

Fortified cities of the Atlantic and the Iberian Peninsula

From **20/9/2023**
to **1/10/2023**

Ship: **LE CHAMPLAIN**

From **Honfleur**
to **Lisbon**



From Honfleur to Lisbon, **PONANT** invites you on an unforgettable cruise along the French, Spanish and Portuguese **Atlantic coastlines**. This **12-day circuit** aboard *Le Champlain* is full of discoveries.

After boarding your ship in Honfleur, you will call at **Cherbourg**. This city is home to the largest artificial harbour in Europe. Before the advent of air travel, Cherbourg had a proud reputation thanks to its transatlantic passenger terminal.

During your stop in **Saint-Malo**, a town famous for the legendary Route du Rhum yacht race, lose yourself in the diversity of its heritage, stroll along its rampart and fall under the charm of the city of privateers.

Belle-Île-en-Mer, to the south of Brittany, will be one of the key ports of call on this stimulating voyage. The Impressionist painter Claude Monet lived for a while in the village of Kervilahouen on this island.

You will then reach the beautiful fortified city of **Talmont-sur-Gironde** and sail near the **Cordouan Lighthouse**, which guides sailors into the entrance of the **Gironde Estuary**, before reaching the wine capital, Bordeaux.

Le Champlain will then head for the capital of the Spanish Basque Country, **Bilbao**. Between daring architecture and the continuation of its ancestral traditions, you will be able to witness the city's unique energy.

Your journey will continue to **Galicia** and the city of **Vigo**, the biggest fishing port in Spain. Not far from here, **Santiago de Compostela** awaits you. This unmissable pilgrimage destination is home to a number of monuments from the Romanesque, Gothic and Baroque periods, testimony to its illustrious past.

From the port of Leixoes, you will sail to **Porto**. The capital of the northern region, this 'city of granite' is not only known for its wine, but also for its remarkable historic town centre, which is listed as a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**.

Your cruise on *Le Champlain* will conclude with a visit to **Lisbon**. This city with its nostalgic charm has a unique personality, a blend of tramways, museums and listed buildings.

Then you will reach **Lisbon**, your port of disembarkation.



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

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YOUR STOPOVERS :

HONFLEUR

Embarkation 20/9/2023 from 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Departure 20/9/2023 at 6:00 pm

A treasure of the **Côte Fleurie**, Honfleur is located on the edge of la Crique de Rouen in Normandy. You will no doubt admire the historical ships moored in its **old port**. With its tall, slate-covered houses, the quays provide a great setting for a very nice walk. In the streets behind the harbour, you will see many timber houses. These picturesque places were the cradle of several pre-impressionist painters. You can see their works in the **Eugène Boudin museum**. Exhibited works represent scenes of medieval streets and the coastline as it used to be, as illustrated by the Butin beach and its lush green hillsides.

CHERBOURG

Arrival 21/9/2023 midday

Departure 21/9/2023 early evening

Lying at the tip of the **Cotentin peninsula**, between the Channel and the bocage, **Cherbourg** is the figurehead of a wild and secret region, dear to the heart of **Jacques Prévert**. The installation of **La Cité de la Mer** maritime museum in 2002, within the former transatlantic terminal, rejuvenated the maritime and military port. You'll enjoy the ambiance of this charming town, with its shale façades, which was celebrated by Jacques Demy in *The Umbrellas of Cherbourg*. Your exploration will also bring you to the foot of the **Château de Vauville**, famed for its extraordinary **Botanical Gardens**. Like an oasis, this small southern paradise is home to more than 1,000 tropical species collected by the family of Éric Pellerin, botanist and perfumer since 1948.

SAINT-MALO

Arrival 22/9/2023 early morning

Departure 22/9/2023 early afternoon

The mere mention of **Saint-Malo's** name is enough to plunge us back into the richness of its past. The fortifications stand as testimony to the Malouins' determination to defend their citadel, fought over by France and Britain in turn. When we drop anchor here, immerse yourself in the diversity of its heritage: the time when privateers sailed the oceans in search of trade and victories; the legendary yacht races the port city is still famous for, such as the Route du Rhum; and the final resting place of the French writer François-René de Chateaubriand, who was born here and chose to be buried here anonymously.

