Cruise Details

Name:	Cultural Horizons of Taiwan & Japan’s Southern Golden Highlights - Cruise & Land Journey
Reference:	SCENICOAJ1060329-2
Operator:	Scenic Ocean Cruises
Cruise Type:	Ocean
Cruise Rating:	Ultra Luxury
Ship:	Scenic Eclipse II
Regions:	Asia
Departs On:	06 Mar 29
Departs From:	Hong Kong
Arrives On:	29 Mar 29
Arrives At:	Tokyo
Cruise Nights:	23
Total Vacation Days:	24

Itinerary

Day 1: Hong Kong (Hong Kong)

Step into the vibrant energy of Hong Kong, a city where soaring skyscrapers meet historic temples and bustling markets. From the dazzling Victoria Harbour to the hidden lanes of traditional neighbourhoods, the city is a captivating blend of modern sophistication and timeless culture.

Your Discovery Voyage into wonder begins with a warm greeting by the Captain and crew as you step on board Scenic Eclipse II, your ultra-luxury Scenic Discovery Yacht. Sip on a glass of Champagne as you explore your luxurious suite, then join fellow guests at the Sky Bar to toast the start of an unforgettable voyage.

As evening falls, choose from a range of distinct culinary experiences, before settling into an evening of thoughtfully curated entertainment. Please book your flight to arrive into Hong Kong prior to 02:00 PM.

Arrives On: 06 Mar 29

Day 2: Hong Kong (Hong Kong)

Discover the quieter side of Hong Kong at Mirs Bay, where calm waters, inviting beaches, and diverse marine life provide a peaceful coastal escape. The surrounding marine parks and nearby UNESCO Geopark highlight the area’s rarely seen natural landscapes.

Be sure to check your Daily Program for the Discovery Team lecture times, where you can deepen your understanding of the region with insightful presentations. During the day, the theatre also hosts movies and documentaries, while as night falls it comes alive with memorable performances, from musical theatre and cabaret to pop, dance and interactive game shows.

Arrives On: 07 Mar 29

Day 4: Keelung (Chilung) (Taiwan)

The port of Keelung welcomes you to the enchanting island of Taiwan, where vibrant city streets, ancient temples, and bustling night markets mingle with serene mountain landscapes and coastal vistas. From the cosmopolitan energy of Taipei to the tranquil beauty of surrounding regions, every moment invites you to experience the rich culture, culinary delights, and timeless charm of this East China Sea gem.

Return on board this evening for a cocktail at the Scenic Lounge Bar, where over 100 whiskeys await, or choose from the expertly crafted menu at Elements, featuring Italian, steak and seafood prepared with locally sourced ingredients.

Arrives On: 09 Mar 29

Day 5: Ishigaki (Japan)

After a restorative night of rest in your luxurious suite and signature Scenic Slumber Bed, wake up on your own time. With an afternoon arrival into Naha, the morning is yours to spend as you wish. Perhaps ask your butler to deliver breakfast to your suite or join new friends for a leisurely meal at the Yacht Club.

Okinawa is a treasure trove of tradition and history, celebrated as a “Blue Zone” for its long-lived, health-conscious residents. The island’s rich heritage is beautifully complemented by its stunning Pacific Island scenery.

In the prefectural capital of Naha, immerse yourself in the legacy of the Ryukyu Kingdom. Stroll along Kokusai Dori, the vibrant “international street,” and discover bustling markets, charming shops, and local delicacies at Makishi Public Market. Visit the historic Shuri Castle and surrounding precinct to experience Okinawa’s fascinating culture or simply soak in the lively atmosphere of this captivating island city.

Arrives On: 10 Mar 29

Day 6: Naha, Okinawa (Japan)

After a restorative night of rest in your luxurious suite and signature Scenic Slumber Bed, wake up on your own time. With an afternoon arrival into Naha, the morning is yours to spend as you wish. Perhaps ask your butler to deliver breakfast to your suite or join new friends for a leisurely meal at the Yacht Club.

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Arrives On: 11 Mar 29

Day 7: Zamami (Japan)

A haven of calm, Zamami Island offers lush greenery, soft white-sand beaches, and waters that shimmer in many shades of blue. Beneath the surface, colourful coral reefs and tropical fish create a quiet underwater spectacle. Mount Takatsuki crowns the island, with sweeping views over the Kerama Islands and a serene panorama of beaches, forests, and open sea.

Return on board this evening for a cocktail at the Scenic Lounge Bar, where over 100 whiskeys, premium spirits, Champagne, curated wines, mocktails and juices await or visit Koko’s Sushi & Saké bar to sample an authentic Japanese saké, all included throughout your voyage.

Arrives On: 12 Mar 29

Day 8: Maedomari/Iheya (Japan)

Iheya Island is a tranquil retreat in the Okinawa archipelago, with lush interiors and quiet coastal shores. Known for its natural beauty and traditional island character, it offers a peaceful escape framed by clear waters and green hills, capturing the essence of Okinawa’s more remote islands.

