

The Senior Newspaper and Travelrite International  
invite you to join us on board **MS Westerdam**

## PALACES & PAVILIONS

# Japan Cruise

13 April to 2 May, 2019

Tokyo, Shimizu, Osaka,  
Kochi, Hakata, Kanazawa,  
Vladivostok, Otaru,  
Hakodate, Aomori, Kyoto

Includes  
over **\$2400**  
per person value  
in sightseeing  
tours, entrances,  
transfers and  
gratuities.



# Japan Cruise

The Palaces & Pavilions cruise will be a wonderful opportunity to circumnavigate Japan by cruise. The cruise is fully escorted and includes sightseeing tours at each port of call. Also included are special activities for members of the group. We hope that you can join us.



## Itinerary

### Day 1 Saturday 13 April, 2019

**Tokyo, Japan**

Today we board our flight to Tokyo. We will arrive late evening and will be transferred to our hotel.

### Day 2 Sunday 14 April, 2019

**Embarkation**

This morning we have an orientation tour of the city. We visit the famous Ginza shopping district, renowned as the most expensive real estate in the world. We then visit the Imperial Palace East Gardens, which is part of the Royal residence, and a superb example of traditional Japanese landscape design. Later we are transferred to Yokohama to board MS Westerdam.

### Day 3 Monday 15 April, 2019

**Shimizu**

Today we arrive at Shimizu at the base of Mount Fuji, Japan's highest mountain and the focal point of the sprawling Fuji-Hakone-Izu National Park. This morning we will enjoy a sightseeing tour of this very special area, named for the Buddhist fire goddess Fuchi, and is sacred to the Shinto goddess Sengen-Sama, whose shrine can be found at the summit. Mount Fuji is the holiest of Japan's "Three Holy Mountains". This evening join us for welcome drinks to celebrate the beginning of this incredible cruise holiday.

### Day 4 Tuesday 16 April, 2019

**Osaka**

Today we arrive into Osaka and travel to Kobe, the capital of Hyogo Prefecture and one of Japan's ten largest cities. Located between the sea and the Rokko mountain range, Kobe is also considered one of Japan's most attractive cities. On our sightseeing tour we will enjoy an orientation tour of the city including a cable-car ride in the Shin-Kobe Ropeway that lifts us up the southern slopes of the Rokko mountain chain. As it ascends, it passes by the Nunobiki Waterfall and the Nunobiki Herb Garden, giving a lovely aerial view of both. The highlight of the ride lies in the observation deck which offers spectacular views of Kobe.

### Day 5 Wednesday 17 April, 2019

**Kochi**

This morning we arrive in Kochi, the capital of Kochi Prefecture on the southern coast of Shikoku, and we enjoy a sightseeing tour of the city. We visit Kochi Castle, one of just 12 Japanese castles to have survived the fires, wars and other catastrophes of the post feudal age. The castle used to be the seat of the Yamauchi lords, who ruled over the surrounding region, then known as Tosa, during the Edo Period. The castle buildings have since been designated "important cultural properties", and now house local treasures and historical objects. We then visit the Chikurinji Temple on Godaisan, one of the eighty-eight temples along the Shikoku Pilgrimage.



### Day 6 Thursday 18 April, 2019

**Kanmon Strait/Fukuoka**

Westerdam cruises along the Kanmon Straits, which separates Yamaguchi prefecture on the western edge of Honshu and Fukuoka prefecture on Kyushu Island. About 6,000 years ago a crustal change divided Honshu in two, and the straits and Kyushu Island were born. This afternoon we arrive in Hakata, the ancient port of Fukuoka. We will have an afternoon tour of this historic city.

### Day 7 Friday 19 April, 2019

**At sea**

A day at sea is the perfect opportunity to explore the fabulous facilities of this magnificent ship. Perhaps visit the Spa for a relaxing massage. This afternoon join us for a fun game of *The Senior Bingo*.



### Day 8 Saturday 20 April, 2019

**Kanazawa**

Kanazawa, which means 'marsh of gold', draws its name from an old legend in which a Japanese peasant, digging for potatoes, found flakes of gold in the ground. Today, gold leaf is a major art form synonymous with the city. We will enjoy a sightseeing tour of the city, known for its intricate kaga-nui embroidery and delicate kutani porcelain, among other handicrafts, making it a shopper's paradise. Once boasting geisha houses and a labyrinthine samurai village, the city was built around Kanazawa Castle. Fire destroyed all but a few small 16th-century castle structures such as the elegant Ishikawa Gate. Just outside the castle park we visit the enchanting Kenroku-en Garden, one of the Three Great Gardens of Japan, and the home of the country's oldest fountain.

