

Treasures of Brittany

From **20/09/2020**
to **27/09/2020**

Ship: **LE JACQUES CARTIER**

From **Saint-Malo**
to **Nantes**



In partnership with Relais & Châteaux

Along the French Atlantic coast, PONANT invites you to enjoy unique and unforgettable moments on an 8-day cruise aboard *Le Jacques-Cartier*.

You will set sail from **Saint-Malo**, a town famous for the legendary Route du Rhum yacht race. The city of privateers, the diversity of its heritage and its rampart walks will not fail to delight you.

The Ponant Isles, the common theme of this exceptional cruise, form a large archipelago off the French coast. Washed either by the English Channel or by the Atlantic, they owe their name to their Western geographical situation: **Ponant meaning literally where the sun sets**.

During the voyage, *Le Jacques-Cartier* will sail along the **Hoëdic, Groix, Sein, Molène, Ouessant and Bréhat Islands**... these many islands with **wild and preserved coastlines**.

Belle-Île-en-Mer, to the south of Brittany, will be one of the key ports of call. The Impressionist painter Claude Monet lived there for a while and painted the island's most remarkable site: the jagged rocks known as Les Aiguilles de Port-Coton.

You will also call at **Concarneau**. Originating on the former fortified island and attached to the mainline by a bridge, the '**ville close**' walled town is one of the most popular places in Brittany. But Concarneau is also a fishing port with enduring folklore and very beautiful beaches.





The information in this document is valid as of 30/09/2020

Treasures of Brittany

YOUR STOPOVERS :

SAINT-MALO

Embarkation 20/09/2020 from 16h00 to 17h00

Departure 20/09/2020 at 19h45

The mere mention of Saint-Malo's name is enough to plunge us back into the richness of its past. The fortifications stand as testimony to the Malouins' determination to defend their citadel, fought over by France and Britain in turn. When we drop anchor here, immerse yourself in the diversity of its heritage: the time when privateers sailed the oceans in search of trade and victories; the legendary yacht races the port city is still famous for, such as the Route du Rhum; and the final resting place of the French writer François-René de Chateaubriand, who was born here and chose to be buried here anonymously.

BRÉHAT ISLAND

Arrival 21/09/2020 early morning

Departure 21/09/2020 late afternoon

The **island** of **Bréhat**, which has banned cars from its streets, became **France's first classified natural site** in 1907. As it's 3.5 km long and 1.5 km wide, the island promises a change of scenery, one imbued with the maritime and military history which marked it from the Middle Ages. Its nickname is the **Island of Flowers** for the variety of its flora with agaves, echium, hydrangea, mimosa, mulberry trees, eucalyptus, aloes, camellias and the emblematic agapanthus. All year round, it enjoys the influence of the **Gulf Stream** which gives it a particularly mild microclimate, even in winter. It's also a paradise for birds, with 120 different species identified.

OUessant

Arrival 22/09/2020 early morning

Departure 22/09/2020 late afternoon

Chart a course towards the sentinel island, the most westerly point of mainland France, recognised as a **UNESCO Biosphere Reserve** since 1988. Some 7 km long, **Ouessant** boasts a wild and bitter beauty. Its landscapes carved by the sea and the wind, the vegetation of the moors and the heather, the rocks ceaselessly whipped by the Atlantic waves, are the home to thousands of sea birds. The island has been continuously inhabited since prehistoric times, with women dedicating themselves to farming while the men were fishermen and sailors. From Lampaul, the "capital", you can admire the powerful lighthouses that adorn the Ouessant coastline, including the Créac'h lighthouse, which stands out from the rest with its black and white stripes!

GLÉNAN ISLANDS

Arrival 23/09/2020 early morning

Departure 23/09/2020 midday

A little like the Seychelles...**The Glénan archipelago** and its string of islets offer you a magical spectacle with their white sand beaches and emerald green waters, evoking the exoticism of distant islands. Located around 10 nautical miles from the French mainland, the Glénans are a succession of **seven islets**, coiled around an interior sea with a paradisiac decor. To the east, Penfret shelters the lighthouse. Further on is the island of Loch, the largest one, recognisable by its chimney stack. Then come Cigogne with its fort, Drenec, Bananec, Guéotec, and finally Saint-Nicolas. **The daffodil** is the emblematic flower of the Glénan Islands; these pretty white flowers decorate the idyllic landscape of the archipelago in springtime ... A waking dream.

