



Holland America Line®
SAVOR THE JOURNEY

ms Westerdam

April 14, 2019



Welcome to Exploration Central™

Why book your EXC Tours™ with
Holland America Line?

Quality & Service

- Our tours offer a wide range of activities with something for everyone
- Professional, local guides and independent tour operators offer exceptional guidance
- Expert advice from our EXC Tours staff on board

Uncompromised Value

- Award-winning tours consistently rated “excellent” by our guests
- Superior quality and competitive pricing
- Priceless experiences

Convenience & Peace of Mind

- Maximize your time ashore—go straight to the highlights you want to see without waiting, getting lost, negotiating fares or hassling with currency exchange
- Book online ahead of time or on board the ship
- Tour departure times coincide with the ship’s schedule as well as other tours, enabling you to take multiple tours if desired
- Worry-free return to the ship. In the very rare event that your tour is late and the ship must leave, we will arrange at our expense to get you to the next port of call. With independently booked tours, you are responsible for rejoining the ship at the next port of call



Which EXC Tours Are Right for You?

Choose the tours that interest you by using the icons as a general guide to the level of activity involved, and select the tours best suited to your physical capabilities. These icons will help you to interpret this brochure.



Easy Activity: Very light activity including short distances to walk; may include some steps.



Moderate Activity: Requires intermittent effort throughout, including walking medium distances over uneven surfaces and/or steps.



Strenuous Activity: Requires active participation, walking long distances over uneven and steep terrain or on steps. In certain instances, paddling or other non-walking activity is required and guests must be able to participate without discomfort or difficulty breathing.



Panoramic Tours: Specially designed for guests who enjoy a slower pace, these tours offer sightseeing mainly from the transportation vehicle, with few or no stops, and no mandatory disembarkation from the vehicle during the tour. As vehicles outside the United States are rarely lift-equipped and ramps are seldom available, a very small amount of walking will be necessary. The pace is gentle and taking your time is encouraged.



Limited Capacity: The number of people able to participate in this tour is strictly limited. Reasons for limiting capacity may include the number of transportation seats available, or the need to maintain a safe ratio of guides for hikes, fishing and water activities. Tours require a minimum number of participants in order to operate.



Meal: This tour includes a meal—lunch on daytime tours, or dinner on evening tours.



Snack: This tour includes a small snack or tasting of local specialties. The snack is not a meal.



Guests Using a Wheelchair or Other Mobility Aid Device

I have a disability. How do I know which tours will best suit me?

The tours are graded according to the relative level of activity they entail. The activity icons that appear at the beginning of each tour description provide a general idea of the level of activity to expect. Please see page 2 for specific information or speak to an EXC Tours specialist (1.888.425.9376). It is important to keep in mind that tour operators are subject to the laws of their own country with respect to accommodating the needs of guests with disabilities. In most foreign countries, the laws are not as stringent as those in the United States.

Will I encounter difficulties (dis)embarking the ship when it's in port?

Please see the on-board EXC Desk to help determine whether you can expect to encounter difficulties (dis)embarking the ship in a particular port of call. The decision whether or not to carry or provide other mobility assistance to a guest and their device (wheelchair, walker, etc.) up or down a ship's gangway, or on or off a tender boat, is at the sole discretion of the Captain, made based on his evaluation of guest and crew safety. We encourage you to bring a collapsible wheelchair as space limitations may restrict the ability of some tour operators to accommodate motorized mobility aid devices.

Frequently Asked Questions

What should I wear?

Comfortable walking shoes are recommended for all EXC Tours™. When you visit places of worship, we recommend dressing conservatively (no shorts or sleeveless tops), but casual clothing is perfectly acceptable. Dress in layers and have a jacket along. Bring an umbrella or raincoat, a hat and sunscreen.

What about meals?

Most tour departures complement the ship's meal service hours. In-room dining is available on board.

How will I know what time each tour departs?

The onboard EXC Tours Order Form in your stateroom will show departure times. This information will also be printed on your EXC Tours tickets, which you will receive on board. Approximate tour departure times are posted on our website at hollandamerica.com.

I am traveling with friends. Can we be accommodated on the same motorcoach?

The departure location for each tour is printed on

your EXC Tours tickets. If you wish to travel with friends, please arrive at the designated meeting place together. This will enable the staff to allocate space for you on the same vehicle.

Tour durations

The individual tour descriptions include approximate durations. To allow our EXC Tours managers flexibility to coordinate your time in port with meals and activities on the ship, exact departure times are published in the EXC Tours Order Form on board. For more information, please attend the EXC Tours Presentation or visit the EXC Desk.

Tour descriptions

Tour descriptions may change after printing. Information that becomes available after this brochure is published will be posted in the EXC Tours section of our website, which can be found online at hollandamerica.com. Significant changes will be noted on the EXC Tours Order Form on board. Tour schedules are subject to change.



Medallion Collection

Exclusive experiences designed to accommodate our most discerning guests, our Medallion Collection tours are each carefully chosen to provide an in-depth perspective. They offer unparalleled access to events and sights not normally readily available. First-class style and smaller groups for a privileged few.



Encore Collection

Been there, done that? Think again. The Encore Collection lets you discover what lies beyond the well-known attractions you've already seen. Barbecue with Argentine gauchos, bike the tree-lined boulevards of Barcelona, ride an Icelandic pony across a windswept beach. These tours showcase hidden gems, unusual angles and inside stories that will bring you back time and again.



World Wonders Collection

Natural treasures, architectural marvels, technical wonders: to the Seven Wonders of the World we add our own nominations based on decades of leadership in global travel—the sandstone city of Petra, the *moai* statues of Easter Island, and the Great Wall of China, among others. What they have in common is the ability to inspire awe.



Cruise with Purpose

For every global citizen who has ever dreamed of either giving back or paying it forward, the innovative Cruise with Purpose Collection is quite simply about improving our planet one voyage at a time. Assist in scientific research, bring much-needed supplies to an orphanage, participate in a fair trade scheme or cultural exchange, replant native forest or restore fragile habitat—your footprint will be light and your soul enriched.

The Collections of Holland America Line

What fascinates you? A cooking class with a local chef? A private car, complete with driver and guide, so you can explore near or far? A chance to encounter wildlife or view natural wonders up close? The Collections of Holland America Line represent a small subset of the tours you will find in this brochure. Each collection offers its own particular focus and is available only in select ports.



Signature Collection

This exclusive touring option for independent-minded travelers lets you completely customize and maximize your time ashore by reserving private transportation (along with an English-speaking driver and guide) in advance. Whether you travel by car or minivan, customized boat, classic floatplane or stretch SUV limousine, you choose the companions, sights and pace that perfectly suit you.

Booking on Board

The Signature Collection may be available for booking once you are on the ship, but this cannot be guaranteed. Please check with the EXC Desk on board.

To Whom is the Signature Collection Suited?

The Signature Collection is for solo travelers, couples, families, friends and special interest groups traveling together. This may also be an excellent choice for non-ambulatory guests. Value and flexibility are just two of

the advantages of first-class touring and luxury transportation. Privacy, comfort, safety, and personalized guide service are also yours to enjoy.

About the Transportation

Each type of transportation will be of the highest grade available in that port. Not all modes of transportation are available in all locations. For information about the transportation sizes and availability, please see our website at hollandamerica.com.

Also Included

The cost includes the service of a driver and English-speaking guide, unlimited mileage, road tolls, parking fees and bottled water, unless otherwise noted.

Not Included (Unless Otherwise Noted)

Guests' entrance fees for attractions are not included in the price due to the wide range of attraction possibilities, uncertain number of attractions to be visited, and varying number of guests participating. We strongly recommend



that you bring some local currency to cover such costs as credit cards are not readily accepted in all ports. Lunch will not be included on any tour, as many guests prefer to select their own dining venue.

Itinerary Planning

If you need help planning your personal itinerary, the EXC Guide™ and/or EXC Tours™ staff can assist you and will gladly answer your questions. This can be very helpful in many destinations where travel time, location, holidays, and opening hours of attractions need to be taken into consideration to maximize the efficiency of your time ashore.

Pricing

The cost of each type of transportation will be published online at hollandamerica.com.

Online Reservations

The fastest and easiest way for you to reserve and pay for your Signature Collection experience is online at hollandamerica.com. Please note the cost will be per mode of transportation (not per person), so only one person in the party needs to make the reservation. The price shown on the website is the total cost for the transportation, driver and guide (not a per-person price). In many ports, availability is extremely limited. We encourage you to reserve as early as possible.

Payment & Tour Vouchers

Your credit card will be charged after your reservation is confirmed. Next, start planning what you'll do with your Signature Collection experience in each port. On board the ship, you will be given a tour voucher and a form to advise the EXC Desk of the itinerary you have chosen.

Disembarking the Ship

In some disembarkation ports, a private vehicle, driver and guide can be used for sightseeing en route to the airport. When booking, please advise the amount of luggage for your party. Vehicle size and luggage space may limit the number of guests in the vehicle.



Expand the Experience

Make the most of your time in each port by combining different half-day tours to complete a full day of sightseeing. You might want to consider a morning cooking class and an afternoon walking tour; a morning stroll through a mosaic-lined church and an afternoon of sampling local wine at a vineyard; or even a bike ride and an evening cultural performance—all in one day! Whatever your interests, and whichever pace suits you best, there's a huge variety of tours to mix and match in this brochure. Please consult with an EXC Tours specialist at 1.888.425.9376.

EXC Tours™ Booking & Confirmation

Now you can choose your tour times, book your tours, and receive confirmation of your tour reservations 24 hours a day. Visit us online at hollandamerica.com.

Book online now, up until three days before sailing. Make your payment online via our secure website, and receive confirmation as well as your approximate tour departure times. You can also download the EXC Tours, view tour prices, find answers to frequently asked questions and read general information. And remember, online tour reservations are processed prior to any requests made on board the ship and receive priority handling. Please see the Reservations & Online Reservations paragraph in the General Information section for terms and conditions.



Shimizu, Japan - Monday, April 15, 2019:

Fujisan Hongu Sengentaisha Shrine & View of Mt Fuji



Departs: 8:45 AM (Waitlisted)
4½ Hours
Adult \$134.95; Child \$64.95

In 2013, Mt Fuji was designated a "sacred place and source of artistic inspiration" and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. It is the tallest mountain in Japan at 12,388 feet, and dominates the landscape of Fuji-Hakone-Izu National Park.

A one-hour coach ride brings you to **Fujisan Hongu Sengen Taisha Shrine**, located in the southwestern foothills of Mt Fuji. Constructed in the early 1600s, the shrine, the inner and outer shrines, and the tower gate remain. In springtime, the grounds are awash with color from the blossoms of 500 cherry trees.

Continue to **Miho-no-Matsubara** -- a picturesque pine grove along the eastern coast of the Miho Peninsula, designated a spot of scenic beauty. From here, the majestic views of Mt Fuji (weather permitting) are postcard-perfect.

Notes:

Wear comfortable walking shoes. Views of Mt Fuji are weather dependent. Bring local currency, as many vendors do not accept credit cards or US dollars.

