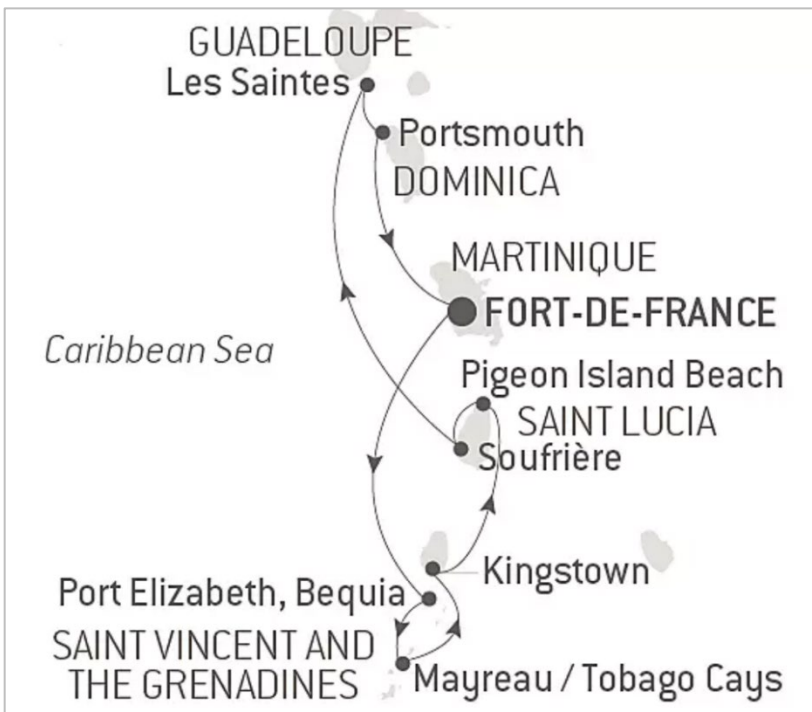


# PEARLS OF THE CARIBBEAN



PONANT brings you an itinerary to the heart of the most enchanting islands in the Caribbean Sea on a 9-day cruise combining long white-sand beaches and the easy Creole way of life. This rosary of islands, bound together by the most beautiful coral reefs in the West Indies, will reveal its incredible underwater wildlife and its secret coves.



**DATES:** 2024 –Jan 20B; Feb 5B; Mar 21D;  
Nov 4C, 20C, 28C; Dec 29C

**DURATION:** 9 DAYS/ 8 NIGHTS

**ROUND TRIP:** FORT-DE-FRANCE

**SHIP:** LE DUMONT-D'URVILLE (D)  
LE CHAMPLAIN (C) / LE BELLOT(B)

**FROM:** \$5,110

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

## Expedition Highlights

- A cruise into the heart of the idyllic West Indies, where an easy lifestyle is nurtured between the spicy flavors and flowery perfumes of the islands.
- UNESCO World Heritage Sites: Morne Trois Pitons National Park on Dominica; Saint Lucia's rocky peaks
- Relax in the heart of long white sandy beaches and multiple opportunities to swim in crystal clear waters
- Discover the Grenadine Islands, considered one of the world's most stunning archipelagos.
- On Mayreau Island, private use of a beach for the day, including a barbecue.
- In Kingstown, the possibility of visiting the magnificent Botanic Gardens and enjoying a hike up the slopes of La Soufrière volcano, to its crater.
- Exceptional seabed with possibility of seeing turtles, barracuda, spiny lobsters and parrot fish.
- The incredibly charming Les Saintes archipelago, with its colorful houses, dreamy coves and green hills.

## ITINERARY

### DAY 1 – FORT-DE-FRANCE, MARTINIQUE- EMBARK

Located on the western coast of Martinique, Fort-de-France will amaze you by the splendor of its bay, a magnificent cut-out in the coastline, considered as one of the most beautiful in the world. At the harbor mouth, on its strip of land, fort Saint-Louis overlooks the capital city of Martinique. If you climb up to it, you can see some breath-taking views. Saint Louis Cathedral and the Schoelcher library bear witness to a secular history, intimately linked to the island's story. Why not try some fresh coconut at the colorful Grand Marché. Two really pleasant places you can take a breather in, right in the heart of the city, are the garden of Balata and the Aimé Césaire park.

### DAY 2 - PORT ELIZABETH, BEQUIA ISLAND

In the heart of the Caribbean, Bequia is the second-largest of 32 islands that make up the country of St Vincent and the Grenadines. You will love the lively and picturesque atmosphere of Port Elizabeth, the

island's main town. From the port, a promenade lined with beautiful traditional houses, landscaped gardens and small restaurants runs along the shoreline. It leads to Princess Margaret Beach, a wild beach where Princess Margaret herself has stayed and which seems to emerge directly from the tropical forest. From rainforest to lush meadows and long stretches of sand, Bequia will offer you a natural setting that is conducive to lovely walks and to spending time on the Beach.

