Springtime in Japan

Aboard the Spirit of Oceanus  March 15–29, 2007
Aboard the
*Spirit of Oceanus*
March 15–29, 2007

Springtime in
*Japan*

With an Optional Extension to *Nikko*
Dear Columbian,

Centuries-old temples, shogunate castles, and hallowed shrines rise up amidst the gentle landscape of Japan as enduring evidence of its rich culture and complex history. Discover this intriguing island nation—past and present, old and new—on a 15-day journey that includes a weeklong cruise on the luxurious Spirit of Oceanus.

Accompanying us as study leader is Marsha Vande Berg, who provides consulting services on political, social, and economic issues in Japan, Korea, and China. Marsha is an award-winning journalist who has a background in international studies and has shared her insights on Asian culture and history on a number of educational tours to Asia and Southeast Asia. A Princeton University study leader will join Marsha in enhancing our understanding of the complex history, unique architectural heritage, and distinct cultural traditions of Japan.

Begin in Tokyo, the exhilarating capital of Japan, where we drink in the energy of this modern city and learn about its 400-year history. Travel by high-speed bullet train to Kyoto, where imperial charm echoes throughout ancient wooden temples, grand monuments, and tranquil gardens. During our stay, we make a daylong excursion to Japan’s first capital, Nara, established in the 8th century. Depart Kyoto for Himeji, to visit the World Heritage–listed Himeji Castle and board the Spirit of Oceanus, privately chartered for us and Princeton, Emory, and National Trust for Historic Preservation travelers who will be joining us on this program.

Cruising the Inland Sea from Himeji to Hagi, glimpse into the past at the 18th-century rice storehouses of Kurashiki, behold the floating scarlet gate (torii) of Miyajima Island, and visit the traditional arts center and samurai quarter of Hagi. Cross the Korea Strait to explore the open-air museum of Gyeongju, South Korea, then continue along the northwestern coast of Japan’s Honshu Island. In Kanazawa, experience the time-honored tradition of the Japanese tea ceremony at the exquisite “Garden of Six Qualities.”

During our journey, witness not only Japan’s dramatic natural beauty, including rocky shores and terraced fields, but also its cultural landscape. From the curiously labyrinthine streets of Kanazawa, once an independent Buddhist republic, to the seaside town of Hagi, founded by a Mori warlord, encounter the multilayered history that renders Japan unique.

We hope you will join us for this incredible voyage.

Sincerely,

Eric J. Furda
Vice President for Alumni Relations
Telephone: 212-472-4365 or 866-3-ALUMNI (866-325-8664)
E-mail: travelstudy@Columbia.edu
Kyoto
Monday, March 19
Explore Ryoan-ji, a temple famous for its Zen rock garden. Marvel at the resplendent Golden Pavilion of Kinkaku-ji, its gold-leaf exterior reflected in the placid waters below. At Nijo Castle, discover the exquisitely decorated seat of the Tokugawa shogunate. After lunch, enjoy the afternoon at leisure before gathering for a special dinner.
KYOTO HOTEL OKURA (B,L,D)

Kyoto
Tuesday, March 20
Select a morning activity from a range of options. Head to a local temple for an exploration of Zen Buddhism and lecture on the life and training of a Buddhist priest, then attend a calligraphy workshop. Or, choose to visit a traditional Japanese house (machiya) in the city center, followed by expert-led workshops on Noh theater and flower arrangement. Alternatively, take part in a specially arranged visit to the Koke-dera Moss Temple of Saiho-ji, where more than 100 varieties of moss carpet the grounds. This afternoon is free to explore the many treasures of Kyoto.
KYOTO HOTEL OKURA (B,L,D)

Kyoto/Nara/Kyoto
Wednesday, March 21
Depart Kyoto for the ancient city of Nara, once the country’s cultural and political center. In the 700s, Emperor Shomu ordered the construction of the majestic temple Todai-ji and commissioned a huge bronze statue of the Great Buddha. Visit the impressive sculpture, which, at 437 tons, is the largest Buddha statue in Japan. After lunch at a local restaurant, drive to the outskirts of Nara to tour Horyu-ji, Japan’s oldest surviving Buddhist temple and home to many treasures of early Buddhist sculpture. Return to Kyoto late this afternoon and enjoy an evening at leisure.
KYOTO HOTEL OKURA (B,L,D)

Kyoto/Himeji/Embark the Spirit of Oceanus
Thursday, March 22
After a morning at leisure in Kyoto, transfer to Himeji, where the renowned World Heritage site of Himeji Castle rises grandly above the town. Known for its grace as the “white egret,” the castle is one of the oldest surviving structures from medieval Japan. After exploring the site, board the Spirit of Oceanus, our home for the next seven nights.
SPIRIT OF OCEANUS (B,D)

