

JOURNEYS THROUGH LIVING CULTURES

ASIA PACIFIC





ISLAND WORLDS A WORLD APART

The lands and islands of the Asia Pacific region have long called to the hearts of curious and courageous explorers.

This is a place of profound contrast and wonder — where volcanic shores, coral-fringed atolls, and remote rainforests give rise to some of the planet's most biodiverse and untouched habitats.

And then there are the people. From Japan's fusion of ancient ritual and modern innovation, to Papua New Guinea's rich cultural mosaic and the legendary tales of castaways and mutineers, the human stories here are as captivating as the landscapes themselves — shaped by centuries of tradition, isolation, and discovery.



CHINA

SOUTH KOREA

AN OVERVIEW OF ASIA PACIFIC



Manila ●

PHILIPPINES

Explore the stunning islands of the Philippines, where crystal-clear beaches meet unique natural wonders along the Pacific Ring of Fire. This vibrant archipelago blends East and West through rich cultural heritage and the warm, welcoming spirit of its people.

- 🐾 Giant Clams; reef fish, marine turtles
- 📍 Hundred Islands, Vigan City, Sabtang Island



INDONESIA



Meet the local communities of **Ambunti** and **Wewak**, where river and coastal life are deeply intertwined with ancestral art, rituals, and storytelling. Discover the mystique of the **Tubuan** society in East New Britain, known for its sacred masked ceremonies and powerful matrilineal traditions.



INDIAN OCEAN



AUSTRALIA



SEA OF JAPAN

Otaru

JAPAN

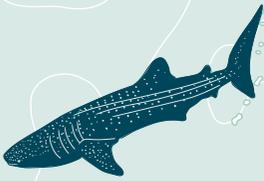
Japan is a land where ancient tradition meets futuristic innovation. From centuries-old tea ceremonies and the legacy of the samurai to graceful cultural customs like bowing and impeccable hospitality, the country blends heritage with modernity. Its cities lead in cutting-edge technology, while traditional arts such as ikebana, origami, calligraphy, and bonsai continue to thrive amid temples and timeless architecture.



Hiroshima

📍 Kagoshima, Uwajima

NORTH PACIFIC OCEAN



Swim the crystal-clear waters of Cenderawasih Bay, the best habitat for Whale Sharks in the world



Did you know?

The Solomon Islands are one of the few places in the world where you can still witness kastom—a living tradition of ancestral worship, spirit houses, and sacred skull shrines. Some islanders also carry the legacy of WWII, with jungle paths still hiding sunken warplanes and rusting relics of the Pacific theatre.

Sorong

Jayapura



WEST PAPUA

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Papua New Guinea is a land of vibrant contrasts, where Melanesian and Polynesian traditions meet, World War II history echoes through jungles, and natural wonders like the Sepik River and active volcanoes define its wild beauty.

- 🐾 Saltwater crocodile, brahminy kite, hawksbill turtle
- 📍 Mudmen of Santa Ana, Sepik river, Mt Tauruvur volcano

SOLOMON ISLANDS

Honiara

PACIFIC ISLANDS

VANUATU

NEW CALEDONIA



Sydney

Auckland

NEW ZEALAND

Melbourne

TASMAN SEA

Dunedin





LOCAL ENCOUNTERS

Sailing through the Asia Pacific, it's the people who leave the deepest impression.

In the villages of Papua New Guinea, time-honoured customs come to life through dance, wood carving, and ceremonial rituals passed down through generations.

As you journey north toward the Philippines, island life reveals its own tapestry of influences, where faith, festivity, and family shape daily life in rich and meaningful ways.

Whether you're greeted by a quiet smile in a stilted village along the Sepik River or offered a glimpse into the everyday rituals of coastal life, each encounter is a rare and genuine exchange - personal, respectful, unforgettable.

These moments of connection across cultures - listening to traditional songs at dusk, watching a story come to life through the hands of a master carver, or simply sharing silence under the same sky - invite us to slow down. To listen. To learn. And to truly see.

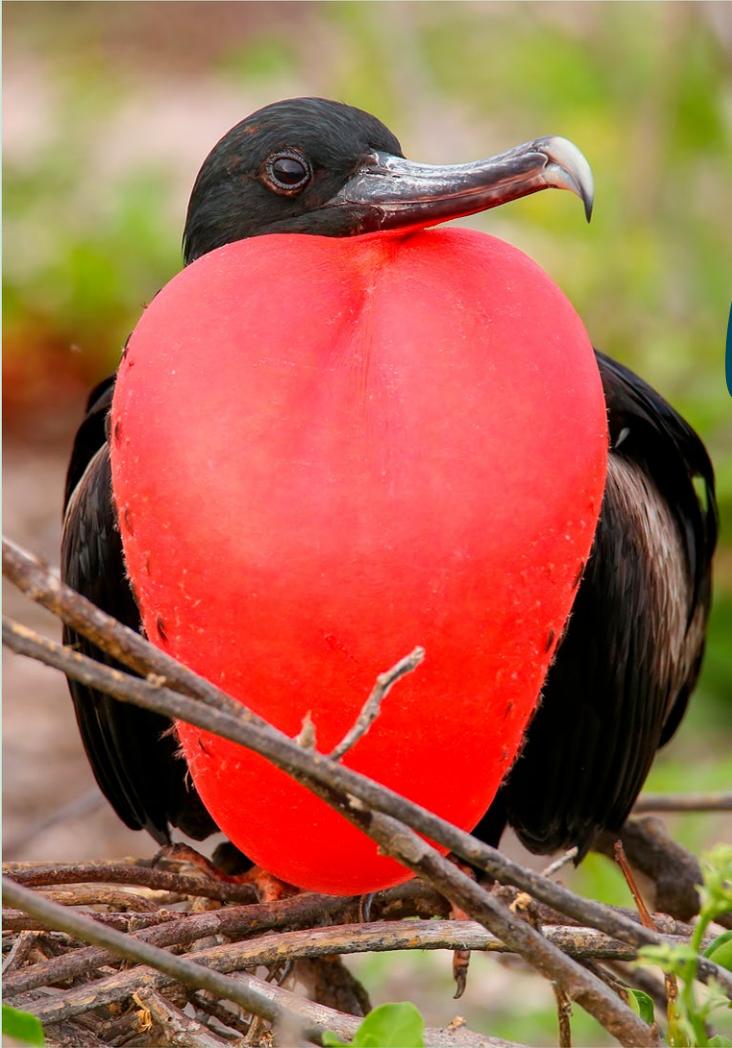


WILDLIFE ENCOUNTERS

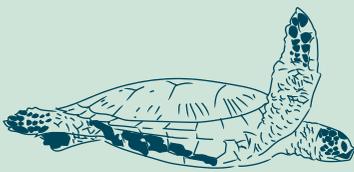
From the coral-fringed coastlines of Papua New Guinea to the mangroves of Raja Ampat and the open seas of the Philippines, the Asia Pacific region teems with some of the most dazzling and diverse wildlife on Earth.

Whether you're drifting above a reef shadowed by a graceful whitetip reef shark, watching a Brahminy Kite soar over coastal waters, or spotting the intricate plumage of Wilson's Bird of Paradise deep in the jungle, each encounter tells a story — of evolution, tradition, and nature's unending wonder.

