

## The Small Cruise Ship Collection

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## CRUISING FROM MOROCCO TO SPAIN'S ANDALUSIAN COAST – 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. This cruise from the Atlantic Coast of North Africa to the Spanish Mediterranean provides a relaxed and engaging experience of both the rich history and vibrant contemporary culture of the region. From storied Casablanca, Morocco, sail first for Tangier. During two full days in Tangier, you can visit the American Legation, the oldest U.S. diplomatic mission in the world, and you may travel across the Rif Mountains to the showcase of Moroccan handicrafts at the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Tetouan. Next you will spend a full day in and around Malaga, Spain, the gateway to Andalusia and to the legendary Costa del Sol. One highlight of your time here is sure to be your journey to Granada, including lunch and a tour of the incomparable Alhambra. From Marbella, you may travel to the picturesque town of Ronda, a center of bullfighting, or you may stay in Marbella to stroll the Avenida del Mar, decorated with ten sculptures by Dali. Next discover Cadiz, one of the country's oldest cities. This call will allow for a visit to the superb palace of the Alcazar in Seville, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Or stay in town to attend a performance of flamenco at a local tavern. Portimao is your gateway to Portugal's Algarve and to the villages of Silves and

Monchique. Silves is a typical Algarve village of cobblestoned streets lined with white houses of Moorish/Arab design. It is also home to Castillo de Silves, the best-preserved castle in the region, offering panoramic views of the town and the surrounding countryside. Like Silves, Monchique is a village of cobbled lanes lined with shops selling local handicrafts. It is best known for Caldas de Monchique, hot springs famous since antiquity for their healing waters. Your voyage will end in Lisbon, Portugal's capital. Lisbon boasts two UNESCO World Heritage sites, the Jeronimos Monastery and the Belem Tower. Choose to extend your stay and enjoy strolling through the streets of this city of seven hills, soaking up the local



zest for life.

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### ITINERARY

#### Day 1 CASABLANCA

Situated along the Atlantic coast, Casablanca is the very image of contemporary Morocco: Westernised and cosmopolitan. Exploring the architectural heritage of the "White City" tells you all you need to know about its cultural and historical diversity. Breathtaking highlights include the majestic Hassan II Mosque, considered to be one of the greatest religious buildings in the world. You can explore the narrow alleys of the old Medina, which stand in sharp contrast to the surrounding modern architecture. To get the most from the seafront, the Ain Diab Corniche provides a pleasant place for strolling with easy access to the beach.

#### Days 2 - 3 TANGIER

Nestling in the Bay of Tangier, this bewitching Moroccan city lies at the northwestern tip of the country, along the famous Strait of Gibraltar. Following in the footsteps of the writers and artists inspired and seduced by the city's climate and setting, you'll love its rich landscapes and multicultural charm. You'll instantly understand as soon as you set foot in the heart of the Medina. An architectural masterpiece, the Kasbah is your gateway to the Sultan's Palace and its gardens. If you prefer beaches to museums, you can relax just a few minutes from the city on the

beautiful sweep of sand bathed by the Atlantic Ocean.

#### Day 4 MÁLAGA

A historical and festive town, Malaga is located in Andalusia, on the Costa del Sol. Between the marina and the beaches, the seaside promenade of La Farola offers an ideal setting for strolling and relaxing. Set slightly further back, the Malagueta bullring is one of the emblematic sites of the city. From the hill overlooking the old town, one can see Gibralfaro castle and the Alcazaba, two fortified ensembles rising out from the cypresses and maritime pines. To visit Pablo Picasso's birthplace, you will go first to the courtly plaza de la Merced. A few streets back from here, you can explore the museum dedicated to the artist, in the Buenavista palace.

#### Day 5 MARBELLA

In the province of Malaga, Marbella is a renowned seaside resort on the Costa del Sol. The remains of early Christian and Roman sites around this former mining town, located at the foot of the Sierra Blanca mountains, bear witness to a rich history. With its white houses on flowery little streets, the old town is perfect for a pleasant stroll. The Plaza de los Naranjos, former focal point of the city, is near the 10th-century Arabic castle and the Church of Santa Maria de la Encarnacion. Not far from here, you'll be able to discover the magnificent viewpoints offered by





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Ronda, a picturesque town perched 700 metres (2,296 feet) high. Its Puente Nuevo bridge majestically crosses the gorges of the Guadalevin River that cuts the town in two.