### Day 9 Sunday 21 April, 2019

**At sea**

Another day at sea to explore the fabulous facilities of this magnificent ship. This afternoon join us for a fun game of Scattergories with prizes for the winners.

### Day 10 Monday 22 April, 2019

**Vladivostok, Russia**

Vladivostok has served as Russia's bastion in the Far East since Czarist times. Located on the hills above Golden Horn Bay, the city is the terminus for the fabled Trans-Siberian Railroad, the longest continuous rail line in the world. The homeport of Russia's Pacific Fleet, Vladivostok was closed to the outside world until 1992. It now offers visitors an exciting opportunity to unravel its mysteries as we explore Central Square, Arseniev Museum and Vladivostok's military attractions, including a tour of a restored submarine.



**Day 11 Tuesday 23 April, 2019****At sea**

A day at sea to explore the fabulous facilities of this magnificent ship.

**Day 12 Wednesday 24 April, 2019****Otaru**

Otaru is an important port city on the northern island of Hokkaido, close to Sapporo. The city was home to a thriving herring fleet, as shown by the display of wealth in the "Herring Mansions". During the 19th and early 20th Centuries ships regularly plied the waters between the port and the island of Sakhalin. Coal was mined in the hills, and Otaru even won a reputation for producing fine music boxes. We will visit one of the Mansions and see the famous Otaru Canal, a historic mile-long canal that provides both a nostalgic look at the Otaru of yesteryear as well as a unique shopping experience.

**Day 13 Thursday 25 April, 2019****Hakodate**

In 1859, the port of Hakodate became the first Japanese city fully opened to Westerners under the Treaty of Amity and Commerce. Hakodate, once a fishing port famed for its high-quality fish and shellfish, quickly became Hokkaido's largest city and one of Japan's most important ports. We will visit the local fish market before taking the cable car to the summit of Mt. Hakodate for a spectacular panoramic view.

**Day 14 Friday 26 April, 2019****Aomori**

This morning we arrive in Aomori, in the northernmost prefecture on Japan's main island Honshu. On our tour today we will visit Hirosaki, once the political and cultural capital of the Tsugaru Region, the western section of present day Aomori Prefecture. The city remains one of the culturally richest cities in the northern Tohoku Region. We visit Hirosaki Castle, built in 1611 with its three-storey keep the only one in the Tohoku Region that was not rebuilt in the modern era, amongst only a handful in all of Japan.

**Day 15 Saturday 27 April, 2019****At sea**

A day at sea to explore the fabulous facilities of this magnificent ship. This afternoon test your knowledge at our group Trivia with prizes for the winners.

**Day 16 Sunday 28 April, 2019****Tokyo**

We disembark in Yokohama this morning and continue our sightseeing in Tokyo. We will visit the Asakusa district, well-known as a region of Old Tokyo, the Asakusa Kannon Temple, a Buddhist temple also known as Sensoji, built in 645 A.D with the finest Japanese architecture. We check into our hotel late afternoon.

**Day 17 Monday 29 April, 2019****Kyoto**

This morning we are transferred to the railway station for our exciting Bullet Train ride on the famous Shinkansen train to Kyoto, travelling up to 270 kmph. On the way we will see the summit of Mt Fuji, weather permitting. Our afternoon sightseeing of Kyoto commences at Kinkakuji, better known as the Golden Pavilion, a Zen temple in northern Kyoto whose top two floors are completely covered in gold leaf. Formally known as Rokuonji, the temple was the retirement villa of the shogun Ashikaga Yoshimitsu, and according to



his will, it became a Zen temple of the Rinzaï sect after his death in 1408. We then visit the Ryoanji Temple, the site of Japan's most famous rock garden. Originally an aristocrat's villa during the Heian Period, the site was converted into a Zen temple in 1450 and belongs to the Myoshinji School of the Rinzaï sect of Zen Buddhism.

**Day 18 Tuesday 30 April, 2019****Kyoto**

Kyoto is the cultural and historical focal point of the country. Our tour today commences at The Philosopher's Path, a pleasant stone path through the northern part of Kyoto's Higashiyama district that follows a canal, lined by hundreds of cherry trees. Usually, in early April, these trees explode with colour, making this one of the city's most popular hanami (cherry blossom viewing) spots. We will visit Ginkakuji, consisting of the famous Silver Pavilion, half a dozen other temple buildings, a beautiful moss garden and a unique dry sand garden. We will also visit Nanzenji Temple, whose spacious grounds are located at the base of Kyoto's forested Higashiyama Mountains, and is one of the most important Zen temples in all of Japan. Later we visit Gion, Kyoto's most famous geisha district made famous from the novel and film Memoirs of a Geisha. It is filled with shops, restaurants and ochaya (teahouses), where geisha and maiko (geisha apprentices) entertain. This evening we will enjoy an included dinner to celebrate the end of the tour.

