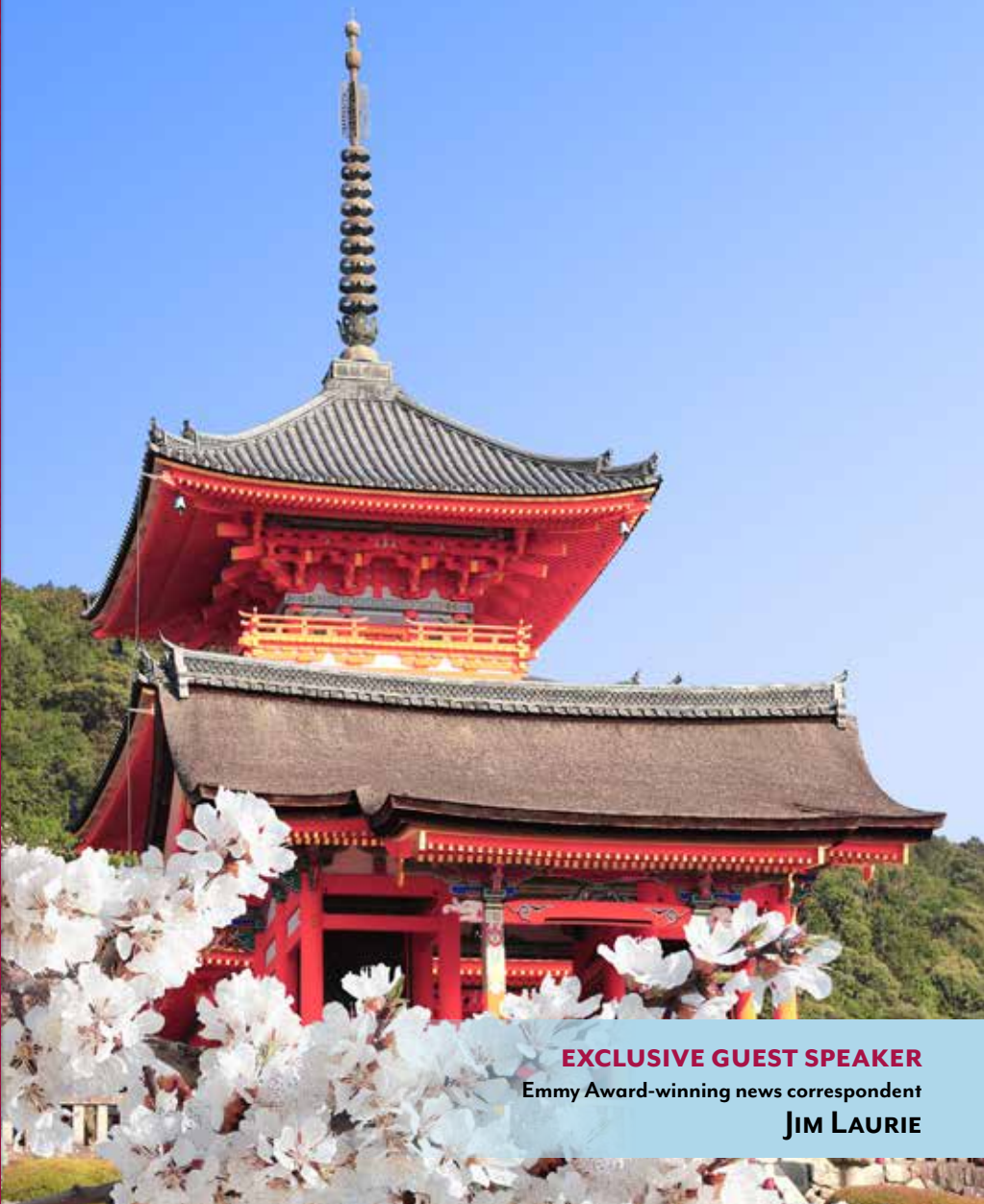




MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY™
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
Traveling Bulldogs™

April 13 to 25, 2025

The Inland Sea of Japan and South Korea



EXCLUSIVE GUEST SPEAKER

Emmy Award-winning news correspondent

JIM LAURIE

Art, Culture & Beauty

Ethereal temples, jewel box pagodas, shogun castles and breathtaking vistas epitomize the culture and natural beauty of Japan. This 13-day, 12-night land and sea voyage takes you to some of the most iconic sites along the Inland Sea of Japan and South Korea, featuring an 8-night, all-inclusive cruise on the deluxe expedition small ship ***Heritage Adventurer***.

