

Nature and terroir of Nouvelle-Aquitaine

From **11/7/2020**
to **18/7/2020**

Ship: **LE BOUGAINVILLE S20**

From **Bordeaux**
to **Bordeaux**



France is beautiful from the sea...

PONANT invites you to take to the sea, without a care in the world, to enjoy a break from reality in a privileged setting, and cast a fresh eye over the infinite riches of the French coastline. As your journey unfolds and depending on the elements, you will enjoy magnificent moments as unique as they are unexpected.

From **Bordeaux**, recharge your batteries aboard *Le Bougainville** during this authentic 7-night journey to discover the natural wonders of the **Atlantic coast**.

You will discover the **Ponant Islands** literally *the place where the sun sets*, a vast scattering of islands off the French coast, and the inspiration for the company name, some 30 years ago. Among our favourites, **l'île d'Aix**, the southernmost of the Ponant Islands, boasts an impressive set of fortifications including Fort Boyard. Built on a sandbank off the coast of the island, it is a superb illustration of the ingenuity of generations of builders.

On the **Île de Ré**, soak up the iodized scents of the ocean to discover the historical and cultural heritage of **Saint-Martin-de-Ré**.

Before reaching Bordeaux, you will sail near the **Cordouan Lighthouse**, which guides sailors into the entrance of the **Gironde Estuary**. This is the oldest French lighthouse still in activity, listed as a historic monument in 1862.

The conditions will be ideal for sporting and nautical activities **far from the crowds** allowing you to enjoy these moments in peace and quiet. Outings in Zodiac® dinghies will give you access to sublime beaches only visible at low tide and unspoiled landscapes ideal for the contemplation and observation of nature.

This itinerary is given as an indication only. Based on tide times and weather conditions, the Captain and the Expedition Leader may need to change the order of certain ports of call to ensure guests have the best possible experience.

**Or another ship in the Explorer series.*



The information in this document is valid as of 11/8/2020

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YOUR STOPOVERS :

BORDEAUX

Embarkation 11/7/2020 from 16h00 to 17h00

Departure 11/7/2020 at 21h00

Bordeaux stretches along the banks of the Garonne river, in South-West France. Its rich wine tradition makes it the **world capital of wine**. Let yourself be carried away by the history of the *Port de la Lune*, made a UNESCO World Heritage site for its prestigious classical architecture. On the famous Place de la Bourse, the past and the present unite: here you can observe the majestic old buildings reflected in the contemporary **Miroir d'eau** creation.

ÎLE-D'AIX

Arrival 12/7/2020

Departure 12/7/2020

A small crescent of land, 3 kilometres long, the **Île d'Aix** is a fragile area listed as an outstanding natural site. The use of cars here is restricted, thereby enabling nature to reign supreme. The "sentier des douaniers" (Customs officer path) unveils the treasures of the island. Between **marshes, vines, creeks and cliffs**, you will quickly become aware of this stretch of land's exceptional heritage. A fine diversity of landscapes of small pastel-coloured houses adorned with multi-coloured shutters and hollyhocks... It's just like a postcard.

HOEDIC

Arrival 13/7/2020

Departure 13/7/2020

Natural and delicate, **Hoëdic** is often compared to a flower, evoking the **sea lily** that grows on its dunes. This 2.5 km long and 1 km wide granite chip invites to stroll along its coastal paths and white sandy beaches, adorned with pebbles polished by the ocean. Hundreds of bird species have found a home in Hoëdic, including the **desert traquet**, the **citrine wagtail**, the **golden thrush**, the **saker falcon** or the **melodious linnet**. A jovial and generous atmosphere, making Hoëdic a unique and unmissable place.

YEU ISLAND

Arrival 14/7/2020

Departure 14/7/2020

Located around 20 kilometres from mainland France, **Yeu Island** (Île d'Yeu) was occupied as of Neolithic times, as evidenced by the many **dolmens** and **standing stones**. The island, one of the fifteen Ponant Islands, presents visitors with two very different faces: to the east, a sandy and lush coastline that resembles the landscapes of the Vendée region; to the west, the appropriately named “wild coast”. Here, the **high granite cliffs**, the rocks buffeted by the waves, and the white sand creeks are reminiscent of the Breton coast.

ÎLE DE RÉ

Arrival 15/7/2020

Departure 15/7/2020

Linked to the mainland by a bridge from La Rochelle, the **Île de Ré** invites you to a wonderful change of scenery to discover its cultural and historical heritage. Here, the iodized fragrances accompany your discovery of Saint-Martin-de-Ré. You will walk along the **Vauban fortifications** built during the reign of Louis XIV. With 14 km of ramparts, they have been classified as a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** since 2008. Don't miss a stroll along the harbour where the heart of the island beats to the rhythm of fishing.

SAINT-JEAN-DE-LUZ

Arrival 16/7/2020

Departure 16/7/2020

A renowned seaside resort in the South West of France, Saint-Jean-de-Luz is a picturesque and authentic town with a rich history. In particular, King Louis XIV married Maria Teresa in the famous Saint Jean the Baptist church in 1660. The seafront unveils stunning views, between the Basque architecture and the Cantabrian Sea. An unforgettable bay, which was frequented in the 17th century by privateers and wealthy ship-owners.

SAILING ALONG CORDOUAN LIGHTHOUSE

Arrival 17/7/2020

Departure 17/7/2020

You will sail past the **Cordouan lighthouse**. Lying 7 km from the coast, it marks the entrance to the **Gironde estuary**, formed from the confluence of the **Garonne** and the **Dordogne** rivers, where the tumultuous waters combine with the **Atlantic Ocean**. Built by the **architect Louis de Foix** in honour of the kings **Henri III** and **Henri IV**, “the lighthouse of kings” was opened in 1611. Raised and restored at the end of the 18th century, Cordouan now stands 68 metres tall. Listed as an **historic monument** in 1862, this masterpiece of marine architecture is the oldest French lighthouse still in activity. In 1823, it was fitted with the first **Fresnel lens**, named after its inventor, while over the years its lighting system was electrified then computerised.

TALMONT-SUR-GIRONDE

Arrival 17/7/2020

Departure 17/7/2020

You will sail along the coast to discover the remarkable **Meschers caves**, natural cavities carved into the chalk cliffs that loom over the **Gironde estuary**. Enlarged by man in the 19th century, they became **troglodyte dwellings**, some of which are still inhabited today. Punctuating the coastline of the Charente region with their poetic presence, the **carrelets**, fragile-looking huts on stilts fitted with a square fishing net, can be seen along the **Saintonge coastline**. The beautiful town of **Talmont-sur-Gironde** is to be found at the heart of the fortified city founded by **Edward I**, King of England and Duke of Aquitaine. The **Sainte-Radegonde church**, a jewel of Romanesque art, dating from the 12th century, looms majestically over the estuary.

BORDEAUX

Arrival 18/7/2020 early morning

Disembarkation 18/7/2020 at 07h30

Bordeaux stretches along the banks of the Garonne river, in South-West France. Its rich wine tradition makes it the **world capital of wine**. Let yourself be carried away by the history of the *Port de la Lune*, made a UNESCO World Heritage site for its prestigious classical architecture. On the famous Place de la Bourse, the past and the present unite: here you can observe the majestic old buildings reflected in the contemporary **Miroir d'eau** creation.