

WONDERS OF THE WESTERN CARIBBEAN



PONANT brings you a brand-new itinerary in the Caribbean Sea, sailing along the Mexican peninsula of Yucatán to Belize and Guatemala.



DATES:

2019: DEC 21-28

2020: JAN 4-11; 18-25 | FEB 01-08

DURATION: 8-DAYS/7-NIGHTS

EMBARK: PUERTO MORELOS, MEXICO

DISSEMBARK: PUERTO MORELOS, MEXICO

SHIP: LE CHAMPLAIN

FROM: \$3,400*

PONANT brings you a brand-new itinerary in the Caribbean Sea, sailing along the Mexican peninsula of Yucatán to Belize and Guatemala.

In Puerto Morelos, Cancún's port, you will board Le Champlain for an 8-day cruise combining idyllic beaches and Pre-Columbian sites.

Your ship will first call at Puerto Cortés in Honduras. From there, an extension by plane is possible to discover the Mayan site of Copán. Located deep in the jungle, this site is famous for its remarkable hieroglyphic stairway which bears the longest Mayan inscription ever discovered.

The next port of call will be Santo Tomás de Castilla. From there, you will be able to discover the pyramids of Tikal, another major site of the Maya civilization, or the palaces, pyramids and sanctuaries of the Archaeological Park and Ruins of Quiriguá.

Your ship will then set sail for Livingston in Guatemala, the heart of Garifuna country, which proudly cultivates an original culture and music that is listed as World Heritage by UNESCO.

HIGHLIGHTS

- A cruise to four Central American countries: idyllic beaches, pre-Columbian sites, and discovery of the Garifuna culture.
- UNESCO World Heritage Sites: Tikal by plane and the archaeological park and Mayan ruins of Quirigua from Santo Tomás de Castilla; the Mayan site of Copán from Puerto Cortés; the Belize Barrier Reef with Half Moon Caye and the Great Blue Hole.
- Swimming, snorkeling or scuba diving at the Great Blue Hole in Belize, one of the world's ten most beautiful diving sites according to Captain Cousteau.
- The possibility of visiting Tulum and Muyil before your cruise.
- Discovering the town of Livingston, which can only be reached by sea.

ITINERARY

We can arrange pre- and post-cruise tour programs for you – see more while you are here! It is always advisable to arrive at least one day early.

DAY 1 – PUERTO MORELOS, MEXICO

North of the Mexican Riviera Maya that runs along the Yucatán Peninsula, Puerto Morelos is a charming fishing village with an authentic atmosphere, its white sandy beaches scattered with thatched huts and colorful boats. The turquoise waters of the Caribbean Sea shelter a marine park that protects part of the Mesoamerican reef, considered the second-biggest barrier reef in the world. A few kilometers south, you'll be able to discover the Maya site of Tulum. Overlooking idyllic beaches of white sand fringed with palm trees, it is the only Maya site erected on the Caribbean Sea coast.



DAY 2 – DAY AT SEA

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 center.

DAY 3 – PUERTO CORTÉS, HONDURAS

In the hollow of the Gulf of Honduras, Puerto Cortés is the largest seaport in this country, which only recently opened up to tourism but possesses many natural and cultural riches. Its 650 km of coastline on the Caribbean Sea are bordered with sandbanks and deltas of small coastal rivers, while its waters have many reefs and cays to explore. Puerto Cortés is the departure point for discovering the impressive San Fernando de Omoa fortress, which was built in brick and coral by the



Spanish authorities in the middle of the 18th century and is now a museum of history and archaeology.

DAY 4 – SANTO TOMÁS DE CASTILLA, GUATEMALA

A port city located in the north-east of Guatemala, on the coast of the Amatique Bay, Santo Tomás de Castilla offers exceptional access to the fabulous Mayan archaeological site of Quiriguá. Listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1981, this place takes you back in time, deep into a décor of ruins and vestiges from the 8th century. Another unmissable visit is to the San Felipe fortress. Built at the end of the 16th Century by the Spanish to protect the villages on the shores of Lake Izabal from pirate attacks, it offers the opportunity to discover an example of colonial military architecture and to enjoy unspoiled views over the Dulce River and the surrounding environment.



