

CRUISING THE DALMATIAN COAST AND THE IONIAN SEA WITH SMITHSONIAN JOURNEYS

In alliance with 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._ The eastern shore of the Adriatic Sea - the Dalmatian Coast - is rich in the culture and art of ancient, medieval, Renaissance, and Baroque worlds and home to some of the most charming and welcoming towns and villages to be found anywhere. Your voyage begins in Venice , the city of canals, from where you will sail the Adriatic Sea south towards the Dalmatian Coast. Call first on the island of Hvar and tour the island's charming principal town. Or you may choose to visit a lavender farm in the countryside and enjoy some of the most beautiful views available along the Croatian coast. The port of Ploce serves as your gateway to the Bosnian city of Mostar , which under the Ottoman Turks became a thriving administrative and cultural center. Severely damaged in the military conflict of the 1990s, the town was declared a World Heritage site and now showcases what the restoration work of UNESCO can accomplish. Set on a rocky peninsula jutting into the Adriatic Sea, Dubrovnik, despite a devastating earthquake in 1667 and the ravages of many wars, is one of Europe's best-preserved medieval cities and a designated UNESCO World Heritage site. Discover Dubrovnik's old city on a guided tour or visit the surrounding countryside before enjoying time at leisure to explore this marvelous city on your own in the evening. Be on deck as _Le Bor eal_ sails into the deep, fjord-like Bay of Kotor to reach the port town of the same name, also a UNESCO World Heritage site, located at the head of the bay beneath towering mountains. This delightful town is the pride ofMontenegro , and you will have a full day to explore its richly varied history. Continue down the coast to the Albanian port of Sarand e, from which you may travel to the UNESCO World Heritage site ofButrint, whose ruins span 2,500 years and include the remains of a Greek acropolis, Roman theater, and 19th-century fortress. From the charming fishing village of Katakolon , visit the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Ancient Olympia or visit a family-owned agriturismo for a sampling of local delicacies and traditional Greek music and dancing. Your journey comes to an end as your ship sails





into Athens.

ITINERARY

Day 1 - Venice

Proud and eternal, Venice has reigned on its lagoon ever since the 6th century. You may think you know this city before even setting foot here. You will inevitably fall in love with the charm of the innumerable treasures of the Serenissima: **Saint Mark 's square,** the **basilica** , **Doges palace,** the **Grand Canal** and the **gondolas.** Yet, secret Venice is also waiting for you to explore its little interlacing streets and canals, to ramble through its squares and to push open the doors of its churches. The city's extraordinary heritage shouldn't stop you from enjoying a glass of Spritz and a few tramezzini.

Day 2 - Hvar

Off the coast of Split, Hvar will surprise you by its traditions that have not changed since Antiquity. The country's oldest town, **Stari Grad,** is here on this Dalmatian Island. The town nestles by a cove on the north-west coast, surrounded by dry stone wall structures on the Stari Grad plains. These have been designated a UNESCO World Heritage site because they were built in the time of the Ancient Greeks. From these parcels of land come wines and olive oil manufactured manually. In the upper part of town, it is possible to discover hams and cheeses made by local producers.

Day 3 - Ploce

Plo e is a port that shares with nearby **Makarska** a reputation for great beaches, upscale seafront promenades, and a vibrant nightlife. Plo e's **Rupe Ethnographic Museum** and Markaska's intriguing **Shell Museum** are both worth a visit. Plo e also serves as a gateway to the Bosnian city of **Mostar** , which under the Ottoman Turks became a thriving administrative and cultural center. Severely damaged in the military conflict of the 1990s, the town was declared a **World Heritage site** and now showcases the graceful **Stari Most** ("Old Bridge"), originally built in 1566, and the early 17th-century Turkish **Tabacica Mosque** , both carefully restored with help from UNESCO.

Day 4 - Dubrovnik

Emblem of the Dalmatian coast, Dubrovnik is magnificently positioned on a rocky spur. History is sovereign here, in this ancient city, now a **listed UNESCO World Heritage site.** You will perhaps be surprised by the proportions of La Placa, the central drag through the city. The sheer width of it can be explained by the fact that it straddles a former lagoon. The elegant houses along La Placa are built in the legendary travertine stone. At Pile gate, you will be greeted by the statue of the patron saint of Dubrovnik, and you can admire the coastline as you **walk along the ramparts.** But what's inside **Fort Saint John,** adjoining the outer walls? A maritime museum and an aquarium featuring rare fish from the Adriatic.

Day 5 - Kotor

Situated in one of Montenegro's most beautiful bays, **the medieval city** of Kotor is a small town full of charm, truly imbued with the traditions and stories of another time. Built between the 12th and 14th centuries, this village, a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** , has preserved many historical monuments from this epoch. During your stop, be sure to admire the impressive castle that dominates the town, and let yourself fall under the charm of its maze of small streets and intimate squares on which folk festivals featuring magnificent colourful costumes are often organised.