Nihondaira Outlook & Kunozan Toshogu Shrine



Departs: 10:00 AM
3½ Hours
Adult \$124.95; Child \$64.95

Begin this spiritual day with a coach ride to **Nihondaira Park Outlook** -- a Prefecture Natural Park and the perfect spot to take in views of Suruga Bay and magnificent Mt Fuji (weather permitting). Board the scenic ropeway (**cable car**) for a stunning ride to the top of the mountain.

Visit the **Toshogu Shrine**, dedicated to Shogun Tokugawa Ieyasu (1543-1616). This man was a very famous leader who brought peace to Japan after a long period of civil war. His extensive shrine complex features bright red buildings ornately decorated and constructed in the Shinto shrine style. A designated **Cultural Landmark**, its grounds include a massive front gate, a drum tower, copper lanterns and a main building with three magnificently decorated halls. Within a secluded, wooded area, you'll find the tomb of Ieyasu.

The ropeway returns you to the coach for the drive back to port.

Notes:

Wear comfortable walking shoes. Bring local currency, as many vendors do not accept credit cards or US dollars. Participants must negotiate 120 steep steps at the shrine. The small museum near the tomb of Ieyasu is not included in the tour. Views of Mt Fuji are

weather permitting.

Sunpu Castle Park & Views of Mt Fuji



Departs: 9:00 AM
Approximately 4¼ Hours
Adult \$119.95; Child \$59.95

Step back in time to explore the key historical sites of **Shizuoka**.

Begin at **Sunpu Castle Park**, built by Shogun Tokugawa Ieyasu in 1585. View the ruins of this Edo-period castle, its stone walls and moats, and the East Gate and guard tower that were reconstructed using original construction plans. See the bronze statue of Ieyasu and an orange tree believed to have been planted by him.

Next, head to the **Momiji-yama Japanese Garden**, located adjacent to the Castle Park. The park has four landscaped gardens and a traditional teahouse.

Continue to **Shizuoka Sengen Shrine** -- a complex of three main architectural buildings. The shrine features an extensive collection of artifacts from the Tokugawa Shogunate that ruled Japan for 300 years during the Edo Period.

Complete your day at **Miho-no-Matsubara**. This picturesque pine grove along the eastern coast of the Miho Peninsula is a designated spot of scenic beauty because of its majestic views of Mt Fuji (weather permitting).

Notes:

You will not enter the museum at Shizuoka Shrine. Wear comfortable walking shoes. Participants must negotiate sand and uneven ground at Miho-no-Matsubara. Views of Mt Fuji are weather permitting. Sumpu Castle Park is closed on Mondays. Bring local currency, as many vendors do not accept credit cards or US dollars.

Tokaido Hiroshige Art Museum & Miho-no-Matsubara



Departs: 9:00 AM
4 Hours
Adult \$119.95; Child \$59.95

Blending art and tradition, this lovely cultural day out begins with an interesting coach drive.

The **Tokaido Hiroshige Art Museum** is a showplace of ukiyo-e art, or wood-block prints. View more than 1,300 ukiyo-e exhibits, many by Hiroshige Utagawa (1797-1858) -- one of the best-known Edo Period ukiyo-e artists and famous for his captivating landscapes. Learn the process involved in making the prints and the natural materials that produce such dramatic colors.

Continue to a traditional **tea ceremony**. The scent of the tea soothes your soul as you sit down to participate in a choreographed ritual handed down through the generations. You will be served a Japanese green tea, called *matcha*, accompanied by a sweet.

Next up is **Miho-no-Matsubara** -- a picturesque pine grove distinguished for its

scenic beauty. Admire the pine-forested coastline along Suruga Bay and take in some grand views of Mt Fuji from here (weather permitting).

Notes:

Views of Mt Fuji are weather dependent. Wear comfortable walking shoes. Bring local currency, as many vendors do not accept credit cards or US dollars. Tour does not operate on Mondays. The ropeway operates weather permitting.

Osaka, Japan - Tuesday, April 16, 2019: Succulent Kobe beef, sukiyaki and sushi all tantalize in this boisterous, earthy city. Nearby: Kyoto, Japan's spiritual center, and ancient Nara with its marvelous temples.

Fushimi, Uji & Nara



Departs: 8:45 AM
Approximately 9 - 9 1/2 hours
Adult \$229.95; Child \$129.95



Leave Osaka port for a full day of sightseeing in Southern Kyoto and Nara. En route, you will visit the town of Fushimi, home to 37 sake breweries. This town is one of Japan's most famous sake-producing regions, as high-quality rice is readily available from the fields of neighboring Shigaken and the final product is easily loaded onto boats for export downriver to Osaka. You will stop at the largest of Fushimi's sake breweries, Gekkeikan Okura Memorial House (or alternative Sake Brewery Museum), with 350 years of tradition. On display are various items related to the process of making Japanese sake. In the southern part of Kyoto you will visit a small city that is historically rich in Heian-Period culture and is home to the Byodo-in Temple--a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The temple was once the villa of Minister Fujiwara Michinaga, the model for the hero in the Japanese classic, The Tale of Genji, and was turned into a temple by his son in 1052. The main hall, called the Phoenix Hall, stands in the beautiful garden and was built in 1053 (you will not go inside the hall). It is one of the most famous historical buildings in Japan and its image graces the back of ten yen coin. The temple's wonderful museum houses the elegant temple bell and other treasures. Watch for the Uji-bashi bridge--the oldest of its kind in Japan--which has been

thescene of many bitter clashes over the centuries. Next, transfer to Nara, Japan's first real capital. Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant before visiting the Kasuga Taisha Shrine, founded in 710 in its forest location. This shrine conveys an atmosphere of peace and sanctity perhaps unmatched by any other shrine. The buildings, painted vermilion, showcase the Kasuga style of architecture. Some 3,000 lanterns line the road east from the second torii gate. Beyond the Heiden, a floorless structure built in 1650, the Main Hall is surrounded by an impressive gallery. You will see the Todaiji Temple and the Hall of the Great Buddha, dating from 1709. This is the world's largest wooden structure. The Great Buddha, a National Treasure, was cast in bronze in eight sections over three years, completed in 749. It is one of the largest bronze statues in the world. You will return to Osaka in the late afternoon.

Kyoto, the Ancient Capital



Departs: 9:00 AM
Approximately 9 Hours
Adult \$219.95; Child \$169.95

A city of profound history and rich tradition, **Kyoto** represents the very soul of Japan. This must-see tour begins with a ride from Osaka to the ancient capital of Kyoto, then sets out to discover some of Japan's best-known sights.

An impressive starting point is the **Kinkaku-ji Temple**, originally built in 1397 as a

retirement dwelling for Shogun Yoshimitsu, then reconstructed in 1955, faithful to the 14th-century design. Elaborate gold foil lends the structure an almost gaudy appearance, as well as honoring its name -- Golden Pavilion.

Next is the ostentatious, 1603 **Nijo Castle**, complete with 'nightingale' floors which were designed to squeak to warn the inhabitants of intruders. Kyoto's 1,100th birthday was celebrated with the construction of the Heian Shinto Shrine. Surrounded by gardens, this two-thirds scale model of the Heian Imperial Palace features a Chinese-style bridge.

Finish up your visit to Kyoto with a stop at the **Handicraft Center** for some souvenir **shopping** . **Lunch** will be served en route.

Notes:

Wear comfortable walking shoes. Some of buildings in the temples or shrines area may be closed for repair/renovation without prior notice.

Nara & the Horyuji Temple



Departs: 8:45 AM
Approximately 7 1/2 Hours
Adult \$199.95; Child \$139.95

The world's largest statue of Buddha is the first of many interesting sights that await you in the city of **Nara** -- a center of arts, literature and religion.

Nara is home to a number of very impressive buildings and landmarks, as you will discover on today's motor coach tour. The **Todaiji** (Great Buddha) is cast in bronze and set in an enormous wooden building. See this star attraction for yourself to fully appreciate it.

Then, continue to the **Kasuga Shrine** before enjoying a stop for **lunch** at a local restaurant. Re-boarding the coach, you'll continue to the **Horyuji Temple** -- this is the oldest temple in Japan and contains some of the nation's rarest treasures. Additionally, it is reputed to be among the oldest wooden buildings in the world. Its inside walls are covered in clay images which depict the life of Buddha.

Notes:

Wear comfortable walking shoes. Some of buildings in the temples or shrines area may be closed for repair/renovation without prior notice.

Osaka Castle & Shitennoji Temple



Departs: 9:00 AM
Approximately 4 hours
Adult \$89.95; Child \$69.95

Join this tour for an orientation tour of **Osaka**, with a visit to its special attractions.

You will pass through Osaka's downtown area on the way to the **Osaka Castle**. Built in 1583 and destroyed just 32 years later, the castle has undergone many reconstructions -- the most recent in 1931.

Next, you will visit **Shitennoji Temple**, built in AD 593 and believed to be the oldest Buddhist temple in Japan. Although it has been rebuilt many times in its long history, excavations have shown the current layout to be very true to its original design. The temple's great southern gate, central gate, pagoda, main hall and lecture hall are constructed in a straight line -- a design layout called Shitennoji cathedral style. The temple houses six National Treasures and many other items of cultural importance.

Notes:

Part of Shitenno-ji Temple is currently undergoing restoration work. A visit to the top of the Osaka Castle requires a climb of 230 steps. Participants must walk approximately 15-20 minutes from the coach parking area to the castle. Photography and videography are not allowed inside Osaka Castle on the third and fourth floors. An elevator is available at the castle; however, the elevator does not provide access to the

observatory on the upper level (8th floor). There is only one elevator available; expect congestion. Tour requires climbing steep stairs and crossing uneven ground. Not advisable for guests with mobility limitations. Wear comfortable walking shoes. Some of buildings in the temples or shrines area may be closed for repair/renovation without prior notice.

Osaka Private Touring - Full Day (Car)



Departs: 9:00 AM
Approximately 8 hours - Price is per vehicle, not per person.
See additional NOTES below.
Price \$1,499.95



Explore at your own pace with a private vehicle, driver and English-speaking guide at your service. This exclusive tour is designed to allow you the chance to customize your time ashore and discover the most interesting sights in the comfort and privacy of your own vehicle. With your private vehicle, and the personalized attention of your driver and English-speaking guide, you will have the flexibility and independence to design your itinerary ashore according to your own interests, and take in the sights at your own pace. See the famous sights, or go beyond to create your own intimate connections and unique cultural encounters. The Signature Collection is recommended for the single/solo traveler, couples, family, friends, and special interest groups traveling together. It can also be an excellent choice for guests with mobility limitations.

Capacity: 2 guests. Your private party may be

of any size up to the maximum capacity.

Notes:

Private cars are ordered per vehicle (not per person), so only one person in the party needs to order the vehicle. The price shown is the total cost for the vehicle, driver, and English-speaking guide. Entrance fees for attractions are not included. In many destinations, the number of vehicles available is extremely limited, so guests are encouraged to secure their private vehicle reservation as early as possible.