DAY 5 – LIVINGSTON, GUATEMALA

Livingston is a town unlike any other in Guatemala, an enclave with a Caribbean atmosphere on the edge of the Rio Dulce. Lanchas, the motor boats that travel along the river and the Caribbean Sea, are the only way of reaching this small, welcoming town with no overland access to the rest of the country. Here, you are in Garifuna country: the inhabitants, descendent from Jamaican slaves, perpetuate their culture through oral tradition and ceremonies. Garifuna music, which is lively and sounds similar in some respects to reggae, and Garifuna dance, to



the beat of drums, have both been classified by UNESCO as “Masterpieces of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity”.



DAY 6 – BELIZE CITY

Belize City is the former capital and the country’s largest town. Located on the Caribbean Sea, this lively little town symbolizes the fusion of British, Spanish and Maya cultures. The departure point for flights over the Great Blue Hole and the barrier reef, it’s also the ideal gateway for discovering the treasures of Maya architecture: in the heart of the jungle, the grandiose and mysterious ruins of temples and palaces at the Lamanai and Xunantunich sites await you. Another unmissable experience: a trip to the mouth of the Belize River: with a little luck and care, you’ll get a glimpse of manatees, dolphins, crocodiles, iguanas and many aquatic bird species.

DAY 7 – HALF MOON CAYE, BELIZE

The tropical green crescent of Half Moon Caye is a natural monument of Belize stretching out over crystal-clear waters. The appeal of the oldest protected marine and ornithological area in Central America stems from its beaches lined with coconut trees, but most importantly from its incredible underwater world, which you will be able to explore with fins, mask and snorkel. Corals, sponges, sea turtles, spotted eagle rays, eels and groupers live in the turquoise waters, while on land the coastal forest is home to amusing geckos and a large colony of red-footed boobies, spectacular divers that penetrate the water at high speed to feed on small fish and squid.

DAY 8 – PUERTO MORELOS, MEXICO

Disembark. Stay on to enjoy the sunshine, visit other Mayan sites such as Tulum, or return home.



ALL SUITES HAVE PRIVATE BALCONIES

Rates are per person, Double Occupancy

Pre- and Post-Cruise tours are available to suit your interests.

Included features:

- All accommodations, meals, and excursions described above
- Gratuities to crew, guides and drivers on included excursions
- Comprehensive 7-night cruise aboard the deluxe *Le Champlain*, with all the amenities for which Ponant ships are famous.

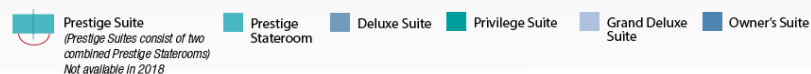
Not included:

- Meals and beverages other than those specified above
- Optional excursions
- Personal expenses (such as laundry, telephone, Internet, etc.)

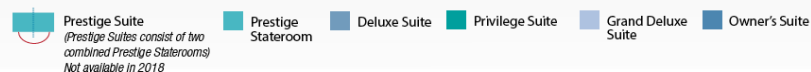
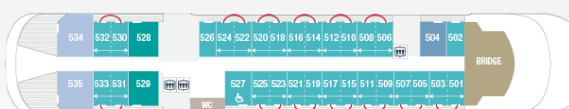
DECK 7



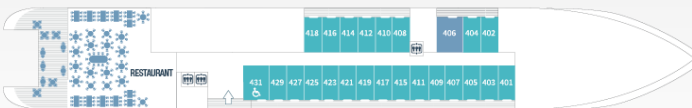
DECK 6



DECK 5



DECK 4



DECK 3



2019-20 Rates		
SUITE –		
Deluxe – Deck 3	\$4,340	
Prestige – Dk 4	\$4,590	
Prestige – Dk 5	\$4,730	
Prestige – Dk 6	\$4,870	
Deluxe Ste – Dk 3, 4, 5, 6	\$6,530	
Prestige Ste – Dk 5	\$9,330	
Prestige Ste – Dk 6	\$9,610	
Privilege Ste – Dk 5 & 6	\$9,890	
Grand Deluxe – Dk 5 & 6	\$10,190	
OWNER SUITE	\$10,490	



Reservations & Information
1-855-EXPLOR1 (397-5671)

Email - info@explorcruises.com

www.explorcrises.com