Treasures of Japan
GARDENS, ART & ARCHITECTURE
With American Horticultural Society Host
HOLLY H. SHIMIZU
Aboard the Deluxe Le Soléal
May 30–June 7, 2020
Dear Friends,

Myriad discoveries abound in Japan. Its cities pulsate with modernity, but at its core, Japan is a place of tranquility and spirituality, where nature’s beauty remains abundant and unspoiled. Next spring, I invite you to join fellow American Horticultural Society members and other like-minded travelers to visit the Land of the Rising Sun to experience some of the most serene and breathtaking gardens in the world.

As we embark from Osaka and sail southward, Japan’s traditional aesthetic is evident everywhere: in the architecture and adornments of shrines, in a tea ceremony, and in our private audience with the Abbot of Kofukuji Temple in Nagasaki. The modernist impulse is revealed through the architecture of the cities, and in the art on display in the Adachi Museum in Sakaiminato, in the Busan Museum of Art, and in the Ohara Museum of Art in Kurashiki. Sampling Japanese food and drink; experiencing music and dance; witnessing religious practice; walking through modern cities and admiring ancient shrines and gardens—these are the elements of our immersion in Japan’s culture. The beautifully-appointed small ship Le Soléal will carry us in style.

To illuminate this fascinating country and focus on the central role gardens play in its culture, Holly Shimizu, member of the American Horticultural Society Board of Directors and former host of the Victory Garden television show, joins guests on board. Holly and her garden-designer husband, Osamu Shimizu, will accompany visits to each site, give lectures, and serve as your companions for deeper understanding of Japan’s beautiful aesthetics.

AHS Travel-Study participants often make lifelong friendships and know that their participation supports our non-profit work to inspire gardeners and garden-lovers alike with the art and practice of horticulture. I hope you will join us!

Sincerely,

Beth Tuttle
President and CEO
FEATURED GUEST SPEAKERS AND AHS TOUR HOSTS

HOLLY H. SHIMIZU, a member of the American Horticultural Society Board of Directors and retired Executive Director of the United States Botanic Garden, is an internationally recognized horticulturist. She has worked in gardens in many parts of the world and is often recognized from ten years as a host of the popular Victory Garden television show on PBS. Holly has received numerous awards, including the prestigious Thomas Roland Medal for outstanding contributions to horticultural education from the Massachusetts Horticultural Society and the Professional Award for an Outstanding Public Garden Director from the American Horticultural Society. Dedicated to heightening an awareness and love of plants through her work, she has written for numerous publications and has been an international flower show judge. Her husband Osamu is a garden designer whom she met while working in Europe.

OSAMU SHIMIZU grew up in Japan where he studied and worked in both historic and contemporary Japanese gardens. He worked in Europe for over ten years helping with garden designs, mapping, and garden improvements. In 1982 he started his own garden design/build company, Shimizu Landscape Design, and has been creating gardens for residences as well as public spaces. Many of his gardens are Japanese but some represent a blending of styles with influences from east and west.
Saturday, May 30, 2020
OSAKA, JAPAN | EMBARK
Arrive in Osaka and transfer to the pier to embark Le Soléal. (D)

Sunday, May 31
KORAKUEN, OKAYAMA & KURASHIKI, JAPAN
In Okayama, visit the Korakuen Garden, one of the three best landscape gardens in Japan. Built in 1700 by a feudal lord, it features a flat lawn, ponds, a central hill, a tiny tea plantation and rice paddy, and a small waterfall. In the afternoon, an excursion takes you to Kurashiki to visit the Ohara Museum of Art, as well as the Ohashi Family Home, typical of wealthy merchants of the 18th century. (B,L,D)

Monday, June 1
ITSUKUSHIMA SHRINE, HIROSHIMA, JAPAN
A morning excursion takes us to the Itsukushima Shrine, a holy place of Shintoism since the earliest times. Here you will see a special performance of Kagura dance. This afternoon, pay a solemn visit to Hiroshima’s Peace Memorial Park and Museum and the Atomic Bomb Dome. (B,L,D)

Tuesday, June 2
UCHIKO, JAPAN
Walk Uchiko’s picturesque old street of Yokaichi, lined with buildings from the late Edo period (1603-1868) and the early years following the Meiji Restoration. Glimpse an old sake brewery, the Amazake Chaya Teahouse, the Uchiko-za Theater and the Kami Hagi-tei, the former home and workshop of one of Uchiko’s most influential families. (B,L,D)

Wednesday, June 3
CHIRAN, JAPAN
A drive takes you through scenic tea plantations to Chiran, a small town known for its fine collection of samurai houses and their enclosed gardens. Several residences are still being used by samurai descendants. (B,L,D)

