

The Hidden Treasures of the Philippines and Borneo

From **20/05/2027**
to **01/06/2027**

Ship: **Le Soléal**

From **Keelung (Chilung)**
to **Singapore**



For the first time, Ponant invites you to discover the cultural and natural treasures of **the Philippines, Brunei and Malaysia's Sarawak region** during a new odyssey **along the South China Sea**. From **Vigan to Corregidor in Manila Bay**, you will be immersed in a captivating history where the echoes of a colonial past and the battles of the Second World War still resonate. Then the floating cities of **Borneo** will reveal themselves one by one, showing the richness of their heritage through majestic mosques, centuries-old traditional houses, and colourful markets. Throughout this journey, you will also encounter a majestic natural world revealing the striking beauty of its wonders. Along these sun-drenched shores, the **Puerto Princesa** subterranean river, ancient and silent, flows through karst caves, the majestic cliffs of **Coron** overlook deep-turquoise lagoons, the idyllic beaches of the **Balabac Islands** stretch out under a gentle breeze, and abundant life flourishes in the lush mangroves of Brunei. **A first voyage to this region**, immersing you in the vibrant heart of these fascinating lands.



The information in this document is valid as of 25/04/2026

The Hidden Treasures of the Philippines and Borneo

YOUR STOPOVERS :

KEELUNG (CHILUNG)

Embarkation 20/05/2027 from 16:00 to 17:00

Departure 20/05/2027 at 18:00

On the north-east tip of **Taiwan**, the harbour city of **Keelung** stands on one of the most beautiful coasts on the island. Nearby is the spectacular natural park of **Yehliu**, famed for its striking rock formations. It's easy to tour the city's historical sites on trails that cross the lush green hills surrounding the harbour from Chung Cheng Park to Fort Ershawan, you can enjoy superb views of Keelung and the coastline. But the main attraction is the **Miaokou night market**, where you can taste some typically Taiwanese culinary delights.

AT SEA

Arrival 21/05/2027 at night

Departure 21/05/2027 at night

During your journey 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 journey without a port of call will also be an opportunity to enjoy the conferences or shows proposed on board, depending on the activities offered, or 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.

CURRIMAO

Arrival 22/05/2027 early morning

Departure 22/05/2027 late afternoon

A small coastal town located in the province of Ilocos Norte, **Currimao** is a privileged gateway to **Vigan**, a former Chinese trading port and one of the best preserved Spanish colonial towns in Asia, a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**. There, you will discover a unique architectural blend and remarkably well-preserved heritage treasures, such as the baroque Cathedral of Saint Paul and the traditional stone houses on Calle Crisologo. A real journey back into time!

CORREGIDOR ISLAND

Arrival 23/05/2027 early afternoon

Departure 23/05/2027 late afternoon

Located at the entrance to Manila Bay, **Corregidor Island** blends wild nature and historical remnants, offering an atmosphere that is at once peaceful and fascinating. Once the **gateway to the transpacific trade** facilitated by the Spanish, connecting Acapulco to Manila, it has become a strong **symbol of the Second World War**. Plunge into this historic sanctuary by discovering its fortifications, the ruins of its barracks and gun batteries, its tunnels and its **impressive military memorial** devoted to Filipino, American and Japanese soldiers.

MANILA

Arrival 24/05/2027 at night

Departure 24/05/2027 mid afternoon

On first sight, the Philippines' capital shows its highly Americanised Asian megalopolis side, with ultramodern skyscrapers set all along the waterfront. But when you stroll through the cobbled streets of the **Intramuros** district, you'll discover a different side of **Manila**, one that's full of old-world charm. An enchanted pause in the middle of urban bustle, Rizal Park's 60 hectares of magnificent green parkland is perfect for recharging your batteries. To see the city from a different angle, take a walk along Roxas boulevard, a popular seaside promenade.

CORON

Arrival 25/05/2027 early morning

Departure 25/05/2027 early afternoon

Anchored off the extreme north of Palawan in the heart of the Philippines' Calamian Islands, the little island of Coron is an emerald gem adorned with lakes. Among the many activities here, you can explore the shores of **Lake Kayangan** in a *bangka*, a traditional outrigger cano dive in the fresh, warm waters of **Lake Barracuda**. Famous for its limestone cliffs pierced with caves, the island also has an extraordinary cultural heritage. A stopover in Coron offers an excellent opportunity for meeting the indigenous Tagbanua tribe, a fishing and hunting people who ensure their island remains unspoilt. And it has paid off. Coron has retained all its natural wonders.

