

Be part of Travelrite's & John Howie's outstanding 2025

JAPAN

MUSIC CRUISE/TOUR

with Bryce & Mahney from The Hillbilly Goats

on board Diamond Princess

31 March to 17 April 2025

We will be visiting
Japan during the
famous Cherry
Blossom season

EARLY
BIRD SALE
\$200 PP OFF

Book by
21 June 2024

Kyoto, Tokyo, Nagasaki, Sakaiminato, Maizuru, Kanazawa,
Sakata, Akita, Aomori, & Busan (South Korea)





JAPAN

MUSIC CRUISE/TOUR

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The Japan Music Cruise/Tour will be a wonderful opportunity to visit many beautiful & fascinating parts of Japan, plus the colourful port city of Busan, South Korea, aboard the luxury cruise ship, Diamond Princess. Prior to the cruise, spend 4 amazing days in Kyoto and Tokyo, including a memorable ride on the 'Bullet Train', from Kyoto to Tokyo. The cruise/tour is fully escorted and includes sightseeing tours in each port of call. Best of all, the cruise includes exclusive concerts and Pre-Dinner Drinks music events, featuring Bryce & Mahney from The Hillbilly Goats. We hope that you can join us!



Bryce & Mahney

The Hillbilly Goats have been Raisin' a Ruckus for the past 12 years. They use the traditional tunes and tools of old-time Appalachian music but apply their own zany, modern twist. Undoubtedly one of Australia's most colourful and popular country music acts. "Kick Yer Shoes off, Put Yer Hoe Down and Hang on to Yer Britches!

DAY 1 Monday 31 March, 2025

Departure

This morning, we board our flight from Sydney on Japan Airlines to Osaka, on Japan's main island (Honshu). We will arrive late on the same day and stay at the Osaka airport hotel for the night.

DAY 2 Tuesday 1 April, 2025

Kyoto, Japan

Morning: We meet our guide and transfer to the city of Kyoto for a sightseeing tour. For over 1,000 years Kyoto was the capital of Japan. Kyoto is famous for its numerous classical Buddhist temples, as well as gardens, imperial palaces, Shinto shrines and traditional wooden houses. It's also known for formal traditions such as kaiseki dining (consisting of multiple courses of precise dishes), and geisha (traditional female entertainers). Visit the Philosopher's Path, a pleasant stone path through the northern part of Kyoto's Higashiyama district. The path follows a canal, lined with hundreds of cherry trees (cherry trees bloom in April). Also, visit the Golden Pavilion, a Zen temple in northern Kyoto. We then visit the Ryoanji Temple, the site of Japan's most famous rock garden. Later we visit Gion, Kyoto's most famous geisha district. It is filled with shops, restaurants and ochaya (teahouses), where geisha and maiko (geisha apprentices) entertain. Evening: Enjoy Commencement of Tour Dinner, including a few informal songs from Bryce & Mahney. Overnight: Miyako Hotel Kyoto Hachijo. (B,D)

DAY 3 Wednesday 2 April, 2025

Kyoto

Today we will visit Ginkakuji and Nanzenji temples. Ginkakuji (meaning Silver Pavilion) is a Zen temple in Kyoto's eastern mountains. It consists of the Silver Pavilion, half a dozen other temple buildings, a beautiful moss garden and a unique dry sand garden. Nanzenji Temple, located at the base of Kyoto's forested Higashiyama mountains, is one of the most important Zen temples in Japan. The history of Nanzenji dates back to the mid-13th century, when the Emperor Kameyama built his retirement villa there and later converted it into a Zen temple. Later we visit the Imperial Palace, which was the residence of the Imperial family until the capital was moved to Tokyo in 1869. Evening: Explore Kyoto's excellent live music/entertainment scene, with Bryce & Mahney and John Howie. You may like to attend a traditional music, song, and dance performance, perhaps performed by geiko (as geisha are called, in Kyoto) and maiko. Such a performance might include Kyomai, the elegant style of Japanese dance developed in the teahouse parlors of Kyoto. John Howie will advise everybody on entertainment options for this evening. All entertainment tonight, own expense. (B)

