

Abercrombie & Kent



## WONDERS OF JAPAN CRUISE (2024)

Explore Japan's coastal cities, mesmerizing gardens and spectacular UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

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Cruises, A&K Luxury Expedition Cruises



Asia, Japan, South Korea



14 days from AU\$33,070 pp



199 Guests

## Journey Overview

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 pre-cruise 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.

### Journey Highlights

- 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
- Visit Gyeongju, South Korea, ancient dynastic capital and UNESCO World Heritage Site
- 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
- On our March departure, experience the magical atmosphere of cherry blossom season

### Take 10 with an A&K Expert to Hear More About This Journey



# Itinerary

## **Day 1: Arrive Osaka, Japan**

Upon arrival, transfer to The Ritz-Carlton Osaka.

### ***The Ritz-Carlton Osaka***

## **Day 2: Osaka | Cultural Wonders**

Begin your adventure in Kyoto, the cultural capital of Japan. The day's excursions may include a visit to the 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. This evening, gather for a welcome dinner, complete with a Kabuki performance.

### ***The Ritz-Carlton Osaka | Meals: BLD***

## **Day 3: Osaka | The Adventure Begins**

Enjoy the morning at leisure in your hotel, or perhaps join a panoramic tour of Osaka's Dotonbori district and Osaka Castle. Later, you might choose to stroll the wandering paths of Taiko-en Garden, admiring its ponds and stone bridges. This afternoon, transfer to your luxurious expedition cruiser.

### ***'Le Soleal' | Meals: BLD***

## **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 the Chichu Art Museum and Benesse House.

### ***'Le Soleal' | Meals: BLD***

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### **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, you might spend an immersive day in Hiroshima and meet a survivor of the World War II atom bomb attack, or head to Miyajima to hike scenic Mount Misen.

***'Le Soleal' | Meals: BLD***

### **Day 6: Uwajima | Seaside Splendour**

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 Yoshida's old town.

***'Le Soleal' | Meals: BLD***

### **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 and the Mifuneyama Rakuen garden.

***'Le Soleal' | Meals: BLD***

### **Day 8: Busan & Gyeongju, South Korea | Traditions Revealed**

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 colourful houses of Gamcheon Culture Village. Return to the ship for a traditional music performance at the pier.

***'Le Soleal' | Meals: BLD***

### **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 savour a traditional lunch at a ryokan (inn) and visit Yakumo-mura village to learn about the art of Japanese papermaking.

***'Le Soleal' | Meals: BLD***

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**Day 10: Kanazawa | Immersion into the Arts**

Visit the thriving art centre 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 of the Shogawa River valley. This evening, enjoy an exclusive geisha performance.

***'Le Soleal' | Meals: BLD***

**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 Soleal' | Meals: BLD***

**Day 12: Sea of Japan | Hokkaido Island Cruising**

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

***'Le Soleal' | Meals: BLD***

**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, visit a sake distillery, and learn about Japanese whisky at Nikka Whisky Yoichi Distillery. Alternately, you might spend the day discovering nearby Sapporo's parks, landmarks, market and Hokkaido Museum.

***'Le Soleal' | Meals: BLD***

**Day 14: Depart Sapporo**

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

***Meals: B***

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**Journey Details:**

**September departure operates in reverse.**

This journey contains some active elements, including walks over uneven terrain and optional, challenging hikes.

***Note: Itinerary is for guidance purposes only and may be adjusted due to unforeseen circumstances including weather, medical emergencies and other conditions beyond A&K's control at the sole discretion of the Captain.***

***While the itinerary is scheduled over estimated cherry blossom dates, this natural phenomenon is subject to climate and weather, and cannot be guaranteed. Excursions may be altered to offer optimum opportunities to view the cherry blossoms if available.***

Minimum age is 7 years.

Categories 5–8 include room upgrade at the hotel and butler service aboard the ship.

### **March Departure**

First group event: excursion on Mar 27.

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

### **September Departure** (Operates in reverse)

First group event: embarkation in Otaru on Sep 20.

Last group event: excursion on Oct 2.

### 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 1.3 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



# Map



## Extensions



**Kyoto Pre -Tour Extension  
(2024)**

**[See Details](#)**



**Tokyo Post-Tour Extension  
(2024)**

**[See Details](#)**



# Accommodation

## Le Soleal



Melding state-of-the-art nautical technology; fluid lines; and a modern, natural wood-accented interior, exclusively chartered 'Le Soleal' features everything you've come to expect from A&K. Look forward to our hallmark blend of luxury and style, the finest Expedition Team the world over, and all-balcony staterooms and suites, exclusively on A&K charters.