Day 6 - Saranda

An historical harbour town on the south-west coast of Albania, **Saranda** is built on a lush green spur. Its streets lined with palms and maritime pines border the **beaches of the Ionian sea** at the mouth of Corfu Strait. This very ancient town has archaeological ruins dating from Antiquity, which you can visit as you walk along the waterfront.

Day 7 - Katakolon

Day 8 - Athens

The Greek capital city is located on the edge of the Saronic gulf, in the east of the country. It bears a plural name in reference to the first villages that surround the **Acropolis.** You will be enchanted by the rocky plateau presided by its monuments listed as UNESCO World Heritage. In the city below, you can visit some of the liveliest districts in Athens: **Plaka,** with its maze of colourful streets, and where, in the evenings the drifting aroma of moussaka and garlic prawns will tickle your taste buds. The **National Archaeological museum** and the Cycladic Art Museum are also some of the city's key attractions and allow visitors to discover Athens' cultural past.

Day 9 - Athens

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Please note:

Itineraries are subject to change.



YOUR SHIP: L'AUSTRAL

YOUR SHIP:	**L'Austral**
VESSEL TYPE:	
	142 metres. Passenger Capacity:
	264 (200 in Antarctica). Built:
LENGTH:	**2011**
PASSENGER CAPACITY:	
BUILT/REFURBISHED:	

Luxury Expedition / Cruise Ship This superb mega-yacht with 132 cabins is the result of the expertise of the Italian Fincantieri shipyard and French sophistication, as interpreted by designer Jean-Philippe Nuel. L'Austral has a unique atmosphere, a subtle blend of luxury, intimacy and well-being. A sleek silhouette softened by elegantly smooth contours and large, arched windows opening up to the sea and the light: so many features come together to give L'Austral her distinctive shape. Precious materials, discreet elegance and a perfect balance between chic and casual, combine to make you feel as if you are on your own private yacht. A design blending tradition and innovation, where a nautical mood has been subtly recreated. Precious materials in smoothing neutral tones are brought to life with splashes of cheerful reds. So many personal touches create the spirit of a "private yacht". Suites and staterooms You can expect magnificent ocean views as 124 staterooms and suites have balconies. Individually-controlled airconditioning · Cabin layout: kingsize bed, or twin beds, communicating cabins available (children welcome) · Minibar · Flat screen satellite TV · IPod™ players · Desk with stationery · Electronic safe · French bath products · Dressing table and hairdryer · Bath robes · Satellite direct line telephone · 110/220 volts · 24hr room service · WiFi · Balcony Cuisine Loyal to the great French tradition, the haute cuisine on board is worthy of the finest restaurants, where discreet, attentive service is the hallmark. Choose from two restaurants for breakfasts, lunch and dinner. The Gastronomic Restaurant is situated on Le Liberte Deck and serves you French and international cuisine accompagnied by fine wine. On the Grill Restaurant, you have the opportuniny to eat outside and enjoy buffet lunch and themed dinner. Life On Board Whether you want to join other guests in the theatre or games area (Wii™ consoles, etc), or relax on your own in a quiet corner of the library, L'Austral has been designed to meet the needs of every guest. Everything has been done to preserve the independence of each guest to suit their personal tastes: lounges for lectures and shows, a spa in partnership with Sothys™, but also more intimate spaces such as the library and internet corner. Comfortable cabins, nearly all with private balcony, are available for families either as triples or as communicating cabins. There is also a games area with Wii™ consoles, children's menus, and a baby-sitting service. Just as if you were on a private yacht, your time is your own to do as you please. Fitted with the latest equipment (Kinesis Wall, running machine) and in partnership with the famous Sothys™ brand, the Beauty Centre on L'Austral welcomes you for some unforgettable moments of relaxation and pampering (beauty treatments, hairdresser). Wheelchairs 3 specially adapted wheelchair cabins (Deck 3 = Superior cabin no. 307, no balcony, Deck 4 = Prestige Cabin no. 407 - with

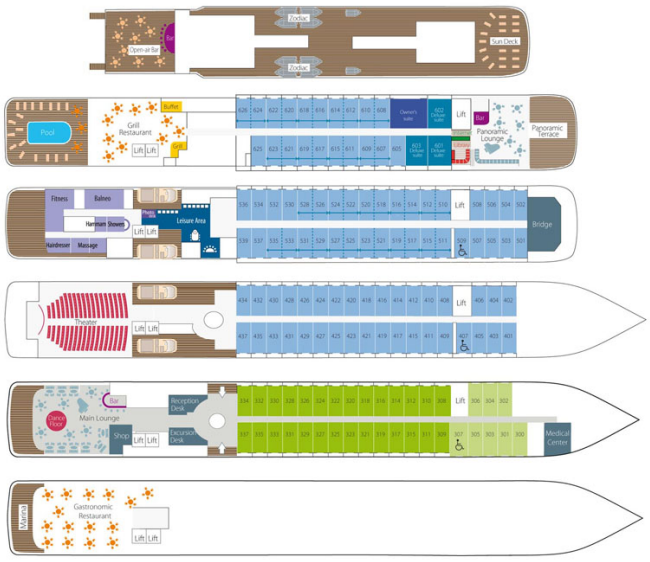
balcony and Deck 5 = Prestige Cabin no 509, with balcony) and lifts to all decks/areas. Details Please click the following links to read more about Ponant and the other Ponant



cruise ships.



