

PORT DESCRIPTIONS

ASIA

Ayers Rock, Australia

Huge? Yes. But spiritual? See for yourself on an excursion to the awe-inspiring Ayers Rock, known locally as Uluru. This Aboriginal sacred site is the world's largest monolith, rising more than 1,000 feet out of the desert sand. Discover the mysteries of Uluru on a walking tour around the base or a guided hike to the rock's peak.

Bangkok (Laemchaband), Thailand

With its hulking skyscrapers and ultramodern hotels, Bangkok is one of the most contemporary cities in Asia. Thankfully, it never lost its Thai charm, with the museums, temples, food and, of course, people that make Bangkok both quintessentially Thai and culturally diverse. One great way to think about your exploration of Bangkok is to traverse the streets for a taste of the modern, but to get a feel for the historical, more old-style Bangkok, take to the canals.

Benoa, Bali, Indonesia

We are currently in the process of gathering information for this Port and hope to have it available for you shortly. Please visit us again soon.

Beppu, Japan

Japan is home to an incredibly large collection of hot springs, many of which you'll find in the city of Beppu, located in Ōita Prefecture on the island of Kyūshū. With 2,894 springs, Beppu is home to the second-largest volume of hot water in the world - after Yellowstone National Park in the United States. After taking a dip in hot water or being buried in naturally heated sand, sample traditional Japanese delicacies, browse for souvenirs and explore the surrounding mountains and volcanoes.

Busan, Republic of Korea (South Korea)

Busan, is the second-largest city in South Korea, a major international cargo port and famous for its seafood and beaches. It shares the same latitude as Los Angeles as well as an allure to film stars and movie moguls as host to the annual Busan International Film Festival. We're not sure if the connection is just a coincidence, but Busan's landscape of pristine beaches, craggy islets and tall mountains sure makes a great backdrop for adventures of our own making.

Cairns, Australia

Rapidly becoming the "capital of the Great Barrier Reef," the tropical paradise of Cairns (pronounced "Cans") is one of Australia's fastest-growing tourist areas. Our cruisetour guests will experience both the wet and the wild as they explore lush rain forests, wetlands and woodlands and spy the glorious creatures that inhabit them.

Cochin, India

One of the finest natural harbors on the Arabian coast of India, Kochi (also known as Cochin) was once known as the center of the Indian spice trade. Subsequently, the town has a distinct European feel, due to the fact that it was once inhabited by the Portuguese, Dutch, and English. Their influence on the town's forts, palaces, museums, and old churches is still evident today. Which is why Kochi is known as the "Queen of the Arabian Sea."

Dubai, United Arab Emirates

Believe everything you've heard about Dubai - it truly is that incredible. Honestly, where else on earth can you ski both in a shopping mall and out in the desert? As one of the world's fastest growing cities, Dubai has emerged as a premier luxury travel destination, drawing visitors from all over the globe. Its dry and sunny weather, incredible shopping experiences, and unique tourist attractions have helped to turn it into a bona fide hot spot where ancient and modern cultures come together.

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Fukuoka, Japan

Not only is it incredibly fun to say, but Fukuoka (that's Foo-koo-oh-ka) also boasts incredible sights like the country's biggest hotel, longest bar and largest cinema complex. This cosmopolitan center has spent the last few years transforming into a vibrant, modern city just for you - or, at least, just for worldly travelers like you. Dive into all the shopping, dining, sports and culture you can imagine, with plenty of helpful information offices and efficient subway stations along the way.

Goa (Mormugao), India

How can you resist a place whose local motto is "Sossegade," which translates to "Take it Easy"? Long a favorite destination for New Age travelers seeking the transcendent good life, these days Goa is more hip than hippie. High end restaurants and shopping now complement the dreamy beach life, and Goa's easygoing streets make an easy and rewarding first introduction to India. Goa's historical atmosphere, shaped by a fascinating mix of Portuguese and Indian influences, is unique. The Portuguese were here for some 500 years, and their presence can still be felt in customs like the siesta the easygoing Goans take every afternoon. Sossegade!