From sea turtles gliding through coral gardens to prehistoric monitor lizards basking on sunlit shores, the region's rich ecosystems offer intimate glimpses into an ancient and vibrant natural world that continues to inspire awe.



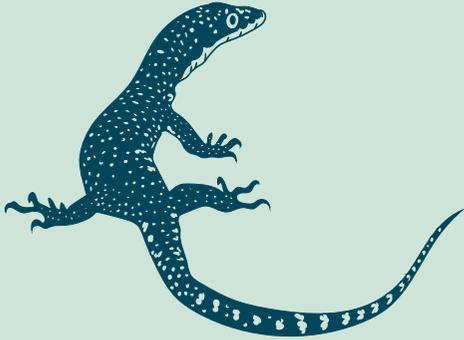
Frigatebirds: These large seabirds with long pointed wings and forked tails are agile fliers that often harass other seabirds to steal their catch. They can be seen close to shore throughout the region. If you are lucky you may even see them nesting in trees.



Hawksbill Turtle: These relatively small marine turtles can be distinguished by their beaks and bird like eyes. Often seen amongst the coral reefs of the region. You may also see tracks on the beaches where they lay their eggs.



Spotted Eagle Rays: These flat body diamond-shaped rays with dark brown colour covered in white spots can be seen in the shallows of sandy lagoons while paddling or snorkeling.



Mangrove Monitor: These large lizards are reasonably common throughout the region. They are up to 5 feet in size and prehistoric looking. Often seen on beaches and in mangroves.

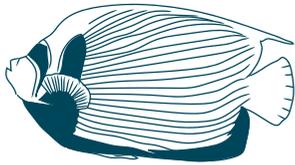


Saltwater Crocodile: Crocodiles inhabit the lower reaches of rivers and are a savage predator. They may be seen on the banks of the lower Sepik River sunning themselves.

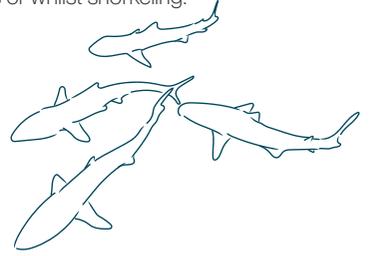




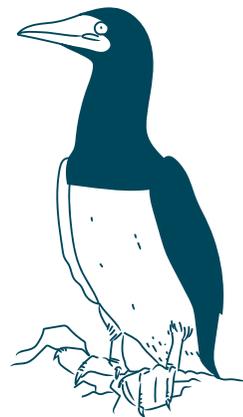
Brahminy Kite: Look above and you may see the distinctly coloured brown and white Brahminy Kite looking for fish throughout the region in estuaries and close to the coast.



Whitetip Reef Shark: A small shark that does not usually exceed 1.6 m (5.2 ft) in length, this species is easily recognizable by its slender body and short but broad head. You may see them in the shallows of the beaches or whilst snorkeling.



Angelfish: These beautiful fish are known for their distinctive, triangular body shape and long, flowing fins, resembling an angel's wings. They come in various vibrant colors and patterns, often with stripes or other markings. Snorkeling in Raja Ampat they are a common sight.



Brown Booby: You are most likely to see these distinct brown and white medium sized seabirds whilst at sea but on some coastal islands in this region you may see their unusual nests made up of branches, shells and other material, on the ground.



Whitetip Reef Shark



EXPEDITION ACTIVITIES

ACTIVE PROGRAM



ENRICHING PROGRAM



Explore turquoise waters by Zodiac to reach remote islands few have ever set foot on. Snorkel kaleidoscopic coral reefs alive with life, glide silently by kayak through hidden lagoons, or walk jungle trails echoing with the sounds of the wild.

Every day is an invitation to go deeper — to feel, to move, to truly connect with the world around you. And back on board, the discovery continues with expert-led talks, cultural encounters, and hands-on workshops that unlock the stories, science, and soul of this extraordinary region.

ACTIVE PROGRAM





ZODIAC CRUISING

Our fleet of small, open-air Zodiac craft offers an unrivalled way to discover the diverse wonders of Asia Pacific. Safe and stable, they take you where larger ships cannot — from hidden lagoons and coral-fringed islands to pristine beaches and volcanic coastlines. Guided by our expert expedition team, every outing is an adventure: glide through turquoise waters, land on remote shores, or observe tropical birds and marine life up close. Each Zodiac journey reveals a different facet of this extraordinary region — its raw beauty, wildlife, and vibrant coastal cultures.



SNORKELING



Slip beneath the surface into a vibrant underwater world of coral gardens, reef sharks, rays, and tropical fish—some of the richest marine biodiversity on the planet.

NATURE WALK

Follow jungle trails, volcanic paths, and limestone stairways on foot, uncovering hidden viewpoints, endemic birdlife, and ancient stories etched into the land.

(SUP) STAND-UP PADDLEBOARDING



Glide across tranquil waters at your own pace, enjoying the stillness of untouched bays and the soft rhythm of the sea beneath you.

KAYAKING

Paddle silently through calm lagoons, mangrove forests, and reef-fringed islands - an intimate and peaceful way to connect with nature.



Once-in-a-lifetime

Kimbe Bay

Considered one of the most biodiverse marine environments, it is the perfect place to snorkel and experience schooling reef fish, marine turtles, healthy coral reefs and reef sharks.





ENRICHING PROGRAM

Discover the essence of Asia Pacific.



LECTURE PROGRAMME

Your voyage with Swan Hellenic is more than a journey - it's a deeper understanding, a true immersion into the history, cultures, wildlife, flora, geology, and geography of each destination. Expert-led lectures provide rich insights, while briefings before each outing and recaps afterwards help you connect the dots and share experiences with fellow explorers in a relaxed environment.



LIBRARY

Our onboard library offers a large selection of scientific and expedition literature. It's the perfect place to follow up on your learnings, dive deeper into topics that catch your attention, or simply unwind with a book and a view.

WE PROUDLY TEAM UP WITH





JOIN US

ASIA PACIFIC 2027

Itinerary	From → To	Ship	Nights	Departure
New Zealand in Depth	Dunedin → Auckland	SH Minerva	13	8 Mar
Solomon Islands Secrets: cruise from Guadalcanal to the Sepik River	Auckland → Honiara	SH Minerva	13	21 Mar
Cruising the Pacific Islands: New Caledonia, Vanuatu & Solomon Islands	Honiara → Jayapura	SH Minerva	13	3 Apr
Raja Ampat & Cenderawasih Bay Expedition: Indonesia's Coral Triangle	Jayapura → Sorong	SH Minerva	10	16 Apr
Raja Ampat and Philippines: The Last Paradise on Earth	Sorong → Manila	SH Minerva	11	26 Apr
Philippines to Japan Cultural Discovery Cruise	Manila → Hiroshima	SH Minerva	11	7 May
Japan and Korea cruise: Cultural Shores and Northern Landscapes	Hiroshima → Otaru	SH Minerva	12	18 May

VOYAGE

NEW ZEALAND IN DEPTH

New Zealand (Aotearoa in Māori) has the kind of scenery that really does need to be seen to be believed. From the mysterious deep waters and towering peaks of Milford Sound and Napier's fertile vineyards to the sub-tropical Bay of Islands, all of it demands the highest levels of adoration.

