

Discovering the islands of South-East Asia

From **19/09/2022**
to **03/10/2022**

Ship: **LE LAPÉROUSE**

From **Benoa, Bali**
to **Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon)**



Set out to discover rich cultures, between tradition and modernity, during a **15-day cruise** in the **South-East Asian islands** aboard *Le Lapérouse*. An original PONANT itinerary that will take you from **Indonesia** to **Vietnam** via **Singapore**.

Your trip will begin on the Island of the Gods. Renowned for the kindness of its inhabitants, **Bali** offers beautiful discoveries including lush paddy fields, sacred ceremonies, and abundant marine life.

On the island of **Java**, from the town of **Probolinggo**, the active volcano **Mount Bromo** rises majestically in a unique lunar landscape. Considered as a divinity by Hindus, its immense crater is venerated during pilgrimages and ceremonies.

Between the Pacific and Indian Oceans, the idyllic archipelago of **Karimun Jawa** will reveal its magnificent immaculate white sand beaches bordered by limpid turquoise waters and the beauty of its colourful coral reefs.

During your stopover in Semarang, you will visit the incredible **Borobudur** site. Listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site, this monumental Buddhist temple compounds from the 8th and 9th centuries is home to some 240 temples.

Between the islands of **Java** and **Sumatra**, you'll have the privilege of admiring the caldera of **Anak Krakatoa** in the **Sunda Strait**. It is the result of the legendary eruption of the eponymous volcano, which destroyed the old island in 1883.

In Singapore, city-State on the edges of the Orient, you will be seduced by the **unique multicultural atmosphere** of this "garden city", home to wonderful botanical tropical gardens, UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

Le Lapérouse will then chart a course north towards the **Cón Dao Islands**, in the China Sea. This preserved archipelago, where picturesque fishing villages overlook a crystal sea, will delight you with its wild beauty as well as its rich history.

Your cruise will come to an end in **Ho Chi Minh City**. Founded in the 17th

century, this city **formerly known as Saigon** sits right near the Mekong Delta, a mythical river on which small, colourful boats throng on market days.



The information in this document is valid as of 27/01/2022

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YOUR STOPOVERS :

BENOA, BALI

Embarkation 19/09/2022 from 21:59 to 22:59
Departure 20/09/2022 at 23:59

If it's a taste of exotic authenticity you're after, prepare to be spell-bound by the **island of Bali**, tucked away in the heart of the Indonesian **archipelago**. The beauty and diversity of its landscapes, the depth and richness of its cultural heritage and the plethora of activities on offer here make **Bali** a little slice of heaven on Earth. The island's southern coast enthralls with its white sand beaches, its picturesque little fishing villages such as **Benoa**, and its hills patchworked with terraced rice paddies further inland. Nicknamed 'the Island of Gods' for its sumptuous temples, Bali is the beating heart of Indonesian Hinduism.

PROBOLINGGO, JAVA

Arrival 21/09/2022 early morning
Departure 21/09/2022 late afternoon

Nestled inside the massive Tengger caldera surrounded by a sea of sand, Mount Bromo is the epitome of desolate beauty. The volcanic complex dates back to about 820,000 years ago and consists of five overlapping stratovolcanoes, each truncated by a caldera. Lava domes, pyroclastic cones, and a maar occupy the flanks of the massif. The surreal lunar landscape has spawned countless legends and myths. Mt Bromo has particular significance for the Hindu Tengger people who believe that this was the site where a brave prince sacrificed his life for his family. After an early departure from the ship guest will travel by bus to Mount Bromo to enjoy this surreal site.

AT SEA

Arrival 22/09/2022
Departure 22/09/2022

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.

KARIMUN JAWA

Arrival 23/09/2022 early morning

Departure 23/09/2022 late afternoon

During your cruise, your ship will take you to discover Karimunjawa, an idyllic archipelago composed of 27 small islands, far-removed from the modern world. At the place where the Pacific Ocean meets the Indian Ocean, translucent waves matching the colour of the horizon crash on long beaches of immaculate white sand. Listed as a Marine National Park, these stunningly beautiful islands lined with coral reefs are an extraordinary natural heritage. Equipped with a mask and tuba, we invite you to discover a fascinating underwater world where dizzily bright multicolored marine life will reveal itself.