Hanoi (Halong Bay), Vietnam

As Vietnam's capital city for almost a thousand years, Hanoi has long been considered the country's cultural center. This charming, slow-paced hub is located on the right bank of the Red River and close to many of Vietnam's natural wonders, such as the spectacular Halong Bay. Hanoi's many museums, embassies and holy shrines to the late Ho Chi Minh reveal the rich history left behind by its storied dynasties. However, with new high-rises going up, and cars and motorbikes multiplying daily, it is also a city on the verge. Life in Hanoi is getting faster all the time.

Ho Chi Minh (Phu My), Vietnam

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Ho Chi Minh City (Vung Tau), Vietnam

Ho Chi Minh City, also referred to as Saigon, is Vietnam's most bustling and spirited city. Breathtaking in its scope of activities, culture and excitement, Ho Chi Minh City is a modern metropolis with attractions such as museums, art galleries and botanical gardens, along with cultural sites like elegant palaces and stunning pagodas.

Hong Kong, China

The most striking thing about Hong Kong is its pervasive mix of old and new. With ramshackle apartment buildings flanked by uber-modern high-rises, a rickety street-level tram clanking by above a state-of-the-art subway system, and wheelbarrows being pushed through the streets alongside Rolls-Royces, Hong Kong is a study in contrasts that constantly surprises. Add the former British colony's strange brew of Asian and Western cultures to this endless series of odd contradictions and one thing's for certain: this is a place you'll never get tired of exploring.

Hue/Danang (Chan May Port), Vietnam

Centrally located between historic cities, the working port of Chan May is the gateway to Danang, Hoi An and Hue, Vietnam. Danang is home to the famous China Beach and charming Hoi An is an ancient trading town with shops, art galleries and restaurants. Hue is an approximate 75 minute drive from Chan May Port. Danang is an approximate 1 hour drive from Chan May Port via Hai Van Tunnels or 1.5 hours via Hai Van Pass. Chan May Port to Hoi An is an approximately 1 hour and 45 minutes drive via Hai Van Tunnels or 2 hours and 15 minutes drive via Hai Van Pass.

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Jeju, Republic of Korea (South Korea)

Just off the southern coast of the Korean peninsula lies an idyllic isle that just may remind you of Hawaii. Jeju island (Cheju-do in Korean) is a volcanic island dominated by Halla mountain and replete with spectacular waterfalls, sandy beaches, lava formations, citrus groves and warm tropical water. What more could you ask of Korea's favored destination for honeymooners?

Kagoshima, Japan

Kagoshima (which is still often referred to by its old name, Satsuma) is the capital city of Kagoshima Prefecture. It is located at the southwest tip of the Kyushu island of Japan and the largest city in the prefecture. Kagoshima is a city of palm trees, wide avenues, and warm, mild-tempered weather. For these reasons it is often compared with its Italian sister city Naples. One of the best places to see the city is from the ferris wheel on top of Amu Plaza - the new shopping center attached to Kagoshima Central Train Station.

Kaohsiung, Taiwan

Kaohsiung (say "gow-shung") is a little off-the-beaten-path, but a gem of a destination for the lucky ones who go. Originally a fishing village, it's now the largest shipping port on Taiwan and full of surprises. Explore the old city on one side of the river, the new downtown on the other side, the park area of Shoushan (Mount Shou) where indigenous monkeys roam free, or the Lotus Lake district where Buddhist temples, pavilions and pagodas stand ever tranquil.

Ko Samui, Thailand

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Kyoto (Osaka), Japan

Kyoto is considered one of the most historically significant cities in Japan. It is the only major Japanese city spared from the bombs of World War II, leaving it the country's most preserved urban area. This former capital is brimming with more than 2,000 temples and shrines, a trio of palaces and dozens of gardens and museums. It's well-preserved architecture and relics are what put Kyoto on the sightseeing map, but one could spend years exploring it's hidden treasures and still keep turning up more surprises. Once you've had your fill of temples, you can easily go for a hike in the surrounding mountains, browse the shops or best of all enjoy some of the finest food in all Japan.