The people here are charming and resilient all at once, which no doubt comes from life atop a volcanic island. Māori culture runs deep throughout the country and is an integral part of life in New Zealand. And the natural environment here is ancient, beautiful and like nowhere else on earth.





UNMISSABLES

- 1 Dunedin wildlife
- 2 Doubtful Sound
- 3 Bay of Islands

Dunedin → Auckland

13 nights

SH Minerva 2027 8 - 21 Mar

DAY VISITING

- 1-2 Dunedin
- 3 Cruising Dusky Sound & Doubtful Sound
- 4 Milford Sound
- 5 Oban, Stewart Island
- 6 Akaroa
- 7 Kaikoura
- 8 Picton
- 9 Abel Tasman National Park
- 10 Wellington
- 11 At Sea
- 12 Tauranga
- 13 Bay of Islands
- 14 Auckland

Ports, port order and itinerary duration may vary, for the most up-to-date details see swanhellenic.com

BOOK NOW



UNMISSABLES

NEW ZEALAND

EXPEDITION ACTIVITIES



Kayak



Nature Walk



Snorkeling

This journey reveals New Zealand's wild beauty and cultural soul — from remote fjords to rare wildlife and rich Māori heritage.



WILDLIFE CAPITAL

Dunedin is home to rare penguins, albatross, fur seals and the ancient tuatara lizard, species found nowhere else on Earth.



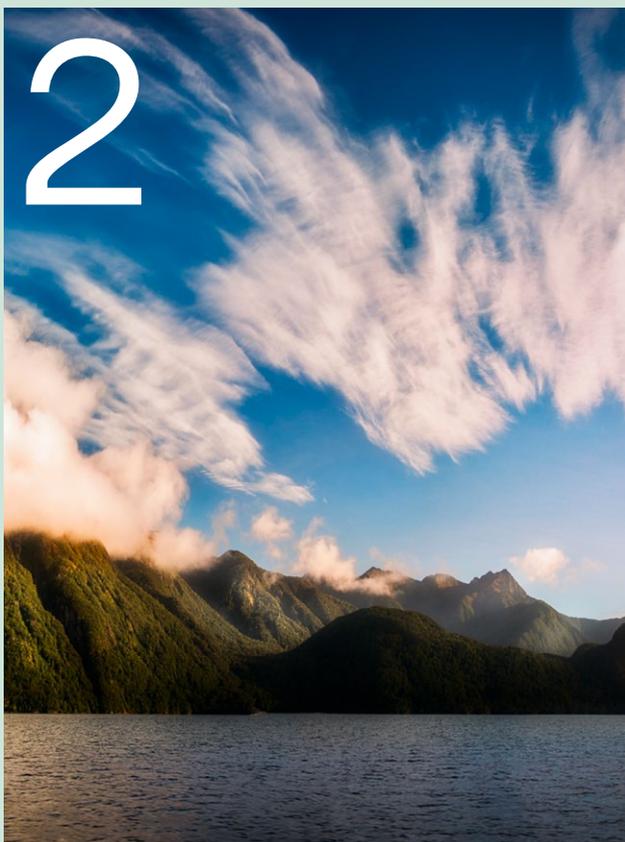
Did you know?

New Zealand has no native land mammals. Its bird and marine life evolved in isolation for millennia, creating rare and remarkable species such as the kiwi, the ancient tuatara lizard and the northern royal albatross.

2

SILENCE OF DOUBTFUL SOUND

One of New Zealand's deepest and most pristine fiords, where sheer cliffs rise from glassy waters and wildlife thrives undisturbed



3

BAY OF ISLANDS

Beyond its subtropical beauty, this is where the Treaty of Waitangi was signed in 1840, marking a defining moment in New Zealand's history.

ONSHORE EXPERIENCES



NATURE'S WONDER

Discover the rugged beauty of the Otago Peninsula, home to fur seals, sea lions, and the world's rarest penguin — the yellow-eyed penguin. Travel by coach and specialized vehicles through untouched landscapes to prime viewing points, where you may also spot little blue penguins, albatrosses, and a variety of coastal birds.

- 📍 Dunedin
- 🕒 Half day
- ★ Guest favorite

INCLUDED



ACTIVITY DIFFICULTY:



EASY



MODERATE



CHALLENGING



SWIMMING WITH THE DUSKY DOLPHINS

Experience the thrill of swimming with dusky dolphins, famed as the most acrobatic and sociable of all dolphin species. In the waters of Kaikoura, these curious creatures often choose to interact with swimmers, creating an extraordinary and unforgettable encounter.

📍 Kaikoura

🕒 Half day

OPTIONAL

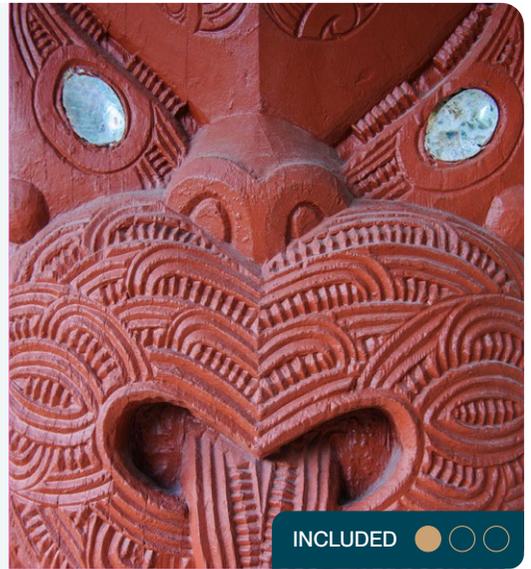


TE PUIA EXPERIENCE

Journey through New Zealand's scenic countryside to Rotorua, where geysers, boiling mud pools and steaming vents showcase the island's geothermal power. At Te Puia, discover Māori culture and artistry at the world-famous Arts & Crafts Institute.

📍 Tauranga

🕒 Full day



INCLUDED



WATERFALL KAYAKING

Glide through the peaceful Waitangi Estuary, where mangroves shelter rich bird and marine life, before reaching the horseshoe-shaped Haruru Falls. This gentle kayaking adventure offers a unique perspective on the natural beauty of the Bay of Islands.

📍 Bay of Island

🕒 Full day

OPTIONAL



BOOK NOW

VOYAGE

SOLOMON ISLANDS SECRETS: CRUISE FROM GUADALCANAL TO THE SEPIK RIVER

The South Pacific is one of the most idyllic places on Earth, where reality far surpasses even the most vivid imagination. Picture sugar-white beaches shaded by swaying palms, vibrant coral reefs alive with multicoloured shoals, and encounters with island cultures that remain deeply connected to their traditions. This extraordinary region is a dream for photographers, divers and marine biologists, and for all those who yearn to venture beyond the horizon.

Our journey takes us across vast stretches of majestic ocean to deserted atolls, pristine lagoons and bustling ports, always in comfort and style.

Along the way, feel the power of volcanic landscapes on Ambrym, and snorkel through vibrant coral gardens off the Isle of Pines. These islands, each with their own story, offer rare glimpses into traditions, myths, and marine wonders.

