



# JAPAN & SOUTH KOREA EXPLORED NORWEGIAN CRUISE LINES

Classic Cruising Tour | 23 Days | Physical Level 1

KYOTO - KANAZAWA - TAKAYAMA - YUDANAKA - TOKYO - MT FUJI - NAGOYA - OSAKA - KOCHI -  
HIROSHIMA - KAGOSHIMA - NAGASAKI - JEJU ISLAND - SEOUL

Join one of our most extensive tours of Japan and South Korea that combines land and cruise touring into one and discover classic sights and key cultural activities. Featuring modern cities, historical sights and beautiful landscapes, Japan & South Korea Explored will immerse you in some of the most fascinating cultures in the world.

- Be charmed by Kyoto
- Feel the rush of Tokyo
- Admire beautiful Mount Fuji
- Reflect in Hiroshima
- Discover Scenic Seoul

## TOUR MAP



## TOUR INCLUSIONS:

- Return international economy flights, taxes and current fuel surcharges (unless a land only option is selected)
- 9 nights cruise on NCL Jade
- All accommodation
- Meals as stated (*if dining on board throughout*) – 20 breakfasts (B), 19 lunches (L), 20 dinners (D)
- All sightseeing and entrance fees, transportation and transfers pre and post cruise
- English speaking National Escorts (if your group is 10 or more passengers) or Local Guides pre and post cruise
- Specialist advice from our experienced travel consultants
- Comprehensive travel guides

*Pre and post cruise, the only elements or aspects you may have to pay for are personal expenditures e.g., drinks, optional excursions or shows, insurance of any kind, tipping, early check in or late checkout and other items not specified on the itinerary.*

*During the cruise, your meals on board will be included in the main dining areas, however, should you wish to dine in any of the speciality restaurants not included in your cruising package, you will be required to pay for these locally. In addition, if you opt to dine off the ship, these meals will also be paid for locally, and please note you will not be refunded for meals missed on board. Excursions are also available to book with your cruise reservation at your own expense.*

## CLASSIC CRUISING TOURS:

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These tours are designed for those who wish to see the iconic sites and magnificent treasures of Japan and South Korea on an excellent value group tour whilst travelling with like-minded people combined with a cruise. The tours are on a fully-inclusive basis pre & post cruise, so you will travel with the assurance that all your arrangements before and after your cruise are taken care of. You will be accompanied by our dedicated and professional National Escorts and local guides, whose unparalleled knowledge will turn your holiday into an unforgettable experience.

## JOINING YOUR TOUR:

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For travellers that have booked a 'Land & Cruise Only' tour with no international flights, please note the price includes your arrival/departure airport transfers if you are arriving on the start and departing on the conclusion date of your tour, or when booking pre/post night accommodation with Wendy Wu Tours.

Join the tour on Day 2 in Kyoto (Arrive Osaka Airport) and end the tour on Day 22 in Seoul. Please refer to your final itinerary for more specific meeting instructions pertaining to your departure.

## PHYSICAL LEVEL 1:

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Our tours come with a physical rating to guide you in selecting a holiday that suits your comfort level. Joining any of our tours involves independent mobility and the ability to stay active throughout the day, which is essential for fully enjoying the unique charm of each destination.

'Japan & South Korea Explored' falls under a Physical Level 1 category. A reasonable level of fitness is required, and you should expect to be on your feet for much of the day. You will be getting on and off coaches, trains or boats and walking around the sights, often including steps, plus occasional longer walks.

- There will be sightseeing on foot for both short and extended periods of time, often on uneven surfaces
- You will be required to get on and off small boats without assistance
- You will be required to board the cruise ship without assistance and get on and off at ports if you wish to disembark the ship

Of course, our National Escorts and local guides will always endeavour to provide the highest level of service and assistance; however, they cannot be expected to cater for customers who are unfit to complete the itinerary.

**ITINERARY CHANGES:**

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We intend to adhere to the day-to-day itinerary as printed; however, the order of events or sightseeing may change as we look to improve our tours, or as dictated by local conditions. In these circumstances, we will endeavour to make the best possible arrangements whilst maintaining the integrity of your trip. Similarly, while cruise liners always endeavour to adhere to the published itineraries, they may be changed at the discretion of the captain due to weather advisories, port traffic, and any other unforeseeable circumstances.

## DETAILED ITINERARY

 Days 1-2: **Arrive in Osaka - Kyoto** Meals: D

Fly overnight to the lively, fast-paced city of Osaka.

On arrival you will be met by an English-speaking representative and transferred to your hotel in Kyoto.

*Please note: Early check-in is not included. If your flight arrives in the morning and you wish to arrange this, please speak to your reservation's consultant.*


**Destination Information**

**Osaka** – Osaka, formerly known as Naniwa, is Japan's third largest city and remains the economic powerhouse of the Kansai Region. The city is famed for its delicious food and is often referred to as the culinary capital. The city also boasts vibrant colours that surround each street, rich history and culture.

**Kyoto** – Kyoto was the ancient capital of Japan for approximately 1,000 years until 1867 when it was moved to Tokyo. Many national treasures can be found in Kyoto and in nearby Nara, including old shrines and temples, screen paintings, beautiful gardens, and statues of Buddha.

 Day 3: **Explore Kyoto** Meals: B, L, D

After breakfast, embark on a guided tour of Kyoto.

Begin with a visit to the beautiful Kinkaku-ji Temple also known as the 'Golden Pavilion' which was originally built as a retirement villa for the Shogun but, at his request, became a Buddhist Temple after his death.



