

SANTA BARBARA
MUSEUM OF
ART

Japan by Sea

Land of the Rising Sun

aboard the 90-cabin *Heritage Adventurer*

With art historian **Kendall Brown** and special guest speaker **Pico Iyer**

May 12–23, 2026



Dear Members and Friends,

Join fellow Museum Members and art historian Kendall Brown for two days of sightseeing in Tokyo followed by an eight-night cruise through the Sea of Japan and the Inland Sea aboard a small ship. Venture beyond the major cosmopolitan cities to a fascinating variety of tranquil historic towns, artistic centers, and remote islands.

Discover a Japan that few visitors see—from special visits in Tokyo to the tranquil historic quarters and gardens in Kanazawa and the island worlds of Miyajima and Sado. Excursions highlight both the **ancient traditions of Japan and modern art and architecture**, with visits to sacred temples and shrines, jaw-dropping gardens and castles, and private cultural performances. Explore the world-renowned but “hard to get to” **Naoshima Island, affectionately nicknamed “The Art Island”** and its celebrated museums, contemporary art installations, and stunningly beautiful modern architecture that complements the surrounding nature and Seto Inland Sea.

Spend a day in South Korea exploring the Flying Horse Tomb in Gyeongju, a royal burial mound excavated in 1973 and believed to date back to the 5th century. Often described as a time capsule due to its preserved nature, it offers a rare glimpse into the treasures of Korea’s ancient capital, now recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Enjoy a Korean lunch accompanied by a cultural performance, and visit Bulguksa Temple, another UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of Korea’s most beautiful Buddhist temples with intricate paintings.

Engage with expert study leaders throughout this unique educational program to gain a better appreciation of Japan’s historical and cultural significance. In addition to SBMA’s study leader Dr. Brown, who will offer formal lectures and accompany the full tour, hear from scholars from partnering organizations during onboard talks. Another highlight will surely be a guest appearance by Pico Iyer, who has been a cherished and dedicated friend of the Santa Barbara Museum of Art for many years. Local Japanese English-speaking guides will accompany the group as well, to lead tours and answer questions from travelers.

Extend your stay with a highly recommended optional pre-trip extension to Kamakura and the hot springs resort of Hakone or an optional post-trip extension to Kyoto and the ancient city of Nara.

This program is co-sponsored with other organizations including alumni of Harvard, Yale, Cornell, MIT, and the University of Chicago. With limited cabins available, we encourage you to reserve your space by calling our office at **(805) 884-6431** or emailing **travel@sbma.net**.

Warm regards,



Lisa Benshea
Manager of Travel & Special Programs,
Santa Barbara Museum of Art

Scan to register online!



SBMA Travel Office Number: (805) 884-6431
SBMA Travel Email: travel@sbma.net
All SBMA Tours: www.sbma.net/travel

Featured Speakers



Dr. Kendall Brown, Ph.D. is Professor Emeritus of Asian Art History at California State University Long Beach. He holds a Ph.D. in Art History from Yale University and an MA from UC Berkeley. He publishes in several areas of Japanese art, focusing on popular arts of the 1920s and 1930s, as well as on Japanese-style gardens in North America. From 2007-2009 he served as Curator of Exhibitions, Programs and Collections at the Pacific Asia Museum. He has curated exhibitions for several American museums, exploring topics from modern Japanese woodblock prints to Art Deco and lacquer makers' tools. He was a co-founder and past president of the North American Japanese Garden Association, and is the author of three books and many articles on the design, political implications and cultural history of American Japanese gardens. His expertise covers modern architecture as well. He lived in Kyoto, Tokyo and Osaka during much of his 20s, met his wife and got married there. He recently retired (for the most part and led SBMA's 2024 Japan tour.



Special guest speaker **Pico Iyer** is the author of 17 books that have been translated into 23 languages, including the best-sellers *The Open Road*, *The Art of Stillness*, *The Half Known Life*, and *Aflame*. He and Hiroko, his Japanese wife, have been based in Japan for 38 years. He has published three popular books on his adopted home—*The Lady and the Monk*, *Autumn Light*, and *A Beginner's Guide to Japan*. Born in Oxford, England, he was educated at Eton, Oxford, and Harvard and served not long ago as Ferris Professor at Princeton. His five TED talks have received more than 11 million views, and he was delighted, along with Hiroko, to join a similar tour of Japan in 2024.

Other scholars through our cosponsoring organizations will lecture on board.

Highlights

- ◆ Customize your experience with **excursion options in Tokyo** and throughout the program.
- ◆ Ride Japan's famed **high-speed bullet train** from Tokyo to Niigata.
- ◆ Try your hand at **taiko drumming** on remote **Sado Island**, home of the world famous Kodo drummers.
- ◆ Immerse yourself in local culture during a **traditional tea ceremony** in Kanazawa or a hands-on **wagashi** sweets workshop.
- ◆ Admire Japan's rich artistic heritage during an **optional full-day visit to Naoshima**, an island that has become a mecca for cutting-edge art.
- ◆ **Spend a day in South Korea** featuring a visit to Gyeongju, the ancient capital of the Silla kingdom and a designated UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- ◆ Marvel at **Itsukushima Shrine in Miyajima** with its iconic red *torii*, a grand wooden gateway that appears to float on the sea at high tide.
- ◆ Take in the spectacular scenery of **Japan's Inland Sea** from the comfort of one of the many observation decks aboard *Heritage Adventurer*.