Osaka Private Touring - Full Day (Minivan)



Departs: 9:00 AM
Approximately 8 hours - Price is per vehicle, not per person.
See additional NOTES below.
Price \$2,199.95



Explore at your own pace with a private vehicle, driver and English-speaking guide at your service. This exclusive tour is designed to allow you the chance to customize your time ashore and discover the most interesting sights in the comfort and privacy of your own vehicle. With your private vehicle, and the personalized attention of your driver and English-speaking guide, you will have the flexibility and independence to design your itinerary ashore according to your own interests, and take in the sights at your own pace. See the famous sights, or go beyond to create your own intimate connections and unique cultural encounters. The Signature Collection is recommended for the single/solo traveler, couples, family, friends, and special

interest groups traveling together. It can also be an excellent choice for guests with mobility limitations.

Capacity: 7 guests. Your private party may be of any size up to the maximum capacity.

Notes:

Private minivans are ordered per vehicle (not per person), so only one person in the party needs to order the vehicle. The price shown is the total cost for the vehicle, driver, and English-speaking guide. Entrance fees for attractions are not included. In many destinations, the number of vehicles available is extremely limited, so guests are encouraged to secure their private vehicle reservation as early as possible.

Osaka Private Touring - Half Day (Car)



Departs: 9:00 AM (Waitlisted)
Approximately 4 Hours
Price \$1,099.95

Explore at your own pace with a private vehicle, driver and English-speaking guide at your service. This exclusive tour is designed to allow you the chance to customize your time ashore and discover the most interesting sights in the comfort and privacy of your own vehicle. With your private vehicle, and the personalized attention of your driver and English-speaking guide, you will have the flexibility and independence to design your itinerary ashore according to your own interests, and take in the sights at your own pace. See the famous sights, or go beyond to create your own intimate connections and

unique cultural encounters. The Signature Collection is recommended for the single/solo traveler, couples, family, friends, and special interest groups traveling together. It can also be an excellent choice for guests with mobility limitations.

Capacity: 2 guests. Your private party may be of any size up to the maximum capacity.

Notes:

Private cars are ordered per vehicle (not per person), so only one person in the party needs to order the vehicle. The price shown is the total cost for the vehicle, driver, and English-speaking guide. Entrance fees for attractions are not included. In many destinations, the number of vehicles available is extremely limited, so guests are encouraged to secure their private vehicle reservation as early as possible.

Osaka Private Touring - Half Day (Minivan)



Departs: 9:00 AM
Approximately 4 hours - Price is per vehicle, not per person.
See additional NOTES below.
Price \$1,799.95

Explore at your own pace with a private vehicle, driver and English-speaking guide at your service. This exclusive tour is designed to allow you the chance to customize your time ashore and discover the most interesting sights in the comfort and privacy of your own vehicle. With your private vehicle, and the personalized attention of your driver and English-speaking guide, you will have the

flexibility and independence to design your itinerary ashore according to your own interests, and take in the sights at your own pace. See the famous sights, or go beyond to create your own intimate connections and unique cultural encounters. The Signature Collection is recommended for the single/solo traveler, couples, family, friends, and special interest groups traveling together. It can also be an excellent choice for guests with mobility limitations.

Capacity:7 guests. Your private party may be of any size up to the maximum capacity.

Notes:

Private minivans are ordered per vehicle (not per person), so only one person in the party needs to order the vehicle. The price shown is the total cost for the vehicle, driver, and English-speaking guide. Entrance fees for attractions are not included. In many destinations, the number of vehicles available is extremely limited, so guests are encouraged to secure their private vehicle reservation as early as possible.

Kochi, Japan - Wednesday, April 17, 2019:

Cape Muroto & Geopark Center



Departs: 8:30 AM (Waitlisted)
Approximately 8 Hours
Adult \$229.95; Child \$219.95

Outdoor enthusiasts will relish the opportunity to explore **Murotomisaki** (Cape Muroto) and Kochi's unspoiled environs.

A lovely motor coach drive takes you 53 miles outside of Kochi to Murotomisaki in the eastern part of Kochi Prefecture. The cape's name translates to 'blessed with great nature' and you'll understand why when you see the cape jutting out over the Pacific Ocean, separating the Kii Channel from Tosa Bay. This is one of eight 'fine views' in Japan. Due to the area's warm temperatures, even in winter, lush subtropical plants, trees and hibiscus flowers blanket the ground. The colorful coastal plants found in this area are of scientific value, and some of the unusual species of trees are considered Natural Monuments of Japan.

At the tip of the cape, you'll find a wonderful **white lighthouse**, in operation for more than 100 years and the largest headlight in Japan. This beacon can be seen from 35 miles offshore and has safely guided countless ships through these waters. From here, enjoy a walk along the one-mile stretch known as the **Ransho Promenade**. Breathtakingly beautiful, the unusual cliffs and reefs were created by the relentlessly pounding Pacific Ocean. You might be lucky enough to glimpse frolicking dolphins or migrating sperm whales. After your walking around the cape, you will visit the **Muroto Geopark Center** to learn

about the geography in the region,

You'll no doubt have worked up an appetite by this time, so it's off to a local restaurant to enjoy **lunch**.

Climb the sloping trail to **Hotsumisakiji Temple**. Founded by Kobo Daishi in 807, Hotsumisakiji is the 24th temple of the 88 temples of Shikoku Pilgrimage. To commemorate his achievement, Daishi took the name Kukai (meaning 'sky and sea') and built the temple atop the hill at the tip of the cape. Its marble statues of Nyoirin Kannon, Gakko, and Yakushi are considered National Treasures. At the completion of this invigorating day, return to port by motor coach.

Notes:
Wear comfortable clothing and sturdy walking shoes. Not advisable for guests with mobility limitations. Tour operates subject to meeting a minimum number of participants.

Kochi Castle & Katsurahama Beach



Departs: 9:00 AM
Approximately 4 Hours
Price \$169.95

A comfortable motorcoach whisks you away to an ancient world right in the heart of the city.

Kochi Castle, the city's most famed landmark, dominates your views from any vantage point. Built by Yamanouchi Kazutoyo following the Battle of Sekigahara in 1600, the

massive castle took more than 10 years to construct. In 1727, some of the fortress was destroyed in a fire, but later, in 1753, it was reconstructed with the "donjon" and the splendid Otemon Gate remaining as originally constructed. Kochi Castle has undergone several preservations over the years, but it has retained its original palace and the integrity of its architectural style. Inside, many of the ancient rooms are not accessible to the public, but you will find a small museum filled with cultural artifacts. The, or main tower, provides celebrated, panoramic views of the whole city, making it well worth the climb to the top.

Your tour will take you past the beautifully-restored Tsumemon Gate that connects the second citadel of the castle to its inner sanctum, and no visit to Kochi Castle would be complete without seeing its *honmaru* -- ring of defense -- preserved in its original entirety. All of the structures in the *honmaru* are designated as Japan's Important Cultural Properties and house both local and historical treasures. Back outside, stroll the castle grounds, now a popular public park, dotted with magnificent statues of the Yamanouchi family, each one suitable for a photo stop.

The **Kochi Castle Museum of History** contains the historical documents of Tosa feudal clan, approximately 67,000 items including National Treasures and important cultural items. Displays, pictures and multi-media exhibits tell the Kochi story.

Relax on a 30-minute scenic drive that takes in some of Kochi's popular sights, including

the Harimaya Bridge that is the subject of a popular folksong song, and the Harimayabashi Shopping District, which sports a wooden arcade and a large mechanical clock.

At the shoreline, you'll find your next destination -- beautiful **Katsurahama Beach**. Famous for moon-viewing parties, the beach is home to a monument commemorating Sakamoto Ryoma, one of the founding fathers of modern Japan. He is credited with spearheading a bloodless revolution to transform feudal Japan into a modernized, unified nation. You'll have plenty of time to explore the picturesque beach area (swimming is prohibited due to strong currents). In addition to the beautiful scenery and pleasant walking paths, there is a small aquarium, a small shrine and other attractions.

At the completion of your day, enjoy a pleasant ride back to Kochi Port before you board your ship.

Notes:
There are 100 stairs at Kochi Castle. You must remove your shoes at Kochi Castle.

Niyodo River & Washi Paper Making



Departs: 9:30 AM (Waitlisted)
Approximately 5 Hours
Adult \$209.95; Child \$179.95

Japanese "washi" paper is an iconic piece of Kochi's heritage, having been produced in the prefecture for more than 1,000 years. UNESCO has declared washi paper an **Intangible Cultural Heritage Object**. The raw materials needed to make the pulp, including the kuozo plant, the mitsumata bush and the gampi tree, all grow in the abundant greenery of the mountainous area, while the nearby Niyodogawa River supplies the water needed to make this fine paper. Learn more by watching a demonstration; then, dive into the fun of **producing your own paper crafts**.

Take in the beauty of the region's crystal-clear rivers, charming bridges and historic **Ino Sugimoto**. The latter is a lovely **shrine** that has stood on these hallowed grounds since AD 793 and is believed to bring luck and prosperity to those who visit. Visitors can rub the red statue of Sasuri Daikoku for luck or make their own fukudawara -- an amulet unique to the Sugimoto Shrine. Worshippers write a wish on a strip of paper and tie it to a length of bamboo grass to bring good fortune.

Snap photos at the **Nagoya Chinka Bridge** -- ingeniously designed to accommodate the river's rising levels. The long expanse of bridge is the perfect place to watch the clean, clear water flow underneath.

Don't miss sampling delicious **Kochi ice cream**. Made from locally-sourced fruits and boasting a clean, crisp texture and flavor, this delicious treat is technically more like a sherbet than an ice cream, as it contains little milk or cream.

Oboke Gorge & Kochi Castle



Departs: 9:00 AM
Approximately 6½ Hours
Adult \$269.95; Child \$219.95

Board your motorcoach for the approximately 1 1/2 -hour drive to the mountainous interior of Shikoku.

Your first destination is **Oboke**, for scenic **boat** excursion on the **Yoshino River**. After receiving safety equipment and hearing a brief safety orientation, set out on an approximately 20- to 30-minute **float trip**. The narrow banks are crowded with maple trees, nut trees and azaleas. The rushing river has formed wildly shaped rocks in the current and along the banks.

After **lunch** at a local restaurant, board your motorcoach and head to Kochi Castle. Snap some photos of the outside here. The castle was built by Yamanouchi Kazutoyo following the Battle of Sekigahara in 1600. The *donjon*, or main tower, and the splendid **Otemon Gate** are original.

Return to the pier in Kochi.

Notes:

*This is an active tour that travels unpaved and uneven paths. Not recommended for

guests with limited mobility.
*In this tour the stop at Kochi Castle is just a photo stop
*Wear comfortable, casual outdoor wear and sturdy walking shoes or hiking boots.
*The excursion boat in Oboke is able to accommodate 25 -30pax at the maximum.
*Larger groups will be divided onto various boats, therefore the guide will provide all information prior to boarding one of the boats, so everyone receives the same explanation with regards to this part of tour. (So the guide will not guide on the boat.)
*The order of visit might be exchanged. (especially between Oboke boat and lunch)

Ryugado Cave & Katsurahama Beach



Departs: 8:30 AM
Approximately 5¼ Hours
Adult \$199.95; Child \$189.95

Set your sights on the unspoiled beauty of Kochi's environs on this energetic tour that takes you off the beaten track.

