

Venture into

# THE HEART OF JAPAN

DEPARTS TOKYO & FUKUOKA | 14 NIGHTS | ALL-INCLUSIVE

Experience the dynamic landscape of Japan, from the vibrant cities of the mainland to quiet coastal island villages. Departing Tokyo, begin your journey by experiencing traditional Japanese culture at the township of remote Shimizu, and visiting important Shinto shrines in Shingu. Continue to the ideal vantage point of Kobe port to explore the bustling streets of Osaka for an authentic food tour or spend time at Kyoto amongst the diverse cityscape of modern architecture and ancient temples. Discover the lush mountainous landscape of Iya Valley at remote Tokujima, learn about the traditional history of the soy sauce craft in Shodojima and explore the ancient castle at little-visited Karatsu. Visit Jeju Island in South Korea to view the extraordinary UNESCO listed Manjanggal lava tubes before discovering the little-known Goto Islands and concluding your journey in Fukuoka. Be immersed in the poignant histories and ancient traditions within these diverse landscapes on this authentic journey through the heart of Japan.

## EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

- Visit Arita Japan's most prodigious exporter of fine porcelain in the 17th century.
- View the iconic red torii gate of the Itsukujima shinto shrine 'floating' in the Seto Inland Sea and visit neighbouring cultural sites to witness centuries-old customs.
- Uncover World War II histories including on a visit Hiroshima's Peace Memorial Park.
- Visit Osaka, the food capital of Japan, or the historic city of Kyoto where traditional and modern architecture collide.
- Explore UNESCO-listed Global Geopark Manjanggal, a 7.4km long lava tube and cave of South Korea's Jeju Island.
- Visit Shodoshima and hike 2hrs in the breathtaking Kankakei Gorge or visit the Japan's oldest area for Soy Sauce production more than 400 years of crafting

## DATES, COSTS & INCLUSIONS:

Departs 4 & 18 October, 2 November 2025  
14 Nights onboard Coral Geographer  
from **\$16,490pp**, twin share  
Singles from \$24,735pp

**INCLUDES:** > All excursions with our Expedition Team > Use of Xplorer and Zodiacs > Daily lectures and briefings with Guest Lecturers > All meals, chef-prepared on board > Selected wines, selected beers and house spirits, juices, and soft drinks served with lunch and dinner > All entrance fees to National Parks, ports, traditional owner fees and charges imposed by governing authorities > Tips and gratuities and more!



**DAY 1: DEPART TOKYO, JAPAN** Board from Tokyo Bay at 4:00pm for a 7:00pm departure. Settle into your cabin and relax as we set sail.

*These are expedition itineraries covering remote regions. Your Captain and Expedition Team may make changes to the daily schedule when necessary to maximise guest experience. Below are the highlight destinations of your voyage.*

**SHIMIZU, JAPAN** Here we will visit the Mt Fuji World Heritage Centre which boasts a viewing deck and a variety of exhibitions pertaining to the volcano's seismology, history, and cultural significance. The building has an inverted conical form that reflects in the pond outside to reveal the shape of the iconic mountain. Afterwards enjoy self exploration to discover the city, including street markets and local food. We will also enjoy a visit to the nearby Fujisan Sengen Shrine. In the afternoon visit the Obuchisasaba Tea Plantation area. Take a walk between sites to enjoy local tea and a short presentation on the long history of this famous tea plantation with spectacular views of Mt Fuji.

**SHINGU, JAPAN** Guests will visit important shrines – Kumano Hayatama Taisha Shrine, and Kumano Hongu Taisha Shrine. For keen walkers, the 4-hour Daimon-zaka trail can be traversed through tall cedar forests. This is an impressive cobblestone staircase slope that runs from the base of the valley to Kumano Nachi Taisha Shrine, Seiganto-ji Temple, and Nachi waterfall. We will drive through the stunning Dorokyo Gorge stopping for unforgettable photo opportunities.

**KOBE PORT TO OSAKA/KYOTO, JAPAN** Today, you may choose to explore Osaka or Kyoto for the day.

**Osaka:** Immerse yourself in colourful, bustling Osaka, the food capital of Japan. Visit Osaka Castle, join a guided tour of famous Dotonbori Street, stroll through Kuromon Market and take it all in from the observation deck in Umeda Sky Building.

**Kyoto:** Once the capital of Japan, Kyoto is famous for its classical Buddhist temples, gardens, imperial palaces, Shinto shrines and traditional wooden houses. Learn of the rich history of this area as we visit these places as well as local street market, Nishiki Market, well-known for its fantastic takeaway food.

