



BonVoyage

CRUISES & TRAVEL

EXPERIENCES

JAPAN: Arts, National Parks & Culture Small Group Fly-Cruise

21 night / 22 Day Itinerary — 26 May - 16 June 2026

In partnership with



HERITAGE EXPEDITIONS

TOUR ITINERARY



Day 1: Tuesday 26 May 2026 – Auckland to Tokyo

10.15am Depart Auckland – Air New Zealand
6:15pm Arrive Tokyo, Narita Airport

We will be met on arrival by our local guide and transferred by small coach to central Tokyo and our hotel for three nights.

This welcoming modern hotel is well located, on the edge of the fashionable Ginza shopping area. Just metres from the famous Tsukiji Fish Market. The hotel features a small café in the lobby and a grill restaurant on the first floor and a stunning public bath/spa facility in the basement. All rooms offer a kitchenette with microwave and full laundry.



Mitsui Garden Hotel Ginza Tsukiji

Nights: Three
Room Type: Double or Twin
Breakfast: Included daily

Day 2: Wednesday 27 May 2026 – Tokyo Tour

Assemble in the lobby this morning at 08:50am to our guide for today's tour which will include an Imperial Palace Tour, Askakusa Temple, Nakamise Shopping street, Meiji Jingu Shrine and Shinjuku and Harajuku areas. We will stop for a lunch break in Shinjuku (not included).



After returning to the hotel around 6:00pm for a refresh we will head out to a local Yakiniku BBQ restaurant near the hotel for dinner (included)

Day 3: Thursday 28 May 2026 – Tokyo – Morning tour

This morning’s tour will take in the Tokyo Tower area then the Tsukiji Fish Market. We’ll head to a local restaurant for a seafood lunch before returning to the hotel at around 1:30pm. The rest of the afternoon and evening is free.



Day 4: Friday 29 May 2026 – Tokyo to Kyoto

Our baggage will be collected this morning and transferred by courier truck direct to our hotel in Kyoto,

After breakfast and checking out we will walk to Tokyo Central Station, where our local assistant will assist us with picking up a bento box lunch to eat on the train, and see us to our carriage and seats. Our high-speed Bullet train leaves Tokyo at 10:00am and will have us arriving in Kyoto at 12:30pm.



In Kyoto we will be met at the station by another local guide and taken on an afternoon tour. We will arrive at our hotel around 5:00pm. Our hotel is modern and newly opened in 2022. It features beautiful rooms, larger than normal for Japan, and is well located on the quieter side of Shijo. It features a stunning lobby and bar area where complimentary drinks and hors d’oeuvres are served each evening.

We’ll dine out tonight at a local restaurant near the hotel for Okonomiyaki or a similar Japanese meal.



Richmond Premier Kyoto Shijo Hotel

Nights: Two
Room Type: Double or Twin
Breakfast: Included daily

Day 5: Saturday 30 May 2026 – Kyoto

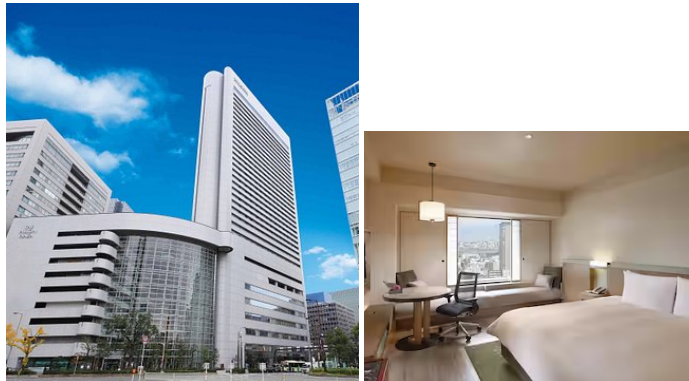
This morning we continue our exploration of Kyoto, the historical capital of Japan. Kyoto is famous for its historic sites, stunning gardens and peaceful park settings. We will visit the Kyoto Imperial Palace, and Nijo-Jo Castle. We will have a lunch break at Kinkakuji a well known foodies area before returning to the hotel around 2:00pm. Balance of the afternoon and evening is free.



