

2023

HARVARD ALUMNI TRAVELS

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Ancient Traditions of Japan's Inland Sea

April 18 - 29, 2023

with Study Leader **Alexandra Vacroux**



HARVARD
Alumni Travels



Walk through the elaborately decorated karamon (gate) to enter Nij Castle, one of 17 historic monuments of ancient Kyoto designated as a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Experience the timeless splendor of Japan and South Korea

on this unique, custom-designed itinerary, featuring three nights in Kyoto and a seven-night cruise across the full length of the serene Inland Sea of Japan from Himeji, including historic ports of Japan such as Miyajima, Sakaiminato and Moji and Ulsan, South Korea. On board the exclusively chartered, Five-Star small ship Le Soleal, featuring only 110 ocean-view Suites and Staterooms, enjoy this 280-mile stretch of scenic, tranquil ocean with port calls at captivating points of interest, including seven UNESCO World Heritage sites. In the enchanting city of Kyoto, visit opulent temples and the Nij Castle, an imperial gem. Walk through the imposing Peace Memorial Park in Hiroshima, tour the Itsukushima Shrine in Miyajima with its awe-inspiring Great Torii Gate and see the impressive Himeji Castle, the largest and best-preserved feudal structure from medieval Japan. In Gyeongju, South Korea, visit the Buddhist Bulguksa Temple and the ancient Silla Kingdom Royal Burial Mounds. Tokyo Pre-Program and Osaka and Nara Post-Program Options are available.

The safety and well-being of our travelers remains our highest priority. Cruise lines and some other providers of services (as well as, potentially, some countries) require all passengers traveling on our programs to present confirmation of a full COVID-19 vaccination, and, as well, passengers may have to produce evidence of a recent negative COVID test. All our staff are committed to adhering to all health and safety protocols from the start of your trip to the end as directed by the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, overseas health officials as well as those protocols mandated by your cruise company (if applicable) and other suppliers of services. Detailed protocol information tailored to your travel program will be mailed to you along with additional pre-departure information.

Activity Level 3:

Busy pacing may include multiple hotel changes plus internal flights or long drives. May involve exposure to the outdoors, full days of touring, and walking up to two hours.

Study Leaders



Alexandra Vacroux is Executive Director of the Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies and Lecturer on

Government at Harvard University. She holds a Ph.D. in Government from Harvard and is recipient of a Dean's Distinction Award from Harvard's Faculty of Arts and Sciences, and of the Alumni Award from the Education for Public Inquiry and International Citizenship (EPIIC) Program at Tufts. She is an active member of the bilateral Working Group on the Future of U.S.–Russia Relations, and co-chairs the Davis Center's long-running Comparative Politics Seminar. As a commentator, she has been praised as “refreshing,” “straightforward,” and “quick and to the point.” She has appeared on stations ranging from WBUR, Fox News Radio, China Central TV, Hromadske TV (Ukraine), and speaks regularly at community forums at home and abroad.

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Schedule by Day

TUESDAY, APRIL 18 AND
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19

Home City/ Osaka, Japan/ Kyoto

Depart the U.S. and cross the International Date Line. Arrive in Osaka, then transfer to impeccably preserved Kyoto. Check into the KYOTO HOTEL OKURA and enjoy an evening at leisure.

THURSDAY, APRIL 20

Kyoto

Visit the UNESCO World Heritage site of Kinkaku-ji Temple, the vaunted “Golden Pavilion.” Continue on to Ryoan-ji Temple, constructed as an aristocrat’s villa during the Heian Period (794 to 1185).

Enjoy the afternoon at

leisure and a Welcome Reception this evening. (B,R)

FRIDAY, APRIL 21

Kyoto

Visit the UNESCO World Heritage-designated monument of *Kiyomizu-dera* (“Pure Water Temple”), where the main hall and veranda were built without a single

beauty.

