Ancient Traditions of the Inland Sea of Japan

Kyoto • Hiroshima • Miyajima
Matsue • Himeji • Osaka

A voyage aboard the Exclusively Chartered Small Ship
Five-Star Le Soleal

May 22 to June 1, 2019

Sponsored by the University of Oklahoma Alumni Association
Dear Alumni and Friends:

**Konnichiwa!**

Join fellow OU alumni and friends, along with alumni and friends from other colleges and universities as we discover the timeless splendor of Japan and South Korea, where ancient monuments each reveal a unique moment in history and symbolize profound cultural values. This exclusive, nine-night itinerary explores two diverse countries by land and sea, the most comprehensive way to experience the region’s vast riches. Here, each port of call is steeped in venerable heritage—from the former dwellings of samurai, geisha and shōguns to landscapes dotted with Shinto shrines, imperial castles and meticulous Japanese gardens.

Spend two nights in the imperial and cultural capital of Kyoto. Wander a serene setting, adorned with fragrant floral blooms and featuring a host of historic UNESCO World Heritage sites, including the opulent temples of Ryōan-ji and Kinkaku-ji, imposing Nijō Castle and the iconic Fushimi Inari Shrine, whose red-orange *torii* gates lead up to Mt. Inari.

Cruise for seven nights along the tranquil coast of the Inland Sea and South Korea on board the exclusively chartered, Five-Star, small ship Le Soléal—featuring only 110 ocean-view Suites and Staterooms—into captivating ports inaccessible to larger vessels. Enjoy excursions to eight UNESCO World Heritage sites, including the 14th-century Himeji Castle, the largest surviving feudal complex of medieval Japan; Hiroshima’s poignant Genbaku Dome Peace Memorial; Miyajima’s Itsukushima Shrine and its awe-inspiring Great Torii Gate; and in Gyeongju, South Korea, the ancient Silla Kingdom Royal Burial Mounds and the glorious Bulguksa Temple, the embodiment of Buddhist utopia on Earth.

Admire impressive collections of Japanese artwork at the acclaimed Adachi Museum of Art near Matsue, whose impeccable gardens are seen as “living Japanese paintings,” and at the Hagi Uragami Museum, with influential works in the *ukiyo-e* style, admired and collected by 19th-century Impressionists. Just outside of Moji, walk through the beautiful 12th-century Akama Shrine, and nearby, visit an authentic Japanese fish market, known for its locally caught *fugu* (pufferfish), a delicacy of Japanese cuisine.

This rare itinerary is an excellent value. Indulge in Five-Star accommodations while learning firsthand about the fascinating cultures of Japan and South Korea on daily excursions. I encourage you to book now while space and Early Booking Savings are available.

Sincerely,

Lea Ann Quirk
Director of Alumni Programs
OU Alumni Association
U.S.  
Wednesday, May 22  
Depart the U.S. and cross the International Date Line.

Osaka, Japan/Kyoto  
Thursday, May 23  
Arrive in Osaka, then transfer to impeccably preserved Kyoto, Japan’s former imperial capital. Check into the ideally located, deluxe Kyoto Hotel Okura. The remainder of the day is at leisure.

Kyoto  
Friday, May 24  
An ethereal setting of grand imperial castles, tranquil Zen gardens and graceful Shinto shrines, Kyoto manifests Japanese culture in its purest form. Visit two UNESCO World Heritage sites—14th-century Kinkaku-ji Temple, whose famed “Golden Pavilion” is almost entirely adorned with gold leaf, and the peaceful Ryōan-ji Temple, originally an aristocrat’s villa during the Heian Period (A.D. 794 to 1185). 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. 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 this evening.

Kyoto/Himeji  
Saturday, May 25  
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 the spectacular Himeji Castle (1333), 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.

Cover photo: Miyajima’s Great Torii Gate is thought to be the boundary between the spirit and the human worlds. 
Photo this page: Kyoto’s UNESCO-designated Golden Pavilion functions as a shariden, housing relics of the Buddha.