Go on to discover the Ryoan-ji Temple before enjoying lunch at a local restaurant. Afterwards, pay a visit to the Arashiyama Bamboo Forest and the Togetsukyo bridge.

Later this evening, head for dinner at a local restaurant before returning to your hotel.

You will be on your feet for approximately 4-5 hours today.

## Destination Information

**Kinkaku-ji Temple (Golden Pavillion)** – Kinkaku-ji Temple is a Buddhist temple and is an excellent example of Japanese garden design. The structure is a brilliant golden hue colour and is very minimalistic.

**Ryoan-ji Temple** – This UNESCO World Heritage Site is famed for its Zen rock garden, a masterpiece of simplicity and design. Originally an aristocratic villa, it was converted into a Zen temple in 1450. The garden's 15 carefully placed rocks, set in raked white gravel, embody the principles of meditation and wabi-sabi aesthetics.

**Arashiyama Bamboo Forest** – One of Kyoto's most iconic sights, the Arashiyama Bamboo Forest is a serene grove of towering bamboo stalks that create a mesmerising natural walkway. The rustling sound of the bamboo swaying in the wind enhances its tranquil atmosphere, making it a popular spot for reflection and photography.

**Togetsukyo Bridge** – Spanning the Katsura River in Kyoto's Arashiyama district, Togetsukyo Bridge is a historic wooden bridge that dates back to the Heian period. Its name, meaning 'Moon-Crossing Bridge', reflects the area's scenic beauty, particularly in autumn and spring when the surrounding mountains are ablaze with colour.

## Day 4: Explore Kyoto

Meals: B, L, D

Start the day with a guided tour exploring some of the city's highlights. Begin with a visit to the Kiyomizu Temple, founded in the 8th century and situated halfway up the Otowayama Hill allowing for stunning views of Kyoto.

Enjoy a Sukiyaki lunch at a local restaurant, followed by a trip to the Matsui Shuzou museum (or similar) for some local sake tasting. Continue with a visit to the Fushimi Inari Shrine, famous for its corridors of torii gates.

This evening, enjoy dinner at a local restaurant before returning to your hotel.



At Fushimi Inari Shrine you will walk up part of the mountain and the incline allows a steady-paced walk around 15 minutes with flat road and steps to reach the torii gates. Due to the limited space at Fushimi Inari Shrine coach parking, you may need to walk from coach parking for 15 minutes. You will be on your feet for approximately 3-4 hours today.

## Destination Information

**Fushimi Inari Shrine** – An important Shinto shrine in southern Kyoto, Fushimi Inari is most famous for its thousands of vermilion torii gates which form a network of tunnels around the main shrine buildings. The shrine itself is dedicated to Inari, the Shinto god of rice. There are many fox statues in the grounds of the shrine as foxes are thought to be Inari's messengers.

**Kiyomizu Temple** – Meaning ‘Pure Water Temple’, Kiyomizu-dera is one of Kyoto’s most celebrated temples, founded in 778 and dedicated to Kannon, the Goddess of Mercy. Its iconic wooden stage, built without nails, extends from the main hall and offers breathtaking views over Kyoto and the surrounding woodlands. Within the temple grounds, the Otowa Waterfall is believed to bring good fortune, while the Jishu Shrine is dedicated to the deity of love.

**Sake** – Japan’s traditional rice wine, sake is brewed through a unique fermentation process. Served warm or chilled, it plays a key role in Japanese culture and cuisine.

**Sukiyaki Lunch** – A classic Japanese hotpot, sukiyaki features thinly sliced beef, vegetables, and tofu simmered in a sweet soy-based broth and dipped in raw egg before eating.

### Day 5: Kyoto to Kanazawa

Meals: B, L, D

After breakfast, take the bullet train to Kanazawa. On arrival, enjoy lunch at a local restaurant before taking a stroll in the Higashi Chaya district.

Next, enjoy a Gold Leaf Experience and visit the Nomura Samurai Residence, a beautifully restored home that once belonged to a high-ranking samurai family. Explore its elegant rooms, admire the exquisite garden, and gain insights into the lifestyle of the warrior class during the Edo period.

Finally, head to your hotel for check-in and later this evening, enjoy a dinner at a local restaurant.



## Destination Information

**Kanazawa** - Known as the ‘City of Gold’, Kanazawa prospered during Japan’s Edo period as the seat of the powerful Maeda Clan. The city is renowned for its cultural heritage, including the historic districts of Nagamachi, the samurai quarter, and Higashi Chaya, the geisha district. Kanazawa is Japan’s leading centre for gold leaf production, a craft dating back to the 16th century. The city also has a rich artistic tradition, with exceptional craftsmanship in ceramics, lacquerware, and textiles.

**Higashi Chaya district** – One of Kanazawa’s best-preserved geisha districts, Higashi Chaya dates back to the Edo period. Lined with traditional wooden teahouses, it was once a centre for geisha performances and entertainment. Today, the district retains its old-world charm with artisan shops, historic buildings, and working teahouses.

**Gold Leaf Experience** – Kanazawa has been the heart of Japan's gold leaf production for over 400 years. The meticulous craft involves applying ultra-thin sheets of gold to objects such as ceramics, lacquerware, and even food. The tradition remains an integral part of Kanazawa's cultural identity.