Langkawi, Malaysia

Let your imagination soar among the many magical myths and legends surrounding the 99 islands of Langkawi. Replete with ancient geological wonders like mysterious caves and mist-shrouded mountains, this premier vacation destination is an absolute tropical paradise endowed with a beauty that only nature's variety can offer.

Lombok, Indonesia

The simple pleasures of life can be found on a small island in West Nusa Tenggara province. Lombok Island, commonly referred to as "an unspoiled Bali," is a paradisiacal tropical haven. Mount Rinjani, waterfalls and Waktu Telu traditions dominate the northern region. Remote, virginal beaches dot the southern region. With natural wonders and quaint villages, Lombok retains an undeniable character that is enjoyed by locals and visitors alike.

Malacca, Malaysia

Discover the diverse facets of Asia as you step into the fascinating and historical world of Malacca. The city boasts 600 years of history, which can be found around every corner. The buildings and architecture inherited from centuries of Portuguese, Dutch and British rule give off an unmistakable Old World vibe. As a mix of old and new, Malacca is your gateway to experiencing mouth-watering cuisine, unique heritage and witnessing various customs and cultures of its people.

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Nagasaki, Japan

Many people in Japan consider Nagasaki to be one of the country's most beautiful cities. And it is also, perhaps, Japan's most cosmopolitan city, with a unique blend of outside cultures interwoven with its history, architecture, food, and festivals. The port of Nagasaki resembles an amphitheater looking out to the sea. Its matsuri (festivals) are famed throughout Japan for their exuberance and authenticity. These festivals can feature everything from dragon boat races to lantern festivals to kite fights and usually have elaborate parades with brightly colored floats.

Nha Trang, Vietnam

Situated upon perhaps the most scenic coastline in Vietnam is the city of Nha Trang. With its crystal-clear turquoise waters and pristine beaches, this city is fast becoming a favorite among snorkelers, scuba divers and sunbathers. In fact, Nha Trang Bay is considered to be one of the most beautiful bays in the world.

Naha, Okinawa, Japan

Naha, the capital and largest city of Okinawa Prefecture, boasts a unique Japanese culture. As the region's transportation hub, Naha connects travelers with other parts of Okinawa, Japan and Asia; consequently, Okinawans have grown accustomed to openly sharing their distinctive customs with visitors from all over the world - right down to their very own dialect, Uchinaguchi.

Otaru, Japan

Due to its proximity to the steep slopes of Mt. Tengu-yama and its location on the western part of Hokkaido facing Ishikari Bay, the nostalgic town of Otaru has gained many nicknames throughout the years including "the sea entrance of Hokkaido" and "the town of hills." The town's handsome, heritage-listed Meiji-era buildings, cobblestone streets lit with oil lamps and restored canal help create an old-fashioned mood, perfect for sightseeing, day or night.

Penang, Malaysia

Gorgeous beaches. Abundant culture. Rich history. Excellent food. Truly, there is more to see and experience in the "Pearl of the Orient" than one person can possibly handle, but we still think you'll like it. One of the most multicultural cities in all of Asia, Penang is like a concentrated version of the entire continent, while at the same time it maintains an identity all its own.

Perth (Fremantle), Australia

Perth, the capital of the state of Western Australia, is the fastest growing major city in Australia, with a population of over 1.5 million people. Situated alongside the tranquil waters of the Swan River (named for the indigenous population of Black Swans), much of Perth's growth and vitality is due to its proximity to surrounding natural resources, including gold, iron, diamonds, oil and natural gas.

Phuket, Thailand

Located in the Andaman Sea, the island of Phuket in Thailand was one of the earliest tourist developments in Southeast Asia. Though most folks come for the beaches, Phuket boasts amazing snorkeling, windsurfing and trekking for the adventurous types. Hills dominate this tropical island and the views from the top shouldn't be missed.

Port Douglas, Australia

Fishing village charm meets aquatic amusement and jungle intrigue in Port Douglas. And if you think this sounds like the perfect setting for your Australian adventure, wait 'til you experience it firsthand. Take a dip in the warm tropical waters. Sip a fruity drink at one of the many seaside cafés. Or relish the heart-pumping thrill of reef, river and rain-forest exploration.