The unsurpassed natural beauty and fascinating way of life in Japan are found nowhere else in the world; here, centuries-old culture echoes throughout the nation, laden with the storied values of tradition, ceremony and ritual. Ukiyo-e, a Japanese art style beloved by the Impressionists, captures the fleeting essence of the natural world on its woodblock prints. A similar ephemeral style reverberates through the delicate ikebana (flower arrangement, also known as kado or “the way of the flowers”) and the immaculate paradise, kare-sansui (dry landscape), strolling and tea gardens—many of which were commissioned by the Daimyō feudal lords, and are unique in style and symbolic purpose. From the meticulously sifted sands of the kare-sansui rock garden of Ryōan-ji, a paragon of Japanese expression and Zen Buddhism, emerge a variety of symbols, dependent on the onlooker’s perception. It is said only 14 of the 15 rocks in the garden can be seen at once, and only when one reaches peak enlightenment does the final stone reveal itself.
Hiroshima/Miyajima
Sunday, May 26
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 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," go ashore via Zodiac to 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 this evening.

Later, walk past former samurai dwellings in the old quarter lined with 19th-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 Uragami 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.

Sakaiminato for Matsue
Tuesday, May 28
Following a scenic drive, tour the widely acclaimed Adachi Museum of Art, where 20th-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, 17th-century Matsue Castle, before an afternoon of cruising with onboard lectures.
Ulsan, South Korea, for Gyeongju
Wednesday, May 29
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.

Moji, Japan
Thursday, May 30
Visit the 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.

Uno
Friday, May 31
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 17th-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.

Osaka/U.S.
Saturday, June 1
Disembark and continue on the Osaka and Nara Post-Program Option, or transfer to the airport for your return flight to the U.S.

The UNESCO-designated Himeji Castle is referred to as Shirasagi-jo, meaning “white egret castle,” for its resemblance to a bird taking flight.

The renowned Koraku-en Garden was designed to obscure Okayama’s skyline, offering tranquil views at each turn.
Five-Star, State-of-the-Art, Small Ship
Join us aboard the exclusively chartered, Five-Star Le Soléal, where distinctive French sophistication meets innovative nautical design. The ship’s efficient electrical propulsion system and custom stabilizers provide an exceptionally smooth, quiet and comfortable voyage.

Respect for the Environment
With advanced eco-friendly features, the ship has been appointed the prestigious “Clean Ship” award—a rare distinction among ocean vessels.

With Our Compliments
Indulge in these complimentary onboard amenities—alcoholic and nonalcoholic beverages available throughout the cruise and in your Suite or Stateroom minibar, Wi-Fi access throughout the ship and 24-hour room service.

Chic and Casual Dining
The stylish dining room and casual alfresco restaurant feature international and regional cuisine and serve continental and buffet breakfasts, buffet lunch, afternoon tea and dinner in four courses or buffet. Wine is served at your table with lunch and dinner.

Only 110 Suites and Staterooms, 95% Including Private Balconies
These elegant ocean-view accommodations range from 200 to 484 square feet, and most have a private balcony. Your Five-Star Suite or Stateroom features individual climate control, two twin beds or one queen bed, a private bathroom with shower and luxurious hotel amenities, including flat-screen television, safe, full-length closet, plush robes and slippers.

Life on Board
Whether you seek educational and cultural presentations, panoramic views, nightly entertainment or quiet retreat, the ship’s spacious public areas can accommodate all passengers comfortably. Enjoy two lounges, a theater, library, Sun Deck with open-air bar, swimming pool, beauty salon, spa, Turkish bath-style steam room and fitness room. The ship has three elevators.

World-Class Service
The highly trained, English-speaking crew are personable and attentive, and the ship has a medical center staffed with a doctor and nurse.
Included Features

In Kyoto, Japan
◆ ◆ Two nights in the deluxe KYOTO HOTEL OKURA.
◆ ◆ Full buffet breakfast each morning.
◆ ◆ Welcome Reception.
◆ ◆ Tour of the iconic Fushimi Inari Shrine to see its thousands of beautiful vermilion torii gates.

Transfer from Kyoto to Himeji, including lunch.