DAY 4 Thursday 3 April, 2025

Tokyo, Japan

This morning we are transferred to the railway station for our exciting "Bullet train ride" on the famous Shinkansen train to Tokyo, travelling at up to 270 kmph. On the way we pass Mt Fuji and if the weather is clear we will see it. Upon arrival in Tokyo we have an orientation tour of the city and see the famous fish market and the Asakusa district, well-known as a region of old Tokyo. See the Asakusa Kannon Temple, a Buddhist temple also known as 'Sensoji'. The temple was built in 645 A.D. Evening: Visit outstanding bluegrass venue, Rocky Top, in Tokyo's Ginza district. Bluegrass music is very popular in Japan, and there are many outstanding local banjo/fiddle/mandolin, etc., players. Rocky Top has been operating since the 1970s, & many famous American bluegrass/country musicians have played there, including Del McCoury, Tony Rice & John Denver. Tonight's entertainment, own expense. Overnight: Hotel Metropolitan Tokyo Ikebukuro. (B)

DAY 5 Friday 4 April, 2025

Tokyo

Morning: Enjoy a sightseeing tour of Tokyo. Visit the famous Ginza shopping district, renowned as the most expensive real estate in the world. Then visit the Imperial Palace East Gardens, which

is part of the Royal residence, and a superb example of traditional Japanese landscape design. Evening: Explore Tokyo's excellent live music/entertainment scene, with Bryce & Mahney and John Howie. You may like to visit one of Tokyo's excellent jazz clubs, or a blues bar (e.g., Apollo blues bar), or a country music venue (e.g., Western Banjo country music bar). Tonight's entertainment, own expense. (B)

DAY 6 Saturday 5 April, 2025

Embarkation

Morning: Free time for individual sightseeing and shopping. Afternoon: Transfer to the port of Yokohama to board Diamond Princess. Be up on deck as Diamond Princess slips her moorings and we start our cruise around Japan. Every evening, on board, enjoy high quality Diamond Princess entertainment, including Broadway-style shows, comedy shows, etc. (B,D[OnTheShip])

DAY 7 Sunday 6 April, 2025

At Sea

Enjoy a relaxing day at sea. Today will be an excellent opportunity for you to explore the ship's fantastic facilities and many activities. Morning: Enjoy our 1st exclusive on-board concert, featuring Bryce & Mahney, from The Hillbilly Goats. Afternoon: Music Industry Forum (Question & Answer session). Your chance to ask Bryce & Mahney about their music careers and the music industry in general. Evening: Enjoy a Welcome Aboard Drinks Party, where you will be officially introduced to Bryce & Mahney and John Howie. (B,L,D)

DAY 8 Monday 7 April, 2025

Nagasaki, Japan

Today we arrive in the city of Nagasaki. Best known as the site of the second nuclear attack on Japan during WW2, enjoy a sightseeing tour of the city, that was for 200 years Japan's port to the outside world. See the Nagasaki Peace Park, located near Ground Zero, the centre of the blast, which is home to a beautiful memorial fountain and the 9 metre-high Peace Statue. Afternoon: Visit Glover Garden, where we see early European settlers' houses, surrounded by attractive gardens. Early evening: Back on board, enjoy our 1st exclusive Pre-Dinner Drinks music session, with entertainment by Bryce & Mahney. (B,D)

DAY 9 Tuesday 8 April, 2025

Busan, South Korea

Call into the port of Busan, South Korea, where we have a sightseeing tour. Visit the ancient capital, Gyeongju, a place UNESCO designated as one of the world's top 10 historic sites. Explore the royal tombs at Tumuli Park and then experience the serenity of an 8th-century Bulguksa Temple. Back on board, enjoy our 2nd exclusive Pre-Dinner Drinks music session, with entertainment by our tour manager, John Howie. (B,D)





The Hillbilly Goats

As long as we have at least 30 people book on the Japan Music Cruise/Tour Bryce & Mahney's fiddle player will join us.

Please book early!

Japan cruises are very popular, and the thing that usually limits how many people we have on our music cruises is the availability of cabins. Cabins book out quickly, particularly the most popular cabin categories.

So, my advice... book early! – John Howie.



