

# 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:**

**2025 – Sep 17-24\***

**2026 – Aug 11-19**

**DURATION: \*8 DAYS/7 NIGHTS  
9 DAYS/8 NIGHTS**

**EMBARK: TORONTO, ON  
DISEMBARK: MILWAUKEE, WI**

**SHIP: \*LE CHAMPLAIN  
LE BELLOT**

**FROM: \$9,120**

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

**BOOK EARLY – 2026 RATES ARE 30% OFF**

**NOTE** – Other Great Lakes dates are available without the Smithsonian program or included shore excursions. **The 2026 itinerary adds a full Day 6 at Little Current.**

## **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**

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

### **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 – PORT COLBORNE - SAILING LAKE ERIE**

Port Colborne is a small port city located in southern Ontario, at the mouth of the Welland Canal. It is well-known for one of the longest locks in the world: measuring 420 meters, this lock, the 8th in the canal, has an observation footbridge and marks the final transit point before the Erie Canal. In addition to the discovery of this tremendous hydraulic infrastructure, this port of call 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.

Located to the south of Lake Huron and connected to Lake Ontario by the Welland Canal, Lake Erie, which owes its name to one of the Amerindian tribes which peopled its banks before the arrival of the French in the 17th century, is remarkable for its unique ecosystem. Its shallow fish-filled waters make it an excellent fishing spot, while its banks, famous for their many migratory birds, attract photographers and ornithology enthusiasts.

### **DAY 4 – CRUISING DETROIT, USA**

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. You’ll also be able to admire the Ambassador Bridge, which spans the river and enables access to Windsor, on the Canadian shore of the river. This steel suspension bridge, over two km long, was constructed in 1929. This bridge alone carries over 25% of trade between the United States and Canada.

### **DAY 5 – CRUISING LAKE HURON - LITTLE CURRENT**

A natural border between the American State of Michigan and the Canadian province of Ontario,

Lake Huron is one of the five American Great Lakes and one of the largest freshwater lakes in the world. Comprising the main lake, Saginaw Bay, the North Channel and Georgian Bay, and home to around 30,000 islands, it offers varied coastal landscapes and unique views.

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.



#### **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.

#### **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.



You will sail the United States' largest freshwater body, which gave its name to Michigan, one of the four states that border this lake measuring 500 km long and 200 km wide.

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

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/Le Bellot

GUESTS: 184

RATES – 2025-26 (Rates subject to change without notice – Book early for best rates.)

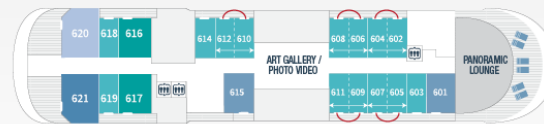
All inclusive – Gratuities to crew; all beverages – open bar; Port Charges; Room Service; Shore excursions.

### DECK PLAN

**BOOK EARLY! 2026 RATES ARE 30% OFF!**

SUITE – 2025-26	9/27/25	8/11/26
Deluxe – Deck 3	WL	\$9,120
Prestige – Deck 4	\$11,700	\$10,060
Prestige – Deck 5	\$12,260	\$10,540
Prestige – Deck 6	\$12,930	\$11,110
Deluxe Ste – Decks 3-6	\$17,890	\$15,270
Prestige Suite – Dk 5	\$24,080	\$20,440
Prestige Suite – Dk 6	\$25,330	\$21,520
Privilege Suite – Dk 5-6	\$26,570	\$22,560
Grand Deluxe Suite	\$29,160	\$24,740
OWNER SUITE	\$30,620	\$36,700

#### DECK 6



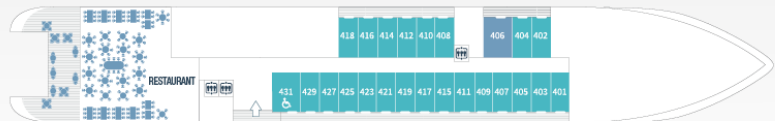
■ Prestige Suite (Prestige Suites consist of two combined Prestige Staterooms) Not available in 2018  
■ Prestige Stateroom  
■ Deluxe Suite  
■ Privilege Suite  
■ Grand Deluxe Suite  
■ Owner's Suite

#### DECK 5



■ Prestige Suite (Prestige Suites consist of two combined Prestige Staterooms) Not available in 2018  
■ Prestige Stateroom  
■ Deluxe Suite  
■ Privilege Suite  
■ Grand Deluxe Suite  
■ Owner's Suite

#### DECK 4



■ Prestige Stateroom  
■ Deluxe Suite

#### DECK 3



■ Deluxe Stateroom  
■ Deluxe Suite



Reservations & Information

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