**Nomura Samurai Residence** – Located in Kanazawa's Nagamachi district, the Nomura Samurai Residence is a beautifully preserved residence of a high-ranking samurai family. It features traditional architecture, artefacts from the Edo period, and an exquisite Japanese garden.

#### Day 6: Kanazawa to Takayama

Meals: B, L, D

After breakfast, begin your day with a visit to Kenrokuen botanical gardens and then the 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art.

You will then transfer for around 2 hours to Takayama. On arrival, enjoy lunch at a local restaurant before visiting Kusakabe Folk Museum and Festival Floats Exhibition Hall.

Next explore Kami-sannomachi and then head to your hotel for check in. Later this evening, enjoy dinner at a local restaurant.



#### Destination Information

**Takayama** – Nestled in the heart of the Japanese Alps, Takayama is a beautifully preserved town that offers a glimpse into Japan's Edo-period history. Known for its charming old town and traditional wooden buildings, Takayama flourished as a hub for craftsmen, particularly in woodworking. Takayama's Hida beef is another highlight, reflecting the region's agricultural heritage and culinary traditions.

**Kusakabe Folk Museum** – The Kusakabe were a family of prosperous merchants that worked for the shogunate in Takayama during the Edo period. This house is a wonderful example of an Edo period house, and is now home to a folk arts museum.

**Festival Floats Exhibition Hall** – This hall exhibits some of the 'yatai' from Takayama's famous festival; a twice-yearly celebration when these huge parade festival floats are carried through the streets. Some date as far back as the 17th century.

**Kami-sannomachi** – This well-preserved part of the historic city features traditional houses, sake breweries, shops and cafes — some of which have been operating for centuries.

## Day 7: Takayama to Yudanaka

Meals: B, L, D

Today, enjoy a full day tour beginning with a morning visit to Takayama Morning Market, Takayama Jinya and a stroll around the old town.

Next, pay a visit to Hida Folk Village, an open-air museum that showcases traditional houses of the region, followed by lunch at a local restaurant.

After, you will transfer to Nagano for your stay at a traditional Ryokan. Where you can enjoy an onsen hot spring bath and later an authentic Japanese kaiseki dinner.



### Destination Information

**Takayama Morning Market** – Here, there are a number of stalls selling fresh vegetables, local craft works and local food products.

**Takayama Jinya** – A former government office dating back to the Edo Period, Takayama Jinya is the only remaining example of its type. The main work of the office was to handle legal cases and tax collection. It has a variety of interesting displays.

**Nagano** – Surrounded by the Japanese Alps, Nagano is a historic city known for its role as the host of the 1998 Winter Olympics. The city has long been a gateway to the mountainous regions of central Japan, offering a rich blend of history, culture, and natural beauty. It developed as a temple town around Zenkoji, one of Japan's most important Buddhist temples, and remains a centre for pilgrimage. Nagano is also a key access point to the nearby ski resorts, hot springs, and the famous snow monkeys of Jigokudani.

**Ryokan** - Ryokans are Japanese-style inns found throughout the country, especially in hot spring resorts. More than just a place to sleep, ryokan are an opportunity to experience the traditional Japanese lifestyle and hospitality, incorporating elements such as tatami rooms, futon beds, Japanese-style baths and local cuisine, making them popular with both Japanese and foreign tourists alike.

**Day 8: Snow Monkeys**
**Meals: B, L, D**

After breakfast, check out of your hotel and transfer to Jigokudani Monkey Park, home to the famous hot spring bathing Japanese macaques, also known as snow monkeys. Accustomed to humans, the monkeys can be observed from very close, and almost completely ignore their human guests.

*Please note; from the bus park, you will walk approximately 30-minutes along potentially snowy paths on an incline, to the main pool where the monkeys bathe.*



Next, enjoy lunch at a local restaurant before transferring around 4 hours to your hotel in Tokyo for check-in. Later this evening, enjoy dinner at a local restaurant.

**Destination Information**

**Jigokudani Yaen-Koen** – Home to Japanese Macaques, also known as Snow Monkeys, Jigokudani literally means ‘hell’s valley’. It is named this because of the steam and boiling water that bubbles out of small crevices in the ground. It is in the baths of this hot water that the resident Japanese Macaques like to soak. The monkeys live in large social groups, and it can be quite entertaining to watch their interactions.

**Tokyo** – One of the world’s most cutting-edge capital cities, Tokyo is a city of contrasts, famous for its neon lit landscape, towering skyscrapers, peaceful shrines and lovingly tended gardens. Although long the political and cultural centre of Japan, Tokyo became the official capital when the Meiji Emperor moved it to Tokyo in 1867.

## Day 9: Discover Tokyo

Meals: B, L, D

Enjoy breakfast at your hotel and embark on a full day tour of Tokyo. Begin with a visit to Senso-ji Temple, arguably one of Tokyo's most popular and photographed temples and the oldest Buddhist temple in the capital. Next, wander down Nakamise Shopping Street, a centuries-old souvenir street, where you will be able to enjoy some shopping opportunities for that perfect souvenir or pick up a local delicacy as there's plenty of scrumptious snacks too.



Next, visit Tokyo Skytree to admire the panoramic views before participating in a sushi making class where you'll enjoy your own creations for lunch. This afternoon, see the Imperial Palace and Meiji Jingu Shrine, and walk along Takeshita Street to taste some local treats. There will also be a photo stop at the famous Shibuya Crossing.

Finally, return to your hotel and later this evening, enjoy dinner at a local restaurant.

You will be on your feet for approximately 4-5 hours during your touring in Tokyo.