Kurashiki/At Sea
Friday, March 23
This morning go ashore to explore the enchanting town of Kurashiki, where a rich feudal history developed around a prosperous community of rice growers. The black-tiled rice warehouses have now been converted into shops, teahouses, and museums. Return to the ship for lunch and an afternoon of cruising the Inland Sea.
SPIRIT OF OCEANUS (B,L,D)

Hiroshima & Miyajima
Saturday, March 24
Dock at Hiroshima to call at the Peace Memorial Park and Museum, a powerful reminder of the atomic blast that shattered the city at the end of World War II. Also wander the grounds of Shukkei-en, a lovely stroll garden with a central pond and several teahouses. Originally built in the 17th century, it has recently become a poignant symbol of postwar reconstruction. This afternoon, journey by Zodiac to Miyajima Island, where commoners were once forbidden to tread. Its beautiful floating scarlet gate (torii)—the largest in Japan—leads to the 6th-century Itsukushima Shinto Shrine.
SPIRIT OF OCEANUS (B,L,D)

Hagi
Sunday, March 25
Hagi’s sobering military past is belied by its scenic location, charming size, and lovely expanses of green. Walk through the old samurai quarter, then visit Toko-ji, with its striking display of 500 stone lanterns honoring the graves of the ruling Mori clan lords. Hagi is renowned for its distinctive rough-textured pottery, Hagi-yaki, which in feudal times only samurai were privileged to use. Meet a local ceramicist and watch the workings of a centuries-old kiln.
SPIRIT OF OCEANUS (B,L,D)
Busan & Gyeongju, South Korea
Monday, March 26

Call at Busan, South Korea's bustling southern port city, and transfer by coach to the open-air museum of Gyeongju. This cradle of the Shilla kingdom, now a World Heritage site, features excavated monuments, burial tombs, and temples of the once-powerful dynasty that ruled Korea for 1,000 years. Savor the aromas and flavors of traditional Korean barbecue, then explore the ancient stone terraces of Pulguksa Temple, the crowning glory of Shilla artistry and architecture. SPIRIT OF OCEANUS (B,L,D)

Izumo
Tuesday, March 27

Anchor off Izumo for a visit to Izumo Taisha, Japan's oldest and largest Shinto shrine. A beautiful complex of buildings constructed in a purely Japanese architectural style and nestled in a virgin forest, Izumo Taisha is dedicated to Okuninushi, the god of happiness in marriage. Return to the ship for lunch and an afternoon of cruising. SPIRIT OF OCEANUS (B,L,D)

Kanazawa
Wednesday, March 28

In Japanese culture, six qualities define the perfect garden: spaciousness, artistic merit, majesty, abundant water, extensive views, and seclusion. All are manifested in the Kenrokuen Garden, or “Garden of Six Qualities.” After a morning stroll through the garden grounds, enjoy a traditional tea ceremony. SPIRIT OF OCEANUS (B,L,D)

Disembark the Spirit of Oceanus/Niigata/Tokyo/U.S.
Thursday, March 29

Disembark the Spirit of Oceanus in Niigata and transfer by bullet train to Tokyo’s Narita International Airport for flights home to the U.S. Re-cross the International Date Line and “gain” one day, arriving the morning of the same day. (B, MEALS ALOFT)

Optional Post-Trip Extension to Nikko
March 29–April 1, 2007

North of Tokyo lies the ancient Shinto and Buddhist pilgrimage destination of Nikko, renowned for Tosho-gu, Japan’s most lavishly decorated shrine complex, and breathtaking mountain scenery. Experience traditional Japan during a two-night stay at a ryokan (inn), including a visit to an onsen (hot springs bath), in one of the small towns around Nikko. Also spend one night in Nikko itself, with time to explore the elaborately decorated, World Heritage-listed Tosho-gu shrine, mausoleum of Tokugawa Ieyasu, founder of the Tokugawa shogunate. Details and rates will be sent to confirmed participants.

Japanese artists consider realism less important than capturing the soul of the subject expressively.

The largest bronze statue of Buddha in Japan is in Nara.

Koi, originally a food fish, began to be bred for their aesthetic appeal and as pets in the early 1800s.
Study Leaders

Marsha Vande Berg provides consulting services to businesses and foundations on political and economic developments internationally. A former Kiriyama Fellow at the Center for the Pacific Rim at the University of San Francisco and an award-winning journalist, Dr. Vande Berg is the editor of The World Report and the International Initiative Newsletter for the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce, as well as editor of the opinions page for the San Francisco Chronicle, and she brings a focused area of expertise in Europe and Asia. She is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, the Pacific Council on International Policy, and the International Institute of Strategic Studies. Marsha holds a master’s degree in international studies from Duke University and received her PhD at Vanderbilt University. She has delighted many educational tour groups with her informative lectures and insights on Asian culture and history, and has received rave reviews as a study leader to Japan, Thailand, Burma, Cambodia, and China.