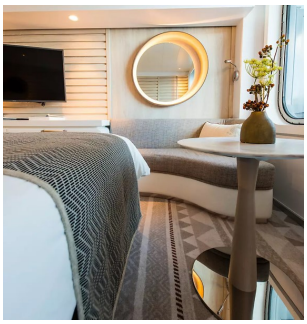
INSIDE YOUR SHIP



Deluxe Stateroom



Deluxe Stateroom - sold out



Deluxe Suite Deck 3



Deluxe Suite Deck 3 - sold out



Deluxe Suite Deck 4



Deluxe Suite Deck 4 - sold out





Deluxe Suite Deck 5



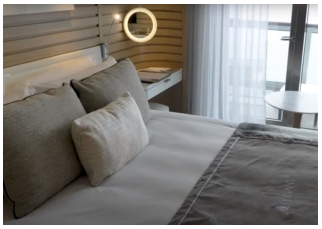
Deluxe Suite Deck 5 - sold out



Owner's Suite - sold out



Prestige Deck 4 - from



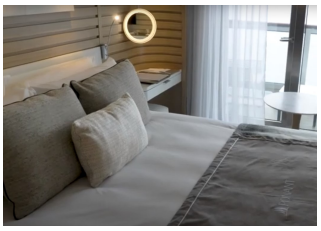
Deluxe Suite Deck 6



Deluxe Suite Deck 6 - from



Prestige Deck 5 - from



Prestige Deck 5 Suite - sold out



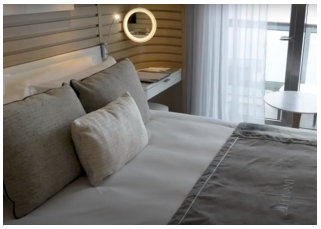
Grand Deluxe Suite



Grand Deluxe Suite Deck 5 - sold out



Prestige Deck 6 - from



Prestige Deck 6 Suite - from



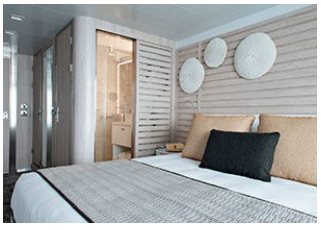
Grand Deluxe Suite Deck 6 - from



Owner's Suite



Prestige Stateroom Deck 4



Prestige Stateroom Deck 5





Prestige Stateroom Deck 6



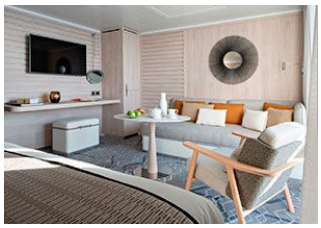
Prestige Suite Deck 5



Prestige Suite Deck 6



Privilege Suite Deck 5



Privilege Suite Deck 5 - from



Privilege Suite Deck 6



Privilege Suite Deck 6 - from





PRICING

29-Sep-2027 to 07-Oct-2027

Privilege Suite Deck 6 - from	£18335 GBP pp
Grand Deluxe Suite Deck 5 - sold out	£14065 GBP pp
Prestige Deck 5 - from	£8585 GBP pp
Deluxe Stateroom - sold out	£7435 GBP pp
Deluxe Suite Deck 3 - sold out	£12425 GBP pp
Deluxe Suite Deck 4 - sold out	£12425 GBP pp
Deluxe Suite Deck 5 - sold out	£12425 GBP pp
Prestige Deck 5 Suite - sold out	£16645 GBP pp
Prestige Deck 6 Suite - from	£17485 GBP pp
Prestige Deck 6 - from	£9045 GBP pp
Owner's Suite - sold out	£21095 GBP pp
Privilege Suite Deck 5 - from	£18335 GBP pp
Deluxe Suite Deck 6 - from	£12425 GBP pp
Grand Deluxe Suite Deck 6 - from	£20095 GBP pp
Prestige Deck 4 - from	£8195 GBP pp

14-Jun-2028 to 22-Jun-2028

Grand Deluxe Suite	£16035 GBP pp
Owner's Suite	£22145 GBP pp
Prestige Stateroom Deck 4	£6675 GBP pp
Privilege Suite Deck 6	£14645 GBP pp
Privilege Suite Deck 5	£14645 GBP pp
Prestige Stateroom Deck 5	£6975 GBP pp
Prestige Stateroom Deck 6	£7335 GBP pp
Deluxe Suite Deck 5	£9995 GBP pp
Deluxe Suite Deck 6	£9995 GBP pp
Prestige Suite Deck 6	£13985 GBP pp
Deluxe Suite Deck 3	£9995 GBP pp
Deluxe Suite Deck 4	£9995 GBP pp
Deluxe Stateroom	£6065 GBP pp
Prestige Suite Deck 5	£13325 GBP pp