Visit seven UNESCO World Heritage sites: ancient Kyoto's breathtaking temples; the isolated settlement of Shirakawa-go and its distinctive farmhouses with steeply pitched roofs; the Hiroshima Peace Memorial, where you'll talk with the family member of a Hiroshima survivor; the iconic "floating" Itsukushima Shinto Shrine; and the incredible historic and cultural feast of the Gyeongju Historic Areas in South Korea.

Along the way, immerse yourself in eye-popping landscapes and serene traditional gardens. Marvel at modern Japanese art and mesmerizing woodblock prints. Emmy Award-winning international news correspondent Jim Laurie will join us as guest lecturer for the tour, speaking about his more than five decades of covering this remarkable region on what promises to be a journey to remember.

Front cover: *Sakura flowers in front of the Kiyomizu Temple, Kyoto, Japan.*
This page: *Adachi Museum gardens near Matsue*





Himeji Castle at sunset



MISSISSIPPI STATE
UNIVERSITY

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
Traveling Bulldogs

Dear Alumni and Friends:

From the ethereal temples, jewel box pagodas and shogun castles of Kyoto to the latticed merchant houses of Hagi's earthen-walled samurai district, Japan's ancient cities and towns evoke a storied legacy. This 13-day, 12-night land and sea voyage takes you to some of the most iconic sites along the Inland Sea of Japan and South Korea, featuring an 8-night, all-inclusive cruise on the deluxe expedition small ship ***Heritage Adventurer***.

Visit the legendary "floating" Torii Gate during a visit to the sixth-century Itsukushima Shrine on the island of Miyajima. Marvel at the "living paintings" at the Adachi Museum of Art—a 20th-century fusion of modern Japanese art and spectacular garden landscapes. Cruise to the cradle of the Silla Kingdom in ancient Gyeongju, South Korea. Emmy Award-winning international news correspondent Jim Laurie will join us as guest speaker for the tour, sharing insights about his more than five decades covering this remarkable region on what promises to be a journey to remember.

Sincerely,

Jeff Davis
Executive Director
MSU Alumni Association

Leanna Smith, '09, '16
Assistant Director
MSU Alumni Association

Travel Insurance: An application for trip cancellation, baggage and medical insurance will be sent to you by the MSU Alumni Association's travel program once you are registered for the tour. Travel insurance is strongly recommended. Contact Leanna Smith at 662-325-3360 or lsmith@alumni.msstate.edu for further information.

**To secure your spot, call Gohagan and Company at 800-922-3088
or visit gohagantravel.com/reserve**



GUEST SPEAKER

JIM LAURIE

A distinguished international broadcaster, writer and media consultant who has witnessed defining moments in Asia's history for more than 50 years, Jim Laurie first visited Japan as a young writer/reporter in 1970 before embarking as a war correspondent in Indochina. He served as ABC News bureau chief in Tokyo in the late 1980s. Laurie's Emmy Award-winning documentary film, "Myths Behind the Miracle," examined Japan's economic success in the late 20th century and some of the social reasons that it could not be sustained.





Serene Landscapes

Japan is well-known for its distinctive peaceful gardens, imbued with symbolism. Japanese gardening customs are rooted in two traditions: a prehistoric practice of maintaining pebbled patches and dedicating them to nature spirits; and designs imported from China centuries ago that included water, rock and plant elements. We will visit two of Japan's greatest landscape gardens—Kenroku-en, in Kanazawa, and Koraku-en, in Okayama—and stop at other sites with notable greenscapes, including the Adachi Museum of Art. As you immerse yourself in the understated, elegant landscapes, look for the five notable design principles of Japanese gardening: asymmetry, enclosure, borrowed scenery, balance and symbolism. These gardens are not meant to be seen all at once but one vista at time, like a series of scenes unfolding. Contemplate the rock garden at Ryoan-ji, Kyoto's Temple of the Peaceful Dragon, founded in 1450. This garden, one of the most famous in the world, represents the ultimate expression of Zen Buddhism. Legend says that only 14 of the 15 rocks in the garden can be seen at once, and only when one attains spiritual enlightenment does the final stone reveal itself.



