

# Lisbon to London: Cruising Europe's Western Shores – with Smithsonian Journeys

From **15/04/2022**  
to **23/04/2022**

Ship: **LE CHAMPLAIN**

From **Lisbon**  
to **London**



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.*

Set sail with **PONANT** aboard *Le Champlain* for an **9-day cruise** along the coasts of Portugal, Spain, and France.

Your voyage begins in **Lisbon**, Portugal's capital. Enjoy strolling through the narrow streets of this "city of seven hills," or hop aboard one of the city's famous yellow street trams to navigate its slopes.

From the port of Leixões, you will visit **Porto**. The capital of Portugal's northern region, this "city of granite" is renowned for its wine but also for its remarkable historic centre, a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Your journey will continue to Galicia and the city of **Cee** in Spain. Not far from here, **Santiago de Compostela** awaits you for an extraordinary visit on Easter Sunday. This Christian pilgrimage destination is home to a number of monuments from the Romanesque, Gothic, and Baroque periods, testimony to its illustrious past. Your ship will reposition to **La Coruña** during your visit.

*Le Champlain* will then sail to Santander for an excursion to the capital of the Spanish Basque Country, **Bilbao**. Between daring architecture, including the Frank Gehry-designed Guggenheim Museum Bilbao, and the continuation of its ancestral traditions, you will bear witness to the city's unique energy.

Your next call is in **Saint-Malo**, France, a charming seafaring town on the coast of Brittany and the gateway to magnificent **Mont-Saint-Michel**. This iconic medieval town on a tidal islet with its famed citadel and abbey is a

UNESCO World Heritage site.

From **Caen**, whose thousand-year-old castle was built during the reign of William the Conqueror, choose to venture further afield in Normandy to **Omaha Beach**, where Allied forces launched their attack against German troops during the D-Day invasion of WWII.

Your ship then continues along the English Channel, through the Strait of Dover, and up the River Thames before ending in **London**, England, the cosmopolitan capital of the United Kingdom, where you will disembark.



The information in this document is valid as of 21/10/2021

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## YOUR STOPOVERS :

### LISBON

Embarkation 15/04/2022 from 16:00 to 17:00

Departure 15/04/2022 at 18:00

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 luxury shopping.

### LEIXÕES - PORTO

Arrival 16/04/2022 midday

Departure 16/04/2022 late afternoon

Located at the mouth of the Douro River, the port of Leixões lies less than 10 kilometres from Porto. A UNESCO World Heritage Site, the historic centre of Porto is worth a visit for its famous **Ribeira district**, the metallic silhouette of the Dom-Luis bridge looming over its ancient houses, its richly decorated Baroque churches and its national **Soares dos Reis** museum. The **São Bento station** is also interesting for its typically Portuguese decoration, using **Azulejos**, blue square ceramic tiles decorated with geometric patterns or figurative scenes.

### CEE

Arrival 17/04/2022 early morning

Departure 17/04/2022 early morning

Cee is located at the end of a bay on the north-western Spanish coast. A stone's throw from the marina, the **maritime promenade** is a great place to stroll alongside one of the town's beaches or luxuriant gardens. The centre can be reached by a pleasant walk down quaint streets bordered by pines and palms. These streets lead you to the market square with its shops offering a profusion of all kinds of delicious food. You'll want to dally under the arcades and perhaps be tempted by a slice of *bica gallega*, a regional cake that's both moist and crunchy. Try it with a *cortado* or a *machado*, two delectable espresso drinks.

### SANTANDER

Arrival 18/04/2022 midday

Departure 18/04/2022 early afternoon

Facing the Bay of Biscay, its backdrop a natural setting that combines sea and mountain, **Santander** rolls out along a huge bay on the northern coast of the peninsula. A city of maritime tradition, it has a century-old touristic vocation. It is home to two treasures that are **UNESCO World Heritage Sites**: a part of **the Way of Saint James** and the **Cave of Altamira**. Its Prehistory and Archaeology Museum houses one of the most valuable Palaeolithic collections in Europe and the **Maritime Museum of Cantabria** is one of the most comprehensive museums in Spain dedicated to the sea. Its beaches with peaceful waters, protected from the wind, offer one of the most beautiful sea fronts with a succession of Belle Époque buildings.

## AT SEA

Arrival 19/04/2022

Departure 19/04/2022

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-MALO

Arrival 20/04/2022 early morning

Departure 20/04/2022 late afternoon

The mere mention of **Saint-Malo's** name is enough to plunge us back into the richness of its past. The fortifications stand as testimony to the Malouins' determination to defend their citadel, fought over by France and Britain in turn. When we drop anchor here, immerse yourself in the diversity of its heritage: the time when privateers sailed the oceans in search of trade and victories; the legendary yacht races the port city is still famous for, such as the Route du Rhum; and the final resting place of the French writer François-René de Chateaubriand, who was born here and chose to be buried here anonymously.

## CAEN

Arrival 21/04/2022 midday

Departure 21/04/2022 evening

Located in the heart of Normandy, Caen is the city that William the Conqueror built. **Caen Castle**, one of the largest walled fortifications in Europe, as well as a **Men's Abbey** and a **Women's Abbey** — all were built in the late 11th century by William and his wife, Queen Mathilde of Flanders, both of whom are buried here. Caen is also the site of the first successful action of Allied operations on D-Day, June 6, 1944, when British Airborne forces secured two bridges between Caen and the English Channel. Though the city was badly damaged during WWII, it has now been restored and serves as a monument of French resilience.

## AT SEA

Arrival 22/04/2022

Departure 22/04/2022

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.

## LONDON

Arrival 23/04/2022 early morning

Disembarkation 23/04/2022 at 07:00

The main residence of the British monarch, financial hub and seat of British government, **London** is the economic and cultural heart of the country. A city of contrasts, attached to its traditions while buzzing with modernity, the capital of the United Kingdom has countless historic districts and notable sites to explore. From Hyde Park to the City through Westminster and Trafalgar Square, get ready to take on London's frenetic tempo. In between a visit to the **National Gallery**, a stroll through **Covent Garden** and a trip to **Tower Bridge**, you can take a quiet breather in one of London's many beautiful parks and gardens.