Ancient Traditions of the Inland Sea of Japan

Kyoto • Hiroshima • Miyajima • Matsue • Himeji • Osaka
including Gyeongju, South Korea

Aboard the Exclusively Chartered Small Ship
Five-Star Le Soléal
May 19 to 30, 2020
Dear Club Members,

From the ethereal temples, jewel box pagodas and shogun castles of Kyoto to the latticed merchant houses of Hagi's earthen-walled samurai district, Japan's ancient cities and towns hold an enigmatic fusion of religious rituals, spiritual symbolism and Eastern and Western cultural influences. This unique, custom-designed 10-night itinerary provides access to the region's vast architectural riches, bountiful landscapes and venerable heritage.

Spend three nights in Japan's spiritual and cultural capital, Kyoto, home to a sublime concentration of UNESCO World Heritage-designated historic monuments, including the celebrated temples of Kiyomizu-dera, Ryoan-ji and Kinkaku-ji and the imposing Nijo Castle.

Cruise for seven nights along the tranquil coast of the Inland Sea and to South Korea on board the exclusively chartered, Five-Star small ship Le Soléal—featuring only 110 ocean-view Suites and Staterooms. Enjoy excursions to seven UNESCO World Heritage sites, including the 17th-century Himeji Castle, Japan's largest surviving feudal complex; Hiroshima's poignant Genbaku Dome Peace Memorial; Miyajima's Itsukushima Shrine; and in Gyeongju, South Korea, the ancient Silla Kingdom Royal Burial Mounds and the glorious Bulguksa Temple, the embodiment of Buddhist utopia on Earth.

Experience Japan's spiritual engagement with nature, which finds expression in a panoply of luxuriant strolling gardens. Encounter the unique and subtle aesthetic of Zen dry landscape gardens, intended as a meditation aid and antidote to worldliness. Admire impressive collections of Japanese artwork in the acclaimed Adachi Museum of Art near Matsue and the Hagi Uragami Museum. In Shimonoseki, walk through the beautiful 12th-century Akama Shrine, and nearby, visit an authentic Japanese fish market, known for its locally caught fugu (pufferfish), a delicacy of Japanese cuisine.

Join us on this carefully crafted itinerary that unveils Japan's and South Korea's cultural treasures and spiritual mystique in each port of call. This program—co-sponsored with several educational organizations including the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Northwestern and Penn—is an excellent value with Five-Star accommodations and daily excursions; I encourage you to book now while space and Early Booking Savings are still available.

Best regards,

Kristina Nemeth
Travel Director
(415) 597-6720
Japan’s unsurpassed natural beauty and fascinating way of life are found nowhere else in the world; here, centuries-old culture and belief systems echo throughout the nation, aglow with tradition, ceremony and ritual. Ukiyo-e, a Japanese art form beloved by Impressionists, captures the “floating” natural world on woodblock prints.

A similar ephemeral style reverberates through a palette of garden types, all quintessentially Japanese: karesansui (dry landscape), strolling and tea gardens, which draw on the tenets of both Buddhism and Shinto. In Shinto’s animism, all natural forms—rocks, trees, sand, groves and mountains—are imbued with kami (ancestral spirits).

Cover photo: See UNESCO-designated Himeji Castle, referred to as Shirasagi-jo, meaning “white egret castle.”

Photo this page: Admire Miyajima’s seaside Itsukushima Shrine, a harmonious blend of nature and Japanese creativity.

U.S./Osaka, Japan/Kyoto
Tuesday, May 19 and Wednesday, May 20
Depart the U.S. and cross the International Date Line. After arriving in Osaka, transfer to impeccably preserved Kyoto and check into the ideally located, deluxe Kyoto Hotel Okura. The remainder of the day is at leisure.

