Cruise Details

Name:	Classic Japan & Treasures of the Mekong
Reference:	SCENICJPVI101027
Operator:	Scenic River Cruises
Cruise Type:	River
Cruise Rating:	Luxury
Ship:	Scenic Spirit
Regions:	Mekong
Departs On:	10 Oct 27
Departs From:	Fukuoka
Arrives On:	05 Nov 27
Arrives At:	Siem Reap
Cruise Nights:	26
Total Vacation Days:	27

Itinerary

Day 1: Fukuoka (Japan)

Welcome to the island of Kyushu, Japan. Enjoy your welcome reception at your hotel in Fukuoka, your luxury hotel in the centre of the city.

Arrives On: 10 Oct 27

Day 2: Fukuoka (Japan)

Begin your exploration of Fukuoka with stops at the Shofukuji Temple, Japan’s first Zen Temple, Kushida Shrine and Hakata Machiya Folk Museum. This museum shows the old daily life and culture of Fukuoka city in Meiji and Taisho period, focusing especially on urban houses of that period. Scenic Freechoice:
This afternoon, choose from one of these Scenic Freechoice options.

Kawakudari boat ride and Yanagawa Ohana: Drive to Yanagawa, dubbed the ‘Venice of Kyushu’ for its 930km of canals. Cruise along the tranquil waterways, learning about the town’s history and culture, and stop at Yanagawa Ohana, the

villa of the Tachibana family who ruled the town from 1600-1868.

Old & new Fukuoka: Visit the 234m tall Fukuoka Tower, the tallest seaside tower in Japan, with a 360-degree observation deck. Then explore the Edo Period ruins of Fukuoka Castle in Maizuru Park. This evening head down to Fukuoka's open air food stalls (Yatai) to choose your own meal of Yakitori, Oden or Hakata Ramen dinner.

Arrives On: 11 Oct 27

Day 3: Fukuoka (Japan)

This morning, drive to the Moji Port District. Moji Port developed into a hub for international trade with China and other countries when it opened as an international trading port in 1889. Afterwards, visit the iconic TOTO Museum, dedicated to Japan's famed high-tech toilets. Then travel by Shinkansen bullet train to Hiroshima on the island of Honshu. Scenic Enrich
Experience an emotional visit to the Peace Park and Museum before visiting Orizuru Tower to create your own special origami donation. Later check into your hotel in Hiroshima for two nights. Tonight, sample Okonomiyaki, a delicious savoury Japanese-style pancake and specialty of the region.

Arrives On: 12 Oct 27

Day 3: Kitakyushu (Japan)

Arrives On: 12 Oct 27

Day 3: Hiroshima (Japan)

Arrives On: 12 Oct 27

Day 4: Hiroshima (Japan)

Sail by ferry to Miyajima Island to visit the Daisho-in Temple and the floating Torii Gate at the Itsukushima Shrine. Later enjoy free time in Hiroshima. Scenic Enrich
Tonight (April-Dec) attend a performance of Kagura, a type of Shinto ritual ceremonial dance.

Arrives On: 13 Oct 27

Day 4: Itsukushima (Japan)

Arrives On: 13 Oct 27

Day 5: Hiroshima (Japan)

Travel by Shinkansen to Okayama. Upon arrival visit the 300-year-old Korakuen Garden, one of the Three Great Gardens of Japan. Later learn all about the brewing process and try some examples of local sake. Check into your hotel for the next two nights.

Arrives On: 14 Oct 27

Day 5: Okayama (Japan)

Arrives On: 14 Oct 27

Day 6: Okayama (Japan)

Take the ferry from Uno Port to the artistic island of Naoshima - known for its modern art museums, architecture, and sculptures including the famous giant pumpkin created by Yayoi Kusama. Visit the many sites and experiences of the Art House Project, a collection of abandoned houses, workshops, a temple and a shrine that have been converted into art installations. After lunch at Benesse House, visit Lee Ufan Museum, a semi-underground structure resulting from the collaboration between internationally acclaimed artist Lee Ufan and architect Tadao Ando. Later visit Chichu Art Museum, constructed in 2004 as a site rethinking the relationship between nature and people. Return to Okayama for the night.

