

Join **Deryn Thorpe**
aboard Queen Elizabeth for the

Cherry Blossom Cruise & Tour of

JAPAN

FULLY ESCORTED

26 March to 12 April 2025

Tokyo, Amori, Sakaiminato,
Nagasaki, Shimizu & Kyoto,
Japan; Busan, South Korea



TRAVELRITE
INTERNATIONAL



CUNARD



Cherry Blossom

CRUISE & TOUR OF

JAPAN

with Deryn Thorpe

Deryn Thorpe is a fanatical gardener, passionate about communicating her love of gardening and design to others. She has been taking people on specialist garden tours for more than 25 years. She is an award winning garden journalist, writing for Gardening Australia magazine and other gardening publications. She co-presents the award-winning 'All The Dirt' www.allthedirt.com.au, Australia's most popular gardening podcast with more than 1 million downloads. Deryn has edited garden books and worked as a garden TV presenter and is a regular presenter on ABC and commercial garden radio and a vivacious and popular speaker at Australian and international festivals and garden clubs. She volunteered for six years with Open Gardens Australia and opened her own beautiful, cottage-style garden to the public. She is an Honorary Life Member of the Horticultural Media Association Australia (HMAA) and the Nursery and Garden Industry WA.

Itinerary

DAY 1 Wednesday 26 March, 2025

Tokyo, Japan

Today we board our flight to Tokyo, Japan. We arrive in Tokyo later the same day. Upon arrival we are transferred to our city hotel.

DAY 2 Thursday 27 March, 2025

Tokyo

Tokyo is the political, economic and cultural capital of Japan. There are more than twelve million people living in Tokyo and millions more living within a radius of fifty kilometres. We will enjoy a city tour of exciting Tokyo this morning. We see the famous Ginza area and visit the Imperial Palace East Garden, which is still part of the Royal Residence. It is a superb example of traditional Japanese landscape design. We continue with a visit to Asakusa, the heart of traditional Japan. The main attraction is Sensoji, a popular Buddhist temple built in the seventh century. We will have time to walk along Nakamise-dori, the bustling market area, where souvenirs and wooden sandals are sold. Later we transfer to our city hotel and in the evening enjoy a welcome dinner with Deryn and other tour members.



DAY 3 Friday 28 March, 2025

Tokyo

Today we visit the Omiya Museum, the most outstanding center for bonsai in Japan. Opened in 2010, it has a collection of over 100 bonsai masterpieces. In addition, we will see bonsai pots, miniature landscape stone, books and woodblock print. We continue our travels to visit Koishikawa Korakuen Gardens, built in the early Edo period in 1629, and one of the three 'Great Gardens' of Japan. This traditional garden exhibits the main elements of a Japanese garden and was named after a poem. It boasts a gorgeous pond adjoining the tea house, a full moon bridge and man-made hills.

DAY 4 Saturday 29 March, 2025

Embarkation

This morning we visit the Hama-Rikyu-Teien garden. The landscape garden features seawater ponds which change level with the tides and provides gorgeous views of lakes and hills. Late morning we are transferred to the port of Yokohama to board the Queen Elizabeth for our cruise around Japan.

DAY 5 Sunday 30 March, 2025

At Sea

A day at sea is the perfect opportunity to explore the fabulous facilities. Options include a visit to the spa for a relaxing massage. Late morning join us for an interesting talk by Deryn about her life in gardening and pointers on the design features of Japanese gardens.

DAY 6 Monday 31 March, 2025

Aomori, Japan

This morning we arrive in Aomori, in the northernmost prefecture on Japan's main island Honshu. On our tour today we will visit Hirosaki, once the political and cultural capital of the Tsugaru Region, the western section of present day Aomori Prefecture. The city remains one of the culturally richest cities in the northern Tohoku Region. We visit Seibien garden known as a National site of scenic beauty. The garden was developed from 1902 in a traditional Japanese style. A very unusual two story viewing structure was built in 1909. Visitors can view the garden from the Japanese-style 1st floor or the Western-style 2nd floor.

DAY 7 Tuesday 1 April, 2025

At Sea

A day at sea. Perhaps attend an exercise class, have a swim or visit the library to check out the large collection of books. Late morning join us for gardening trivial pursuit. Deryn will call the questions to test your knowledge of plants and gardens.