Board a motorcoach for the approximately one-hour drive to to **Ryugado Cave** on the slopes of Mt Sampo. Discovered in 1931, Ryugado is one of Japan's three major limestone caverns and is a designated Japanese National Treasure. The cave was home to early humans. The limestone caverns feature 20 waterfalls and stalactites form a maze of shapes echoing the sound of water.

Return to Kochi and enjoy a brief **panoramic drive** past Kochi Castle, completed in 1612 and designated a Japanese National Treasure. Continue past Harimayashi Bridge -- the

stage for a tragic love story that was popular in the 19th century.

The Harimayabashi shopping district features a wooden arcade of traditional shops.

Enjoy views of Mt Godai as your head south for **Katsurahama Beach**. Ranked one of the 100 Best Beaches in Japan, Katsurahama is a crescent-shaped strand framed by rocky capes and Japanese pines. For centuries, the beach has been a popular site for moon-viewing parties. Enjoy **free time** to explore here.

Just above the beach, a bronze monument and a small museum commemorate Sakamoto Ryoma -- the low-caste samurai who helped topple the Tokugawa Dynasty.

Notes:

Wear comfortable walking shoes. Not advisable for guests with mobility limitations. There are steps to negotiate in the cave. Ryugado Cave: There are approx 700 steps (up and down) to negotiate.

Sakaiminato, Japan - Friday, April 19, 2019:

Adachi Museum of Art



Departs: 10:30 AM
Approximately 4 Hours
Adult \$179.95; Child \$169.95

Board your motorcoach and drive south and west to the **Adachi Museum of Art** in Yasugi. Founded in 1970, the museum features one of the finest modern gardens in Japan and a collection of pottery, wood carvings, and Japanese paintings, dating from 1912 until the present day. The museum boasts a large number of works by Yokoyama Taikan, considered one of the major figures in Japanese modern art.

Izumo Grand Shrine & the Museum



Departs: 10:30 AM
Approximately 7 Hours
Adult \$209.95; Child \$199.95

Your day begins with a visit to the restful **Izumo Grand Shrine**, located in the city of Izumo. Izumo is known throughout Japan as the land of the gods. The Izumo Shrine dwells on the western edge of the Shimane Peninsula and is believed to be the oldest shrine in Japan -- dating back at least to the 7th century. As one of the most famous and most important shrines in the country, Izumo is visited by many people every year. The main shrine measures approximately 79 feet in height. It was built in an architectural style known as Taisha-zukuri -- the oldest style among shrine buildings. Perhaps not surprisingly, it is today designated a National Treasure. Notice the giant Torii Gate when you enter the shrine,

and the serenity designed to purify your mind.

Next, continue to a local restaurant for a **lunch** featuring traditional regional cuisine.

Return to Sakaiminato in the afternoon.

Matsue Highlight & Adachi Museum



Departs: 10:30 AM
Approximately 7 Hours
Adult \$229.95; Child \$219.95

Board a motorcoach for a panoramic drive southwest to the **Adachi Museum of Art** in Yasugi. The museum was founded by Zenko Adachi in 1970 -- purposefully combining his passions for Japanese art and garden design. Its ceramics collection includes works by such masters as Rosanjin Kitaoji and Kanjiro Kawai, but the museum's gardens are also quite famous. Adachi collected each of the pines and stones featured here from all over the country, creating a beautiful garden filled with love and passion. The garden has been ranked best in the traditional Japanese Garden category since 2003. Browse among the extensive collection of nearly 1,000 items of pottery, wood-carvings, and Japanese paintings dating from as early as 1912.

Matsue is a city of canals located on an isthmus between Lakes Shinji and Nakaumi. Here you will explore **Matsue Castle**, built in 1611 by Yoshiharu Horio, who governed the Shimane Prefecture at the time. It was completed a few years after the last decisive battle of feudal Japan. In 1638, all the

buildings that functioned as a castle were demolished, except for the *donjon* (the castle keep) and the stone wall. The *donjon* is designated one of Japan's Important Cultural Properties. It has five tiers and is about 98 feet tall.

Enjoy a *yakiniku* **lunch** featuring grilled meats and vegetables.

This afternoon, a sightseeing **boat** takes you on a scenic **cruise along Matsue's many canals** -- the perfect vantage point from which to take in views of the city. You'll cruise under a total of 16 bridges.

Continue to the **Lafcadio Hearn Memorial Museum**. Journalist Patrick Lafcadio Hearn arrived in Japan in 1890 and never left. He first taught school in Matsue, marrying the daughter of a samurai and adopting the name Koizumi Yakumo. His best-known work is *Kwaidan* -- a collection of ghost stories. Located next to Hearn's house, a small museum displays manuscripts, letters and Hearn's personal effects, including his desk, clothes and Japanese pipes.

Re-board your coach for the return to the ship, enjoying views of Lake Shinji along the way.

Tottori Flower Park




Departs: 11:00 AM
Approximately 4 Hours
Adult \$169.95; Child \$159.95

This half-day excursion incorporates must-see Sakaiminato sights and top attractions that lie further afield. Depart from the pier and travel south to Yonago -- a city with a long history of commerce. It served as a castle town during the Edo Period.

From here you'll continue to the **Tottori Hanakairo Flower Park**, which is located in a truly beautiful spot within view of towering Mt Daisen. Any time is a good time to visit because there is always an abundance of lavish seasonal blooms and an eye-catching dome ensures the ideal habitat for warm-weather and tropical plants. The park boasts a small forest with very tall trees. An interesting on-site museum features lilies, where you can see these elegant flowers all year round, as well as some European-themed gardens and a diminutive train.

Don't miss the luscious ice cream (at your own expense) that is sold here -- it's made with locally-grown blueberries and pears.

Next, you will visit **Kotobuki (Candy) Castle** -- a candy factory and shop that is a replica of the ancient Yonago castle now lies in ruins. The five-story Kotobuki Castle, which you will visit, brings to life the days of samurais. Note the beautiful tile gable-and-hip roof style of the castle tower. There is an observation deck offering a 360-degree view of Honshu with Mt Daisen on the horizon. Try some candy samples and purchase your

<p>favorite for a delightful taste of Japan. The city of Sakaiminato is known for its outstanding Sea of Japan fishing industry. Your drive back to the pier may provide a glimpse of the city's landmarks, such as the Yumeminato Tower, Mt Daisen, and perhaps even a few of the city's trademark yokai -- statues re-creating the manga characters of Shigeru Mizuki's comic books. About 100 bronze yokai statues line the main street. Fans of the animated cartoons will find this quite fascinating.</p> <p>Yushien Garden & Adachi Museum of Art</p>  <p>Departs: 11:00 AM Approximately 5½ Hours Adult \$199.95; Child \$189.95</p> <p>A 60-minute panoramic drive by way of rural scenery brings you to the Adachi Museum of Art in Yasugi. The museum was founded by Zenko Adachi in 1970 -- purposefully combining his passions for Japanese art and garden design. Its ceramics collection includes works by such masters as Rosanjin Kitaoji and Kanjiro Kawai, but the museum's gardens are also quite famous. Adachi collected each of the pines and stones featured here from all over the country, creating a beautiful garden filled with love and passion. The garden has been ranked as best in the traditional Japanese Garden category since 2003. Browse among the extensive collection of nearly 1,000 items of pottery, wood-carvings, and Japanese paintings dating from as early as 1912.</p> <p>Your next destination is Daikon Island, surrounded by the waters of Lake Nakaumi.</p>	<p>This small island was formed by a volcanic eruption and it is home to the lovely Yushien Garden. Many flowers bloom here seasonally, and a riot of color attracts visitors in the spring and early summer when the peonies are at their best. Bright-green foliage in perfectly-manicured surroundings makes the garden beautiful every day of the year.</p> <p>After a stroll through the garden -- an area of about 10 acres -- you will sit down to a Japanese-style lunch in the grounds of Yushien Garden. Seated next to the placid ponds, enjoy the serenity of the water and the flowers around you.</p>			
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Kanazawa, Japan - Saturday, April 20, 2019:

Best of Kanazawa



Departs: 9:15 AM
Approximately 7 Hours
Adult \$199.95; Child \$169.95

Begin your day with a drive to **Kenroku-en** -- one of the three celebrated 'Great Gardens of Japan'. Kenroku-en's 25-acre landscaped garden was originally developed by the great *daimyo* of Kanazawa Castle. It boasts Japan's first fountain, a teahouse dating to 1774, and a pagoda donated to the Maeda clan by the great warlord Toyotomi Hideyoshi. The celebrated Ganko-bashi is a bridge comprised of 11 red stones laid out to resemble a formation of flying geese.

Cross the Asano River to the **Higashi Chayamachi** -- one of the city's four pleasure districts established in 1820, during the late Edo period. The district is home to traditional 'tea houses' where wealthy merchants and artisans held drinking parties and geisha performed just as they still do today. Explore the narrow streets.

After **lunch**, continue to the Nagamachi District, once home to many of Kanazawa's samurai. Kaga was unlike other Japanese fiefdoms in that its samurai lived in Kanazawa town. The remains of their houses can be seen today, along with a few surviving residences, earthen boundary walls, narrow lanes and canals.

Your final destination is Kanazawa's 21st-century **Museum of Contemporary Art**. Opened in 2004, this cutting-edge museum focuses on art created after 1980. Moreover,

the facility houses site-specific art installations such as Leandro Erlich's *Swimming Pool*. The museum's architecture is as new and avant garde as its collection.

Board your coach for the return to ship.

Notes:

Wear comfortable walking shoes.

Kenrokuen Garden & Omicho Market



Departs: 9:30 AM
Approximately 4 Hours
Price \$104.95

This enticing half-day tour showcases Kanazawa's most famous sights and has you back at the ship in time for lunch.

First, you will visit **Kenroku-en Garden**, one of the three most beautiful gardens in Japan. Enjoy some time here to stretch your legs and your imagination. You'll feel like you've stepped into an enchanted world where a masterfully-designed landscape of great variety leads the eye along streams and waterfalls to rest on graceful arched bridges and Kenrokuen's iconic stone lanterns. Created by the Maeda family, who ruled from Kanazawa Castle from the 1620s to the 1840s, this vast stroll-through garden commands the heights of central Kanazawa. It is a prime example of the six factors that distinguish Japanese landscape art -- spaciousness, tranquility, artifice, antiquity, water-courses, and magnificent views. A visit to the park of the famed Kanazawa Castle ruin takes you

500 years back in time. Designed with a Honmaru, a central enclosure, plus second and third enclosures, the traditional stronghold of the Kaga clan reveals the architectural grace for which Japan's ancient builders are justly famous. The Ishikawa Gate, the two turrets, and the Gojikken Warehouse, all restored in 2001, perfectly recapture the atmosphere of those days. Ongoing repairs and renovations preserve the past for future generations.

