

Jewels of the Mediterranean

From **22/10/2022**
to **29/10/2022**

Ship: **LE CHAMPLAIN**

From **Barcelona**
to **Valletta**



PONANT invites you to discover the wonders of the Mediterranean during an extraordinary cruise between Spain, Italy and Malta. Enjoy this unforgettable **8-day trip** aboard *Le Champlain*, with sumptuous landscapes and exceptional moments exploring fascinating sites.

Your voyage will begin in **Barcelona**, a city in perpetual movement, where you will have the opportunity to set out on the traces of **Gaudí**, and fall under the spell of his famous architectural works, such as the **Sagrada Familia cathedral**.

After a first call at **Valencia**, with its remarkable architectural splendours, you will join **Palma de Majorca**, 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'll continue your visit to the Balearic Islands with the discovery of the well-preserved **Menorca. Mahon**, the island's capital, will charm you with its age-old history and its exceptional port, which, at 6 kilometres (3.7 miles) long, is the biggest in the Mediterranean!

You'll set sail for the **Tyrrhenian Sea** and **Palermo** where you'll make a stop. A cultural jewel of **Sicily**, the city is a splendid witness to three thousand years of history where you will be able to visit emblematic landmarks such as the **12th-century cathedral** and **Teatro Massimo**, one of the largest theatres in Europe.

You'll continue your cruise in Sicily with a stopover in **Trapani** to visit the charming village of **Erice**. 750 metres (2,460 feet) up, perched on a high triangular plateau sloping 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.

Your cruise will come to an end in **Valletta**, former stronghold of the Knights of the Order of Malta.



The information in this document is valid as of 03/12/2021

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YOUR STOPOVERS :

BARCELONA

Embarkation 22/10/2022 from 16:00 to 17:00

Departure 22/10/2022 at 18:00

Located on the seashore between the mountains of Montjuïc and Tibidabo, **Barcelona** offers its many visitors a perfect blend of tradition and modernism. Truly an open-air museum, the “prodigious town” reveals an astonishing range of artistic treasures and museums, combining Roman ruins, medieval districts and a number of avant-garde elements from the 20th Century. Over the years, it has been marked by some of the greatest artists, such as **Picasso, Miró** or **Gaudí**, most of whose work has been listed as World Heritage Sites by UNESCO. Take the time to stroll along **the Ramblas** and enjoy the gentle, typically Mediterranean lifestyle of the capital of Catalonia.

VALENCIA

Arrival 23/10/2022 midday

Departure 23/10/2022 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.

PALMA DE MALLORCA, BALEARIC ISLANDS

Arrival 24/10/2022 early morning

Departure 24/10/2022 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.

MAHON, BALEARIC ISLANDS

Arrival 25/10/2022 early morning

Departure 25/10/2022 midday

You will be welcomed by the colourful houses of **Mahon**, its narrow streets and pretty squares that appear as you stroll around this richly contrasting city. Mahon reveals its different neighbourhoods, alternating between monuments,

villas and white buildings. Discover the **Santa Maria church**, a building of neo-gothic inspiration, rebuilt in the 18th Century. It is worth a visit to see its monumental organ with more than 3,000 pipes and four keyboards. Around the Carmen church you will find a **local market**, full of stands selling *avarcas*, typical Menorcan sandals originally made by peasants. Let yourself fall under the spell of this Mediterranean treasure.

AT SEA

Arrival 26/10/2022

Departure 26/10/2022

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.

PALERMO, SICILY

Arrival 27/10/2022 early morning

Departure 27/10/2022 evening

Palermo is the guardian of the Sicilian soul. Many have been attracted to this city, the largest capital of the Italian islands. Phoenicians, Carthaginians, Romans, Byzantines, Arabs, Normans... Palermo is a rich culmination of so many cultural influences as seen in the Moorish designs on the **cathedral**, and the Byzantine mosaics of the **Palatine chapel**, which is itself housed within the precincts of the **Norman palace**. You will fall under the spell of the palaces, **baroque splendours** that grace the town with their obsolete beauty. It is thrilling to stumble upon one of those fabulous markets, high in colour, and headily picturesque.

TRAPANI, SICILY

Arrival 28/10/2022 early morning

Departure 28/10/2022 mid 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.

VALLETTA

Arrival 29/10/2022 early morning

Disembarkation 29/10/2022 at 07:30

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.