Kyoto
Thursday, May 21
Japan’s imperial capital from 794 to 1868, Kyoto remains the nation’s spiritual and cultural heart. Grand imperial castles, tranquil Zen gardens and graceful Shinto and Buddhist shrines form the highest and purest expression of Japanese culture. Visit the UNESCO World Heritage site of Kinkaku-ji Temple, the vaunted “Golden Pavilion.” Its two upper floors are entirely adorned with gold leaf, and their reflection in Mirror Pond, framed by luxuriant gardens, is one of Japan’s most enduring images.

Continue to peaceful Ryoan-ji Temple, another UNESCO-designated monument of Kyoto, originally constructed as an aristocrat’s villa during the Heian Period (794 to 1185). Ryoan-ji Temple’s legendary karesansui forms a mesmerizing expression of the harmony and purity of Zen Buddhism—it is said that only 14 of the 15 rocks contained within the rectangular garden can be seen at once, and only when one reaches peak enlightenment does the final stone reveal itself.

Enjoy the afternoon at leisure and a Welcome Reception this evening. (b,r)

Kyoto
Friday, May 22
Visit one of Kyoto’s most emblematic symbols, the UNESCO World Heritage-designated historic monument of Kiyomizu-dera (“Pure Water Temple”), built without a single nail on a wooded hillside above the Otowa Falls. Founded in 778 by the Hosso sect, the temple is celebrated for its spectacular overhanging veranda, supported by 139 pillars, which provided the stage for sacred dances and is now celebrated for its panoramic views of surrounding Kyoto. 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 beauty.

This afternoon, learn more about shogun history firsthand at the opulent, UNESCO World Heritage-designated Nijo Castle, built for shogun Tokugawa Ieyasu. Constructed in the 17th century with double moats, colossal walls and protective watchtowers, the formidable castle was intended to convey the fortitude of the
shogun’s new military government based in Edo (present-day Tokyo). The castle is built almost entirely of Japanese cypress and adorned with exquisite transom woodcarvings and shohekiga (room partition murals). (b)

Kyoto/Himeji
Saturday, May 23
Admire Japan’s most stunning and best-preserved feudal castle, UNESCO World Heritage-designated Himeji-jo, an exemplary 17th-century defense system centered on a complex of keeps, ramparts, moats and the donjon. A harmonious masterwork of form and function, the castle’s traditional wood construction is married with an elegant white plaster facade. This evening, embark the Five-Star Le Soleal. (b,l,d)

Hiroshima/Miyajima
Sunday, May 24
On August 6, 1945, the first atomic bomb used as an act of war left only structural remnants of Hiroshima’s Genbaku Dome; today, this dome is the compelling Hiroshima Peace Memorial and a UNESCO World Heritage site. The solemn Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park, the museum chronicling the history of Hiroshima and its poignant Children’s Peace Monument all invite visitors to contemplate the ever-modern need for nuclear disarmament amid stark reminders of war.

Go ashore to the enchanting island of Miyajima, “Shrine Island,” to tour the vermillion sixth-century Itsukushima Shrine, a UNESCO World Heritage site set against a backdrop of forested hills where docile deer roam free. The shrine’s impressive Great Torii Gate—one of the largest in Japan at 54 feet tall—appears to float on water during high tide.

Attend the Captain’s Welcome Reception this evening. (b,l,r,d)

Hagi
Monday, May 25
Tour Hagi’s 17th-century Toko-ji Temple and see its 500 moss-covered stone lanterns. Walk past dwellings that once housed samurai in the city’s old castle town—part of the Sites of Japan’s Meiji Industrial Revolution UNESCO World Heritage site—lined with 19th-century earthen walls, and visit the Kikuya House, one of the best-preserved examples of merchant-style architecture from the Edo period (1603 to 1868). Explore the Hagi Uragami Museum, with over 5000 Edo-period ukiyo-e woodblock prints and porcelain pieces. (b,l,d)

