

Caribbean beauty, Mayan treasures and jazz in New Orleans

From **03/04/2023**
to **19/04/2023**

Ship: **LE BOREAL**

From **Fuerte Amador, Flamenco Island**
to **Miami**



In partnership with *Le Musée du Quai Branly - Jacques Chirac* and with the exceptional presence of **Steve Bourget**.

PONANT invites you on a **brand-new 17-day cruise** in **Central America**, from **Fuerte Amador** to **Miami**, between sumptuous islands in the **Caribbean Sea**, majestic **Maya sites** rising out of the tropical forests of the **Yucatán Peninsula**, and diverse cities full of lively rhythms. Aboard *Le Boréal*, discover this exceptional heritage, a vibrant testimony to the Pre-Columbian, Hispanic and Afro-Caribbean influences.

After sailing through the world-famous **Panama Canal**, linking the Pacific to the Atlantic, sail to Costa Rica and **Puerto Limón**, not far from the island named **Tortuguero**. Literally “the Land of Turtles”, the village and the **National Park** are key nesting sites for four species of sea turtle, including two critically endangered species.

Your ship will then call at **Water Caye** which offer wonderful snorkelling opportunities to discover the treasures of the Mesoamerican Barrier Reef System.

The next port of call will be Santo Tomás de Castilla. From there, you will be able to discover the **pyramids of Tikal**, another major site of the **Maya civilisation**, or the palaces, pyramids and sanctuaries of the Archaeological Park and Ruins of Quiriguá.

Next, you will discover **Belize**, its heavenly beaches and its wonderful **barrier reef**, a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**, home to the emblematic **Great Blue Hole**.

Le Boréal will head for **Progreso**, famous for its pristine sandy beaches, and gateway to the ancient Mayan cities of **Chichen Itzá** and **Uxmal** and **Merida**, the capital of the Yucatán region.

Finally, you will cross the Gulf of Mexico to finish your journey at the gateway to **Louisiana**. You will sail the **Mississippi River** to reach the heart of festive and multicultural **New Orleans**. Make sure you visit the “**Vieux Carré**”,

its famous French district, and stroll its lively streets lined with wrought iron balconies.

The port of **Miami**, Florida, will put an end to an unforgettable voyage.



The information in this document is valid as of 10/08/2022

Caribbean beauty, Mayan treasures and jazz in New Orleans

YOUR STOPOVERS :

FUERTE AMADOR, FLAMENCO ISLAND

Embarkation 03/04/2023 from 16:00 to 17:00

Departure 03/04/2023 at 18:00

An artificial peninsula situated at the Pacific entrance to the Panama Canal, Fuerte Amador is the gateway to several noteworthy sites. Right near there, the impressive Miraflores Locks are a shining example of the engineering feats deployed during the construction of the Panama Canal. Further north, in villages nestling amid dense vegetation, lives the Embera tribe, guardian of the forest and of the Chagres River. This proud people have successfully preserved their traditions and their ancestral way of life, which predate the colonisation of the region by the Spanish.

CROSSING THE PANAMA CANAL

Arrival 04/04/2023 at night

Departure 04/04/2023 at night

Aboard your ship, experience something unique, that has inspired the imagination of numerous adventurers in the 20th century: **sailing the Panama Canal**. Its construction started in 1880 under the direction of **Ferdinand de Lesseps**. Abandoned then resumed, this marvel of engineering was completed by the United States and opened in 1914. The canal crosses the Isthmus of Panama and links the Atlantic to the Pacific. Including **three levels of locks** and by raising ships to the level of Lake Gatun, almost as if the water was a lift, it allows them to avoid having to round Cape Horn.

PUERTO LIMÓN

Arrival 05/04/2023 early morning

Departure 05/04/2023 late afternoon

We're pretty sure the little coastal town of Puerto Limón will completely win your heart. It is located on the Caribbean sea. Just beyond the harbour, **Playa Bonita creek** opens its arms to a haven of beauty rimmed by clear blue waters and shaded by giant peach-palms. If you wish to explore the lush green areas in the town, it's worth taking a stroll through the lemon groves that give Puerto Limón its name. You'll have all the time in the world to mosey around the streets scattered with **multicoloured wooden makeshift stalls**. These makeshift bars with their raffia roofs offer fresh juices blended just for you.

AT SEA

Arrival 06/04/2023

Departure 07/04/2023

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.