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Port Hedland, Australia

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Kuala Lumpur (Port Kelang), Malaysia

Bustling Kuala Lumpur, or KL as it's known, rose up from the forbidding jungle terrain to become one of the most fascinating architectural landscapes on earth. A blend of native Malaysian, Chinese Imperial and European influences has created a city that is as breathtakingly beautiful as it is alive with culture. Replete with fine dining, a fertile arts community and plenty of nightlife, KL has earned a reputation as a must-see world destination.

Sanya, China

You wouldn't go all the way to China for beaches, but you'll find them - and spectacular ones at that - in the shoreside city of Sanya. Located on a peninsula at the southernmost tip of Hainan Island, Sanya boasts a dazzling white-sand shoreline, bright-blue surf and a colorful underwater world. The visibility of Sanya's South Sea waters and its protected coral reef accounts for its growing popularity as a dive site.

Semarang, Indonesia

The energetic port city of Semarang is located on the north coast of the island of Java. As a city that presents a broad mixture of old and new, visitors will enjoy exploring the city's modern structures; captivating, ancient and colonial monuments dating back to the 15th and 18th centuries; beautifully sculpted Chinese temples; and Arab and Chinese quarters buzzing with local activity. From the traditional "Pinisi" sailing ships in the Semarang Harbor to the green paddy fields and mountains surrounding the coastal city, Semarang has much to offer its visitors.

Shanghai, China

Described as one of the most dynamic cities in the fast-changing nation of China, Shanghai is the ultimate playground for those looking for the latest fads, fashions and techno gadgets. Time Magazine once called Shanghai the "world's most happening city." The city's skyline is filled with thousands of skyscrapers, gleaming shopping malls, luxurious hotels and prestigious art centers spilling out onto the streets. Contrasting the city's high-action, fast-paced attitude is Old Shanghai, known for its temples, street markets and classical Chinese gardens. Perhaps no other city in China conveys as much exuberant energy as Shanghai.

Singapore

At first glance, this diamond-shaped island just off the coast of Malaysia gleams with modernism and commercialism, making it seem more Western than Eastern. But as you continue to discover the city-state, you'll uncover the eclectic mix of cultures, religions, ancient treasures and British colonial impressions that give rise to a unique Singaporean identity. The cultural fusion is perhaps best expressed in Singapore's unofficial language, Singlish, a unique patois of English, Chinese and Malay.

Sydney, Australia

The whole world's in love with Sydney. It's stylish, it's sophisticated, it's home to some of the friendliest people on the planet. And yes, a few koalas, if you know where to look. What's not to love? This gateway to the Outback has it all: endless outdoor adventure around the harbor or in spots like the Blue Mountains. Golden sandy beaches named Bondi, Bilgola and Coogee (which are not only beautiful, but also fun to say). A bustling art and entertainment scene. Countless museums, galleries and world-class restaurants where the dishes go way beyond the local Vegemite.

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Taichung, Taiwan

Taichung is located in Central Taiwan, a region marked by striking mountains, hot springs, and rich, cultural resources. A city that enjoys spring all year-round, Taichung is home to a thriving cultural scene, friendly people and exquisite scenery. The city also offers a pedestrian-only street which is lined on both sides with fashion boutiques, tea and coffee shops, foreign restaurants, galleries, and other establishments. With a street that combines shopping, relaxation and art in one convenient location, soaking up Taichung's joie de vivre is easy.

Taipei (Keelung), Taiwan

Taipei is a city of opposites. There are ancient temples and neon-laden clubs. The world's tallest building and tiniest markets. The bustle of millions of people and the peace of botanical gardens. And if you are a gourmet, Taipei offers the greatest variety of Chinese food in the world. This capital of the Republic of China and Taiwan's largest city is one destination that will leave you feeling a more fulfilled person.

Tianjin, China

Tianjin, "Jin" for short, is China's largest municipality-level city after international superstars Shanghai and Beijing. Sightseeing in Tianjin has much to offer: an eclectic stock of colonial-era, European-style buildings, excellent examples of classical architecture, a dynamic culture featuring delicious seafood-based cuisine and enough historical sites that illuminates the city's past, present and future.

Vladivostok, Russia

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