JAPAN BY SEA
Land of the Rising Sun aboard the *Caledonian Sky*
May 5–19, 2019
With *WERNER SOLLORS & ALIDE CAGIDEMETRIO*
Cruise through the Inland Sea and the Sea of Japan on a delightful springtime exploration of Japan, beginning with a deluxe hotel stay in Kyoto. This small nation of nearly 7,000 islands is wonderfully suited for exploration by small ship, and our chartered vessel, the 114-passenger Caledonian Sky, conveys us comfortably to a fascinating variety of tranquil historic towns, artistic centers, and remote islands.

Experience dramatic coastlines, sacred temples, celebrated gardens, and cutting-edge art and architecture. Meet and interact with a Zen Buddhist monk and the owner of a traditional geisha house, and participate in a hands-on taiko drum workshop with the world-famous Kodo drummers at their home base on remote Sado Island. Take part in a traditional tea ceremony, attend a specially arranged performance of sacred bugaku dance, and marvel at the stunning iconic beauty of Miyajima’s torii gate. Optional post-cruise extensions are also available, including one to explore the wild landscapes and renowned hot springs of Hokkaido Island, and another to discover the highlights of Sapporo and Tokyo.

Activity Level 3: 

**A LITTLE MORE TO IT** This a moderately strenuous program that is at times physically demanding and busy. Daily excursions involve up to one mile of walking at a time, often on uneven terrain. In some instances, elevators are unavailable, and stairs may not have handrails. You will be required to remove your shoes while visiting temples, shrines, and a number of other sites. You will need to climb into and out of Zodiacs for one excursion ashore (there will be staff and crew members on hand to assist).
Trip Sampling

**LAND & RAIL**

HMSC Exploring West Bengal, Assam & Nagaland including the Hornbill Festival
NOV 25–DEC 9, 2018
David Hunter

Colombia: From Bogotá to Cartagena
MAR 6–18, 2019

Tanzania Migration Safari
MAR 10–20, 2019
Bence Olveczky

Private Homes & Gardens of Bermuda
APR 1–5, 2019
Michael Weishan

HMSC Silk Road in Central Asia & Iran
APR 6–23, 2019

Poland: Jewish History & Culture
MAY 11–21, 2019
Jay Harris

HMSC Uganda Safari & Primate Trekking
MAY 31–JUN 13, 2019
Elizabeth Ross & Richard Wrangham

HMSC Mongolia: Land of the Blue Sky
JUN 3–14, 2019
Andrew Berry

**CRUISES**

Gateway to Authentic Ireland
JUN 7–17, 2019
Catherine McKenna

Lebanon & Jordan: From Castles to Caravans
OCT 31–NOV 3, 2019
Joseph Greene

Cruising the Mekong River: Vietnam & Cambodia on Mekong Princess
JAN 14–27, 2019
Susan Suleiman

Normandy to Paris: Commemorating the 75th Anniversary of D-Day
JUN 4–13, 2019
Charles Maier

Waterways of the Tsars on Volga Dream
JUN 5–15, 2019
James Salzman

Tanzania Family Adventure
DEC 26, 2018–JAN 3, 2019

New Year’s in Havana: A Family Program in Cuba
DEC 27, 2018–JAN 1, 2019
Timothy McCarthy

Greece: A Family Odyssey on Running on Waves
JUN 19–28, 2019
Jonathan Walton

China Family Tour: Imperial Grandeur, Terracotta Warriors, Giant Pandas
JUN 21–JUL 3, 2019
R. Nicholas Burns

**RIVERS & LAKES**

Cruising the Mekong River: Vietnam & Cambodia on Mekong Princess
JAN 14–27, 2019
Susan Suleiman

Normandy to Paris: Commemorating the 75th Anniversary of D-Day
JUN 4–13, 2019
Charles Maier

Waterways of the Tsars on Volga Dream
JUN 5–15, 2019
James Salzman

**FAMILY ADVENTURES**

Cruising the Mekong River: Vietnam & Cambodia on Mekong Princess
JAN 14–27, 2019
Susan Suleiman

