



LUXURY EXPEDITION CRUISES

Wonders of Japan Cruise: Cherry Blossom Season 2025

14 days from \$24,995 per person, double occupancy

Limited to 148 guests

Experience the wonders of Japan alongside A&K's award-winning Expedition Team as you capture all the magic with help from a professional photographer. Spanning five islands, this all-encompassing cruise explores Japan's culturally rich coastline with a hotel stay in Osaka and shore excursions throughout, including a visit to Hiroshima's Peace Memorial Park, the Adachi Museum of Art and its gardens, and Kanazawa's historic district.

Included With This Luxury Expedition Cruise

- An Exclusively Chartered, All-Inclusive Voyage Led by A&K's Expedition Team and Local Guides
- Pre- and/or Post-Cruise Stays at Stylish, Ideally Located Hotels and A&K-Led Excursions
- Airport Meet and Greet and Transfers
- Private Balcony with Every Onboard Accommodation and Butler Service with Every Suite
- Maximum Personnel-to-Guest Ratio of 1 to 1.2 and ship occupancy limited to 80 percent
- Culinary Program Featuring French-Inspired Cuisine, Including House Drinks, Afternoon Tea and Pastries
- 24-Hour Room Service and Breakfast in Bed on board
- Choice of Curated, All-Inclusive Shore Excursions
- Enrichment program, lectures and presentations
- Traveller's Valet[®] Laundry Service on board
- All Gratuities, Port Charges and Taxes
- Complimentary Wi-Fi on Board and in Hotels
- Onboard Service from an English-Speaking Staff, Including an Accredited Physician
- 24/7 A&K On-Call Support

A&K Advantages

Cruise the best of Japan for 11 nights aboard luxurious 'Le Jacques Cartier,' enjoying a capacity limited to just 148 guests

Spend two nights in one of Osaka's most luxurious hotels

Experience the magical atmosphere of Japan's cherry blossom season

Witness private performances by the world-renowned Kodo taiko drummers, Kabuki warriors and geishas

Immerse yourself in mesmerizing Japanese gardens, perhaps visiting the gardens at the Adachi Museum of Art

In South Korea, explore the ancient dynastic capital Gyeongju or the bustling seaside enclave of Busan

Reflect on Japan's turbulent history and witness its miraculous resurgence in Hiroshima

Enjoy fascinating onboard lectures and presentations led by our enrichment specialists on Japanese history, culture and gardens

Itinerary

DAY 1 ARRIVE OSAKA, JAPAN

Upon arrival, transfer to The Ritz-Carlton, Osaka, where you gather for a welcome dinner and Noh performance.

The Ritz-Carlton Osaka | Meals: Dinner

DAY 2 OSAKA | CULTURAL WONDERS

Begin your adventure in Osaka, Japan's third-largest city. The day's excursions may include 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 | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 3 OSAKA | THE ADVENTURE BEGINS

Enjoy the morning at leisure in your hotel, or perhaps join a panoramic tour of Osaka Castle. This afternoon, transfer to your luxurious expedition cruiser.

Le Jacques Cartier | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 4 TAKAMATSU | EXPLORE YOUR WAY

Wake up in the charming port of Takamatsu, the gateway to Shikoku Island. Your day might feature a boat ride to Shodoshima, the heart of Japan's olive-growing industry; a visit to the gardens of Shikoku Island's Ritsurin Park and an exploration of traditional bonsai horticulture in Takamatsu's Kinashi area; or a ferry ride to Naoshima Island to tour Benesse House and a museum dedicated to Tadao Ando's architecture.

Le Jacques Cartier | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 5 HIROSHIMA & MIYAJIMA | MEMORIALS & SHRINES

Today, explore Hiroshima, renowned for its Atomic Bomb Dome and Peace Park. You might arise to split your day between Hiroshima and Miyajima, site of the iconic Torii Gate. Alternatively, spend an immersive day in Hiroshima and meet a storyteller of the World War II atomic bomb attack, or head to Miyajima to hike scenic Mount Misen.

