

# THE GREAT LAKES

## SMITHSONIAN JOURNEYS



*This cruise is part of a collection of PONANT voyages that are specially tailored for English-speaking travelers who want to engage with the world. In addition to the usual elements of the PONANT experience, the listed price for these voyages includes transfers to and from the ship, talks and discussions aboard ship by world class experts, and a shore excursion or activity in each port of call that encourages guests to embrace the sights, sounds, tastes, and smells of the local environment and culture.*



### **DATES:**

**2024 – Oct 11-18\***

**2025 – Sep 17-24**

**DURATION: 8 DAYS/7 NIGHTS**

**EMBARK: TORONTO, ON**

**DISEMBARK: MILWAUKEE, WI**

*\*Reverse Itinerary*

**SHIP: LE CHAMPLAIN**

**FROM: \$8,520**

*All Inclusive – Port Charges, Open Bar,  
Gratuities to ship crew, Shore excursions*

**BOOK EARLY – THESE RATES ARE 20% OFF**

**NOTE** – Other Great Lakes dates are available without the Smithsonian program or included shore excursions.

## Expedition Highlights

- Engaging discussions onboard with Smithsonian Journeys Experts.
- A cruise with the opportunity to explore the five Great Lakes of North America, between the United States and Canada.
- A cruise along the UNESCO Biosphere Reserve of Georgian Bay.
- An itinerary combining nature and culture: picturesque landscapes and geological curiosities, the history of indigenous Americans inhabiting the region before European colonization.
- An excursion to the magnificent Niagara Falls.
- A visit to charming Mackinac Island, with its preserved Victorian architecture.

## ITINERARY

### DAY 1 - TORONTO - EMBARK

[Departure at 18h00](#)

The largest city in Canada and capital of the province of Ontario, Toronto fascinates as much by its incredible diversity as by its size.

**We highly recommend arriving at least one day early to see more of Toronto, and avoid the potential complications associated with travel delays.**



### DAY 2 - PORT COLBORNE – NIAGARA FALLS - SAILING LAKE ERIE

Port Colborne is a small port city located in southern Ontario, at the mouth of the Welland Canal. It will be your privileged access point to the famous Niagara Falls, renowned all over the world for their spectacular beauty. Located on the river of the same name, which means “water thunder” in Amerindian language, these wonders of nature are among the most powerful waterfalls in the world.

Included excursion to Niagara Falls



### DAY 3 - SAILING DETROIT AND SAILING ST. CLAIR RIVERS

During your navigation along the Detroit River, an important commercial waterway linking Lake Erie and Lake St. Clair to Lake Huron, you will sail along the largest city in Michigan. You’ll then enjoy panoramic views over the skyscrapers of the former Motor City, jewel of the automotive industry, Fordism and Motown music in the 20th century.

### DAY 4 - SAILING LAKE HURON - PARRY SOUND

The charming city of Parry Sound enjoys an exceptional natural setting in the heart of a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, east of Georgian Bay. A real paradise for fauna and flora, the place will delight fans of nature and photography.

*[2 included excursions at this stopover](#)*

### DAY 5 - LITTLE CURRENT

A small port town located along the North Channel of Lake Huron, Little Current is considered to be the gateway to Manitoulin Island, the largest



freshwater island in the world. The town's emblematic construction, the Little Current Swing Bridge built in 1913, provides the only land access to the island. A real haven of peace, sheltering wild nature and some hamlets, the place is ideal for outdoor activities such as horse-riding and hiking.

*3 possible included excursions at this stopover*



#### **DAY 6 - SAULT STE. MARIE**

Located to the east of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, Sault Ste. Marie is one of the oldest cities in the United States. Separated from its Canadian twin city by St. Marys River, it is famous among other things for its locks, known as either the Sault Locks or the Soo Locks, which enable ships to travel the change in elevation between Lake Superior and the lower Great Lakes. These locks, which date back over 160 years, are considered the most important in the world due to their shipping traffic.

*2 possible excursions to this stopover*



#### **DAY 7 - MACKINAC ISLAND - SAILING LAKE**

##### **MICHIGAN**

Mackinac Island promises a real journey through time. Originally inhabited by Amerindians, then occupied by French and British colonists, this small island measuring only a few km<sup>2</sup> still retains an atmosphere of yesteryear today, with its Victorian-style buildings and elegant horse-drawn carriages. Fort Mackinac, on the heights of the island, is a reminder of the conflicts that punctuated the history of this strategic place, a former fur trade center.

*1 possible excursion to this stopover*



#### **DAY 8 - MILWAUKEE - DISEMBARK**

*Disembarkation at 07h00*

Nested on the shores of Lake Michigan, Milwaukee, the largest city in the State of Wisconsin, harmoniously combines tradition and modernity. Industrial long ago, the city, known as Brew City because of its old breweries renowned all over the world, is experiencing a certain renaissance. While warehouses have given way to restaurants, bars, theaters and art galleries in the city center, the district still retains traces of its manufacturing past.

**Pre- and post-cruise arrangements are available.**



## Le Champlain

GUESTS: 184

RATES – 2024-25 (Rates subject to change without notice – Book early for best rates.)

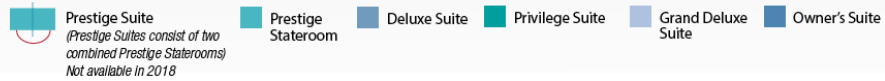
All inclusive – Gratuities to crew; all beverages – open bar; Port Charges; Room Service; Shore excursions.

**BOOK EARLY! Rates below are 20% off Standard rates.**

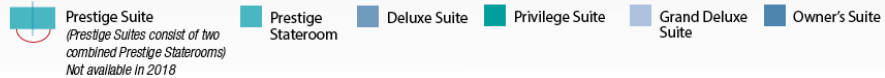
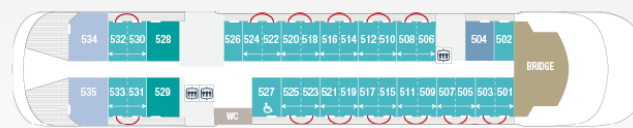
SUITE – 2024-25	10/11/24	Oct 11
Deluxe – Deck 3	\$8,520	\$8,620
Prestige – Deck 4	\$9,330	\$9,530
Prestige – Deck 5	\$9,730	\$9,970
Presitige – Deck 6	\$10,230	\$10,510
Deluxe Ste – Decks 3-6	WL	\$14,480
Prestige Suite – Dk 5	\$17,350	\$19,430
Prestige Suite – Dk 6	\$19,150	\$20,430
Privilege Suite – Dk 5-6	\$20,030	\$21,420
Grand Deluxe Suite	WL	\$23,490
OWNER SUITE	\$25,340	\$30,620

### DECK PLAN

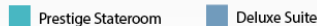
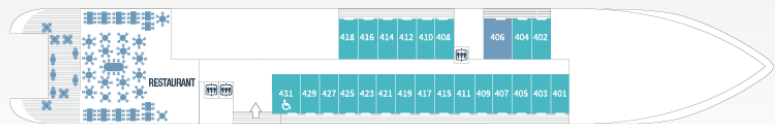
#### DECK 6



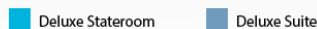
#### DECK 5



#### DECK 4



#### DECK 3



Reservations & Information

1-855-EXPLOR1 (397-5671)

Email - info@explorcruises.com

www.explorcruises.com