

# The Levant, Egypt and the Red Sea

From **11/2/2020**  
to **11/10/2020**

Ship: **LE JACQUES CARTIER**

From **Antalya**  
to **Aqaba**

In partnership with **PARIS MATCH**, with the exceptional presence of **Dominique de Villepin**, former Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Interior Minister.

**Nine days** in the heart of a region blessed with unparalleled cultural richness: this is the programme that **PONANT** is offering during this **brand-new cruise**. Aboard **Le Jacques-Cartier**, you will sail the seas of the **Near East**, and discover some of the finest jewels of the great civilisations.

You will board your ship in **Antalya**. With its Roman port, picturesque narrow streets and beautiful Ottoman homes this town, lying on the southern coast of Turkey, has maintained its many charms.

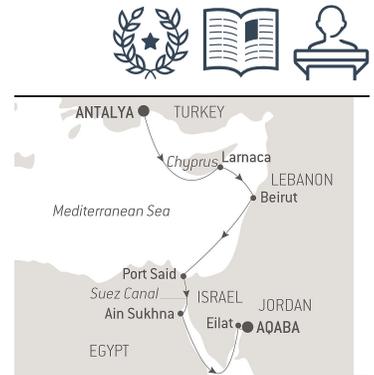
From **Beirut**, the Lebanese capital, do not miss the visit to **Byblos**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Inhabited since the Neolithic era, this is one of the oldest cities in the world. One can observe the many vestiges of an extremely rich past, marked by the dissemination of the **Phoenician alphabet**.

You will then sail to **Egypt** for three days that will undoubtedly form the highlight of your cruise.

After sailing through the legendary Suez Canal, you will call at **Ain Sokhna**, the ideal starting point for a visit to the Egypt of the **Pharaohs**, and the **Grand Egyptian Museum in Cairo**.

**Le Jacques-Cartier** will make a brief incursion into the warm waters of the **Red Sea** before sailing to the other side of the Sinai Peninsula and reaching **Eilat** in Israel. You will be able to discover the majestic fortress of Massada looming over the Dead Sea.

From the city of **Aqaba**, don't miss the opportunity to visit the ancient caravan city of Petra, one of the must-see jewels of this fascinating country at the crossroads of history.





The information in this document is valid as of 2/24/2020

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## YOUR STOPOVERS :

### ANTALYA

Embarkation 11/2/2020 from 16h00 to 17h00

Departure 11/2/2020 at 18h00

On the Turkish Mediterranean coast, discover the seaside resort of **Antalya**. While the city sports magnificent fine sandy beaches, it is also known for its significant historical heritage. Many vestiges bear witness to the importance of this **former Roman port**, such as Hadrian's Gate, built in the year 130 in honour of the visiting emperor. In the old town, it is possible to admire **magnificent Ottoman houses** with flowery gardens, as well as the **broken minaret**, built on the ruins of a former Byzantine church. The city's surroundings also provide an opportunity to discover major archaeological sites, such as that of the ancient city of **Aspendos**, renowned for its impressive Roman theatre.

### LARNACA

Arrival 11/3/2020 midday

Departure 11/3/2020 early evening

A charming historical city populated since the 14th century BC, **Lamaca**, sometimes called Kition, has both natural treasures, such as its beaches with crystal clear waters, and heritage treasures, such as its remarkable **Pierides Museum** or the **Church of Saint Lazarus**, the biggest in the city and one of the most famous on the island. It owes its renown to Lazarus of Bethany who came to Lamaca after his resurrection; his tomb has become a pilgrimage site. As is often the case in Cyprus, it's the blend of Gothic and Byzantine styles that give it character. It is also home to a pretty little museum exhibiting **liturgical works from the Byzantine era**.

### BEIRUT

Arrival 11/4/2020 early morning

Departure 11/4/2020 late afternoon

At an equal distance from the northern and southern borders of Lebanon, **Beirut** stands on a rocky peninsula against the foothills of Mount Lebanon and enjoys a prime position overlooking the **Mediterranean**. The capital of Lebanon, Beirut has broken free of a troubled recent past and is now a modern city with strong traditions. You will love its dynamism. In the city centre, take a walk to discover the monuments, palaces and architectural gems. Hamra, a shopping hub, is where you will really taste the atmosphere of the city. The must-see **National Museum of Beirut**, Lebanon's principal museum of archaeology, is worth a visit.

## PORT SAID

Arrival 11/5/2020 midday

Departure 11/5/2020 evening

The city was born from an audacious but successful project: to link the Mediterranean with the Red Sea in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century and create a maritime route via a canal. The **Suez Canal** crosses the desert for 162 kilometres and was inaugurated in 1869 in the presence of Empress Eugenie, then nationalised by Nasser in 1956. In the city, to the rhythm of the colourful carts, you will admire the colonial houses with their large balconies, which give **Port Said** its cachet.

## CROSSING THE SUEZ CANAL

Arrival 11/6/2020

Departure 11/6/2020

Without the waterway linking the Red Sea to the Mediterranean this part of the world would be an arid sandy desert inhabited by a few nomads. **The Suez Canal** slices through 162 km of desert and was inaugurated in 1869 in the presence of Empress Eugenie, then nationalised by Nasser in 1956.

## AIN SUKHNA

Arrival 11/6/2020 evening

Departure 11/7/2020 evening

**Ain Sukhna**, which means “hot spring,” is located in the Gulf of Suez, facing the Red Sea. Around fifty kilometres from the entrance to the Suez Canal, and less than two hours from the Egyptian capital, it is an elegant seaside town that is popular with wealthy families from Cairo. Ain Soukhna is an ideal base for discovering the marvels of Ancient Egypt.

## EILAT

Arrival 11/8/2020 evening

Departure 11/9/2020 evening

Situated in the far south of the **State of Israel**, on the banks of the Gulf of Eilat, **on the edge of the Negev Desert** between Egypt and Jordan, **Eilat** is internationally renowned as a high-end seaside resort and spa town, as well as for its magnificent natural sites. The first references to this place date back to the time of King Solomon. His legendary mines are said to be located not far from the now-modern city. It is the departure point for visiting the **Masada fortress** and for the incredible experience of swimming in the **Dead Sea**.

## AQABA

Arrival 11/10/2020 at night

Disembarkation 11/10/2020 at 06h00

Located in the Red Sea within the eponymous gulf, **Aqaba** offers Jordan its only access to the sea. At the crossroads of the land and sea routes that linked Asia, Africa and Europe, the town is rich with more than 5,000 years of history. The warm waters of the Red Sea attract holidaymakers and divers to this seaside destination; the underwater sites home

to coral and fishes are some of the most beautiful in the world. Aqaba is also the gateway to the magnificent **desert of Wadi Rum** and the marvellous site of **Petra**.