Day 6: Sunday 31 May 2026 – Kyoto to Osaka

This morning we will travel from Kyoto to Osaka by coach and on arrival take in some of the main sights and temples, including Kuromon Ichiba Shopping Street before a Dotonburi Street tour where we will split into smaller groups for our ‘own choice lunch’, before transferring to our Osaka hotel around 3:00pm

Tonight we check-in for the cruise and meet the Heritage Expeditions team before having a sumptuous buffet meal in the hotel with other passengers joining the cruise.



Hilton Osaka Hotel

Nights: One
Room Type: Queen or Twin
Breakfast: Included

Day 7: Monday 01 June 2026 – Osaka and embarkation

This morning you are under the care of the Heritage Expeditions team. Enjoy breakfast at the hotel before exploring Osaka. Opportunities here include visiting Minoh Park and Osaka Castle. With an area of just 9.6 square kilometres (963 hectares), Minoh Park is one of Japan's smallest National Parks and home to the iconic 33-metre high Minoh Waterfall and diverse wildlife, including the Japanese Giant Salamander and protected Mino Monkeys. Explore Osaka Castle, one of Japan's most famous landmarks, take in the views from Osaka Castle Main Tower and relive dramatic stories of warlords and Osaka's fascinating history. This afternoon your Captain and Expedition Team welcome you aboard Heritage Adventurer with further sightseeing in Osaka. This afternoon board Heritage Adventurer in Kobe where your Captain and Expedition Team will welcome you aboard. The ship sails overnight.



Day 8: Tuesday 02 June 2026 – Ise Shima National Park

Expect a day like no other as we explore Ise-Shima National Park. Often likened to a living museum, the peninsula of Ise-Shima, or just 'Shima' as it is known to the locals, has much to discover. Comprising some 125 different shrines hidden among a labyrinth of mossy walls and dating back to the third century, Ise Jingū is Japan's most sacred shrine and considered the spiritual home of Shinto cosmology.



Explore the grand shrine Kotai Jingū, made entirely of Japanese cypress where no metal nails or screws have been used in its construction and, in accordance with Shinto practice, is rebuilt every 20 years to preserve its purity. Currently in its 62nd iteration, it was last rebuilt in 2013. Shima has been an official source of seafood for Japan's imperial family since the 5th Century. At Ago Bay gaze out over the fascinating seascape created by more than 60 islands dotting the water and observe Shima's sacred Meoto Iwa - Wedded Rocks, connected by a shimenawa rope near the Futami-Okitama Shrine. At Ise Contemporary Art Museum discover a diverse collection of works by both Japanese and international artists including the famed sculpture garden featuring work by Atsuo Okamoto

Day 9: Wednesday 03 June 2026 - Izu Oshima Island

Izu Oshima is the largest of 'Tokyo's Treasure Islands', Izu Islands, a chain of islands lying to the south of the Japanese mainland, which preserves its own unique natural and human history. There will be an opportunity to hike up Mount Mihara, or Oshima Fuji as it's known by the less than 7,000 locals, at the island's centre, to the east a dramatic cliff drops into the ocean, while gently sloping plains extend towards the west. Almost entirely covered by forests, Izu Oshima Island was certified as a Japan Geopark in September 2010 in recognition of its unique status. We also plan to visit one of these unique geological features at the Great Road Cut Geological site featuring 700-metre-long cliffs and their undulating layers of volcanic stratum which has earned it the nickname 'Baumkuchen' due to its resemblance to the famous layered cake.



