

The Caribbean & French Guiana

From **10/3/2021**
to **20/3/2021**

Ship: **LE DUMONT-D'URVILLE**

From **Fort-de-France**
to **Cayenne**



Set sail for a cruise to the heart of the most enchanting islands in the **Caribbean Sea**, up to the tropical rainforest of French Guiana. PONANT offers you a 11-day circuit aboard **Le Dumont-d'Urville**, from Fort-de-France to Cayenne.

Leaving from **Martinique**, your first stop will be **Les Saintes**, a highly popular anchorage site with crystal-clear waters and fabulous seabed. You will then set sail to the **beautiful island of Saint Lucia**. Close to **the Soufriere volcano**, you will be enchanted by the two emblematic rocky pitons, **UNESCO World Heritage Sites**, which form the backdrop to the island.

Then discover **Saint Vincent and the Grenadines archipelago and Bequia Island**, the “whale-hunting island,” and its wild and unspoiled coastline. You will enjoy the lively atmosphere of Port Elizabeth, the island’s main town. During your call at the island of Grenada, visit its elegant capital, St. Georges, a particularly picturesque town dotted with pastel-coloured colonial houses nestled in a very pretty bay.

After a day in Trinidad, you will then chart a course towards the picturesque town of **Paramaribo** in Surinam, before a call at the **Salvation Islands**. This will be the occasion to visit the former prisons which once held political prisoners and convicts, deep in the lush vegetation.



The information in this document is valid as of 30/9/2020

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YOUR STOPOVERS :

FORT-DE-FRANCE

Embarkation 10/3/2021 from 16h00 to 17h00

Departure 10/3/2021 at 21h00

Located on the western coast of Martinique, Fort-de-France will amaze you by the splendour of its bay, a magnificent cut-out in the coastline, considered as one of the most beautiful in the world. At the harbour mouth, on its strip of land, **fort Saint-Louis** overlooks the capital city of Martinique. If you climb up to it, you can see some breath-taking views. **Saint Louis Cathedral** and the Schoelcher library bear witness to a secular history, intimately linked to the island's story. Why not try some fresh coconut at the colourful Grand Marché. Two really pleasant places you can take a breather in, right in the heart of the city, are the garden of Balata and the Aimé Césaire park.

LES SAINTES

Arrival 11/3/2021 early morning

Departure 11/3/2021 late afternoon

During the feast of All Saints in 1493, **Christopher Columbus** discovered this archipelago of nine islands that he named "The Saints". Today, only two of them are inhabited. Terre de Haut, in the east, is dominated by the Morne Mire hill; at the summit stands **Fort Napoleon**, paying homage to the islands' history. In the heart of the **botanical garden**, shared by iguanas and cacti, there is an exceptional view of the **Baie des Saintes**, one of the most beautiful in the world. The long shady beach of Pompierre, where it is forbidden to drop anchor, is a peaceful place for a swim, while Pain de Sucre Beach offers wonderful opportunities for snorkelling. On the island, don't forget to taste the local speciality, the "tourment d'amour", a cake made with coconut.

PIGEON ISLAND BEACH

Arrival 12/3/2021 early morning

Departure 12/3/2021 midday

Linked to **St Lucia** by a sand causeway, **Pigeon Island** has been a designated National Park since 1979. On this wild and pristine land, you will be inspired to take pleasant walks amid the tropical vegetation and through a **magnificent tree-filled garden**. You will also be irresistibly drawn to the two pretty little sandy beaches nestling on the southern side and bathed by crystal-clear waters. While snorkelling, be sure to explore the underwater world that is teeming with life, along the rocks lining this peninsula's coast. You will thoroughly enjoy the calm and beauty of this place, which is really conducive to simply relaxing.

SOUFRIÈRE

Arrival 12/3/2021 early afternoon

Departure 12/3/2021 late evening

Nestled in the crook of a breath-taking bay, the former capital of **St Lucia** is brimming with attractions. **Soufrière** is famous for The **Pitons**, volcanic spires that tower over the entrance to the town. In the vicinity of the lush botanical gardens, you will be able to enjoy the curative powers of the **Diamond Falls mineral baths**. From the beach at the north end of the bay, you can set off to explore the reefs that are home to stunning gardens of sea fans at the foot of the cliffs that plunge into the sea.

