

CRUISING THE MEDITERRANEAN: SICILY, SARDINIA, AND MALLORCA — 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 voyage in the heart of the Mediterranean explores four islands that, despite their differences, share a history of successive waves of civilizations that have washed over them from prehistoric times to the present. Phoenicians, Greeks, Romans, Arabs, Byzantines, Italians, British, and Spanish--all have left their mark on the language, art, architecture, and cuisine of Sicily, Sardinia, Menorca, and Mallorca. Arrive in Barcelona , Spain and transfer to your ship in Tarragona. Your discovery of these very special islands begins with two of Spain's Balearic Islands. In Palma de Mallorca on the island of Mallorca, see the Gothic-style Bellver Castle , one of only a handful of circular castles in Europe and explore the works of Spanish artist Joan Miro at the foundation established by his wife, or board a vintage train through the orange and olive groves, almond and locust-bean trees, lush villages, and pine-covered mountains that define the island's landscape. On Menorca , visit Mahon, the island's main port, where a tour of the town reveals Menorca's varied history through its architecture--classical Georgian sash-windowed town houses sharing pride of place with traditional Spanish homes. Visit the Museum of Menorca ,



and then drive to Torralba d'en Salord, a large and well-preserved Bronze Age _talayotic_ settlement recently designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Cagliari, Sardinia's capital, is your gateway to the archaeological site of Nora. Founded by Phoenicians in the 8th century BC, it was subsequently taken over by Carthaginians, then by Romans. Explore the remains of Carthaginian warehouses , buildings from the time of the Roman Republic , a Carthaginian-Roman temple, large baths with splendid mosaics , and a theater, almost intact, dating to the time of the Roman Empire. Spend three days on the largest Mediterranean island, as you visit the Sicilian cities of Palermo and Trapani. Palermo , founded by the Phoenicians in 827 BC, became one of Europe's greatest cities in the 12th century, when the Normans took control. Here you will visit Cappella Palatina , a Byzantine-Arab-Norman structure featuring dazzling mosaics and magnificent inlaid marble floors and walls. Drive to nearby Monreale to explore its famed Norman cathedral. Or explore the narrow, winding streets of the medieval port town of Cefalu. Rounding Sicily's eastern tip, you arrive in Trapani for an excursion into the countryside and the ancient Doric temple of Segesta or to medieval Erice , perched on a high triangular plateau sloping down to the sea. Your voyage ends in



Valletta , Malta.

ITINERARY

Day 1 Tarragona

Tarragona is situated on the Costa Dorada, in the south of Spain's Catalonia region. Known as Tarraco in Roman times, the city boasts very important archaeological and architectural vestiges that are magnificently well preserved. These earned it a place on the UNESCO World Heritage list in 2000. Do not miss this opportunity to visit **the Roman amphitheatre** , which is located on a beautiful natural site by the sea and is exceptionally well preserved. A stroll through the streets of the old medieval town to the cathedral, which was completed in the 14th century, is a wonderful way to end your visit to this welcoming city.

Day 2 Palma de Mallorca, Balearic Islands



Palma de Mallorca will reveal its many treasures: idyllic coves, majestic limestone cliffs that plunge into the clear sapphire- and turquoise-coloured waters of the Mediterranean, and vast plains planted with almond trees, olive trees and vineyards. When your ship calls at the capital of the Balearic Islands, take a walk to discover its emblematic monuments, such as its famous cathedral, and amble through its old streets. Here, like a painting, the island's historical heritage forms a backdrop to the lively and warm cosmopolitan atmosphere of the Mediterranean.

Day 3 Mahon, Balearic Islands

You will be welcomed by the colourful houses of Mahon, its narrow streets and pretty squares that appear as you stroll around this richly contrasting city. Mahon reveals its different neighbourhoods, alternating between monuments, villas and white buildings. Discover the Santa Maria church, a building of neo-gothic inspiration, rebuilt in the 18th Century. It is worth a visit to see its monumental organ with more than 3,000 pipes and four keyboards. Around the Carmen church you will find a local market, full of stands selling avarcas, typical Menorcan sandals originally made by peasants. Let yourself fall under the spell of this Mediterranean treasure.