Arrives On: 15 Oct 27

Day 6: Naoshima (Japan)

Arrives On: 15 Oct 27

Day 7: Okayama (Japan)

En-route to Osaka on the Shinkansen train, stop at Himeji Castle and marvel at Japan’s most spectacular and one of the few remaining original feudal castles. From the castle drive to Osaka to enjoy a three-night Special Stay with full club lounge access.

Arrives On: 16 Oct 27

Day 7: Himeji (Japan)

Arrives On: 16 Oct 27

Day 7: Osaka (Japan)

Arrives On: 16 Oct 27

Day 8: Osaka (Japan)

This morning, wander through Shinsaibashi-suji Shopping Street, an icon of the city that dates back almost 400 years. Then explore Kuromon Ichiba Market, known as Osaka’s kitchen. Scenic Enrich
Learn about the history, life and training routine of a sumo wrestler during a private visit to a Sumo Museum in Kehayaza, said to be the birthplace of sumo. After your welcome ceremony, see a demonstration of Jinku (traditional folkloric songs) and watch the wrestlers in action in the dohyo. Later this evening, enjoy more of your Club lounge benefits, including complimentary refreshments and evening cocktails, before catching the Osaka Metro to explore the lively entertainment area of Dotonbori and Hozenji Yokocho food alley.

Arrives On: 17 Oct 27

Day 9: Osaka (Japan)

Drive to Todaiji Temple, one of the World Heritage-listed Historic Monuments of Ancient Nara. Constructed in 752, it was the largest wooden building in the world until the end of the 20th century and houses one of Japan’s largest statues, a 15-metre tall bronze Buddha. See the curious deer in Nara Park, before continuing to Kyoto, the home to many World Heritage-listed Sites. Scenic Enrich
Partake in a Japanese tea ceremony while dressed in a traditional Japanese kimono, a great photo opportunity. Settle into your Special Stay at your hotel Kyoto with executive lounge access. Ryokan Upgrade - For a unique insight into Japanese culture, choose to stay tonight in a Ryokan (at additional cost, must be pre-booked before departure). This traditional Japanese Inn has tatami mat flooring with futon beds, sliding shoji paper doors, private bath facilities, and includes dinner and breakfast.

Arrives On: 18 Oct 27

Day 9: Nara City (Japan)

Arrives On: 18 Oct 27

Day 9: Kyoto (Japan)

Arrives On: 18 Oct 27

Day 10: Kyoto (Japan)

This morning, explore the captivating city of Kyoto, a place where old Japan is still alive. Begin the day wandering around the gardens of the famous Kinkaku-ji or Golden Pavilion, so named because it is completely covered in gold leaf. Afterwards glide through the otherworldly Arashiyama Bamboo Grove by traditional rickshaw. Scenic Freechoice:
This afternoon, explore the city on one of these Scenic Freechoice excursions.

Samurai & Ninja Museum: Your local guide will lead you on a 30-minute guided tour diving into the fascinating history of samurai and ninja through legendary stories and historical insights. Experience life as a Samurai, wearing authentic Samurai armor and holding a sword and learn how to throw ninja stars. Test your targeting skills by throwing a shuriken!

Nijo Castle: First built in 1603 as the residence of the first shogun of the Edo Period (1603-1868). After the Tokugawa Shogunate fell in 1867, Nijo Castle was used as an imperial palace before being donated to the city and opened up to the public as a historic site. Its palace buildings are arguably the best surviving examples of castle palace architecture from Japan's feudal era, and the castle was designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1994.

Arrives On: 19 Oct 27

Day 11: Kyoto (Japan)

Begin your day with an early morning optional visit to beat the crowds at the Fushimi Inari Shrine, famous for its corridor of thousands of vermilion torii gates that appeared in the film 'Memoirs of a Geisha'. Later travel by Shinakansen to Hakone. After lunch study the art works and sculptures at the Chokokuno Mori (Hakone Open Air Museum). Afterwards drive to the Fuji Five Lakes district, known locally as Fujigoko, located beneath Mt Fuji. Soak in the views from your hotel for the night.