With a guest capacity limited to just 199, the vessel's sumptuous private spaces give way to an outdoor heated pool, panoramic observation areas, and a theatre that hosts immersive lectures and entertainment. Guests enjoy access to a spacious marina equipped with Zodiacs, a salon and hammam-outfitted spa, and a sea-facing fitness centre. 'Le Soleal' also boasts three lounges, one with abundant vistas and another emanating with live jazz.

Two restaurants serve fine French and International cuisines. Meanwhile, enjoy complimentary connectivity throughout your cruise and our exclusive Traveller's Valet laundry service.

### Le Soleal Details

- Overall length: 140 metres
- Beam: 18 metres
- Draft: 4.6 metres

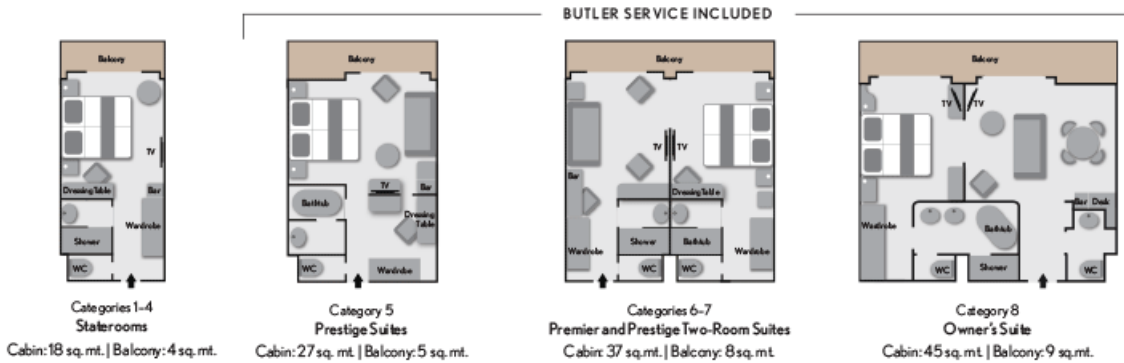
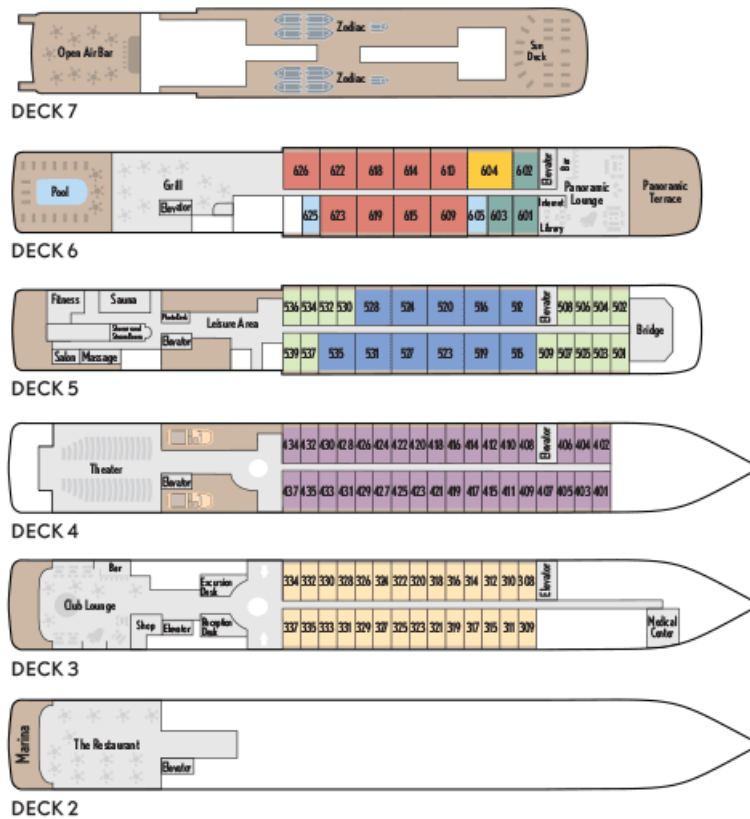
- Average speed: 16 knots
- Passenger decks: 6
- Passenger capacity: 264, but limited to 199 exclusively on A&K charters
- Crew and A&K staff: 122 (personnel-to-guest ratio of 1 to 1.2)
- Gross tonnage: 10,700 GRT
- Electric Motors: 2 x 2.3 MW Standards: USPHS – U.S. Coast Guard’s Rules Comfort Class 1 – “Clean” Ship Certification (meets or exceeds all IMO, EPA, IAATO and AECO operating standards)
- Technology: Advanced dynamic positioning system and highly efficient stabilisers
- Flag: French
- Language: English on all A&K charters