For a change of pace, visit the bustling **Omicho Market**. Here you can be a part of 270 years of history at the largest market in Kanazawa. With more than 170 shops and stalls selling almost anything you can imagine, it's no wonder this busy network of covered streets is dubbed 'the Kitchen of Kanazawa'. It's not unusual for lines to build in front of the most popular restaurants and stalls, many of which specialize in rice bowls topped with fresh seafood. Locals and tourists alike come to browse for flowers, clothing, kitchen tools and more.

Your guide offers an informed narration relative to the city's history and cultural achievements, which will complete your introduction to Kanazawa.

Kenrokuen Garden, Samurai & Geisha Street



Departs: 9:30 AM (Waitlisted)
Approximately 4 Hours
Price \$104.95

Kenroku-en -- one of the three celebrated 'Great Gardens of Japan' -- welcomes you today. This 25-acre landscaped garden was originally developed by the great *daimyo* of Kanazawa Castle. It boasts Japan's first fountain, a teahouse dating to 1774, and a pagoda donated to the Maeda clan by the great warlord Toyotomi Hideyoshi. The celebrated Ganko-bashi is a bridge comprised of 11 red stones laid out to resemble a formation of flying geese.

Continue to the **Nagamachi District**, once home to many of Kanazawa's samurai. Kaga was unlike other Japanese fiefdoms in that its samurai lived in Kanazawa town. The remains of their houses can be seen today, along with a few surviving residences, earthen boundary walls, narrow lanes and canals.

Cross the Asano River to the **Higashi Chayamachi** -- one of the city's four pleasure districts established in 1820, during the late Edo period. The district is home to traditional 'tea houses' where wealthy merchants and artisans held drinking parties and geisha performed just as they still do today. Explore the narrow streets and the two-story pleasure palaces before you return to the ship.

Shirakawago & Gokayama



Departs: 9:00 AM
Approximately 7½ Hours
Price \$154.95

Experience the rich architectural traditions of the Japanese countryside on a tour including two of the region’s most picturesque villages. **Shirakawago** widely-known as one of the most scenic places in Japan, is nestled along the shores of the **Shokawa River** and is surrounded by dramatic pine tree-covered mountains.

Here you’ll find the unique Japanese thatched-roof farmhouses that are the center of attention. There are approximately 90 thatched farmhouses, sheds, and barns built about 200-300 years ago that were added to **UNESCO’S World Heritage List** in 1995. They are examples of the gassho-zukuri style, a form of construction that resembles hands-clasped in prayer.

Aesthetically pleasing, the steeply pitched roofs are extremely practical during the heavy snowstorms of the Shokawa River valley. Pitched at 60 degrees and oriented along a north-south axis, the **farmhouses** are able to more efficiently capture sunlight and shed weighty burdens.

Some of the farmhouses are clustered in an open-air museum called the **Gassho-zukuri Minkaen**: a photographer’s dream. While admission is not included in the tour, you will

find the museum a special place to visit if time permits. Filled with the tools of everyday life and including displays covering a wide array of daily tasks, the buildings are picturesquely situated around scenic ponds, rice paddies, flower beds, and gurgling streams. After **free time in the village** and **lunch on your own**, your tour continues to **paper making** in Gokayama..

Arriving in a place where we call **Gokayama Washi no Sato**, you’ll proceed to a special site where you’ll be treated to fascinating demonstrations of the art of Japanese paper making. It’s a process brought to Japan from China at the beginning of the 7th century.

Known as washi, the process of creation is long and involved and that often undertaken in the depth of winter. The cold weather inhibits bacteria, prevents decomposition, makes the fibers contract for a crisp feel, and provides farmers with a source of winter income.

The kozo tree, or paper mulberry, is the most commonly used fiber in making Japanese paper. The **kozo branches** are boiled and stripped of their outer bark, and then dried. The fibers are then boiled with lye to remove the starch, fat and tannin and any remaining impurities in the fibers are picked out by hand. The kozo is laid on a rock or board and beaten.

Wet balls of pulp are mixed in a vat with water and one of two traditional methods of paper making (nagashi-zuki or tame-zuki) is employed. In both methods, pulp is scooped onto a screen and shaken to spread the fibers

evenly. **Nagashi-zuki** (which uses neri in the vat) produces a thinner paper, while **tame-zuki** (which does not use neri) produces a thicker paper.

You’ll have the unique opportunity to **lend a hand in the process of Japanese paper-making**, enjoying the camaraderie of this shared activity, before returning to the pier via the breathtaking Japanese countryside.

Shirakawago On Your own



Departs: 9:00 AM
Approximately 6 Hours
Price \$99.95

This **transfer** may suit you if you would like to explore on your own. It consists of a motorcoach ride from the ship to **Shirakawago**. The rich architectural traditions of the Japanese countryside are evident in Shirakawago, widely-known as one of the most scenic places in Japan. Nestled along the shores of the Shokawa River, this village is surrounded by dramatic pine-clad mountains. The town is known for its collection of traditional thatched-roof farmhouses, sheds and barns, all built 200-300 years ago. These are examples of the gassho-zukuri style of construction which resembles hands-clasped in prayer, and are a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**. The steeply-pitched roofs are extremely practical during the heavy snowstorms of the Shokawa River valley, as they easily shed their weighty snow burdens. You will be dropped off at a central location, and the coach escort will advise you of the pick-up time for the return journey.

The Gassho-zukuri Minkaen open-air

museum, which you can visit at your own expense, is a photographer’s dream. The buildings are picturesquely situated around scenic ponds, rice paddies, flower beds, and gurgling streams.

After your **free time**, meet up with the escort at the appointed time to return to the pier by coach.

Notes:

Wear comfortable walking shoes. Guide service, taxi transfers, entrance fees and lunch are not included in the transfer price. It will be your responsibility to be at the pick-up point at the given return time. An English-speaking escort will be aboard the transfer motorcoach to answer questions en route.

Vladivostok, Russia - Monday, April 22, 2019:

A Stroll Through Vladivostok



Departs: 8:45 AM (Waitlisted), 2:15 PM (Waitlisted)
Approximately 3 Hours
Adult \$49.95; Child \$39.95

This walking tour outlines some of the historical background to the fine architectural monuments of the city centre. Often compared to San Francisco, Vladivostok offers breathtaking views, steep hills with streetcars, and turn-of-the-century buildings. Vladivostok is not an imitation of other places; as this tour shows, it reflects the history and culture of its own unique location

The tour begins from the place where the last meters of the Trans-Siberian railroad go through the coastal line, where the building of Sea Terminal and the building of **Train Station** stand nearby, the place where you don't have to hurry because Russia ends here.

You will admire the architecture of the Train Station building, which was restored to its original looks and now is still the best and the most beautiful one among the train station buildings along the Trans-Siberian railroad. You will have a glance at Lenin monument, which stands in the centre of the Pre-railway Square. It is the exact copy of the one in St.-Petersburg.

For such a small out-of-the-way city, it may be hard to believe that it's home to an Oscar

winner, **Yul Brynner**, born here in 1920, and he was best known for his role as King Mongkut in the movie "The King and I". To commemorate the city's famous son, a granite statue was erected in Yul Brynner Park, directly in front of the charming three-story house where he was born.

Just a few steps away are the "**Grey Buildings**," the first nine-story structures built in the city, which embody the style of Soviet architecture during the 1930s. Then, it's on to Sports Harbor, one of the city's favorite recreation spots. Among the cosy cafés and attractions that line the attractive promenade you'll find the lovely **musical fountain**, built to celebrate the city's 125th anniversary.

For a deeper look into the city's past, you'll tour the **Regional Arseniev Museum**. Inside this illustrious institution you'll find cultural exhibits that include highlights of exploration and the settlement of the region. Central Square, officially known as the Square of the Fighters for the Soviet Power in the Far East is a heart of the city. Dominating the square is the "White House," a multi-story building that's home to the territorial government. Vladivostok has several monuments devoted to Russian heroism and inside the square stands the **Monument to the Fighters for Soviet Power**. Standing 98 feet tall, the bronze figure of a Red Army soldier holds waving banners in his right hand and a battle trumpet announcing the victory of the revolution in 1922 in his left.

To commemorate your visit you'll make a brief stop at the "**GUM**" store, a Vladivostok

landmark, and shop for souvenirs and handicrafts. From here you can leisurely walk back to your ship.

Children's Performance & Home Visit



Departs: 8:30 AM, 2:00 PM
Approximately 4 Hours
Adult \$99.95; Child \$79.95

Your half-day excursion begins at the pier where you'll board your motorcoach and drive to see a children's performance. Enjoy watching this group of **gifted young children** in a **special dance recital**. The children show their pride for Vladivostok in this **50-minute performance**. It's a special experience for young and old.

Afterwards, you'll re-board your motorcoach and drive a **scenic route** that passes City Hall, the University and Central Square, home to the territorial government, en route to your **Vladivostok hosts' homes**. Truly a unique experience, you'll meet a Vladivostok family and visit in their home. The cruise group will be divided into smaller groups of 5 to 10 passengers so that each family can provide an intimate experience of conversation around the family table, including refreshments of tea and cakes.

An interpreter is available to assist with translation. As your host's guest, you may want to bring an inexpensive **souvenir** to present as a keepsake of your visit, such as postcards from your hometown, wrapped candies for children and souvenir cups or mugs.

Remember to bring your camera so you can take photos and exchange mailing addresses or email prior to re-boarding your motorcoach for the route back to the port.

City Drive, Submarine Monument & Historical Museum



Departs: 8:00 AM, 1:30 PM
Approximately 4 Hours
Adult \$109.95; Child \$89.95

Vladivostok was closed to foreigners as well as non-resident Soviets in 1958, when it became the headquarters for the Soviet Union's Pacific Fleet. According to city records, it wasn't until 1974 when foreigners set foot again in Vladivostok. By 1992, the city's isolation ended completely when the port was opened to everyone and any kind of transport.

Your excursion begins at the pier where you'll board your motorcoach for your narrated city drive. Stop for photo opportunities at **Eagle's Nest Hill**. An observation platform affords panoramic views of the city and **Golden Horn Bay**. From there you'll head to **Central Square**. Built to commemorate the city's centennial, the square is located at the intersection of two major boulevards and is home to the territorial government.

Your route takes in the former **Chinese settlement along Ocean Avenue**. You'll tour a **real submarine**. This former C-56 submarine has been preserved and a portion of its hull turned into a naval museum.

Next, visit the **Scientific Historical Museum**. This museum displays collections that focus on the geography, history and development of Russia's Primorsky Territory, from the Czarist Era to the present. Protection of the Holy Virgin Cathedral (Orthodox church) in Pokrov park near the Scientific Historical Museum was built in 1902 but in Soviet times it was blown up and the territory of the cemetery was reconstructed for central park of recreations . Only in 2007 it was erected again on the same place. Today the five golden domes cathedral is the most majestic building in Vladivostok. Please note that visitors can go inside only if it is not closed for special events

You'll have time to visit the gift shop for a chance to purchase handmade folk art and crafts.

After which, you'll re-board the motorcoach for the return route to your cruise ship.