Day 10: Thursday 04 June 2026 - Ishinomaki

After a morning at sea with presentations from our on board experts, we arrive in the port city of Ishinomaki. Options today include exploring the Shiogama Seafood Wholesale Market and its colourful urban core showcasing its 'manga' culture – the art of Japanese comic books and illustrated novels – thanks to famed pioneer Shotaro Ishinomori and creator of the popular Kamen Rider series. We will visit the iconic Ishinomori Manga Museum established in his honour and, throughout the city, you can observe artworks and statues celebrating the importance of the artist and his art on Japanese culture, there may also be time to visit the 2011 Iwate Tsunami Memorial Museum and try your hand at painting some of the region's iconic Kokeshi Dolls. Alternatively explore Sanriku Fukko National Park, known for its dramatic scenery it was increased to 38,537 hectares (95,227 acres) and renamed in 2013 from Rikuchu Kaigan National Park to encourage the region's recovery efforts following the devastating 2011 earthquake and tsunami. Explore jagged cliffs, white-sand beaches, quaint fishing ports, hiking trails and unique flora and fauna. Black-tailed Gull, Streaked Shearwater, Peregrine Falcon and Osprey all breed here, while botanists can look for Thunberg Lily and Beach Morning Glory among the many flowers.



South of the city is Matsushima Bay, studded with more than 200 pine-covered islands and considered one of Japan's three most iconic views, take the opportunity to explore this beautiful landscape from the shores or discover from the water.

Day 11: Friday 05 June 2026 - Hachinohe

With a Pacific shoreline of outstanding natural beauty, a clutch of fantastic cultural sights, thronging markets and delectable seafood, there is lots to see and experience during a visit to Hachinohe and the Aomori Region. Today we will explore the region's fascinating connection with contemporary art through visits to two of Japan's best contemporary art museums – the recently opened Hachinohe Art Museum and the Towada Art Center. Reflecting a new approach to contemporary art, Hachinohe Art Museum, also known as an 'art farm' offers a dynamic new interpretation of how and where art is created, housed in an innovative design intended to bring the community together to utilise the space.



At Towada Art Center, one of Japan's foremost contemporary art institutions, the striking Ryue Nishizawa-designed building features contemporary artists such as Leandro Erlich, Yayoi Kusama and Ron Mueck. Alternatively, visit the stunning Lake Towada, a 2,000-year-old flooded double caldera 400 metres above sea level, and its surrounding forest in Towada Hachimantai National Park. Lake Towada is the largest caldera lake on Honshu and is characterised by two large peninsulas which extend nearly a third of the way across the lake. On a clear day, Mt Towada is reflected in the still waters of the lake creating a picture-perfect scene. Take in these expansive views from the Hakka Pass Observatory or continue onwards to walk at Tsuta Numa Lake. A short walk brings you to Oirase Stream with its beautiful and cluster of 30 waterfalls.



Day 12: Saturday 06 June 2026 - Muroran

Adventures abound at ShikotsuToya National Park, named after its famous twin caldera lakes. Another picturesque natural hot spot, the park's spectacular scenery includes impressive lakes, hot springs and a volcanic wonderland, which are all easily accessible and offer multiple hiking and walking options. Activities here include riding the cable car to the top of Mount Usu to take in the grand scale views over Lake Toya and visiting the geothermal spectacle of steaming vents, bubbling mud and sulphurous streams at Jigokudani aka 'Hell Valley'. Observe and experience the Ainu culture including cuisine, music and crafts at the Upopoy National Ainu Museum which stands on the shores of Lake Poroto. This afternoon explore Muroran, options may include experiencing a traditional onsen at the Noboribetsu Onsen or a visit to the scenic cape and lighthouse.

Day 13: Sunday 07 June 2026 - Akita

A key city in the Tohoku region since medieval times, Akita was once a castle town of the Satake clan. Today it is a vibrant, prosperous city that seamlessly honours its past while embracing its young, energetic spirit. Noted for its burgeoning art community, there are several museums to explore, including the Akita Museum of Art which houses a collection of work by Western and Japanese artists, the Akita City Folklore Museum and the Namahage Museum. The latter, in Ogi, shares the area's ogre tradition which visit on New Year's Eve to search for lazy children or wives to punish. Alternatively, discover Akita's little-known Kaiyu-style Japanese Suishin-en Garden. Explore its many pathways, bridges, ponds filled with Koi, waterfalls, skunk cabbage garden and more under the shade of towering trees planted by the then Crow