Walk through the elaborately decorated karamon (Chinese-style gate)—a symbol of authority and might—to enter Nijo Castle, one of 17 historic monuments in ancient Kyoto designated as a UNESCO World Heritage site.
Sakaiminato for Matsue
Tuesday, May 26
Tour the highly acclaimed Adachi Museum of Art, where 20th-century and modern Japanese art coalesce with six perfectly landscaped gardens, regarded as “living paintings” when viewed through the museum’s vast windows. See Japan’s tallest feudal structure and one of its original castles, 17th-century Matsue Castle, known as “Black Castle” for its dark roof. Enjoy onboard lectures this afternoon while cruising. (b,l,d)

Ulsan, South Korea, for Gyeongju
Wednesday, May 27
Take in rural Korea’s captivating scenery as you travel from Ulsan to the cradle of the Silla Kingdom (57 B.C. to A.D. 935) in historic Gyeongju. Visit the eighth-century Bulguksa Temple, a material expression of Buddhist utopia on Earth and a UNESCO World Heritage site for its remarkable craftsmanship. Learn about the Silla Kingdom’s history in the Gyeongju National Museum, which houses over 30,000 artifacts. Enjoy a traditional dance performance during a specially arranged Korean lunch. Visit the striking, grass-covered Royal Burial Mounds at Tumuli Park, where, in 1974, the fifth-century, 43-foot-high Cheonmachong (Heavenly Horse Tomb) was excavated. (b,l,d)

Moji, Japan, for Shimonoseki
Thursday, May 28
Visit the striking 12th-century Akama Shrine, dedicated to the child emperor Antoku. Then, stroll through the Karato Fish Market, which specializes in the local delicacy of fugu (pufferfish) and serves sushi bento daily. Enjoy the Captain’s Farewell Reception on board this evening. (b,l,r,d)

Uno for Kurashiki and Okayama
Friday, May 29
From the port of Uno, enjoy a scenic drive to the Kurashiki Bikan District, where distinctive black-and-white latticed houses remain preserved from the Edo period. Walk through one of the Three Great Gardens of Japan, beautiful Koraku-en in Okayama. This strolling garden is unique for its large, open grassy areas and distinctive, wooden Ryuten, a pavilion with a stream running through it. (b,l,d)

Osaka/U.S.
Saturday, May 30
Disembark and continue on the Osaka and Nara Post-Program Option, or transfer to the airport for your return flight to the U.S. (b)
Five-Star, State-of-the-Art Small Ship
Join us aboard the exclusively chartered, Five-Star Le Soléal, 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 technology and the most environmentally responsible features built into its design and operations, the ship has earned the important “Clean Ship” distinction.

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 alfresco 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.

Elegant Suites and Staterooms — 95% Include Private Balconies
Each of the 110 ocean-view Staterooms and Suites range from 200 to 484 square feet, and most have a private balcony. All Five-Star accommodations feature individual climate control, two twin beds or one queen bed and a private bathroom with shower and luxurious hotel amenities, including flat-screen television, a safe, a full-length closet, plush robes and slippers.

Life on Board
Whether you seek educational and cultural presentations, panoramic views, nightly entertainment or quiet retreat, the ship’s spacious public areas can accommodate all passengers comfortably. Enjoy two lounges, a theater, library, Sun Deck with open-air bar, swimming pool, beauty salon, spa, Turkish bath-style steam room and fitness room. The ship has three elevators.

World-Class Service
The highly trained, English-speaking crew are personable and attentive, and the ship has a medical center staffed with a doctor and nurse.
Included