Fortress Museum & Regional Arseniev Museum



Departs: 8:15 AM, 1:45 PM
Approximately 4 Hours
Adult \$109.95; Child \$89.95

Your half-day excursion begins at the pier where you'll board your motorcoach for your **narrated city drive**. Your route takes in the former Chinese settlement along Ocean Avenue, the Sports Harbor and Dynamo Stadium.

You'll visit **Vladivostok Fortress Museum**. Tour the Bezmyannaya Battery, a fortification that was started in Czarist times to protect the city from attack. The now obsolete battery offers excellent city views.

You will also tour the **Regional Arseniev Museum**. Originally, the first headquarters of the trading firm of Bryner, Kuznetsov and Co., today the building is dedicated to cultural exhibits of the indigenous peoples of Primorye, and highlights the history of exploration and the settlement of the region.

During your tour, you'll stop for photo opportunities at **Eagle's Nest Hill**, an observation platform that affords panoramic views of the city and Golden Horn Bay, as well as **Central Square**, originally built to commemorate the city's centennial and the site of three sculptures that symbolize the Red Army, the Revolution of 1905-1907 and the Partisans of Primorye.

You'll have time to **shop for souvenirs**, such as handmade folk art and crafts from the gift shop, before returning to the port and your cruise ship.

Orthodox Gymnasium & Holy Mother Catholic Church



Departs: 10:00 AM
Approximately 3½ - 4 Hours
Adult \$89.95; Child \$69.95

Your excursion begins at the pier where you'll board your motorcoach for **a scenic drive**. Your route passes City Hall, Central Square, and the historic district with its fine 19th century buildings.

You'll first visit **The Orthodox Gymnasium**. This gymnasium represents a new type of school that includes the standard state program, along with theology and Slavonic language lessons. In 1999, a magnificent cathedral with golden domes honouring the Saints Cyril and Methodius was built on the site of the Gymnasium. You'll be able to tour the classrooms of the Gymnasium, learn about the life of the children, admire the collection of superb icons and enjoy the choir of children in the Cathedral. It's a truly unique and unforgettable experience. .

Next on your itinerary is a visit to the **Holy Mother of God Catholic Church** designed in a Neo-Gothic style by the Russian architect Planson. The church was seized by the Soviet state and converted into Vladivostok's archive. It was returned to the Catholic faithful in 1994, and, today, the church attracts visitors from around the world.

You'll be served **lunch** at one of the best restaurants in Vladivostok. Enjoy **authentic Russian cuisine**, which may include zakuski, borscht, a main dish and pirozhok served with tea or mineral water and other Russian dishes. Afterwards, you'll re-board your motorcoach for the drive back to the port and your cruise ship.

Train Tour of Vladivostok



Departs: 9:30 AM
Approximately 5 Hours
Price \$219.95

Vladivostok is a young city, founded in 1860. It is the terminal point of Trans-Siberian Railway. The city's railway station is a must-see. It is located at the downtown and its gorgeous building is one of the oldest and most beautiful in Primorsky Territory's capital. It is a city icon, recognized for its stunning engineering and status as an architectural monument. The Trans-Siberian Railroad was built to connect European Russia with Vladivostok - Russia's most important Pacific port. Finished in 1905, the rail line runs from Moscow to Vladivostok via several Russia's main cities.

See the last milestone symbolizing the end of the **Trans-Siberian Railroad** and take a 40-minute train ride through the romantic Vladivostok countryside. Watch for the beautiful seaside, forests and dachas (weekend homes) that stretch out along the miles. At the end of your **train journey**, board a coach and transfer to a very unusual museum. The **Auto Museum** was created by a group of enthusiastic motorists who collected, restored and preserved an absolutely unique collection of Soviet and foreign vehicles produced from the 1920s to the 1970s. More than 50 antique cars and motorcycles, produced in different countries and under different brands, are kept here in working condition. Most of them regularly participate in military parades, and

<p>are used for historical films and thematic photo sessions. This amazing exhibition is thoroughly fascinating and truly unforgettable.</p> <p>Back in the downtown core, you will visit the Opera & Ballet Viewpoint - an observation platform which affords panoramic views of the city.</p> <p>On a panoramic drive, you will pass the historical and modern parts of the city, with its outstanding architecture and memorable sights. The bridge across the Golden Horn Bay, built for Vladivostok's preparation to host the APEC Summit of 2012, is one of the five largest bridges in the world.</p> <p>Free time at a souvenir shop allows you to browse for and purchase handmade folk-art and crafts, including colorful shawls and Russian samovars, lacquer boxes, matryoshka dolls, painted trays and jewelry, and wooden and amber products.</p> <p>You will also stop briefly in Central Square, whose monument of a trumpeter is often depicted on local souvenir pins, books and brochures. The square is located at the intersection of two major streets and is home to the administration buildings of Primorsky Territory.</p> <p>Notes:</p> <p>Wear comfortable walking shoes.</p>				
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Otaru, Japan - Wednesday, April 24, 2019:

Cape Kamui Misaki Walk



Departs: 9:00 AM (Waitlisted)
Approximately 5½ Hours
Price \$99.95

An Approximately 2 hour scenic motorcoach drive to the **Shakotan Peninsula** travels through pleasant scenic views and past iconic imagery. The mountainous terrain of Shakotan Peninsula spans over 30 kilometers in length, extending to the northwest. From the late 19th to the early 20th century, the area around this peninsula was a well-known herring fishing ground. Today, fishing is still a main industry, and the fresh sea urchins are heralded as particularly tasty. Arrive at **Cape Kamui**, located at the northwest edge of the peninsula, and you'll understand why it is considered the peninsula's most scenic spot. In its heyday, this shipping area, along with Capes Motsuta and Ofuyu, were infamous for being one of the three most dangerous shorelines in **Hokkaido**. While you hike along the designated trails, enjoy wonderful panoramic vistas of the sea.

After the cape-walking, return to the ship by comfortable motor coach.

Otaru & the Herring Mansion



Departs: 9:30 AM, Noon
Approximately 3 Hours
Adult \$139.95; Child \$99.95

Visit the Nishin Goten (Herring Mansion)--second home of an Otaru herring fisheries owner. It took 6½ years for the miyadaiku (carpenters specializing in shines and temples) to complete the construction that was ludicrously lavish and expensive even at the time. Herring fisheries were extremely prosperous during the Meiji and Taisho eras. The two- story wooden house was built in 1922 and measures 53,000 square feet. It features a lacquer floor, whitewashed walls and zelkova corridors. Sliding doors are adorned with works by the premiere painters and calligraphers of the day. Next you will see the main landmark of Otaru City--the Otaru Canal. This is a historic ¾-mile canal that provides both a nostalgic look at the Otaru of yesteryear and interesting shopping and dining experiences. The canal was created by a land reclamation project beginning in 1914 and is lined with stone warehouses from that time. The shipping warehouses have been preserved and the canal is photogenic in every season. The promenade along the canal boasts numerous fancy shops and fine restaurants and is illuminated by a series of gaslights.

The Best of Sapporo



Departs: 9:00 AM
Approximately 7 Hours
Adult \$224.95; Child \$174.95

Visit Sapporo's Nijo Ichiba Market, famous supplier to the restaurants and kitchens of Sapporo. Freshly-caught seafood and fresh vegetables are displayed in rows, and buyers and sellers negotiate energetically. This market offers a true glimpse of local lifestyle and business. Continue to Hitsujigaoka Observation Hill on Sapporo's outskirts, affording a beautiful view of pastureland with grazing sheep. The hill, part of the Hokkaido Agricultural Experimental Station of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries, was opened to visitors in 1959. A statue of Dr. William Clark stands on the hill. Dr. Clark, an American, taught English and Botany at Sapporo Agricultural College in 1876. The college was the forerunner of Hokkaido University. Although he was only a member of the faculty for nine months, he is remembered for his parting words, "Boys, be ambitious!" The nearby Historic Village preserves the lifestyle of 19th-century and early 20th-century Japan. The 60 structures, painstakingly reproduced from traditional models, reflect life in a typical small town, fishing village, farming village and mountain hamlet. Your tour includes folk art demonstrations and folkloric performances. You will drive by Sapporo Odori Park as you head east-west through downtown Sapporo. This pretty park includes flower beds, fountains, a shallow water play zone for children and various monuments and statues, including Black Slide Mantra by world

famous sculptor Isamu Noguchi (1904-1988). Constructed in 1871 as a firebreak, Odori Park now plays a key role in major Sapporo events. The park is the site for numerous festivals throughout the year and is especially renowned for the Sapporo Snow Festival in February. The park is always home to numerous food vendors who fill the air with the aromas of roasting chestnuts, corn and other delicacies. At the eastern end of the park stands the 482-foot-tall Sapporo TV Tower, which offers a dynamic view of the city.

The Yoichi Whisky Distillery



Departs: 9:15 AM (Waitlisted)
Approximately 4½ Hours
Price \$89.95

Your day of discovery begins with a visit to the **Nikka Whisky Distillery** at Yoichi, just over 1 hour drive from Otaru City. Masataka Taketsuru, the father of Japanese whisky, founded Dainippon Kaju Co Ltd. here in 1934. Capitalizing on Yoichi's ideal climate, Taketsuru completed his whisky-aging process and created a legendary, well-known whisky. Yoichi Distillery produces rich, peaty and masculine malts. As you look around the distillery, learn how this distinctive spirit gets its unique aroma and body from an unusual heating distillation. Here, the pot stills are heated with a finely powdered natural coal, a traditional method that is seldom used today, even in Europe countries.

Your tour continues as you travel to the **Otaru Canal and Shopping District**. Otaru Canal is considered the symbol of Otaru City.

Along the canal, you will find a gaslight-lined promenade brimming with fancy shops, boutiques, cafés and fine restaurants.

After touring this historic area, reboard the motor-coach and return to the Otaru Port.

Hakodate, Japan - Thursday, April 25, 2019: From the lively morning market of Asa-ichi, to the unparalleled views from Mount Hakodate, discover the history of the first Japanese port opened to international trade. Walk the ruins of the star-shaped Fort Goryokaku, the first of its kind in Japan, learn about local Ainu culture or simply feast on the abundance of fresh seafood this city is famous for.

Goryokaku Park & Tower



Departs: 10:00 AM
Approximately 3½ hours
Adult \$129.95; Child \$109.95

This morning, visit the **Hakodate Morning Market** comprised of roughly 280 stores and located near the JR Hakodate Station. Enjoy some fresh seafood and lively atmosphere of the market. Next, visit the **Goryokaku Tower** for a view of the graceful Goryokaku pentagonal structure. This was built in 1864 for the defense of Hokkaido against would-be invaders. The grounds are now a lovely park open to the public. Then walk to the Hakodate Bugyosho, or **Magistrate’s Office**, opened in 2010 and located in Goryokaku Park. It was rebuilt as a faithful copy of the original building using traditional methods. Remove your shoes, in keeping with Japanese custom, and step inside the building to view the historical exhibits. Return to the ship after your tour.

