

# Christmas between Mexico and Panama

From **22/12/2020**  
to **29/12/2020**

Ship: **LE CHAMPLAIN**

From **Cozumel**  
to **Colón**



Transfer from Playa del Carmen to Cozumel

**PONANT** brings you a **brand-new itinerary** in the Caribbean Sea, sailing from the Mexican peninsula of **Yucatán to Colón in Panama**.

On the island of **Cozumel**, off the Riviera Maya, you will board *Le Champlain* for an **8-day cruise** combining idyllic beaches and **Pre-Columbian sites**.

From **Cozumel**, don't miss the opportunity to visit the archaeological site of **Tulum**, without doubt one of the most beautiful testimonies of Maya civilization.

Your ship will first call in **Providencia**, a small volcanic island off Nicaragua which was once a refuge for buccaneers. Then you will reach **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.

Your ship will then set sail for the clear waters of Panama and **the San Blas archipelago**, composed of more than 300 islands and cays. Here, surrounded by palm trees and dugout canoes, you will discover the crafts and culture of the Kuna people.



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

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## YOUR STOPOVERS :

### COZUMEL

Embarkation 22/12/2020 from 16h00 to 17h00

Departure 23/12/2020 at 23h59

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 24/12/2020

Departure 25/12/2020

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.

### SAN ANDRÉS AND PROVIDENCIA ARCHIPELAGO

Arrival 26/12/2020 early morning

Departure 26/12/2020 midday

**The Isla de Providencia**, an insular Colombian territory near the coast of **Nicaragua**, is part of the Archipelago of **San Andrés**. Nicknamed the "**flower of the ocean**", its clear and warm waters and lush tropical forests are surrounded by legends and stories of pirates. The beauty of its underwater life has earned it the title of **UNESCO Biosphere Reserve**. You'll be able to discover the island's natural riches during a walk or while snorkelling. **The Isla de Providencia** offers an enchanted interlude and the serenity of balanced and preserved nature, home to pretty and colourful houses.

### PUERTO LIMÓN

Arrival 27/12/2020 early morning  
Departure 27/12/2020 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 28/12/2020 midday  
Departure 28/12/2020 midday

Located on the north-east coast of **Panamá**, the **San Blas archipelago** is a string of coral islands that graces the heart of the Caribbean Sea. Over 300 islands and cays covering an area of 300 square kilometres offer travellers a multitude of treasures. Sheltered behind a long coral reef, the **San Blas Islands** are full of paradisiac anchorages. The long sandy white beaches bounded by crystal clear waters will allow you to relax and enjoy an incredible marine fauna before discovering the **Kunas Indian community**. Still feeding off hunting and fishing, their villages of bamboo houses are gathered near the beaches.

## COLÓN

Arrival 29/12/2020 early morning  
Disembarkation 29/12/2020 at 08h30

**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.