Normandy to Paris: Commemorating the 75th Anniversary of D-Day
JUN 4–13, 2019
Charles Maier

Waterways of the Tsars on Volga Dream
JUN 5–15, 2019
James Salzman
Schedule by Day

**SUNDAY & MONDAY, MAY 5 & 6**  
**U.S. / Kyoto, Japan**

Depart the U.S. on an overnight flight to Osaka, arriving on May 6. Check in to the Kyoto Hotel Okura. An optional afternoon tour is available at additional cost of $70 per person, with visits to Sanjusangendo temple, featuring 1,001 gilded wooden statues of Kannon, the goddess of mercy, and Fushimi Inari, a Shinto shrine with tunnel-like paths formed by a seemingly unending line of vibrant orange torii gates. An early evening walk is also offered, at no additional cost, through the historic Pontocho and Gion districts.

**Kyoto Hotel Okura**

**TUESDAY, MAY 7**  
**Kyoto**

Explore the lovely gardens and learn about Zen Buddhism at Tenryu temple, then stroll through the adjacent Sagano Bamboo Grove, with its atmospherically dense stands of tall green bamboo offering wonderful photographic opportunities. This evening, enjoy a private presentation by a former geisha and maiko (apprentice geisha) and a festive welcome reception and dinner.

*Kyoto Hotel Okura (B,L,R,D)*

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 8**  
**Kyoto & Shiga**

Venture this morning to the Miho Museum, built into a mountain slope in Shiga prefecture and considered one of the master achievements of architect I.M. Pei, with innovative skylights and windows creating a shifting pattern of light and shadow. Return to Kyoto for an afternoon visit to the UNESCO World Heritage-designated Kinkaku-ji (Temple of the Golden Pavilion), whose shimmering central pavilion is covered in bright gold leaf. The evening is at leisure, with organized dinner options available at additional cost.

*Kyoto Hotel Okura (B,L)*

**THURSDAY, MAY 9**  
**Kyoto / Nara / Kobe (Embark)**

Historic and beautiful Nara was the capital of Japan for only 74 years (710-784), but during that time Buddhism became firmly established within Japan and some of the country’s most magnificent temples and works of art were created. Visit UNESCO World Heritage-designated Todai-ji, famous for its Daibutsu—a monolithic seated bronze statue of the Great Buddha. Also explore the wisteria-draped grounds of the Kasuga Taisha Shrine before continuing to Kobe to embark the **Caledonian Sky**.

*Caledonian Sky (B,L,D)*

**FRIDAY, MAY 10**  
**Cruising / Hiroshima**

Relax on board and admire the scenery as we cruise through Japan’s Inland Sea, dotted with tiny islands. Call at Hiroshima this afternoon and explore the Peace Memorial Park and Museum, which documents the atomic explosion that ravaged the city. This thriving modern city is a testament to Japan’s post-war recovery. Continue with your choice of a visit to Shukkei-en garden or a tour of the Mazda Museum and auto manufacturing facility.

*Caledonian Sky (B,L,D)*

**SATURDAY, MAY 11**  
**Miyajima**

Cruise to neighboring Miyajima Island, anchoring offshore and boarding Zodiacs to access the island. Visit the 6th-century Itsukushima Shinto Shrine, with its iconic vermilion torii (gate-way) that appears to float on the sea at high tide, and enjoy free time for hikes, visits to tiny temples, and strolling the picturesque streets of the town.

*Caledonian Sky (B,L,D)*

**SUNDAY, MAY 12**  
**Uwajima & Rural Shikoku**

Call at Uwajima on Shikoku Island for a chance to experience some of Japan’s rural countryside, with fishing hamlets and farm villages nestled along rugged coastlines. Visit a farm where pearls are cultivated, see terraced fields rising in tiers up steep hillsides, and discover a beautifully preserved merchant town that evokes Japan’s traditional past.