BELLE-ÎLE-EN-MER

Arrival 23/9/2023 early afternoon
Departure 23/9/2023 early evening

Lying to the South of Brittany, **Belle-Île** is very aptly named. The largest of the **Ponant islands**, it owes its glowing reputation to its exceptional environment and generous natural attributes: pristine moors and dunes, headlands and cliffs cut into granite points, rocky inlets, and sheltered bays with sandy or pebble beaches. Aboard your ship, let the wild coastline of Belle-île-en-Mer surprise you, this little speck of land lying on the ocean, sparkling with colours in the morning light.

TALMONT-SUR-GIRONDE

Arrival 24/9/2023 midday
Departure 24/9/2023 evening

You will sail along the coast to discover the remarkable **Meschers caves**, natural cavities carved into the chalk cliffs that loom over the **Gironde estuary**. Enlarged by man in the 19th century, they became **troglodyte dwellings**, some of which are still inhabited today. Punctuating the coastline of the Charente region with their poetic presence, the **carrelets**, fragile-looking huts on stilts fitted with a square fishing net, can be seen along the **Saintonge coastline**. The beautiful town of **Talmont-sur-Gironde** is to be found at the heart of the fortified city founded by **Edward I**, King of England and Duke of Aquitaine. The **Sainte-Radegonde church**, a jewel of Romanesque art, dating from the 12th century, looms majestically over the estuary.

BORDEAUX

Arrival 25/9/2023 at night
Departure 26/9/2023 midday

Bordeaux stretches along the banks of the Garonne river, in South-West France. Its rich wine tradition makes it the **world capital of wine**. Let yourself be carried away by the history of the *Port de la Lune*, made a UNESCO World Heritage site for its prestigious classical architecture. On the famous Place de la Bourse, the past and the present unite: here you can observe the majestic old buildings reflected in the contemporary **Miroir d'eau** creation.

BILBAO

Arrival 27/9/2023 early morning
Departure 27/9/2023 late afternoon

Bilbao, capital of the Spanish Basque country, is one of the most avant-garde cities in Europe. Its architectural audacity as well as its ancient built heritage will take you on a journey between traditions and innovations. An unusual cable car will allow you to reach the magnificent **Guggenheim Museum**, a unique construction of stone, glass and titanium, designed by the architect Frank Gehry and home to a collection of modern art and contemporary monumental sculpture. The narrow streets of the **old city** and the unmissable **Ensanche district** are also worthy of a visit, as is the **Vizcaya bridge**, the world's first ever transporter bridge, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

AT SEA

Arrival 28/9/2023

Departure 28/9/2023

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.

VIGO – SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA

Arrival 29/9/2023 early morning

Departure 29/9/2023 early evening

Nestling on the Atlantic coast, in the south of **Galicia**, the former fishing port of Vigo is now the region's largest municipality. Its old town, more commonly known as O Berbés, will unveil its many historical monuments and the unusual architectural style of its homes. Off the coast, the Cíes Islands, declared a Nature Reserve and located in the **Atlantic Islands of Galicia National Park**, offer truly splendid landscapes and exceptional biodiversity. Further north, make sure you visit **Santiago de Compostela**, which welcomes many pilgrims from all over the world every year. Designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site, its historical centre has significant architectural heritage.

LEIXÕES - PORTO

Arrival 30/9/2023 early morning

Departure 30/9/2023 early afternoon

Located at the mouth of the Douro River, the port of Leixões lies less than 10 kilometres from Porto. A UNESCO World Heritage Site, the historic centre of Porto is worth a visit for its famous **Ribeira district**, the metallic silhouette of the Dom-Luis bridge looming over its ancient houses, its richly decorated Baroque churches and its national **Soares dos Reis** museum. The **São Bento station** is also interesting for its typically Portuguese decoration, using **Azulejos**, blue square ceramic tiles decorated with geometric patterns or figurative scenes.

LISBON

Arrival 1/10/2023 early morning

Disembarkation 1/10/2023 at 7:30 am

Portugal's capital city located on the banks of the Tagus, only a few kilometres from the Atlantic coast, is a city of exceptionally rich cultural diversity. At the mouth of the river harbour, impose two UNESCO World Heritage monuments, **Jeronimos monastery** and **Belem tower**. The Alfama hillside is also worth visiting: known for its **fado** bars and its **Moorish streets**, this district is the oldest one of the city and one of the most typical. Not far from there, Chiado's elegant streets are home to big fashion labels and are an invitation to a bit of luxury shopping.