

Pearls of the Black Sea

From **10/07/2022**
to **20/07/2022**

Ship: **LE BOUGAINVILLE**

From **Istanbul**
to **Istanbul**



Departing from Istanbul, **PONANT** brings you an itinerary along the coastlines in the **Black Sea**, to discover the Turkish, Bulgarian, Ukrainian and Georgian shores. During this **11-day cruise**, *Le Bougainville* will take you to exceptional natural and historic sites.

Your trip will begin with the discovery of the city of **Varna**, in Bulgaria. Renowned for its fine sandy beaches, this major city also features an important architectural heritage from the end of the 19th century, such as the Cathedral of the Assumption, built after the cathedral of Saint Petersburg.

Further north, **Odessa**, the pearl of the Black Sea. This city will win you over with its unique charm resulting from the mix of Slavic and Mediterranean cultures. Don't miss the chance to visit its palaces, its catacombs, its magnificent opera house, and of course take a detour via the legendary giant stairway immortalised in the film Battleship Potemkin.

After a stopover in Georgia, in **Batumi**, your ship will then make its way to the Turkish coast, where the ports of call will be of great cultural and historical interest. First, **Trabzon** and **Samsun**, at the gateway to Anatolia, then, not far from Bartin, the ancient city of **Safranbolu**, boasting **typical Ottoman architecture**. Listed as a **UNESCO** World Heritage Site, it was a major caravan station between Europe and the East.

Then you will reach **Istanbul**, a rich historical UNESCO listed site, at the end of a magnificent cruise.



The information in this document is valid as of 28/11/2021

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YOUR STOPOVERS :

ISTANBUL

Embarkation 10/07/2022 from 15:30 to 16:30

Departure 10/07/2022 at 17:30

Located on the Bosphorus, Istanbul is one of the most beautiful of all Turkish cities. Named Byzantium when founded by the Greeks, and then Constantinople under the Roman Empire, this city is steeped in history and, for this reason, is a listed UNESCO World Heritage site. Located on Sultanahmet hill, the great **Blue Mosque**, the mysterious **Hagia Sophia** and the vast **Topkapi palace** and its countless mosaics, dominate the Marmara Sea. In the Beyazit district, the **Grand Bazaar** allows to discover elegant covered passages. A little further away, delicate aroma of **loukoum** and spices will draw the visitors' attention at the Egyptian Bazaar.

VARNA

Arrival 11/07/2022 early morning

Departure 11/07/2022 midday

Sometimes called "**the marine capital of Bulgaria**", **Varna** stands on the shores of the **Black Sea**, offering a perfect blend of historical visits and relaxation on its long, white-sand beaches. Now a major Bulgarian port, the city was founded in the 6th century BC by the Greeks, before being taken by the Thracians 150 years later. After being conquered by Alexander of Macedon in the 4th century, it became Roman. Later, it was fought over by the Byzantines and Bulgarians before belonging permanently to the latter. Wander through the city's streets to discover its architectural wonders: the **Varna Opera House**, the **Dormition of the Mother of God Cathedral**, the **Roman baths**, and the highly popular **sea garden**. Varna is also home to many museums such as the **archaeological museum**, the **naval museum**, the **park-museum of the Battle of Varna** and the **city art gallery**.

ODESSA

Arrival 12/07/2022 midday

Departure 13/07/2022 midday

Located on the Black Sea, **Odessa**, the third largest city in Ukraine, will charm you with its traditions, monuments and natural treasures. You will stroll around its historic centre where you'll find historic sites and important museums on every turn of the street. Its buildings, along its wide shaded boulevards, give a good idea of its former grandeur. Near the sea, you will appreciate climbing the 192 steps of the **Potemkin Stairs**, considered as the formal entrance to Odessa. This genuine symbol of the city was made famous by Sergei Eisenstein's film *Battleship Potemkin* (1925).

AT SEA

Arrival 14/07/2022

Departure 14/07/2022

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.

BATUMI

Arrival 15/07/2022 midday

Departure 15/07/2022 evening

Like many Black Sea cities, **Batumi** has successively been Greek, Roman, Byzantine, Ottoman, and under Russian and then Soviet control until the dissolution of the USSR in 1991. **Gonio Fortress**, a few kilometres from the city, is testament to this rich history and was home to the different civilisations that occupied the region. Take a walk through Batumi's old town centre to discover its most famous monuments: **Piazza Square**, **Saint Nicholas Church**, **Europe Square**, the **Statue of Medea**, the **colonnades on the boulevard**, the **Alphabetic Tower** and the **Ali and Nino monument**. Located on a promontory overlooking the Black Sea, the **Batumi Botanical Garden**, the second largest in the world, is well worth seeing.

TRABZON

Arrival 16/07/2022 early morning

Departure 16/07/2022 mid afternoon

The cultural and historical capital of the Black Sea region, located in the north of Anatolia, Trabzon has **important historical heritage**. Founded in the 7th century BC by the Milesians, the city was dominated in turns by the Romans, the Goths and the Ottomans: all these different populations, kingdoms and empires have shaped this city's very particular atmosphere. Not far from here, **Altindere Valley National Park** is renowned for its immense oak and conifer forests and is home to the ancient **Sumela Monastery**, nestled 1,200 metres high at the foot of an impressive cliff.

SAMSUN

Arrival 17/07/2022 early morning

Departure 17/07/2022 late afternoon

The biggest city in the Black Sea region, **Samsun** lies on the coast of Turkey. This modern, industrial city is home to 75 **archaeological sites** that can be interesting to visit. It gives access to one of the most beautiful cities in Asia Minor: the city of crown princes, **Amasya**, sitting **on the banks of the green river** (Yeşil Irmak). Its magnificent **Ottoman houses** lining the narrow left bank, tucked between the river and the rocky outcrop, are sure to captivate you.

AT SEA

Arrival 18/07/2022

Departure 18/07/2022

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.

BARTIN

Arrival 19/07/2022 early morning

Departure 19/07/2022 late afternoon

Located on the edge of the Black Sea in Turkey, **Bartın** is the prefecture of the eponymous province. It is surrounded by the Zonguldak provinces in the west, Karabük to the south, Kastamonu to the east, and faces the **Black Sea** to the north. It is the gateway to the mythical **Safranbolu, a former caravan station** that has preserved its **typically Ottoman architecture** and is now listed as World Heritage by UNESCO. It is also close to **Amasra**, a small, utterly charming seaside town.

ISTANBUL

Arrival 20/07/2022 early morning

Disembarkation 20/07/2022 at 08:30

Located on the Bosphorus, Istanbul is one of the most beautiful of all Turkish cities. Named Byzantium when founded by the Greeks, and then Constantinople under the Roman Empire, this city is steeped in history and, for this reason, is a listed UNESCO World Heritage site. Located on Sultanahmet hill, the great **Blue Mosque**, the mysterious **Hagia Sophia** and the vast **Topkapi palace** and its countless mosaics, dominate the Marmara Sea. In the Beyazit district, the **Grand Bazaar** allows to discover elegant covered passages. A little further away, delicate aroma of **loukoum** and spices will draw the visitors' attention at the Egyptian Bazaar.