DAY 10 Wednesday 9 April, 2025

Sakaiminato, Japan

Today we visit the port city of Sakaiminato, and the nearby city of Matsue, on the northwest coast of Japan's main island. On the outskirts of Matsue, visit the Adachi Museum of Art, with captivating displays of traditional paintings and ceramics. Wander through its famed gardens, hailed as Japan's most exquisite. Visit historic Matsue Castle, a majestic fortress steeped in 500 years of history. Conclude our tour of the region with a visit to Mizuki Shigeru Road. Shigeru Mizuki was a Japanese manga (cartooning/comics/animation) writer and he was one of Japan's most renowned comic artists. Mizuki Shigeru Road has over 150 statues of his most famous comic characters. Evening: Back on board, enjoy fabulous Diamond Princess dining, & high quality Diamond Princess Broadway-style entertainment. (B,D)



DAY 11 Thursday 10 April, 2025

Maizuru, Japan

Today we visit the port city of Maizuru. Witness Amanohashidate, one of the prettiest sights in Japan. It's a pine covered sandbar that spans the mouth of Miyazu Bay. Viewed from the mountains at either end of the bay, Amanohashidate (which roughly translates to 'bridge in heaven') looks like a pathway between heaven and earth. Explore the sacred grounds of Motoise Kono Shrine, steeped in myth and reverence. Ascend to breathtaking heights at Kasamatsu Park via a scenic cable car ride, providing panoramic views of lush landscapes and the azure sea below. Also visit Ine Town, a picturesque fishing village renowned for its traditional funaya boat houses. (B,D)

DAY 12 Friday 11 April, 2025

Kanazawa, Japan

Kanazawa, which means 'marsh of gold', draws its name from an old legend in which a Japanese peasant, digging for potatoes, found flakes of gold in the ground. Today, gold leaf is a major art form synonymous with the city. Enjoy a sightseeing tour of the city, known for its intricate kaga-nui embroidery and delicate Kutani porcelain, among other handicrafts, making it a shopper's paradise. Once boasting geisha houses and a labyrinthine samurai village, the city was built around Kanazawa Castle. Fire destroyed all but a few small 16th-century castle structures, such as the elegant Ishikawa

Gate. Just outside the castle park we visit the enchanting Kenrokuen Garden, one of the Three Great Gardens of Japan, and the home of the country's oldest fountain. Back on board, enjoy our 3rd exclusive Pre-Dinner Drinks music event, with entertainment by Bryce & Mahney. (B,D)

DAY 13 Saturday 12 April, 2025

Sakata, Japan

Sakata is in the far north of Japan's main island. Today we embark on a captivating journey into the heart of Mount Haguro, one of Dewa Province's three sacred mountains. Your day begins at the awe-inspiring Go-kyu-No-Toh pagoda, a National Treasure created between 931 and 937. Marvel at its five-tiered splendor. At Sanjin Gosaiden, pay homage to the mountain deities. Explore folklore at the Chido Museum and find serenity at Zenpoji Temple, a haven beloved by fishermen. (B,D)

DAY 14 Sunday 13 April, 2025

Akita, Japan

This morning we arrive in Akita, where year-round festivals and street parades are colourfully integrated into daily life. A key city in the Tohoku region since medieval times, Akita was once a castle town of the Satake clan, but today is a vibrant, prosperous city that seamlessly honours its past but embraces its young energetic spirit. We take a 50-minute scenic drive to Namahage Museum, which showcases local history, culture & folklore. We also visit Mt. Kanpu Panorama Observation Deck, located on top of Mt. Kanpu, on Oga Peninsula. The observation deck rotates and you can view the Sea of Japan and the surrounding countryside while rotating 360 degrees. Our final stop is a Sake Brewery, where you can taste the local sake and learn the secrets to its fine flavour. (B,D)

DAY 15 Monday 14 April, 2025

Aomori, Japan

This morning we arrive in Aomori, in the northernmost prefecture on Japan's main island. 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 part of Japan's main island. We visit Hirosaki Castle, built in 1611. Back on board, enjoy our 4th Pre-Dinner Drinks music session, featuring entertainment by Bryce & Mahney. (B,D)

DAY 16 Tuesday 15 April, 2025

At Sea

A relaxing day at sea. Morning: Enjoy our 2nd exclusive on-board concert, featuring Bryce & Mahney. Afternoon: Enjoy a fun-filled music quiz, with excellent prizes for the winning teams. Early evening: Enjoy our 5th & final Pre-Dinner Drinks music session, featuring Bryce & Mahney, John Howie, and some of our talented tour group members. (B,L,D)

DAY 17 Wednesday 16 April, 2025

Tokyo, Japan/Departure

This morning we arrive back into Yokohama and disembark the ship. We travel to Tokyo and visit Meiji Shrine, dedicated to the spirits of Emperor Meiji and his wife, Empress Shoken. The shrine is a popular place for traditional Japanese weddings. We'll also visit the famous Tokyo Tower. Inspired by the Eiffel Tower, the Tokyo Tower stands at 333m tall; it's the second tallest structure in Japan. Late afternoon: We are transferred to the airport for our flights back to Sydney, Australia. (B)

DAY 18 Thursday 17 April, 2025

Arrive Australia

Tour members arrive back in Australia and tour arrangements conclude.