INCLUDED FEATURES

- ◆ Transfers and luggage handling abroad if you purchased air through Gohagan & Company and your arrival(s)/departure(s) coincide with the scheduled group transfer(s).
- ◆ Experienced, English-speaking local guides for included excursions.
- ◆ Gratuities to local guides and drivers on included excursions and transfers.
- ◆ Complimentary bottled water in your suite or stateroom and on excursions.
- ◆ Experienced Gohagan & Company Travel Directors at your service.
- ◆ Complimentary use of an audio headset during guided excursions.
- ◆ Automatic \$250,000 flight insurance policy for each participant ticketed on flights by Gohagan & Company.
- ◆ Hospitality desk at the hotel and aboard the ship.
- ◆ Meals included as noted in the itinerary (B,L,R,D).



GOHAGAN & COMPANY



2025 | 13-DAY/12-NIGHT ITINERARY

Departure

Day 1 | April 13

Depart your home city.

Osaka, Japan/Kyoto

Day 2 | April 14

Arrive at Kansai International Airport or Osaka Itami International Airport. Transfer to the deluxe, centrally located **Kyoto Hotel Okura**. Spend your first evening at leisure and make your own plans for dinner.

Kyoto

Day 3 | April 15

Visit two UNESCO-inscribed Zen Buddhist temples today. Ryoan-ji, established in 1450, features a world-famous rock garden. Kinkaku-ji, the Golden Pavilion, is a visual feast, boasting two stories covered in gold leaf. This evening, join your fellow passengers for a Welcome Reception, followed by dinner on your own. (B,R)

Kyoto

Day 4 | April 16

Kiyomizu-dera looks over the city from its perch in the eastern hills. After touring the temple, walk through the surrounding charming neighborhood, where the streets are lined with traditional shops and restaurants. This afternoon, visit the castle Nijo-jo, a prime example of samurai residential architecture. Stroll through the gardens and marvel at the beautiful ancient pine trees. (B)

Kyoto/Kanazawa/Embark

Day 5 | April 17

On a private tour of Kanazawa visit two fascinating districts: Higashi Chaya, known for its teahouses and geishas, and Nagamachi Samurai district, located outside Kanazawa Castle. Stroll through the beautiful Kenroku-en Garden, one of Japan's top landscape gardens. Transfer

to the **Heritage Adventurer** for embarkation. Join your fellow passengers for a Captain's Welcome Reception. (B,L,R,D)

Kanazawa/Shirakawa-go

Day 6 | April 18

Nestled in a remote valley and flanked by the mountains of Gifu, Shirakawa-go is an isolated settlement. This UNESCO World Heritage site is famous for its beautiful scenery and traditional farmhouses with steeply pitched roofs. (B,L,D)

Sakaiminato/Matsue

Day 7 | April 19

Visit the Adachi Museum, with its large collection of 20th-century art and award-winning garden. See Matsue-jo, often called the "black castle" for its dark-tiled roof and dark exterior. (B,L,D)

Hagi

Day 8 | April 20

Explore UNESCO-inscribed Hagi, a well-preserved



Higashi Chaya District, Kanazawa



Gassho-style houses in Shirakawa-go village



Caprión

castle town. Visit Toko-ji, a complex of Zen Buddhist temples in a forested compound. Continue to Kikyake and tour the traditional home and beautiful grounds. At the Hagi Uragami Museum, marvel at the impressive collection of woodblock prints by master artists Hokusai and Hiroshige. (B,L,D)

Busan, South Korea

Day 9 | April 21

Visit the UNESCO-inscribed Gyeongju Historic Areas—comprised of pagodas, sculptures, tumuli and ruins of temples and palaces. During your excursion, stop in Bulguksa Temple, the center of Korea's Buddhist culture. Tour the Gyeongju National Museum, boasting precious archaeological artifacts, including gold jewelry, pottery, art and more. Stop

for lunch, where you'll enjoy a performance of traditional music and dance. Finally, visit a fifth-century tomb and discover its many artifacts. (B,L,D)

Hiroshima, Japan

Day 10 | April 22

At Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park, learn about the events of August 6, 1945, when the U.S. dropped an atomic bomb during WWII. See the iconic domed Peace Memorial—the only building that withstood the blast—now a UNESCO World Heritage site. Tour the Peace Memorial Museum, and talk with the family member of a Hiroshima survivor. Spend the evening on your own exploring Hiroshima, if you wish. (B,L,D)