Thursday, June 4
KOFUKUJI TEMPLE, NAGASAKI, JAPAN
Today we have the extraordinary privilege of being guests of the Abbot at Kofukuji Temple in the heart of Nagasaki. Kofukuji is the oldest and one of the most important Chinese-founded temples in the city and the birthplace of the Obaku school of Zen Buddhism in Japan. We will be greeted by the Abbot and guided through the temple. The Abbot will perform a service and there will be music followed by a reception featuring Zen cooking. Please note that these arrangements are exclusive to our program and not available anywhere else. (B,L,D)

Friday, June 5
HAEDONG YONGGUNSGA TEMPLE & BUSAN MUSEUM OF ART, BUSAN, SOUTH KOREA
Depart from Busan on an excursion to Haedong Yonggungsa Temple, originally built in 1376 by the great Buddhist teacher known as Naong. Explore Haesu Gwaneum Daebul (Seawater Great Goddess Buddha), Daeungjeon Main Sanctuary, Yongwangdang Shrine, and Gulbeop Buddhist Sanctum. For those with an interest in art, you may also visit the Busan Museum of Art, and those curious about Korean cuisine may take a guided walk of the fish market, with lunch. (B,L,D)

Saturday, June 6
MATSUE CASTLE & ADACHI MUSEUM OF ART, SAKAIMINATO, JAPAN
Visit Matsue Castle, made entirely out of pine and built in 1611. It remains as it was in the 17th century and the uppermost floor offers fine views. Then take a private visit to Yuushien Garden. This afternoon, visit the Adachi Museum of Art, housing works by the great masters of modern Japanese art. Most of the pieces were selected by the museum’s founder, Adachi Zenko (1899-1990), who collected a wide range of styles and schools. (B,L,D)

Sunday, June 7
MAIZURU | DISEMBARK (B)

FOR RESERVATIONS OR INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL US AT (703) 768-5700, EXT. 127 OR 132

OPTIONAL PRE-CRUISE PROGRAM IN KYOTO
May 28-30, 2020
Includes two nights at the Kyoto Hotel Okura, transfers, sightseeing, a welcome reception and select meals. Starting from $1,290 per person, double occupancy.
PROGRAM INCLUSIONS

Included

• 8-night cruise aboard the deluxe Le Soléal
• Excursions as noted in the itinerary
• Enrichment program of lectures and discussions by featured guests
• Designated Tour Manager
• Welcome and farewell cocktail receptions aboard ship
• Captain’s gala dinner; at least one dinner aboard ship with the Shimizus
• All meals aboard ship including early riser’s coffee & pastry, breakfast, lunch, afternoon tea, and dinner
• Open bar aboard ship, including select wines with lunch and dinner
• 24-hour room service; Wi-Fi on board
• Comprehensive pre-departure materials
• Baggage handling and airport transfers aboard on the designated program arrival and departure dates
• Port taxes and charges
• Gratuities to shipboard personnel, porters, guides, and drivers

Not included

Airfare; airport taxes; visa and passport fees and/or immigration reciprocity taxes; luggage, cancellation, medical, repatriation and accident insurance; personal expenses such as laundry, telephone; spa; and beverages other than those specified above; pre-cruise extension in Kyoto (the Shimizus will not participate in pre-cruise extension).
The deluxe, five-star *Le Soléal* is one of the most beautifully conceived and technologically sophisticated small ships afloat. Designed in France and built in Italy, *Le Soléal* boasts an elegantly understated aesthetic that one associates with European sensibility and craftsmanship, with room for no more than 264 guests. It is one of four sister ships of the PONANT cruise line, selected as Best Luxury Cruise Line by Cruise Critic’s editors. All of PONANT’s ships are recognized as eco-friendly “Clean Ships” by Bureau Veritas.

FARES  PER PERSON, DOUBLE AND SINGLE OCCUPANCY

All accommodations aboard *Le Soléal* face outside affording sea views, and, other than the eight superior staterooms, all feature a private balcony. All staterooms include a bedroom with either two twin-size beds or a king-size bed, sitting area (separate living room for the Prestige Suites), mini-bar, safe, spacious closets, climate control, telephone, Wi-Fi access, TV with movies on demand, iPod player, and bathroom with marble vanity, shower, and line amenities.

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<th>Category</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Superior Staterooms—Deck 3</td>
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Early arrivals, transfers and additional hotel nights available upon request.
**TERMS & CONDITIONS**

**Compagnie du PONANT, PONANT Group USA, LLC, and PONANT USA, LLC** are hereinafter collectively referred to as “PONANT GROUP.” Please read carefully the following terms and conditions, which constitute the sole, legally enforceable agreements between the passenger and PONANT GROUP, and the tour’s sponsoring organization.

**PAYMENT SCHEDULE:** In order to secure a booking, the guest is required to pay a $3,500 deposit. $500 donation payable to the American Horticultural Society and an additional $1,000 payable to PONANT, both payments can be made via check or credit card on registration form below. Final payment is due 90 days prior to departure.