**Destination Information**

**Senso-ji Temple** – Senso-ji Temple is an ancient Buddhist Temple and the oldest in Tokyo. The temple was originally founded in the 7th century. The temple adorns an image of the Buddhist Goddess Kannon, who was said to have been rescued by two fishermen from the Sumida River in Tokyo.

**Tokyo Skytree** – The tallest structure in Japan, Tokyo Skytree is predominantly a television and radio broadcast tower and is earthquake resistant

## Day 10: Nikko

Meals: B, L, D

After breakfast, meet your English-speaking guide and travel to the ancient city of Nikko to experience its history and local delicacies. Once a centre for Shinto and Buddhist mountain worship, the city is home to some of Japan's most revered temples and shrines, set against a backdrop of lush forests and waterfalls.



## Destination Information

**Nikko** – Located in the mountains north of Tokyo, Nikko is known for its stunning natural scenery and rich spiritual heritage.

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### Day 11: Embark Celebrity Cruise in Tokyo

Meals: B, L, D

Enjoy breakfast at your hotel before checking out. You will be met by your English-speaking assistant and transferred to the cruise port, a journey of approximately 45 minutes. Upon arrival, board the Norwegian Jade, where your cruise adventure begins. The rest of your day on the cruise ship is at leisure.

*Please note, your National Escort will not be accompanying you for the duration of your cruise.*




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### Day 12: Cruising – Shimizu (Mt Fuji)

Meals: B, L, D

Today you will dock in the port of Shimizu. Disembark the cruise ship and enjoy a day at leisure before returning to your ship later in the day for your onward journey.

*Here you can enjoy a range of excursions at your own expense, bookable on your cruise reservation. Please note, if you dine off the cruise ship, these meals will be at your own expense.*



## Destination Information

**Shimizu** – Renowned for being one of the most scenic ports in Japan, the port of Shimizu provides breathtaking views of Mt Fuji (weather dependent). The port that was once used primarily for exporting tea, is now home to a four storey shopping centre, a number of museums and the Kashi-no-Ichi fish Market.

## Day 13: Cruising – Nagoya

Meals: B, L, D

Today you will dock in the port of Nagoya. Disembark the cruise ship and enjoy a day at leisure before returning to your ship later in the day for your onward journey.

*Here you can enjoy a range of excursions at your own expense, bookable on your cruise reservation. Please note, if you dine off the cruise ship, these meals will be at your own expense.*



## Destination Information

**Nagoya** – As Japan's fourth-largest city, Nagoya has long been a centre of industry, commerce, and innovation. Historically, it was a key stronghold of the Tokugawa shogunate, with Nagoya Castle standing as a symbol of its feudal past. The city is also known for its contributions to Japan's automotive industry, being home to Toyota's headquarters and museums dedicated to manufacturing and technology. Nagoya's Atsuta Shrine, one of Japan's most sacred Shinto sites, holds deep cultural significance. The city's culinary specialties, such as miso katsu and hitsumabushi (grilled eel), reflect its rich food culture.

## Day 14: Cruising – Osaka (Kyoto)

Meals: B, L, D

Today, arrive back in Oaska, the closest port to Kyoto. Disembark the cruise ship and enjoy a day at leisure before returning to your ship later for your onward journey.

*Here you can enjoy a range of excursions at your own expense, bookable on your cruise reservation. Please note, if you dine off the cruise ship, these meals will be at your own expense.*



**Day 15: Cruising - Kochi**
**Meals: B, L, D**

Today you will dock in the port of Kochi. Disembark the cruise ship and enjoy a day at leisure before returning to your ship later in the day for your onward journey.

*Here you can enjoy a range of excursions at your own expense, bookable on your cruise reservation. Please note, if you dine off the cruise ship, these meals will be at your own expense.*


**Destination Information**

**Kochi** – Surrounded by stunning mountains and the Pacific Ocean, Kochi is home to a wide variety of stunningly unique attractions, including the Chikurinji Temple, over 1300 years old, the Hirome Market, offering a number of Kochi's most renowned dishes as well as Katsurahama Beach, a crescent-shaped beach that has long been a popular destination to view the moon.

**Day 16: Cruising - Hiroshima**
**Meals: B, L, D**

Your cruising adventures continues on to Hiroshima, where the ship will dock today. Disembark the cruise ship and enjoy a day at leisure before returning to your ship later in the day for your onward journey.

*Here you can enjoy a range of excursions at your own expense, bookable on your cruise reservation. Please note, if you dine off the cruise ship, these meals will be at your own expense.*


**Destination Information**

**Hiroshima** – An atomic bomb was dropped over Hiroshima on 6th August 1945, and the city's name became famous worldwide for this unenviable distinction. The destructive power obliterated nearly everything within a 2km radius. The city has been rebuilt and has risen phoenix-like from the ashes with destroyed sites of historical heritage reconstructed.

## Day 17: Cruising – Kagoshima

Meals: B, L, D

Today port in Kagoshima. Disembark the cruise ship and enjoy a day at leisure before returning to your ship later in the day for your onward journey.

