


# PANAMA & COSTA RICA BY SEA: THE NATURAL WONDERS OF CENTRAL AMERICA – 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._ Discover Panama and Costa Rica with PONANT on this splendid 8-day cruise aboard _Le Bougainville, _which explores the region's abundant natural splendours, local indigenous communities, and the modern marvel of the Panama Canal. Your journey in Central America will start in Portobelo , Panama, a historic Caribbean harbor and designated UNESCO World Heritage site known for its impressive coastal fortifications. Here, you will have the option to experience the monumental new locks of the Panama Canal Expansion and gain insight into the engineering achievement that reshaped global maritime trade. Next visit the translucent waters of Holandes Cayes , one of the coral islets of Panama's San Blas Islands. Spend a day in this tropical paradise and enjoy the opportunity to swim and snorkel. Members of the Guna community call these islands home, and you may encounter them along the beach. After a daytime sailing from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean through the world-famous Panama Canal , _Le Bougainville _calls at Balboa for an exploration of Panama City 's Old Quarter and of the region's fantastic biodiversity at the superb Frank Gehry-designed _Biomuseo_. Here, you will also visit the Punta




Culebra Nature Center at the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute (STRI) , a fascinating, open-air museum dedicated to marine science and conservation. On a specially arranged tour guided by Smithsonian staff, hear about the latest studies, observe marine species up close, and explore the unique flora and fauna of the tropical dry forest. Your final call will be in Quepos, Costa Rica, gateway to the spectacular Manuel Antonio National Park , where you will encounter myriad tropical flora and fantastic fauna, including sloths, the noisy howler monkey, the white-faced capuchin, and the tiny squirrel monkey. The combination of forest and ocean also provides a special opportunity to observe both terrestrial and sea birds--toucans, pelicans, hummingbirds, terns, and more. _The encounters with the wildlife described above illustrate possible experiences only and cannot be




guaranteed._

## ITINERARY

Day 1 - Colón

**Col on** is the second largest city in **Panama** , at the Caribbean entrance of the **Panama Canal**. Colon is today an important port, and the free trade zone created in 1953 contributed greatly to the development of the city. Colon was founded in 1850 by Americans working on the Panama railroad connecting the Atlantic and Pacific coasts through the isthmus of Panama; the city rapidly overshadowed the older **Caribbean** ports of Panama when the canal opened.

Day 2 - Portobelo

In the**province of Col on, **along the magnificent Caribbean coast of **Panama, Portobelo** is located not far from the famous **canal.** Given its name of "**beautiful port** " by **Christopher Columbus** , who discovered it in 1502, this charming and peaceful bay was one of the most important ports for the shipping of **precious metals** from the **New World** to Spain. Don't miss a visit to its **fortifications** , listed as a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**. The town has preserved the strong religious and cultural traditions of its colonial past, such as the veneration of the **Black Christ** and a strongly-rooted **Afro-Caribbean culture**. The **Congo** ceremonies retrace the story of **Spanish domination** over black slaves through traditional dances and music.

Day 3 - San Blas Islands

Located on the north-east coast of **Panama** , the **San Blas archipelago** is a string of coral islands in the heart of the Caribbean Sea. More than 300 islands and cays cover an area of 300 square kilometres offering travellers a multitude of

treasures. Sheltered behind a long coral reef,**the San Blas Islands** are full of enchanting anchorages. The long sandy white beaches bound by crystal-clear waters will allow you to relax and enjoy incredible marine fauna before engaging with **the Kunas Indian community**. Still subsisting on hunting and fishing, they will welcome you in their villages of bamboo houses gathered near the beaches.

### Day 4 - Crossing the Panama Canal

Aboard your ship, experience something unique, that has inspired the imagination of numerous adventurers in the 20th century: **sailing the Panama Canal**. Its construction started in 1880 under the direction of **Ferdinand de Lesseps**. Abandoned then resumed, this marvel of engineering was completed by the United States and opened in 1914. The canal crosses the Isthmus of Panama and links the Atlantic to the Pacific. Including **three levels of locks** and by raising ships to the level of Lake Gatun, almost as if the water was a lift, it allows them to avoid having to round Cape Horn.

### Day 5 - Balboa

At the entrance to the legendary **Panama Canal** , Balboa is one of Panama City's emblematic districts. Set among **marinas, port areas and hills covered in tropical vegetation** , the district looks out over the Pacific Ocean. A legacy of the American era, the district features wide avenues, leafy spaces and close proximity to the canal's infrastructure, in a setting that blends maritime activity with nature.

### Day 6 - 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 7 - Quepos

Quepos makes for a charming stop-off on the Pacific coast, just next-door to the famous **Manuel Antonio National Park** , an untouched tropical natural reserve lined with white sandy beaches. The town's seafront is an opportunity to stroll through market stalls touting pineapples and bananas in the shade of the manchineel trees. In this coastal town criss-crossed with **tree-lined streets in bloom** , admire the houses and their incredible sculpted balconies. Enjoy a spot of shopping in the **many traditional boutiques** : pick up some handmade cotton clothing, ceramics embellished with Costa Rican designs and home decor pieces in hand-painted wood.

### Day 8 - Puntarenas

The capital of the eponymous province, **Puntarenas** is sometimes called "the pearl of the Pacific", for its unique charm. It sits on the Pacific coast of Costa Rica, along the **Gulf of Nicoya** , lined with long expanses of wild natural environments. Further inland, among the countless natural wonders to be found in the generous **rainforest** of the **Costa Rica 's national parks**, **Poas and Arena volcanoes **towers up in all their majestic glory. In this luxuriant natural




setting, **Costa Rica** protects one of the planet's richest biodiversity: monkeys, sloths, tropical birds, iguanas, crocodiles, waterfalls, canyons, and more than ten thousand species of tropical plants.

