

# ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

## WONDERS OF JAPAN CRUISE

### PASSPORT AND VISA INFORMATION

Your passport needs to be valid for **at least six (6) months** after your journey ends, and should have a minimum of two (2) blank visa pages for entry and exit stamps.

#### Japan

Holders of U.S. and Canadian passports are not required to obtain a tourist visa for entry into Japan for stays of up to 90 days.

The Japanese government recommends that, prior to your arrival in Japan, travellers complete a Customs form and Immigration Declaration form, which can be found on the Visit Japan webpage [digital.go.jp/en/services/visit\\_japan\\_web-en/](https://digital.go.jp/en/services/visit_japan_web-en/). You will need to create an account and provide your passport and travel information. Once you register, you will receive a unique QR code for each form to present to relevant authorities on arrival in Japan.

#### South Korea

Holders of U.S. and Canadian passports are not required to obtain a tourist visa when entering South Korea via a cruise ship.

Our partner VisaCentral offers easy, efficient U.S. passport and visa processing. Visit them online at [visacentral.com/abercrombiekent](https://visacentral.com/abercrombiekent) or call 844 823 1224 and reference A&K's account number 73001. Service fees apply.

Citizens of other countries should contact the appropriate consular office for entry requirements pertaining to their journey.

### LOCAL HEALTH & SAFETY PROTOCOLS

#### Bringing Medications into Japan

Please note that Japan strictly regulates, and in some cases prohibits, the import of certain prescription and over-the-counter medications (even for personal use). We suggest that you consult the Japanese Embassy online at [us.emb-japan.go.jp/english/html/medication-info-japan.html](https://us.emb-japan.go.jp/english/html/medication-info-japan.html) for more information on bringing medications into Japan.

### SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR EXPEDITION CRUISES

Please ensure that we are aware of any physical, medical or other condition that might affect your ability to participate on this journey. You may be required to produce a doctor's certificate prior to travel. Due to ship restrictions, women who will be at least twelve (12) weeks pregnant at the start of the cruise, or any time during the sailing will not be permitted to travel on Expedition Cruises. The ship owner's medical staff and Captain reserve the right to refuse passage to anyone who is deemed unfit for travel either before or during the journey.

Prior to boarding, all guests must complete Ponant's **Mandatory Health Declaration** form, provided to you locally in Japan.

### CASH & CREDIT CARDS

Major credit cards are widely accepted in both Japan and South Korea. Cash transactions must be made in local currency in both countries. Access to ATMs is widespread in cities and towns but may be limited in rural areas.

The euro is the official currency on board. Personal expenses incurred on board can be charged to your shipboard account and paid at the end of the expedition by major credit card or cash, including U.S. dollars. There is no currency exchange facility on board.

All onboard transactions made by bank or credit card are processed via the ship owner's home office in Marseille, France, and charges from your onboard account may not be processed until one month after your cruise. Call your bank or credit card company to advise about your travel plans.

## PACKING LIST

Plan on travelling with one suitcase and one carry-on bag. Soft-sided luggage will be easier to store once you have unpacked.

Please use the provided A&K luggage tags, even if your bags already have ID tags. This makes it easier for A&K staff to find and manage your luggage for you.

### Clothing

Casual comfortable clothing is appropriate on board. A jacket and tie for men and smart casual dress for women are suggested for the Captain's Welcome Cocktail Party and the Farewell Party on board ship and for dining at better restaurants during your leisure time.

Visits to select religious sites require modest dress covering knees, shoulders, and upper arms.

- Casual slacks
- Walking shorts
- Polo shirts, casual short-sleeve shirts or blouses
- Long sleeve shirts or blouses
- Lightweight raincoat
- Sweater and medium-weight jacket
- Brimmed hat or visor for sun protection
- Personal garments
- Socks
- Sleepwear
- Comfortable walking shoes with low or no heels (non-skid); sandals may not be appropriate for some sightseeing activities
- Swimwear/cover-up (swimwear that provides UV protection is ideal)

### Other Recommended Items

- Face masks and hand sanitizer
- Prescriptions and medications (in their original bottles and/or packaging)
- Simple first-aid kit
- Sun block and lip balm / insect repellent
- Extra eyeglasses/contact lenses
- Sunglasses
- Smartphone
- Charging cables for electronics
- Global travel adapter

Laundry service is available at your hotel for a fee. Check costs and return times before using this service.

Traveller's Valet: A&K's complimentary laundry service for 8 articles of clothing per person will be provided twice during your journey on board. Additional laundry can be done for a charge. Dry cleaning is not available.

## TIPPING GUIDELINES

On A&K Luxury Expedition Cruises, all gratuities, including for the ship's crew, A&K Expedition Team and guides, are included in the cost of the program and group extensions.

