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Kobe (Osaka) : hidden gems of Japan

Japan is one of the most incredible destinations in the world and one we all aspire to go to, mainly because it feels so out of our reach, a mere pipedream. With a Fred. Olsen cruise you can dock in Kobe and explore the wider districts and destinations, including the hustle and bustle of Osaka or enchanting Kyoto.

Osaka and Kyoto are very different and make it difficult to decide which to visit; the latter offers you calm ponds with blossoms and temples, painting a traditional Japanese scene, whereas Osaka is a concrete playground for architecture enthusiasts. By taking an excursion to really delve into the pockets of Japan's lesser-known areas, you are bound to come home to your friends and family with unrivalled memories.

Kyoto, the green and luscious countryside, and once the capital of Old Japan, cradles many temples and shrines in its midst. You can take an excursion to marvel at the ornate infrastructure of the Kiyomizu-dera Temple or alternatively, enjoy the journey to Kyoto by the infamous bullet train.

In Osaka it can be difficult to know where to look first with all the vibrant adverts and billboards leaping out at you. It is where you should boldly go where few have a chance to experience. There is infinite shopping to be enjoyed, from streets lined with markets selling ornaments and souvenirs, such as harjauku dolls and vibrant tapestries to take home to your friends. For a more traditional and historic snapshot of Osaka, take the shore tour to view highlights such as Sumiyoshi Shrine and Osaka Castle.

For more information on how you could be setting sail for Japan sooner than you think, [click here](#).

By [Evie Williams](#).

Fred. Olsen Cruise Line operates in the UK with four intimately sized ships for a more personal cruising experience.

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