SOLOMON ISLANDS



- UNMISSABLES**
- 1 Ambrym Island
 - 2 Pentecost Island
 - 3 Guadalcanal

 INCLUDED ONE WAY FLIGHT:
HONIARA → BRISBANE

Auckland → Honiara

 13 nights

 SH Minerva  2027 21 Mar - 3 Apr

DAY VISITING

- 1 Auckland
- 2-3 At Sea
- 4 Norfolk Island
- 5 At Sea
- 6 Isle of Pines
- 7 Lifou Island, Easo
- 8 Port Vila
- 9 Ambrym Island, Ranon
- 9 Pentecost Island, Londat Bay
- 10 Champagne Beach, Espiritu Santo Island
- 11 Tegua Island, Hayter Bay
- 12 Nendo Island, Lata
- 13 Santa Ana Island, Port Mary
- 14 Honiara, Guadalcanal Island

Ports, port order and itinerary duration may vary, for the most up-to-date details see swanhellenic.com

BOOK NOW



UNMISSABLES

SOUTH PACIFIC & SOLOMON

EXPEDITION ACTIVITIES



Kayak



Zodiac cruising



Nature Walk



Snorkeling



Paddleboarding

This journey reveals the untamed beauty of the South Pacific — where ancient rituals, volcanic landscapes, and pristine waters create encounters found nowhere else on earth.



ISLAND OF FIRE AND MAGIC

Stand in awe before Ambrym's smouldering twin volcanoes, Mt. Marum and Mt. Benbow. Known as Vanuatu's mystical "sorcery island," Ambrym combines dramatic landscapes with ancient traditions of magic and legend.

LEAP OF THE ANCIENTS

Witness the extraordinary Nangol land-diving ceremony on Pentecost Island, where men leap headfirst from towering wooden platforms with only vines tied to their ankles. This ancient ritual, both daring and sacred, is the origin of modern bungee jumping.



NEW CALEDONIA'S HIDDEN REEF

Glide through the clear waters of the Isle of Pines, part of New Caledonia's vast lagoon system, one of the world's most extensive and biodiverse marine environments. Snorkel vibrant coral gardens and swim among tropical fish, with a chance to spot sea turtles from the beach or an anchored Zodiac platform.

ONSHORE EXPERIENCES

CHAMPAGNE BEACH TURQUOISE WATERS

Named for the volcanic bubbles that rise through its sands, Champagne Beach offers pristine white shores, turquoise waters, and vibrant marine life. Swim, snorkel, or simply take in one of the South Pacific's most serene settings.

- 📍 Champagne Beach, Espiritu Santu Island
- 🕒 Half day
- ★ Guest favorite

INCLUDED



ACTIVITY DIFFICULTY:



EASY



MODERATE



CHALLENGING



THE JOURNEY OF THE BOUNTY MUTINEERS

Experience the panoramic painting Fletcher's Mutiny Cyclorama, which transports you to the 18th century and immerses you in the dramatic story of the Norfolk people, including the Bounty Mutiny. Dive deeper into Norfolk Island's history at the Bounty Folk Museum, then take a scenic bus ride retracing the mutineers' path.

📍 Norfolk Island

🕒 Half day

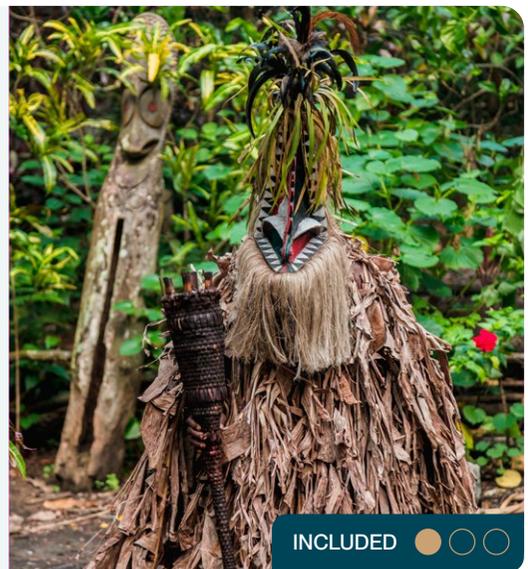
INCLUDED

FIRE & RITUAL

Come ashore on black volcanic sands and journey to Ranon village to witness the secretive Rom Dance. With masks and costumes crafted for a single performance, this mystical ritual offers a rare glimpse into Vanuatu's ancient traditions..

📍 Ambrym Island

🕒 Half day



INCLUDED



RITUAL & REEF

Arrive to a spirited warrior welcome before meeting the village chief and experiencing traditional ceremonies of song and dance. Explore the market, visit the Spirit House, and end the morning with a swim or snorkel in crystal-clear waters.

📍 Santa Ana Island

🕒 Half day

INCLUDED

[BOOK NOW](#)

VOYAGE

CRUISING THE PACIFIC ISLANDS: NEW CALEDONIA, VANUATU & SOLOMON ISLANDS

Embark on an extraordinary journey through the Pacific's living Eden - Papua New Guinea, one of the world's most culturally and biologically diverse regions, where over 850 indigenous languages flourish amid Earth's most pristine wilderness.

Sail from the Solomon Islands into the heart of the Bismarck Sea, discovering volcanic calderas, rainforest-covered coastlines, remote island villages, and the lush northern shores of New Guinea Island. Witness vibrant tribal cultures that have thrived for centuries across mountains, rivers, and swamplands. Observe rare birdlife evolved in predator-free isolation, and snorkel among warm waters teeming with marine life, coral reefs, and the haunting wrecks of WWII ships and aircraft.



Honiara → Jayapura

13 nights

SH Minerva 2027 3 - 16 Apr

DAY VISITING

- 1 Honiara, Guadalcanal Island
- 2 Pavuvu Island
- 3 Cruising Kasolo Island (Kennedy Island), Njari Island
- 4 At Sea
- 5 Rabaul
- 6 Kimbe Bay
- 7 Garove Island
- 8 Tami Island
- 9 Crown Island
- 10 Madang
- 11 Manam Island
- 12 Sepik River, Kopar Village
- 13 Wewak
- 14 Jayapura, Papua

Ports, port order and itinerary duration may vary, for the most up-to-date details see swanhellenic.com

BOOK NOW

CRUISE PLUS

transfer airport/hotel 1 night hotel in Brisbane transfer hotel/airport flight Brisbane/Honiara transfer airport/port cruise transfer port/airport flight Jayapura/Bali

UNMISSABLES

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

EXPEDITION ACTIVITIES



Kayak



Zodiac cruising



Nature Walk



Snorkeling



Paddleboarding

This voyage offers an unforgettable blend of nature, history, and human connection — far from the beaten path.



A WORLD BENEATH

Stunning coral reefs and vibrant marine life create a world-class snorkeling paradise.