**Day 19 Wednesday 1 May, 2019****Departure**

The morning will be free for last minute sightseeing and shopping before we are transferred to the airport for our flights back to Australia.

**Day 20 Thursday 2 May, 2019****Australia**

Tour members arrive back in Australia. The tour concludes.

**Great fun and luxury aboard MS Westerdam**

Westerdam is the third in Holland America Line's series of Vista-class ships. Launched in 2004 with a capacity of 1900 passengers she embraces the latest industry and environmental technologies and is the perfect, spacious, mid-sized ship. She features an extensive use of crystal, marble, inlaid woods and brass. Lovely flower arrangements, priceless artwork and antiques and a full wraparound teak promenade deck with padded deck chairs. Throughout the ship there are restaurants to suit every mood, from authentic Italian cuisine to a legendary experience at Le Cirque to a perfectly grilled porterhouse steak. Savour the many diverse restaurants and delicious menus inspired by the latest trends. Evenings on board brim with choices. Take in a thrilling show in the lounge, try your luck in the Casino, or sing along in the piano bar. Explore the varied gathering places to suit every taste. A highlight is the BB King Blues Club. Direct from Beale Street, the B.B. King All-Star band brings the best of Memphis music to sea.

**Clothing aboard MS Westerdam**

During the day casual clothing is typical, although shorts and swimwear are not permitted in the restaurants. During the evening on formal nights, a dinner suit or dark suit for gentlemen and evening-wear for ladies is required in the main restaurants. Casual nights require a collared shirt for gentlemen. The self-service restaurants are casual.

**Don't worry about coming alone**

About a third of people on the cruise travel alone. We will match people up in twin-share cabins when available – saving you the single supplement. You won't be left alone; the Travelrite tour manager will be there to guide you. There will be group activities almost every day.

**The advantages of the MS Westerdam Cruise**

The cruise is fully escorted and will be a great, fun holiday with plenty of activities. Each evening you will dine with the group at our reserved tables. You will meet a fun group of people and have a fabulous time.



## PALACES & PAVILIONS

# Japan Cruise

13 April to 2 May 2019

### Prices per person in AU\$

Cabin / Description		Deck	Twin -share	Single Fare
L	Inside	4,5,6,7	\$ 7890	\$ 10090
K	Inside	1,4,5,6,10	\$ 7990	\$ 10190
J	Inside	1	\$ 8090	\$ 10390
I	Inside	6,7,8	\$ 8190	\$ 10490
G	Obstructed Outside	4	\$ 8490	\$ 10890
F	Outside	1,6	\$ 8590	\$ 10990
E	Outside	1	\$ 8690	\$ 11190
C	Outside	1	\$ 8890	\$ 11490
VD	Deluxe Balcony	6,7	\$ 9290	\$ 13090
VC	Deluxe Balcony	4,5,6,8	\$ 9390	\$ 13190
VB	Deluxe Balcony	4,5,6,7,10	\$ 9490	\$ 13390
VA	Deluxe Balcony	4,5,6,8	\$ 9590	\$ 13490
SY	Suite	5,8	\$ 10690	\$ 15790
SC	Suite	6,7	\$ 14690	\$ 23690
SB	Suite	4,5,6,7,8	\$ 15090	\$ 24490
SA	Suite	7	\$ 15490	\$ 25290
Included port and handling charges			\$ 670	\$ 1080
Included air taxes as at 1/3/2017			\$ 250	\$ 250
Included Cruise Gratuities			\$ 230	\$ 230

**Availability:** All cabins are subject to availability. Please call **1800 630 343** for fares and information on other cabin categories.

### Included in the Palaces & Pavilions Cruise:

- Economy-class air travel from Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane to Tokyo and back from Osaka to Australia. Please check for other departure cities.
- Travel on MS Westerdam in the selected cabin category
- All meals, entertainment, and service charges on Westerdam
- Private activities on board Westerdam
- 2 night's 4-star centrally located accommodation in Tokyo including breakfasts
- 2 night's 4-star centrally located accommodation in Kyoto including breakfasts
- Sightseeing tours of Tokyo, Shimizu, Kobe, Kochi, Hakata, Kanazawa, Vladivostok, Otaru, Hakodate, Aomori and Kyoto
- Welcome Drinks and Farewell Dinner
- Cruise management by Travelrite International
- Port and handling charges on MS Westerdam
- Cruise taxes
- Air taxes as of 1 March 2018
- Onboard gratuities

### Not included in the price:

- Travel insurance
- Additional travel arrangements not detailed in the itinerary will be quoted for separately
- Passport and visa fees
- Drinks on board
- Lunches when not on the ship

**Gratuities:** Ship board gratuities have been included in your fare.

## General information and booking conditions

International touring can involve a considerable amount of walking and stair climbing in the places visited and it is important that all tour participants have a level of physical fitness that allows them to take part in this activity without the need of assistance from others.

