

Caribbean Sea and Maya Secrets of the Yucatán

From **16/12/2022**
to **26/12/2022**

Ship: **LE BELLOT**

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



Round trip transfers from/to Playa del Carmen and 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 Bellot** for an **11-day cruise** combining idyllic beaches and **Pre-Columbian sites**.

Your first port of call at **Seybaplaya** will be an opportunity to discover the city of **Campeche**, established by the conquistadors. Listed as a **UNESCO World Heritage site**, it has retained its surrounding wall and fortifications.

Le Bellot will then set sail for Progreso, famous of its immaculate sand beaches, and the gateway to more wonders. First, **Mérida**, the capital of the state of Yucatán, offers a pleasant mix of **colonial architecture** and Mayan heritage. Next, the famous **ancient city of Uxmal**, whose impressive dimensions reveal the former greatness of the Mayan economic and political capital.

Your ship will then call at **Water Caye** which offer wonderful scuba diving opportunities to discover the treasures of the Mesoamerican Barrier Reef System.

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.

Next, you will discover Belize, its heavenly beaches and its wonderful **barrier reef**, home to the emblematic **Great Blue Hole**, one of the most stunning diving spots in the world.



The information in this document is valid as of 7/7/2022

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YOUR STOPOVERS :

COZUMEL

Embarkation 16/12/2022 from 8:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Departure 16/12/2022 at 10:00 pm

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 17/12/2022

Departure 17/12/2022

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.

SEYBAPLAYA

Arrival 18/12/2022 early morning

Departure 18/12/2022 late afternoon

Seybaplaya is a small commercial port located in the western part of the **Yucatán Peninsula**, 30 km south of the state capital, Campeche. This wild coastline is carved out by clear rocks that plunge into the **emerald waters of the Gulf of Mexico**; the road that connects this small port to the port of Campeche crosses the virtually uninhabited expanses of vegetation of this sparsely populated state. This stop off the beaten path will let you discover the **charms of this former colonial fortified town** with pastel-coloured, partially pedestrianised, little streets.

PROGRESO

Arrival 19/12/2022 early morning
Departure 20/12/2022 mid afternoon

On the **Yucatan Peninsula**, the charming seaside town of Progreso will delight visitors seeking authenticity. In addition to its magnificent sandy beaches and pleasant seafront promenade, the town offers ideal access to the **former Mayan cities of Chichen Itza and Uxmal**. **UNESCO** World Heritage sites, they allow visitors to be truly immersed in Pre-Columbian Mexico, discovering one of the world's most mysterious civilisations. In the surroundings, be sure to visit **Mérida**, capital of the Mexican state of Yucatán. Called "**the White City**" due to the colour of the limestone used to build its dwellings, this old colonial city, built on the ruins of a Mayan site, offers a mix of tradition and modernity, colonial architecture and Mayan heritage.

AT SEA

Arrival 21/12/2022
Departure 21/12/2022

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 22/12/2022 early afternoon
Departure 22/12/2022 late afternoon

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 23/12/2022 early morning
Departure 23/12/2022 late afternoon

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.

BELIZE CITY

Arrival 24/12/2022 early morning
Departure 24/12/2022 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 25/12/2022 early morning

Departure 25/12/2022 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 26/12/2022 early morning

Disembarkation 26/12/2022 at 7:00 am

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.