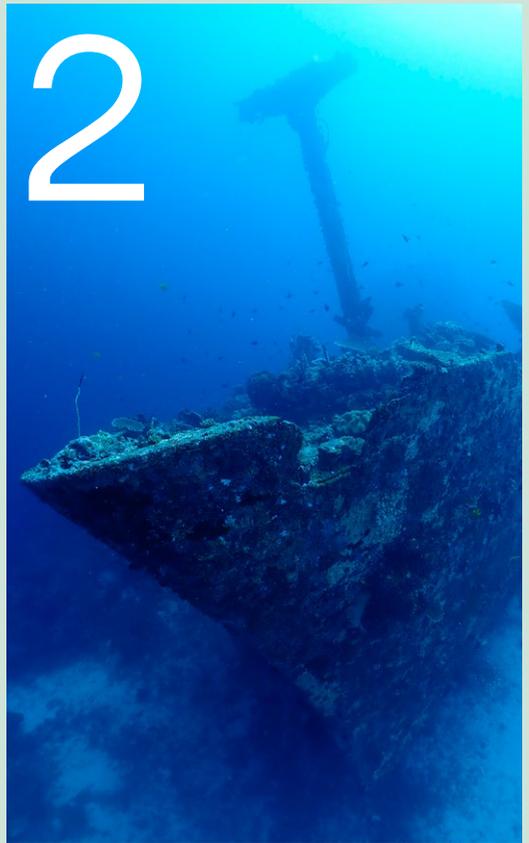
Did you know?

The Sepik River is often called the Amazon of the Pacific. Stretching over 1,100 km, it is one of the largest and least-explored river systems in the world. Along its banks, remote villages like Kopar preserve ancient traditions, elaborate wood carvings, and spirit house ceremonies — offering a rare glimpse into Papua New Guinea's living tribal heritage.

2

ISLANDS OF MEMORY

Rich World War II history is preserved in sunken wrecks and historic battle sites across the islands.



3

ROOTS OF THE PACIFIC

Authentic Melanesian culture shines through traditional villages, ceremonies, and local crafts.



ONSHORE EXPERIENCES

RABAU CALDERA & KOKOPO DISCOVERY TOUR

Witness steaming hot springs at the base of Tavurvur volcano, then take in sweeping views from the Volcano Observatory. Step inside Admiral Yamamoto's WWII bunker, carved into the hillside, and walk the Queen Emma Steps, echoing with colonial history. Finish at Kokopo Market, alive with local colour, produce, and culture.

-  Rabaul
-  Half day
-  Guest favorite

INCLUDED



ACTIVITY DIFFICULTY:



EASY



MODERATE



CHALLENGING



CALDERA & CORAL REEFS

Sail into the heart of a volcanic caldera for a spectacular approach to remote Garove Island. This unique sunken crater offers access to pristine reefs, where snorkeling in seldom-visited waters reveals vibrant marine life.

📍 Garove Island

🕒 Half day

INCLUDED

REMOTE SHORES & LOCAL CULTURE

Anchored off the secluded Tami Islands - a rarely visited coral atoll - experience an intimate blend of nature and culture. Glide through tranquil waters, feeling the rhythm of your paddle, and immerse yourself in the genuine serenity and community of Tami Island.

📍 Tami Island

🕒 Half day



OPTIONAL



SEPIK RIVER CULTURAL CELEBRATION

Enjoy a grand traditional cultural show on the remote riverbank of the Sepik River. Locals of Watam and Kopar share in the enchantment, often chuckling at their friends' performances in traditional roles and costumes.

📍 Kopar, Sepik River

🕒 Half day

INCLUDED

BOOK NOW

VOYAGE

RAJA AMPAT & CENDERAWASIH BAY EXPEDITION: INDONESIA'S CORAL TRIANGLE

Journey to the epicentre of marine life - the legendary Coral Triangle, where West Papua and Raja Ampat are home to Earth's richest underwater biodiversity. This remote Indonesian archipelago reveals nature's most closely guarded secrets through secluded lagoons, pristine coral atolls, and jungle-fringed shores accessible only by sea.

Explore the vibrant waters of Cenderawasih Bay, encounter gentle whale sharks near Kwatisore, and marvel at the otherworldly limestone cathedrals of Wayag and Misool. Here, you'll be welcomed by island communities whose ancient traditions remain deeply connected to the rhythms of the ocean and the natural world.

UNMISSABLES

- 1 Raja Ampat
- 2 Hidden Shores
- 3 Whale Sharks



INCLUDED RETURN FLIGHT:
BALI → JAYAPURA / SORONG → BALI

Jayapura → Sorong

10 nights

SH Minerva 2027 16 - 26 Apr

DAY VISITING

- 1-2 Jayapura, Papua
- 3 Pulau Padaidori, Papua
- 4 Kwatisore, Cenderawasih Bay, Papua
- 5 Pulau Roon, Auri Islands, Cenderawasih Bay, Papua
- 6 Manokwari, Papua
- 7 Ayu Atoll, Raja Ampat, Papua
- 8 Kabui Bay, Pulau Kri, Raja Ampat
- 9 Pulau Fam, Pulau Mansuar, Raja Ampat
- 10 Pulau Misool, Balbulal Lagoon, Yapap, Raja Ampat
- 11 Sorong, Papua

Ports, port order and itinerary duration may vary, for the most up-to-date details see swanhellenic.com

BOOK NOW

CRUISE PLUS



transfer
airport/hotel



1 night
hotel in
Bali



transfer
hotel/airport



flight
Bali/Jayapura



transfer
airport/port



cruise



transfer
port/airport



flight
Sorong/Bali

UNMISSABLES

WEST PAPUA AND RAJA AMPAT

EXPEDITION ACTIVITIES



Kayak



Zodiac cruising



Nature Walk



Snorkeling



Paddleboarding

Diving available upon request and subject to availability

Sail through otherworldly seascapes where jungle meets reef, whale sharks glide in crystal waters, and timeless island traditions unfold with quiet grace.



ISLANDS SHAPED BY TIME

Stunning limestone karst rugged island scenery covered by lush rainforest in one of the most uninhabited parts of Indonesia.

HIDDEN SHORES OF SERENITY

Remote uninhabited golden sand beaches to snorkel and swim from.



ROOTED IN TRADITION

Stilt homes, traditional music in the iconic Old Church, and sago-making alongside age-old fishing traditions on remote Roon Island.

ONSHORE EXPERIENCES



WHALE SHARK ENCOUNTER

Anchored within Indonesia's largest marine park, Cenderawasih Bay, your expert team will brief you on essential dos and don'ts to ensure a safe and responsible encounter. Then, embark by Zodiac to witness the awe-inspiring whale sharks up close.

- 📍 Cenderawasih Bay
- 🕒 Half day
- ★ Guest favorite

INCLUDED



ACTIVITY DIFFICULTY:



EASY



MODERATE



CHALLENGING



JUNGLE WALKS & ARFAK CULTURE IN MANOKWARI

Explore the lush rainforest on Table Mountain, surrounded by towering ironwood trees, vibrant butterflies, and tropical birds. Experience a captivating Arfak tribe cultural show, then unwind by Manokwari’s tranquil seaside waters.

-  Manokwari
-  Half day

INCLUDED 

NATURE WALK ON WAIGEO ISLAND

Go ashore with your onboard ornithologist in search of rainforest wildlife, including cockatoos and maleos (megapodes). Hike rainforest trails at dawn or dusk while keeping an eye out for orchids and pitcher plants along the way.

-  Waigeo Island
-  Half day



INCLUDED 



CAVES & COASTAL LIFE

Head out in the cool morning on a Zodiac cruise to explore Pulau Misool’s uplifted limestone islands and caves. Pass small fishing villages where locals practice their subsistence way of life, catching fish with hand nets.

