In this pamphlet, Japan is roughly divided into six regions and described with their individual characteristics and features. A sample itinerary is also introduced. This pamphlet may be used as reference in the creation of the course and selection of ports for cruises. Japan, an island country that stretches from the north to the south, adjoins a sea to the north where drift ice can be seen in the winter and goes out to a subtropical sea in the south. In a place where sunlight and liberation harmoniously coexist, Japan’s history and culture get deeper the more you understand them. The country has approximately 108 attractive ports where ships can call. While Japan has castles that used to be run by samurais and huge electronic cities where anime fans revel about, it is also home to battlegrounds for samurai and production areas, as well as beautiful seas that are not to be outdone by the waters of the Caribbean. It may be a small country, but it boasts of having 31 areas that are registered in the UNESCO world cultural and natural heritage lists. It is a great destination for cruises. Japan has four distinct seasons in a year. In the spring, it is colored by cherry blossoms (Sakura), while in the summer, it offers fresh greens and beaches, and the magnificent changing of leaves to red during the fall season. In case of exploration ships, for instance, it would probably be a good idea to offer cruises in the winter despite the cold. Japan offers visitors the opportunity to marvel at the scenery that can only be seen in respective seasons.

Japan is roughly divided into six regions:
- **HOKKAIDO**
- **PACIFIC OCEAN**
- **JAPAN SEA**
- **SETO INLAND SEA**
- **KYUSHU**
- **OKINAWA**

http://www.mlit.go.jp/kankocho/cruise