

Treasures of the Arabian Gulf

From **20/12/2022**
to **27/12/2022**

Ship: **LE CHAMPLAIN**

From **Doha**
to **Muscat**



PONANT invites you on a **8-day cruise** between the **Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman**, departing from Doha. Come aboard **Le Champlain** and set off to discover the treasures of the desert of the **Arabian Peninsula**.

Departing from **Doha**, the capital of Qatar 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.

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

Next, 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.

After a call in the fascinating and futuristic Dubai, **Le Champlain** will drop anchor in **Khasab**, the gateway to the sublime "**fjords of Arabia**" that you will be able to explore aboard a traditional boat, before arriving in the **Gulf of Oman**.

Fujairah lies between the Persian Gulf, lush mountains and fertile plains. From the city it is possible to take an excursion into the surrounding mountains and to visit many architectural sites including **Fujairah Fort**, built in 1670, or **Al Bidya Mosque**, the oldest mosque in the United Arab Emirates.

At the end of your cruise, do not miss out on visiting **Muscat**, your final port, and its **Sultan Qaboos Grand Mosque**, which is like a palace from the Arabian Nights.



The information in this document is valid as of 20/5/2022

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YOUR STOPOVERS :

DOHA

Embarkation 20/12/2022 from 4:30 pm to 5:30 pm

Departure 21/12/2022 at 8:00 pm

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 22/12/2022 mid morning

Departure 22/12/2022 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 of 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 23/12/2022 early morning

Departure 23/12/2022 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 24/12/2022 early morning

Departure 24/12/2022 evening

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 Kahlifa**, 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 18th-century fort, it tells the city's history from Antiquity to the present day.

KHASAB

Arrival 25/12/2022 early morning

Departure 25/12/2022 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 16th 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.

FUJAIRAH

Arrival 26/12/2022 early morning

Departure 26/12/2022 early afternoon

The easternmost of the United Arab Emirates unfolds onto the Gulf of Oman. Unique to the region, the geography of **Fujairah** is composed of lush mountains and fertile plains, as well as the vast deserts that the Emirate shares with its neighbours. It is the majestic massif of the Al Hajar Mountains that brought rain to the territory, creating the oases that were vital to the development of agriculture. Fujairah also offers travellers the possibility of visiting its historic treasures such as its **castle**, an old fort dating back to the 16th century, or the **Al Bidya Mosque**, the oldest in the United Arab Emirates, which was built in 1446.

MUSCAT

Arrival 27/12/2022 early morning

Disembarkation 27/12/2022 at 7:30 am

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**.