

Natural wonders of the Dalmatian coast

From **9/4/2020**
to **9/11/2020**

Ship: **LE CHAMPLAIN S20**

From **Dubrovnik**
to **Dubrovnik**



PONANT invites you to take to the sea, without a care in the world, to enjoy a break from reality in a privileged setting and cast a fresh eye over the infinite riches of the **Dalmatian coastline in Croatia**. Departing from **Dubrovnik**, enjoy an **exceptional 8-day cruise** aboard *Le Champlain* and delight in Croatia's tranquil way of life.

Your ship will chart a course south towards Montenegro where the **Bay of Kotor**, a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** will welcome you for a wonderful journey through four mountainous gulfs where sheer cliffs plunge into a deep blue sea.

Then the **national park** of the **island of Mljet**, surrounded by a wildly beautiful coastline, will be the occasion for a timeless interlude in the shade of the green oaks and Aleppo pines, between lush vegetation and saltwater lakes. You will also be able to discover the mountain island of Korčula and its medieval city, where Marco Polo was born.

Renowned as the most beautiful medieval town in Dalmatia, the city of **Trogir**, founded by the Greeks is a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**. Fall under the spell of the beauty of its monuments, such as the **Cathedral of Saint Lawrence**, a masterpiece of Romanesque arts and one of the most beautiful in Croatia. Departing from Trogir, the famous waterfalls of the **Krka national park** will also be the occasion for a pleasant discovery in a sublime setting.

In counterpoint to the confetti-like scattering formed by the **Kornati Islands**, **Zadar** reveals the architectural treasures of the former fortified Roman town on the peninsula, from the monumental **Land Gate**. Further north, the wild island of **Pag** delivers the benefits of its windswept territory, between salt harvesting and cheese making.

The island of Vis is a preserved gem of the **Dalmatian coast**, located in an archipelago **classified as a Geopark by UNESCO**, surrounded by natural bays with crystal-clear waters and peaceful villages where it is pleasant to live.

Le Champlain will then call at **Hvar**, known as the “Croatian Madeira” for its mild and sunny climate. The Venetian fortress and the ramparts of the old town of **Stari Grad** offer a magnificent view over the Pakleni Islands. You will be captivated by the richness of its Renaissance architecture as well as by the beauty of its sumptuous environment, a mix of turquoise waters and lush green hills.

Lastly, **Dubrovnik**, a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**, will enchant you with its palaces, elegant buildings, cloisters and fountains. Located at the southern tip of Croatia, the “pearl of the Adriatic” is **a real gem**.



The information in this document is valid as of 9/20/2020

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YOUR STOPOVERS :

DUBROVNIK

Embarkation 9/4/2020 from 16h00 to 17h00

Departure 9/4/2020 at 19h30

Emblem of the Dalmatian coast, Dubrovnik is magnificently positioned on a rocky spur. History is sovereign here, in this ancient city, now a **listed UNESCO World Heritage site**. You will perhaps be surprised by the proportions of La Placa, the central drag through the city. The sheer width of it can be explained by the fact that it straddles a former lagoon. The elegant houses along La Placa are built in the legendary travertine stone. At Pile gate, you will be greeted by the statue of the patron saint of Dubrovnik, and you can admire the coastline as you **walk along the ramparts**. But what's inside **Fort Saint John**, adjoining the outer walls? A maritime museum and an aquarium featuring rare fish from the Adriatic.

SAILING IN THE BAY OF KOTOR

Arrival 9/5/2020

Departure 9/5/2020

The long walls of the **fortified city** of Kotor unfurl before your eyes as you admire this **medieval construction** enclosed between the sea and the rugged cliffs from the decks of your ship. The still, deep waters of the bay plus the clouds of mist floating here and there create a **surreal and magical atmosphere**. Small islands with churches and fortresses built on them remind us that a proud maritime people has lived here for centuries, in this bay that forms a perfect natural harbour, used by sailors since ancient times. At the crossroads of **Latin and Byzantine cultures**, you will have the pleasure of observing the natural treasures of **Montenegro** during an unforgettable journey.

MLJET

Arrival 9/6/2020

Departure 9/6/2020

Discover **Mljet Island** off the Pelješac peninsula. Known for its **national park** and its protected forests, this Croatian splendid, pristine island offers many opportunities for walking with bays linked to two salt water lakes. On the largest lake, Veliko Jezero, a small island is home to an old Benedictine monastery.

KORCULA

Arrival 9/6/2020

Departure 9/6/2020

This harbour town has a very special location, presiding on a spur on the north-eastern coast of the island of Korčula. The ramparts in its medieval district provide perfect vantage points over the Pelješac peninsula. To get there, you can take the monumental staircase in the **Revelin Tower**. Another way is to climb the steps in the shade of palm trees from the **Morska Vrata** (Marine portal). As you make your way through the little streets, you'll see the bell-tower of **Saint-Mark's cathedral** rise above you. This landmark will help you locate the **house** where **Marco Polo** was born. The island also has some of its own famous wines like the red Plavac and the white Posip.

TROGIR

Arrival 9/7/2020

Departure 9/7/2020

Built on an island linked to the Dalmatian coast, the **picturesque city of Trogir** dates from Antiquity. You will certainly be won over by its colourful streets and pleasantly surprised by their Greco-Roman plan, affording it UNESCO World Heritage status. Today, the former *cardo maximus* is the historical centre's main street. You can mosey at your leisure in the fashion shops, art galleries and cake shops. Don't miss the three naves in the stunning **Saint Lawrence Cathedral**. From the top of its keep, the **Kamerlengo fortress** provides a spectacular view of the old town and coastline.

ZADAR

Arrival 9/8/2020

Departure 9/8/2020

The old fortified city of Zadar stands on peninsula in Northern Dalmatia. It has survived since Antiquity, as the ruins of a Roman forum illustrate. Beside these ruins, the architecture of the church of Saint Donat is Byzantine while the bell-tower of the Cathedral of Saint Anastasia is of Italian design. Your walks in the old town will be punctuated by diverse encounters with history. As you reach the shoreline, you'll be brought back to modern day because this front is animated by two contemporary architectural creations. Maybe you will hear the sound of the "**Sea Organ**" music played by the surf and the "**Sun Salutations**" solar light installation reflecting its luminous rays.

VIS ISLAND

Arrival 9/9/2020

Departure 9/9/2020

An out-of-the-way stopover in the Dalmatian archipelago, Vis island is located off the coast of Split in a **UNESCO geopark** archipelago. From Vis, you will sail to the **Bisevo** small island, to discover natural gems such as the **blue cave**, whose bright colour comes from the indirect solar lighting of the cave through an underwater cavity. Then, you will get by boat to **Komiža**, the second largest town in Vis. This is a pretty port at the bottom of a bay surrounded by green summits. In the harbour basins, falkuĉa, the traditional fishing boats, sway gently in the breeze.

HVAR

Arrival 9/10/2020

Departure 9/10/2020

Off the coast of Split, Hvar will surprise you by its traditions that haven't changed since Antiquity. The country's oldest town, **Stari Grad**, is here on this Dalmatian Island. The town nestles by a cove on the north-west coast, surrounded by dry stone wall structures on the Stari Grad plains. These have been designated a UNESCO World Heritage site because they were built in the time of the Ancient Greeks. From these parcels of land come wines and olive oil manufactured manually. In the upper part of town, it is possible to discover hams and cheeses made by local producers.

DUBROVNIK

Arrival 9/11/2020 early morning

Disembarkation 9/11/2020 at 07h45

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