Le Jacques Cartier | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 6 UWAJIMA | SEASIDE SPLendor

Spend the day in Uwajima, home to Japan's pearl industry. The day's excursions may include a visit to a local pearl farm and the samurai-era gardens of Tensha-en, an exploration of Nanraku-en Garden, or a stroll down a cherry tree-lined lane to the old town.

Le Jacques Cartier | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 7 KARATSU | ANCIENT TRADING POST

This afternoon, arrive in the port of Karatsu, once an early trading post between Japan and mainland Asia. Once ashore, visit Karatsu Castle, or perhaps head to the city of Imari to tour its celebrated porcelain works.

Le Jacques Cartier | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 8 BUSAN & GYEONGJU, SOUTH KOREA | ROK REVEAL

Disembark in Busan and transfer to Gyeongju, ancient capital of the Silla Dynasty. Here, you might explore Gyeongju's excavated temples, tombs and pagodas, or visit the Hyundai factory. Alternatively, stay in Busan to take in the seaside Haedong Yonggungsa Temple, the scenic overlook from Nurimaru APEC House and the colorful houses of Gamcheon Culture Village. Return to the ship for a traditional music performance at the pier.

Le Jacques Cartier | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 9 MATSUE, JAPAN | VERDANT GARDENS

Explore Matsue, a city renowned for its idyllic countryside. The day's excursions may include visits to Yuushien Garden and Matsue Castle, or a tour of the Adachi Museum of Art. Later, you might also savor a traditional lunch at a ryokan (inn) and visit Yakumo-mura village to learn about the art of Japanese papermaking.

Le Jacques Cartier | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 10 KANAZAWA | IMMERSION INTO THE ARTS

Visit the thriving art center of Kanazawa, known for its pottery and gold-leaf workmanship. Here, you might stroll Kenrokuen Garden, wander Omicho Market and tour the Higashi Chaya-gai district's well-preserved historic geisha houses. Alternatively, you might hike Kakusenkei Gorge and soak in a soothing onsen (hot spring), visit Kanazawa's Oumi market and cook with a local chef, or explore the Shogawa River valley. This evening, enjoy an exclusive geisha performance.

Le Jacques Cartier | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 11 SADO-GA-SHIMA | KODO TAIKO DRUMMERS

Arrive amid Sado Island's rice paddies, bamboo groves and surf-pounded seacoasts. Today may include an exclusive private performance by the Kodo taiko drummers or tours of Hakusanmaru Exhibition Hall and Ogi Folk Museum.

Le Jacques Cartier | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 12 AT SEA | CRUISING TO HOKKAIDO ISLAND



Enjoy a relaxing day while cruising toward Hokkaido, Japan's largest and northernmost island.

Le Jacques Cartier | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 13 OTARU | HISTORIC CANALS

Arrive in Otaru, a port city known for its canals, sake distilleries, architecture and views of Mount Tengu. Here, you might tour the city and visit a sake distillery. Alternately, you might spend the day discovering nearby Sapporo's parks, landmarks and market.

Le Jacques Cartier | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 14 DEPART SAPPORO

Disembark your vessel in Otaru and transfer to the airport in Sapporo for your homebound flight.

Meals: Breakfast

March 30–Apr 12 routing runs in reverse. Please contact A&K for details.

Extensions

Prices are in USD, including internal air, per person, double occupancy.



Kyoto Extension

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

4 days from \$5,095 per person
Single Supplement from \$2,595 per person

DAY 1

Arrive in Osaka and transfer to Kyoto, cultural and historic capital of Japan. Check into your tranquil hotel and enjoy the rest of the day at leisure.

Hyatt Regency Kyoto

DAY 2

Travel through the busy lanes of the Higashiyama district to Kiyomizu Temple. Visit its main hall, a remarkable 17th-century wooden structure set on a steep cliff and offering panoramic views of Kyoto. Take a guided tour of a machiya, a traditional wooden town house, and try on a kimono. After lunch, return to your hotel for time at leisure.

