

Ensemble Experience

HIROSHIMA, JAPAN

Ship/Sailing:	Celebrity Azamara Quest	January 31, 2009
Tour Date:	February 8, 2009	
Ship Time in Port:	7:00 am -	6:00 pm
Tour Name:	<i>Afternoon Tour of Hiroshima with Refreshments</i>	
Half-Day Tour:	Depart: 1:00 pm	Return: 5:20 pm

Hiroshima is the first city ever to suffer destruction by an atom bomb. Rebuilt as a spacious and modern city your tour begins with a visit to the Peace Memorial Park. Built to symbolize the people's wishes of everlasting peace after the attack, walk around the park and see the Memorial Cenotaph, the Flame of Peace and the Peace Memorial Museum.

Like its equivalent in Nagasaki, the Peace Memorial Museum is not architecturally memorable, but its simple message is presented powerfully. The exhibition tells the story of the bomb and the destruction it wrought on Hiroshima and its people. A model showing the town after the blast highlights the extent of the damage. Seeing this might make you ponder what kind of destruction is possible from atomic weapons considering the devastation caused by one small bomb.

After leaving the Peace Park enjoy refreshments at a local café before continuing on to the Shukkeien Garden. Built in 1620 for the villa of the local daimyo, or feudal lord, it was modeled on the West Lake garden in Hangzhou, China. It was badly damaged by the bombing but has been beautifully restored. Literally translated, the word shukkeien means, "shrink scenery garden" and strives to represent typical scenery in miniature. Enjoy this lovely spot with its pond, small islands, bridges and interesting plants before returning to the ship.