

Natural & Cultural Wonders of the Western Caribbean

From **7/11/2021**
to **14/11/2021**

Ship: **LE CHAMPLAIN**

From **Cozumel**
to **Cozumel**



Round trip transfers from Playa del Carmen to Cozumel

PONANT brings you an itinerary in the Caribbean Sea, sailing along the Mexican peninsula of **Yucatán** to Guatemala and Belize. In **Cozumel**, you will board **Le Champlain** for an 8-day cruise combining idyllic **beaches and Pre-Columbian sites**.

Your ship will first call at **Water Caye** which offer wonderful scuba diving opportunities to discover the treasures of the **Mesoamerican Barrier Reef System**. From there, an extension by plane is possible to discover the **Mayan site of Copán**. Located deep in the jungle, this site is famous for its remarkable hieroglyphic stairway which bears the longest Mayan inscription ever discovered.

The next port of call will be **Santo Tomás de Castilla**. From there, you will be able to discover the **pyramids of Tikal**, another major site of the Maya civilisation, or the palaces, pyramids and sanctuaries of the **Archaeological Park and Ruins of Quiriguá**, listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Your ship will then set sail for **Livingston** in Guatemala, the heart of **Garifuna** country, which proudly cultivates an **original culture and music** that is listed as World Heritage by **UNESCO**.

You'll then discover **Belize**, with its **Mayan sites lost in lush jungle** and its marvellous coral reef, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, which is home to the emblematic **Blue Hole, a splendid underwater cenote** that stands out like a sapphire set upon the reefs of the turquoise waters of the Caribbean Sea. An extraordinary natural phenomenon that you will have the possibility of admiring from the sky or during a dive (PADI Advanced Open Water Diver or equivalent).



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

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YOUR STOPOVERS :

COZUMEL

Embarkation 7/11/2021 from 19h00 to 20h00
Departure 7/11/2021 at 21h00

Off the Riviera Maya, **Cozumel** is Mexico's second largest island. Located at the northern extremity of the **Mesoamerican Barrier Reef System**, the island is renowned for its snorkelling and diving sites and the incredible **clarity of its waters** protected by a marine park. The island's coasts and interior are also full of treasures: sacred Maya sites devoted to medicine, love and fertility; cenotes; a museum; an ecological reserve; mangroves; lagoons; coastal dunes; long unspoiled beaches. Don't hesitate to climb to the top of the lighthouse in the Punta Sur Nature Reserve in the island's south, to admire the panorama of these **wild expanses** from above.

AT SEA

Arrival 8/11/2021
Departure 8/11/2021

During your day at sea, make the most of the many services and activities on board. Treat yourself to a moment of relaxation in the spa or stay in shape in the fitness centre. Depending on the season, let yourself be tempted by the swimming pool or a spot of sunbathing. This day without a port of call will also be an opportunity to enjoy the conferences or shows proposed on board, to do some shopping in the boutique or to meet the PONANT photographers in their dedicated space. As for lovers of the open sea, they will be able to visit the ship's upper deck to admire the spectacle of the waves and perhaps be lucky enough to observe marine species. A truly enchanted interlude, combining comfort, rest and entertainment.

WATER CAYE, ISLA UTILA

Arrival 9/11/2021 early morning
Departure 9/11/2021 evening

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.

SANTO TOMÁS DE CASTILLA

Arrival 10/11/2021 early morning
Departure 10/11/2021 evening

A port city located in the north-east of **Guatemala**, on the coast of the Amatique Bay, Santo Tomás de Castilla offers exceptional access to the **fabulous Mayan archaeological site of Quiriguá**. Listed as a **UNESCO** World Heritage Site since 1981, this place takes you back in time, deep into a décor of ruins and vestiges from the 8th century.

LIVINGSTON

Arrival 11/11/2021 early morning
Departure 11/11/2021 midday

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”**.

BELIZE CITY

Arrival 12/11/2021 early morning
Departure 12/11/2021 early evening

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.

HALF MOON CAYE

Arrival 13/11/2021 early morning
Departure 13/11/2021 midday

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.

COZUMEL

Arrival 14/11/2021 early morning

Disembarkation 14/11/2021 at 07h30

Off the Riviera Maya, **Cozumel** is Mexico's second largest island. Located at the northern extremity of the **Mesoamerican Barrier Reef System**, the island is renowned for its snorkelling and diving sites and the incredible **clarity of its waters** protected by a marine park. The island's coasts and interior are also full of treasures: sacred Maya sites devoted to medicine, love and fertility; cenotes; a museum; an ecological reserve; mangroves; lagoons; coastal dunes; long unspoiled beaches. Don't hesitate to climb to the top of the lighthouse in the Punta Sur Nature Reserve in the island's south, to admire the panorama of these **wild expanses** from above.