Diamond Princess

The Diamond Princess is a premium quality cruise ship with every convenience and comfort built in. It is one of the largest, most innovative ships, featuring state-of-the-art amenities and an abundance of balcony staterooms. There are eight restaurants and cafés (featuring "anytime dining"), four pools, nine whirlpool spas, and a range of bars and lounges. There is plenty of space to relax on this big ship with a small ship feel, as it is so spacious. There are poolside tables where you can dine and a huge selection of choices including traditional fine dining, 24-hour room service, a delicious Pizzeria, sumptuous buffet selections and the specialty restaurant – Trattoria Sabatini. Enjoy Broadway-style productions in the evenings, the scholarship at sea lectures during the day, or just relax in your luxurious stateroom. A voyage on the Diamond Princess is an experience to be savoured and remembered!

Clothing on board the luxury Diamond Princess

You will need casual shipboard attire for day wear and evening wear. For casual nights on board, you will need a sports shirt and slacks and equivalent for the ladies. Informal nights require a jacket and tie for the gentlemen and equivalent for the ladies. For formal nights: Evening gown, cocktail dress or pantsuits for ladies; suit, combination or dinner jackets for gentlemen. The self-service restaurants are casual.

Don't worry about coming alone

About a third of people on the cruise will be travelling alone. We will match people in twin-share cabins when available, saving you the single supplement. You won't be left alone; the Travelrite tour manager will be looking after you. There will be group activities every day.





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Cabin / Description	Deck	Twin-share	Single Fare
IF Inside	14	\$ 8995	\$ 12850
IE Inside	9,10,11	\$ 9075	\$ 12970
ID Inside	9,10,11	\$ 9150	\$ 12995
OW Ocean view Obstructed	8	\$ 9550	\$ 13850
OC Ocean View	5	\$ 9995	\$ 14795
BF Balcony	14	\$ 11095	\$ 16900
BE Balcony	10,11	\$ 11050	\$ 17275
B2 Balcony	10	\$ 12150	\$ 19550
ME Mini-suite	9	\$ 12450	\$ 19595
Air taxes as at 24 April 2024 (will be added to invoice)		\$ 256	\$ 256
Included port and handling charges		\$ 619	\$ 619

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



**Please book early!
Cabins book out quickly**



Included in the tour price:

- Economy-class air travel from Sydney to Osaka and return from Tokyo on Japan Airlines.
- Travel on Diamond Princess in the selected cabin category .
- All meals, entertainment, and service charges on Diamond Princess.
- Many exclusive music-related activities on board Diamond Princess.
- 1 night's 4-star accommodation in Osaka, on a twin-share basis, including breakfast.
- 2 nights' 4-star accommodation in Kyoto, on a twin-share basis, including breakfast.
- 2 nights' 4-star accommodation in Tokyo, on a twin-share basis, including breakfast.
- Sightseeing tours in all ports of call.
- Welcome Aboard Drinks Party (drinks are 'included' at this event).
- Commencement of Tour Dinner, in Kyoto.
- Meals as per the itinerary (as indicated by B.L.D., etc.). All meals, on the ship, are 'included'. Off the ship, 4 breakfasts are included (Days 3, 4, 5, & 6), and 1 dinner is 'included' (Day 2, in Kyoto).
- Entry to all sightseeing attractions mentioned in the itinerary, except for those marked 'optional'. *Please note: if the brochure says 'see' something, it means we simply see that attraction, rather than visit it. If the brochure says 'visit', it means we go into (i.e., visit) the attraction.*
- Admission to all music concerts/events in the itinerary, except for those marked 'optional' or 'own expense'.
- In Kyoto & Tokyo, John Howie will suggest music venues that tour group members may like to visit. All music venues in Kyoto & Tokyo will be 'own expense', including the cost of transport to and from those venues.
- Cruise management by Travelrite International.
- Port and handling charges on Diamond Princess.
- 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 and visa fees.
- Drinks on board. There are many free drinks, on board (tea/coffee/soft drinks), but alcoholic drinks, in particular, are quite 'pricey'. You can also purchase fancy coffees, on board. The only alcoholic drinks 'included' are at our Welcome Aboard Drinks Party.
- Morning teas/lunches/afternoon teas/refreshments when not on the ship. Also, dinners on Days 3, 4 & 5 (in Kyoto & Tokyo).
- Air taxes as of 1 May 2024.
- All items of personal nature, such as drinks, room service, laundry, phone calls, internet expenses.
- Cost of entry to concerts/entertainment events (1) not mentioned in the itinerary, or (2) mentioned in the itinerary, but marked 'optional' or 'own expense'.