Arrives On: 13 Mar 29

Day 9: Naze, Amani Oshima (Japan)

Awaken to watch the sun dance across the crystalline waters of World Heritage-listed site Amami Oshima. The largest island in the Satsunan chain, Amami Oshima is an unspoiled haven for a diverse eco-system of endemic flora and fauna.

Stroll the soft-sand beaches and swim in the temperate waters of this natural gem. Uncover the remarkable beauty of the protected Kuroshio-no-Mori Mangrove Park. Be sure to take the opportunity to sample the local

specialty of Keihan chicken rice, a dish whose origins can be traced back to the Edo period.

Return to Scenic Eclipse II and unwind with a cocktail at the Sky Bar on Deck 10 and panoramic sea vistas, or step into the thermal loungers of Senses Spa to recharge after your day ashore.

Arrives On: 14 Mar 29

Day 10: Yakushima (Japan)

Yakushima is a lush, enchanting island in southern Japan, celebrated for its ancient forests and recognised as a World Heritage-listed site. Towering cedar trees, some thousands of years old, create a mystical landscape that has inspired countless stories and imaginations. The island’s pristine beaches and vibrant ecosystems are home to Japanese macaques, sika deer, and green sea turtles, offering glimpses of wildlife in their natural habitat.

Later, after sailing, perhaps visit the open bridge on Deck 7 to meet the Captain and navigational team and gain first-hand insight into a Scenic Discovery Yacht’s state-of-the-art technology from one of the most inspiring vantage points on board.

Arrives On: 15 Mar 29

Day 11: Beppu, Kyushu Island, Oita (Japan)

Discover Beppu, Japan’s iconic hot spring city, where steaming pools, soothing mud baths, and black sand baths invite you to relax and rejuvenate. Surrounded by dramatic landscapes, this charming city offers a perfect blend of wellness, culture, and natural beauty.

This evening, savour the flavours of Asia at Koko's Asian Fusion, where expertly crafted dishes from the Sushi & Saké Bar or the vibrant Night Market+ menu provide a refined counterpoint to your day spent in Japanese culture.

Arrives On: 16 Mar 29

Day 12: Hiroshima (Japan)

Hiroshima is a thoughtful, quietly compelling city, shaped by history yet defined by its calm, contemporary atmosphere. The Hiroshima Peace Memorial and surrounding park invite reflection, whilst Hiroshima Castle and the tranquil Shukkeien Garden reveal layers of older tradition and refined landscape design. Tree-lined avenues, riverside paths, and lively neighbourhoods round out a day that balances remembrance with everyday city life, offering a nuanced sense of place and renewal.

Arrives On: 17 Mar 29

Day 13: Tamano (Japan)

This morning, you will arrive at the port of Uno, the gateway to the garden city of Okayama, the second-largest city in the Chugoku region. Okayama is home to the majestic Korakuen Garden, which was commissioned by a feudal lord in 1687 as a place to receive guests. Choose to spend your day strolling through the immaculately manicured gardens, admiring historic architecture or contemplating thought-provoking art.

Return to your ultra-luxury Scenic Discovery Yacht this evening and unwind with a cocktail in one of the eight all-inclusive bars and lounges.

Arrives On: 18 Mar 29

Day 14: Takamatsu (Japan)

Nestled on the sparkling shores of the Seto Inland Sea, Takamatsu, the capital of Kagawa, serves as a serene gateway to the region’s many picturesque islands. From this charming port, admire the sweeping vistas and marvel at the engineering wonder of the Seto Ohashi Bridge, stretching gracefully across the water.

Explore the ruins of the waterfront Takamatsu Castle, wander the tranquil Ritsurin Koen Garden, built by feudal lords in the Edo Period. Be sure to try the local specialty of ‘sanuki udon’ noodles, famed for their delightful texture.

Arrives On: 19 Mar 29

Day 15: Osaka (Japan)

Today, your voyage aboard Scenic Eclipse concludes in Osaka. After a final breakfast on board, take a moment to savour your last views from your private verandah or enjoy a quiet coffee before disembarkation.

You’ll then be transferred to the Marriott Miyako Osaka for a two-night Scenic Special Stay, where elevated city views and club lounge access offer a relaxed transition to your land journey.

Arrives On: 20 Mar 29

Day 16: Osaka (Japan)

Drive to the city of Tondabayashi to visit a restored Edo era Merchant House, built around 450 years ago. Continue on to Kehayaza, the area
where sumo wrestling originated. Scenic Enrich
Kehayaza Sumo Stable: Learn about the history, life and training routine of a sumo wrestler during your private visit to a sumo stable. After the welcome ceremony, see a demonstration of Jinku and the wrestlers in action in the dohyo. Afterwards, enjoy a traditional sumo-style Chanko hot pot lunch at a local
restaurant. Return to the hotel for some free time this afternoon. Enjoy more of your Club Floor benefits, including complimentary refreshments and evening cocktails. Later, catch the Osaka Metro to the bustling Dotonbori district, known for its neon lights and

elaborate street signs. Explore this lively area and sample some local dishes in Hozenji Yokocho food alley.