**CANCELLATION, MODIFICATION PENALTIES & REFUNDS:** All cancellations or modifications must be in writing. Any and all guests not reporting for departure or prevented from reporting for departure or waiving for any reason whatsoever the benefits included in the program cannot claim any refund. PONANT GROUP shall not be required to refund any monies to any guests who must leave the cruise prematurely for any reason, nor shall PONANT GROUP be held responsible for any costs, fees, damages or causes of action which result from the transportation expenses incurred by guest’s early departure. For any deposited or fully paid booking, cancellation penalties will be assessed as noted below. These cancellation penalties are applicable on all services booked with PONANT GROUP. From confirmation of booking date up to 91 days prior departure:

- $1,000 per person
- 90-61 days prior departure: 50% of full fare
- 60 days prior departure: 100% of full fare.
- $500 donation to AHS is non-refundable.

**TRAVEL INSURANCE:** Passengers shall be responsible for subscribing to cancellation/luggage assistance reparation/medical insurance(s).

**ITINERARY:** PONANT GROUP reserves the right to withdraw and/or cancel said trip and make changes in the itinerary whenever, in its sole judgment, or in the judgment of the vessel owner or operator, conditions warrant it.

**DEPENDENT CONTRACTORS/LIMIT OF LIABILITY:** The passenger agrees that PONANT GROUP acts as agent and/or trustee for any person, ground and maritime agents and subcontractors, who provide any service forming, or in connection with, any part of the cruise. Transportation services to the port of departure, transfers to the ship, including, as applicable, hotel room and restaurant bookings or guided tours, are performed by independent suppliers who are not employees of PONANT GROUP. In respect, PONANT GROUP acts only as an agent and shall not be held liable for said services or for the acts or omissions of sub-contractors or other contractors. PONANT GROUP shall not be held liable for bodily injury to, or death of, passengers, or for loss of, or damage to luggage or other personal belongings, unless it is proved that the carrier has infringed statutory obligations or that it or one of its employees or agents has committed gross negligence. However, in the event the liability of PONANT GROUP is incurred, such liability is limited (details available upon request).

**SHIPS’ REGISTRY:** France

**RATES:** The prices given at the time of booking are based on economic conditions known on May 1, 2019 and are subject to change. These terms & conditions are, amongst others, the cost of transport and fuel, relevant duties and taxes for the proposed operation (port taxes, embarkation and disembarkation taxes, entrance costs to tourist sites), currency exchange rates relevant to the pricing of these programs. PONANT GROUP reserves the right within the legal limits of applicable laws and regulations, to charge any surcharges if required. All variation of the cost of transport, fuel, taxes, duties and visa costs will be passed on within the voyage cost. Additionally, any surcharge levied will be increased to include an amount to cover agent’s commission. Any change in fare cannot be imposed less than 60 days prior to departure. For the cruise-only rate, daily surcharge, if any, will be calculated based on:

- Sur fuel variation * x daily consumption**

**Ship capacity ***:**

- (1): MGO FOB Rotterdam 0.1% in USS
- (**) : LAUSTRA, LE BOREAL, LE LYRIAL, LE SOLEAL: 20t
- (**) : LAUSTRA, LE BOREAL, LE LYRIAL, LE SOLEAL: 244 passengers

**JURISDICTION:** These terms & conditions are subject to and interpreted according to International regulations and concern the transportation of passengers and their luggage from the time of boarding the ship to the moment of disembarking, as well as at ports of departure, destination, or stopover. PONANT GROUP shall incur no liability outside this period of time. Without prejudice to required legal regulations, any actions related either to the interpretation, or execution of this agreement shall be brought before the competent courts of Marseille-France.

**PONANT is not responsible for omissions, printing and/or presentation errors and reserves the right to make corrections as required.**

**SHIPS’ REGISTRY:** France

**FL Seller of Travel Ref No ST37:076:**

**CA Seller of Travel Ref No 2120712-40**

**JURISDICTION:** France

**TELEPHONE (DAY) (EVENING)**

**PLACE OF DEPARTURE:**

**SIGNATURE DATE**

**SIGNATURE DATE**

**TWIN BEDS**

**SINGE OCCUPANCY**

**SHARING (cannot be guaranteed)**

**SIGNATURE DATE**

**SIGNATURE DATE**

**Each participant must sign below:**

I/We have read the “Terms & Conditions” section and agree to its terms.

**SIGNATURE DATE**

**SIGNATURE DATE**

The Operator and the Sponsor are not joint venturers and are not otherwise connected with each other regarding or in the performance of operational matters associated with this cruise tour, including the handling of all payments and/or refunds, are controlled by the Operator and any communication and disputes relating to any such matters shall not be brought against the Sponsor.
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Aboard the Deluxe *Le Soléal*
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For reservations or information, please call
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