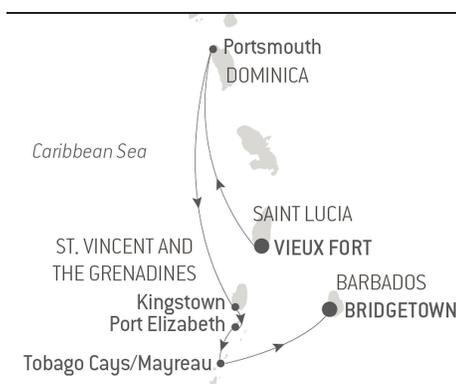


Cruising the Caribbean's Windward Islands – with Smithsonian Journeys

From **13/02/2022**
to **20/02/2022**

Ship: **LE DUMONT-D'URVILLE**

From **Vieux Fort**
to **Bridgetown**



Shore excursion or activity in each port of call +
transfers included

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.

PONANT brings you an itinerary to the heart of the most enchanting islands in the Caribbean Sea. Board *Le Dumont-d'Urville* for an **8-day cruise** combining long stretches of white-sand beach, idyllic turquoise waters, and the laid-back island way of life.

Board your ship in **Vieux Fort, St. Lucia**, whose two majestic volcanic peaks – the Gros and Petit Pitons – jut dramatically from sea to sky and are listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site.

You will then set sail for **Portsmouth in Dominica**, a mountainous island where inland rivers and nature trails provide a glimpse into the intriguing flora and fauna of the island and – if you are lucky – the chance to see the nation's national bird, the Sisserou Parrot. Do not miss the opportunity to sample some native chocolate from a local maker.

Continue south to **Kingstown** on the volcanic island of **Saint Vincent**, the largest island in the archipelago of **Saint Vincent and the Grenadines**. The island is home the Saint Vincent Botanical Gardens, developed in 1765 and the oldest garden of its kind in the Western Hemisphere, and La Soufrière, the island's active volcano.

Your ship will then sail south to **the Grenadines**. Here, begin on the island of **Bequia**, where small, picturesque villages, unbelievably clear waters, and brightly colored coral reefs prove main attractions. Next anchor in the **Tobago Cays Marine Park**. This circle of islands, bound together by arguably the most beautiful coral reef in the West Indies, will reveal its incredible underwater wildlife during your visit. End your stay in the

Grenadines with a day on your magnificent private beach on the island of **Mayreau**.

Le Dumont-d'Urville sails on to **Bridgetown, Barbados**, whose UNESCO World Heritage-listed historic center reveals touches of its British colonial past around every corner. Toast the end of your cruise with a glass of the island's famous rum as you relish the memories of your week at sea on this breathtaking stretch of the Caribbean!

To further enhance your Caribbean odyssey, an experienced diving instructor will be on board for the entire cruise, enabling you to safely enjoy swimming, snorkeling, and scuba diving (PADI Open Water Diver or equivalent). (additional cost)

The encounters with the wildlife described above illustrate possible experiences only and cannot be guaranteed.



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

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YOUR STOPOVERS :

VIEUX FORT

Embarkation 13/02/2022 from 16:00 to 17:00

Departure 13/02/2022 at 18:30

Vieux Fort lies to the far south of the island of Saint Lucia. This town, which was a strategic location in the sugar industry from the 18th to the 19th centuries, derives its authenticity from its rich history. Renowned for its lush nature and beaches typical of the Caribbean, it is also famous for its mythical Moule-a-Chique Lighthouse. Built in 1912 and standing 200 metres (656 feet) tall, this lighthouse will be visible as soon as you arrive on the Saint Lucian coastlines. The beauty of Vieux Fort is also reflected in the underwater kingdom that surrounds it. It is home to an abundance of marine species, such as eagle rays or leatherback sea turtles. Vieux Fort is most likely to evoke feelings of enchantment and it reserves a soothing welcome, paced by the rhythm of its waves, for each of its visitors.

