

# Treasures of the Persian Gulf

From **6/1/2021**  
to **14/1/2021**

Ship: **LE JACQUES CARTIER**

From **Muscat**  
to **Dubai**



**PONANT** invites you on an **all-new 9-day cruise** between **the Gulf of Oman** and the **Persian Gulf**, departing from **Muscat**. Come aboard **Le Jacques-Cartier**, and set off to discover the treasures of the desert of the **Arabian Peninsula**.

In the charming port of **Sour**, on the far south of the peninsula, you will discover maritime traditions that date back a thousand years. Today, they still build dhows there. These are the typical boats that were used to transport goods on the spice route.

*Le Jacques-Cartier* will then drop anchor in **Khasab**, the gateway to the sublime “**fjords of Arabia**” that you will be able to explore aboard a traditional boat, before setting sail for **Doha**, in Qatar. In this city blending tradition and modernity, next to the most recent skyscrapers, you will discover a superb museum home to **treasures of Islamic art**, and the sparkling colours of the **Waqif souk** which brings the heart of the old town to life.

You will then stop off at the **nature reserve** of the island of **Sir Bani Yas**, a veritable **wildlife sanctuary**.

Your ship will take you towards **Abu Dhabi**, the booming capital of the United Arab Emirates. You will be able to make the most of this day to visit the fantastic new **Louvre Abu Dhabi Museum** and the **Grand Mosque**, one of the largest in the world.

Finally, you will reach fascinating and futuristic **Dubai**, the kingdom of excessiveness, the end of your cruise.



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

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## YOUR STOPOVERS :

### MUSCAT

Embarkation 6/1/2021 from 16h00 to 17h00

Departure 6/1/2021 at 23h00

Unlike neighbouring metropolises, the capital of the Sultanate of Oman has chosen to ban towers and skyscrapers and to cultivate the peninsula's traditional and refined architectural style: low houses, domes, moucharaby windows, and wooden balconies. This authenticity adds to the charm of this small former maritime city protected by mountains and the forts constructed by the Portuguese in the 16th century. There is no doubt that you will fall under the charm of the treasures of Omani craftsmanship: the souk in the old district of Mutrah is a perfect example of this, as is the Sultan Qaboos Grand Mosque.

### SUR

Arrival 7/1/2021 early morning

Departure 7/1/2021 midday

Built on either side of a lagoon, **Sur** is a city and seaport in the **north-east of the Sultanate of Oman**, on the coast of the **Gulf of Oman**. Connected to the sea by a channel, the port was very active for a long time, having regular dealings with Africa and India since the 6<sup>th</sup> century. Sur is renowned for being the only Omani city to have retained its **traditional boatyards**, where **dhow**s (wooden sailing ships) are hand-crafted. The city's charm stems from its immaculate white houses dotting the seafront and from its fort erected on a hill along the **road to Muscat**.

### KHASAB

Arrival 8/1/2021 midday

Departure 8/1/2021 late afternoon

Located in the country's north, on the **Musandam Peninsula**, **Khasab** is a city in the **Sultanate of Oman**. In the **Strait of Hormuz**, which connects the Persian Gulf to the Gulf of Oman, this small port built by the Portuguese in the 16<sup>th</sup> century and surrounded by a chain of rocky mountains was established at the mouth of **Wadi Khasab**. You will love its authentic scenery and particularly its **fjords**, which cut through the landscapes in a spectacular fashion and have earned it the moniker "Norway of Arabia". In the city, **Khasab Castle** and its atypical architecture are well worth a visit to discover the history and culture of Oman.

### DOHA

Arrival 9/1/2021 mid afternoon  
Departure 10/1/2021 early evening

On the banks of the Persian Gulf, discover Doha, the capital of Qatar. Rising out of the desert, the city has managed to maintain its traditions in spite of a frantic race for modernity. The cliff bordering Doha Bay has magnificent views over the city centre's enormous constructions. The silhouette of the Museum of Islamic Art rises up near the quays, where the region's typical sailboats, known as *dhows*, are docked. This "fortress", designed by Ming Pei, the architect of the Louvre pyramid, is home to the finest collections of Islamic art in the world. Not far, the lively district of Souq Waqif and its colourful stalls are also an unmissable visit.

## SIR BANI YAS

Arrival 11/1/2021 early morning  
Departure 11/1/2021 late afternoon

You'll make a port of call on the island of **Sir Bani Yas**, a real naturalist dream that has been dedicated to the **conservation of endangered animal species** since 1971. This enchanting former reserve of the Emir of Abu Dhabi is planted with more than two million trees. Nominated "**The World's Leading Sustainable Tourist Destination**", it has one the largest populations of Arabian oryxes. The ruins of one of the oldest Christian monasteries of the pre-Islamic era, dating back to 600 AD, are visible there.

## ABU DHABI

Arrival 12/1/2021 early morning  
Departure 12/1/2021 late evening

The political capital of the United Arab Emirates, Abu Dhabi stands out thanks to its exceptional cultural offering. In the Saadiyat Island district, the Louvre Abu Dhabi, designed by Jean Nouvel as a museum town inspired by traditional Arab architecture, creates a dialogue between objects and works from civilisations from all over the world around the great universal questions. A little further, the Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque boasts a sumptuous decor of marble, gold and glass. Abu Dhabi is also the gateway to the Al Ain oasis and its 150,000 date palms, a remarkable testimony to the settling of nomads in the region since Neolithic times, and a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

## DUBAI

Arrival 13/1/2021 early morning  
Disembarkation 14/1/2021 at 08h00

Vertiginous, excessive, immoderate... Dubai, the largest city in the United Arab Emirates, stands out for its architectural follies. Home to the world's tallest skyscraper, the Burj Khlifa, with a total height of 828 metres, almost three times that of the Eiffel Tower, the city is also famous for the gigantic scale of the Palm Islands, its artificial islands in the form of a palm tree. You can explore more traditional districts not far away, with visits of the souks of Deira or the Gold Souk. Or perhaps you would prefer to discover Dubai Museum: located in an 18<sup>th</sup>-century fort, it tells

the city's history from Antiquity to the present day.