### DAY 3 – MAYREAU ISLAND

Among the string of paradisiac islands with their sandy beaches that form the Saint Vincent and the Grenadines archipelago, Mayreau is the smallest. Its peaceful and idyllic atmosphere, far from the madding crowd, invites you to relax. On shore, enjoy a shaded and fully equipped beach from which to go snorkelling if you'd like to observe the colourful fish around the coral sitting at the foot of the rocks that stretch across the bay.



### DAY 4 - TOBAGO CAYS

Scattered between St Vincent and Grenada, the Tobago Cays comprises five little islands: Petit Rameau, Petit Bateau, Baradal, Petit Tabac and Jamesby. This rosary of uninhabited cays in the southern West Indies is a marine park whose turquoise lagoons provide a home and safe haven for some outstanding marine fauna, including peaceful green turtles. Girded and united by a coral reef, these secluded islands are a peaceful paradise for divers, swimmers and snorkelers.

### DAY 5 – KINGSTOWN, ST. VINCENT

Kingstown is the capital of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, independent since 1979 but still a member of the British Commonwealth. Some of the 32 islands of the Grenadines are inhabited, like Mustique, some are

not, like Tobago Cays. But they are all renowned for crystal clear, calm waters, and some of the best snorkeling and diving in the world. The Botanic Garden in Kingstown is the oldest of its kind in the Western Hemisphere and well worth a visit, as is Fort Charlotte, featuring panoramic views of the archipelago. La Soufrière, Saint Vincent's active volcano, dominates the northern end of the island, where it periodically erupts (most recently in April 2021), scarring the surrounding land with lava and ash.



#### **DAY 6 - PIGEON ISLAND – SOUFRIÈRE, ST. VINCENT**

Linked to St Lucia by a sand causeway, Pigeon Island has been a designated National Park since 1979. On this wild and pristine land, you will be inspired to take pleasant walks amid the tropical vegetation and through a magnificent tree-filled garden. You will also be irresistibly drawn to the two pretty little sandy beaches nestling on the southern side and bathed by crystal-clear waters. While snorkeling, be sure to explore the underwater world that is teeming with life, along the rocks lining this peninsula's coast. You will thoroughly enjoy the calm and beauty of this place, which is really conducive to simply relaxing.



#### **DAY 7 - LES SAINTES**

During the feast of All Saints in 1493, Christopher Columbus discovered this archipelago of nine islands that he named "The Saints". Today, only two of them are inhabited. Terre de Haut, in the east, is dominated by the Morne Mire hill; at the summit stands Fort Napoleon, paying homage to the islands' history. In the heart of the botanical garden, shared by iguanas and cacti, there is an exceptional view of the Baie des Saintes, one of the most beautiful in the world. The long shady beach of Pompierre, where it is forbidden to drop anchor, is a peaceful place for a swim, while Pain de Sucre Beach offers wonderful opportunities for snorkeling. On the island, don't forget to taste the local specialty, the "tourment d'amour", a cake made with coconut.

#### **DAY 8 – PORTSMOUTH, DOMINICA**

With its mountainous terrain, vast tropical forest, hot springs, rivers and spectacular waterfalls, Dominica is undoubtedly the wildest island in the Caribbean. Protected by several national parks, this little-known land, located in the heart of the Caribbean Sea, between Guadeloupe and Martinique, will inspire adventure and exploration. During your port of call, do not miss out on discovering the enchanting landscapes of the Indian River: navigating through this dense mangrove, in which creepers, ferns, forest trees and giant roots are interweaved, is a magical experience, a fascinating voyage into the heart of an almost mystical natural universe.

#### **DAY 9 - FORT-DE-FRANCE, MARTINIQUE- DISEMBARK**

Head to the airport for your flight home, or relax and spend a few more days in paradise!





## Le Dumont-d'Urville/Le Champlain/Le Bellot

## DECK PLAN

**GUESTS:** 184

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

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

**NOTE:** There are other dates and itineraries without Smithsonian Journeys. Just ask!

SUITE – FROM -	2024
Deluxe – Deck 3	\$5,110
Prestige – Deck 4	\$5,360
Prestige – Deck 5	\$5,500
Presitige – Deck 6	\$5,710
Deluxe Ste – Decks 3-6	\$7,580
Prestige Suite – Dk 5	\$8,140
Prestige Suite – Dk 6	\$8,390
Privilege Suite – Dk 5-6	\$8,600
Grand Deluxe Suite	\$8,850
OWNER SUITE	\$12,740

### DECK 6



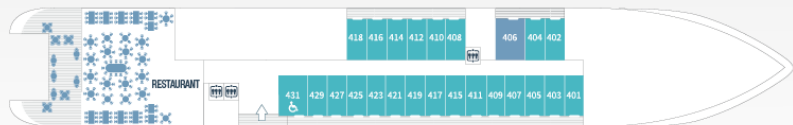
■ Prestige Suite (Prestige Suites consist of two combined Prestige Staterooms) Not available in 2018  
■ Prestige Stateroom  
■ Deluxe Suite  
■ Privilege Suite  
■ Grand Deluxe Suite  
■ Owner's Suite

### 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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