Princeton will also provide a study leader for this program.

Program Information

Airfare: International and U.S. domestic airfare is not included in the program rates. Our tour operator will be happy to assist you in making all of your air travel arrangements.

Fuel surcharge: Due to fluctuating oil prices, participants may be subject to a fuel surcharge.

Included: Two nights at the Imperial Hotel in Tokyo and four nights at the Kyoto Hotel Okura in Kyoto • Seven-night cruise aboard the Spirit of Oceanus • Meals as indicated in the itinerary • Welcome reception and wine with final dinner aboard ship • Comprehensive program of lectures, shore excursions, and special events • All on-tour train and coach transportation • Transfers and baggage handling between airports, piers, and hotels for those traveling on group flights • Gratuities to porters, guides, drivers, waiters, and ship crew for all group activities • Port and embarkation taxes • Complete packet of pre-departure information including reading list and luggage tags • Professional tour management throughout

Not Included: International and U.S. domestic airfare • Passport and visa fees • Immunization costs • Airport security fees imposed by the government or airline • Meals and beverages other than those specified as included • Excess baggage charges • Baggage and cancellation insurance • Transfers and baggage handling for those not participating in group flights • Laundry, room service, telephone and fax calls, and other items of a purely personal nature

What to Expect: We consider this to be a moderately strenuous program that is at times physically demanding and busy. Daily activities can involve about a mile of walking, often on uneven terrain where stairs are unavailable or do not have handrails. Participants must be physically fit and in active good health. The weather will generally be mild, with rain showers probable. Average temperatures range from lows in the 30°–40° Fahrenheit to highs in the mid-50° Fahrenheit. You will need to climb into and out of Zodiacs for excursions ashore, where staff and crew will be on hand to assist. While ashore, we travel in deluxe, air-conditioned coaches. If you have any doubt about your ability to participate fully due to health conditions or disabilities, contact the Columbia Alumni Travel Study Program toll-free at 1-866-325-8664.

For more information, contact the Columbia Alumni Travel Study Program at 1-866-325-8664 or, for New York residents, at 212-472-4365.

Japan’s temple gardens are renowned for their beauty and tranquility.

Cover: Geisha © Shin Terada/DanitaDelimont.com
Mail panel: Himeji castle © Jon Arnold/DanitaDelimont.com; Heian shrine, Kyoto © High Country Passage
**Spirit of Oceania**

The *Spirit of Oceania*, a comfortable 120-passenger expedition ship refurbished in 2004, has a total of 60 spacious outside staterooms (min. 215 sq. ft.) with ocean views, a separate seating area, picture window or porthole, en suite bathroom with marble vanity and sink, generous storage space (either walk-in closet or wardrobe), safe, refrigerator, individual climate and audio controls, and TV/VCR. Fifteen suites feature private teak balconies. Public areas include two lounges, an elevator providing access to all passenger decks, library, and heated dipping pool. All passengers are accommodated at one seating for meals. A fleet of Zodiacs is used for some shore excursions.

Registry: Bahamas

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### Program Rates, per person

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<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>CATEGORY F</strong> (Main &amp; Oceanus Decks)</th>
<th><strong>DOUBLE</strong></th>
<th><strong>SINGLE</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Luxury stateroom, outside cabins with either two twin beds or one king bed, large portholes or window. Average 215 sq. ft.</td>
<td>$8,990</td>
<td>$13,485</td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>CATEGORY E</strong> (Main &amp; Oceanus Decks)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Luxury stateroom, outside cabins with either two twin beds or one king bed, large portholes. 240 sq. ft.</td>
<td>$9,490</td>
<td>$14,235</td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>CATEGORY D</strong> (Club Deck)</th>
<th><strong>DOUBLE</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>Luxury stateroom, outside cabins with either two twin beds or one king bed, large window. Average 235 sq. ft.</td>
<td>$9,790</td>
<td>$14,685</td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>CATEGORY C</strong> (Oceanus Deck)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Luxury stateroom, outside cabins with either two twin beds or one king bed, large window. Average 250 sq. ft.</td>
<td>$10,390</td>
<td>$15,585</td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>CATEGORY B</strong> (Sports Deck)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Luxury suite, outside cabins with either two twin beds or one king bed, large window, sliding glass door and private balcony. 277 sq. ft.</td>
<td>$11,490</td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>CATEGORY A</strong> (Sun Deck)</th>
<th><strong>DOUBLE</strong></th>
<th><strong>SINGLE</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>Luxury suite, outside cabins with either two twin beds or one king bed, large window, sliding glass door and private balcony. 353 sq. ft.</td>
<td>$12,490</td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>OWNER’S SUITE</strong> (Sun Deck)</th>
<th><strong>DOUBLE</strong></th>
<th><strong>SINGLE</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>Luxury suite, outside cabin with one king bed and one convertible sleeper, whirlpool tub, sliding glass doors and private sun deck. 437 sq. ft.</td>
<td>$14,490</td>
<td></td>
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Miyajima's floating scarlet torii (gate to a shrine) is considered one of the most beautiful sights in Japan.