*Caledonian Sky (B,L,D)*
MONDAY, MAY 13

**Hagi**

Explore Japan’s medieval heritage at Hagi, with its well-preserved samurai and merchant quarters and a ceramics tradition nearly 400 years old. Stop at the kiln of a master artisan to learn how the highly acclaimed Hagi-yaki is made. Walk the grounds of Toko-ji, where hundreds of moss-covered stone lanterns guard the graves of five Mori lords. Cruise overnight across the Korea Strait. *Caledonian Sky (B,L,D)*

TUESDAY, MAY 14

**Ulsan, South Korea**

From the South Korean port of Ulsan, drive inland to the UNESCO World Heritage city of Gyeongju, ancient capital of the Silla kingdom, which ruled for 1,000 years. Visit Bulguksa, one of the most beautiful Buddhist temples in South Korea, with intricate paintings inside and out and two original 6th-century pagodas. After a lunch of Korean specialties and a performance of Korean folkloric music, explore the royal tombs in Tumuli Park and the Gyeongju National Museum, largely devoted to Silla artifacts. *Caledonian Sky (B,L,D)*

THURSDAY, MAY 16

**Kanazawa**

Call at the refined artistic center of Kanazawa for a visit to Kenroku-en, considered by many to be the finest landscape garden in Japan. Enjoy a tea ceremony at a classic teahouse, and time at leisure to explore Kanazawa’s historic neighborhoods as well as artisan shops and museums dedicated to the city’s renowned cultural pursuits, including silk dyeing, ceramics, and the production of gold leaf and lacquerware. *Caledonian Sky (B,L,D)*

FRIDAY, MAY 17

**Sado Island**

Call this morning at remote Sado Island, home base for the taiko drumming group Kodo (“heartbeat”). Attend a hands-on drumming workshop, a short performance by several of the resident drummers, and a guest lecture on this ancient art form. Also take a guided walking tour through the picturesque fishing village of Shukunegi, where more than one hundred traditional Edo-period houses line the narrow streets. Return to the ship for lunch on board and an afternoon of cruising. *Caledonian Sky (B,L)*

SUNDAY, MAY 19

**Otaru / Disembark / Return to U.S.**

Arrive this morning in Otaru. Disembark and transfer to Sapporo’s New Chitose Airport for flights home (arriving the same day), or join one of the optional post-tour extensions. (B)

Optional Post-Tour Extensions

- MAY 19–20, 2019 **Otaru & Sapporo**
  Explore Otaru’s historic port and canal area, then enjoy a stroll through Moerenuma Park and a beer tasting in Sapporo.

- MAY 19–22, 2019 **Otaru, Sapporo & Tokyo**
  Complete the extension above, then fly to Tokyo to experience the city’s contrasts at historic sites and modern marvels.

- MAY 19–23, 2019 **Otaru, Sapporo, & Noboribetsu Onsen**
  OR stay at the traditional Noboribetsu Onsen, with its unique volcanic landscapes and therapeutic hot spring baths.

Additional details and pricing for the optional extensions will be sent to confirmed participants.
Caledonian Sky

The *Caledonian Sky* is a 114-passenger premier expedition ship refurbished in 2012. All cabins have an ocean view, en suite bathroom with walk-in shower and/or bathtub, spacious wardrobe or walk-in closet, safe, mini-bar, individually controlled heat/air-conditioning, flat-screen television, and sitting area with sofa. Twenty-three of the suites feature private balconies. The ship’s amenities include a dining room, two lounges with bar service, small library and gym, sun deck with comfortable lounge chairs, hairdresser, laundry service, and gift shop. An elevator services all passenger cabin decks. The *Caledonian Sky*’s chefs prepare quality international meals, predominantly Western-style, served in a single open seating. 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.

### Program Rates, per person

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**AIR ARRANGEMENTS**

U.S. domestic and international airfare is not included in the program rates. Round-trip economy-class airfare from New York to Osaka, Japan, with return from Sapporo, is approximately $2,050 per person as of August 2018 and is subject to change without notice. Valerie Wilson Travel, Inc., can help with airline arrangements for this trip and can be reached at (877) 376-1754. You are also welcome to book your air transportation through your local travel agent, an online travel site, or the airline of your choice.