- Three nights in the deluxe Kyoto Hotel Okura
- Seven nights aboard the exclusively chartered, Five-Star Le Soleal
- Cruise from Himeji, Japan, with port calls at Hiroshima, Miyajima, Hagi, Sakaiminato for Matsue, Moji for Shimonoseki, Uno for Kurashiki and Okayama, and Osaka, Japan; and Ulsan for Gyeongju, South Korea
- Meals as specified in the itinerary
- Complimentary alcoholic and nonalcoholic beverages available throughout the cruise
- Welcome Reception in Kyoto and Captain’s Welcome and Farewell Receptions
- Complimentary Wi-Fi aboard ship (conditions permitting)
- All entrance fees and tours as described in the itinerary
- Transfers and luggage handling abroad for participants whose arrival(s)/departure(s) coincide with the scheduled group transfer(s)
- Gratuities to local guides and drivers on included excursions and transfers
- Hospitality desk in the hotel and aboard ship
- Complimentary bottled water in your accommodations and on excursions
- Complimentary use of an audio headset during guided excursions
- Experienced Gohagan & Company Travel Directors throughout the program
- Pre-departure materials, including a reading list
- Automatic $250,000 flight insurance policy for each participant ticketed on flights by Gohagan & Company

Not Included

- International airfare
- Taxes of $455 per person (subject to change)
- Gratuities to ship personnel (recommended $105 per person)
- Hotel staff gratuities (recommended $2 per person per day) and gratuities for activities on your own
- Passport and visa fees
- Meals and alcoholic beverages not listed as included
- Transfers and baggage handling to/from airport/hotel on day(s) of arrival and/or departure if you are arriving earlier or later than and/or departing earlier or later than the scheduled group transfer(s)
- Any overnight on land due to flight schedule(s)
- Personal expenses such as laundry, telephone calls and Internet access unless otherwise specified
- Accident/sickness, trip cancellation and baggage insurance
- Baggage charges on aircraft; airfare and associated local taxes not listed as included
- Airport facility taxes and federal inspection fees not listed as included
- All other services not specifically mentioned in the “Included” section
Iconic Tokyo
Pre-Program Option
Beneath Tokyo's layers of thriving innovation and enthralling pop culture, you will find traditional wooden houses and secluded alleyway shrines—the cultural core of this vibrant capital city. Begin with a panoramic tour followed by a visit to the Tokyo National Museum, one of the largest art museums in the world with over 110,000 objects and 87 of Japan's treasures. Enjoy a full-day excursion to Hakone, home to iconic Mt. Fuji, a UNESCO World Heritage site. Visit vibrant Asakusa, the center of Tokyo's historic shitamachi district, and tour the seventh-century Senso-ji Temple. Travel aboard the high-speed shinkansen (bullet train) to Kyoto. Spend three nights in the Five-Star ANA InterContinental Hotel Tokyo.

Osaka and Nara
Post-Program Option
In dynamic Osaka, visit the Osaka History Museum to learn more about the city’s merchant past and enjoy sprawling aerial views of the city from the Floating Garden Observatory. Spend a day among UNESCO World Heritage-designated monuments in serene Nara, Japan’s oldest capital, where gentle sika deer roam Nara Park’s rolling landscape. Visit the historically significant “Great Eastern Temple” of Todai-ji, rebuilt in the 12th century, and the Horyu-ji Temple, where a seventh-century, five-storied pagoda—considered one of the world’s oldest wooden structures—stands as a proud testament to Japan's history. Experience the ancient tradition of creating gripped sumi, or calligraphy inksticks, at the Kinko-en Workshop. Accommodations are for two nights in the Five-Star InterContinental Hotel Osaka.

Pre- and Post-Program Options are available at additional cost. Details will be provided with your reservation confirmation.

En route to Kyoto, admire majestic Mt. Fuji (weather permitting), Japan’s highest mountain, from aboard the shinkansen.

The Horyu-ji complex’s Yumedono contains the “hidden Buddha” statue, Guze Kannon.
LAND / CRUISE TARIFF excluding taxes*  
Per person, based on double occupancy  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Early Booking Tariff* through Dec. 11, 2019</th>
<th>Tariff* after Dec. 11, 2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>$6195</td>
<td>$7195</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>$7695</td>
<td>$8695</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>$8595</td>
<td>$9595</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>$8995</td>
<td>$9995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>$9695</td>
<td>$10695</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>$9995</td>
<td>$10995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>$10695</td>
<td>$11695</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Deluxe Suite  
One large window. Deck 3, Andromède, forward. (limited availability)  
$11295  
$12295