On Board the Exclusively Chartered, Five-Star Small Ship LE SOLEAL
◆ ◆ Seven-night cruise round trip Osaka, Japan, including Gyeongju, South Korea.
◆ ◆ Elegantly appointed, Five-Star Suite or Stateroom.
◆ ◆ Captain's Welcome and Farewell Receptions.
◆ ◆ Complimentary alcoholic and nonalcoholic beverages available throughout the cruise.
◆ ◆ All meals aboard ship.
◆ ◆ Complimentary Wi-Fi throughout the ship.
◆ ◆ Walking tour of Hagi's old samurai quarter, featuring visits to the early 17th-century Kikuya House and Toko-ji Temple.
◆ ◆ Visit to the Hagi Uragami Museum to see the famous craftsmanship of original woodblock prints of Hiroshige and Hokusai.
◆ ◆ Excursion to the acclaimed Adachi Museum of Art featuring Japanese modern art and perfectly landscaped gardens.
◆ ◆ Tour of Moji, featuring visits to the Akama Shrine, and the Karato Ichiba Fish Market.
◆ ◆ Time to explore Kurashiki, featuring visits to the early 17th-century Kikuya House and Toko-ji Temple.
◆ ◆ Visit to the famous Japanese strolling garden, Koraku-en.

UNESCO World Heritage Site Highlights
◆ ◆ Visit to Kyoto's renowned temples of Ryoan-ji and Kinkaku-ji.
◆ ◆ Tour of the impressive Nijo Castle, built by a powerful shogun of the Tokugawa dynasty.
◆ ◆ Guided visit of the stunning grounds surrounding Himeji Castle, the world's finest surviving example of 17th-century Japanese castle architecture.
◆ ◆ Visit to Hiroshima's compelling Genbaku Dome Peace Memorial, with a tour of the Peace Memorial Museum.
◆ ◆ Excursion on Miyajima (“Shrine Island”) to tour the site of sixth-century Itsukushima Shrine and see the iconic Great Torii Gate.
◆ ◆ Excursion from Ulsan, South Korea, to historic Gyeongju, the cradle of the Silla Kingdom, with visits to Bulguksa Temple, the Gyeongju National Museum and the Royal Burial Mounds at Tumuli Park; lunch is included.

Always Included
◆ Transfers and luggage handling abroad if your arrival(s)/departure(s) coincide with the scheduled group transfer(s).
◆ Experienced, English-speaking local guides for included excursions.
◆ Gratuities to local guides and drivers on included excursions and transfers.
◆ Complimentary bottled water in your accommodations and on excursions.
◆ Hospitality desk in the hotel and aboard ship.
◆ Experienced Gohagan & Company Travel Directors at your service.
◆ Complimentary use of an audio headset during guided excursions.
◆ Automatic $250,000 flight insurance policy for each participant ticketed on flights by Gohagan & Company.
En route to Kyoto aboard the Shinkansen bullet train, admire majestic Mt. Fuji, Japan’s highest mountain, in the distance.

Iconic Tokyo
Pre-Program Option
Beneath Tokyo’s layers of thriving innovation and enthralling pop culture, you will find venerable wooden houses fronted by bonsai trees and shrines wreathed in incense smoke—the cultural core of this vibrant capital city. Begin with a panoramic tour, followed by a visit to the Tokyo National Museum, one of the largest art museums in the world with over 110,000 objects and 87 of Japan’s treasures. Explore collections of Asian artwork and artifacts and the surrounding Ueno Park, opened to the public in 1873. Enjoy a full-day excursion to Hakone, home to iconic Mt. Fuji, a UNESCO World Heritage site. Visit vibrant Asakusa, the center of Tokyo’s historic shitamachi district, and tour the seventh-century Sensō-Ji Temple. Travel aboard the high-speed Shinkansen bullet train to Kyoto. Spend three nights in the Five-Star ANA INTERCONTINENTAL HOTEL TOKYO.

Osaka and Nara
Post-Program Option
In dynamic Osaka, visit the Osaka History Museum to learn more about the city’s merchant past, and enjoy sprawling aerial views of the city from the Floating Garden Observatory. Spend a day among UNESCO World Heritage-designated ancient monuments in serene Nara, Japan’s oldest capital, where gentle sika deer roam Nara Park’s rolling landscape. Visit the significant “Great Eastern Temple” of Tōdai-ji, rebuilt in the 12th century, and the Hōryū-ji Temple, where a first-century, five-storied pagoda—considered one of the world’s oldest wooden structures—stands as a proud testament to Japan’s history. Experience the ancient tradition of creating Gripped Sumi, calligraphy ink sticks, at the Kinkoen Workshop. Accommodations are for two nights in the Five-Star INTERCONTINENTAL HOTEL OSAKA.

Pre- and Post-Program Options are available at additional cost. Details will be provided with your reservation confirmation.

The Hōryū-ji complex’s Yumedono contains the “hidden Buddha” statue, Guze Kannon.
Add $1000 for reservations made after October 26, 2018.