WATER CAYE, ISLA UTILA

Arrival 08/04/2023 late morning

Departure 08/04/2023 early evening

The **Bay Islands** archipelago is home to stunning cays, sheltered **coral islets** with warm, crystal-clear turquoise waters. Off the island of Utila, the white-sand beaches lined with palms and coconut trees and the reefs of the deserted islet called **Water Caye** offer a picture-postcard setting that will delight fans of swimming and snorkelling.

SANTO TOMÁS DE CASTILLA

Arrival 09/04/2023 early morning

Departure 09/04/2023 late afternoon

A port city located in the north-east of **Guatemala**, on the coast of the Amatique Bay, Santo Tomás de Castilla offers exceptional access to the **fabulous Mayan archaeological site of Quiriguá**. Listed as a **UNESCO** World Heritage Site since 1981, this place takes you back in time, deep into a décor of ruins and vestiges from the 8th century.

BELIZE CITY

Arrival 10/04/2023 early morning

Departure 10/04/2023 late afternoon

Belize City is the former capital and the country's largest town. Located on the **Caribbean Sea**, this lively little town symbolises the fusion of British, Spanish and Maya cultures. The departure point for **flights over the Great Blue Hole and the barrier reef**, it's also the ideal gateway for discovering the treasures of Maya architecture: in the heart of the jungle, the grandiose and mysterious ruins of temples and palaces at the Lamanai and Xunantunich sites await you. Another unmissable experience: a trip to the mouth of the **Belize River**: with a little luck and care, you'll get a glimpse of manatees, dolphins, crocodiles, iguanas and many aquatic bird species.

AT SEA

Arrival 11/04/2023

Departure 11/04/2023

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.

PROGRESO

Arrival 12/04/2023 early morning

Departure 12/04/2023 early evening

On the **Yucatan Peninsula**, the charming seaside town of Progreso will delight visitors seeking authenticity. In addition to its magnificent sandy beaches and pleasant seafront promenade, the town offers ideal access to the **former Mayan cities of Chichen Itza and Uxmal**. **UNESCO** World Heritage sites, they allow visitors to be truly immersed in Pre-Columbian Mexico, discovering one of the world's most mysterious civilisations. In the surroundings, be sure to visit **Mérida**, capital of the Mexican state of Yucatán. Called "**the White City**" due to the colour of the limestone used to build its dwellings, this old colonial city, built on the ruins of a Mayan site, offers a mix of tradition and modernity, colonial architecture and Mayan heritage.

AT SEA

Arrival 13/04/2023

Departure 13/04/2023

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 ON THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER

Arrival 14/04/2023

Departure 14/04/2023

The Mississippi River, a dividing line as physical as it is symbolic between the East and the West, originates in northern Minnesota before flowing, 3,734 kilometres (2,320 miles) further south, into the Gulf of Mexico. **Like a real natural artery** crossing the United States, its captivating aura makes as much of an impression as its length. There are exceptional flora and fauna to be found along the riverside, with no less than **260 species of fish, around fifty mammals and over 150 species of amphibians and reptiles**. During this cruise, you will perhaps be lucky enough to spot the mythical **Mississippi alligator**, the captivating yellow turtle or even the sweet **river otter**.

NEW ORLEANS

Arrival 15/04/2023

Departure 16/04/2023 late afternoon

Located along the Mississippi, festive and multicultural **New Orleans** is a very captivating city. Founded in 1718 and the capital of Louisiana until 1880, it was ceded to the Spanish Empire then recovered by the French before being sold to the United States in 1803 by **Napoleon Bonaparte**. From the **French Quarter** to the colonial houses sporting elaborate wrought-iron balconies and the Bohemian atmosphere of the **Faubourg Marigny**, the Native American, African, Creole, Cajun and European cultures have shaped this city's identity. The birthplace of **Louis Armstrong** and **Sidney Bechet**, it became the cradle of **jazz** and **blues**. **Cajun music** and the nearby **bayous** are also part of the landscape.

AT SEA

Arrival 17/04/2023

Departure 18/04/2023

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.

MIAMI

Arrival 19/04/2023 early morning

Disembarkation 19/04/2023 at 08:00

The ultimate symbol of Florida if ever there was one, to this day Miami remains a must-see city. The home of what is considered to be the world's busiest cruise ship port, this multicultural city where the sun rules supreme has a lot more to offer than just long beaches and glamour. Miami is also worth visiting for its Art Deco district in South Beach, home to pastel-coloured buildings and to hotels with eccentric shapes. Artists, designers and top couturiers enliven this multifaceted city of skyscrapers, boutiques, frescoes and turquoise water. Not far from there is Everglades National Park, the largest subtropical wilderness reserve in North America, listed with UNESCO.