

New Year between the Caribbean and the Maya

From **26/12/2021**
to **04/01/2022**

Ship: **LE CHAMPLAIN**

From **Cozumel**
to **Colón**



PONANT brings you an itinerary in the **Caribbean Sea**, sailing along the Mexican peninsula of Yucatán to Panama, via Guatemala and Belize. In **Cozumel**, you will board *Le Champlain* for a **10-day cruise** combining idyllic beaches and Pre-Columbian sites.

First of all, you'll discover **Belize**, with its **Mayan sites lost in tropical jungle** and, seen from the sky, its marvellous coral reef, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, which is home to the emblematic **Blue Hole**, a **splendid underwater cenote** that stands out like a sapphire set upon the reefs of the turquoise waters of the Caribbean Sea. An extraordinary natural phenomenon that you will have the possibility of admiring from the sky.

The next port of call will be **Santo Tomás de Castilla**. From there, you will be able to discover the palaces, pyramids and sanctuaries of **the Archaeological Park and Ruins of Quiriguá**, listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Le Champlain will then sail to Costa Rica and **Puerto Limón**, not far from the island named **Tortuguero**. Literally "the Land of Turtles", the village and the **National Park** are key nesting sites for four species of sea turtle, including two critically endangered species.

You will finally discover the clear waters of **Panama** and the **San Blas archipelago**, composed of more than 300 islands and cays. The **Kuna** live among the palm trees and pirogues; this people perpetuates, among other things, the **traditional craft of molas**, weaved textiles in sparkling colours.



The information in this document is valid as of 28/01/2022

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YOUR STOPOVERS :

COZUMEL

Embarkation 26/12/2021 from 16:00 to 17:00

Departure 26/12/2021 at 21:00

Off the Riviera Maya, **Cozumel** is Mexico's second largest island. Located at the northern extremity of the **Mesoamerican Barrier Reef System**, the island is renowned for its snorkelling and diving sites and the incredible **clarity of its waters** protected by a marine park. The island's coasts and interior are also full of treasures: sacred Maya sites devoted to medicine, love and fertility; cenotes; a museum; an ecological reserve; mangroves; lagoons; coastal dunes; long unspoiled beaches. Don't hesitate to climb to the top of the lighthouse in the Punta Sur Nature Reserve in the island's south, to admire the panorama of these **wild expanses** from above.

AT SEA

Arrival 27/12/2021

Departure 27/12/2021

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 centre. Depending on the season, let yourself be tempted by the swimming pool or a spot of sunbathing. This day without a port of call will also be an opportunity to enjoy the conferences or shows proposed on board, 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.

BELIZE CITY

Arrival 28/12/2021 early morning

Departure 28/12/2021 late afternoon

Belize City is the former capital and the country's largest town. Located on the **Caribbean Sea**, this lively little town symbolises 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.

SANTO TOMÁS DE CASTILLA

Arrival 29/12/2021 early morning
Departure 29/12/2021 early evening

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.

WATER CAYE, ISLA UTILA

Arrival 30/12/2021 early morning
Departure 30/12/2021 early afternoon

The **Bay Islands** archipelago is home to stunning cays, sheltered **coral islets** with warm, crystal-clear turquoise waters. Off the island of Utila, the white-sand beaches lined with palms and coconut trees and the reefs of the deserted islet called Water Caye offer a picture-postcard setting that will delight fans of swimming and snorkelling.

AT SEA

Arrival 31/12/2021
Departure 01/01/2022

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 centre. Depending on the season, let yourself be tempted by the swimming pool or a spot of sunbathing. This day without a port of call will also be an opportunity to enjoy the conferences or shows proposed on board, 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.

PUERTO LIMÓN

Arrival 02/01/2022 at night
Departure 02/01/2022 mid afternoon

We're pretty sure the little coastal town of Puerto Limón will completely win your heart. It is located on the Caribbean sea. Just beyond the harbour, **Playa Bonita creek** opens its arms to a haven of beauty rimmed by clear blue waters and shaded by giant peach-palms. If you wish to explore the lush green areas in the town, it's worth taking a stroll through the lemon groves that give Puerto Limón its name. You'll have all the time in the world to mosey around the streets scattered with **multicoloured wooden makeshift stalls**. These makeshift bars with their raffia roofs offer fresh juices blended just for you.

SAN BLAS ISLANDS

Arrival 03/01/2022 early afternoon
Departure 03/01/2022 late afternoon

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.

COLÓN

Arrival 04/01/2022 early morning

Disembarkation 04/01/2022 at 06:00

Colón is the second largest city in **Panama**, at the Caribbean entrance of the **Panama Canal**. Colón is today an important port, and the free trade zone created in 1953 contributed greatly to the development of the city. Colón 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.