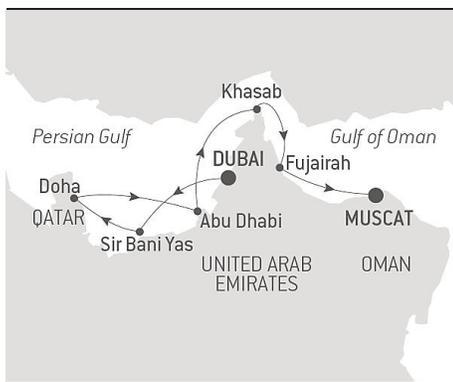


Cruising the Arabian Coast – with Smithsonian Journeys

From **1/6/2023**
to **1/14/2023**

Ship: **LE BOUGAINVILLE**

From **Dubai**
to **Muscat**



Shore excursion in each port of call + transfers included

In alliance with Smithsonian Journeys.

This cruise is part of a collection of PONANT voyages that are specially-tailored for English-speaking travelers who want to engage with the world. In addition to the usual elements of the PONANT experience, the listed price for these voyages includes transfers to and from the ship, talks and discussions aboard ship by world class experts, and a shore excursion or activity in each port of call that encourages guests to embrace the sights, sounds, tastes, and smells of the local environment and culture.

This exploration of the southern **Persian Gulf** and the cities that dot its shores begins in **Dubai**, a small coastal hamlet fewer than 100 years ago that is now a world class center of commerce and finance. It is home to **Burj Khalifa**, the world's tallest building, as well as to fabulous **spice and gold markets** and the marvelous **Dubai Museum**.

A day on the island of **Sir Bani Yas**, once a barren desert, now transformed into a wildlife sanctuary for animals indigenous to the Gulf region and east Africa, is followed by a visit to Doha. The pride of Qatar and the site of the 2022 World Cup, **Doha** is where you will find the shopping oasis of **Souq Waqif** – the heart of the city where literally everything is for sale – and the I. M. Pei-designed **Museum of Islamic Arts**, constructed on its own island and home to the largest collection of Islamic art in the world.

In **Abu Dhabi**, capital of the United Arab Emirates, you may discover two stunning symbols of Arab and Islamic pride: the **Louvre Abu Dhabi** with a collection of art spanning millennia and originating from all corners of the globe; and the **Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque**, arguably the pinnacle of modern Islamic architecture.

Your ship will then drop anchor in **Khasab**, Oman, a sleepy fishing village nestled among **the fjords of the Musandam Peninsula**, where you may explore these narrow inlets aboard local dhows, looking for the pods of dolphins that frequent these waters and admiring the majesty of the **Hajar Mountains**

in the background.

Fujairah, United Arab Emirates, the final port of call before your voyage ends in Muscat, Oman, lies on the coast of the Gulf of Oman and serves as your gateway to the 16th-century **Fujairah Fort and Museum** and to **Al Bidya Mosque**, the second oldest mosque in the United Arab Emirates.



The information in this document is valid as of 8/9/2022

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YOUR STOPOVERS :

DUBAI

Embarkation 1/6/2023 from 10:00 PM to 11:00 PM

Departure 1/7/2023 at 7:00 PM

Vertiginous, excessive, immoderate... **Dubai**, the largest city in the United Arab Emirates, stands out for its architectural follies. Home to the world's tallest skyscraper, the **Burj Kahlifa**, with a total height of 828 metres, almost three times that of the Eiffel Tower, the city is also famous for the gigantic scale of the Palm Islands, its artificial islands in the form of a palm tree. You can explore more traditional districts not far away, with visits of the souks of **Deira** or the Gold Souk. Or perhaps you would prefer to discover Dubai Museum: located in an 18th-century fort, it tells the city's history from Antiquity to the present day.

SIR BANI YAS

Arrival 1/8/2023 mid morning

Departure 1/8/2023 late afternoon

You'll make a port of call on the island of **Sir Bani Yas**, a real naturalist dream that has been dedicated to the **conservation of endangered animal species** since 1971. This enchanting former reserve of the Emir of Abu Dhabi is planted with more than two million trees. Nominated "**The World's Leading Sustainable Tourist Destination**", it has one of the largest populations of Arabian oryxes. The ruins of one of the oldest Christian monasteries of the pre-Islamic era, dating back to 600 AD, are visible there.

DOHA

Arrival 1/9/2023 early morning

Departure 1/9/2023 evening

On the banks of the **Persian Gulf**, discover **Doha**, the capital of **Qatar**. Rising out of the desert, the city has managed to maintain its traditions in spite of a frantic race for modernity. The cliff bordering Doha Bay has magnificent views over the city centre's enormous constructions. The silhouette of the **Museum of Islamic Art** rises up near the quays, where the region's typical sailboats, known as *dhows*, are docked. This "fortress", designed by **Ming Pei**, the architect of the Louvre pyramid, is home to the finest collections of Islamic art in the world. Not far, the lively district of **Souq Waqif** and its colourful stalls are also an unmissable visit.

ABU DHABI

Arrival 1/10/2023 midday

Departure 1/11/2023 early afternoon

The political capital of the United Arab Emirates, **Abu Dhabi** stands out thanks to its exceptional cultural offering. In the Saadiyat Island district, **the Louvre Abu Dhabi**, designed by **Jean Nouvel** as a museum town inspired by traditional Arab architecture, creates a dialogue between objects and works from civilisations from all over the world around the great universal questions. A little further, the **Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque** boasts a sumptuous decor of marble, gold and glass. Abu Dhabi is also the gateway to the **Al Ain oasis** and its 150,000 date palms, a remarkable testimony to the settling of nomads in the region since Neolithic times, and a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

KHASAB

Arrival 1/12/2023 early morning

Departure 1/12/2023 late afternoon

Located in the country's north, on the **Musandam Peninsula**, **Khasab** is a city in the **Sultanate of Oman**. In the **Strait of Hormuz**, which connects the Persian Gulf to the Gulf of Oman, this small port built by the Portuguese in the 16th century and surrounded by a chain of rocky mountains was established at the mouth of **Wadi Khasab**. You will love its authentic scenery and particularly its **fjords**, which cut through the landscapes in a spectacular fashion and have earned it the moniker "Norway of Arabia". In the city, **Khasab Castle** and its atypical architecture are well worth a visit to discover the history and culture of Oman.

FUJAIRAH

Arrival 1/13/2023 early morning

Departure 1/13/2023 early afternoon

The easternmost of the United Arab Emirates unfolds onto the Gulf of Oman. Unique to the region, the geography of **Fujairah** is composed of lush mountains and fertile plains, as well as the vast deserts that the Emirate shares with its neighbours. It is the majestic massif of the Al Hajar Mountains that brought rain to the territory, creating the oases that were vital to the development of agriculture. Fujairah also offers travellers the possibility of visiting its historic treasures such as its **castle**, an old fort dating back to the 16th century, or the **Al Bidya Mosque**, the oldest in the United Arab Emirates, which was built in 1446.

MUSCAT

Arrival 1/14/2023 early morning

Disembarkation 1/14/2023 at 7:00 AM

Unlike neighbouring metropolises, the capital of the **Sultanate of Oman** has chosen to ban towers and skyscrapers and to cultivate the peninsula's traditional and refined architectural style: low houses, domes, moucharaby windows, and wooden balconies. This authenticity adds to the charm of this small former maritime city protected by mountains and the forts constructed by the Portuguese in the 16th century. There is no doubt that you will fall under the charm of the treasures of Omani craftsmanship: the souk in the old district of **Mutrah** is a perfect example of this, as is the **Sultan Qaboos Grand Mosque**.