### Day 6 CADIZ

Andalusia's Cadiz is located on the Costa de la Luz, in the south-west of Spain. From the beaches of Cortadura, to the flamenco bars of Santa Maria, through the colourful streets of la Viña, you will be amazed by this city, which is both steeped in history and extremely festive. In the medieval El Populo district, you will stroll along covered passages in the narrow gaps between houses. You will also be able to mosey around the lush Mina square. The star of the show is the magnificent cathedral and its dome crowned with yellow porcelain, presiding above the Ocean.

### Day 7 PORTIMÃO

At the entrance of the River Arade, Portimao is a former sardine port that has become a famous seaside city. From this pleasant town, you can explore Silves, the former capital of the Algarve. The town is dominated by a Moorish castle, one of the best preserved in Portugal. You can also admire the incredible cathedral with its baroque façade, built on the site of an old mosque. Then you will go to Monchique, a small mountain town surrounded by a forest lush eucalyptus and cork oaks. In the

maze of narrow cobbled streets and whitewashed houses, you will discover here a wilder and more authentic Algarve.

### Day 8 LISBON

Portugal's capital city located on the banks of the Tagus, only a few kilometres from the Atlantic coast, is a city of exceptionally rich cultural diversity. At the mouth of the river harbour, impose two UNESCO World Heritage monuments, Jeronimos monastery and Belem tower. The Alfama hillside is also worth visiting: known for its fado bars and its Moorish streets, this district is the oldest one of the city and one of the most typical. Not far from there, Chiado's elegant streets are home to big fashion labels and are an invitation to a bit of luxury shopping.

Please Note:

Itineraries are subject to change.

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## YOUR SHIP: LE BELLOT

**YOUR SHIP:** Le Bellot

**VESSEL TYPE:**

**LENGTH:**

**PASSENGER CAPACITY:**

**BUILT/REFURBISHED:**

Featuring innovative and environmentally-friendly equipment, elegantly designed staterooms, spacious suites with large windows, and lounge areas that open onto the outside, this new limited-capacity yacht boasting just 92 staterooms and suites will offer you a truly unique cruising experience. As the first ship in a new series, Le Bellot will embody the unique atmosphere of a subtle blend of exploration, refinement, intimacy and comfort. Aboard this ship that flies the French flag, you will experience the incomparable pleasure of an intimate cruise, with the possibility of exploring an ever-increasing range of destinations in an ethnic-chic ambiance with luxury service. Experience a luxurious setting where the accent is on authenticity and passion for travel. **RESTAURANTS** As it is an essential part of French culture, gastronomy will naturally have pride of place aboard this new ship. To the back of Deck 4, you will find a 260 m<sup>2</sup> panoramic restaurant which can accommodate all of our passengers in a single sitting. Designed differently to that on our other ships, this dining area, which opens onto the outside, will have a buffet of salads, desserts and cheeses at your disposal. Our discreet and attentive crew will provide table service for hot meals. In a relaxed atmosphere, an outdoor grill on Deck 3 will

serve grilled meats with a variety of salads and desserts. **PUBLIC AREAS** Le Bellot has many common areas that are designed and equipped to meet all of your needs while preserving the intimacy of each passenger. A 140 m<sup>2</sup> reception area includes: A reception/concierge desk, An excursions desk, The ship's administrative services, The sales office, manned by our Guest Relations Officer, Our 50 m<sup>2</sup> boutique which sells clothing, jewellery, beauty products, postcards and various accessories, Toilets accessible to passengers with reduced mobility. A new hydraulic platform with adjustable height provides: Easier boarding than on any other cruise ship, Easier Zodiac embarkation and disembarkation for expeditions, Easier access to the sea for swimming and practising various water sports such as kayaking or paddle-boarding. A pool deck offering: A pool with a panoramic view, equipped with a counter-current swimming system, A pleasant solarium, An outdoor bar and lounge with armchairs and sofas. A 200 m<sup>2</sup> main lounge which can accommodate all of our passengers to share convivial moments and to host activities organised during the day or evening. Lastly, a theatre that seats 188, equipped with: The latest sound and lighting technology, A LED wall as the stage backdrop, for the projection of high-resolution images and videos. Please click the following links to read more about Ponant and the other Ponant

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## INSIDE YOUR SHIP



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## PRICING

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### ADDITIONAL CHARGES:

Port Taxes and Fees 520 AUD pp



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