Arrives On: 20 Oct 27

Day 11: Fuji Five Lakes (Japan)

Arrives On: 20 Oct 27

Day 12: Fuji Five Lakes (Japan)

Visit the Itchiku Kubota Art Museum this morning, dedicated to the Japanese textile artist. Kubota is renowned for his use of the tsujigahana technique, used to dye kimonos during the Muromachi Period (1333-1573), and has created an unparalleled collection of these traditional garments.

Drive to Tokyo for lunch, then spend time at the dazzling teamLab Borderless Digital Art Museum. Wander freely amongst the immersive displays, created by hundreds of projectors, lights and computers. Later check-into your hotel, your Special Stay for the next three nights. With direct access to four subway lines, the hotel was recently rated in the Forbes Travel Guide as Tokyo's exclusive Japanese decor 5-star luxury hotel. Rooms overlook the most

picturesque sites in Tokyo, such as the Imperial Palace, the 500-year-old Hie Jinja Shrine and beautiful landscaped Japanese gardens. Scenic Freechoice Dining:
This evening, choose from one of these Scenic Freechoice Dining options.

Ninja Akasaka: This popular but unusual restaurant has an underlying ninja theme to create a memorable dining experience.

Nobu Tokyo: Part of the famous international chain of Japanese restaurants by Nobu Matsuhisa, this casual but chic restaurant is known for its fusion cuisine blending traditional Japanese dishes with Peruvian ingredients.

Izakaya Nightlife: Sample a Yaki-tori and Kushiyaki dinner over some drinks at small local bars. This is a chance to mingle and dine in a traditional Japanese way.

Arrives On: 21 Oct 27

Day 12: Tokyo (Japan)

Arrives On: 21 Oct 27

Day 13: Tokyo (Japan)

Visit the Asakusa district, known as the centre of Tokyo’s shitamachi or ‘low city’. Capturing the atmosphere of Tokyo’s past, the narrow laneways are lined with traditional shopfronts, food stalls and ancient temples. You can pay your respects at Sensoji temple, the city’s oldest Buddhist temple built in 645. Scenic Freechoice:
This afternoon, explore the city on one of these Scenic Freechoice excursions.

Meiji Shrine and Shibuya Crossing: Explore the tranquil evergreen forest of the Meiji Shrine complex, before walking across the busiest pedestrian crossing in the world and seeing the famous Hachiko dog statue in Shibuya.

Cultural Shinjuku and Gyoen Gardens: Stroll through Shinjuku-Gyoen Gardens, one of the most beautiful areas for cherry blossoms in Tokyo. Visit Shinjuku’s shopping and entertainment districts. You can also choose to stay and join the crowds later into the night.

Arrives On: 22 Oct 27

Day 14: Tokyo (Japan)

Gather your bearings and get a bird’s eye view of Tokyo from above as you take in the panorama from Tokyo Sky Tree, the world’s tallest tower at 634 metres. Scenic Enrich
Partake in an interactive, private group demonstration and lesson in playing the Taiko drums, led by renowned Taiko masters. Afterwards, the remainder of your day is at leisure for some last-minute shopping before joining your fellow guests for your farewell dinner tonight.

Arrives On: 23 Oct 27

Day 15: Tokyo (Japan)

Say farewell to the Land of the Rising Sun, taking with you many wonderful memories. Transfer to the airport for your flight to Vietnam and the next stage of your journey. When you arrive in Ho Chi Minh City, check in to your hotel, located downtown in the heart of Ho Chi Minh City. Meet your Tour Director and fellow guests at your welcome dinner.

Arrives On: 24 Oct 27

Day 15: Ho Chi Minh City (Vietnam)

Arrives On: 24 Oct 27

Day 16: Ho Chi Minh City (Vietnam)

The morning is spent at the Cu Chi Tunnels, where more than 250 kilometres of underground passages dug by hand during the war reveal themselves with staggering ingenuity. Return to the city for a Pho lunch, with the afternoon at leisure. Scenic Freechoice Dining:
This evening, Scenic Freechoice dining offers a Vespa night tour stopping at the city's finest street food haunts with complimentary drinks; a refined dinner at Mandarine Restaurant styled on the imperial courts of Hue; a table at Noir Dining in the Dark, dedicated to supporting the visually impaired community; a vintage jeep street food experience; or Buffet 19 at the hotel.