Please note:

Itineraries are subject to change.




# 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 m² 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 m² 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 m² 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 m² 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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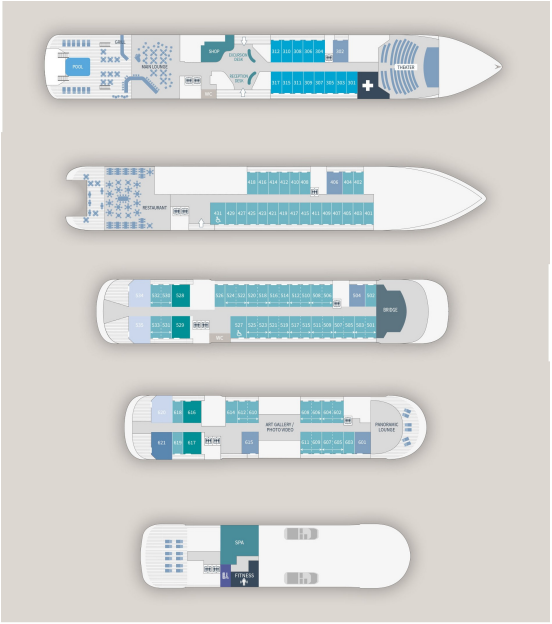
# INSIDE YOUR SHIP



Deluxe Stateroom



Deluxe Suite Deck 3



Deluxe Suite Deck 4



Deluxe Suite Deck 5



Deluxe Suite Deck 6



Grand Deluxe Suite



Grand Deluxe Suite Deck 5



Grand Deluxe Suite Deck 6

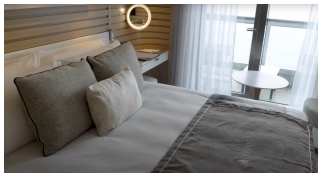




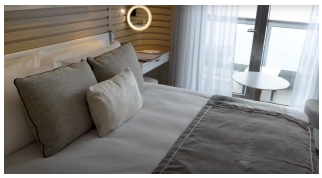

Owner's Suite



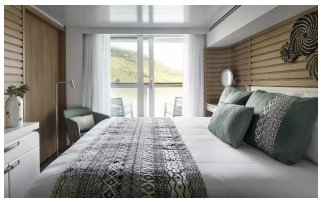
Prestige Deck 4



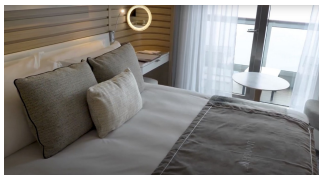
Prestige Deck 5



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






# PRICING

**19-Feb-2027 to 26-Feb-2027**

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| Prestige Deck 5 Suite | £12765 GBP pp |
| Prestige Deck 6 | £6935 GBP pp |
| Deluxe Suite Deck 6 | £9525 GBP pp |
| Privilege Suite Deck 5 | £14065 GBP pp |
| Privilege Suite Deck 6 | £14065 GBP pp |
| Deluxe Suite Deck 3 | £9525 GBP pp |
| Deluxe Suite Deck 4 | £9525 GBP pp |
| Prestige Deck 6 Suite | £13415 GBP pp |
| Deluxe Suite Deck 5 | £9525 GBP pp |
| Grand Deluxe Suite Deck 6 | £15425 GBP pp |
| Deluxe Stateroom | £5695 GBP pp |
| Prestige Deck 5 | £6585 GBP pp |
| Prestige Deck 4 | £6285 GBP pp |
| Grand Deluxe Suite Deck 5 | £11895 GBP pp |
| Prestige Suite Deck 6 | £10785 GBP pp |
| Deluxe Suite Deck 5 | £7715 GBP pp |
| Deluxe Stateroom | £4685 GBP pp |
| Prestige Stateroom Deck 5 | £5385 GBP pp |
| Privilege Suite Deck 5 | £11295 GBP pp |
| Deluxe Suite Deck 6 | £7715 GBP pp |
| Prestige Stateroom Deck 4 | £5145 GBP pp |
| Prestige Suite Deck 5 | £10275 GBP pp |
| Prestige Stateroom Deck 6 | £5665 GBP pp |
| Grand Deluxe Suite | £12365 GBP pp |
| Deluxe Suite Deck 3 | £7715 GBP pp |
| Deluxe Suite Deck 4 | £7715 GBP pp |
| Privilege Suite Deck 6 | £11295 GBP pp |
| Owner's Suite | £18235 GBP pp |

**12-Jan-2028 to 19-Jan-2028**




# PRICING

**15-Jan-2029 to 22-Jan-2029**

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| Deluxe Suite Deck 5 | £8065 GBP pp |
| Deluxe Suite Deck 4 | £8065 GBP pp |
| Deluxe Suite Deck 3 | £8065 GBP pp |
| Deluxe Stateroom | £4825 GBP pp |
| Owner's Suite | £19295 GBP pp |
| Privilege Suite Deck 6 | £11915 GBP pp |
| Privilege Suite Deck 5 | £11915 GBP pp |
| Prestige Suite Deck 6 | £11365 GBP pp |
| Prestige Suite Deck 5 | £10815 GBP pp |
| Prestige Stateroom Deck 6 | £5875 GBP pp |
| Prestige Stateroom Deck 5 | £5575 GBP pp |
| Prestige Stateroom Deck 4 | £5325 GBP pp |
| Grand Deluxe Suite | £13065 GBP pp |
| Deluxe Suite Deck 6 | £8065 GBP pp |