DAY 8 Wednesday 2 April, 2025

Sakaiminato, Japan

This morning we visit Daikon Island and Yuushein Flower Park, which specializes in peonies, which will be in full flower during our visit. We will see stunning peony flower arrangements by Shogo Kariyazaki a famous Japanese flower artist, art installations and a waterfall. In the afternoon we visit the Adachi Museum of Art and its gardens. Donated by a textile wholesaler, it opened in 1980 and is surrounded by several lovely gardens. They include a dry landscape garden, a moss garden, a tea garden and a pond garden.

DAY 9 Thursday 3 April, 2025

Busan, South Korea

Today we call into the port of Busan, South Korea, where we enjoy a sightseeing tour with a local guide. We first experience the serenity of the 8th-century Bulguksa Temple, located on the slopes of Mount Tohan. We explore the royal tombs at Tumuli Park and visit the ancient Silla capital, Gyeong-Ju, a place, which is UNESCO designated as one of the world's top 10 historic sites. This palace and artificial pond is part of Geongi National Park.



Queen Elizabeth

The Queen Elizabeth is sleek and contemporary cruise ship with the most advanced technological features and luxurious art-deco style appointments. The Queen Elizabeth continues the heritage of 1930s cruising on the great Queen Mary, Queen Elizabeth 2 and Queen Mary 2. The great traditions of fine service, food and entertainment continue. Enjoy the facilities of the gourmet restaurants, swimming pools, the casino, theatres, the cinema and internet access, the Health and Spa Club, seven bars and much more. Take part in the multitude of daily activities that include numerous lectures on an array of topics, the regular musical performances, ship sports and much more. A voyage on Queen Elizabeth is an experience to be savoured and remembered!

Clothing on board the Queen Elizabeth

During the day casual clothing is typical, although shorts and swimwear are not permitted in the formal restaurants. There are some nights at sea classified as formal for dress purposes. Nights in port are classified as informal. During the evening on formal nights, a dinner suit or dark suit for gentlemen and eveningwear for ladies is required for the main restaurants. Smart casual attire is required in the public lounges and restaurants.



Don't worry about coming alone

About a third of people on the Travelrite Tours are travelling alone. There are group activities every day. The cruise is fully escorted and will be a great fun holiday. Each evening you will dine with the group at our reserved tables. You will meet a fun group of people with a shared love of gardens and have a fabulous time.

DAY 10 Friday 4 April, 2025

Nagasaki, Japan

Today we arrive in the city of Nagasaki. It is best known as the site of the second nuclear attack on Japan during WW2. We have a sightseeing tour of the city. We see the Peace Memorial Park, located near Ground Zero, the centre of the blast, which is home to a beautiful memorial fountain and the 30-foot-high Statue of Peace. We will also see other parts of the city that was for 200 years Japan's port to the outside world. This afternoon the group will walk to the nearby Glover Gardens, where we see early European settlers' houses surrounded by attractive gardens.

DAY 11 Saturday 5 April, 2025

At Sea

A day at sea is the perfect opportunity to explore the fabulous facilities of this magnificent ship. Perhaps attend one of the interesting lectures. In the afternoon Deryn will help group members with any problems they have with their plants, suggest alternative plantings or provide ideas (and rudimentary sketch plans) for future garden improvements. Bring photos of your garden and plants to make best use of her skills.



DAY 12 Sunday 6 April, 2025

Shimizu, Japan

Today we arrive at Shimizu at the base of Mount Fuji, Japan's highest mountain and the focal point of the sprawling Fuji-Hakone-Izu National Park. This morning we take sightseeing tour of this very special area, named for the Buddhist fire goddess Fuchi, which is sacred to the Shinto goddess Sengen-Sama, whose shrine can be found at the summit. Mount Fuji is the holiest of Japan's "Three Holy Mountains". We travel through the Owakudani Valley and enjoy a ride on the Hakone Ropeway's aerial cable car. This offers a mazing views of nearby Hakone National Park, where cherry trees should be in blossom.

DAY 13 Monday 7 April, 2025

Disembarkation/ Kyoto, Japan

This morning we arrive in Yokohama. After disembarking we will travel by Bullet train to Kyoto which will be our home for four nights. On arrival we will have a panoramic tour of Kyoto to see the main sights including the Kyoto Imperial Palace which is surrounded by a beautiful garden. The palace was completed in 1855 and was home to the Imperial household from that date until the Meiji Restoration, when they moved to Tokyo.