Day 14: Monday 08 June 2026 – Sado Island

Today we will explore remote Sado Island off the coast of Niigata. The entire island is designated as one of Japan's Geoparks and comprises the mountain ranges of Osado and Kosado flanking the Kokunaka Plain. Once a destination of political exile, it now boasts its own rich cultural and religious life incorporating puppet theatre, Okesa folk songs, Ondeko drumming and demon dances. Home to the Japanese Crested Ibis, extinct on the mainland, and the iconic Taraibune Tub Boats, which we will have the opportunity to experience, this island off the beaten path combines stunning natural scenery including Senkakuwan Bay and Ogi Peninsula, and wilderness and wildlife with a rich history including gold and silver mining, Samurai warrior culture and unique agri- and aquaculture practices. Sado Island is widely considered a perfect miniature version of Japan. Here, we will visit the Shukunegi Village National Important Preservation Area and learn more about traditional taiko drumming at the Sado Island Taiko Centre.



Highlights here include Bandai- Asahi National Park, Japan's second largest national park, combining stunning volcanic scenery and hot springs with lush forests, verdant highlands crisscrossed with walking trails and home to Asiatic black bears, squirrels, foxes, and migratory birds. Elsewhere Takada Castle Site Park, with its 3-storey castle from the Edo Period, offers panoramic views of the Takada Plain, while the 193 hectares of Fukushima Wetlands is home to endangered flora and fauna, including the rarely seen gigantic lotus *Euryale Ferox*, and listed on Japan's 100 greatest natural environments.

Day 15: Tuesday 09 June 2026 - Kanazawa

Options today include exploring the historic mountain settlement and UNESCO World Heritage Site of Shirakawa-go, high in the remote mountains of the Shogawa River Valley in Hakusan National Park. Experience the unique cultural traditions including the region's iconic Gassho-zukuri farmhouses, some of which are more than 250 years old, designed to withstand the heavy snow in winter and provide a large attic space for cultivating silkworms.



Alternatively explore the rich art centre of Kanazawa discovering some of the unique styles of Japanese art. Kanazawa is rightly famous for its Kutani-style pottery, exquisite lacquerware, gold-leaf workmanship, hand painted silk, and classical Noh dance-drama performed since the 14th Century. Wander the winding cobblestone streets of Kanazawa's Geisha district Higashi Chaya, explore elegant restaurants and craft galleries and visit the impressive Edo-period Kenroku-en Garden, one of the Three Great Gardens of Japan.

Day 16: Wednesday 10 June 2026 - Matsue

This morning we arrive at the port of Sakaiminato, entry point to Matsue, known as 'the town of water' due to being situated between Lake Shinji and Lake Nakaumi. We plan to visit Matsue Castle, a national treasure and one of Japan's few largely intact 17th Century castles. Other options today may include exploring Daisen-Okii National Park and Mount Daisen with its rich Buddhist culture, once home to 3,000 soldier monks, enjoy panoramic views from the Ogamiyama Shrine before visiting the breathtaking Daisenji Temple. The Adachi Museum of Art is renowned for its superb Japanese gardens and collection of contemporary Japanese paintings, comprising some 1,500 of the country's most highly regarded paintings produced after the Meiji period.



Day 17: Thursday 11 June 2026 - Ulsan, South Korea

Today we cross the Sea of Japan to Ulsan in South Korea where we plan to visit the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Gyeongju. The capital of the Silla Dynasty and dating back to the first millennium, Gyeongju is known as 'the museum without walls' and is full of ancient Korean history and Buddhist culture. Stroll among excavated monuments, temples, tombs and pagodas at Tumuli Park and the Bulguksa Buddhist Temple. We may also visit the iconic Woljeonggyo Bridge, savour Korean delicacies and explore Hwangildangil Road, South Korea's trendy yet traditional Korean-style food, pub, and shopping street and walk in the beautiful Taehwagang Bamboo Forest. Today is a perfect taste of South Korea.