PUERTO PRINCESA, PALAWAN

Arrival 26/05/2027 early morning

Departure 26/05/2027 late afternoon

Puerto Princesa, in the centre of **Palawan island**, is a great place for exploring many of the region's natural attractions. You won't have to go too far before donning your snorkelling kit and swimming with the abundant and richly diverse sealife: off Puerto Princesa, you'll enjoy the breathtaking coral islands of **Honda Bay**. If you'd like to experience nature in her most spectacular finery, make sure you see the karstic topography of the underground river in Puerto Princesa national park, a UNESCO World Heritage site.

BALABAC ISLANDS

Arrival 27/05/2027 early morning

Departure

27/05/2027

midday

Located at the far south-west of the Philippines, opposite Sabah in Malaysia, the **Balabac archipelago** is composed of 32 islands forming the southernmost group of **Palawan Province**. There, you will discover idyllic white sand beaches edged with crystal clear water, a veritable invitation for swimming and relaxation.

MUARA

Arrival 28/05/2027 early morning

Departure 28/05/2027 midday

A port town located in north-east Brunei, **Muara** is a privileged access route towards **Bandar Seri Begawan**, the country's capital. Developed around the famous village on stilts, **Kampong Ayer**, the capital is distinguished by its **majestic Islamic architecture**, symbol of the Sultanate's greatness through its **imposing mosques** and its impressive royal buildings. Here, tradition and modernity live together in harmony, offering a face of Brunei that is at once historic, spiritual and contemporary.

BINTULU, SARAWAK

Arrival 29/05/2027 early morning

Departure 29/05/2027 midday

Located on the central coast of Sarawak, the old fishing village of **Bintulu** is now a nerve centre of the Malaysian oil and gas industry, but also a **dynamic town** with a remarkably well-preserved **cultural and natural heritage**. Fall under the spell of its lively traditional markets, its Chinese temples, and its **longhouses**, living witnesses of its ancestral heritage. Bintulu also offers privileged access to the **Similajau National Park**, a veritable tropical nature sanctuary in which idyllic beaches, lush mangroves and wildlife make up a fascinating landscape, its beauty intact.

KUCHING, SARAWAK

Arrival 30/05/2027 early morning

Departure 30/05/2027 early evening

On the island of Borneo, the state of Sarawak invites you to live out your dreams of adventure. The largest state in Malaysia is home to some of the oldest forest on the planet and we can easily understand why this little corner of paradise inspired Somerset Maugham, the British writer and traveller, to write one of his novels - The Casuarina Tree. We invite you to follow in the footsteps of the writer and set off to discover the colonial capital of the State: Kuching, which is known as "Cat City" in Malay, where a feline languor does indeed permeate this tantalizingly elusive city. Lying nonchalantly on the banks of the Sungai Sarawak, this little city is proud of its romantic past and its quaint charm and beauty.

AT SEA

Arrival 31/05/2027 at night

Departure 31/05/2027 at night

During your journey 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 journey without a port of call will also be an opportunity to enjoy the conferences or shows proposed on board, depending on the activities offered, or 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.

SINGAPORE

Arrival 01/06/2027 early morning

Disembarkation 01/06/2027 at 08:00

Nicknamed the Garden City, Singapore stretches across Malaysia's southern-most region. Experience the vibrant hustle and bustle of this city-state for yourself at the **Marina Bay**. No too far away is the historic centre, offering up a unique smorgasbord of neoclassical buildings and contemporary towers. Decked out in topiary, the pavements of Orchard Road are also home to countless shopping centres. The colourful markets in **Chinatown** and **Little India** are the perfect opportunity to quell hunger pangs in a hawker centre, one of the city's traditional snack bars. Between the two districts, get a slice of history with a trip to the **Raffles dock**. It was here that Englishman **Sir Raffles**, the founder of the city, is said to have arrived one fateful day in January 1819.