

Wild and authentic Corsica

From **19/09/2021**
to **26/09/2021**

Ship: **LE BELLOT**

From **Nice**
to **Nice**



France is beautiful from the sea...

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 French coastline. As your journey unfolds and depending on the elements, you will enjoy magnificent moments as unique as they are unexpected.

Leaving from **Nice**, set sail aboard *Le Bellot* for an authentic 7-night cruise and get to the very heart of Corsica, a fascinating island of a thousand fragrances and influences.

Below the **Cap Corse** mountains and the **Agriates** desert, the beauty of the landscapes gives Saint-Florent a picture-postcard appearance.

You will also visit **Bonifacio**, the jewel of the far south of Corsica. A veritable fortress sculpted by the wind and the spray, the “sentinel city” will reveal its historical centre and its long cobbled streets.

The magnificent idyllic beaches that have forged the reputation of the **Isle of Beauty**, such as the **Gulf of Santa-Manza**, are complemented by the breathtaking and unspoiled natural landscapes.

The most southerly point of Corsica, **Cap Pertusato**, meaning “pierced”, announces the presence of a rock that has been perforated through the middle. At this majestic site you will discover a succession of natural caves forged by the sea.

The sumptuous archipelago formed by the **pointe de la Parata** and the **îles Sanguinaires** announces the entrance to the **Gulf of Ajaccio**. The long line of crests seems to extend the coast like a backbone. Listed as a Grand Site de France and a Natura 2000 area, this coastal landscape at the foot of the mountains is home to exceptional biodiversity adapted to the harsh climate. Here, Nature is the star attraction.

The turquoise waters of the island will satisfy all desires for swimming and nautical activities. Far from the hordes, these unspoiled areas encourage the observation of nature and the practice of sporting

activities.

During this trip, you may be lucky enough to see certain species of cetaceans, such as **bottlenose dolphins**, **rorquals** and **pilot whales**, common off the Mediterranean coastline.

This itinerary is given as an indication only. Based on tide times and weather conditions, the Captain and the Expedition Leader may need to change the order of certain ports of call to ensure guests have the best possible experience.

Encounters with wildlife are possible but cannot be guaranteed.



The information in this document is valid as of 25/10/2021

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YOUR STOPOVERS :

NICE

Embarkation 19/09/2021 from 16:00 to 17:00

Departure 19/09/2021 at 18:00

Capital of the Cote d'Azur, Nice is surrounded by an amphitheatre of hills and mountains that protects it from the wind. You will probably want to explore the Promenade des Anglais, where you can sit on one of the famous blue chairs laid out opposite the baie des Anges. The Château hill is also a very pleasant place to walk. This is the entrance to the **old city**, with its bustling markets and regional products along the main street, the Cours Saleya.

SAINT-FLORENT, CORSICA

Arrival 20/09/2021 midday

Departure 20/09/2021 early evening

In the hollow of one of the most beautiful gulfs of the Mediterranean to which it owes its name, **Saint-Florent** is an ancient Genoese city whose citadel dominates the bay with its circular architecture. A link between the mountains of **Upper Corsica** and the **Agriates desert**, the fishing village has become a renowned seaside resort. In front of this jewel nestled in the hollow of a wild and isolated region, sublime beaches of fine sand border a sea of infinite turquoise shades. At the western tip of the gulf, the **Tower of Mortella**, built in the 16th century under the Republic of Genoa to prevent from invaders, stands watch. Like most of the towers that dot the Corsican coast, it is an emblematic and familiar symbol of the island.

BONIFACIO, CORSICA

Arrival 21/09/2021 early morning

Departure 21/09/2021 late evening

The spectacular town of **Bonifacio** located on the very tip of southern Corsica, clings to a narrow promontory of white rock overhanging the turquoise waters of the Mediterranean. You can admire its limestone cliffs hewn out by the wind, before setting off on a cultural tour of its cultural treasures. From the little paved streets in the ancient **Haute Ville**, to the promenade on the open-air medieval **chemin de ronde**, this stunning town will take you on a journey back in time. Frequented or secluded, there are numerous beaches to choose from, all in keeping with the high standards of the "Île de Beauté".

GULF OF SANTA-MANZA, CORSICA

Arrival 22/09/2021 early morning

Departure 22/09/2021 evening

In the south-east of Corsica, between Bonifacio and Porto-Vecchio, the **gulf of Santa Manza**, famous for its magnificent sandy beaches, is revealed. You will benefit from exceptional viewpoints over the landscapes of rare beauty formed by

the limestone cliffs, covered with scrub, plunging into the turquoise waters and the granite rocks on the water's edge.

ROCCAPINA, CORSICA

Arrival 23/09/2021 early morning

Departure 23/09/2021 late afternoon

Located in the south-west of Corsica the wild rocky **Roccapina** headlands covered in pine forest are a conservation area. The headlands embrace two bays of turquoise blue water and powder-soft sandy beaches. You may not see many people but traces of the region's Genoese past are visible, including a 17th century tower. However, the main attraction is provided by Nature in the form of dramatic rocky peaks sculpted by the wind into the shape of animals and humans. On the top of a rocky outcrop one of the most famous formations strongly resembles a lion lying down, its head up surveying the coast.

PARATA PENINSULA

Arrival 24/09/2021 early morning

Departure 24/09/2021 midday

The **Pointe de la Parata** offers a magnificent view over the **Sanguinaires Islands**, which form the **Sanguinaires archipelago** closing the bay of Ajaccio to the north. This black granite headland is topped by the Parata tower, built by the Genoese in the 16th century to protect the island against Barbarian invasions. Here the wind and the sea spray have forged the abrupt and wild landscape where only vegetation able to resist the onslaught of the wind and the sea has its place.

SANGUINAIRES ISLANDS

Arrival 24/09/2021 early afternoon

Departure 24/09/2021 late evening

Made up of the **pointe de la Parata** and the **Sanguinaires Islands** the **Sanguinaires archipelago** was named Grand Site de France in 2017. At this exceptional site made up of four rocky volcanic islands, **Mezu Mare** is the largest. A semaphore built on the site of a former Genoese tower and the ruins of a 14th century lazaretto, a quarantine station at the time of the plague, is testimony to a rich heritage. The island is also home to many colonies of marine birds including the **Yellow-legged gull** or the **European shag**. In his *Letters from my windmill*, Alphonse Daudet, a regular here, described this site with feeling: "I had found a pleasant place there where I could muse in solitude."

CALVI, CORSICA

Arrival 25/09/2021 early morning

Departure 25/09/2021 late afternoon

Nestled on a rocky spur in the north-west of Corsica, the port of **Calvi** offers its whiteness between two sapphire-coloured bays. Capital of the **Balagne** region, the Genoese city benefits from an exceptional natural setting between the abrupt relief of the central chain, fertile hills and long sandy beaches. From the promontory of the **Notre-Dame-de-la-Serra chapel**, built in the 19th century on the ruins of a 15th century sanctuary, you will not miss the sublime panorama of the seaside, the mountains and the Calvi citadel. A little further west, you will have the opportunity to

discover with the **peninsula of Revelatta**, a wilder and more preserved part of Corsica.

NICE

Arrival 26/09/2021 early morning

Disembarkation 26/09/2021 at 07:00

Capital of the Cote d'Azur, Nice is surrounded by an amphitheatre of hills and mountains that protects it from the wind. You will probably want to explore the Promenade des Anglais, where you can sit on one of the famous blue chairs laid out opposite the baie des Anges. The Château hill is also a very pleasant place to walk. This is the entrance to the **old city**, with its bustling markets and regional products along the main street, the Cours Saleya.