Days 18: Friday 12 June 2026 - Fukuoka, Japan

The largest city on the island of Kyushu, Fukuoka is the union of the castle town of Fukuoka on the west bank of the Naka River and the merchant town of Hakata on the east bank. This buzzing metropolis combines an effortless blend of trendy Yatai food stalls (which made Lonely Planet and The New York Times 2023 travel lists) with vibrant art installations, historic ruins and colourful coastal parks. During our time here there may be opportunities to explore the northern city of Kitakyushu and the famed Kokura Castle, TOTO Museum and Kawachi Wisteria Garden or Nanzoin Temple with its reclining bronze Buddha (thought to be the world's largest bronze statue). At the Dazaifu Tenmangu Shrine, which is built on the gravesite of poet and scholar Sugawara no Michizane, is surrounded by beautiful gardens, ponds and more than 6,000 plum trees



Day 19: Saturday 13 June 2026 - Hiroshima & Miyajima Island

Despite its history, including being the site of the world's first atomic bomb attack on 6 August 1945, Hiroshima is a vibrant and thriving cosmopolitan community. We plan to visit the beautiful Peace Park and Museum, with its sombre cenotaph containing names of atomic bomb victims, and the permanently lit 'Flame of Peace'.



We plan to time our visit to Miyajima Island during high tide, where possible, to experience the floating Torii Gate. Considered one of Japan's most scenic spots it is also the location of the famed Daisho-in Buddhist temple. Choose to indulge in fresh local oysters and ice cream, while native Sika deer wander the streets, and enjoy the views of the Shinto Shrine and Torii Gate.

Day 20: Sunday 14 June 2026 – Takamatsu

Shikoku Island’s Takamatsu has a long history as a port town, earning itself the nickname ‘Gateway to Shikoku’, although more recently locals call it ‘Udon Kingdom’. If you are interested in plants, a visit to Ritsurin Park, considered one of Japan’s finest gardens, is sure to be a highlight. Next, you will enjoy a visit to Kinashi Garden, one of Japan’s main bonsai production centres, where you will learn about traditional methods of growing bonsai. Visit Mount Yashima, a historic mountain that played a significant role in the Genpei War during the late 12th Century, before visiting the open-air museum of Shikoku Shikoku-mura. For those interested in art you may wish to travel to Naoshima Island – Japan’s art island – for a full-day excursion. Shikoku Island is known for its art and this excursion to Naoshima will have you admiring its architecture and art museums which include Chichu Art Museum and Benesse House, featuring work by Japanese and international artists including Yayoi Kusama’s iconic pumpkins.

Day 21: Monday 15 June 2026 – Osaka Port to Osaka Airport

This morning sail back into Osaka and after breakfast there will be a complimentary coach to Osaka airport for our flights home to NZ.

- 2:05pm Depart Osaka on All Nippon Airlines
- 3:30pm Arrive Narita and transfer flights
- 8.00pm Depart Tokyo Narita on Air New Zealand – overnight flight

Day 22: Tuesday 16 June 2026 – Auckland

09:25am Arrive Auckland - - Tour concludes



ITINERARY CONCLUDES



- Return Air NZ economy airfares – options to upgrade
- Three nights Bon Voyage selected 4 star hotel in Tokyo
- Two nights Bon Voyage selected 4 star hotel in Kyoto
- One night pre-cruise in Osaka at Hilton Osaka
- Daily sightseeing in Tokyo, Kyoto & Osaka
- Bullet Train Tokyo to Kyoto
- Small coach for transfers and sightseeing
- Daily breakfast, 3 dinners and 4 lunches – pre-cruise
- 14 night cruise on *Heritage Adventurer* – max 140 passengers
- All meals for duration of the cruise
- Wine, beer, soft drinks with lunch and dinner
- Daily shore excursions and activities
- Program of lectures by noted naturalists and art experts
- All cruise related gratuities
- Bon Voyage tour leader from NZ to embarkation



BIG SAVINGS	Twin/Double	Single Supp	Twin/Double
Prices per person	DECK 4	DECK 4	DECK 5
Book by 24 October	\$25,450	+\$6,500	\$26,625
Price after 24 Oct 25	\$29,795	+\$8,195	\$31,175
Air NZ Flight Upgrades: Premium Economy +\$1800 Business Class +\$5675			

HERITAGE ADVENTURER

Heritage Adventurer is a true pioneering expedition vessel of exceptional pedigree often referred to as the 'Grande Dame of Polar Exploration'.

