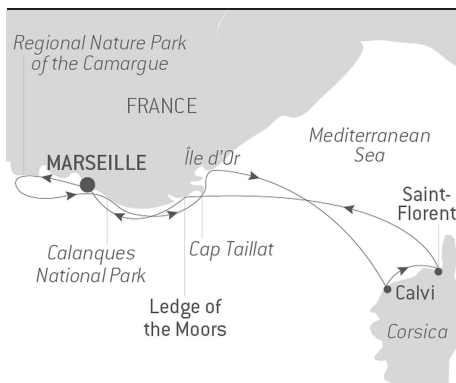


The heritage of the Mediterranean coast

From **19/9/2020**
to **26/9/2020**

Ship: **L'AUSTRAL S20**

From **Marseille**
to **Marseille**



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.

During this 7-night cruise aboard *L'Austral** discover or rediscover the natural and cultural heritage of the **Mediterranean coastline**, from **Marseille**, in a tribute to the city that is home to our company.

It all starts at the mouth of the **Rhone** in **Camargue** country, a magical and evocative word: this region, where man lives in harmony with a vast and unspoiled nature, is forged by an agriculture adapted to the conditions, as seen by the rice fields and salt flats. The **Camargue regional natural park** is home to flora and fauna that are unique in Europe.

You will discover the magnificent **Calanques National Park**, whose impressive limestone cliffs plunge into the **Mediterranean**. Under the kind eyes of the **Bec de l'Aigle**, you will enjoy its magnificent natural and cultural heritage.

The **Cap Taillat**, planted with maritime pines and cork oaks, will reveal a natural jewel, bathed in the crystal-clear waters of the French Riviera. You will then approach the **Île d'Or**, which inspired the setting of the adventures of Tintin in *The Black Island*. From the top of her unusual and mysterious tower, the island looks out over the **Estérel massif**, recognisable for its abrupt red rocks.

You will then set sail for **Calvi** in the heart of the Balagne region. Between steep peaks and sublime beaches with turquoise waters, you will experience a wild and authentic Corsica.

During this trip, you may be lucky enough to see certain species of cetaceans, such as **bottlenose dolphins**, **rorquals** and **pilot whales**,

common off the Mediterranean coastline.

The conditions will be ideal for sporting and nautical activities **far from the crowds** allowing you to enjoy these moments in peace and quiet. You will have access to unspoiled areas that facilitate the 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.

Encounters with wildlife are possible but cannot be guaranteed.

**Or another ship from the Sistership serie.*



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

The heritage of the Mediterranean coast

YOUR STOPOVERS :

MARSEILLE

Embarkation 19/9/2020 from 16h00 to 17h00

Departure 19/9/2020 at 23h59

The oldest harbour in France, **Marseille** is the city where PONANT has chosen to set up its company headquarters. Heart vibrating in its setting of Mediterranean Calanques, it reveals its raw and authentic beauty, made up of a thousand influences and cultures which, over the centuries, have made up its wealth. A stroll through the **Old Port** will allow you to discover the places corresponding to the city founded by the Greeks as well as **Notre-Dame-de-la-Garde Basilica**, with its astonishing neo-Byzantine architecture, which overlooks it. Close to the quays, the Place de Lenche, which covers the ancient agora, will be perfect for a break in one of its lively cafés before melting into the maze of narrow streets with colourful houses in the **Panier district**, just a stone's throw away.

REGIONAL NATURE PARK OF THE CAMARGUE

Arrival 20/9/2020

Departure 20/9/2020

You will chart a course for the **Camargue**, where the freshwater of the Rhone meets the saltwater of the **Mediterranean** and nourishes the soils of this vast expanse lying on the **Rhone Delta**. Between crops and livestock, salt marshes and lagoons, this original nature, patiently forged by man, is ideal for really enjoying a change of scenery. The iodine aromas of the endless salt marshes will accompany your discovery of this unspoiled region, the fragile sanctuary for a biodiversity that is unique in Europe. Listed as a **nature reserve** and **Camargue regional national park**, nearly 400 species of birds find refuge in this enchanting setting including **squacco heron, glossy ibis, common shelduck** and **flamingoes**.

CALANQUES NATIONAL PARK

Arrival 21/9/2020

Departure 21/9/2020

Between steep reliefs, scents of sun-drenched garrigue and dizzying cliffs plunging into the waters of the Mediterranean, the **Calanques National Park** is a superb concentrate of **Provence**, among the most famous calanques, Port Miou, Port Pin, En-Vau, Mugel or Figuerolles. The turquoise and crystalline waters bordering the steep coast offer panoramas of rare beauty.