Hiroshima/Miyajima

Day 11 | April 23

Walk to one of Japan's most iconic sites, the Itsukushima Shrine. The famous imposing

vermilion Torii gate appears to float above the Seto Inland Sea. Tour this UNESCO-listed shrine, built in 593 B.C. to honor Empress Suiko. (B,L,D)

Uno Ko

Day 12 | April 24

Stroll through the charming Bikan District—the old merchant quarter, where white-walled homes, shops and storehouses preserve the ambiance of an important trading port. Visit the tranquil Koraku-en garden, an iconic retreat dating from the late 1600s. Join your fellow passengers this evening for a Farewell Reception and Dinner. (B,L,R,D)

Osaka/Disembark/Return to Home City

Day 13 | April 25

Disembark in Osaka and transfer to the airport for your return flight home. (B)



Kinkaku-ji Temple in Kyoto



Heritage Adventurer

Originally designed to accommodate 184 guests, **Heritage Adventurer** now welcomes only 140 guests on board, offering a spacious, comfortable experience with exceptional, personalized service. Your suite or stateroom is the perfect place to unwind and relax. All accommodations include a comfortable sitting area, writing desk, roomy wardrobe, a flat-screen entertainment system and private en-suite bathroom with shower. Enjoy seascape views from your panoramic or porthole window. Staterooms and suites are all 236 sq. ft. (except Heritage Suite, 473 sq. ft.)



2025 DEPARTURE DATE

April 13 to April 25

(Program Begins: April 14)

Category-Description	Standard Rate	Early Booking \$1,000 Savings*
Stateroom Porthole windows (do not open). 236 sq. ft. Deck 3.	\$8,895	\$7,895
Superior III Panoramic window (does not open). 236 sq. ft. Deck 4.	\$9,895	\$8,895
Superior II Panoramic window (does not open). 236 sq. ft. Deck 5.	\$11,495	\$10,495
Superior I Panoramic window (does not open). 236 sq. ft. Deck 6. (Limited Availability.)	\$13,095	\$12,095
Heritage Suite Luxury accommodations including sitting area. Panoramic window (does not open). 473 sq. ft. Deck 6. (Limited Availability.)	\$17,495	\$16,495

***Early Booking Savings of \$1,000 are available when you book by 9/10/24 and pay in full at time of booking. If you pay only your deposit by early booking date, you still save \$500 per person.**

All rates are per person, based on double occupancy, excluding taxes. Single supplements apply to the Stateroom and Superior III categories at 125% of the per person double price and are subject to availability. All other categories are at 200%.

Port taxes are an additional \$350 per person. Deck plans available upon request.

Gohagan & Company reserves the right to correct errors or omissions and to change any and all fares, fees, promotions and surcharges at any time. Terms & Conditions are available at gohagantravel.com/terms/

To secure your spot, call Gohagan & Company at 800-922-3088 or visit gohagantravel.com/reserve

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PRE-TOUR EXTENSION OPTION

Iconic Tokyo

April 10 to 14, 2025 (Program Begins: April 11)

Explore Tokyo on a 4-night itinerary that includes a full-day excursion to Hakone, home to majestic Mount Fuji, and a journey aboard the high-speed *Shinkansen*, or bullet train, to Kyoto. Pass through the Kaminari Gate to visit the Senso-ji Temple, originally built in the seventh century. Explore the Tokyo National Museum, the largest art museum in Japan, and enjoy a dinner cruise on the Sumida River. Accommodations are at the deluxe *Imperial Hotel Tokyo*.

Price per person, based on double occupancy: \$2,095

Price per person, based on single occupancy: \$2,695



POST-TOUR EXTENSION OPTION

Osaka and Nara

April 25 to 27, 2025 (Program Ends: April 27)

Extend your time in Osaka on a 2-night itinerary that includes a visit to the Osaka History Museum. On an excursion to the tranquil city of Nara, visit Todai-ji, known for its imposing 50-foot bronze statue of Buddha. Marvel at the iconic Horyu-ji, a seventh-century temple, and one of the world's oldest wooden structures. Stop by Kinkoen, a family-owned artisan producer of *sumi*, the black ink used in calligraphy and painting. Accommodations are for two nights at the deluxe *Imperial Hotel Osaka*.

Price per person, based on double occupancy: \$1,095

Price per person, based on single occupancy: \$1,395

Further details will be provided with your reservation confirmation.

Early Booking Savings* available | Save \$2,000 per couple!



Bulguksa Temple, South Korea



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