Hyatt Regency Kyoto | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 3

Set out on an enlightening tour of Kyoto. Visit the iconic rock garden at Ryoan-ji Temple —considered a supreme example of an abstract Zen garden — and Arashiyama, where you take in its famed bamboo grove and stroll its Togetsukyo Bridge over the picturesque Katsura River.

Hyatt Regency Kyoto | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 4

Transfer to Osaka and begin your main Luxury Expedition Cruise program.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch



Tokyo Extension

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

4 days from \$6,895 per person
Single Supplement from \$3,595 per person
Internal Air Included (Economy Class, \$600 value)
✈ Sapporo/Tokyo

DAY 1

Fly to Tokyo. Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant and check in to your hotel.

Conrad Tokyo | Meals: Lunch

DAY 2

Delve into Japan's vibrant capital with visits to the massive Tsukiji Outer Fish Market, the stately Imperial Palace Plaza, the traditional Asakusa district and the Shunkaen Bonsai Museum.

Conrad Tokyo | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 3

Continue your exploration of Tokyo at the Meiji Jingu Shrine, a grand structure flanked by tranquil forest. Then, visit the Nezu Museum, home to a vast collection of pre-modern Japanese and East Asian art.

Conrad Tokyo | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 4

Transfer to the airport and board your homebound flight.

Meals: Breakfast

Dates & Prices

Prices are in USD, per person, double occupancy. See complete terms and conditions [here](#).

Dates	Prices	Single Supplement	Availability
Mar 17 - Mar 30, 2025			
Category 1 - Classic Stateroom	\$24,995	\$12,495	Available
Category 2 - Deluxe Stateroom	\$27,495	\$13,795	Available
Category 3 - Prestige Stateroom	\$28,495	\$14,295	Available
Category 4 - Deluxe Suite	\$35,495	\$26,695	Waitlist - Call A&K
Category 5 - Privilege Suite	\$41,495	\$31,195	Waitlist - Call A&K
Category 6 - Prestige Two-Room Suite	\$50,995	\$38,295	Call for Availability
Category 7 - Grand Deluxe Suite	\$54,995	\$41,295	Waitlist - Call A&K
Category 8 - Owner's Suite	\$62,495	\$59,395	Waitlist - Call A&K

Optional [pre-tour and post-tour extensions](#) available on this departure.

While this departure is scheduled to coincide with cherry blossom season, this natural phenomenon cannot be guaranteed.

Mar 30 - Apr 12, 2025			
Category 1 - Classic Stateroom	\$24,995	\$12,495	Limited Availability
Category 2 - Deluxe Stateroom	\$27,495	\$13,795	Call for Availability
Category 3 - Prestige Stateroom	\$28,495	\$14,295	Available
Category 4 - Deluxe Suite	\$35,495	\$26,695	Waitlist - Call A&K
Category 5 - Privilege Suite	\$41,495	\$31,195	Waitlist - Call A&K
Category 6 - Prestige Two-Room Suite	\$50,995	\$38,295	Available
Category 7 - Grand Deluxe Suite	\$54,995	\$41,295	Waitlist - Call A&K
Category 8 - Owner's Suite	\$62,495	\$59,395	Waitlist - Call A&K

This departure operates in reverse.

Optional [pre-tour and post-tour extensions](#) available on this departure.

Journey Details

This journey contains some active elements, including walks over uneven terrain.

Minimum age is 7 years.

Categories 4–8 include room upgrade at the hotel and butler service aboard the ship.

March 17-30 Departure

First group event: welcome dinner on Mar 17.

Last group event: disembarkation by 9:00 a.m. on Mar 30.

March 30-April 12 Departure (Operates in reverse)

First group event: embarkation in Otaru on Mar 30.

Last group event: hotel check-out on Apr 12.