**TOUR OPERATOR:** Travelrite International Pty Ltd (ABN 64 005 817 078) is the tour organiser. MS Westerdam is operated by Holland America Line and the fly/cruise arrangements are subject to the terms and conditions and general information detailed in the Holland America Line brochure for 2019.

**DEPOSIT AND PAYMENT:** A deposit of \$900 per passenger should be sent with a completed Travelrite International booking form that lists your requested cabin category. As soon as the booking is confirmed, (usually within 24 hours), a cruise confirmation advice will be posted to the client. The passenger must also complete the Holland America Line online check in prior to departure. Final payments are due to be paid to Travelrite International 90 days prior to the commencement of the Westerdam fly/cruise. A 1.5% administration fee will be added to payments by Visa or Mastercard and 3% for payment by AMEX or Diners Club cards.

**CANCELLATION CHARGES:** Number of days before sailing.

Days prior to Departure	Cancellation Fee
Over 90 days	loss of deposit
90 - 61 days	50% of full fare
60 days or less	100% of full fare
Non appearance/no written notice	100% of full fare.

**REFUNDS:** The cruise is based on arrangements which do not allow for any refunds in respect to sightseeing, accommodation, meals or other services not utilised after the tour has commenced.

**TRAVEL DOCUMENTS:** All passengers will require a valid passport. A tourist ticket will be required for Russia. If not an Australian passport holder check with Travelrite International for visa requirements.

**TRAVEL INSURANCE:** Adequate travel insurance is highly recommended to cover cruise members for the consequences of unforeseen events during the cruise and for cancellation fees which could result from events such as illness, accident, death etc.

**BAGGAGE:** Passengers qualify for a 23kg free baggage allowance on flights to join or return from the cruise.

**MINIMUM TOUR NUMBERS:** The cruise arrangements have been made on the basis of a minimum number of passengers travelling. In the event that less than the required number of passengers have confirmed their booking 90 days from the date of departure, Travelrite International reserves the right to cancel the tour, giving a full refund of monies paid, or offer arrangements to proceed with the tour at a modified fare.

**RESPONSIBILITIES:** Travelrite International Pty Ltd (ATAS A10538) is the tour organiser. Travelrite International Pty Ltd, its agents, officers, affiliates, and/or suppliers of services pursuant to, or in connection with these fly/cruises, shall act only as agents in making arrangements for hotels, transportation, including transportation by ship, restaurants, or any other service and do not assume any liability whatsoever for any injury, damage, death, loss, accident or delay to person or property due to an act of negligence or a default of any hotel, carrier restaurant company or person rendering any services included in fly/cruises, or by act of God. Further, no responsibilities are accepted for any damage or delay due to sickness, pilferage, labour disputes, machinery breakdown, quarantine, government restraints, weather, terrorism or other causes beyond their control. No responsibility is accepted for any additional expense, omission, delays, re-routing or acts of any government authority. Baggage is at owners' risk throughout the fly/cruise. The passage contract between the carriers concerned, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the carriers and the purchasers of this fly/cruise and/or the passengers. The right is reserved to withdraw any fly/cruise and/or make such changes in the fly/cruises as may be found desirable or necessary for the convenience of the parties and the proper carrying out of the fly/cruise. This contract shall be construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Victoria, Australia. Attention is also directed to the terms

and conditions of the Westerdam fly/ cruise passage contract with Holland America Line, detailed on the back of the Holland America Line website. If you do not have access to these details please contact Travelrite International and we will send them to you.

**HOW TO BOOK:** Bookings can be made by completing a booking form and sending it with a deposit of \$900 per person to:

**Travelrite International Pty Ltd**  
**423 Whitehorse Road**  
**Balwyn, Victoria 3103**

Further information can be obtained by telephoning

**Toll Free: 1800 630 343**

**Telephone: (03) 8803 6868**

**Fax: (03) 9836 8068**

**Email: balwyn@travelrite.com.au**

**www.travelrite.com.au**

**ABOUT TRAVELRITE INTERNATIONAL:** Travelrite International Pty Ltd is a well-established travel company which has been marketing throughout Australia for over 30 years. It is a Platinum Cunard Inner Circle member and the largest marketer of Cunard Line cruises in the Asia-Pacific region. It has two fully accredited (ATAS A10538) offices at Balwyn and Heathmont which are also accredited with IATA. As such they directly represent the major airlines of the world and all major domestic and international hotel, tour and transport operators. Travelrite International Pty Ltd is a full member of the Australian Federation of Travel Agents – AFTA.



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