Singles are available in category 6 at $13995* and in category 4 at $15795* on or before October 26, 2018.

All FINAL PAYMENTS are required to be made by check or wire transfer by February 15, 2019.

ANCIENT TRADITIONS OF THE INLAND SEA OF JAPAN RESERVATION FORM

Send to:
Gohagan & Company
209 South LaSalle Street, Suite 500
Chicago, Illinois 60604-1446
(800) 922-3088/Fax: (312) 609-1114

Title
Full Name (exactly as it appears on your passport)
Class Year

Street Mailing Address (no P.O. Box number please)
City        State        ZIP Code

Telephone: (Home)        (Mobile)
Email Address        (Business)

Preferred Name(s) on Badge(s)
Tour No. 140-05/22/19-142

Program reservations require a deposit of $800 per person and $200 per person Iconic Tokyo Pre-Program Option and/or $200 per person Osaka and Nara Post-Program Option. By reserving and depositing on this program, I agree to the Release of Liability, Assumption of Risk and Binding Arbitration Agreement as printed on the outside back cover of this brochure.

Enclosed is my/our check(s) for $__________ as deposit.

Make checks payable to Gohagan & Company.

I/We authorize you to charge my/our deposit of $__________ to:

Visa        MasterCard

Card Number        Exp. Date

Signature as it appears on credit card

Please make my/our reservation(s) in Stateroom Category:
1st choice _______ 2nd choice _______

Double occupancy (two twin beds).
Double occupancy (one queen bed).
Single accommodations.
I am reserving as a single but prefer to share accommodations and will allow you to select my roommate (shares cannot be guaranteed).

Please make my/our reservation(s):
Iconic Tokyo Pre-Program Option
Double at $1595 per person.
Single at $2295 per person.
I am reserving as a single but prefer to share accommodations.

Osaka and Nara Post-Program Option
Double at $995 per person.
Single at $1445 per person.
I am reserving as a single but prefer to share accommodations.

1/We want you to book my/our air, at an additional cost to be advised, from:

(fill in departure city)

Economy Class
Upgraded Economy
Business Class
First Class

Note: Airfare is subject to change and availability and is nonrefundable.

1/We will make my/our own air arrangements.
Maiko, apprentice geiko, are recognized by their kanzashi (hair ornaments) and colorful kimono.

RELEASE OF LIABILITY, ASSUMPTION OF RISK AND BINDING ARBITRATION AGREEMENT

RESPONSIBILITY: Gohagan is not responsible for any injury, loss, death, inconvenience, delay, or damage to person or property in connection with the provision of any goods or services whether resulting from, but not limited to, acts of government, acts of war or civil unrest, insurrection or revolt, bites from or attacks by animals, insects or pests, strikes or other labor activities, criminal or terrorist activities of any kind or the threat thereof, the lack of availability of or access to medical attention or the quality thereof, overbooking or downgrading of accommodations, mechanical or other failure of airplanes, vessels, or other means of transportation, or for any failure of any transportation mechanism to arrive or depart timely or safely.

CANCELLATIONS: Cancellations for all or any part of the trip including Pre/Post Program(s) reservation(s) will not be effective until received in the offices of Gohagan. Should you have to cancel, the following terms will apply: reservation cancellation(s) are subject to a $200 ($50 Pre/Post Program(s)) per person administrative fee from the time of booking through 120 days prior to departure; from 95 through 119 days prior to departure, $800 ($200 Pre/Post Program(s)) per person; from 60 through 94 days prior to departure, 70% of the published full regular tariffs; cancellations 59 days or less prior to departure, a no-show, or early return from the trip will result in forfeiture of 100% of the published full regular tariffs. In addition, any applicable airline cancellation fees, optional excursion cancellation fees and administrative fees may apply.

TRIP INSURANCE: In the event that you must cancel your participation in a travel program, trip cancellation insurance may be the only source of reimbursement. Trip cancellation insurance is available for comprehensive coverage of such expenses in conjunction with cancellation due to illness or accident, and damaged or lost luggage. We will send you an application upon request with your reservation. TRIP INSURANCE:

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ACCEPTANCE OF CONTRACT: By forwarding of deposit, the participant certifies that he/she does not have any mental, physical or other condition of disability that would create a hazard for him/herself or other participants and accepts the terms contained in this Release of Liability, Assumption of Risk and Binding Arbitration Agreement.