John Howie - Tour Manager

Since 1995 John has led many successful music tours of Ireland, Scotland, Europe, the U.S., New Zealand, and the Australian outback. He has also led many successful music cruises. John is a musician and former secondary school music teacher. He and his twin brother, Graeme, perform as The Howie Brothers, one of Australia's leading country music / easy listening / vocal harmony acts.

Extending: You can stay longer in the Japan for minimal extra cost. **Please contact 1800 630 343 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 need of assistance from others.



TRAVELRITE
INTERNATIONAL



www.musicstours.com.au

TOUR OPERATOR: Travelrite International Pty Ltd. ACN 005 817 0781 (Travelrite) is the tour operator.

TOUR COSTS: The tour costs are based on airfare, general transport, accommodation costs and foreign exchange rate at 1 November 2023. Travelrite reserves the right to alter the costs if any of these factors change, giving any passenger that has booked the right to withdraw with full refund of monies paid or modify arrangements. No alterations to costings will be made within 90 days of departure from Australia.

DEPOSITS AND PAYMENTS: A non-refundable deposit of \$900 per passenger is required at the time of booking. Full payment will be required 120 days before departure. A 1.5% administration charge will be added to payment by Visa, Mastercard and America Express.

AIR TAXES: Air taxes are an indication only. If air taxes change due to government and airport regulations and currency fluctuations Travelrite International reserves the right to charge additional amounts.

CANCELLATIONS: Number of days before sailing.

Days prior to Departure	Cancellation Fee
Over 120 days	\$900
120 - 91 days	35% of full fare
90 days or less	100% of full fare
Non appearance/no written notice	100% of full fare

MINIMUM TOUR NUMBERS: The tour has been costed on the basis of a minimum number of passengers having booked 120 days prior to departure. Travelrite reserves the right to cancel the tour, giving a full refund of all monies paid or offer arrangements to proceed with the tour at a modified cost if the minimum number is not achieved.

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

TRAVEL DOCUMENTS: All passengers will require a valid passport. If on non-Australian passport, an Australian Re- entry Permit is required.

BAGGAGE: All passengers qualify for the 20kg (44 lb) free baggage allowance.

RESPONSIBILITY: Travelrite International Pty Ltd. (ATAS number A10538) is the tour organiser. Travelrite acts only as agents in making of arrangements with carriers, hoteliers and others for the tour. As a result we cannot accept liability for any act or omission whatsoever, whether negligent or otherwise of those carriers, hoteliers or other persons providing services in connection with the tour over whom we have no direct or exclusive control. We do not accept responsibility for any injury, damage, loss, delay, change of schedule or any other events which are beyond our direct control, such as, but not limited to, war, flood, fire, civil disturbance, terrorism, acts of God, acts of government, or any other authorities, accidents to or failure of machinery or equipment, or industrial action. The passage contract in use by the carriers concerned, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the transportation companies or firms and the purchasers of these tours and the passengers. Baggage is at own risk throughout the tour. The contract shall be construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Victoria and any legal action must be undertaken in Victoria.

DELAYS AND UNFORESEEN EVENTS: You engage Travelrite International to book this tour on your behalf and you acknowledge that Travelrite International acts as your agent for the purpose of making contracts between you and the various providers of accommodation, transportation and other services that comprise the tour. Travelrite may without reference to you provide or make available to you, or may as your agent engage any third party to provide or make available to you, any good or service which Travelrite reasonably believes is necessary for your benefit to maintain the tour itinerary, repatriate you or otherwise accommodate, transport or sustain you in circumstances in which the tour itinerary fails wholly or partly for any reason. You appoint Travelrite International your attorney for this purpose. You agree to pay Travelrite any cost thereof and you indemnify Travelrite in respect of any cost

it incurs in this regard. Travelrite advises you to obtain travel insurance generally including in respect of the risk that any such good or service may become required.

HOW TO BOOK: Bookings can be made by sending full names and addresses of intending tour members with a deposit of \$900 to:

Travelrite International Pty Ltd
423 Whitehorse Road
Balwyn, Victoria 3103

Further information can be obtained by telephoning

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

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