This afternoon, learn more about shogun history at the UNESCO-designated Nijo Castle, built for shogun Tokugawa Ieyasu. (B)

SATURDAY, APRIL 22

Kyoto/Himeji

Enjoy a guided visit of the grounds surrounding



Visit Himeji Castle, Japan’s most stunning and best-preserved feudal fortress.

nailed. Experience the serenity of the temple’s monumental *hondo* (main hall) and visit Otowa Falls, where a sip of the “pure water” is reputed to bestow health, success, or

UNESCO World Heritage-designated Himeji Castle, Japan’s most stunning and best-preserved feudal fortress. Embark the ship this afternoon. (B,L,D)



Gyeongju's Buddhist Bulguksa Temple is an important example of Silla architecture and is home to seven of South Korea's National Treasures, including the Seokgatap and Dabotap stone pagodas.

SUNDAY, APRIL 23

Hiroshima/ Miyajima

Drive to the solemn Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park in central Hiroshima—which marks the spot where on August 6, 1945, the first atomic bomb used in war left only structural remnants of Hiroshima's Genbaku Dome—and visit the Peace Memorial Museum.

Call at the island of *Miyajima* ("Shrine Island") to tour the sixth-century Itsukushima Shrine. The shrine's impressive Great Torii Gate—one of the largest in Japan—appears to float on water during high tide. Attend a Captain's Welcome Reception on board the ship. (B,L,R,D)

MONDAY, APRIL 24

Hagi

Tour Hagi's 17th-century Toko-ji Temple on Kikuyake and walk past dwellings that once housed samurai in the city's old castle town.



View the Purification Hall, or Haraiden, of Itsukushima Shrine

Visit the Kikuyake House—one of the best-preserved examples of merchant-style architecture from the Edo period (1603 to 1868)—and explore the Hagi Uragami Museum. (B,L,D)

TUESDAY, APRIL 25

Sakaiminato for Matsue

Tour the Adachi Museum of Art, where 20th-century and modern Japanese art coalesce with six perfectly landscaped gardens as "living paintings," and see 17th-century Matsue Castle. Enjoy onboard lectures this afternoon while cruising the Sea of Japan. (B,L,D)

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26

Ulsan, South Korea, for Gyeongju

Travel from Ulsan in rural South Korea to the cradle of the Silla Kingdom (57 B.C. to A.D. 935) in historical Gyeongju. Visit the stunning eighth-century Bulguksa Temple and learn about Silla history in the Gyeongju



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<https://alumni.harvard.edu/travel/trips/japan-2023>

Step 2: Click the Blue “**Register Today**” button and fill out the online form.

Step 3: Look for an **email confirmation** from Harvard Alumni Travels.

All bookings are conducted online only.

Find complete trip-specific terms and conditions on the trip web page (link above).

National Museum, which houses more than 30,000 artifacts, before touring the Royal Burial Mounds at Tumuli Park. (B,L,D)

THURSDAY, APRIL 27

Moji, Japan

Visit the striking 12th-century Akama Shrine, dedicated to the child emperor Antoku. Enjoy a Captain’s Farewell Reception on board the ship this evening. (B,L,R,D)

FRIDAY, APRIL 28

Uno for Kurashiki/Okayama (Koraku-en Garden)

Travel to the Kurashiki Bikan District to visit the old merchant quarter and see the traditional black-tiled houses—painted white and situated along a canal framed with weeping willows. This afternoon, walk through the beautiful Koraku-en in

Okayama. This strolling garden is unique for its large, grassy areas and distinctive wooden Ryuten, a pavilion with a stream running through it. (B,L,D)

SATURDAY, APRIL 29

Osaka/ Home City

After breakfast, disembark and continue on the Osaka and Nara Post-Program Option or transfer to the airport for your return flight home. (B)

Kyoto’s UNESCO-designated Golden Pavilion functions as a shariden, housing relics of the Buddha.



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ICONIC TOKYO PRE-PROGRAM OPTION

Explore Tokyo on a comprehensive three-night itinerary that includes a full-day excursion to Hakone, home to majestic Mount Fuji, and a journey aboard the high-speed *Shinkansen*, or bullet train, to Kyoto. Pass through the Kaminari Gate to visit the Senso-ji Temple, originally built in the seventh century. Accommodations are at the five-star ANA INTERCONTINENTAL HOTEL TOKYO.