-  Pulau Misool
-  Half day

INCLUDED 

BOOK NOW

VOYAGE

RAJA AMPAT AND PHILIPPINES: THE LAST PARADISE ON EARTH

This thoughtfully curated voyage takes you from Raja Ampat - the planet's most biodiverse marine sanctuary - across the lesser-travelled southern Philippines to Manila's vibrant cultural heart. Crafted for those drawn to the sea's rhythm and the beauty of evolving island landscapes, the journey provides rare insights into Southeast Asia's cultural and ecological richness.

Explore Ayu's pristine atolls and the Philippines' white-sand shores, home to coral kingdoms of unimaginable beauty. Discover remote island communities that sustain age-old traditions and offer a glimpse into a world where humanity and nature exist in perfect harmony. This is your invitation to experience Earth's last great marine sanctuary.



Sorong → Manila

11 nights

SH Minerva 2027 26 Apr - 7 May

DAY VISITING

- 1 Sorong, Papua
- 2 Ayu Atoll, Raja Ampat, Papua
- 3 Pulau Penemu, Pulau Fam, Raja Ampat
- 4 Pulau Mansuar, Raja Ampat
- 5-6 At Sea
- 7 Casulian Island
- 8 Bohol Island, Loay
- 9 Cuatro Islas
- 10 Romblon Island
- 11 Marinduque Island, Boac
- 12 Manila

Ports, port order and itinerary duration may vary, for the most up-to-date details see swanhellenic.com

BOOK NOW

CRUISE PLUS



transfer
airport/hotel



1 night
hotel in Bali



transfer
hotel/airport



flight
Bali/ Sorong



transfer
airport/port



cruise



transfer
port/airport

UNMISSABLES

RAJA AMPAT AND PHILIPPINES

EXPEDITION ACTIVITIES



Kayak



Zodiac cruising



Nature Walk



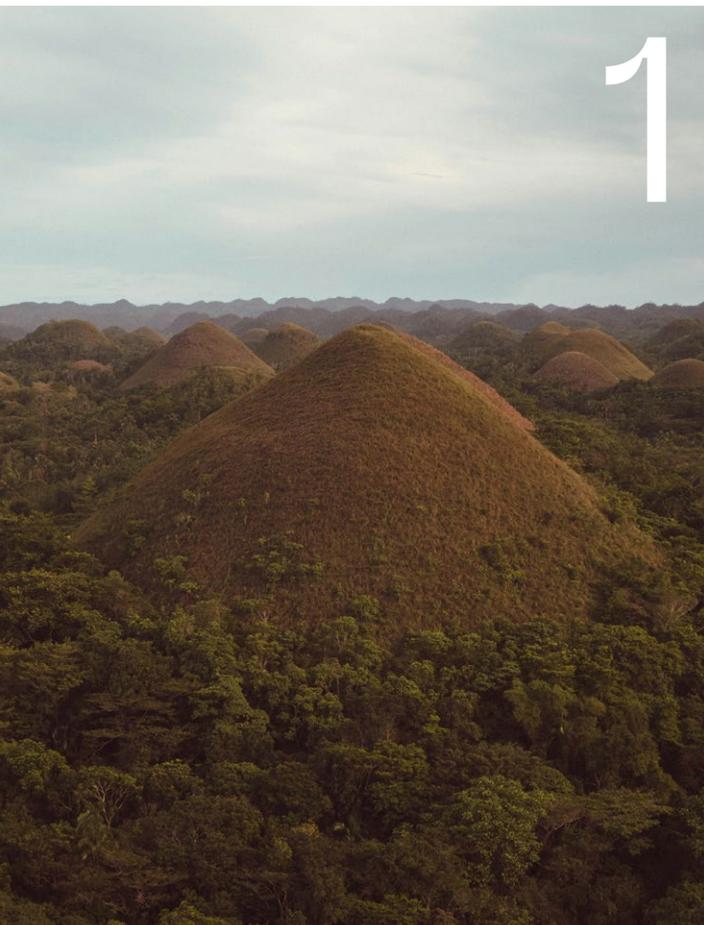
Snorkeling



Paddleboarding

Diving available upon request and subject to availability

This journey takes you through some of the most biodiverse and culturally rich corners of the Coral Triangle. Discover pristine atolls, remote island communities, and timeless traditions.



TARSIER & CHOCOLATE HILLS

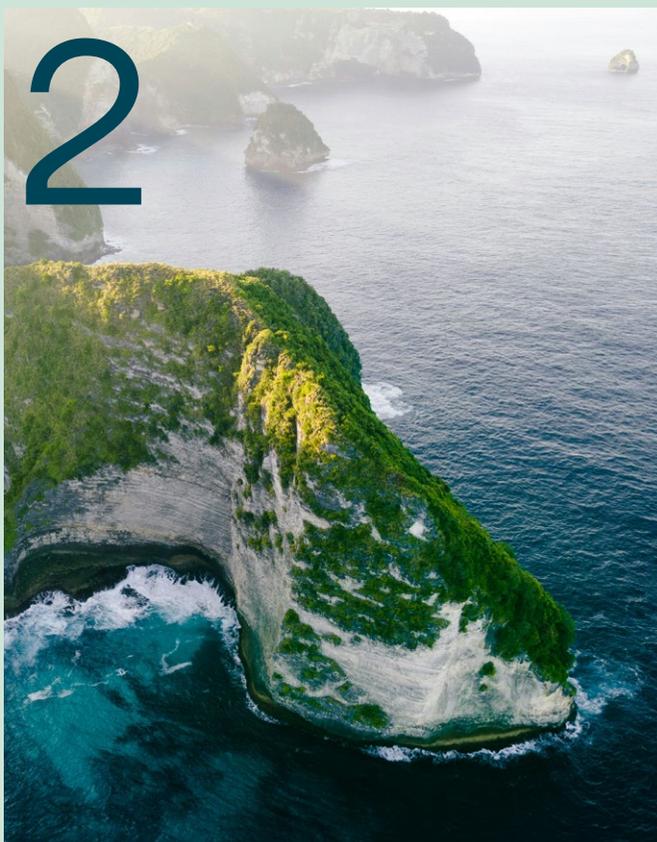
Meet the wide-eyed tarsier, one of the world's smallest primates, and marvel at Bohol's otherworldly Chocolate Hills — a landscape of perfectly shaped mounds that turn cocoa brown in the sun.



Did you know?

In the Fam Islands, you can snorkel among nudibranchs, pipefish, and seahorses, and cruise by zodiac through limestone formations and emerald-colored lagoons.

2



MEETING THE HORIZON

Short walk to Penemu Island Viewpoint — one of the most iconic and untouched vistas in Raja Ampat.

3



ISLAND TRADITIONS, SEA-LACED SHORES

Step ashore in Cuatro Islas, Bohol or Marinduque to encounter vibrant coastal communities, rich with local craft, music, and stories shaped by the sea.

ONSHORE EXPERIENCES

EXPEDITION AT QUATRO ISLAS

Land by zodiac on Apid Island and explore village life through traditional dances, tuba making, mat weaving, and boat building. Then island hop by boat to Digyo and Himokilan, where white-sand beaches and lush tropical landscapes await.

- 📍 Cuatro Islas
- 🕒 Half day
- ★ Guest favorite

INCLUDED ACTIVITY DIFFICULTY: EASY MODERATE CHALLENGING



PENEMU ISLAND VIEWPOINT

Disembark with your guide onto Penemu Island's pristine shore for a quintessential Raja Ampat vista, in this uninhabited paradise. Ascend the famous wooden staircase hundreds of feet above sea level, gaining sweeping views of turquoise lagoons, winding channels and lush islands.