Purpose built for adventure in 1991 at Finland's Rauma shipyard and specifically designed for Polar exploration, Heritage Adventurer (formerly known as MS Hanseatic) is 124-metres long, boasts the highest passenger ship ice-class rating (1A Super) and an impressive history of Polar and remote region exploration making her perfect for Heritage Expeditions signature experiential expedition travel.

Originally designed to accommodate 184 guests, we now welcome just 140 expeditioners to create a spacious, comfortable on board experience and continuation of the exceptional, personalised expedition experience synonymous with the company.

A fleet of 14 Zodiacs ensures all guests are able to maximise their expedition experience. On board, enjoy stylish, sophisticated accommodations spanning 4 decks, visit the captain and crew in the Bridge with our Open Bridge Policy and dine on gourmet fare from leading chefs.

Watch your adventure unfold from numerous spectacular indoor and outdoor viewing locations including Heritage Adventurer's famed Observation Lounge resplendent with 270-degree views and join our world-renowned team of naturalists, botanists, historians and experts as they interpret the natural and human history discovered during each voyage, as well as hosting regular lectures. And should you require a little R&R, unwind in the library, pool, gym, hot tub, sauna and steam room, indulge in some retail therapy or find a quiet place to enjoy a coffee or cocktail from the café and bar.

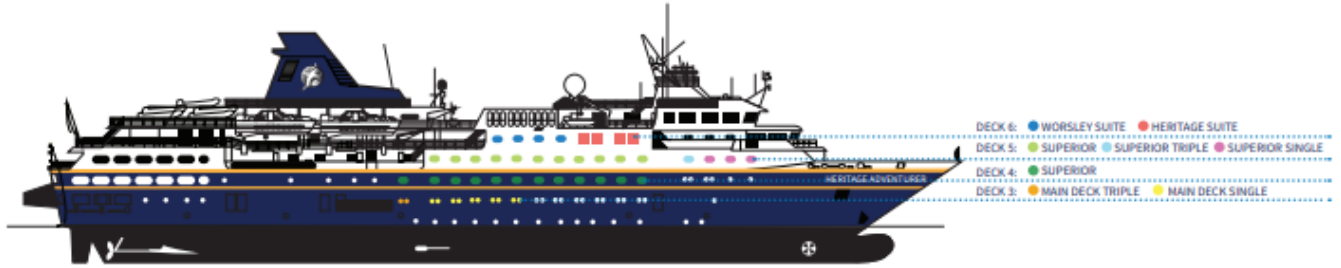


Superior Twin – Deck 4-5

