

# GOHAGAN & COMPANY

## INLAND SEA OF JAPAN\*

Featuring Kyoto

Exclusively Chartered, Five-Star Small Ship LE SOLÉAL

May 19 to 30, 2020

From \$5,995 plus air

**U.S.**

Day 1

Depart the U.S. and cross the International Date Line.

**Osaka, Japan/Kyoto**

Day 2

Arrive in Osaka, then transfer to impeccably preserved Kyoto, Japan's former imperial capital. Check into the ideally located, deluxe KYOTO HOTEL OKURA. The evening is at leisure.

**Kyoto**

Day 3 and Day 4

An ethereal setting of grand imperial castles, tranquil Zen gardens and graceful Shinto shrines, Kyoto manifests Japanese culture in its purest form. Visit three UNESCO World Heritage sites—14<sup>th</sup>-century Kinkaku-ji Temple, whose famed “Golden Pavilion” is almost entirely adorned with gold leaf; the peaceful Ryōan-ji Temple, originally an aristocrat's villa during the Heian Period (A.D. 794 to 1185) and Kiyomizu-dera Temple that houses the temple's primary object of worship, Kannon, the diety of mercy with 11 faces and 42 arms. Ryōan-ji Temple's legendary *kare-sansui* (dry landscape) rock garden was a place of meditation and inspiration for Steve Jobs, who used its minimalism as the guiding aesthetic principle for Apple™ products.

Enjoy a traditional Japanese tea ceremony in the Gion District known for its entertainment. Continue to one of the oldest Shinto shrines in Japan, the Fushimi Inari Shrine, dedicated to the deity of sake and rice, to see shrines dating back to A.D. 711, and walk through the carefully aligned pathway of thousands of iconic *torii* gates—a seemingly infinite red- orange tunnel winding toward Mt. Inari's lush summit.

Enjoy a Welcome Reception one evening in Kyoto. (2B,1R)

**Kyoto/Himeji**

Day 5

Learn more about shōgun history firsthand at two UNESCO World Heritage- designated castles from the period. Visit Nijō Castle, built in 1603 for the formidable first shōgun of the Tokugawa dynasty, and stroll through its traditional Japanese landscape garden. Admire a national treasure, Himeji Castle (1333) and Japan's best- preserved original feudal castle complex and an elegant masterwork of wood construction, while walking the labyrinthine grounds of the complex.

This evening, embark the Five-Star LE SOLÉAL. (B,L,D)

**Hiroshima/Miyajima**

Day 6

On August 6, 1945, the first atomic bomb left only the skeletal remains of Hiroshima's Genbaku Dome; today this dome is the compelling Hiroshima Peace Memorial and a UNESCO World

*\*The Travel Program outlined here is subject to the features, final pricing and terms and conditions set forth in the published Travel Program brochure.*

Heritage Site. The solemn Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park, the museum chronicling the history of Hiroshima and the poignant Children's Peace Monument all invite visitors to contemplate the need for world peace amid stark reminders of war.

At Miyajima, "Shrine Island," tour the vermilion sixth-century Itsukushima Shrine, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, where the impressive Great Torii Gate appears to float on water during high tide.

Attend the Captain's Welcome Reception on board this evening. (B,L,R,D)

## **Hagi**

### *Day 7*

Originating as a small fishing port, Hagi rose in prominence after warlord Mōri Terumoto fortified it in 1604. Tour its 17<sup>th</sup>- century Toko-ji Temple, belonging to the Obaku School of Japanese Zen Buddhism, where 500 moss-covered stone lanterns honor Mōri clan lords. Walk past former samurai dwellings in the old quarter lined with 19<sup>th</sup>- century earthen walls, and visit the Kikuya House, one of the Edo Period's (1603 to 1868) best-preserved examples of merchant-style architecture. Visit the Hagi Urugami Museum, with over 5000 *ukiyo-e* woodblock prints and porcelain pieces from the Edo Period. Acclaimed *ukiyo-e*, which translates to "pictures of the floating world," profoundly impacted the Western art world—van Gogh, Toulouse-Lautrec, Monet and Rodin were all avid collectors and devoted enthusiasts of well-known *ukiyo-e* artists Hiroshige and Hokusai. (B,L,D)

## **Sakaiminato for Matsue**

### *Day 8*

Following a scenic drive, tour the widely acclaimed Adachi Museum of Art, where 20<sup>th</sup>- century and modern Japanese art coalesce with six perfectly landscaped gardens, regarded as "living paintings" when viewed through the museum's vast windows.

See Japan's tallest feudal structure and one of its "original castles," the preserved, 17<sup>th</sup>- century Matsue Castle, before an afternoon of cruising with onboard lectures. (B,L,D)

## **Ulsan, South Korea, for Gyeongju**

### *Day 9*

Cross South Korea's verdant countryside from Ulsan to the cradle of the Silla Kingdom (57 B.C. to A.D. 935) in historic Gyeongju. Visit the eighth-century Bulguksa Temple, a material expression of Buddhist utopia on Earth and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Divided into the Vairocana Buddha Hall, the Hall of Great Enlightenment and the Hall of Supreme Bliss, this religious complex is the paradigm of South Korean architecture, featuring nationally treasured bridges and pagodas.

View priceless artifacts from the Silla Dynasty in the Gyeongju National Museum and enjoy a memorable traditional dance performance during a specially arranged Korean lunch. Visit the Royal Burial Mounds at Tumuli Park, where, in 1974, the 43-foot-high Cheonmachong (Heavenly Horse) Tomb, dating from the fifth century, was excavated to reveal over 10,000 royal treasures inside. (B,L,D)

## **Moji, Japan**

### *Day 10*

Visit the striking 12<sup>th</sup>-century Akama Shrine, dedicated to the child emperor Antoku. Then, stroll through the Karato Ichiba Fish Market, specializing in the local delicacy of *fugu* (pufferfish) and serving sushi and sashimi bento daily.

Enjoy the Captain's Farewell Reception on board this evening. (B,L,R,D)

### **Uno for Kurashiki and Koraku-en Garden**

#### *Day 11*

From the port of Uno, enjoy a scenic drive to the Kurashiki Bikan District, where distinctive black-and-white latticed houses remain well preserved from the 17<sup>th</sup>- century Edo Period. Visit the old merchant quarter, and walk among the remodeled former *kara* (granary) storehouses along the tranquil canals framed by languid weeping willows.

Visit one of the Three Great Gardens of Japan, Koraku- en, commissioned by Lord Ikedo in 1686. This Daimyō strolling garden is graced with bamboo groves; pine, plum and cherry trees; and tea bushes. (B,L,D)

### **Osaka/U.S.**

#### *Day 12*

Disembark and continue on the Osaka and Nara Post- Program Option, or transfer to the airport for your return flight to the U.S. (B)