Day 4 At sea

During your journey 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 centre. Depending on the season, let yourself be tempted by the swimming pool or a spot of sunbathing. This journey without a port of call will also be an opportunity to enjoy the conferences or shows proposed on board, depending on the activities offered, or to do some shopping in the boutique or to meet the PONANT photographers in their dedicated space. As for lovers of the open sea, they will be able to visit the ship's upper deck to admire the spectacle of the waves and perhaps be lucky enough to observe marine species. A truly enchanted interlude, combining comfort, rest and entertainment.

Day 5 Cagliari, Sardinia

The capital of Sardinia, Cagliari, like Rome, is built on seven hills. Its Sardinian name means "castle", in reference to the citadel, its historic centre, which dominates the city. The old ramparts are now pleasant panoramic terraces bordering picturesque streets. The city hosted the Nuragic, Phoenician, Roman and Byzantine civilisations before the rein of the Spanish Hapsburgs and the House of Savoy. The monuments of Cagliari bear the traces of these successive dominations, such as the Bastion of Saint-Remy or the Sainte-Marie Cathedral. On the sea front, Art Nouveau-style public monuments give way to the Poetto beach, a magnificent stretch of sand that is 8 kilometres long.

Day 6 Palermo, Sicily

Palermo is the guardian of the Sicilian soul. Many have been attracted to this city, the largest capital of the Italian islands. Phoenicians, Carthaginians, Romans, Byzantines, Arabs, Normans... Palermo is a rich culmination of so many cultural influences as seen in the Moorish designs on the cathedral, and the Byzantine mosaics of the Palatine chapel, which is itself housed within the precincts of the Norman palace. You will fall under the spell of the palaces, baroque splendours that grace the town with their obsolete beauty. It is thrilling to stumble upon one of those fabulous markets, high in colour, and headily picturesque.

Day 7 Trapani, Sicily



Bathed in the cobalt waters of the Tyrrhenian sea, Trapani is the former port of the Greek city of Erice, boasting a privileged natural position in western Sicily. As you wander through its little streets, you will discover a secular cultural heritage, bearing witness to the many influences of civilisations that came here: San Lorenzo Cathedral, Maria Santissima Annunziata sanctuary, the fountain of Triton. On the shaded restaurant terraces, savour some fresh fish from the morning's catch. Or else you can opt for a seafood couscous, a culinary legacy from their Arab neighbours.

Day 8 Valletta

The whole of the Maltese capital Valletta is UNESCO World Heritage listed and occupies a peninsula in the north-east of the island. From the fountain of Tritons to Saint-Elme fort, there are as many majestic streets as there are narrow staircase vennels to explore. The painted loggia and carved corbels on the tall houses will accompany you in your explorations, and you'll rarely be bothered by traffic. You can visit the Grandmasters palace decorated with coats of arms and frescoes. Saint-John's cathedral and the ramparts which have guarded the city since the 16th century are also among the most emblematic sites of the city. Arranged in terraces, the Barrakka Gardens will punctuate your promenade with a green and floral experience.