Arrives On: 21 Mar 29

Day 17: Osaka (Japan)

This morning, 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 and enjoy lunch in a local restaurant before continuing to Kyoto, home to many World Heritage sites. Scenic Enrich
Kimono wearing and tea ceremony: Partake in an authentic Japanese tea ceremony while dressed in a traditional Japanese kimono. Learn more about this fascinating cultural ritual and take some memorable photos. This evening, settle in for your two-night Scenic Special Stay at the Hilton Kyoto in an Executive room with lounge access.

Arrives On: 22 Mar 29

Day 17: Nara City (Japan)

Arrives On: 22 Mar 29

Day 17: Kyoto (Japan)

Arrives On: 22 Mar 29

Day 18: 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 on a 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 armour, holding a sword and learning how to throw ninja stars. Test your targeting skills by throwing a shuriken.

Nijo Castle: Discover Nijo Castle, 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 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 World Heritage Site in 1994. Scenic Enrich
Dinner with Maiko and Geiko: At tonight’s special dinner, you will be able to interact with a Geiko and Maiko as they host your meal. It’s an excellent opportunity to learn about what is involved in becoming a Geisha and the art of Japanese hospitality.

Arrives On: 23 Mar 29

Day 19: Kyoto (Japan)

Make an early morning visit to Fushima Inari Shrine, famous for the thousands of red torii gates leading to its entrance. Afterwards, travel to Nagoya via Shinkansen in Green (Business) Class seats and enjoy lunch in a local restaurant. Visit the Shinkansen Train Museum at the SCMaglev and Railway Park. Continue to the historic castle town of Inuyama and check into the boutique Hotel Indigo Inuyama Urakuen Garden for a two-night Scenic Special Stay.

Arrives On: 24 Mar 29

Day 19: Nagoya (Japan)

Arrives On: 24 Mar 29

Day 19: Inuyama (Japan)

Arrives On: 24 Mar 29

Day 20: Inuyama (Japan)

Learn about the ancient history of the area with a visit to the Shiro-to-Machi Museum before wandering through the old town’s streets to Inuyama Castle, the oldest of just five castles nationwide designated as national treasures. Scenic Freechoice:
This afternoon, explore the city on one of these Scenic Freechoice excursions:

Meiji Mura: The Outdoor Museum for Reconstructed Buildings Meiji Mura, or Meiji Village, is a stunning demonstration of Meiji period (1868-1912) architecture from Japan. Walk around this vast theme park museum to see how Western culture inspired the architects of Japan as it moved from its samurai past to its modernised future.

Seki Traditional Swordsmith and Museum: Seki City is one of the most well-known and highly regarded blade-producing areas in the world. To this day, Japanese swords continue to be produced by swordsmiths in the traditional forging style that has been passed down for centuries. The museum shows the history and tradition of blade-making that date back over 700 years with a possible demonstration by the master swordsmith in action.

Arrives On: 25 Mar 29

Day 21: Inuyama (Japan)

Drive to Nagoya and travel via Shinkansen, in Green (Business) Class seats, to Tokyo. Once you arrive, spend time at the dazzling team Lab Borderless Digital Art Museum. Wander freely amongst the immersive displays, created by hundreds of projectors, lights and computers.

Later, check-into The Capital Hotel Tokyu, your Scenic Special Stay for the next three nights. With direct access to four subway lines, the hotel was given a prestigious five-star rating in the Forbes Travel Guide. 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

Ninja Tokyo: This popular but unusual restaurant has a ninja theme that creates a memorable dining experience, combining gourmet cuisine with elaborate décor and entertainment.

Nobu Tokyo: Part of the famous international chain of restaurants from celebrated Japanese chef 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: 26 Mar 29

Day 21: Nagoya (Japan)

Arrives On: 26 Mar 29

Day 21: Tokyo (Japan)

Arrives On: 26 Mar 29

Day 22: 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 on and join the crowds later into the night.

Arrives On: 27 Mar 29

Day 23: 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
Taiko performance: 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 or sightseeing before joining your fellow guests for your farewell dinner tonight.

Arrives On: 28 Mar 29

Day 24: Tokyo (Japan)

Say goodbye to the land of the rising sun with many wonderful memories. #Spa treatments and services at additional cost. Daily activities may be subject to change; please consult your Daily Wonder for updates.
+All drinks on board, including those stocked in your mini bar, are included, except for a very small number of rare, fine and vintage wines, Champagnes and spirits. Specialty restaurants require a reservation, enquire on board.
^Experiences on board our two helicopters and submersible are at additional cost, subject to regulatory approval, availability, weight restrictions, medical approval and weather conditions.
~Kayak and stand-up paddleboard not available in all locations. Helicopter and submersible not in operation in Japan. The itinerary is a guide only and may be amended for operational reasons. As such Scenic cannot guarantee the journey will operate unaltered from the itinerary stated above. Please refer to our terms and conditions for further information. Hotels are indicative and subject to change.

Arrives On: 29 Mar 29

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

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