

Caribbean mosaic, between mangroves & lagoons

From **28/11/2023**
to **05/12/2023**

Ship: **LE DUMONT-D'URVILLE**

From **Belize City**
to **Belize City**



From **Belize City**, PONANT invites you to board *Le Dumont-d'Urville* for a **brand-new 8-day expedition cruise** to discover the lush landscapes and beautiful shores of Honduras, Guatemala and Belize.

Your ship will set sail to **Punta Sal** and the **Jeannette Kawas National Park**. This idyllic haven offers a formidable panorama of the biodiversity in Honduras, between the lush vegetation of the tropical rainforest and the rich marine ecosystem.

You will continue your odyssey towards the Bay Islands and **Les Cayos Cochinos**, a small archipelago classified as a marine reserve in 1994 and located on the world's second-largest coral reef. Let yourself fall under the spell of these idyllic shores, which are among the Caribbean's most beautiful coastlines.

A wild corner of the Caribbean coast at the confluence of several rivers, the green jungle of the **Cuero y Salado National Park** is home to exceptionally diverse fauna.

You will then call at **Water Caye**, which offers wonderful scuba diving opportunities to explore the treasures of the Mesoamerican Barrier Reef System.

Your ship will then sail to **Livingston**, Guatemala, the heart of Garifuna country, which proudly perpetuates an original culture and a music that is listed as a UNESCO heritage site.

Finally you will reach **Belize**. From the attractive little town of **Punta Gorda**, the Mayan civilisation will reveal itself around its ancestral traditions.

Then your ship will finally set sail for **Belize City**, the end of an exceptional cruise.

The encounters with the wildlife described above illustrate possible experiences only and cannot be guaranteed.



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

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YOUR STOPOVERS :

BELIZE CITY

Embarkation 28/11/2023 from 16:00 to 17:00

Departure 28/11/2023 at 19:00

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.

PUNTA SAL

Arrival 29/11/2023

Departure 29/11/2023

In the municipality of Tela lies **Punta Sal National Park**, renamed Jeannette Kawas as a tribute to the environmental activist murdered in 1995. Between coral reef and green jungle, the park unveils a succession of white sandy coves along its coastline giving onto crystal-clear waters in a marvellous palette of blues. Inland, the tropical forest unfurls, a real reserve for wildlife that you will be able to explore in a Zodiac dinghy between mangroves, lagoons and rivers. A visit to the village of **Miami**, located on a sand tongue in the park, will give you the opportunity to discover the culture of the **Garifuna**, a people settled in Central America who descend from a mix of freed slaves and Caribbean and Arawak people.

CAYOS COCHINOS

Arrival 30/11/2023

Departure 30/11/2023

Lying northeast of La Ceiba, **the Bay Islands** are home to certain treasures that float on a palette of turquoise, dark or celadon blues. **Les Cayos Cochinos**, an archipelago made up of two islands, *Cayo Menor* and *Cayo Grande*, and thirteen coral cays, is one of them. Situated on the Mesoamerican Barrier Reef System in a marine reserve created in 1994, its underwater scenery features coral gardens in which multitudes of tropical fish scatter and provide you with a feast for the eyes. In this idyllic setting, you will infinitely enjoy swimming while other water-based activities will offer a delightful interlude in the heart of exceptional nature.

CUERO Y SALADO

Arrival 01/12/2023
Departure 01/12/2023

In the heart of the Central American isthmus, Honduras is a little-known paradise boasting rich biodiversity, as evidenced by the **Cuero y Salado National Park**, a real refuge for wildlife created in 1987. This magnificent reserve, located on the **estuaries of the Cuero, Salado and San Juan rivers**, will provide you with fantastic opportunities for observing fauna and the plant kingdom. In a boat going across the **mangrove**, accompanied by the song of birds answering each other, you will not tire of observing the **bright plumage** livening up the thick green forest with bursts of colour. As you watch the **monkeys dancing from branch to branch**, you will not know which way to turn. And if you are lucky, turtles and caimans will also make an appearance.

WATER CAYE, ISLA UTILA

Arrival 01/12/2023
Departure 01/12/2023

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.

LIVINGSTON

Arrival 02/12/2023
Departure 02/12/2023

Livingston is a town unlike any other in Guatemala, an enclave with a Caribbean atmosphere on the edge of the Rio Dulce. **Lanchas**, the motor boats that travel along the river and the **Caribbean Sea**, are the only way of reaching this small, welcoming town with no overland access to the rest of the country. Here, you are in Garifuna country: the inhabitants, descendent from Jamaican slaves, perpetuate their culture through oral tradition and ceremonies. **Garifuna music**, which is lively and sounds similar in some respects to reggae, and Garifuna dance, to the beat of drums, **have both been classified by UNESCO as “Masterpieces of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity”**.

PUNTA GORDA

Arrival 03/12/2023
Departure 03/12/2023

Nestling at the southern tip of Belize in **Amatique Bay**, Punta Gorda is a picture-perfect postcard of the Caribbean. The historical heritage of this small, picturesque coastal town with a Caribbean atmosphere bears strong **Garifuna, Creole and Mayan influences**. When your ship calls here, you will have the chance to immerse yourself in one of these legendary cultures, **the Maya civilisation**. Through a visit to a **traditional village**, you will discover the **customs and traditions** of this indigenous people. As Punta Gorda is known for its **cacao production**, you will participate in the making of **Belizean chocolate treats**.

HALF MOON CAYE

Arrival 04/12/2023

Departure 04/12/2023

The tropical green crescent of **Half Moon Caye** is a natural monument of Belize stretching out over crystal-clear waters. The appeal of the oldest protected marine and ornithological area in Central America stems from its beaches lined with coconut trees, but most importantly from its **incredible underwater world**, which you will be able to explore with fins, mask and snorkel. Corals, sponges, sea turtles, spotted eagle rays, eels and groupers live in the turquoise waters, while on land the **coastal forest** is home to amusing geckos and a large colony of red-footed boobies, spectacular divers that penetrate the water at high speed to feed on small fish and squid.

BELIZE CITY

Arrival 05/12/2023 early morning

Disembarkation 05/12/2023 at 06:30

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