

Santo Domingo and Caribbean treasures

From **04/01/2023**
to **16/01/2023**

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

From **Santo Domingo**
to **Fort-de-France**



From **Santo Domingo** to **Fort-de-France**, succumb to the charms of the Caribbean aboard a new **13-day cruise** with PONANT. Between beaches and turquoise waters, bays edged with palm trees, and lush tropical forest, this **all-new circuit** from the Greater Antilles to the Lesser Antilles aboard *Le Dumont-d'Urville* will be an opportunity for swimming and unforgettable discoveries in an exceptional setting.

An **experienced diving instructor** is on board for the entire cruise, enabling you to safely enjoy swimming and scuba diving.

You will board in **Santo Domingo**, where you will be able to appreciate the charms of the oldest capital of the “New World”, which is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. You will then make a port of call in **Saona Island** and in the charming bay of **Santa Barbara de Samaná**, which is edged by creole houses, from where you will be able to go and discover the caverns and mangrove of Los Haitises National Park.

Located between the Lesser Antilles and the Greater Antilles, the **British Virgin Islands** are composed of some sixty islands, most of which are uninhabited. After a stop in **Jost Van Dyke** for a relaxing swim, discover on **Virgin Gorda**, the **Baths National Park** and its huge blocks of granite, surrounded by caves and rock pools.

You will then sail to **St. Kitts**, a volcanic island with fine sandy beaches and a rich colonial heritage.

Then your ship will set sail for the famous **Saint-Barthelemy**, renowned for its wild coves and its elegant little shopping streets, and the island of **Antigua**. The naval dockyard dating back to Georgian times, sheltered in the hollow of a bay protected from this island with craggy coastlines, is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Further south, *Le Dumont-d'Urville* will sail towards the charming shores of **Guadeloupe**. You will discover the ravishing **Baie des Saintes**, a very popular spot for mooring, with crystal clear waters and fabulous seabeds and a stunning beach near the picturesque fishing village of **Deshaies**. You will then reach the magnificent island of **Dominica**, nicknamed the

Nature Isle.

You will finally reach **Fort-de-France**.



The information in this document is valid as of 03/12/2021

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YOUR STOPOVERS :

SANTO DOMINGO

Embarkation 04/01/2023 from 16:00 to 17:00

Departure 04/01/2023 at 18:00

Capital of the Dominican Republic, located on the south coast of Hispaniola, **Santo Domingo** is also the oldest town in the Caribbean and the New World. Officially founded at the end of the 15th Century by the older brother of Christopher Columbus, and named after Saint Dominic, founder of the Dominican order, the city boasts an immense historical heritage. At the heart of **the colonial district, a UNESCO World Heritage site**, you can admire the oldest Spanish constructions in the Americas.

SAONA ISLAND

Arrival 05/01/2023 early morning

Departure 05/01/2023 early evening

Soana Island is located in the **Cotubanamá National Park**, at the extreme south-east tip of the **Dominican Republic**. Imagine a deep blue sky coupled with the infinite turquoise shades of the sea surrounding this palm-tree lined island that is like a **taste of Paradise**. Its stunning coral reefs are home to a rainbow of **tropical fish**. A veritable protected nature reserve, it is home to a **sea turtle sanctuary**. In **Mano Juan**, the pastel-coloured wooden huts give this charming fishing village a warm and friendly atmosphere. Don't miss the chance to discover the cultural heritage of Saona, such as the **Cotubanamá cave**, painted by the **Taino Indians** before the Spanish conquest.

SANTA BÁRBARA DE SAMANÁ

Arrival 06/01/2023 early morning

Departure 06/01/2023 evening

Founded in honour of Barbara de Braganza, wife of the Spanish king Ferdinand VI, the town of **Santa Barbara de Samaná** is located on the south coast of the Samaná Peninsula, in the **Dominican Republic**. Along the seafront, in a bay renowned for the passage of humpback whales during the first months of the year, charming Creole-style houses display their colourful facades. When your ship calls here, don't miss the chance to visit Los Haitises National Park. There, you will navigate through a stunning landscape of tropical **rainforest** and discover caves that were once occupied by the Taino Indians. If you prefer to stay on land, the El Limon **waterfall** in the centre of the Samaná Peninsula is also worth a visit.

AT SEA

Arrival 07/01/2023

Departure 07/01/2023

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.

JOST VAN DYKE

Arrival 08/01/2023 early morning

Departure 08/01/2023 evening

During your cruise, discover the pearl of the British Virgin Islands, said to have been named after a fearsome Dutch pirate from long ago. The hilly landscape offers travellers beautiful wild expanses lined with immaculate beaches where the breeze gently caresses the coconut palms. In this slice of heaven with crystal-clear waters, **you will be able to enjoy the lively atmosphere of White Bay**. As for the wildlife, iguanas, mongooses, pelicans and blue herons have taken up residence on these islands, much to the delight of our passengers who love a good holiday snap!