KENROKU-EN



Itinerary

Tuesday–Wednesday, May 12–13

Home/Tokyo, Japan

Depart home on an overnight flight to Tokyo, Japan, arriving on May 13th. Upon arrival, join a group transfer to the hotel. The remainder of the day is free to rest, recover, and explore independently.

THE CAPITOL HOTEL TOKYU

Thursday, May 14

Tokyo

This morning attend a welcome orientation and lecture, followed by a choice of two excursions. Opt to: 1) Visit the Meiji Shrine complex, located in a 175-acre forest; the Ukiyo-e Ota Memorial Museum of Art; and Tokyo's Aoyama district, notable for its modern architecture; or 2) See some of the vast collection at the Tokyo National Museum, boasting about 120,000 artifacts and pieces of art covering most of the country's long history, then visit Shunkaen Bonsai Gardens and Museum to learn about the ancient art of bonsai. Gather this evening for a festive welcome dinner featuring local entertainment.

THE CAPITOL HOTEL TOKYU (B,L,D)

Friday, May 15

Tokyo/Niigata/Embark

Choose between two morning excursions: 1) Visit the Tsukiji fish market and the Kappabashi culinary district, a street almost

entirely populated by shops catering to the restaurant trade; or 2) Enjoy a guided tour through the Ginza district, Tokyo's most glamorous shopping district, including a visit to the iconic, 12-story Ginza Mitsukoshi department store. This afternoon board the Shinkansen, Japan's high-speed bullet train, for Niigata and upon arrival embark *Heritage Adventurer*.

HERITAGE ADVENTURER (B,D)

Saturday, May 16

Sado Island

Visit remote Sado Island, the home base for the famous *taiko* drumming group, Kodo (meaning "heartbeat"). Experience a private performance by some of the resident drummers, along with an interactive lesson and lecture on this ancient art form. Also explore historic Shukunegi, a picturesque fishing village of wooden houses, narrow alleys, and canals. This evening, attend the captain's welcome reception and dinner aboard the ship.

HERITAGE ADVENTURER (B,L,R,D)

Sunday, May 17

Kanazawa

Call at the refined artistic center of Kanazawa for a visit to Kenroku-en, considered to be one of Japan's top gardens.

Excursion options include: 1) Participate in a traditional tea ceremony at a classic Japanese teahouse before a visit to the 21st-century Museum of Contemporary Art; or 2) Join a *wagashi* (Japanese sweet) workshop and experience more traditional arts and crafts. Reboard *Heritage Adventurer* for a relaxing evening of cruising as the educational program continues.

HERITAGE ADVENTURER (B,L,D)

Monday, May 18

Matsue

Today choose from two morning excursion options: 1) Drive through lush countryside to the Adachi Museum of Art to explore its collection of modern Japanese works and exquisite, highly manicured gardens; or 2) Arrive in charming Matsue and visit Matsue Castle, one of the few surviving castles in Japan, built in 1611, followed by free time to stroll through Matsue's historic samurai quarter. Enjoy an afternoon at sea with lectures before dinner on board.

HERITAGE ADVENTURER (B,L,D)

Tuesday, May 19

Ulsan, South Korea/

Gyeongju

Arrive at the South Korean port of Ulsan, then drive inland to



HIROSHIMA



TOKYO - MEIJI SHRINE

the city of Gyeongju, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and the capital of the Silla kingdom that ruled for 1,000 years. See the famous Flying Horse Tomb, one of the royal burial mounds, and enjoy a guided tour of the National Museum's highlights. After a traditional Korean lunch with entertainment, explore Bulguksa Temple, another UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of Korea's most beautiful Buddhist temples, known for its intricate paintings and two 6th-century pagodas.

HERITAGE ADVENTURER (B,L,D)

Wednesday, May 20

Hiroshima, Japan

Following a morning of educational content at sea, call at Hiroshima in the afternoon. Visit the Peace Memorial Park and Museum, a place of remembrance, reflection, and education. Begin with a walk through the museum, a poignant tribute to the devastating impact of the atomic bombing during World War II and the subsequent efforts toward peace and nuclear disarmament. See the Atomic Bomb Dome, the only building left standing after the explosion, and present paper cranes at the Children's Peace Monument. The remainder of the day is at leisure for

independent exploration.

HERITAGE ADVENTURER (B,L,D)

Thursday, May 21

Miyajima

Anchor off the coast of Miyajima Island and take a Zodiac ashore. Visit the 6th-century Itsukushima Shinto Shrine, a national treasure and UNESCO World Heritage Site, with its iconic brilliant red torii, a grand wooden gateway that appears to float on the sea at high tide. Enjoy free time to visit tiny temples and stroll through picturesque streets, or ride the gondola up Mount Misen for spectacular 360-degree views. This afternoon, relax and cruise through the scenic Inland Sea, dotted with small islands.