SEMARANG

Arrival 24/09/2022 at night

Departure 24/09/2022 late evening

Semarang enjoys a strategic location on the northern coast of **Java**, making it a cosmopolitan port town and a melting pot of Chinese, Indo-Arabic and European cultures. Before setting off to explore the region's treasures, take a tour of the old town and its smattering of old colonial buildings. Here in Indonesia's most Chinese town, don't miss a trip to the **Chinatown** district. If it's culture you're after, journey deeper into the green, rolling inland region, passing by volcanoes and rice paddies until you reach the royal town of **Yogyakarta** and one of its ancient kingdoms, the **Borobudur** : this Buddhist temple is a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** and one of the world's largest temples.

AT SEA

Arrival 25/09/2022

Departure 25/09/2022

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.

SAILING ALONG KRAKATOA

Arrival 26/09/2022 early morning

Departure 26/09/2022 midday

Krakatoa, or Krakatau, is a name familiar to most, though few know where it is located. Lying in the Sunda Strait, between Java and Sumatra on the Pacific ring of fire, is the site of the largest volcanic eruption in modern history. The 1883 eruptions culminated with a colossal blast that literally blew Krakatau apart. The noise was heard over 4,600 km away. Eruptions since 1927 have built a new cone known as Anak Krakatau ("The child of Krakatau") that is still active, with its most recent eruptive episode having begun in 1994. Quiet periods of a few days alternate with spectacular Strombolian eruptions. Guest activities will be determined by the level of volcanic activity on the day and may involve

ship based viewing or zodiac tour.

AT SEA

Arrival 27/09/2022

Departure 27/09/2022

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SINGAPORE

Arrival 28/09/2022 midday

Departure 29/09/2022 late afternoon

Nicknamed the Garden City, Singapore stretches across Malaysia's southern-most region. Experience the vibrant hustle and bustle of this city-state for yourself at the **Marina Bay**. No too far away is the historic centre, offering up a unique smorgasbord of neoclassical buildings and contemporary towers. Decked out in topiary, the pavements of Orchard Road are also home to countless shopping centres. The colourful markets in **Chinatown** and **Little India** are the perfect opportunity to quell hunger pangs in a hawker centre, one of the city's traditional snack bars. Between the two districts, get a slice of history with a trip to the **Raffles dock**. It was here that Englishman **Sir Raffles**, the founder of the city, is said to have arrived one fateful day in January 1819.

AT SEA

Arrival 30/09/2022

Departure 30/09/2022

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.

CÔN DAO ISLANDS

Arrival 01/10/2022 late morning

Departure 01/10/2022 late afternoon

To the south of Vietnam, the archipelago of the **Côn Dao Islands**, located in the South China Sea, is composed of

sixteen rocks covered in lush vegetation. A regular stopover on the Maritime Silk Road connecting China to Europe between the 2nd and 13th centuries, the islands were mentioned by Marco Polo during his voyage from China to India in 1294. A former English and French trading post, the archipelago became a French colony in 1861 using the name **Poulo Condor**. A penitentiary centre was built there and used to imprison opponents of the colonial regime. During the Vietnam War, the Saigon regime and the United States locked up communist enemies there until 1975. In its idyllic natural setting, Con Dao has become a memorial site and a symbol of the fight for independence.

HO CHI MINH CITY (SAIGON)

Arrival 02/10/2022 late morning

Disembarkation 03/10/2022 at 07:00

Located near the **Mekong delta**, **Ho Chi Minh City** is the largest city in Vietnam. It is both the historic heart and economic hub. Formerly Saigon, the city is an imposing avant-guard metropolis. You can admire its famous central post office and its emblematic **Reunification Palace**. From 95 years of French presence, the city has kept some remarkable monuments, like the **Cathédrale Notre-Dame** with its neo-Gothic façade built in 19th century red brick. You'll succumb to the magic of this hectic city, where everything is about contrast, like the very brightly-coloured district of **Cholon**, Saigon's "Chinatown".