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

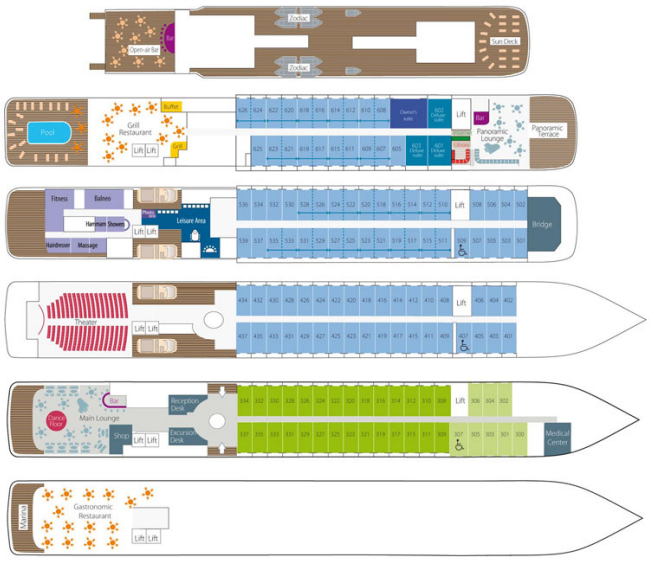
balcony and Deck 5 = Prestige Cabin no 509, with balcony) and lifts to all decks/areas. Details Please click the following links to read more about Ponant and the other Ponant



cruise ships.



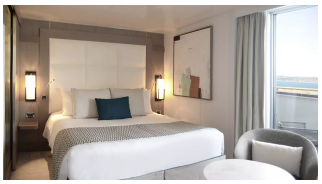
INSIDE YOUR SHIP



Deluxe Stateroom



Deluxe Suite



Deluxe Suite Deck 3



Deluxe Suite Deck 4



Deluxe Suite Deck 5



Deluxe Suite Deck 6



Grand Deluxe Suite Deck 5



Grand Deluxe Suite Deck 6





Owner's Suite



Prestige Deck 4



Prestige Deck 5



Prestige Deck 5 Suite



Prestige Deck 6



Prestige Deck 6 Suite



Prestige Stateroom Deck 4



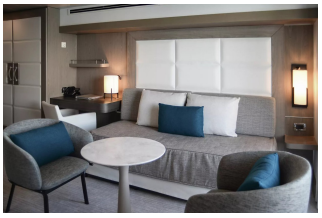
Prestige Stateroom Deck 5



Prestige Stateroom Deck 6



Prestige Suite Deck 5



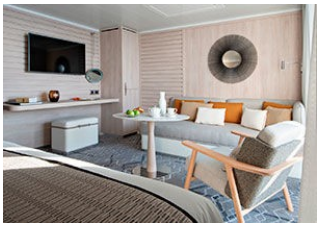
Prestige Suite Deck 6



Privilege Suite Deck 5



Privilege Suite Deck 6



Superior Stateroom





PRICING

12-Aug-2027 to 19-Aug-2027

Deluxe Suite Deck 6	£7235 GBP pp
Prestige Deck 5 Suite	£7755 GBP pp
Grand Deluxe Suite Deck 5	£7235 GBP pp
Owner's Suite	£10655 GBP pp
Prestige Deck 6	£5485 GBP pp
Prestige Deck 5	£5295 GBP pp
Grand Deluxe Suite Deck 6	£8415 GBP pp
Privilege Suite Deck 6	£8185 GBP pp
Deluxe Suite Deck 5	£7235 GBP pp
Deluxe Stateroom	£4915 GBP pp
Deluxe Suite Deck 3	£7235 GBP pp
Deluxe Suite Deck 4	£7235 GBP pp
Prestige Deck 4	£5155 GBP pp
Prestige Deck 6 Suite	£7985 GBP pp
Privilege Suite Deck 5	£8185 GBP pp

26-Apr-2028 to 04-May-2028

Deluxe Stateroom	£4975 GBP pp
Deluxe Suite	£8205 GBP pp
Prestige Suite Deck 6	£11495 GBP pp
Prestige Stateroom Deck 6	£6015 GBP pp
Prestige Stateroom Deck 5	£5725 GBP pp
Prestige Suite Deck 5	£10945 GBP pp
Owner's Suite	£18465 GBP pp
Superior Stateroom	£4625 GBP pp
Prestige Stateroom Deck 4	£5465 GBP pp