Authentic Japan

From **14/03/2027** to **26/03/2027**	Ship: ***Le Soléal***	From **Osaka** to **Busan**



Discover traditional Japan, forged by millennia of traditions, where nature and the sacred become one. Among the trade winds, the dreamlike landscapes of lush green hills, mystical mountains and ancestral temples nestling in preserved nature will fill you with wonder. **Toba, Shingu, Himeji, Miyajima**... the historic cities reveal their imperial secrets throughout the different ports of call, while Zen gardens and peaceful temples celebrate Shinto heritage. This journey into the heart of the Japanese soul will also immerse you in the moving history of **Nagasaki and Hiroshima**, which are now some of Japan's most relaxed and fascinating destinations.



The information in this document is valid as of 23/11/2026

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YOUR STOPOVERS :

OSAKA

Embarkation 14/03/2027 from 16:00 to 17:00

Departure 14/03/2027 at 18:00

Like its big sister Tokyo, Osaka is the product of ancestral traditions and amazing **technological innovations.** And despite its size, its location on the Pacific Ocean give it a sense of **serenity**. The main historic landmark is the 16th century **Osaka Castle,** which stands proud in the midst of majestic skyscrapers. The lively streets of Dotomburi and the bizarre Shinsekai district attract thousands of locals and visitors. A multitude of restaurants offer menus full of regional specialities: ***takoyaki,*** made with octopus, and other succulent dishes such as ***kushikatsu*** kebabs.

TOBA

Arrival 15/03/2027 midday

Departure 15/03/2027 evening

Toba is a coastal city located in Japan's Mie Prefecture, on the shores of the Pacific Ocean. Situated in the **Ise-Shima National Park**, Toba has given its name to majestic bay sheltering a string of small islands, famous for the beauty of their forests and the production of **cultured pearls**. You will have the possibility of discovering the **Ise Shrine**, residence of the Imperial family and venerated by the Japanese people as the "soul of Japan".

SHINGU

Arrival 16/03/2027 early morning

Departure 16/03/2027 late afternoon

To the south-west of the Japanese archipelago, **Shingu** is a port town in the **Kansai** region. Founded in 1933, it belongs to the **peninsula of Kii**, the country s largest. Take a trip around the Kumano Sanzan religious complex dedicated to three sacred mountains and home to two **Shinto temples, Kumano Hong? Taisha** and Kumano Hayatama Taisha. The latter features the famous **sacred nagi tree**, said to have been planted around 1159. Pilgrims flock to these two sanctuaries that feature on UNESCO's World Heritage list. Hop on a boat and journey to the **Dorokyo Gorge**, a natural beauty spot carved out by the emerald waters of the Kumano river.

HIMEJI

Arrival 17/03/2027 early morning

Departure 17/03/2027 evening

You may get the impression that you ve already seen **Himeji Castle**, as it has been featured many times on the big screen. The feudal edifice seems to spread its wings over the town like a white heron in fact, its nickname is the castle of the white heron . Originally started in the 15th century and then rebuilt in the 17th-century, it is a UNESCO World Heritage site. At its feet lies the gorgeous **Koko-en garden,** which has nine different **gardens** designed to flourish in each of the four seasons.

TAKAMATSU

Arrival 18/03/2027 early morning

Departure 18/03/2027 evening

A former fortified city, ruled over by the Matsudaira clan from the Tamamo castle with its seawater moats, the city is home to one of the most beautiful classic gardens in Japan, the Ritsurin. It was created by the barons of the city at the start of the Edo period, during which time gardening became a profession in its own right. Its landscape incorporates Mount Shiun in the background, an example of what is known as the shakkei technique, which uses the surrounding landscapes to increase the beauty of the gardens.

ITOZAKI

Arrival 19/03/2027 early morning

Departure 19/03/2027 midday

Jewels of the heart of Hiroshima Prefecture, **Itozaki** invites travelers to a timeless escape. Bordered by the Seto Inland Sea, it captivates with its landscapes blending the gentle shimmer of its waters and the silent majesty of its mountains. Itozaki is a journey into the soul of Japan, a haven where time stands still. The Japanese city will serve as the starting point for discovering, just a short distance away, the historic Onomichi, renowned for its nearly twenty temples and shrines.

HIROSHIMA

Arrival 20/03/2027

Departure 20/03/2027 midday

Visiting **Hiroshima** is a moving experience. The town spreads along **Honshu Island**, along the inside coasts of Seto. While firmly focused on the future, Hiroshima doesn't forget its past, and a visit to the **Peace Memorial Park** and **Genbaku Dome** is a must. You'll enjoy the city's **modern, cosmopolitan atmosphere and effervescent nightlife** just as much as the peaceful stillness of its natural parkland areas such as splendid Shukkei-en, the town's historic garden.

