

Treasures of the Persian Gulf

From **29/12/2020**
to **06/01/2021**

Ship: **LE JACQUES CARTIER**

From **Dubai**
to **Muscat**



PONANT invites you on an **all-new 9-day cruise** between the **Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman**, departing from Dubai. Come aboard **Le Jacques-Cartier**, and set off to discover the treasures of the desert of the **Arabian Peninsula**.

From fascinating and futuristic **Dubai**, your ship will take you towards **Abu Dhabi**, the booming capital of the United Arab Emirates. You will be able to make the most of this day to visit the fantastic new **Louvre Abu Dhabi Museum** and the **Grand Mosque**, one of the largest in the world.

You will then stop off at the **nature reserve** of the island of **Sir Bani Yas**, a veritable **wildlife sanctuary**, before setting sail for **Doha** in Qatar. In this city blending tradition and modernity, next to the most recent skyscrapers, you will discover a superb museum home to **treasures of Islamic art**, and the sparkling colours of the **Waqif souk** which brings the heart of the old town to life.

Le Jacques-Cartier will then drop anchor in **Khasab**, the gateway to the sublime "**fjords of Arabia**" that you will be able to explore aboard a traditional boat, before arriving in the **Gulf of Oman**.

In the charming port of **Sour**, on the far south of the peninsula, you will discover maritime traditions that date back a thousand years. Today, they still build dhows there. These are the typical boats that were used to transport goods on the spice route.

At the end of your cruise, do not miss out on visiting **Muscat**, your final port, and its **Sultan Qaboos Grand Mosque**, which is like a palace from the Arabian Nights.



The information in this document is valid as of 03/09/2020

Treasures of the Persian Gulf

YOUR STOPOVERS :

DUBAI

Embarkation 29/12/2020 from 16h00 to 17h00

Departure 30/12/2020 at 00h00

Vertiginous, excessive, immoderate... **Dubai**, the largest city in the United Arab Emirates, stands out for its architectural follies. Home to the world's tallest skyscraper, the **Burj Kahlifa**, with a total height of 828 metres, almost three times that of the Eiffel Tower, the city is also famous for the gigantic scale of the Palm Islands, its artificial islands in the form of a palm tree. You can explore more traditional districts not far away, with visits of the souks of **Deira** or the Gold Souk. Or perhaps you would prefer to discover Dubai Museum: located in an 18th-century fort, it tells the city's history from Antiquity to the present day.

ABU DHABI

Arrival 31/12/2020 early morning

Departure 31/12/2020 evening

The political capital of the United Arab Emirates, **Abu Dhabi** stands out thanks to its exceptional cultural offering. In the Saadiyat Island district, **the Louvre Abu Dhabi**, designed by **Jean Nouvel** as a museum town inspired by traditional Arab architecture, creates a dialogue between objects and works from civilisations from all over the world around the great universal questions. A little further, the **Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque** boasts a sumptuous decor of marble, gold and glass. Abu Dhabi is also the gateway to the **Al Ain oasis** and its 150,000 date palms, a remarkable testimony to the settling of nomads in the region since Neolithic times, and a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

SIR BANI YAS

Arrival 01/01/2021 mid morning

Departure 01/01/2021 late afternoon

You'll make a port of call on the island of **Sir Bani Yas**, a real naturalist dream that has been dedicated to the **conservation of endangered animal species** since 1971. This enchanting former reserve of the Emir of Abu Dhabi is planted with more than two million trees. Nominated "**The World's Leading Sustainable Tourist Destination**", it has one the largest populations of Arabian oryxes. The ruins of one of the oldest Christian monasteries of the pre-Islamic era, dating back to 600 AD, are visible there.

DOHA

Arrival 02/01/2021 at night

Departure 03/01/2021 early morning

On the banks of the **Persian Gulf**, discover **Doha**, the capital of **Qatar**. Rising out of the desert, the city has managed to maintain its traditions in spite of a frantic race for modernity. The cliff bordering Doha Bay has magnificent views over the city centre's enormous constructions. The silhouette of the **Museum of Islamic Art** rises up near the quays, where the region's typical sailboats, known as *dhows*, are docked. This "fortress", designed by **Ming Pei**, the architect of the Louvre pyramid, is home to the finest collections of Islamic art in the world. Not far, the lively district of **Souq Waqif** and its colourful stalls are also an unmissable visit.

KHASAB

Arrival 04/01/2021 early morning

Departure 04/01/2021 midday

Located in the country's north, on the **Musandam Peninsula**, **Khasab** is a city in the **Sultanate of Oman**. In the **Strait of Hormuz**, which connects the Persian Gulf to the Gulf of Oman, this small port built by the Portuguese in the 16th century and surrounded by a chain of rocky mountains was established at the mouth of **Wadi Khasab**. You will love its authentic scenery and particularly its **fjords**, which cut through the landscapes in a spectacular fashion and have earned it the moniker "Norway of Arabia". In the city, **Khasab Castle** and its atypical architecture are well worth a visit to discover the history and culture of Oman.

SUR

Arrival 05/01/2021 early afternoon

Departure 05/01/2021 early evening

Built on either side of a lagoon, **Sur** is a city and seaport in the **north-east of the Sultanate of Oman**, on the coast of the **Gulf of Oman**. Connected to the sea by a channel, the port was very active for a long time, having regular dealings with Africa and India since the 6th century. Sur is renowned for being the only Omani city to have retained its **traditional boatyards**, where **dhows** (wooden sailing ships) are hand-crafted. The city's charm stems from its immaculate white houses dotting the seafront and from its fort erected on a hill along the **road to Muscat**.

MUSCAT

Arrival 06/01/2021 early morning

Disembarkation 06/01/2021 at 07h00

Unlike neighbouring metropolises, the capital of the **Sultanate of Oman** has chosen to ban towers and skyscrapers and to cultivate the peninsula's traditional and refined architectural style: low houses, domes, moucharaby windows, and wooden balconies. This authenticity adds to the charm of this small former maritime city protected by mountains and the forts constructed by the Portuguese in the 16th century. There is no doubt that you will fall under the charm of the treasures of Omani craftsmanship: the souk in the old district of **Mutrah** is a perfect example of this, as is the **Sultan Qaboos Grand Mosque**

