

From the shores of the Mediterranean to the Atlantic coast

From **5/10/2023**
to **5/21/2023**

Ship: **LE CHAMPLAIN**

From **Valletta**
to **Lisbon**



With the exceptional presence of Serge Legat, art historian.

PONANT invites you to discover sumptuous landscapes and exceptional cities during a remarkable **12-day** cruise between Malta, Italy, Spain and Portugal. Be inspired by this unforgettable journey aboard *Le Champlain*, from the shores of the Mediterranean to the Atlantic coast.

From **Valletta**, you will head for **Sicily** and **Trapani**. Perched on a high triangular plateau sloping 750 metres (2,460 feet) down to the sea, this medieval city is a labyrinth of polished, paved narrow streets and alleyways with superb views over the Aegadian Islands and the valley.

Le Champlain will then arrive in **Cagliari**, capital of **Sardinia**, and one of the largest natural harbours in the Mediterranean; its historic centre is full of charm, with shaded stairs, small squares illuminated with light and remains conjuring up its medieval grandeur.

After a call at **Palma de Mallorca**, one of the jewels of the Balearic Archipelago, known for its four main islands that are charming, picturesque and discreet, sitting atop the clear waters of the Mediterranean like grains of sand, you will visit **Valencia**, with its remarkable architectural splendours.

Le Champlain will then chart a course towards **Cartagena** where you can discover a rich ancient heritage dating back to the Carthaginians and the Romans, before sailing towards **Malaga**, the lively cultural capital of the Costa del Sol. From the Paleochristian and Roman remains in the area around this famous seaside resort, to the heart of the old town, its history can be read in its buildings, in particular the 10th century castle built by the Moors. You will also have the possibility of strolling through the picturesque town of **Ronda** and discovering its famous **Puente Nuevo**.

Then, you will discover **Cadiz**, one of the country's oldest cities, which is built on a rock and surrounded by the sea. This call will allow those who wish to visit the superb city of **Seville**, before reaching **Lisbon**, your port of disembarkation.



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

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YOUR STOPOVERS :

VALLETTA

Embarkation 5/10/2023 from 4:00 PM to 5:00 PM

Departure 5/10/2023 at 6:00 PM

The whole of the Maltese capital Valletta is **UNESCO World Heritage** listed and occupies a peninsula in the north-east of the island. From the fountain of Tritons to Saint-Elme fort, there are as many majestic streets as there are narrow staircase vennels to explore. The painted loggia and carved corbels on the tall houses will accompany you in your explorations, and you'll rarely be bothered by traffic. You can visit the Grandmasters palace decorated with coats of arms and frescoes. **Saint-John's cathedral** and the ramparts which have guarded the city since the 16th century are also among the most emblematic sites of the city. Arranged in terraces, the **Barrakka Gardens** will punctuate your promenade with a green and floral experience.

TRAPANI, SICILY

Arrival 5/11/2023 midday

Departure 5/11/2023 late afternoon

Bathed in the cobalt waters of the **Tyrrhenian sea**, Trapani is the former port of the Greek city of **Erice**, boasting a privileged natural position in western **Sicily**. As you wander through its little streets, you will discover a secular cultural heritage, bearing witness to the many influences of civilisations that came here: **San Lorenzo Cathedral**, Maria Santissima Annunziata sanctuary, the fountain of Triton. On the shaded restaurant terraces, savour some fresh fish from the morning's catch. Or else you can opt for a seafood couscous, a culinary legacy from their Arab neighbours.

CAGLIARI, SARDINIA

Arrival 5/12/2023 midday

Departure 5/12/2023 late afternoon

The capital of Sardinia, **Cagliari**, like Rome, is built on seven hills. Its Sardinian name means "castle", in reference to the citadel, its historic centre, which dominates the city. The old ramparts are now pleasant panoramic terraces bordering picturesque streets. The city hosted the Nuragic, Phoenician, Roman and Byzantine civilisations before the rein of the Spanish Hapsburgs and the House of Savoy. The monuments of Cagliari bear the traces of these successive dominations, such as the Bastion of Saint-Rémy or the **Sainte-Marie Cathedral**. On the sea front, Art Nouveau-style public monuments give way to the Poetto beach, a magnificent stretch of sand that is 8 kilometres long.

AT SEA

Arrival 5/13/2023

Departure 5/13/2023

During your day at sea, make the most of the many services and activities on board. Treat yourself to a moment of relaxation in the spa or stay in shape in the fitness centre. Depending on the season, let yourself be tempted by the swimming pool or a spot of sunbathing. This day without a port of call will also be an opportunity to enjoy the conferences or shows proposed on board, to do some shopping in the boutique or to meet the PONANT photographers in their dedicated space. As for lovers of the open sea, they will be able to visit the ship's upper deck to admire the spectacle of the waves and perhaps be lucky enough to observe marine species. A truly enchanted interlude, combining comfort, rest and entertainment.