**TOKUSHIMA, JAPAN** We start our expedition with a quick stop to enjoy picturesque scenery at Whirlpool Viewpoint on your transfer to a local town. Shop the local establishments, or hike along tracks to the viewpoints above the town. In Tokushima, visit the Otsuka Museum of Art, housing hundreds of artwork pieces including massive replicas of the Sistine Chapel. After lunch, we walk the streets between temples or visit the famous local Sake Brewery.

**SHODOSHIMA, JAPAN** Shodoshima translates to 'small bean island', a fitting name for an island where traditionally soybean crops were processed into soy sauce. Learn about this time-honoured condiment with a 400-year-old history at the Marukin Soy Sauce Historical Museum. Experience the making of the Japanese famous Somen noodle and try your hand at dividing the noodles with long chopsticks. Hike or cable car in the Kankei Gorge ranked as one of Japan's most beautiful gorges.

**HIROSHIMA, JAPAN** Forever linked to the World War II tragedy, Hiroshima has since been rebuilt while retaining some historical heritage, with the Peace Memorial Park now the city's most prominent feature. Shukkeien Garden dates as far back as the 1600's with its valleys, mountains and forests represented in miniature with tea houses amongst the gardens an ideal spot to take time to enjoy the idyllic surrounds. Enjoy a guided tour of the A-bomb area, park and museum. You may wish to enjoy free time in the city.

**MIYAJIMA, JAPAN** Itsukujima shrine (a UNESCO World Heritage Site and a National Treasure) is one of Japan's most recognisable symbols with its red torii gate seemingly floating upon the Seto Inland Sea. Other important sites are Daisho-in, a temple of Shingon Buddhism and Reikado Hall, located on Mt Misen. Walking paths link Miyajima's cultural sites and Maple Valley, providing the ideal pace with which to absorb centuries-old customs. Stroll around the island on either a guided or self-walk tour with a map, amongst the deer that wander the same sites, and take in the beauty of the island.

**MATSUYAMA, JAPAN** Matsuyama Castle is one of Japan's twelve original castles and stands at the heart of the city. We have the option to use the cable car or hike up to the castle, where you will enjoy views of the surrounding city. Next visit Ishiteji Temple, where Pilgrims dressed all in white are frequent. An inner temple connects to the main temple grounds via a dimly lit cave and 200m long tunnel that houses Buddhist statues, carvings, and drawings. Or, enjoy free time at Dogo township, known for its hot spring onsen.

**KARATSU, JAPAN** Here we will explore the island's many idyllic surrounds including the Nanatsugama limestone caves, the bustling city area and markets, climbing to historic Karatsu Castle and Mikaeri Falls.

**TSUSHIMA, JAPAN** Hike the Mt Shimizu trail above the township to the castle ruins where 360° views are on offer and then down through oak and cedar forests, or take a moderate walk to the first viewpoint with a great view of the township below. For those not wanting to hike, enjoy the beautiful Izuhara traditional township. We visit the local Museum with interesting artifacts dating back to the 14th century.

**JEJU, SOUTH KOREA** Jeju Island's Manjanggal Lava Tubes are regarded as the finest lava tube system of caves anywhere in the world and are recognised by UNESCO as a Global Geopark site for their unique geological features and volcanic landforms. Today guests have an option to walk 60 minutes to the Seongsan Sunrise Peak with ocean and island views. Dine for lunch at a local restaurant before heading off to explore the Manjang Lava Caves.

**SASEBO, JAPAN** Visit the historical pottery town of Arita where Japan's fine porcelain was first produced around 400 years ago. Arita-yaki pottery is now the most highly regarded pottery across all Japan. Spend a relaxed afternoon where you can visit the well-known viewpoint over what is known as the 99 Islands, visit the Arita township with shops to purchase local items, or enjoy free time at the local shopping area.

**AOKATA AND NAKADORI ISLANDS, GOTO ISLANDS, JAPAN** Goto Island translates into English as the 'five island chain', with Nakadori and Aokata Islands being two of the most populated. Here we can visit the Kashiragashima Village and church, visit beautiful Yagotame Park and Narao Shrine.

**FUKUE ISLAND, GOTO ISLANDS, JAPAN** Also a member of the Goto Islands, Fukue Island is the largest of the group with hilly terrain, temples, and churches. Either hike Mt Onidake, a dormant volcano which offers excellent views of the area, or choose the shorter hike option followed by a visit to Dozaki Church.

**DAY 15: ARRIVE FUKUOKA** Our voyage ends in the Japanese port of Fukuoka. Disembark Coral Geographer at 8:30am and bid farewell to new-found friends, the Master and crew. Fukuoka has great shopping, some of the best cuisine and accessibility to nature nearby.



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