Double Pricing: \$1,695 Single Pricing: \$2,295

OSAKA AND NARA POST-PROGRAM OPTION

Extend your time in Osaka on a two-night itinerary that includes a visit to the Osaka History Museum, showcasing Osaka's interesting culture of a merchant city. Enjoy an excursion to the tranquil city of Nara, Japan's oldest capital. Visit the iconic Horyu-ji Temple, where a seventh-century, five-story pagoda stands as a testament to Japan's history, and Todaiji, the "Great Eastern Temple," one of Japan's most famous and historically significant temples. Accommodations are for two nights in the five-star INTERCONTINENTAL HOTEL OSAKA.

Double Pricing: \$1,145 Single Pricing: \$1,595

Visit the iconic Horyu-ji Temple, where a seventh-century, five-story pagoda stands as a testament to Japan's history.



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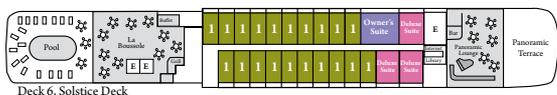
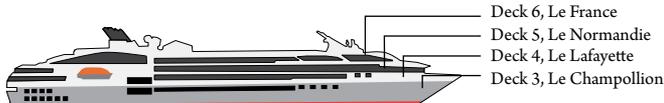
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LE SOLÉAL



Deck 6, Solstice Deck



Deck 5, Equinoxe Deck



Deck 4, Pégase Deck



Deck 3, Andromède Deck



◆ Prestige Suites I and II, capacities to be advised.
 ■ Indicates one fixed queen bed

Five-Star, State-of-the-Art, Small Ship: Join us aboard the exclusively chartered, five-star LE BORÉAL, where distinctive French sophistication meets innovative nautical design. The ship's efficient electrical propulsion system and custom stabilizers provide an exceptionally smooth, quiet and comfortable voyage.

Respect for the Environment: With advanced eco-friendly features in technology and ongoing operations, the ship has earned the important "clean ship" designation.

With Our Compliments: Indulge in these complimentary onboard amenities—alcoholic and nonalcoholic beverages available throughout the cruise and in your suite or stateroom minibar, Wi-Fi access (conditions permitting) and 24-hour room service.

Chic and Casual Dining: The stylish dining room and casual al fresco restaurant feature international and regional cuisine and serve continental and buffet breakfasts, buffet lunch, afternoon tea, and dinner in four courses or buffet. Wine is served at your table with lunch and dinner.

Only 110 Suites and Staterooms: These elegant ocean-view accommodations range from 200 to 484 square feet, and most have a private balcony. Your five-star suite or stateroom features individual climate control, two twin beds or one queen bed, a private bathroom with shower and luxurious hotel amenities, including flat-screen television, safe, full-length closet, plush robes, and slippers.

Rates Per Person

BASED ON DOUBLE OCCUPANCY
 CATEGORY/DECK

CATEGORY 5 \$7,150

Superior stateroom, large window and bathroom with shower. *Deck 3. (limited availability)*

CATEGORY 4 \$8,250

Deluxe stateroom, single door to **partial-wall balcony**. *Deck 3.*

CATEGORY 3 \$9,550

Prestige stateroom, expansive sliding glass door, **private or partial-wall balcony**. *Deck 4. (limited availability)*

CATEGORY 2 \$10,550

Prestige stateroom, sliding glass door, some have partial-wall balconies, **private balcony**, shower or tub/shower. *Deck 5*

CATEGORY 1 \$11,550

Prestige stateroom, sliding glass door, **private balcony**, shower or tub/shower. *Deck 6.*

DELUXE SUITE \$12,950

Expansive sliding glass door, large **private partial-wall balcony**, tub/shower, sitting area with sofa. *Deck 6. (limited availability)*

PRESTIGE SUITE II \$13,550

Two rooms, expansive sliding glass door, **large private balcony**, two bathrooms: tub/shower and shower, large sitting area with sofa, two closets. *Deck 5. (limited availability)*

PRESTIGE SUITE I \$14,550

Two rooms, expansive sliding glass door, **large private balcony**, two bathrooms: tub/shower and shower, large sitting area with sofa, two closets. *Deck 6. (limited availability)*

OWNER'S SUITE \$16,550

One bedroom, sitting room with sofa, table and four chairs, expansive sliding glass doors, **larger private balcony**, one and a half bathrooms, separate tub and shower. *Deck 6. (limited availability)*

Taxes and gratuities to ship personnel are included. Single supplements apply across all categories at 160% of the per person double price.