Arrives On: 25 Oct 27

Day 17: Ho Chi Minh City (Vietnam)

After breakfast and checkout, visit the War Museum and Reunification Palace. The former Presidential House of South Vietnam become famous in 1975 with images of tanks crashing through its gates leading to the South's surrender and end of the War of Independence.

After lunch, a coach will transfer you to My Tho where the breathtaking Scenic Spirit awaits. Start with a cocktail reception hosted by your Cruise Director. Take a stroll around the decks to orientate yourself as to where all the amenities are. After your welcome dinner, settling into your private suite does not mean you settle for service. At any time, your dedicated personal butler is free to swing by with a nightcap and delivery of your preferred pillows. A calm 4-hour sail brings you to halt off Cai Be where the ship will anchor overnight.

Arrives On: 26 Oct 27

Day 18: Cái Bè (Vietnam)

Start the day with a full gourmet breakfast – complete with champagne – before heading out to explore Cai Be. Scenic Freechoice:
Choose to travel via sampan to Tan Phong, a small island located near Cai Be town that is rich in alluvial soil suitable for tropical fruit orchards all year round. With a total area of more than 1,000 hectares, surrounded by silted sandbanks, canals and a mild temperature, Tan Phong has long been a friendly destination for eco-tourism. On arrival, try a hands-on experience at a workshop specialised in weaving water hyacinth into artistic crafts. Board a motorised buggy for a ride through endless fruit orchards, stopping to enjoy the tropical fruits and interact with a farm owner. Reboard the sampan and cruise to Cái Bè town to discover the local cottage industry where families make rice-paper and sweets from pop-corn, pop-rice and coconut.

Alternatively take a sampan from the Scenic Spirit to savour a delicious afternoon tea at the Le Longanier, a French colonial house restaurant, where staff will welcome you with tea, coffee and a range of local fruit and snacks for your tasting. You can dive into a local experience with a band playing music and performing traditional Vietnamese songs.

If you would prefer to enjoy the comforts of your ship, our highly skilled bar team is ready to welcome you to a hands-on cocktail/mocktail making class featuring fresh local ingredients. After your morning activity, head back to the ship for lunch whilst sailing to Sa Dec. Relax and soak in the beauty of the scenery, visit the on-board library to read up on future ports, or head to the Scenic Spirit lounge to unwind with fellow guests over a glass of wine.

Later, upon arrival in Sa Dec, board your sampan once again to explore the lively wet market where you can meet the sellers and marvel at their wares, including live fish, frogs and even snakes. This two-hour exploration will take you deep into the local lifestyle. You can also see the grand home of Mr. Huynh Thuy Le, a Chinese merchant who inspired Marguerite Duras' novel L'Amant. Your expert guide will reveal the secrets behind this passionate tale of tragic love.

After returning to the ship, you will have time to take an evening dip in the pool overlooking the Mekong as the sun sets. Before dinner, experience a fantastically themed dinner on board the Spirit along with a lion dance performed by locals on the expansive Sundeck. The ship will set sail after your arrival back on board for the 6-hour journey to Tan Chau.

Arrives On: 27 Oct 27

Day 18: Sa Déc (Vietnam)

Arrives On: 27 Oct 27

Day 19: Tân Châu (Vietnam)

You may want to start with some exercise in the on-board gym, try stretching at the early morning yoga class or relax in the sauna. Then set off to discover the areas surrounding Tan Chau. Scenic Freechoice:
You could leave the city life behind at Tra Su Bird Sanctuary in Tra Su Forest. Travel by sampan through endless tranquil waterways, flanked by mangroves and lush greenery. This eco reserve spans 850 hectares and is an ecological haven for fauna and flora, home to more than 100 species of waterbirds.