 Penemu Island

 Half day

INCLUDED

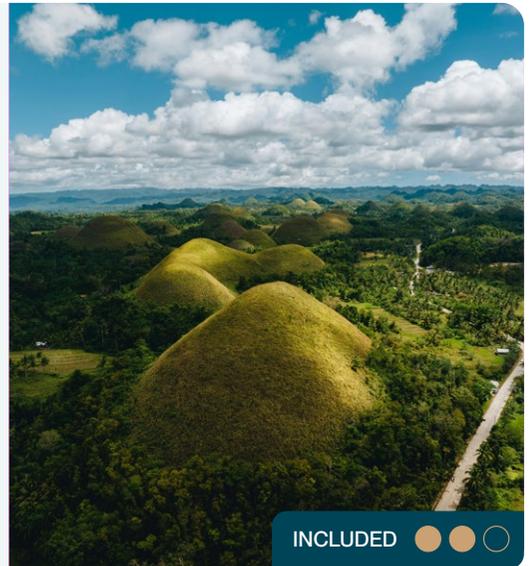


TAGBILARAN HERITAGE TOUR

Discover Bohol's tarsiers—tiny nocturnal primates—in a forest sanctuary with a ranger guide. Meet the “Tarsier Man,” then trek through Rajah Sikatuna Park. End with panoramic views of the 1,776 Chocolate Hills from the visitor deck or climb 230 steps to the top.

 Bohol Island, Loay

 Half day



INCLUDED



CACAO ROOTS: A FARM TO TABLE-MAKING EXPERIENCE

Uncover the story of chocolate at Panuluyan Farmstay in Marinduque's lush countryside. Learn how cacao is cultivated, harvested and transformed into rich, traditional Filipino chocolate, then master your own tablea - roast, grind and mould your own chocolate tablets using time-honoured techniques.

 Boac, Marinduque

 Half day

INCLUDED



BOOK NOW

VOYAGE

PHILIPPINES TO JAPAN CULTURAL DISCOVERY CRUISE

Sail from the bustling shores of Manila to the historic beauty of Hiroshima on a voyage that celebrates the diverse cultural tapestry of the Philippines, Taiwan Strait, and southern Japan. This journey weaves together ancient traditions, dramatic coastlines, and vibrant island life, offering a unique look into the evolving landscapes and histories of East and Southeast Asia.

From the emerald isles of the Philippines and the remote Batanes archipelago to the tranquil temples and gardens of Kyushu, each stop offers a moment of reflection and discovery. Set against the backdrop of early summer's mild climate, this itinerary is perfect for travellers looking to experience serene landscapes, rich heritage, and hidden gems rarely seen by cruise.





UNMISSABLES

- 1 Hundred Islands
- 2 Sabtang Islands
- 3 South Japan

Manila → Hiroshima

11 nights

SH Minerva 2027 7 - 18 May

DAY VISITING

- 1 Manila
- 2 Hundred Islands, Quezon Island
- 3 Salomague Harbour (Vigan)
- 4 Batanes Island, Sabtang Island, Sabtang Harbour
- 5 At Sea
- 6 Miyakojima
- 7 Naha, Okinawa Island
- 8 Amami Oshima Island, Naze
- 9 Sakitsu
- 10 Kagoshima
- 11 Uwajima
- 12 Hiroshima

Ports, port order and itinerary duration may vary, for the most up-to-date details see swanhellenic.com

BOOK NOW



UNMISSABLES

PHILIPPINES TO JAPAN

ACTIVITIES



Zodiac cruising



Nature Walk



Culture



Walking tour



Kayak

This voyage reveals a rich mosaic of cultures, coastlines, and histories. Discover coral-fringed shores in the Philippines, World Heritage towns like Vigan and Sakitsu, and the enduring spirit of Hiroshima.

1

CULTURAL IMMERSION IN VIGAN AND THE HUNDRED ISLAND

A unique blend of Spanish colonial architecture and natural island beauty.



Did you know?

The Philippines' Hundred Islands are believed to be over 2 million years old—a natural wonder formed from ancient coral reefs that emerged as sea levels changed over time. Today, only a fraction of the 124 islands are inhabited or developed, preserving their raw beauty.

RARE VISIT TO THE REMOTE BATANES AND SABTANG ISLANDS

Where time seems to stand still and local Ivatan traditions are proudly preserved.



DISCOVER THE HISTORIC AND SPIRITUAL TREASURES OF SOUTHERN JAPAN

From the peaceful Christian village of Sakitsu to the lively streets of Kagoshima and the poignant legacy of Hiroshima.

ONSHORE EXPERIENCES

QUEZON ISLAND AND PILGRIMAGE ISLAND TOUR

Navigate the stunning Hundred Islands National Park, weaving through 123 emerald islets. Begin at Quezon Island via zodiac, then board your banca (a Filipino outrigger motorboat) passing Canal Grande, Clave Island, Children's Island and Cuenco Island's limestone tunnels. Next, stand beneath the towering 55-foot Christ the Saviour statue on Pilgrimage Island, then pass scenic islands before returning to sun-soaked Quezon Island for watersports.

-  Quezon Island
-  Half day
-  Guest favorite

INCLUDED



ACTIVITY DIFFICULTY:



EASY



MODERATE



CHALLENGING



MANGROVE FOREST EXPLORATION BY KAYAK

Paddle through Amami's southern wilderness, from the singing stones of Honohoshi Beach to the tranquil mangroves of Kuroshio-no-mori. Kayak through twisted roots, spot rare wildlife, and glide past hidden caves in this subtropical paradise.

📍 Amami Oshima

🕒 Half day

OPTIONAL

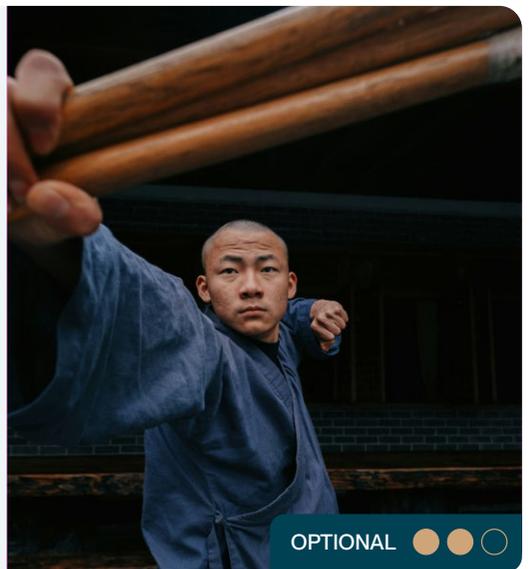


CHIRAN SAMURAI TOWN & PEACE MUSEUM

Explore Japan's feudal and wartime past in Chiran, Kagoshima's "Little Kyoto." Stroll samurai-era streets, then visit the Chiran Peace Museum, where moving exhibits honour the Kamikaze pilots of World War II.

📍 Kagoshima

🕒 Half day



OPTIONAL



KENGO KUMA'S UNIQUE ARCHITECTURES AND LOCAL TRADITION

Discover Yusuhara, a mountain town where 91% of the land is forest and six striking Kengo Kuma designs blend tradition with innovation. Visit the Yusuhara-za Theater and experience the local Tsunokami Kagura dance in this culturally rich corner of Kochi.