**TO BOOK A TRIP, CALL 800-422-1636 OR VISIT ALUMNI.HARVARD.EDU/TRAVEL**
TOUR COST INCLUSIONS
All accommodations, meals, and excursions as specified in the itinerary • Comprehensive program of briefings, lectures and presentations • Arrival transfers by shared shuttle van and departure transfers by motor coach • Baggage handling • Gratuities to porters, waitstaff, guides, drivers, and shipboard personnel • Port charges • Entrance fees • Welcome wine reception in Kyoto and farewell cocktail reception on board • House wine, beer, and soft drinks with welcome dinner and with all lunches and dinners on board the Caledonian Sky • Bottled water on motor coaches • Professional tour manager • $200,000 Emergency Medical Insurance • Professional tour manager • Bottled dinner and with all lunches and soft drinks with welcome on board • House wine, beer, farewell cocktail reception in Kyoto and farewell cocktail reception on board • House wine, beer, and soft drinks with welcome dinner and with all lunches and dinners on board the Caledonian Sky • Bottled water on motor coaches • Professional tour manager • $200,000 Emergency Medical Evacuation Insurance

TOUR COST EXCLUSIONS
U.S. domestic and international airfare • Passport/visa expenses • Medical expenses and immunizations • Private airport transfers • Travel insurance • Optional excursions or deviations from the scheduled tour • Excess 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, fax, Internet and email charges • Room service • Gratuities for nongroup services • Other items of a personal nature

WHAT TO EXPECT
We consider this a moderately strenuous program that is at times physically demanding and busy. Daily excursions involve up to one mile of walking at a time, often on uneven terrain. In some instances, elevators are unavailable and stairs may not have handrails. You will be required to remove your shoes while visiting temples, shrines, and a number of other sites. You will need to climb into and out of Zodiacs for one excursion ashore (there will be staff and crew members on hand to assist). Participants must be physically fit, active, and in good health.

GROUP SIZE
This program is limited to 94 participants, including travelers from Harvard, Stanford, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and the Archaeological Institute of America.

RESERVATIONS, DEPOSITS, AND FINAL PAYMENT
A deposit of $1,000 per person is required to reserve space on this program. Please either call us at 800-422-1636 or 617-496-0806 or fill out and mail or fax the registration form found in this brochure. Reservations are acknowledged in order of receipt until the maximum enrollment has been reached. Final payment deadline is January 4, 2019, 120 days prior to departure.

CANCELLATIONS & REFUNDS
Notification of cancellation must be received in writing by Harvard Alumni Travel from the participant. Cancellations within 14 days of booking: full refund; cancellations received up to 120 days prior to departure will be assessed a cancellation fee of $1,000 per person. Cancellations received within 120 days prior to departure are subject to 100% penalty of all deposits and payments.

ITINERARY CHANGES
The itinerary contained in this brochure is accurate at the time of printing. We reserve the right to change the program or accommodations as conditions warrant.

INSURANCE
We highly recommend the purchase of trip cancellation insurance. An application for insurance will be provided by Harvard Alumni Travel upon confirmation.

RESPONSIBILITY
Other provisions regarding limitations of liability and rights of Harvard Alumni Travel and the tour operator. The statement of responsibility is available at http://alumni.harvard.edu/travel/trips/japan-2019. If you are not able to access the internet, please call Harvard Alumni Travel at 800-422-1636 or 617-496-0806.

DISCLAIMER
Every reasonable effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of information presented in this publication. Neither Harvard Alumni Travel nor the tour operator is responsible for errors in or damages resulting from use of the information contained herein. Information contained in this brochure is subject to change.

QUESTIONS
Please call Harvard Alumni Travel at 800-422-1636 or 617-496-0806, email: haatravels@harvard.edu.

California Seller of Travel Program CST #2088800-40

How did you hear about this trip?

Registration Form

To register, fill out this form and return to Harvard Alumni Travels with your deposit of $1,000 per person.

Please return this form by mail to:
Harvard Alumni Travels
124 Mount Auburn Street, 6th Floor, Cambridge, MA 02138
Or by FAX: 617-496-4011

Please call with any questions:
800-422-1636 or 617-496-0806

Terms & Conditions