CAP TAILLAT

Arrival 22/9/2020
Departure 22/9/2020

Cap Taillat is one of its natural jewels, a small rocky massif of maquis scrubland and maritime pines at the end of a sandy isthmus. This idyllically beautiful site, criss-crossed with coastal pathways, offers the discovery of a remarkable biodiversity. Owned by the **coastal conservation agency**, this small niche of greenery, under assault from the Mediterranean, offers grandiose perspectives over **Cap Lardier** and **Cap Camarat**, as well as the **Hyères Islands**.

SAILING ALONG ÎLE D'OR

Arrival 22/9/2020
Departure 22/9/2020

Lying between the **Mediterranean** and the limestone of **Provence**, the **Esterel massif**, a volcanic site of abrupt rocks of red rhyolite, stands out in contrast against the cerulean skies and the azure waters into which they plunge and disperse. With **Natura 2000** classification, this area of land and sea is testimony to a very rich biodiversity and home to many species of plants and animals. From the sea, you will enjoy a privileged perspective for admiring the exceptional landscape as you approach the **Ile d'Or**. With its unusual and mysterious tall square tower, it inspired the setting of the adventures of Tintin in *The Black Island*. In this unique setting, surrounded by the elements, a change of scenery is guaranteed.

CALVI, CORSICA

Arrival 23/9/2020
Departure 23/9/2020

Nestled on a rocky spur in the north-west of Corsica, the port of **Calvi** offers its whiteness between two sapphire-coloured bays. Capital of the **Balagne** region, the Genoese city benefits from an exceptional natural setting between the abrupt relief of the central chain, fertile hills and long sandy beaches. From the promontory of the **Notre-Dame-de-la-Serra chapel**, built in the 19th century on the ruins of a 15th century sanctuary, you will not miss the sublime panorama of the seaside, the mountains and the Calvi citadel. A little further west, you will have the opportunity to discover with the **peninsula of Revelatta**, a wilder and more preserved part of Corsica.

SAINT-FLORENT, CORSICA

Arrival 24/9/2020
Departure 24/9/2020

In the hollow of one of the most beautiful gulfs of the Mediterranean to which it owes its name, **Saint-Florent** is an ancient Genoese city whose citadel dominates the bay with its circular architecture. A link between the mountains of **Upper Corsica** and the **Agriates desert**, the fishing village has become a renowned seaside resort. In front of this jewel nestled in the hollow of a wild and isolated region, sublime beaches of fine sand border a sea of infinite turquoise shades. At the western tip of the gulf, the **Tower of Mortella**, built in the 16th century under the Republic of Genoa to prevent from invaders, stands watch. Like most of the towers that dot the Corsican coast, it is an emblematic and

familiar symbol of the island.

LEDGE OF THE MOORS

Arrival 25/9/2020

Departure 25/9/2020

Midway between **cap Bénat** and the **presqu'île de Saint-Tropez**, the **corniche des Maures**, lies at the foot of the sheer slopes of the eponymous massif, and extends along a coastline punctuated by small bays and headlands. Facing the **Hyères Islands**, this attractive corner of **Provence** covered with a dense and fragrant vegetation is one of the last patches of greenery in a siliceous landscape. Surrounded by the heady aromas of the garrigue and the Mediterranean vegetation, you may have the possibility of discovering the marvellous site of the **domaine du Rayol**, boasting one of the most beautiful panoramas over the Var coastline. This extraordinary garden, owned by the **coastal protection agency**, includes the quintessential plant species of the Mediterranean shores, under the direction of renowned landscape gardener Gilles Clément.

MARSEILLE

Arrival 26/9/2020

Disembarkation 26/9/2020 at 06h00

The oldest harbour in France, **Marseille** is the city where PONANT has chosen to set up its company headquarters. Heart vibrating in its setting of Mediterranean Calanques, it reveals its raw and authentic beauty, made up of a thousand influences and cultures which, over the centuries, have made up its wealth. A stroll through the **Old Port** will allow you to discover the places corresponding to the city founded by the Greeks as well as **Notre-Dame-de-la-Garde Basilica**, with its astonishing neo-Byzantine architecture, which overlooks it. Close to the quays, the Place de Lenche, which covers the ancient agora, will be perfect for a break in one of its lively cafés before melting into the maze of narrow streets with colourful houses in the **Panier district**, just a stone's throw away.