Or, experience a traditional way of life on Evergreen Island, joining local farmers for a morning of discovery. Back in Tan Chau, ride in a xe loi, a three-wheeled bicycle rickshaw that was introduced by the French in the 19th century and is a common form of transportation in rural Vietnam. Visit the recently renovated, brightly coloured Cao Dai temple. Caodaism is a new religion, established in 1926 in the southern Vietnamese city of Tây Ninh, and brings together beliefs and practices from Buddhism, Christianity, Taoism and Confucianism. Here, you will learn more about the mix of ideas that form the basis of this fascinating religion.

For your third choice, board a speedboat to visit Chau Doc, a major city in the Mekong Delta, and Tay An temple. Set at the foot of Sam Mountain, this elaborate temple is a mixture of Indian and Islamic architecture. Afterwards, board another sampan to visit Vinh Te canal and view life along the riverfront of Chau Doc, before making your way back to Scenic Spirit. After lunch upon your arrival back on board, enjoy sailing to the Vietnamese and Cambodian border. Some down time is a great way to relax and what better way to do that than heading to the Wellness Centre or Beauty Salon for a bit of pampering. After the ship clears immigration into Cambodia at the border, settle in for an overnight sail towards Phnom Penh, bidding farewell to Vietnam.

Arrives On: 28 Oct 27

Day 19: Port information not found

Arrives On: 28 Oct 27

Day 20: Phnom Penh (Cambodia)

Welcome to Cambodia, arriving into the capital of Phnom Penh early this morning. After breakfast, it will be time to head out and explore the city. Scenic Freechoice:
You can choose to journey to the infamous Killing Fields and take a tour of the Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum, housed inside a former prison. These sites are a sobering reminder of the terrors unleashed by the Khmer Rouge regime in the 1970s. This moving tour will give you a deeper insight into the tumultuous history of Cambodia and the resilience of its people.

Passionate foodies may like to choose a hands-on cooking class. Take a trip to the bustling market with a local chef to purchase your ingredients, then head back to the kitchen to cook your own lunch, testing out the styles and flavours of Cambodian cuisine.

Alternatively, travel by remork, a local style of tuk tuk, to explore the French architecture, backstreets and history of Phnom Penh. Finish the tour with shopping at the Central Market, famed for its unique Art Deco design and bright yellow façade. At the conclusion of your tour, return to Scenic Spirit for lunch. The remainder of the afternoon is at leisure. Scenic Sunset Drinks
Later this evening, revel in our Phnom Penh by City Lights tour. You'll get to witness the nightlife of the capital before stopping at a local rum distillery for your exclusive Scenic Sunset Drinks experience, including a private tour and tasting.

Arrives On: 29 Oct 27

Day 21: Phnom Penh (Cambodia)

Board a bus this morning for the short drive to the ancient capital of Cambodia, Oudong. Here, experience the life of the monks and nuns who reside at the peaceful monastery. If you are lucky, you may be able to partake in one of the many festivals and traditional rituals often held here.

After you return to the city, discover the opulence of Phnom Penh’s Royal Palace and the famous Silver Pagoda within. Set on the riverfront, this dazzling palace was built in the 1860s and still serves as the official residence of the King of Cambodia. After returning to the ship and before setting sail, enjoy a cultural performance by the Cambodian Student and Children’s Organisation.

Get ready for an evening of style with a Sundowner cocktail reception on the sundeck against the backdrop of Phnom Penh’s lights and stunning scenery as the ships sets sail towards Oknha Tey, commonly known as Silk Island.

Arrives On: 30 Oct 27

Day 21: Oudong (Cambodia)

Arrives On: 30 Oct 27

Day 22: Phnom Penh (Cambodia)

This morning, you will explore the island of Oknha Tey, dedicated to the art of silk weaving. Travel by traditional tuk tuk to the farm, meet the workers and learn about silk production. Return to Scenic Spirit for lunch and some free time. This could be the perfect opportunity to escape the heat of a Southeast Asian afternoon with a swim in the pool and a refreshing cocktail.

After lunch, you will call at Angkor Ban, a small settlement where time stands still. Explore its historic wooden houses, which date back over 100 years and survived the destruction of the Khmer Rouge. Back on board, learn the many ways to wear a krama, the traditional Cambodian scarf, as the ship sails towards Kampong Cham.