CONCARNEAU

Arrival 23/09/2020 midday

Departure 23/09/2020 late evening

An emblematic town in Brittany, it is hard to resist the delights of Concarneau. The "blue town" will astonish and surprise you with its charm and history. Stroll along the streets of the **Ville Close**, with its remarkable walls and fortifications overlooking **Concarneau Bay**. Since the siege of the town by Duguesclin in the 16th Century, it has maintained its taste for adventure. The maritime history of the town and its canning industry is examined in the interesting fishing museum (**Musée de la Pêche**). Also, do not miss the visit to Keriulet Castle, a neo-gothic gem built in the 19th Century by a Russian imperial princess.

GROIX ISLAND

Arrival 24/09/2020 mid morning

Departure 24/09/2020 late afternoon

"Qui voit Groix voit sa joie" ("Whoever sees Groix will see its glee") — this proverb will make perfect sense as soon as your ship reaches **Groix Island**. Located around 4 nautical miles from Lorient, Groix stretches 8 kilometres long and is home to **pretty low houses** and **colourful gardens**. There is much contrast in the panorama: mainly wild and craggy landscapes to the west, and long beaches to the east, inviting conviviality and relaxation. At the beginning of the 20th century, Groix was the leading tuna port in France and the tuna-shaped weathercock, perched atop the church belfry, illustrates this activity.

SAILING AROUND HOËDIC ISLAND

Arrival 25/09/2020

Departure 25/09/2020

Along its 8 km of coastline and superb beaches, **the island of Hoëdic** offers an enchanting and rare palette of colours and sensations. Authentic and faithful to its roots, it presents a **universe** that is both **fragile and poetic**. The island has

steep shores, and upholds its motto: "**Hoedic, come hell or high water**" Secret and wild, the island saw its first tourists arrive at the beginning of the 1960s in second homes, which represent 80% of accommodation today.

PORT-NAVALO

Arrival 25/09/2020 midday

Departure 25/09/2020 late afternoon

Port-Navalo is located at the entrance to the **Gulf of Morbihan**, at the extreme tip of the Rhuys peninsula. The view over Locmariaquer, at the other side of the gulf as well as over the Quiberon peninsula are exceptional. A charming village of traditional Breton houses, Port-Navalo has always been a resolutely maritime town, a traditional fishing port and a well-protected refuge from the Suroit winds. Do not miss the chance to stroll along the coastal footpath in search of viewpoints over this inland sea that is the gulf, crossed every day by all types of vessels including the famous sinagots with their red sails.

HOUAT

Arrival 26/09/2020 early morning

Departure 26/09/2020 midday

Located between Belle-Île-en-Mer and the golfe of Morbihan, near Hoëdic, the **island of Houat** is home to less than 200 inhabitants all year round. It belongs to **Mor Braz**, a vast body of water that includes the peninsulas of Quiberon, Rhuys and Guérande. Houat is immediately striking thanks to its immaculate appearance and its sandy creeks bathed by emerald waters. If you walk briskly, it's possible to get around the island in a couple of hours, admiring its landscapes, which are a **paradise for amateur botanists**, honeysuckle, tamarix, everlastings, sea pink, and more.

BELLE-ÎLE-EN-MER

Arrival 26/09/2020 midday

Departure 26/09/2020 late evening

Lying to the South of Brittany, Belle-Île is very aptly named. The largest of the Ponant islands, it owes its glowing reputation to its exceptional environment and generous natural attributes: pristine moors and dunes, headlands and cliffs cut into granite points, rocky inlets, and sheltered bays with sandy or pebble beaches. Aboard your ship, let the wild coastline of Belle-île-en-Mer surprise you, this little speck of land lying on the ocean, sparkling with colours in the morning light.

NANTES

Arrival 27/09/2020 early morning

Disembarkation 27/09/2020 at 07h00

Right near the Atlantic coast, on the Western edge of Europe in France's Loire-Atlantique *département*, **Nantes** will seduce you with its rich and varied **historical, architectural and artistic heritage**. From the Castle of the Dukes of

Brittany, which along with the cathedral is the city's oldest monument, to the famous Passage Pommeraye in the city centre, the arts museum or the Galerie des Machines, **Nantes** is a rather green city that holds many surprises. Jules Verne was born here in 1828. A museum bears his name on Butte Sainte-Anne, while on Ile Feydeau there is a commemorative plaque on the house where he was born.