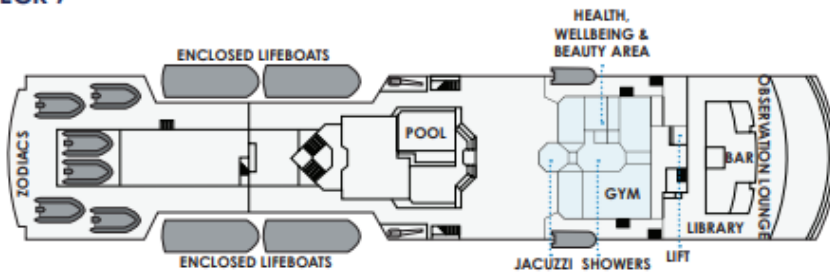


Worsley Suite – Deck 6

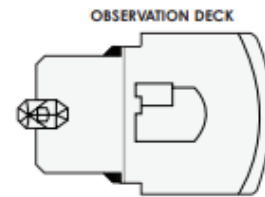
Heritage Adventurer Deck Plan



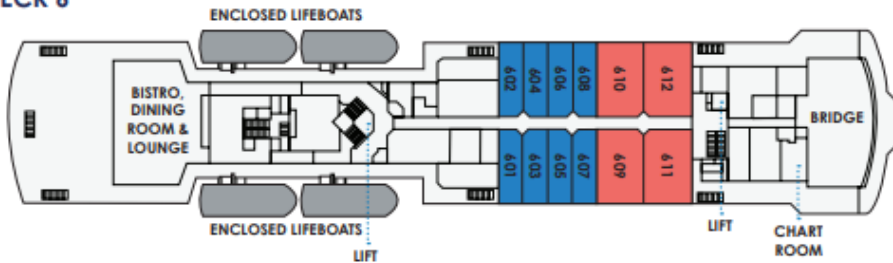
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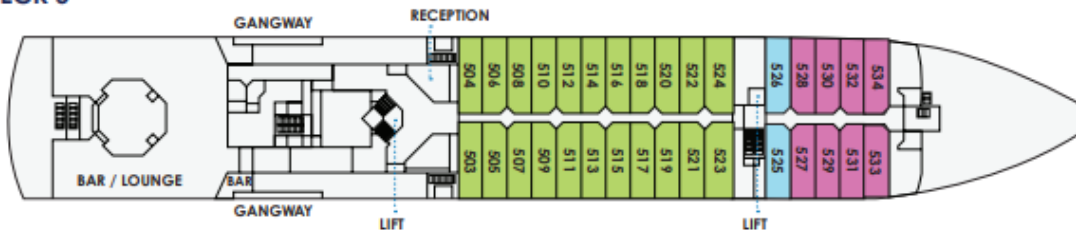
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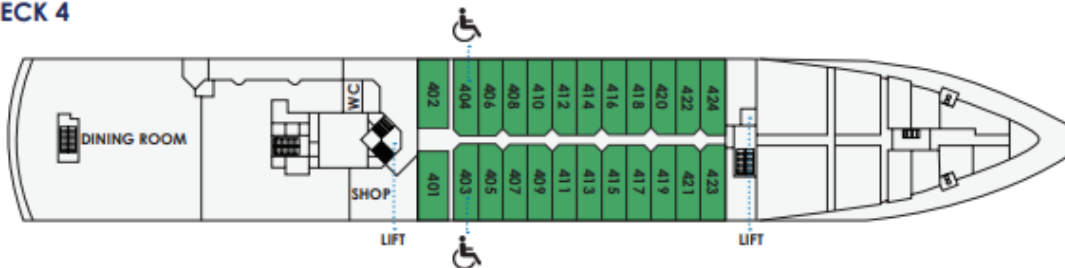
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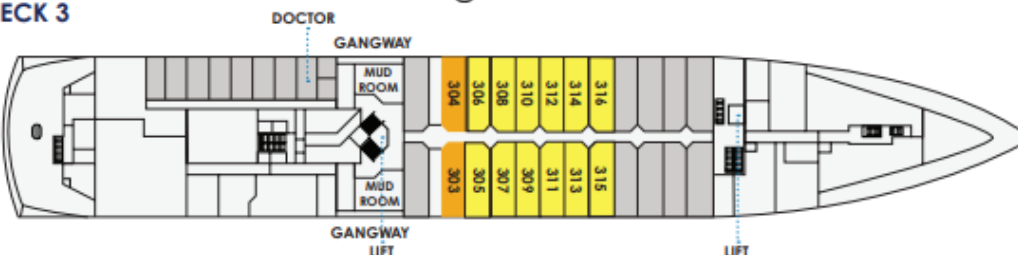
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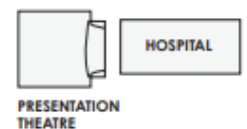
DECK 4



DECK 3



DECK 2



SUITE CATEGORIES

- HERITAGE SUITE
- SUPERIOR SINGLE
- DECK 4 SUPERIOR
- MAIN DECK SINGLE
- WORSLEY SUITE
- DECK 5 SUPERIOR
- MAIN DECK TRIPLE
- SUPERIOR TRIPLE



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Fares are in NZD\$ per person, sharing cabin/room, (except single), with Spring Saving already deducted. Fares based on current exchange rates and taxes and based on minimum group size of 12 passengers. \$5000 deposit (non-refundable) due within seven days of booking and balance due 13 March 2026. Special conditions including cancellation fees apply – travel insurance is required. In the event of cancellation, after tour numbers have reached 12 people we will endeavour to re-sell your place and if successful a refund less \$1000 per person will be made. One way and mixed class flight upgrade prices available on request. Hosted by Bon Voyage tour leader from NZ to embarkation at Osaka, then in the care of Heritage Expeditions leaders and crew.