📍 Uwajima

🕒 Half day

OPTIONAL



BOOK NOW

VOYAGE

JAPAN AND KOREA CRUISE: CULTURAL SHORES AND NORTHERN LANDSCAPES

Embark on a captivating journey from the historic port of Hiroshima to the scenic shores of Hokkaido, tracing a route through the cultural heartlands of southern Japan, South Korea, and northern Honshu.

Along the way, cruise the dramatic Kanmon Strait, explore Busan's vibrant arts scene, and uncover the quiet elegance of coastal towns like Maizuru, Sakata, and Sakaiminato. Blending ancient heritage with modern life and natural beauty, this voyage offers depth, discovery, and reflection—culminating in Otaru, a charming port town and gateway to Hokkaido's wild northern landscapes.





UNMISSABLES

- 1 Kanmon Strait
- 2 Busan & Sakaiminato
- 3 North Japan

Hiroshima → Otaru

12 nights

SH Minerva 2027 18 - 30 May

DAY VISITING

- 1 Hiroshima
- 2 Uwajima
- 3 Kagoshima
- 4 Nagasaki
- 5 Busan
- 6-7 Sakaiminato
- 8 Maizuru
- 9 Wajima
- 10 Sado Island, Ogi
- 11 Sakata
- 12 Hakodate
- 13 Otaru

Ports, port order and itinerary duration may vary, for the most up-to-date details see swanhellenic.com

BOOK NOW



UNMISSABLES

JAPAN AND SOUTH KOREA

ACTIVITIES



Culture



Walking tour

This journey offers a captivating blend of history, heritage, and natural splendor. Each stop unveils a unique facet of Japan and Korea—inviting you to explore ancient ports, serene coastlines, and vibrant local traditions.

1

CRUISE THE KANMON STRAIT

A scenic and symbolic passage between Honshu and Kyushu, with views of historical fortifications and bustling waterways.



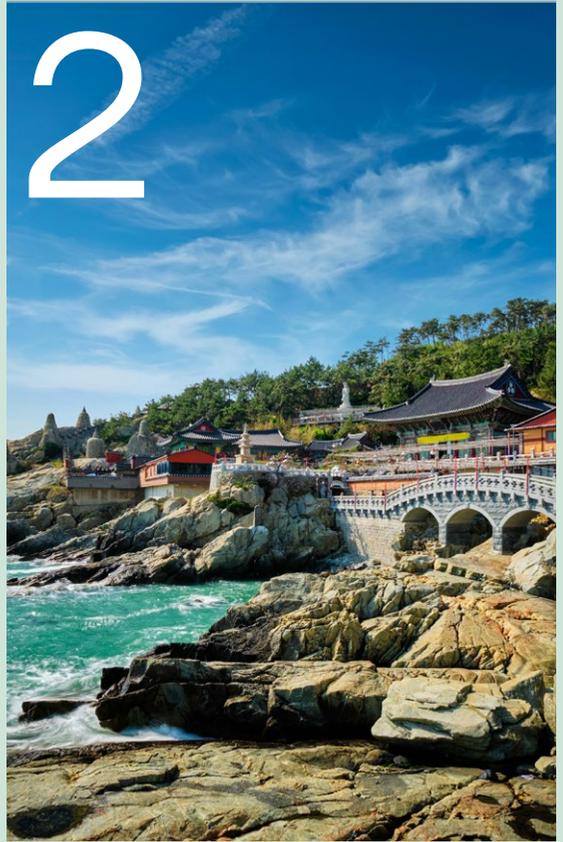
Did you know?

Across the Kanmon Strait into Kyushu, you can explore misty volcanic mountains where wild Japanese macaques roam freely and sometimes soak in steaming hot springs, surrounded by a magical blend of wildlife, tradition, and natural beauty found in the region's famous onsens.



DISCOVER BOTH SIDES OF THE SEA OF JAPAN

With immersive stops in Korea's vibrant Busan and Japan's quiet coastal towns like Sakaiminato and Sakata.



EXPERIENCE JAPAN'S CULTURAL NORTH

From the historic gold mines and folk traditions of Sado Island to Aomori's art and Hokkaido's maritime charm in Otaru.

ONSHORE EXPERIENCES

NAGASAKI LOCAL CUISINE & GEISHA PERFORMANCE

At the historic Kagetsu restaurant, enjoy shippoku, a style of cuisine blending Chinese, European, and Japanese flavors. Share a variety of dishes around the table while watching an enchanting geisha performance. An onsite museum offers an additional glimpse of local culture.

- 📍 Nagasaki
- 🕒 Half day
- ★ Guest favorite

OPTIONAL



ACTIVITY DIFFICULTY:



EASY



MODERATE



CHALLENGING



JOURNEY BACK IN TIME, GYEONGJU

Uncover South Korea's rich heritage in Gyeongju. Visit the UNESCO-listed Bulguksa Temple, explore artefacts at the Gyeongju National Museum, and walk among royal tombs at Tumuli Park, including the famous Cheonmachong burial mound.

 Busan
 Full day

OPTIONAL

IZUMO GRAND SHRINE

Discover Japan's spiritual roots at Izumo-taisha, one of the country's oldest and most revered Shinto shrines. Explore its ancient architecture, then visit the Shimane Museum to view bronze relics and early records, before enjoying a taste of local cuisine.

 Sakaiminato
 Full day



OPTIONAL

SADO ISLAND E-BIKE TOUR

Explore Sado's stunning coastline by e-bike, gliding past scenic roads and emerald coves. Visit Shukunegi's black-walled merchant houses and cross the striking Chojagabashi Bridge, where heritage meets breathtaking ocean views.

 Ogi, Sado Island
 Half day

OPTIONAL



BOOK NOW

WHAT'S INCLUDED

	CRUISE PLUS	CRUISE ONLY
Charter flights to the port of embarkation/disembarkation (Honiara, Jayapura, Sorong)	✓	
Group return transfers from airport to cruise port and to the hotel	✓	
One night pre-cruise accommodation with breakfast in a 4/5-star hotel	✓	
Your selected stateroom	✓	✓
All meals onboard	✓	✓
Complimentary hot & cold beverages, beer, wine & spirits any time throughout your cruise	✓	✓
24-hour room service	✓	✓
Lecture programs by expedition team and guest speakers	✓	✓
One selected shore excursion per port of call	✓	✓
All expedition landings	✓	✓
Entry level WIFI (upgraded packages available)	✓	✓
Gym, sauna, pool	✓	✓
24/7 self service laundry	✓	✓
Waterproof backpack and refillable water bottle, yours to keep	✓	✓
Memory Package	✓	✓
Onboard gratuities & port taxes	✓	✓



Enhance your experience

You also have the option of adding some **extra special services** to your cultural cruise (additional charges apply):

- Bespoke pre & post land programmes
- Additional hotel nights pre or post cruise
- Premium and private shore excursions
- Kayak and private Zodiac tours
- Premium spirits & reserve wine list
- Spa & beauty treatments
- Laundry services
- Retail shop



SEE WHAT OTHERS DON'T

THANKS FOR EMBRACING
OUR TRAVEL PHILOSOPHY



SWANHELLENIC.COM