Arrives On: 31 Oct 27

Day 22: Angkor Ban (Cambodia)

Arrives On: 31 Oct 27

Day 23: Kampong Cham (Cambodia)

Meet the novice monks at Wat Hanchey, an ancient hilltop pagoda and monastery. Walk (or drive) to the top and soak in some of the best elevated views of the cruise. Scenic Enrich
Receive a traditional blessing

from a monk and learn how to pray in a Buddhist pagoda before partaking in an alms ceremony, which contributes to the daily meal of the resident monks. Sail back to Kampong Cham. Scenic Freechoice:
This afternoon, explore Kampong Cham and its surrounds. Choose to learn about local folklore at Phnom Pros, a mountaintop pagoda that has long been part of a traditional legend. Tragically, in more modern times, the site was used as a Killing Field by the Khmer Rouge. The temple now features a Buddha Garden and is home to a local troop of monkeys. Afterwards, visit Wat Nokor Bachey, a unique architectural experiment that blends an Angkorian era temple with a new temple built inside it.

Alternatively, explore Kampong Cham's history and industry with a drive past shop houses, remnants of the French colonial era, and the large Central market. Visit a local rubber plantation established by the French before stopping at a village known for growing betel nut, an important part of Cambodian culture.

Your third option today is a visit to Kho Penh Village. Located on Pen (Bamboo) Island, it's only accessible by local remork after crossing by bamboo bridge or ferry from Kampong Cham. This remote village gives you a fascinating insight into the simple, rural lifestyle of farmers in Cambodia. Back on board you will have time to relax and overlook the gorgeous sunset of the Cambodian skyline before your engaging farewell dinner with the crew.

Arrives On: 01 Nov 27

Day 23: Kampong Cham (Cambodia)

Arrives On: 01 Nov 27

Day 24: Siem Reap (Cambodia)

Arrives On: 02 Nov 27

Day 25: Siem Reap (Cambodia)

The second day of your Siem Reap exploration starts with a delicious champagne buffet breakfast at the hotel. Scenic Freechoice:
Your Scenic Freechoice takes the morning in any direction: the rose-pink sandstone of Banteay Srei temple and the Landmine Museum; artisan workshops at Senteurs d'Angkor; a village walk through Ta Brak; life on the Tonle Sap floating villages (July to February); or a behind-the-scenes tour of the Angkor Wildlife Aquarium. The afternoon belongs to Angkor Wat itself, best seen as the afternoon light plays across its galleries and towers. After the day of adventure, tonight is free to shop away at the night markets of Siem Reap or venture to Pub Street, both in walking distance or a short tuk tuk ride from your hotel.

Arrives On: 03 Nov 27

Day 26: Siem Reap (Cambodia)

Scenic Enrich
An early departure brings its own reward as the sunrise shifts across Angkor Wat’s moat, followed by a champagne breakfast prepared by a Scenic-supported NGO bakery school near the temples. The morning continues through the jungle-enveloped Ta Prohm and the many-faced Bayon at Angkor Thom. Scenic Enrich
The afternoon is free before the final Scenic Enrich brings the Siem Reap chapter to a close: a private gala dinner within the grounds of the 10th-century Prasat Kravan temple, Apsara dancers performing by candlelight among the ruins with complimentary drinks throughout.

Arrives On: 04 Nov 27

Day 27: Siem Reap (Cambodia)

It is time to bid farewell to your fellow travellers and Scenic team as you get ready to depart Cambodia for your homeland or extended travels. Transfer to the airport and leave with a full camera and stunning memories to treasure. Rivers and waterways are subject to variations in water levels. While every effort is made to adhere to the planned itinerary, changes in river conditions, ad hoc local government regulations or local festivities may require journey modifications. These will be made based on the advice of local authorities or for safety reasons. Hotels are indicative and are subject to change. Please note: Preview itinerary subject to change.

Arrives On: 05 Nov 27

For more information on this cruise, please call +44 (0)1202 767926.
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