### **Le Soleal amenities**

- Private balcony with every guest stateroom and suite (an exclusive on A&K Charters only)
- Complimentary butler service with every suite (an exclusive on A&K charters only including welcome Champagne, nightly canapes, packing/unpacking on request and more)
- Stateroom and suite amenities include a hair dryer, large wardrobe and ample storage, safe, alarm clock, and luxury bath products
- Stateroom and suite electricity: 220v outlets — Europe 2-prong style (plus two 110/220 U.S. outlets)
- Sun Deck and multiple outer deck observation areas
- Outside heated pool
- Library with selection of books and games
- Two restaurants: Main and indoor/outdoor Grill
- Open bar with beer, wine, liquor, cocktails, soft drinks, coffee, tea, and mineral water (excludes premium wines and spirits)
- Two lounges with bars: Club with live music and Panoramic with Terrace
- Complimentary 24-hour room service
- Complimentary in-cabin breakfast (on request)
- Three passenger elevators
- Fitness Centre with Kinesis® wall
- Full-service spa with salon, sauna and steam room
- Theatre with comfortable seating for all guests
- Boutique shop
- 24-hour medical facilities with certified doctor
- A&K’s complimentary Traveller’s Valet laundry service up to eight items (additional laundry available)
- Complimentary wireless Internet on A&K charters only (due to remote destinations, access and speed vary)

# 'Le Soleal'

- Category 1  
Classic Stateroom
  - Category 2  
Deluxe Stateroom
  - Category 3  
Premier Stateroom
  - Category 4  
Superior Stateroom
  - Category 5\*  
Prestige Suite
  - Category 6\*  
Premier Two-Room Suite
  - Category 7\*  
Prestige Two-Room Suite
  - Category 8\*  
Owner's Suite
- \*Butler Service Included



## Dates & Pricing

Prices are in AUD, per person, based on double occupancy

### Sep 20, 2024 - Oct 3, 2024

Cabin Class	Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
Le Soleal: Category 1 - Classic Balcony Stateroom	<b>AU\$36,145 NOW ONLY</b> <b>AU\$33,070 pp</b>	AU\$27,115	AU\$0	Call for Availability
Cabin Class	Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
Le Soleal: Category 2 - Deluxe Balcony Stateroom	<b>AU\$39,990 NOW ONLY</b> <b>AU\$36,915 pp</b>	AU\$29,990	AU\$0	Call for Availability
Cabin Class	Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
Le Soleal: Category 3 - Premier Balcony Stateroom	<b>AU\$41,530 NOW ONLY</b> <b>AU\$38,455 pp</b>	AU\$31,145	AU\$0	Call for Availability
Cabin Class	Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
Le Soleal: Category 4 - Superior Balcony Stateroom	<b>AU\$50,760 NOW ONLY</b> <b>AU\$47,685 pp</b>	AU\$38,070	AU\$0	Call for Availability
Cabin Class	Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
Le Soleal: Category 5 - Prestige Balcony Suite	<b>AU\$59,990 NOW ONLY</b> <b>AU\$56,915 pp</b>	AU\$54,070	AU\$0	Call for Availability
Cabin Class	Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
Le Soleal: Category 6 - Premier Two-Room Balcony Suite	<b>AU\$74,610 NOW ONLY</b> <b>AU\$71,535 pp</b>	AU\$67,690	AU\$0	Call for Availability
Cabin Class	Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
Le Soleal: Category 7 - Prestige Two-Room Balcony Suite	<b>AU\$79,225 NOW ONLY</b> <b>AU\$76,150 pp</b>	AU\$72,345	AU\$0	Call for Availability
Cabin Class	Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
Le Soleal: Category 8 - Owners Suite	<b>AU\$89,990 NOW ONLY</b> <b>AU\$86,915 pp</b>	AU\$82,575	AU\$0	Call for Availability

# Abercrombie & Kent

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