For extra nights or Tailor Made services pre- or post-cruise, we suggest the following gratuities for these days only (noted in U.S. dollars):

	<b>Extra Nights/Tailor Made Services</b>
Local Guides	\$20 per person, per day (full day)
Drivers	\$10 per person, per day (full day)
Airport Transfer Drivers	\$5 per person, per transfer
Hotel Porters	\$2 per bag
Housekeepers	\$2 per person, per night
Included Meals	10-15% unless already added
Restaurants or Room Service on Own	10-15% unless already added

## LIFE ON BOARD: 'LE SOLÉAL'

### SHIP AMENITIES

On board your exclusively-chartered ship, A&K limits occupation to a maximum of 199 guests. The ship has three elevators and ramps accessing all passenger decks.

Each stateroom features individual climate control, 110V American/220V European plugs, Wi-Fi, stocked minibar, Nespresso coffee maker and tea kettle, small electronic safe, direct line telephone, Bluetooth speaker, flat-screen TV with video on demand, wardrobe, vanity with mirror, robe, slippers, hairdryer and luxury bath products. Nightly turndown is provided.

All suites feature butler service - an A&K exclusive feature - which includes nightly canapes, personalized welcome, unpacking and packing upon request, room service, shoe polishing, expedited laundry, as well as spa and salon priority booking.

Deck 3 features a variety of guest services and public spaces. The reception area includes a 24-hour front desk and a boutique with a selection of clothing and jewelry. The spacious Main lounge offers a bar with live music on most evenings. The outdoor heated swimming pool is open if conditions permits. Lectures are held in the Theater with comfortable seating for all guests, as well as audio/visual equipment and an LED wall for projecting high-resolution images and videos. Finally, medical facilities with a doctor and nurse are available 24 hours a day.

On Deck 6, the Panoramic lounge offers a small library with a selection of books and board games and direct access to the panoramic terrace.

The Wellness area on Deck 5 features a fitness center offering guests complimentary use of equipment including stationary bikes, treadmills, Kinesis Wall and other exercise equipment. Due to safety reasons, there are no free weights on board the ship. Sea conditions may affect the fitness center's opening hours. There is a hair salon as well as a full-service spa equipped with a sauna and steam room, and which offers a range of beauty treatments and massage services. All spa and salon services are charged to your shipboard account.

A daily program features the following day's events, excursions, and hours for the restaurants, boutique and spa and is delivered to your stateroom each evening.

### ONBOARD CULINARY AND BEVERAGE PROGRAM

Dining is a special treat on board. International cuisine is available in two restaurants. The main dining room on Deck 2, accommodates all guests in one seating. Another restaurant on Deck 6 offers indoor and outdoor seating (weather and sea conditions permitting) for breakfast, lunch and dinner served buffet style.

Complimentary 24-hour room service is also available. Early riser coffee and breakfast pastries, afternoon tea and late-night snacks are offered daily. Meals on board are scheduled around the day's sightseeing and shipboard activities. Please consult your daily program for mealtimes and opening hours.

Complimentary bar drinks, beer, house wine, soft drinks, coffee drinks, juices and water (excluding premium wines, Champagne and spirits) are provided while on board.

If you have special dietary requirements (vegetarian or vegan menus, food allergies, etc.) please advise Abercrombie & Kent at least six weeks prior to the beginning of your journey. In addition, please take the opportunity early in the cruise to meet with the Maître D' and Cruise Director to discuss your special requests and inform your server prior to dining. Chefs on board will make every effort to accommodate your needs. Kosher meals are not available on board.

## LANGUAGE & COMMUNICATIONS

English is the language used by staff on board A&K charters.

Complimentary Wi-Fi Internet is featured on A&K charters. Internet access at sea is made possible by satellite, and speed and connectivity are dependent on latitude, weather and atmospheric conditions as well as the number of guests using their computers or mobile devices. Ship's internet services may not always be available and could be very slow at times. Your patience and understanding are appreciated when this situation occurs.

To make an international call onboard, please visit the reception desk. Charges for maritime satellite connections are significantly higher than those for land services and the cost of the call will be added your shipboard account. Guests may be able to use the ship's Wi-Fi to make international phone calls on their own personal devices using messaging apps such as WhatsApp, Viber, Messenger, etc., which can be downloaded from the iOS App Store or Google Play Store.

## OF SPECIAL NOTE

The ship is nonsmoking except in a designated outside area of the ship.

Maritime law does not permit unrestricted access to the bridge. At the Captain's discretion, guests may be offered the opportunity to visit the bridge during scheduled times in accordance with security protocols.

Access to outdoor areas may be restricted during inclement weather and ship maneuvers. The ship's daily scheduled sightseeing events and timings may be altered, and flexibility is required.