MIYAJIMA ISLAND

Arrival 20/03/2027 midday

Departure 20/03/2027 evening

At the heart of the Inland Sea, **Miyajima**, the “island sanctuary” will reveal its treasures. In the background you will see the **Shinto Grand Sanctuary**, whose entrance is guarded by a magnificent vermillion “Torii“. Considered to be one of the

most beautiful sites in the Japanese islands, you will be transported by the unique character and the serenity of this sacred site.

BEPPU, OITA

Arrival 21/03/2027 early morning

Departure 21/03/2027 evening

A favourite destination for the Japanese, **Beppu** is now famous throughout the Japanese archipelago thanks to its onsen – volcanic hot springs in which people immerse themselves to relax with family or friends. From Beppu, you will set off to discover a lush, peaceful valley in which sit 60 majestic stone Buddhas carved out of the cliff face between the 12th and 14th centuries. Exuding a soothing air of serenity, the Mangetsuji site seems to have drifted off to sleep in the heart of a dense bamboo forest surrounded by rice fields. Recognised as a National Treasure of Japan, this set of sacred sculptures offers travellers a unique, wonderful experience.

MIYAZAKI

Arrival 22/03/2027 early morning

Departure 22/03/2027 early evening

The cradle of Japanese mythology, **Miyazaki** is a hidden treasure on the **southern coast of Ky?sh?**. Known for its climate, its golden beaches and its spectacular rocky formations, it is an invitation to exploration and contemplation. In the heart of the city, the **Miyazaki-jing? Shinto shrine** stands majestically, surrounded by ancient forests and peaceful gardens, in which an atmosphere of serenity reigns. Make the most of the authenticity of this city with fascinating local culture and, during the visit of the Miyazaki Shrine, **fall under the spell of the kagura**, a dance and song performance by the shrine's priests and helpers.

KAGOSHIMA

Arrival 23/03/2027 early morning

Departure 23/03/2027 late afternoon

The seaside city of Kagoshima, at the south of Kyushu Island, is best known for Sakurajima, an **active volcano** that faces Kinko Bay. A visit to this busy metropolis will remind you just how much the volcano is part of the inhabitants' everyday life: in the wake of the almost daily eruptions, a delicate layer of ash settles on everything. The top of a buried *torii* (traditional Japanese gate) measuring three metres that was 'swallowed up' by a giant lava flow in 1914 can still be seen. The **power of nature** will send a shiver down your spine.

KARATSU

Arrival 24/03/2027 midday

Departure 24/03/2027 early evening

Karatsu Bay is edged with long sandy beaches and a huge pine forest that was planted over 350 years ago to protect the coast from the winds and tides of the Genkai Sea. From the top of the donjon of **Karatsu Castle** or **Mount Kagami,**

you will be able to admire magnificent panoramas. In the north of the Higashi-Matsuura Peninsula, the waves have eroded the lava plateau and carved a magnificent natural site, the **seven Nanatsugama Caves**, out of the basalt. The city of Karatsu is famous for the quality of its **pottery**, which is influenced by the craftsmanship of nearby Korea. Very fine pieces are displayed in the city's galleries and at Karatsu Castle, alongside magnificent **samurai armour**.

NAGASAKI

Arrival 25/03/2027 early morning

Departure 25/03/2027 late afternoon

Located on the north-west coast of Kyushu, **Nagasaki** will impress you by its rich heritage. Despite the destruction in 1945, you can visit several ancient sites, including the beautiful 19th-century **Catholic Church of Oura** and its garden, the **sanctuary of Suwa Shrine** or several Buddhist temples. A visit to the **Atomic Bomb Museum** gives you insight into the extent of the damage caused by the nuclear attack. Close by, a walk in the **Memorial Peace Park** leads you to a collection of objets d'art offered as a gift from Japan to the world.

BUSAN

Arrival 26/03/2027 early morning

Disembarkation 26/03/2027 at 08:00

With around four million inhabitants, **Busan** is the second largest metropolis on South Korea, after Seoul. This dynamic harbour city, located in the south-east, surrounded by the warm waters of the Sea of Japan, benefits from a mild, pleasant climate. You'll find delightful simply to stroll around the **lively streets** and explore the city's outstanding cultural heritage of art galleries, museums, and Buddhist sites, such as the **Haedong Yonggungsa temple,** which elegantly sits on the waterfront. Rich too in magnificent beaches and superlative natural landscapes, Busan's peaceful atmosphere will win you over, as will its inhabitants, whom you'll have the pleasure of meeting.