

Island Gems & Underwater Treasures of the Caribbean

From **3/1/2021**
to **3/10/2021**

Ship: **LE DUMONT-D'URVILLE**

From **Colón**
to **Fort-de-France**

Join us aboard **Le Dumont-d'Urville** for an exceptional **PONANT expedition cruise** sailing from **Colón** to **Fort-de-France**. This **10-day** itinerary will give you the opportunity to appreciate the richness of Afro-Caribbean cultures, an azure blue sky and white-sand beaches.

First, succumb to the charms of the clear waters of Panama and the **San Blas archipelago**, composed of more than **300 islands and cays**. Here, surrounded by palm trees and dugout canoes, you will discover **the island of Holandes Cay**, where the Kuna people live.

Then, you will visit the city of **Cartagena de Indias** in Colombia. Heavily influenced by its colonial past, it offers a number of interesting sights and landmarks.

After calling at the island of Grenada, **Le Dumont-d'Urville** will then sail to the archipelago of **Saint Vincent and the Grenadines**, renowned for its idyllic beaches and the richness of its underwater world. In a postcard-setting of fine sand, turquoise water and lagoons, you will enjoy some unforgettable bathing.

You will then island hop gently towards **Saint Lucia** and its two majestic rocky peaks soaring straight from the sea, a unique location listed as **UNESCO World Heritage site**.

End your trip by visiting **Fort-de-France** and strolling through its colourful markets and lively streets.





The information in this document is valid as of 2/20/2020

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YOUR STOPOVERS :

COLÓN

Embarkation 3/1/2021 from 16h00 to 17h00

Departure 3/1/2021 at 18h00

Colón is the second largest city in **Panama**, at the Caribbean entrance of the **Panama Canal**. Colón is today an important port, and the free trade zone created in 1953 contributed greatly to the development of the city. Colón was founded in 1850 by Americans working on the Panama railroad connecting the Atlantic and Pacific coasts through the isthmus of Panama; the city rapidly overshadowed the older **Caribbean** ports of Panama when the canal opened.

SAN BLAS ISLANDS

Arrival 3/2/2021

Departure 3/2/2021

Located on the north-east coast of **Panamá**, the **San Blas archipelago** is a string of coral islands that graces the heart of the Caribbean Sea. Over 300 islands and cays covering an area of 300 square kilometres offer travellers a multitude of treasures. Sheltered behind a long coral reef, the **San Blas Islands** are full of paradisiac anchorages. The long sandy white beaches bounded by crystal clear waters will allow you to relax and enjoy an incredible marine fauna before discovering the **Kunas Indian community**. Still feeding off hunting and fishing, their villages of bamboo houses are gathered near the beaches.

CARTAGENA

Arrival 3/3/2021

Departure 3/3/2021

A splendid harbour city in the north of Columbia, a source of inspiration for the Columbian writer Gabriel García Márquez, **Cartagena** will win you over with its well-preserved colonial architecture, and warm friendly atmosphere. You can visit the sumptuous **UNESCO World Heritage** fortified historical centre whose churches and houses have magnificent multi-coloured façades. A witness of Spanish domination, the **San Felipe de Barajas fortress** stands on top of a hill from where you can admire views over the whole city. The **Las Bóvedas** neighbourhood will charm you with its arcades, used as prison cells during the 19th century civil wars.

AT SEA

Arrival 3/4/2021

Departure 3/4/2021

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.

BONAIRE

Arrival 3/5/2021

Departure 3/5/2021

Surrounded by a barrier reef and a marine sanctuary, Bonaire is a true **paradise for divers**. This peaceful and preserved little island is renowned all over the world for **its coral reefs, which are directly accessible from the beach**, providing a unique sensation of freedom. Discover magnificent marine fauna and flora while snorkelling or diving in its turquoise waters. The Washington Slagbaai **National Park** in the north of the island is home to many birds. It is the most important breeding site in the **south Caribbean** for the **pink flamingo**, the island's emblematic animal.

AT SEA

Arrival 3/6/2021

Departure 3/6/2021

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.

SAINT GEORGE'S, GRENADA

Arrival 3/7/2021

Departure 3/7/2021

Delicately set in the curve of a bay on the west coast of Grenada, Saint George's lively commercial fishing harbour is especially colourful when the boats are being loaded with fruit and vegetables destined for neighbouring islands **and when all the little fishing boats return from their day out at sea**. This "spice island" capital is an excellent base for visiting the surrounding natural sites: its picturesque coast or the artisanal producers of chocolate and nutmeg, Grenada's gold. Five kilometres (3 miles) to the south, you will be able to visit Grande Anse and Morne Rouge, two long sandy beaches.

MAYREAU ISLAND

Arrival 3/8/2021

Departure 3/8/2021

Among the string of paradisiac islands with their sandy beaches that form the Saint Vincent and the Grenadines archipelago, Mayreau is the smallest. Its **peaceful and idyllic atmosphere**, far from the madding crowd, invites you to relax. On shore, enjoy a **shaded and fully equipped beach** from which to go snorkelling if you'd like to observe the colourful fish around the coral sitting at the foot of the rocks that stretch across the bay.

SOUFRIÈRE

Arrival 3/9/2021

Departure 3/9/2021

Nestled in the crook of a breath-taking bay, the former capital of **St Lucia** is brimming with attractions. **Soufrière** is famous for The **Pitons**, volcanic spires that tower over the entrance to the town. In the vicinity of the lush botanical gardens, you will be able to enjoy the curative powers of the **Diamond Falls mineral baths**. From the beach at the north end of the bay, you can set off to explore the reefs that are home to stunning gardens of sea fans at the foot of the cliffs that plunge into the sea.

FORT-DE-FRANCE

Arrival 3/10/2021 early morning

Disembarkation 3/10/2021 at 09h00

Located on the western coast of Martinique, Fort-de-France will amaze you by the splendour of its bay, a magnificent cut-out in the coastline, considered as one of the most beautiful in the world. At the harbour mouth, on its strip of land, **fort Saint-Louis** overlooks the capital city of Martinique. If you climb up to it, you can see some breath-taking views. **Saint Louis Cathedral** and the Schoelcher library bear witness to a secular history, intimately linked to the island's story. Why not try some fresh coconut at the colourful Grand Marché. Two really pleasant places you can take a breather in, right in the heart of the city, are the garden of Balata and the Aimé Césaire park.