Hakodate Private Touring - Full Day (Car)



Departs: 9:30 AM
Approximately 8 hours - Price is per vehicle, not per person.
See additional NOTES below.
Price \$2,299.95



Explore at your own pace with a private vehicle, driver and English-speaking guide at

your service. This exclusive tour is designed to allow you the chance to customize your time ashore and discover the most interesting sights in the comfort and privacy of your own vehicle. With your private vehicle, and the personalized attention of your driver and English-speaking guide, you will have the flexibility and independence to design your itinerary ashore according to your own interests, and take in the sights at your own pace. See the famous sights, or go beyond to create your own intimate connections and unique cultural encounters. The Signature Collection is recommended for the single/solo traveler, couples, family, friends, and special interest groups traveling together. It can also be an excellent choice for guests with mobility limitations.

Capacity: 2 guests. Your private party may be of any size up to the maximum capacity.

Notes:

Private cars are ordered per vehicle (not per person), so only one person in the party needs to order the vehicle. The price shown is the total cost for the vehicle, driver, and English-speaking guide. Entrance fees for attractions are not included. In many destinations, the number of vehicles available is extremely limited, so guests are encouraged to secure their private vehicle reservation as early as possible.

Hakodate Private Touring - Full Day (Van)



Departs: 9:30 AM
Approximately 8 hours - Price is per vehicle, not per person.
See additional NOTES below.
Price \$2,499.95



Explore at your own pace with a private vehicle, driver and English-speaking guide at your service. This exclusive tour is designed to allow you the chance to customize your time ashore and discover the most interesting sights in the comfort and privacy of your own vehicle. With your private vehicle, and the personalized attention of your driver and English-speaking guide, you will have the flexibility and independence to design your itinerary ashore according to your own interests, and take in the sights at your own pace. See the famous sights, or go beyond to create your own intimate connections and unique cultural encounters. The Signature Collection is recommended for the single/solo traveler, couples, family, friends, and special interest groups traveling together. It can also be an excellent choice for guests with mobility limitations.

Capacity: 6 guests. Your private party may be of any size up to the maximum capacity.

Notes:

Private minivans are ordered per vehicle (not per person), so only one person in the party needs to order the vehicle. The price shown is the total cost for the vehicle, driver, and English-speaking guide. Entrance fees for attractions are not included. In many destinations, the number of vehicles available is extremely limited, so guests are encouraged to secure their private vehicle reservation as early as possible.

Hakodate Private Touring - Half Day (Car)



Departs: 9:30 AM
Approximately 4 hours - Price is per vehicle, not per person.
See additional NOTES below.
Price \$1,899.95



Explore at your own pace with a private vehicle, driver and English-speaking guide at your service. This exclusive tour is designed to allow you the chance to customize your time ashore and discover the most interesting sights in the comfort and privacy of your own vehicle. With your private vehicle, and the personalized attention of your driver and English-speaking guide, you will have the flexibility and independence to design your itinerary ashore according to your own interests, and take in the sights at your own pace. See the famous sights, or go beyond to create your own intimate connections and unique cultural encounters. The Signature Collection is recommended for the single/solo

traveler, couples, family, friends, and special interest groups traveling together. It can also be an excellent choice for guests with mobility limitations.

Capacity: 2 guests. Your private party may be of any size up to the maximum capacity.

Notes:

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Hakodate Private Touring - Half Day (Van)



Departs: 9:30 AM
Approximately 4 hours - Price is per vehicle, not per person.
See additional NOTES below.
Price \$1,999.95



Explore at your own pace with a private vehicle, driver and English-speaking guide at your service. This exclusive tour is designed to allow you the chance to customize your time ashore and discover the most interesting sights in the comfort and privacy of your own vehicle. With your private vehicle, and the personalized attention of your driver and English-speaking guide, you will have the flexibility and independence to design your itinerary ashore according to your own

interests, and take in the sights at your own pace. See the famous sights, or go beyond to create your own intimate connections and unique cultural encounters. The Signature Collection is recommended for the single/solo traveler, couples, family, friends, and special interest groups traveling together. It can also be an excellent choice for guests with mobility limitations.

Capacity: 6 guests. Your private party may be of any size up to the maximum capacity.

Notes:

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Morning Market & Mt Hakodate Ropeway



Departs: 9:30 AM
Approximately 3 1/2 hours
Adult \$129.95; Child \$99.95

Capture the flavor of Hokkaido—a province that is distinctly different from the rest of Japan—as you visit the **Hakodate Morning Market**. This bustling epicenter of Hokkaido commerce is comprised of roughly 280 stores and is located near the JR Hakodate Station. Enjoy some fresh seafood and lively atmosphere of the market; then, you will drive

through the downtown core of Hakodate. Board the **aerial cableway** up to the summit of Mt Hakodate. This lovely wooded mountain rises to more than 1,200 feet at the end of the peninsula on which the city sits. Needless to say, it commands a stunning, panoramic view over Hakodate. Return to the city for a visit to **Kanemori Red Brick Warehouse area**, remodeled in 1988 as part of a waterfront area redevelopment with a theme of combining the old and the new. From the warehouse area you will return directly to the ship.

Notes:

Aerial cableway operation is weather permitted. Tour coach will be used to go up to the mountain top if aerial cableway is not operating. Wear comfortable walking shoes. Bring local currency for additional purchases.

Onuma Quasi-National Park



Departs: 10:00 AM (Waitlisted)
Approximately 4 1/2 hours
Adult \$134.95; Child \$114.95

Drive one hour north from Hakodate to the Onuma area. Onuma is known for its three lakes—Lake, Onuma, Lake Konuma and Lake Junsai. **Lake Onuma** was formed when Mt. Komagatake erupted and the lava flow from the mountain dammed the river, creating the lake. You'll set out on a 30-minute **boat** ride on the lake. After your cruise, continue to **Onuma Quasi-National Park**. This is the birthplace of Hokkaido's resort industry, and the ideal place to connect with the island's natural environment. There are multiple small islands on Lake Onuma. You will take a 40 minute **hike** along a road that allows you

to walk from island to island by crossing the bridges yourself. Enjoy the island hopping and the natural beauty of the park. You will make a brief stop at the local winery and taste local wine for yourself before you return to the ship.

Notes:





Not recommended for guests with limited mobility. Wear comfortable walking shoes. Bring local currency for additional purchases.

Panoramic Hakodate



Departs: 9:30 AM
Approximately 2 Hours
Price \$99.95

This **panoramic tour** is designed to be enjoyed primarily from the perspective offered by your comfortable motor coach seat. You'll begin with a drive through **Hakodate city** itself; then the coach will head up to the viewpoint on Mt Hakodate. From the top you can look back over the Hakodate Peninsula, with panoramic vistas of the city, the ocean and the horizon. Drive past Kanemori Red Brick Warehouse area, remodeled in 1988 as part of a waterfront area redevelopment with a theme of combining the old and the new. Return to the ship, just a 30-minute drive away.

<div><div><div><div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div><div><div><div>LIMITED</div><div></div></div></div></div></div><div><div>Departs: 9:00 AM (Waitlisted)</div><div>Approximately 7 hours</div><div>Adult \$194.95; Child \$144.95</div></div><p>This morning, visit the Goryokaku Tower for a view of the graceful Goryokaku pentagonal structure. This was built in 1864 to defend Hokkaido, and is now surrounded by a public park. Then, walk to the Hakodate Bugyosho, or Magistrate’s Office, opened in 2010 and located in Goryokaku Park. It was rebuilt as a faithful copy of the original building using traditional methods. Remove your shoes, in keeping with Japanese custom, and step inside the building to view the historical exhibits. Next you’ll visit the Hakodate Morning Market, which is made up of more than 280 stalls selling fresh seafood. After lunch at a local restaurant, take the aerial cableway up Mt Hakodate. From the top you can look back over the Hakodate Peninsula, viewing the city, the ocean and an endless panorama. Back in town, you will visit the Hakodate Museum of Northern People, housed in the former Bank of Japan building (1926) and exhibiting precious artifacts of the Ainu or Aleut people. Return to the ship at the end of your tour.</p><p>Notes:</p><p>Aerial cableway operation is weather permitted. Tour coach will be used to go up to the mountain top if aerial cableway is not operating. Wear comfortable walking shoes. Bring local currency for additional purchases. Shoes must be removed during the visit to Hakodate Bugyosho (Magistrate's office). Not</p></div>	<div>recommended for guests with limited mobility.</div>			
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Aomori, Japan - Friday, April 26, 2019: Pay a visit to Japan’s largest outdoor Buddha, weighing 220 tons, sitting beatifically in temple grounds. Sample the local scallops, an Aomori specialty.

Aomori & Archaeology



Departs: 8:30 AM
Approximately 7½ Hours
Adult \$189.95; Child \$169.95

This comprehensive tour of **Aomori** begins with a visit to the **Sannai Maruyama ruins** that date back more than 4,000 years to the Jomon Period. An exhibition room holds various artifacts from the site. The ruins were revealed during excavations for a baseball stadium in 1992.

Continue to the Showa Daibutsu (**Big Buddha**). At 70 feet tall, this landmark stands on Kuwabara Hill and is the city’s symbol of wisdom, kindness and inner power. The statue weighs 220 tons.

After **lunch** at a local restaurant, you're in for some entertainment. You'll see the **Nebuta-no-Ie Warasse Museum's** collection of giant illuminated floats used in the Aomori Nebuta Festival (think the Rose Parade, but with a distinctly Japanese style). The *Experience Show* audio-visual introduces you to the festival.

Enjoy **shopping** for local specialty products at ASPAM (the Aomori Shopping & Product Mansion) -- a 15-story triangular building packed to the gills with products, some of which are familiar and others you may never knew existed.

Notes:

The *Experience Show* is not exclusive to Holland America Line guests and seating is limited. Some guests may have to stand during the performance.

The *Experience Show* is not a private show and seating is limited. Guests may have to stand during the performance.

Aomori Highlights



Departs: 9:00 AM
Approximately 3½ Hours
Adult \$109.95; Child \$99.95

The **Nebuta-no-Ie Warasse Museum** opened in 2011 and showcases the amazing, colorful Aomori Nebuta Festival. The term 'Nebuta' refers to giant illuminated floats used in the procession, of which five are on display. Enjoy a short film that explains the festival.

Continue to Showa Daibutsu -- **the Big Buddha** -- a 70-foot-tall, 220-ton landmark that stands on Kuwabara Hill. It is the city’s symbol of wisdom, kindness and inner power.

After your tour, transfer back to the ship with a **panoramic drive** through downtown Aomori.

Notes:

The *Experience Show* is not exclusive to Holland America Line guests and seating is limited. Some guests may have to stand

during the performance.

Highlights of Goshogawara



Departs: 8:45 AM
Approximately 4½ Hours
Adult \$119.95; Child \$109.95

Visit Goshogawara for a fascinating look at the region's famed art and culture.

Leave the port of Aomori by coach, so that you can sit back and enjoy a **panoramic drive** through the scenic countryside to the city of **Goshogawara**.

You will visit Shamisen Kaikan for a **live performance of shamisen music**. A shamisen is a three-stringed traditional Japanese guitar-like instrument and its sound is one of a delicate, plucking-like melody.

Next, walk to the **childhood home of Japanese writer Dazai Osamu**. The house, made of Aomori cypress, was built by his father in 1907 in a semi-Western style. A favorite cloak worn by Dazai, his writing tools, handwritten manuscripts and letters are displayed in the exhibition room.