Itinerary or Program Modifications: The itinerary, as contained in this brochure, is subject to modifications and change by the captain of the Spirit of Oceanus, the Columbia Alumni Travel Study Program, and High Country Passage, the tour operator. Every effort will be made to carry out the program as planned, but alterations may still occur after the final itinerary is sent.

Cancellation and Refunds: Deposits are refundable, less a $200 per person cancellation fee, until November 15, 2006. After final payment, refunds cannot be made unless your place can be resold and the trip is full. We strongly recommend trip-cancellation insurance; information will be sent upon registration.

Insurance: The Columbia Alumni Travel Study Program strongly recommends that all tour participants purchase Trip Cancellation, Emergency Medical Evacuation, Baggage, Accident, and Medical insurance for their tour. Upon our receipt of your initial tour deposit, a comprehensive travel insurance plan will be made available to you.

Eligibility: This program is open to Columbia University alumni, family, and friends.

Responsibility: Columbia University, its agent, TSS LLC, and the tour operator, High Country Passage (HCP), act only as agents for the passenger with respect to transportation and ship arrangements and exercise every care possible. However, we can assume no liability for injury, damage, loss, accident, delay, or irregularity in connection with the service of any boat, automobile, motorcoach, or any other conveyance used in carrying out this program, or for the acts or defaults of any company or person engaged in conveying the passenger or carrying out the arrangements of the program. We cannot accept any responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, force majeure, or other causes beyond our control. All such losses or expenses will have to be borne by the passenger, as tour rates provide for arrangements only for the time stated. We reserve the right to make such alterations in the published itinerary as may be deemed necessary, and to cancel or substitute lecturers. We reserve the right to cancel this program prior to departure, in which case the entire payment will be refunded without further obligation on our part. The right is also reserved to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of the program. No refund will be made for the unused portion of any tour unless arrangements are made in sufficient time to avoid penalties. Baggage is carried at the owner’s risk entirely. It is understood that the air ticket when issued shall constitute the sole contract between the passenger and the airline. The airlines concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission, or event during the time passengers are not on board their plane or conveyance. Neither Columbia University, TSS, nor HCP accepts liability for any carrier’s cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a nonrefundable air ticket connected with this program. We cannot guarantee the size of the Columbia Alumni Travel Study group.

Payments: A $1,000 deposit is required to hold space for the program. Please make your check payable to High Country Passage and mail it with the completed reservation form to Columbia Alumni Travel Study Program, P.O. Box 169, New York, NY 10028. MasterCard and Visa are also accepted for deposit and final payment. Final payment is due November 15, 2006, 120 days prior to departure.

Final payment date is November 15, 2006.

Name 1 (as on passport)    School/year
Name 2 (as on passport)    School/year

Bed preference in hotels: [ ] Two beds    [ ] One bed

Please note: Hotels in Japan generally offer two beds; there are a limited number of double/queen-size beds available.

Single Applicants only:
[ ] I prefer single accommodations.
[ ] I plan to share accommodations with: ____________________________
[ ] Please arrange a share for me (not guaranteed). If a share cannot be arranged, I agree to pay the single rate. I am a [ ] non-smoker [ ] smoker.

Cardholder signature
Account #      Exp. date

[ ] Please charge the deposit of __________________ ($1,000 per person) to my
[ ] VISA    [ ] MasterCard

[ ] Enclosed is a check for $______________ ($1,000 per person), payable to High Country Passage, to secure _______ place(s) on this study tour.

Please send your completed reservation form and deposit to Columbia Alumni Travel Study Program, P.O. Box 169, New York, NY 10028, or fax the form to 1-212-517-7770. For further information, contact the Columbia Alumni Travel Study Program at 1-866-325-8664 or, for New York residents, at 212-472-4365. Or email us at travelstudy@columbia.edu.