*Here you can enjoy a range of excursions at your own expense, bookable on your cruise reservation. Please note, if you dine off the cruise ship, these meals will be at your own expense.*


**Destination Information**

**Kagoshima** – Located in the shadows of Mt Sakurajima, an active volcano, Kagoshima is commonly referred to as the “Naples of the East” due to its similarly mild climate and stunning bay. Kagoshima played a pivotal role in the modernisation of Japan, particularly in the Meiji Restoration, which saw Emperor Meiji move from Kyoto to Tokyo which then became the new capital. The city was once the seat of one of Japan’s most powerful feudal clans, the Shimazu, that is currently in its 32nd generation

## Day 18: Cruising - Nagasaki

Meals: B, L, D

Dock in the port of Nagasaki. Disembark the cruise ship and enjoy a day at leisure before returning to your ship later in the day for your onward journey.

*Here you can enjoy a range of excursions at your own expense, bookable on your cruise reservation. Please note, if you dine off the cruise ship, these meals will be at your own expense.*


**Destination Information**

**Nagasaki** – Known for being the second target for the US atomic bomb that was dropped during World War II, Nagasaki was once Japan’s primary gateway for trading with the West and has since been rebuilt to the charming city it stands as today.

## Day 19: Cruising - Jeju Island

Meals: B, L, D

Today, make a stop at Jeju Island. Disembark the cruise ship and enjoy a day at leisure before returning to your ship later in the day for your onward journey.

*Here you can enjoy a range of excursions at your own expense, bookable on your cruise reservation. Please note, if you dine off the cruise ship, these meals will be at your own expense.*


**Destination Information**

**Jeju Island** - Often referred to as the 'Hawaii of South Korea', Jeju Island is a volcanic island renowned for its stunning landscapes, unique culture, and mild climate. The island is home to Hallasan, South Korea's highest mountain, which is a dormant volcano surrounded by lush national parklands. Jeju's dramatic coastline features lava tubes, cliffs, and pristine beaches. The island is also famous for its Haenyeo, or 'sea women', who free dive to harvest seafood, a tradition recognized by UNESCO as an Intangible Cultural Heritage. Jeju's natural beauty and distinct cultural offerings make it one of South Korea's top destinations.

## Day 20: Disembark ship in Seoul

Meals: B, L, D

Disembark in the lively, fast-paced city of Seoul. On arrival you will be met by an English-speaking representative and transfer to your hotel in Seoul for check-in.


**Destination Information**

**Seoul** – Capital of South Korea, Seoul is a dynamic metropolis where modern skyscrapers, shopping malls and pop culture meet Buddhist temples, palaces and street markets. Seoul was the capital of Korea from 1394 until the formal division of the country in 1948. However, its history stretches back over two thousand years. The name itself has come to mean 'capital' in the Korean language.

## Day 21: Explore Seoul

Meals: B, L, D

Enjoy breakfast at your hotel before being met by an English-speaking guide to embark a full day tour of Seoul.

Begin with a visit to Gwanghwamun Plaza, where you will encounter the statues of King Sejong and Admiral Yi Sun-Sin. Continue through Gwanghwamun gate to visit Gyeongbokgung (Gyongbok) Palace, where you will witness the ceremonial changing of the guard. Next, change into some traditional clothes and visit Bukchon Hanok Village. Afterwards, head to a local restaurant for lunch.



After lunch, enjoy a Traditional Korean Kimchi cooking demonstration before taking a guided walk along the picturesque Cheonggyecheon Stream. Next, visit the Myeongdong area renowned for its trendy fashion boutiques, cosmetics shops, street food stalls, and more. You'll also have a chance to visit Myeongdong Underground where you will find all sorts of latest fashion trends and memorabilia.

### Destination Information

**Gwanghwamun Plaza** – Located in the heart of Seoul, Gwanghwamun Plaza is a cultural and historical landmark featuring statues of two of Korea's most revered figures—King Sejong, the creator of the Korean alphabet, and Admiral Yi Sun-Sin, a naval hero known for his victories against Japanese invasions.

**Gyeongbokgung Palace** – The largest of Seoul's five grand palaces, Gyeongbokgung was built in 1395 as the main royal residence of the Joseon Dynasty. Despite suffering destruction during various periods of history, the palace has been restored to its former grandeur. The ceremonial Changing of the Guard, performed in traditional dress, is a highlight of any visit.

**Bukchon Hanok Village** – Nestled between Gyeongbokgung and Changdeokgung Palaces, Bukchon Hanok Village is a historic district home to well-preserved hanok (traditional Korean houses). Once an exclusive residential area for aristocrats, the village retains its old-world charm with its narrow alleyways and tiled rooftops.

**Cheonggyecheon Stream** – Once buried beneath roads, Cheonggyecheon Stream was restored as part of an urban renewal project in 2005. Flowing through the heart of Seoul, the 11-kilometre-long waterway is lined with walkways, bridges, and public art, offering a tranquil escape from the city's bustle.

**Myeongdong** – Seoul's premier shopping and entertainment district, Myeongdong is a bustling area known for its high-end fashion boutiques, cosmetics shops, and vibrant street food stalls. It is also home to Myeongdong Underground Shopping Center, a popular spot for affordable fashion, accessories, and souvenirs.

**Days 22-23: Depart Seoul****Meals: B**

This morning is free at leisure before transferring to the airport for your return flight home, arriving home the same or the following day.