DAY 14 Tuesday 8 April, 2025

Kyoto

We start the day with a journey to the nearby hills to visit Jojako-ji, a 1640 temple set in a beautiful grove of trees. The temple platform provides a viewing space for the gorgeous garden, where we will enjoy the contrast of

the delicate pink flowering azaleas which contrast with the lush green trees and bushes. We continue with a visit to the Kinkakuji Temple, also known as the temple of the Golden Pavilion. It was built in the late 14th century with three stories topped with gold leaf. It extends over a pond, which reflects the building and is surrounded by a beautiful, landscaped garden. In the afternoon, we will visit the Ryoanji Temple, and its famous rock garden. Attributed to the artist Soami, it was created in the 16th century in a space of thirty metres by ten metres. It is build in the waterless stream style and is composed of fifteen rocks set into raked white gravel. The Zen Garden, with its arrangement of rocks, representing mountains, and sparse vegetation, is symbolic of an individual's journey through life.

DAY 15 Wednesday 9 April, 2025

Kyoto

This morning we visit Ninjo Castle garden surrounding a castle built in the early Edo period. Over 400 years it has survived many fires and earth-quakes and the castle and the Shoin-zukuri style garden are renovated to their former glory. We continue our day with a visit to the Silver Pavilion and the picturesque Philosopher's path, which extends along the river under cherry trees, which we hope will be in blossom.

DAY 16 Thursday 10 April, 2025

Kyoto

This morning we visit the superb Zen garden at the Tofuku-ji Temple. Founded in 1236 the gardens include an interesting Sanmon Gate and the Tsuten-kyo Bridge, which is famous for its panoramic views of the garden. The afternoon will be free for individual activities. We will enjoy a farewell dinner tonight to say farewell to Deryn and other group members.

DAY 17 Friday 11 April, 2025

Departure

This morning we travel to Osaka. We will pass through Osaka's downtown area on the way to the Osaka Castle. Built in 1583 and destroyed just 32 years later, the castle has undergone many reconstructions the most recent in 1931. Its walls encompass the Municipal Museum and the Hokoku Shrine, which is dedicated to its original owner, Toyotomi Hideyoshi. Later we are transferred to the airport for our flight back to Australia

DAY 18 Saturday 12 April, 2025

Arrival/Australia

This morning we arrive back in Australia and tour activities conclude.

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Included in the price:

- Economy-class return air travel from Melbourne/Sydney/Brisbane/Adelaide/Perth to Tokyo and back to Australia
- Tour leadership by Deryn Thorpe
- Travel on the Queen Elizabeth in the selected cabin category
- All meals, entertainment, and service charges on the Queen Elizabeth
- Private activities on board
- 3 nights' accommodation in Tokyo and 4 nights' accommodation in Kyoto in 4-star hotels on a bed and breakfast basis
- A welcome and a farewell dinner
- Sightseeing tours in Tokyo, Amori, Sakaiminato, Nagasaki, Mt Fuji, Kyoto and Oaska, Japan; Busan, South Korea
- Cruise management by Travelrite International
- Port and handling charges on Queen Elizabeth
- Cruise taxes
- Onboard gratuities

Not included in the price:

- Travel insurance
- Additional travel arrangements not detailed in the itinerary. These will be quoted for separately
- Passport fees
- Drinks on board
- Lunches when not on the ship or on the land portion of the tour
- Air taxes as of 20 March 2024. Increases will be added to your account

Twin-share fares per person in Australian Dollars

Cabin	Description	Deck	Twin-share	Single
IE	Inside	4,5,6,8	\$ 12,290	\$ 15,690
ID	Inside	5,6,7	\$ 12,490	\$ 15,890
EC	Outside	1	\$ 12,890	\$ 16,390
EB	Outside	1	\$ 12,990	\$ 16,490
BE	Balcony	4,5,6,7,8	\$ 13,290	\$ 17,090
BD	Balcony	5,6,7	\$ 13,490	\$ 17,290
BB	Balcony	5,6,7,8	\$ 13,690	\$ 17,690
P1	Suite	7,8	\$ 17,990	\$ 27,490
Q4	Suite	7	\$ 20,190	\$ 21,390
Included port & handling charges			\$ 315	\$ 552
Included ship gratuities			\$ 144	\$ 144
Air taxes as at 1 Mar 2024 to be added to fare			\$ 210	\$ 210

Availability: All cabins are subject to cabin availability. Please call for fares and information on other cabin categories. **Please call for details on 1800 630 343.**

Extending: You can stay longer in Japan for minimal extra cost. **Please contact 1800 630 434 for more information.**

General Information and Booking Conditions

International touring can involve a considerable amount of walking and stair climbing in the places visited and it is important that all tour participants have a level of physical fitness that allows them to take part in this activity without the assistance from others.