Prestige Suite II  
Deck 5, Equinoxe.  
Two rooms, expansive sliding glass door, large private balcony, two bathrooms: tub/shower and private balcony, two large sitting area with sofa, two closets.  
$11995  
$12995

Prestige Suite I  
Deck 5, Equinoxe.  
Two rooms, expansive sliding glass door, large private balcony, two bathrooms: tub/shower and sitting area, two large sitting area with sofa, two closets.  
$12595  
$13595

Owner’s Suite  
Deck 6, Solstice.  
Two rooms, expansive sliding glass doors, large private balcony, one and a half bathrooms, separate tub and shower, sitting room, multiple chairs and four chairs.  
$14995  
$15995

Singles are available in category 6 at $14595* and in category 4 at $16495* on or before December 11, 2019. Add $1000 for reservations made after December 11, 2019.

* Taxes are an additional $455 per person and are subject to change.

† Le Soléal has been specially contracted for this tour, and the applicable deck plan is available on request from Gohagan & Company and reflects the only valid cabin categorization of the vessel.

ANCIENT TRADITIONS of the INLAND SEA of JAPAN reservation form

Send to: Commonwealth Club Travel  
110 The Embarcadero  
San Francisco, CA 94105

Fax to:  
(415) 597-6729  
or call:  
(415) 597-6720

Title  
Full Name (exactly as it appears on your passport)

Street Mailing Address (no P.O. Box number please)

City  
State  
Zip Code

Telephone: (Home)  
(Mobile)

Email Address  
(Business)

Preferred Name(s) on Badge(s)  
Tour No. 140-05/19/20-252

Program reservations require a deposit of $800 per person and $200 per person Iconic Tokyo Pre-Program Option and/or $200 per person Osaka and Nara Post-Program Option. By reserving and depositing on this program, I/we agree to the Release of Liability, Assumption of Risk and Binding Arbitration Agreement as printed on the outside back cover of this brochure.

Enclosed is my/our check(s) for $__________ as deposit.

Make checks payable to Gohagan & Company.

I/We authorize you to charge my/our deposit of $__________ to:  
Visa  MasterCard

Card Number  
Exp. Date

Signature as it appears on credit card

All FINAL PAYMENTS are required to be made by check or wire transfer by February 13, 2020.

We require membership to the Commonwealth Club to travel with us. Please check one:  
a I am a current member of the Commonwealth Club.  
b Please sign me up/renew my membership with the credit card information provided here.  
c I will visit commonwealthclub.org/membership to sign up for a membership.

Page dimensions: 396.0x756.0  
[Image -1x-1 to 397x757]
Recognize maiko, apprentice geiko, by their kanzashi (ornamental hairpins) and colorful kimonos.

**RELEASE OF LIABILITY, ASSUMPTION OF RISK AND BINDING ARBITRATION AGREEMENT**

**RESPONSIBILITY:** The Commonwealth Club and Gohagan & Company and its affiliated employees, shareholders, subsidiaries, affiliates, officers, directors or trustees, successors, and assigns (collectively “Gohagan”), do not own or operate any entity which is to or does provide goods or services for your trip, including, for example, lodging facilities, airline, vessel, or other transportation companies, guides or guide services, local ground operators, providers or organizers of optional excursions, food service or entertainment providers, etc. All such persons and entities are independent contractors. As a result, Gohagan is not liable for any negligence in whole or in part of any such person or entity or of any other third party.

In addition and without limitation, Gohagan is not responsible for any injury, death, inconvenience, delay, or damage or property or persons in connection with the provision of any goods or services whether resulting from, but not limited to, acts of God or force majeure, acts of government, acts of war or civil unrest, suspension or revocation, bites from or attacks by animals, insects or pests, strikes or other labor activities, criminal or terrorist activities of any kind or the threat thereof, sickness, illness, epidemics or the threat thereof, the lack of availability of or access to medical treatment or the quality thereof, overbooking or downgrading of accommodations, Gohagan is not responsible for failure thereof and is not required for or failure of any transportation mechanism to arrive or depart timely or safely.