*Please note: Only breakfast is included today. Late check-out is not included. If you wish to book a late check-out for your final day, please contact our reservations department who can confirm additional pricing and make this arrangement for you, subject to availability at the hotel.*



*Transfers: In the event that your flight departs outside of the majority group departure time, you will be transferred to the airport by a shared coach (with other non-Wendy Wu Tours passengers). If you are on a shared coach transfer, you may have to walk for a few minutes to get to the coach.*

**PLEASE INFORM OUR RESERVATIONS TEAM OF ANY ALLERGIES AND/OR SPECIAL DIETARY REQUIREMENTS AT TIME OF BOOKING.**

## TRAVEL INFORMATION

### VISAS:

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New Zealand passport holders do not need a visa for Japan if they are travelling for less than 90 days for tourist purposes. Please be advised that your passport must have at least six months validity left on it when you arrive back in New Zealand.

South Korea Entry Requirements – A visa is not required for New Zealand passport holders visiting South Korea, however all guests travelling to South Korea are required to complete an entry declaration form before arrival. This can be completed online, up to 72 hours before arrival in South Korea. For more information on the e-Arrival card, please visit the following website: <https://www.e-arrivalcard.go.kr/portal/main/index.do>

Please note the visa procedures and requirements may change at any time. These changes are often made by the relevant embassy or consulate; Wendy Wu Tours acts as a third party and has no influence on the process of a visa.

If the flights that you are booked on are transiting via a different country, please ensure you check the entry requirements for that country, as they may differ to the requirements than your destination.

### INSURANCE:

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It is a condition of booking Cruise & Tour that you take out suitable travel insurance. You must provide us with the name of your insurer, policy number and their 24-hour emergency contact number when you book with us or as soon as possible thereafter. Wendy Wu Tours cannot in any way be made liable for any additional cost incurred by the customer on any tour due to the customer not having adequate travel insurance. We also encourage all customers to take a copy of their travel insurance documents (especially relevant international contact numbers) with them while on tour. We advise that you check the inclusions and procedures for lodging claims prior to your departure. These documents should be stored separately from the original.

### GROUP SIZE:

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Most of our groups consist of 10 travellers or and will be accompanied by National Escorts pre and post cruise. There will usually be no more than 28 travellers in each group pre and post cruise, although you may encounter other Wendy Wu tour groups while you are travelling.

All our departures are guaranteed to operate with a minimum of 8 travellers booked (unless cancelled due to factors beyond our control). National Escorts in each country will accompany groups of 10 or more. However, at our discretion we may operate departures with a smaller group size as we try to operate advertised departures wherever it is viable to do so.

## AIRPORT TRANSFERS:

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As we offer our customers a variety of airlines to suit your needs, passengers will arrive/depart at various times during the day. Depending on the number of customers arriving/ departing on the same flight as yourself, the type of transfer to your hotel/ airport will vary.

You will always be met on arrival by English-speaking staff and transferred to your hotel either by:

- Direct shared bus (shared with other passengers, not just Wendy Wu Tours clients)
- Shared bus plus taxi from the nearest bus stop to the hotel (maximum 5-minute walk)
- Chartered coach (if there are more than 8 Wendy Wu Tours passengers arriving at the same time)

On the departure day, all passengers will be met by English-speaking staff at the hotel and transfer by one of the three ways above. For those passengers using a shared bus or shared bus plus taxi to the airport, the guide services end when they drop you off at the bus stop, and you will need to check in at the airport on your own. If you have paid extra for a private transfer, the above does not apply.

You will meet your National Escorts at the welcome dinner or, if arriving late, the following morning after breakfast at the welcome meeting.

Please ensure your Wendy Wu Tours luggage tag is visible on your suitcase/hand luggage, as this may also assist your guide in identifying you. If at any stage you are unable to locate your representative, please contact our Japan ground operator on the number included in your final documents.

## TRANSPORT:

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**Coaches:** Coaches with air conditioning are used on our group tours for city sightseeing, short excursions to the countryside, and longer transfers where necessary. Roads in South Korea and Japan are extremely well-maintained and are comparatively smooth compared with the rest of Asia. Coaches and minibuses do not have onboard toilet facilities; however, frequent bathroom stops are made for passengers' comfort.

**Bullet trains:** Second-class reserved seats are booked for our groups on bullet trains in Japan. There are toilet facilities on board these trains. Due to the limited space on bullet trains in Japan, a separate luggage transfer service will be arranged for all suitcases (1 case per person). You will need to pack a separate overnight bag to carry on the train, as your suitcase will not arrive until the following day after a bullet train journey. Your guide will indicate when you need to prepare for this throughout your tour. Luggage transfer is generally not required for high-speed trains in South Korea, as trains have more generous storage space for suitcases.

## ACCOMMODATION:

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Accommodation is selected for its convenience, comfort, or character, ranging from business hotels in cities to family-run guesthouses in smaller towns. In more remote areas, standards may be lower, and facilities might not include all Western amenities. Hotels are generally rated 3-4 stars locally, but please note that there is no international classification system, so standards may differ between New Zealand and South Korea/Japan.

In Japan, hotel rooms and bathrooms are typically small. Standard single rooms are smaller than double or twin rooms, featuring a small double bed (or single bed) for one person. All group tour hotels have private Western-style bathrooms, air-conditioning, TV, and telephone. In the Fuji area of Japan, hotels are often traditional in style. You may be asked to remove your shoes at the door and store them in a secure locker - this is a typical Japanese custom.

In South Korea, some hotels have hot water restrictions, usually available only in the morning and evening. Hotels often do not have porters, so you will be expected to carry your luggage. If you need assistance, please speak with your National Escort or local guide. Rest assured, all hotels used by Wendy Wu Tours are regularly inspected to meet our standards and ensure your comfort.

