

Southern France and the Italian Riviera by Sea – with Smithsonian Journeys

From **01/09/2027**
to **08/09/2027**

Ship: **Le Boréal**

From **Barcelona**
to **Livorno**



Shore excursion 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.

Join us for this voyage along both the **French and Italian Riviéras**, exploring the rich history and culture of the fabled lands on the northern shores of the Mediterranean Sea.

Setting sail from Barcelona, your discovery of southern France begins from **Sète** in the Occitanie with the hilltop city of **Carcassonne** and its **medieval citadel**, a UNESCO World Heritage site.

The ancient port of **Marseille** is your gateway to either **Aix-en-Provence**, "city of a thousand fountains" and home to **Paul Cézanne**, or to Van Gogh's **Arles** and the UNESCO World Heritage "City of Popes," **Avignon**.

The resort town of **Nice**, the last French mainland port on this leg of your voyage, offers a tour of nearby **Monte Carlo** and a trip to the medieval hilltop village of **Eze**, with panoramic views of the Côte d'Azur. Or enjoy a visit to **St. Paul de Vence** to visit the **Maeght Foundation's** collection of modern and contemporary art and sculpture.

The small Italian fishing village of **Portofino**, now a favored haunt of the rich and famous, welcomes you for a relaxing afternoon and evening of leisurely browsing through its shops and galleries and perhaps a chance to sample the **local cuisine**.

Porto Venere can serve as your gateway to discovery of the UNESCO World Heritage **Cinque Terre**, the villages at the heart of the Italian Riviera. Or you

may spend the day exploring Romanesque **Lucca**, birthplace of Giacomo Puccini, and medieval **Pisa**, with its magnificent Duomo, Baptistry, and Leaning Tower.

Your final day of discovery from **Livorno**, includes a full day excursion to **Florence** for an introduction to the heart of the Italian Renaissance. Or if you prefer, you may explore the **Etruscan ruins and museum** at nearby **Volterra**. Alternatively, spend the day exploring Romanesque **Lucca**, birthplace of Giacomo Puccini, and medieval **Pisa**, with its magnificent Duomo, Baptistry, and Learning Tower.



The information in this document is valid as of 02/04/2026

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YOUR STOPOVERS :

BARCELONA

Embarkation 01/09/2027 from 16:00 to 17:00

Departure 01/09/2027 at 18:30

Located on the seashore between the mountains of Montjuïc and Tibidabo, **Barcelona** offers its many visitors a perfect blend of tradition and modernism. Truly an open-air museum, the “prodigious town” reveals an astonishing range of artistic treasures and museums, combining Roman ruins, medieval districts and a number of avant-garde elements from the 20th Century. Over the years, it has been marked by some of the greatest artists, such as **Picasso**, **Miró** or **Gaudí**, most of whose work has been listed as World Heritage Sites by UNESCO. Take the time to stroll along **the Ramblas** and enjoy the gentle, typically Mediterranean lifestyle of the capital of Catalonia.

SÈTE

Arrival 02/09/2027 early morning

Departure 02/09/2027 early evening

The port of **Sète**, referred to by locals as the "Venice of Languedoc" because of its many canals, is a resort town known for its beaches and a thriving center of art. It's also the gateway to nearby treasures of the Occitanie, including **Nîmes**, home to an exquisitely preserved **Roman Amphitheater** and the beautiful 18th-century **Jardins de la Fontaine**. The cities of **Narbonne** and **Carcassonne** are also within easy reach and serve as an introduction to the history and culture of this region. In Narbonne, you will want to visit the **Palais des Archevêques** and its **Archaeological Museum**, and in Carcassonne, you will be awed by the **medieval citadel**, a UNESCO World Heritage site.

MARSEILLE

Arrival 03/09/2027 early morning

Departure 03/09/2027 late afternoon

The oldest harbour in France, **Marseille** is the city where PONANT has chosen to set up its company headquarters. Heart vibrating in its setting of Mediterranean Calanques, it reveals its raw and authentic beauty, made up of a thousand influences and cultures which, over the centuries, have made up its wealth. A stroll through the **Old Port** will allow you to discover the places corresponding to the city founded by the Greeks as well as **Notre-Dame-de-la-Garde Basilica**, with its astonishing neo-Byzantine architecture, which overlooks it. Close to the quays, the Place de Lenche, which covers the ancient agora, will be perfect for a break in one of its lively cafés before melting into the maze of narrow streets with colourful houses in the **Panier district**, just a stone's throw away.

NICE

Arrival 04/09/2027 early morning

Departure 04/09/2027 evening

Capital of the Cote d'Azur, Nice is surrounded by an amphitheatre of hills and mountains that protects it from the wind. You will probably want to explore the Promenade des Anglais, where you can sit on one of the famous blue chairs laid out opposite the baie des Anges. The Château hill is also a very pleasant place to walk. This is the entrance to the **old city**, with its bustling markets and regional products along the main street, the Cours Saleya.

PORTOFINO

Arrival 05/09/2027 early morning

Departure 05/09/2027 late evening

Close to the Cinque Terre, **Portofino** is the jewel of the **Ligurian Riviera**. This "small village that stretches like a half moon around a silent basin", described by Guy de Maupassant, is today a pretty, lively little port that has managed to preserve the authenticity of its maritime traditions, which have been recognised since Ancient times. Built in the hollow of a small natural cove sheltered by the pine forest, the village is at the heart of a **protected maritime reserve**. The shimmering colours of its house fronts and the exceptional location of this village have inspired many authors and artists. You will also see the **Portofino lighthouse**, immaculate in its green setting. Perched on the **Punta del Capo**, it watches over the peninsula and its postcard setting.

PORTO VENERE

Arrival 06/09/2027 early morning

Departure 06/09/2027 late evening

Located on the magnificent chiselled coast of Liguria, to the north-west of the Italian peninsula, **Portovenere** is an unusual little fishing village. Clinging to the southernmost tip of the **Cinque Terre National park**, this charming town benefits from an exceptional location, at the mouth of the gulf of La Spezia. As soon as you set foot on land, you will be mesmerised by the pastel shades of the buildings. Via Capellini is its lively and welcoming main street, brimming with shops and restaurants. At the end of a long promenade, a steep road leads to **Doria castle**. Below, on its rocky spur, **the Church of Saint Peter** offers a splendid view of **Palmaria island**.

LIVORNO

Arrival 07/09/2027 early morning

Disembarkation 08/09/2027 at 08:00

On the ligurian coast, **Livorno** invites us to **Tuscany**, a charming region offering **archaeological vestiges**, **Renaissance** treasures, undulating landscapes and a pleasant way of life. When the **Medicis** arrived in the 16th century they developed the city, which became **one of the most important ports in the Mediterranean**. Cosmopolitan and multireligious, Livorno has welcomed many immigrants and is a wonderful example of cultural diversity. Built during that period, **Fortezza Vecchia** and **Fortezza Nuova** attest to the city's power. At the foot of the new fort, **Nuova Venezia** is an enchanting district with small canals and streets to stroll along to discover a few architectural treasures, such as the magnificent Santa Caterina da Siena church in the Tuscan baroque style.