BRIDGETOWN

Arrival 13/3/2021 early morning

Departure 13/3/2021 early evening

Bridgetown, the bustling capital of Barbados, is located on the island's south-west coast. Its **historic quarters** are **UNESCO World Heritage sites** and contain prime examples of British colonial architecture, which you will see between the postcard-perfect fishing harbour and St Ann's Fort. Streets shaded by palms and flamboyant trees lead you to the Anglican cathedral church of St Michael, built from coral stone, the Barbados Museum and George Washington House, a Georgian-style mansion. There'll be plenty of time to relax on the Caribbean beaches of **Carlisle Bay**, a few paces from the old town centre.

PORT ELIZABETH, BEQUIA ISLAND

Arrival 14/3/2021 early morning

Departure 14/3/2021 late afternoon

In the heart of the **Caribbean**, **Bequia** is the second-largest of 32 islands that make up the country of **St Vincent and the Grenadines**. You will love the lively and picturesque atmosphere of **Port Elizabeth**, the island's main town. From the port, a promenade lined with beautiful traditional houses, landscaped gardens and small restaurants runs along the shoreline. It leads to Princess Margaret Beach, a wild beach where Princess Margaret herself has stayed and which seems to emerge directly from the tropical forest. From rainforest to lush meadows and long stretches of sand, Bequia will offer you a natural setting that is conducive to lovely walks and to spending time on the beach.

SAINT GEORGE'S, GRENADA

Arrival 15/3/2021 early morning

Departure 15/3/2021 late afternoon

Delicately set in the curve of a bay on the west coast of Grenada, **Saint George's** lively commercial fishing harbour is especially colourful when the boats are being loaded with fruit and vegetables destined for neighbouring islands and when all the little fishing boats return from their day out at sea. This "**spice island**" capital is an excellent base for visiting the surrounding natural sites: its picturesque coast or the artisanal producers of chocolate and nutmeg,

Grenada's gold. Five kilometres (3 miles) to the south, you will be able to visit Grande Anse and Morne Rouge, two long sandy beaches.

PORT-OF-SPAIN, TRINIDAD

Arrival 16/3/2021 early morning

Departure 16/3/2021 early afternoon

Port of Spain, the capital of **Trinidad and Tobago**, is located on the **Gulf of Paria**, on the northwest coast of the island of Trinidad, less than 15 km away from Venezuela. This surprising city is built both on land reclaimed from the sea and on hillside. Here, you will be able to admire deserted beaches, coconut palms, jungle and tropical forests with a highly varied fauna and flora, particularly present in the **Caroni Swamp** in the city's south. This incredible 6,000-hectare mangrove is protected under the Ramsar Convention. In this wildlife sanctuary, you may have the good fortune of spotting a **scarlet ibis**, a rare and protected bird that is the national emblem of Trinidad.

AT SEA

Arrival 17/3/2021

Departure 17/3/2021

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.

PARAMARIBO

Arrival 18/3/2021 early morning

Departure 18/3/2021 early evening

The many facets of Paramaribo, the capital of Suriname, a small South-American country nestling between French Guiana and Guyana, will undoubtedly surprise you and fill you with wonder. This former colonial town was established by the Dutch in the 17th century. The historic city is home to many buildings made of wood and red bricks: a simple architecture that has been enriched over the centuries under the influence of the growing ethnic diversity of the population. Be sure to visit the Saint Peter and Paul Cathedral and the presidential palace in the historic inner city, now on the UNESCO World Heritage list.

SALVATION ISLANDS

Arrival 19/3/2021 midday

Departure 19/3/2021 early evening

Lying off the coast of Kourou, an essential element of any trip to Guiana, the Islands of Salvation were known as the "Islands of the Devil" because of the strong sea currents that made access to them perilous. Once infamous for being the site of a jail with very harsh conditions of detention, where Alfred Dreyfus was exiled, today they are a peaceful place where coconut palms cast shade over the crystal-clear waters. During your cruise, we invite you to make a timeless journey to visit the many remains of the prison that are still visible, including cells and the abandoned hospital.

CAYENNE

Arrival 20/3/2021 early morning

Disembarkation 20/3/2021 at 07h00

Capital of French Guyana located more than 7,000 km from the French mainland, Cayenne offers a harmonious ensemble of monuments, beaches and old creole houses on the eastern side of the South American continent. Between history and modernity, the city is marked by the presence of the former prisons, the vestiges of which can be seen on the Salvation Islands. This port of call will give you the opportunity to visit two museums, the *Musée local de la Guyana* and the *Musée des cultures guyanaises*, and learn more about the historic and cultural interests of the region. The Place des Palmistes, with its three soaring Guisanbourg palm trees, is the main square in Cayenne. It provides the setting for a variety of events throughout the year.