## MEALS AND DIETARY INFORMATION

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Korean and Japanese cuisines are renowned for their delicious, healthy, and vibrant flavours. In South Korea, meals typically include rice, soup, and banchan (side dishes) such as kimchi, fish, and meat. Korean food tends to be spicier than Japanese or Chinese dishes. In Japan, meals are centred around rice, miso soup, fish, pickled vegetables, and meat, with noodles like udon and soba being staples. Most meals are eaten with chopsticks, as cutlery is not always provided.

All meals (excluding drinks) are included in fully inclusive group tours from arrival to departure. Breakfast is usually buffet style but may occasionally be a set menu. Lunch is often pre-set as is common in local restaurants, while dinner may be buffet-style or pre-set, featuring a variety of Japanese, Korean, and Western dishes. Your guides pre-book meals to ensure you experience a range of local cuisines and cooking styles. On busy sightseeing days, your group may dine directly after tours without returning to the hotel.

In South Korea, restaurants specialize in specific items, so desserts or coffee require separate venues, such as dessert or coffee shops.

### Dietary Requirements

If you have dietary restrictions, please inform us before the tour begins. Our guides will do their best to accommodate requests (e.g., gluten-free or vegetarian meals), but challenges may arise due to differences in food preparation and availability, especially in rural areas. Travelers with food intolerances are advised to bring snacks or supplementary items, as options may be limited outside major cities. Although efforts are made to cater to diverse needs, dietary

accommodations may not always meet Western expectations. Your understanding and patience are appreciated.

### CRUISE – NORWEGIAN JADE:

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The Norwegian Jade consists of 15 decks and offers a wide range of amenities, including, but not limited to; multiple dining venues, 2 swimming pools, hot tubs, and numerous lounges and bars.

Performances take place each night in the Stardust Theatre, ranging from comedy shows and live music to Broadway-style productions. Guests on the Norwegian Jade can also enjoy engaging activities such as trivia, dance classes, and fitness sessions, as well as culinary experiences like wine and cocktail tastings. Onboard spa facilities, including the Mandara Spa with a thermal suite and saunas, provide the perfect opportunity for relaxation.

### CRUISE ACCOMODATION AND CABINS

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At the time of booking, subject to availability you may have the choice to book from an outside cabin or balcony cabin. Should you wish to upgrade to a suite or have a special request for cabin location, please speak to our reservations department who will be able to assist.

### CRUISE EMBARKATION & DISEMBARKATION:

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Embarkation time is when you should arrive at the cruise terminal. Departure time is when your ship sets sail.

We strongly recommend guests complete their Online Check-In at least four days prior to sailing for a quicker check in process.

**Boarding Time in Ports of Call:** In all ports of call, it is also the guest's responsibility to be back onboard the ship no later than one hour prior to the ship's scheduled departure time. Please be aware that shipboard time may differ from the time in the port of call and it is the guest's responsibility to follow the shipboard time. In the event a guest misses the ship, it will be the guest's responsibility to pay all expenses incurred to rejoin the ship.

### SHORE EXCURSIONS AND CRUISE INCLUSIONS:

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When docked at each port you will have the opportunity to experience shore excursions. Norwegian Cruise Line offer a wide array of authentic shore excursions, making it a great way to explore more of each destination. Please note, not all shore excursions will include a guide and shore excursions may be cancelled due to inclement weather conditions or for any other reason at the discretion of Norwegian Cruise Line. Any shore excursions will be at your own expense and bookable on your cruise reservation.

## DEVELOPMENT IN SOUTH KOREA AND JAPAN:

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South Korea and Japan are developed countries and as such matches the West in modernity and technological advances. South Korea and Japan are both extremely safe countries and take great responsibility in maintaining high safety standards.

## CULTURAL DIFFERENCE:

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Korean and Japanese society and culture are built on intricate social etiquette and customs. As foreigners, we are not expected to be knowledgeable about all etiquette, but it will make your time in South Korea and Japan more enjoyable if you are respectful of local customs. Some examples of scenarios you may encounter include removing your shoes and hats when entering a temple or house (some restaurants as well). You may be supplied with slippers at some places, but please come prepared with plenty of spare socks, and shoes that are easy to take off for the fairly regular occasions when they must be removed. Your National Escorts will advise you of some of these other customs at the beginning of your tour in each country.

## PUBLIC HOLIDAYS:

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If you are travelling within the below Public Holidays, please note that celebrations can last a several days and during these times some businesses will be closed. Coach, air and train travel may also be affected. Tourist attractions will be open, but may be crowded.

### South Korea:

- **Seollal (Lunar New Year):** 17th–19th February 2026
- **Buddha's Birthday:** 8th May 2026, 24th May 2026
- **Children's Day:** 5th May annually
- **Chuseok (Korean Thanksgiving):** 5th–7th October 2025, 24th–26th September 2026

### Japan:

- **Showa Day:** 29th April (annually)
- **Golden Week public holidays:** End of April to the beginning of May (annually)
- **Constitution Memorial Day:** 3rd May (annually)
- **Emperor's Birthday:** 23rd February (annually)

## WEATHER:

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Japan and South Korea each experience distinct four-season climates, offering a wide range of weather conditions throughout the year. Japan's climate varies by region, but generally includes hot, humid summers from June to September and cold winters with snowfall in northern areas like Hokkaido. Spring (March to May) and autumn (September to November) are particularly popular for their mild temperatures, cherry blossoms, and vibrant fall foliage.