PORTSMOUTH

Arrival 14/02/2022 early morning

Departure 14/02/2022 late afternoon

With its mountainous terrain, vast tropical forest, hot springs, rivers and spectacular waterfalls, **Dominica** is undoubtedly **the wildest island** in the Caribbean. Protected by several **national parks**, this little-known land, located in the heart of the Caribbean Sea, between Guadeloupe and Martinique, will inspire adventure and exploration. During your port of call, do not miss out on discovering the enchanting landscapes of the **Indian River**: navigating through this dense mangrove, in which creepers, ferns, forest trees and giant roots are interweaved, is a magical experience, a fascinating voyage into the heart of an almost mystical natural universe.

KINGSTOWN

Arrival 15/02/2022 early morning

Departure 15/02/2022 early evening

Kingstown is the capital of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, independent since 1979 but still a member of the British Commonwealth. Some of the 32 islands of the Grenadines are inhabited, like Mustique, some are not, like Tobago Cays. But they are all renowned for **crystal clear, calm waters**, and some of the **best snorkeling and diving in the world**. The **Botanic Garden** in Kingstown is the oldest of its kind in the Western Hemisphere and well worth a visit, as is **Fort Charlotte**, featuring panoramic views of the archipelago. **La Soufrière**, Saint Vincent's active volcano, dominates the northern end of the island, where it periodically erupts (most recently in April 2021), scarring the surrounding land with lava and ash.

PORT ELIZABETH, BEQUIA ISLAND

Arrival 16/02/2022 early morning

Departure 16/02/2022 late evening

In the heart of the **Caribbean**, **Bequia** is the second-largest of 32 islands that make up the country of **St Vincent and the Grenadines**. You will love the lively and picturesque atmosphere of **Port Elizabeth**, the island's main town. From the port, a promenade lined with beautiful traditional houses, landscaped gardens and small restaurants runs along the shoreline. It leads to Princess Margaret Beach, a wild beach where Princess Margaret herself has stayed and which seems to emerge directly from the tropical forest. From rainforest to lush meadows and long stretches of sand, Bequia will offer you a natural setting that is conducive to lovely walks and to spending time on the beach.

TOBAGO CAYS

Arrival 17/02/2022 early morning

Departure 17/02/2022 late afternoon

Scattered between **St Vincent and Grenada**, the **Tobago Cays** comprises five little islands: Petit Rameau, Petit Bateau, Baradal, Petit Tabac and Jamesby. This rosary of uninhabited cays in the **southern West Indies** is a **marine park** whose turquoise lagoons provide a home and safe haven for some outstanding marine fauna, **including peaceful green turtles**. Girded and united by a coral reef, these secluded islands are a peaceful paradise for divers, swimmers and snorkellers.

MAYREAU ISLAND

Arrival 18/02/2022 mid morning

Departure 18/02/2022 early evening

Among the string of paradisiac islands with their sandy beaches that form the Saint Vincent and the Grenadines archipelago, Mayreau is the smallest. Its **peaceful and idyllic atmosphere**, far from the madding crowd, invites you to relax. On shore, enjoy a **shaded and fully equipped beach** from which to go snorkelling if you'd like to observe the colourful fish around the coral sitting at the foot of the rocks that stretch across the bay.

BRIDGETOWN

Arrival 19/02/2022 early morning

Disembarkation 20/02/2022 at 07:00

Bridgetown, the bustling capital of Barbados, is located on the island's south-west coast. Its **historic quarters** are **UNESCO World Heritage sites** and contain prime examples of British colonial architecture, which you will see between the postcard-perfect fishing harbour and St Ann's Fort. Streets shaded by palms and flamboyant trees lead you to the Anglican cathedral church of St Michael, built from coral stone, the Barbados Museum and George Washington House, a Georgian-style mansion. There'll be plenty of time to relax on the Caribbean beaches of **Carlisle Bay**, a few paces from the old town centre.