TOUR OPERATOR: Travelrite International Pty Ltd (ABN 64 005 817 078) is the tour organiser. The Queen Elizabeth is operated by Cunard Lines and the fly/cruise arrangements are subject to the terms and conditions and general information detailed in the Cunard Line brochure 2024. All passengers must complete the Cunard Line online check in and Travelrite International booking form.

DEPOSIT AND PAYMENT: A non-refundable deposit of \$1200 per passenger should be sent with a completed Travelrite International booking form that lists your requested cabin category. As soon as the booking is confirmed, (usually within 24 hours), a cruise confirmation advice will be posted to the client. The confirmation advice will contain all details. Final payments are due to be paid to Travelrite International 91 days prior to the commencement of the fly/cruise. A 1.5% administration fee will be added to payments by Visa, Mastercard or AMEX card.

CANCELLATION CHARGES: Number of days before sailing.

Days prior to Departure	Cancellation Fee
Over 91 days	loss of deposit
90 days or less	loss of 100% of full fare
Non-appearance/no written notice:	100% of full fare

REFUNDS: The cruise is based on arrangements which do not allow for any refunds in respect to sightseeing, accommodation, meals or other services not utilised after the tour has commenced.

TRAVEL DOCUMENTS: All passengers will require a valid passport. If not an Australian passport holder check with Travelrite International for visa requirements.

TRAVEL INSURANCE: Adequate travel insurance is highly recommended to cover cruise members for the consequences of unforeseen events during the cruise and for cancellation fees which could result from events such as illness, accident, death etc.

BAGGAGE: Passengers qualify for a 23kg free baggage allowance on flights to join or return from the cruise.

MINIMUM TOUR NUMBERS: The fly/cruise arrangements have been made on the basis of a minimum number of passengers travelling. In the event that less than the required number of passengers have confirmed their booking 90 days from the date of departure, Travelrite International reserves the right to cancel the tour, giving a full refund of monies paid, or offer arrangements to proceed with the tour at a modified fare.

RESPONSIBILITIES: Travelrite International Pty Ltd is the tour organiser. Travelrite International Pty Ltd, its agents, officers, affiliates, and/or suppliers of services pursuant to, or in connection with these fly/cruises, shall act only as agents in making arrangements for hotels, transportation, including transportation by ship, restaurants, or any other service and do not assume any liability whatsoever for any injury, damage, death, loss, accident or delay to person or property due to an act of negligence or a default of any hotel, carrier, restaurant, company or person rendering any services included in fly/cruises, or by act of God. Further, no responsibilities are accepted for any damage or delay due to sickness, pilferage, labour disputes, machinery break-down, quarantine, government restraints, weather, terrorism or other causes beyond their control. No responsibility is accepted for any additional expense, omission, delays, re-routing or acts of any government authority. Baggage is at owners' risk throughout the fly/cruise. The passage contract between the carriers concerned, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the carriers and the purchasers of this fly/cruise and/or the passengers. The right is reserved to withdraw any fly/cruise and/or make such changes in the fly/cruises as may be found desirable or necessary for the convenience of the parties and the proper carrying out of the fly/cruise. This contract shall be construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Victoria, Australia and any action must be taken in the State of Victoria. Attention is also



directed to the terms and conditions of the Queen Elizabeth fly/cruise passage contract with Queen Elizabeth, detailed in the Cunard brochure or on the website. If you can't find this contract please contact Travelrite International and we will tell you where you can see it.

HOW TO BOOK: Bookings can be made by completing a booking form and sending it with a non-refundable deposit of \$1200 per person to:

Travelrite International Pty Ltd.
423 Whitehorse Road
Balwyn 3103 Victoria

Further information or a booking form can be obtained by telephoning Travelrite International on the following numbers:

Toll Free 1800 630 343
Phone: (03) 8803 6868
Email: balwyn@travelrite.com.au
www.travelrite.com.au

ABOUT TRAVELRITE INTERNATIONAL: Travelrite International Pty Ltd (A.B.N.64 005 817 078) is a well established travel company which has been operating in the eastern suburbs of Melbourne for more than 40 years. It is fully ATAS accredited: A10538 and has a fully credited IATA offices in Balwyn. As such, it directly represents the major airlines of the world and all major domestic and international tour and transport operators. Travelrite International has been operating special interest tours for 38 years, and now runs over 100 tours a year. Travelrite International Pty Ltd is a full member of the Australian Federation of Travel Agents – AFTA.