: **LE SOLEAL**

From **Maizuru**
to **Osaka**



Through this exceptional itinerary, **PONANT** invites you to discover the **Land of the Rising Sun**, where the history of the samurai and the daintiness of the geishas exist side by side.

In Maizuru, you will board your ship for a **9-day cruise to the heart of Japan**.

In **Sakaiminato** you will set off to discover medieval Japan and the ancient **dwelling of the samurai**, who had lavish homes and castles built.

Your ship will then take you to **Busan**, a warm and welcoming city where you will enjoy a spectacular view of the port. This ancient city full of contrasts presents **numerous vestiges** that speak of its prestigious past.

We will call at **Miyajima**, home to the majestic **Shinto shrine** whose entrance is guarded by a magnificent vermilion Torii listed as a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**.

From **Tamano**, you'll be able to discover the unique architecture of the historic city of **Kurashiki**, which was an essential port in Japan during the Edo period, as well as the traditional daily life of 18th-century Japan. In the village of **Fukiya**, you'll be able to find out more about *bengara*, a precious red iron oxide pigment.

You will end your cruise with the discovery of the most Japanese of metropolis, **Osaka**, a modern, industrial and cultural city that is entirely turned towards the future. This city has been the national centre for trade and industry since the reign of Emperor Nintoku.



The information in this document is valid as of 18/6/2021

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YOUR STOPOVERS :

MAIZURU

Embarkation 16/5/2022 from 17h00 to 18h00
Departure 16/5/2022 at 19h00

Located on the western coast of Honshu island, in the province of Kyoto, the charming town of **Maizuru** boasts one of Japan's most exquisite closed bays. A climb to the **observatory** allows to appreciate the splendour of this inlet scattered with tiny wild islands. Visitors can also admire the treasures of traditional architecture by visiting the temple of **Enryu-ji** or the **Tanabe-jo castle**. The town also bears traces of a rich military past, which you can see in the **old** arsenals of the navy, red brick buildings that today house a museum.

SAKAIMINATO

Arrival 17/5/2022 early morning
Departure 17/5/2022 early evening

Located on the south-west coast of Honshu Island, the busy fishing port of Sakaiminato celebrates the comic writer and artist **Shigeru Mizuki**, who was born here. As well as a museum a dedicated tourist route leads through streets and squares that feature **134 bronze statues** representing his beloved characters. This isn't the only thing Sakaiminato has to offer; try some local seafood specialities and enjoy the stunning views of **Mt Daisen** and the Yumigahama peninsula.

BUSAN

Arrival 18/5/2022 midday
Departure 18/5/2022 early evening

With around four million inhabitants, **Busan** is the second largest metropolis on South Korea, after Seoul. This dynamic harbour city, located in the south-east, surrounded by the warm waters of the Sea of Japan, benefits from a mild, pleasant climate. You'll find delightful simply to stroll around the **lively streets** and explore the city's outstanding cultural heritage of art galleries, museums, and Buddhist sites, such as the **Haedong Yonggungsa temple**, which elegantly sits on the waterfront. Rich too in magnificent beaches and superlative natural landscapes, Busan's peaceful atmosphere will win you over, as will its inhabitants, whom you'll have the pleasure of meeting.

NAGASAKI

Arrival 19/5/2022 early morning
Departure 19/5/2022 early evening

Located on the north-west coast of Kyushu, **Nagasaki** will impress you by its rich heritage. Despite the destruction in 1945, you can visit several ancient sites, including the beautiful 19th-century **Catholic Church of Oura** and its garden,

the **sanctuary of Suwa Shrine** or several Buddhist temples. A visit to the **Atomic Bomb Museum** gives you insight into the extent of the damage caused by the nuclear attack. Close by, a walk in the **Memorial Peace Park** leads you to a collection of objets d'art offered as a gift from Japan to the world.

KAGOSHIMA

Arrival 20/5/2022 early morning

Departure 20/5/2022 early evening

The seaside city of Kagoshima, at the south of Kyushu Island, is best known for Sakurajima, an **active volcano** that faces Kinko Bay. A visit to this busy metropolis will remind you just how much the volcano is part of the inhabitants' everyday life: in the wake of the almost daily eruptions, a delicate layer of ash settles on everything. The top of a buried *torii* (traditional Japanese gate) measuring three metres that was 'swallowed up' by a giant lava flow in 1914 can still be seen. The **power of nature** will send a shiver down your spine.

UWAJIMA

Arrival 21/5/2022 midday

Departure 21/5/2022 evening

Located on the west coast of Shikoku island, Uwajima will delight lovers of history and traditional customs. The magnificent **Uwajima Castle** was built in the 17th-century by the powerful Date clan and has a beautiful ornamental garden and bridge. The much-visited **Taga Shrine** is dedicated to fertility and is full of phalluses. As for eating, you must taste *jakoten*, a local delicacy based on fried fish.

HIROSHIMA

Arrival 22/5/2022 early morning

Departure 22/5/2022 midday

Visiting **Hiroshima** is a moving experience. The town spreads along **Honshu Island**, along the inside coasts of Seto. While firmly focused on the future, Hiroshima doesn't forget its past, and a visit to the **Peace Memorial Park** and **Genbaku Dome** is a must. You'll enjoy the city's **modern, cosmopolitan atmosphere and effervescent nightlife** just as much as the peaceful stillness of its natural parkland areas such as splendid Shukkei-en, the town's historic garden.

MIYAJIMA ISLAND

Arrival 22/5/2022 early afternoon

Departure 22/5/2022 evening

At the heart of the Inland Sea, Miyajima, the "island sanctuary" will reveal its treasures. In the background you will see the Shinto Grand Sanctuary, whose entrance is guarded by a magnificent vermilion "Torii". Considered to be one of the most beautiful sites in the Japanese islands, you will be transported by the unique character and the serenity of this sacred site.

TAMANO

Arrival 23/5/2022 early morning

Departure 23/5/2022 evening

Located on the **island of Honshu**, hugging the banks of the Seto Inland Sea, **Tamano** is a popular destination thanks to its sun-drenched climate. Upon arrival, marvel at the way in which the city has been built along the coast at the foot of a deep, dark forest. In the area surrounding Tamano, stroll down the streets of **Kurashiki**, known as the 'white-walled city' in a nod to the pretty façades of the houses that line the streets of this ancient Edo-period trading town. Another major regional attraction is the **Seto Ohashi bridge**. Its 12.5 kilometres make it the world's longest double-decker bridge.

OSAKA

Arrival 24/5/2022 early morning

Disembarkation 24/5/2022 at 06h00

Like its big sister Tokyo, Osaka is the product of ancestral traditions and amazing **technological innovations**. And despite its size, its location on the Pacific Ocean give it a sense of **serenity**. The main historic landmark is the 16th-century **Osaka Castle**, which stands proud in the midst of majestic skyscrapers. The lively streets of Dotomburi and the bizarre Shinsekai district attract thousands of locals and visitors. A multitude of restaurants offer menus full of regional specialities: *takoyaki*, made with octopus, and other succulent dishes such as *kushikatsu* kebabs.