VIRGIN GORDA

Arrival 09/01/2023 early morning

Departure 09/01/2023 late afternoon

Virgin Gorda is one of the British Virgin Islands archipelago's largest islands. There, you will discover The Baths National Park and its well-renowned picture-postcard beaches. Gigantic volcanic boulders sit surrounded by the turquoise waters of the Caribbean, creating spectacular geological formations. Indeed, over the years a network of basins, caves and natural pools has formed, resulting in a sublime aquatic maze in which it is enjoyable to lose oneself before heading to the stunning Devil's Bay Beach. On the island's south-eastern tip, Copper Mine National Park is still home to many ruins of an abandoned copper mine that looks out over the sea.

SOUTH FRIARS BAY, SAINT KITTS

Arrival 10/01/2023 early morning

Departure 10/01/2023 evening

Nestling along the peninsula of Saint-Kitts Island, South Friars Bay shelters one of the Kittitians' most popular beaches. You will find this gorgeous stretch of golden sand ideal for a spot of sunbathing, **or you may prefer to go and discover the history of the island**. Listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, Brimstone Hill Fortress National Park is a remarkable example of military architecture from the 17th and 18th centuries. It affords an exceptional view of the island's coast.

GUSTAVIA

Arrival 11/01/2023 early morning

Departure 11/01/2023 evening

Lovers of this island call it **Saint-Barth**. This French island in the Lesser Antilles was discovered by Christopher Columbus in 1493. Ever since, this tiny **mountainous volcanic gem** with its **unspoilt nature** has been enchanting visitors. You will enjoy the beauty of its large paradisiacal beaches, plus the charm and refinement of its old wooden houses and its sumptuous **colonial manors**. Although, as you saunter through the rues de **Gustavia** or **Saint-Jean**, you'll come across jewellers, top fashion boutiques and fine restaurants, there is also a simplicity that money can't buy...

ANTIGUA

Arrival 12/01/2023 early morning

Departure 12/01/2023 late afternoon

Between white sandy beaches and lush tropical forest, you will discover Antigua, the largest of the two islands that make up **Antigua-and-Barbuda**, a sovereign **Commonwealth** state. From its British colonial heritage, this picture-postcard island has kept English as its official language and a pronounced taste for **cricket!** The steep hillsides of the south of the island offer splendid vistas over **English Harbour** and the **Antigua shipyard**, a building dating from the 17th century and a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and over Indian Creek, where the first Awarak Indians settled. To the east, the clear waters of the village of Seatons are the ideal site for **snorkelling alongside the rays**.

LES SAINTES

Arrival 13/01/2023 early morning

Departure 13/01/2023 early evening

During the feast of All Saints in 1493, **Christopher Columbus** discovered this archipelago of nine islands that he named "The Saints". Today, only two of them are inhabited. Terre de Haut, in the east, is dominated by the Morne Mire hill; at the summit stands **Fort Napoleon**, paying homage to the islands' history. In the heart of the **botanical garden**, shared by iguanas and cacti, there is an exceptional view of the **Baie des Saintes**, one of the most beautiful in the world. The long shady beach of Pompierre, where it is forbidden to drop anchor, is a peaceful place for a swim, while Pain de Sucre Beach offers wonderful opportunities for snorkelling. On the island, don't forget to taste the local speciality, the "tourment d'amour", a cake made with coconut.

DESHAIES

Arrival 14/01/2023 early morning

Departure 14/01/2023 early evening

The port of **Deshaies** has a magnificent setting on the north-west coast of **Basse-Terre** Island, the western half of **Guadeloupe**. Nestling in the crook of a pretty bay on the Caribbean Sea, the village of wooden Creole-style houses extends along the foot of hillsides covered in tropical rainforest. Beyond the bay, the former property of famous French comedian Coluche is now a magnificent **botanical garden** where you can wander among West Indian trees and flowering plants and spot exotic birds. A little farther to the north is **Grande Anse** beach, one of most beautiful on the island.

PORTSMOUTH

Arrival 15/01/2023 early morning

Departure 15/01/2023 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.

FORT-DE-FRANCE

Arrival 16/01/2023 early morning

Disembarkation 16/01/2023 at 07:00

Located on the western coast of Martinique, Fort-de-France will amaze you by the splendour of its bay, a magnificent cut-out in the coastline, considered as one of the most beautiful in the world. At the harbour mouth, on its strip of land, **fort Saint-Louis** overlooks the capital city of Martinique. If you climb up to it, you can see some breath-taking views. **Saint Louis Cathedral** and the Schoelcher library bear witness to a secular history, intimately linked to the island's story. Why not try some fresh coconut at the colourful Grand Marché. Two really pleasant places you can take a breather in, right in the heart of the city, are the garden of Balata and the Aimé Césaire park.