Due to weather conditions or other uncontrollable factors, you are required to spend an additional night(s), you will be responsible for your own hotel, transfers and meal costs. Baggage is entirely at owner’s risk. The right is reserved to decline to accept a particular applicant in case of illness or injury, or remove from a trip, without refund, any person Gohagan judges to be incapable of meeting the physical or other requirements of participating in the activities, or who is adverse to other trip participants, leaders or third parties, or who Gohagan determines to detract from the enjoyment of the trip by others. Specific room or cabin assignments are within the sole discretion of the hotel or cruise line.

Gohagan reserves the right to change the itinerary or trip features at any time for any reason, with or without notice, and Gohagan shall not be liable for any loss of any kind as a result of any such changes. Ship schedules, port calls, hours of arrival and departure, sightseeing events, special programs and guest lecture series, are subject to change without notice. Any such increases. On programs which include Gohagan purchased interstate transportation, or for any failure of any transportation mechanism to arrive or depart timely or safely.

Travelers requiring assistance must travel with a traveling companion and climb stairs and step over raised thresholds when you make your reservation. Travelers must be able to embark or disembark, or other events of force majeure, mechanical or other conditions beyond the control of Gohagan, is responsible for any such increases. Gohagan has not made any binding commitment and is not required to compensate passengers under these circumstances. Gohagan may cancel a trip (or an option) for any reason whatsoever; if so, its sole responsibility is to refund any pre-paid non-refundable deposit at such time of booking through 120 days prior to departure; from 119 through 94 days prior to departure, $800 ($200 Pre/Post Program(s)) per person; from 94 through 60 days prior to departure, 70% of the published full regular tariff; cancellations 59 days or less prior to departure, "no-show," or early return from the trip will result in forfeiture of 100% of the published full regular tariffs. In addition, any applicable airline cancellation fees, optional excursion cancellation fees and administrative fees may apply.

**TRIP INSURANCE:** We strongly recommend that you purchase trip cancellation insurance. In the event that you must cancel your participation in a travel program, trip cancellation insurance may be the only source of reimbursement. Information about trip insurance will be sent with your confirmation.

**CANCELLATIONS:** Cancellations for all or any part of the trip including Pre/Post Program(s) reservation(s) will not be effective unless received in writing in one of the offices of The Commonwealth Club. Should you have to cancel, the following terms will apply: reservation cancellations are subject to a $220 ($50 Pre/Post Program(s)) per person administrative fee from the time of booking through 120 days prior to departure; from 119 through 94 days prior to departure, $800 ($200 Pre/Post Program(s)) per person, from 94 through 60 days prior to departure, ($200), from 60 through 30 days prior to departure, 75% of the published full regular tariff; cancellations 29 days or less prior to departure, “no-show,” or early return from the trip will result in forfeiture of 100% of the published full regular tariffs. In addition, any applicable airline cancellation fees, optional excursion cancellation fees and administrative fees may apply.

**PHYSICAL ACCESSIBILITY:** All programs require physical independence and mobility. Any physical or mental condition relating to the interpretation, applicability, enforceability, conscionability, or formation of this contract, including but not limited to any claim that all or any part of this contract is void or voidable. Please understand that by agreeing to these terms and conditions, the participant and Gohagan are waiving the right to a trial by jury.

**ACCEPTANCE OF CONTRACT:** By forwarding of deposit, the participant certifies that he/she does not have any mental, physical or other condition of disability that would create a hazard for him/herself or other participants and accepts the terms contained in this Release of Liability, Assumption of Risk and Binding Arbitration Agreement.

**PHOTO CREDITS:** Alamy, eStock Photo, Deposit Photos, Japan National Tourism Office, Shutterstock; all images are rights managed and cannot be used without permission.