HERITAGE ADVENTURER (B,L,D)

Friday, May 22

Naoshima or Kurashiki/Okayama

Today opt for one of two excursion choices: 1) Visit captivating Naoshima Island, a mecca for innovative art and contemporary architecture, and tour some of its world-class museums, including the Chichu Art Museum, Benesse House Museum, and the Naoshima New Museum of Art; or 2) Explore the Kurashiki Bikan Historical Quarter in Okayama and wander the spacious Koraku-en Garden,

one of the Three Great Gardens of Japan. Over 300 years old, this landscape garden is unique for its spacious lawns. Gather this evening for a talk by special guest speaker Pico Iyer, followed by the captain's farewell reception and dinner aboard ship.

HERITAGE ADVENTURER (B,L,R,D)

Saturday, May 23

Osaka/Home

After breakfast, disembark *Heritage Adventurer* and join a group airport transfer for flights home, or begin the optional post-trip extension.

(B)

Optional Extensions

May 9–13, 2026

Kamakura and Hakone

Arrive early to visit Zen temples, bathe in natural hot springs, enjoy traditional multi-course meals, and see world-class art.

May 23–26, 2026

Kyoto and Nara

Extend your stay to visit UNESCO World Heritage Sites, iconic bamboo groves, and masterful museums.

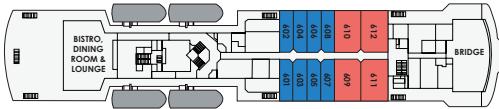
Further information will be sent to booked participants.

Heritage Adventurer



All 90 cabins aboard *Heritage Adventurer* offer living and sleeping areas with a king or two single beds, ample storage, a writing desk, and a modern ensuite bathroom. Public spaces and open decks abound, including two separate bar and lounge areas featuring 180-degree views and the open-topped Observation Deck for 360-degree views. Twin guest elevators provide easy access to all levels. Meals are served in the gourmet restaurant and in the indoor/outdoor bistro—both options offer plenty of seating and large picture windows. Additional amenities include an open-air saltwater pool that can be heated or chilled, a hot tub encased in glass for all-weather use, a dry-heat Finnish sauna, a European steam room, a well-equipped gym, and a spa.

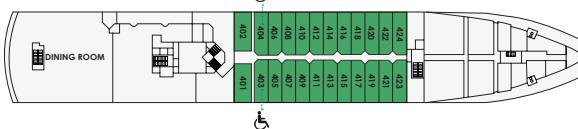
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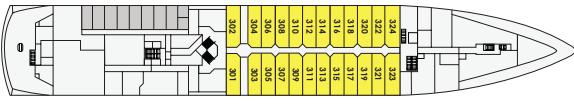
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DECK 4



DECK 3



Program Rates (per person)

CATEGORY		DOUBLE	SINGLE
1	DECK 3 STANDARD CABIN 237 sq ft; twins or king bed; two portholes	\$9,990	\$11,990
2	DECK 4 SUPERIOR CABIN 237 sq ft; twins or king bed; window	\$11,990	\$14,490
3	DECK 5 SUPERIOR CABIN 237 sq ft; twins or king bed; window	\$12,990	\$15,490
4	DECK 6 SUPERIOR CABIN 237 sq ft; twins or king bed; window	\$14,490	—
5	DECK 6 HERITAGE SUITE 475 sq ft; king bed; double windows	\$18,990	—

General Information

PROGRAM RATES INCLUDE

All accommodations, meals, and excursions as specified in the itinerary, including **two hotel nights and eight nights aboard *Heritage Adventurer*** • Tickets for Tokyo to Niigata bullet train • Comprehensive program of briefings, lectures, and presentations • Transfers for all participants on group arrival and departure dates •

Gratuities to porters, wait staff, guides, drivers, and shipboard personnel for all group activities • Entrance fees and port charges • Captain's welcome and farewell wine receptions • **House wine, beer, and soft drinks with all group lunches and dinners** • Complete packet of pre-departure information • Professional tour manager throughout the program • Expert local guides

WHAT TO EXPECT

This a moderately strenuous program that is, at times, physically demanding and busy. Daily excursions involve up to one mile of walking at a time, often on uneven terrain. In some instances, elevators are unavailable, and stairs may not have handrails. You will be required

to remove your shoes while visiting temples, shrines, and a number of other sites. You will need to climb into and out of Zodiacs for an onshore excursion (there will be staff and crew members on hand to assist). Participants must be physically fit and in good health.

GROUP SIZE

This program can accommodate 129 participants and is co-sponsored by other organizations.

AIR ARRANGEMENTS

U.S. domestic and international airfare is not included in the program rates. Heather Schuyler Gray, CTA at Robertson International Travel Consultants in Santa Barbara can help with airline arrangements for this trip and can be reached at 805-969-3221 or heather@robertsontravel.com. You are also welcome to book your air transportation through your preferred travel agent, an online travel site, or the airline of your choice. Detailed information about making flight arrangements will be sent to confirmed participants.

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