South Korea has similar seasonal variations, with hot, humid summers and cold, dry winters, often accompanied by snow in mountainous regions. Spring and autumn provide pleasant weather with clear skies and colourful landscapes.

### APPROPRIATE DRESS:

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When traveling to Japan and South Korea, pack for their varied four-season climates. In spring and autumn, bring lightweight layers like cotton shirts, cardigans, and jackets. For summer, choose breathable, moisture-wicking fabrics in light colours, and pack a hat and sunscreen for sun protection. Winters can be cold, especially in northern Japan and South Korea's mountainous regions, so pack warm clothing, including coats, thermals, scarves, and gloves. For city exploration, casual yet neat attire is ideal, particularly when visiting cultural or religious sites where modesty is appreciated. Comfortable walking shoes are essential for urban areas like Tokyo and Seoul. For outdoor activities, bring sturdy footwear and weather-appropriate outerwear.

An umbrella or lightweight waterproof jacket is advisable during the summer rainy season. Don't forget a camera or smartphone with extra storage and chargers to capture Japan's cherry blossoms, South Korea's autumn foliage, and the vibrant cities. Include a small medical kit with basic first aid supplies and any personal medications. Whether visiting temples, soaking in an onsen, or enjoying local cuisine, you'll be prepared for an unforgettable experience.

**Onboard dress code:** On Norwegian, you can pretty much wear what you want to wear, when you want to wear it. Go cruise casual or get all-decked out and look your best - it's up to you.

### LUGGAGE:

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All travellers are limited to two items of luggage each: a suitcase with a maximum weight of 20kg and one piece of hand luggage with a maximum weight of five kilograms. It is essential that your luggage is lockable.

**On your cruise:** While luggage allowance on your cruise may permit further capacity, we ask you to adhere to the above restrictions due to airline and touring allowances. Suitcases should be tagged, luggage tags can be downloaded and printed from your eDocs. For your convenience, we recommend that your luggage tags be placed on your bags prior to arrival at the port.

It may take a few hours after embarkation for your luggage to be delivered to your stateroom. Likewise, suitcases are collected on the last night of your cruise. To avoid any complications, be sure to bring a small bag such as a backpack for carrying any necessary medication, valuables, important documents and need-to-have items.

## **PORTERAGE:**

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**Pre & post cruise:** Please be aware that porterage is not included on our tours pre & post cruise. You will therefore need to be able to handle your own luggage within the hotel and when using transportation like trains and coaches.

**Cruise:** Porterage is included onboard the Norwegian Jade Cruise Ship. When embarking, your luggage will be delivered to your room from the check-in area at the port. When disembarking you will leave your luggage outside your cabin door on the last night of your cruise. Staff will then be able to make arrangements for your luggage, ready for disembarkation early next morning. Please also note, it is customary to tip for the porterage service. This porterage tipping is not part of standard cruise inclusion tipping, and is not covered in your tour cost.

## **SOUVENIRS:**

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We want to be able to give you an opportunity to buy souvenirs, so we include some stops at museums or exhibitions which demonstrate a craft or product unique to that region with pieces available to buy. We understand that souvenir hunting is not for everyone, so we aim to take you to places, which hold local interest. We trust you will enjoy these opportunities to learn about local arts and crafts and understand their historical and cultural importance.

## **MONEY & PERSONAL EXPENSES :**

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You will need to take some extra money to cover drinks, laundry, and souvenirs, plus any additional sightseeing that may be offered to you.

It is highly recommended that extra care and attention is paid when exchanging money when travelling to cities outside of Tokyo. We suggest exchanging your money before travelling to smaller towns, as exchange facilities can be very limited. Your National Escorts will remind you to do this before departure.

## **TIPPING / GRATUITIES:**

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**South Korea:** Tipping is not a common practice but is generally appreciated. If you wish to show gratitude to your guide or driver, it's recommended to avoid offering a small token amount, as this may cause discomfort. Presenting your tip in a small envelope and in local currency is considered polite.

**Japan:** Tipping is not customary and may even be politely declined. However, if you feel you've received exceptional service, offering a tip discreetly at your discretion is acceptable.

**Cruise:** On board gratuities are included in your tour cost (based on standard cruise inclusions).

## **TERRAIN CONSIDERATIONS (STEPS, SLOPES & UNEVEN SURFACES):**

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Sightseeing at nearly all the palaces, fortresses and some temples involves climbing quite a number of steps. These palaces were built to provide defence against potential invaders so nearly all of them stand on top of a hill, while the interiors have layers of narrow hallways and steps to slow down the advance of enemies once they were inside. The steps tend to be quite large, not level and sometimes without handrails.

Buddhist temples or pagodas also tend to be built at an elevation, as this is the most auspicious position according to ancient beliefs. This means you sometimes need to walk from the bus park to the entrance, and/or need to climb some steps inside.

People with knee or hip injuries who have poor balance or are otherwise unable to complete these activities independently should consider the suitability of this itinerary carefully.

## **VACCINATIONS AND YOUR HEALTH:**

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We recommend that you contact either your doctor or local Health Centre for advice on vaccinations and travel health. Safe Travel has a comprehensive website that you may also find useful [www.safetravel.govt.nz](http://www.safetravel.govt.nz)

## **AFTER YOUR BOOKING:**

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Once you have booked with Wendy Wu Tours, you will receive a confirmation invoice along with a link to our website where you can find your visa information (if applicable) and other important information. Your final documentation pack will be sent to you approximately 2-3 weeks prior to departure.

Updated: January 2026