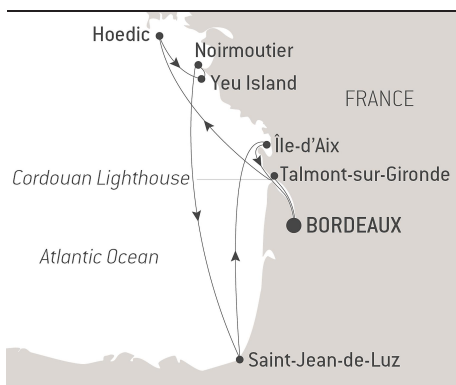


Nature and terroir of Nouvelle-Aquitaine

From **29/8/2020**
to **5/9/2020**

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 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.

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.

Noirmoutier, linked to the mainland by the passage du Gois, will pick you up with the mildness of its climate and the beauty of its natural landscapes. You will taste the scent of freedom between Mediterranean vegetation, fine sandy beaches and salt marshes.

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

Nature and terroir of Nouvelle-Aquitaine

YOUR STOPOVERS :

BORDEAUX

Embarkation 29/8/2020 from 14h30 to 15h30

Departure 29/8/2020 at 16h30

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.

TALMONT-SUR-GIRONDE

Arrival 30/8/2020

Departure 30/8/2020

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.

SAILING ALONG CORDOUAN LIGHTHOUSE

Arrival 30/8/2020

Departure 30/8/2020

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.

HOEDIC

Arrival 31/8/2020

Departure 31/8/2020

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 linnnet**. A jovial and generous atmosphere, making Hoëdic a unique and unmissable place.

YEU ISLAND

Arrival 1/9/2020

Departure 1/9/2020

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.

NOIRMOUTIER

Arrival 2/9/2020

Departure 2/9/2020

You will discover the authentic and natural island of **Noirmoutier**, where the mild climate combines in all weathers. To the north-east, the sea wind breathes out the Mediterranean essences of **the bois de la Chaise**. This unmissable place offers a plant umbrella to the creeks and beaches of the area. Among them, the **plage des Dames** and its mythical white cabins. Following the example of the painter Auguste Renoir, let yourself be charmed by these magnificent and inspiring settings. You may have the opportunity to approach the **Passage du Gois**, a submersible causeway linking the island to the mainland. Seeing the tide rise there is always a fascinating sight.

SAINT-JEAN-DE-LUZ

Arrival 3/9/2020

Departure 3/9/2020

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.

ÎLE-D'AIX

Arrival 4/9/2020

Departure 4/9/2020

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.

BORDEAUX

Arrival 5/9/2020 mid morning

Disembarkation 5/9/2020 at 10h00

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.