PALMA DE MALLORCA, BALEARIC ISLANDS

Arrival 5/14/2023 early morning

Departure 5/14/2023 late afternoon

Palma de Mallorca will reveal its many treasures: idyllic coves, majestic limestone cliffs that plunge into the clear sapphire- and turquoise-coloured waters of the Mediterranean, and vast plains planted with almond trees, olive trees and vineyards. When your ship calls at the capital of the Balearic Islands, take a walk to discover its emblematic monuments, such as its **famous cathedral**, and amble through its old streets. Here, like a painting, the island's historical heritage forms a backdrop to the lively and warm cosmopolitan atmosphere of the Mediterranean.

VALENCIA

Arrival 5/15/2023 early morning

Departure 5/15/2023 late afternoon

Valencia - the city of Art and Sciences. Two hearts beat in this Spanish city: one is modern, avantgarde and almost futuristic; the other is more provincial, more traditional and nostalgic. Valencia has the temperament of a great Mediterranean city whose wide avenues form a border around the old town. The city has an abundance of architectural styles that coexist harmoniously, but above all it resolutely embraces the 21st Century with the futuristic structures of its Agora congress centre and City of Arts and Sciences, emerging from a crystal blue pool.

CARTAGENA

Arrival 5/16/2023 midday

Departure 5/16/2023 late afternoon

Surrounded by hills, the natural site of the **Bay of Carthage** presided over the fate of this **former fortress** which has been home to the greatest European civilisations. Today, these Phoenician, Roman, Carthaginian, Moorish and Christian influences form a rich architectural heritage. Its **Roman theatre** is one of the most significant and best conserved in Spain. You will also be able to cross the landscapes of vines and citrus groves stretching endlessly towards **Murcia**, to visit this dynamic regional capital.

MÁLAGA

Arrival 5/17/2023 midday

Departure 5/17/2023 late evening

A historical and festive town, Malaga is located in Andalusia, on the Costa del Sol. Between the marina and the beaches, the seaside promenade of La Farola offers an ideal setting for strolling and relaxing. Set slightly further back, the Malagueta bullring is one of the emblematic sites of the city. From the hill overlooking the old town, one can see **Gibralfaro castle** and **the Alcazaba**, two fortified ensembles rising out from the cypresses and maritime pines. To visit **Pablo Picasso's birthplace**, you will go first to the courtly plaza de la Merced. A few streets back from here, you can explore the museum dedicated to the artist, in the Buenavista palace.

MARBELLA

Arrival 5/18/2023 early morning

Departure 5/18/2023 late afternoon

In the province of **Malaga**, **Marbella** is a renowned seaside resort on the **Costa del Sol**. The remains of early Christian and Roman sites around this former mining town, located at the foot of the **Sierra Blanca** mountains, bear witness to a rich history. With its white houses on flowery little streets, the old town is perfect for a pleasant stroll. The **Plaza de los Naranjos**, former focal point of the city, is near the 10th-century Arabic castle and the **Church of Santa María de la Encarnación**. Not far from here, you'll be able to discover the magnificent viewpoints offered by **Ronda**, a picturesque town perched 700 metres (2,296 feet) high. Its **Puente Nuevo** bridge majestically crosses the gorges of the Guadalquivir River that cuts the town in two.

CADIZ

Arrival 5/19/2023 early morning

Departure 5/19/2023 evening

Andalusia's Cadiz is located on the **Costa de la Luz**, in the south-west of Spain. From the beaches of Cortadura, to the flamenco bars of Santa Maria, through the colourful streets of la Viña, you will be amazed by this city, which is both steeped in history and extremely festive. In the medieval **El Pópulo** district, you will stroll along covered passages in the narrow gaps between houses. You will also be able to mosey around the lush Mina square. The star of the show is the magnificent cathedral and its dome crowned with yellow porcelain, presiding above the Ocean.

AT SEA

Arrival 5/20/2023

Departure 5/20/2023

During your day at sea, make the most of the many services and activities on board. Treat yourself to a moment of relaxation in the spa or stay in shape in the fitness centre. Depending on the season, let yourself be tempted by the swimming pool or a spot of sunbathing. This day without a port of call will also be an opportunity to enjoy the conferences or shows proposed on board, to do some shopping in the boutique or to meet the PONANT photographers in their dedicated space. As for lovers of the open sea, they will be able to visit the ship's upper deck to admire the spectacle of the waves and perhaps be lucky enough to observe marine species. A truly enchanted interlude, combining comfort, rest and entertainment.

LISBON

Arrival 5/21/2023 early morning

Disembarkation 5/21/2023 at 7:00 AM

Portugal's capital city located on the banks of the Tagus, only a few kilometres from the Atlantic coast, is a city of exceptionally rich cultural diversity. At the mouth of the river harbour, impose two UNESCO World Heritage monuments, **Jeronimos monastery** and **Belem tower**. The Alfama hillside is also worth visiting: known for its **fado** bars and its **Moorish streets**, this district is the oldest one of the city and one of the most typical. Not far from there, Chiado's elegant streets are home to big fashion labels and are an invitation to a bit of of luxury shopping.