Your next destination is the **Tachineputa no Yakata pavilion**, where you will see a trio of some of the most unusual parade floats. Japan is famous for its matsuri, or festivals. These local festivals are celebrated in almost every region in the country, and each city takes pride in its large and elaborately-decorated dashi, or floats, that are pulled through the

town.

At the conclusion of your tour, you'll climb back aboard your coach and return along the same scenic route to your ship.

Notes:

Wear comfortable walking shoes.

Hirosaki: the Castle Town



Departs: 8:30 AM (Waitlisted)
Approximately 7 Hours
Adult \$189.95; Child \$179.95

Drive 25 miles along National Highway Route 7 from Aomori to **Hirosaki** city, situated on the southern part of the Tsugaru plain and known for its castle, cherry blossoms and apples. The atmosphere of this former Samurai town is quite compelling.

Visit **Hirosaki Park**, the location of Hirosaki castle, and one of Japan’s most famous cherry blossom spots (usually flowering at the end of April and beginning of May).

Tsugaruhan Neputa Mura village offers a glimpse of numerous traditional artforms. Follow the circuit through demonstrations on making the Nebuta festival goldfish, Tsugaru ceramics and woodblock painting. Take in the live performances of Nebuta music and the delicate (three-stringed banjo-like instrument). Walk past stands that sell locally grown vegetables, apples and handicrafts. offers a glimpse of numerous traditional

artforms. Follow the circuit through demonstrations on making the Nebuta festival goldfish, Tsugaru ceramics and woodblock painting. Take in the live performances of Nebuta music and the delicate *shamisen* (three-stringed banjo-like instrument). Walk past stands that sell locally grown vegetables, apples and handicrafts.

Lunch will be served at a local restaurant.

Head to the **Zenringai** area, where 33 Zen temples huddle quietly together. You will visit the Saishoin Temple, with its 300-year-old five-story pagoda, before transferring back to the ship.

Notes:

Restoration work is underway at Hirosaki Castle.

Yokohama (Tokyo), Japan - Sunday, April 28, 2019: Noisy, fast and friendly Yokohama (Tokyo) enchants with moated palaces and Shinto shrines, tea ceremonies and Kabuki theater. Have you ever shopped the legendary Giza District or ridden in a rickshaw?

Meiji Shrine & Temple with Airport Transfer



Departs: 8:00 AM
5½ Hours
Adult \$179.95; Child \$159.95

A scenic 60-minute motorcoach drive from Yokohama brings you to fascinating **Tokyo**. The route affords you a glimpse at the world's largest city, including its modern skyscrapers, the Ginza district and other landmarks in the city center.

First up is the famous and beautiful **Meiji Shrine**. Emperor Meiji was instrumental in opening Japan to the outside world in the late 1800s, ushering in the Meiji Restoration that brought the rule of the Tokugawa (shogun) government to an end. After the deaths of the emperor and empress, the Meiji Shrine was constructed to enshrine their souls. It was dedicated in 1920. Upon arriving at this great monument, you'll enter the shrine through twin 40-foot-tall Torii gates that are among the largest in Japan.

Continue to **Sensoji Temple**. Legend has it that, in AD 628, two brothers fished a statue of Kannon out of the Sumida River; then, they made the temple to enshrine the statue of the goddess Kannon. You'll enter through the Nitenmon or Kaminarimon Gate, bedecked, with a huge red paper lantern, to view the shrine.

Enjoy some **free time** to stroll down

Nakamise-dori (the Street of Inside Shops). This is an alley lined with traditional vendors selling snacks, souvenirs and handmade crafts.

Purchase a snack (at your own expense) before re-joining the coach for the journey to **Narita Airport**.

Notes:

This tour is available only to guests whose cruise ends in Yokohama, with flights departing after 6:00pm.

Yokohama Private Touring - Full Day (Car)



Departs: 8:30 AM
Approximately 8 hours - Price is per vehicle, not per person.
See additional NOTES below.
Price \$1,499.95

Explore at your own pace with a private vehicle, driver and English-speaking guide at your service. This exclusive tour is designed to allow you the chance to customize your time ashore and discover the most interesting sights in the comfort and privacy of your own vehicle. With your private vehicle, and the personalized attention of your driver and English-speaking guide, you will have the flexibility and independence to design your itinerary ashore according to your own interests, and take in the sights at your own pace. See the famous sights, or go beyond to



create your own intimate connections and unique cultural encounters. The Signature Collection is recommended for the single/solo traveler, couples, family, friends, and special interest groups traveling together. It can also be an excellent choice for guests with mobility limitations.

Capacity: 2 guests. Your private party may be of any size up to the maximum capacity.

Notes:

Private cars are ordered per vehicle (not per person), so only one person in the party needs to order the vehicle. The price shown is the total cost for the vehicle, driver, and English-speaking guide. Entrance fees for attractions are not included. In many destinations, the number of vehicles available is extremely limited, so guests are encouraged to secure their private vehicle reservation as early as possible.

Yokohama Private Touring - Full Day (Minivan)



Departs: 8:30 AM (Waitlisted)
Approximately 8 hours - Price is per vehicle, not per person.
See additional NOTES below.
Price \$1,774.95

Explore at your own pace with a private vehicle, driver and English-speaking guide at your service. This exclusive tour is designed to allow you the chance to customize your



time ashore and discover the most interesting sights in the comfort and privacy of your own vehicle. With your private vehicle, and the personalized attention of your driver and English-speaking guide, you will have the flexibility and independence to design your itinerary ashore according to your own interests, and take in the sights at your own pace. See the famous sights, or go beyond to create your own intimate connections and unique cultural encounters. The Signature Collection is recommended for the single/solo traveler, couples, family, friends, and special interest groups traveling together. It can also be an excellent choice for guests with mobility limitations.

Capacity: 6 guests. Your private party may be of any size up to the maximum capacity.

Notes:

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**Yokohama Private
Touring - Half Day
(Car)**



Departs: 8:30 AM (Waitlisted)
Approximately 4 hours - Price is
per vehicle, not per person.
See additional NOTES below.
Price \$799.95



Explore at your own pace with a private vehicle, driver and English-speaking guide at your service. This exclusive tour is designed to allow you the chance to customize your time ashore and discover the most interesting sights in the comfort and privacy of your own vehicle. With your private vehicle, and the personalized attention of your driver and English-speaking guide, you will have the flexibility and independence to design your itinerary ashore according to your own interests, and take in the sights at your own pace. See the famous sights, or go beyond to create your own intimate connections and unique cultural encounters. The Signature Collection is recommended for the single/solo traveler, couples, family, friends, and special interest groups traveling together. It can also be an excellent choice for guests with mobility limitations.

Capacity: 2 guests. Your private party may be of any size up to the maximum capacity.

Notes:

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are not included. In many destinations, the number of vehicles available is extremely limited, so guests are encouraged to secure their private vehicle reservation as early as possible.

**Yokohama Private
Touring - Half Day
(Minivan)**



Departs: 8:30 AM
Approximately 4 hours - Price is
per vehicle, not per person.
See additional NOTES below.
Price \$999.95



Explore at your own pace with a private vehicle, driver and English-speaking guide at your service. This exclusive tour is designed to allow you the chance to customize your time ashore and discover the most interesting sights in the comfort and privacy of your own vehicle. With your private vehicle, and the personalized attention of your driver and English-speaking guide, you will have the flexibility and independence to design your itinerary ashore according to your own interests, and take in the sights at your own pace. See the famous sights, or go beyond to create your own intimate connections and unique cultural encounters. The Signature Collection is recommended for the single/solo traveler, couples, family, friends, and special interest groups traveling together. It can also be an excellent choice for guests with mobility limitations.

Capacity:6 guests. Your private party may be of any size up to the maximum capacity.

Notes:

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EXC Overland Packages & EXC Overnights

For those with a thirst for adventure as well as luxury cruising, we offer a selection of special EXC Overland Packages and EXC Overnights to take you deep into the heart of the lands we visit. Varying in length from two to several days, these tours will take you through breathtaking scenery and to historical sites that allow you to explore each region more thoroughly.

Clothing

Comfortable, layered clothing and walking shoes are strongly recommended.

Flights, Meals & Accommodation

As flight times have not been confirmed at the time this brochure was printed, some meals and visits to some attractions may be adjusted for your comfort and convenience, to accommodate the schedule. EXC Overland Packages and EXC Overnights include all meals (unless otherwise specified), transportation and overnight accommodations in the finest hotels available and are escorted by a member of Holland America Line's staff.

Advance Bookings

We are increasingly aware that many discerning travelers are enthusiastic to participate in our comprehensive program of spectacular EXC Overland Packages and EXC Overnights. Because it is not always possible to guarantee space beyond the tours booking deadline on these exciting journeys, we earnestly encourage you to use the Holland America Line website well in advance to secure space on the overland or overnight experience

of your dreams. Space is limited! We suggest that you book early to avoid missing these truly enticing tours which have been arranged to give you an in-depth view of inland areas.

Physical Limitations

Due to the in-depth nature of these tours, most areas are not accessible to wheelchairs.

Luggage

Luggage must be limited to one small checked bag per person on EXC Overland Packages and EXC Overnights.

Special Notes

- Wear comfortable footwear at all times
- Bring a lightweight sweater or jacket in case of cooler temperatures
- Book early. Capacity is limited on many EXC Overland Packages and EXC Overnights
- Book your EXC Overland Packages and EXC Overnights online at hollandamerica.com

Visas, Vaccinations & Tourist Cards

It is each guest's sole responsibility to obtain (before traveling) any visas, vaccinations and/or tourist cards that are required for participating in EXC Overland Packages and EXC Overnights, unless noted otherwise in the description. Please be aware that you may need a visa for any and/or all countries that you will depart from and travel through as part of your overland adventure or overnight tour, and for the country in which you will re-join the ship.

General Information

Tour Durations & Prices

The information in this brochure is designed to help you select the tours most suited to your interests. The individual tour descriptions include approximate durations. Prices can be found on our website at hollandamerica.com and are quoted in U.S. funds. Prices are subject to change without notice. To allow the EXC Tours™ staff the flexibility to coordinate your time in port with meals and activities on the ship, exact departure times are published in the EXC Tours Planning Form on board. For more information, please attend the EXC Tours presentation or visit the EXC Desk.

Tour Descriptions

Tour descriptions may change after printing. Information that becomes available after this brochure is published will be posted in the EXC Tours section of our website, which can be found online at hollandamerica.com. Significant changes will be noted on the EXC Tours Planning Form on board. Tour schedules are subject to change.

Guides, Services & Transportation

In certain interesting, off-the-beaten-track places, professional guides and vehicles are at a premium. The best available are engaged. For all tours other than the Signature Collection, it is exceptional for drivers of public hire vehicles to speak any language but their own and it is not always possible to obtain air-conditioned buses or taxis in many ports. However, we do our utmost to find the very best packages for your touring pleasure. Guests who leave during a tour for which transportation is included must thereafter provide for their own transportation and services at their own expense. Transportation standards vary from country to country.