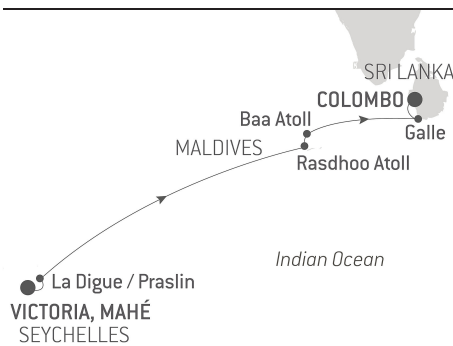


Seychelles, Maldives & Sri Lanka

From **9/1/2022**
to **21/1/2022**

Ship: **LE BELLOT**

From **Victoria, Mahé**
to **Colombo**



PONANT invites you to discover idyllic islands and atolls, following an itinerary in the **Indian Ocean**. From the Seychelles to Sri Lanka via the Maldives, set sail for an **13-day cruise** aboard *Le Bellot*.

Your route will start from **Victoria** on the island of Mahé. You will first head to **La Digue**, a granite island teeming with picture postcard beaches, such as **Anse Source d'Argent**.

In **Praslin**, don't miss the chance to visit the **Vallée de Mai Nature Reserve**. There you will find sea coconuts, gigantic endemic fruits with a very evocative shape, nicknamed the "love nut".

Le Bellot will then drop anchor in the **Maldives**, a scattering of islands lying right in the heart of the **Indian Ocean**. Here the **underwater wildlife** offers a dazzling sight. A veritable paradise for divers and snorkelers, the Maldives atolls are home to a huge number of fascinating species such as **manta rays, tortoises, sharks and many coral fishes**. You will be deeply fascinated by the beauty of the **Baa Atoll**, whose **biosphere reserve** is a **UNESCO Site**.

You will leave the white sandy beaches behind to visit the old town of **Galle** in **Sri Lanka**. Founded by the Portuguese in the 16th Century, the town is surrounded by **fortifications** that are a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Conclude your journey by disembarking in **Colombo**, the capital of Sri Lanka, located at the cross roads of the maritime trade routes between Europe and Asia.



The information in this document is valid as of 5/3/2021

Seychelles, Maldives & Sri Lanka

YOUR STOPOVERS :

VICTORIA, MAHÉ

Embarkation 9/1/2022 from 16h00 to 17h00

Departure 9/1/2022 at 18h00

Discover **Mahé**, the main island of the Seychelles and also the largest of the archipelago, home to the capital, **Victoria**. Mahé has almost 70 beaches of fine sand, framed by the emblematic **granite rocks**, and whose crystal clear waters are renowned for their rich underwater life. The island is also famous for its **splendid mountain panoramas** accessible on hikes, such as the Morne Seychellois, which is 905 metres high and overlooks the Indian Ocean. Mahé is also an island full of history where fine colonial properties rub shoulders with **Creole houses** - and don't forget the marvellous **Botanical Gardens** in Victoria.

LA DIGUE ISLAND

Arrival 10/1/2022 early morning

Departure 10/1/2022 late afternoon

La Digue Island is a veritable concentration of all the beauty of the Seychelles. Located 6 km south-east of Praslin, this small piece of land that looks like paradise is the third-largest island in the Seychelles, despite its modest size (5 km by 3 km)! Turquoise waters just asking you to swim in them, lush vegetation sheltering **giant tortoises**, beaches of fine sand fringed with coconut trees and surrounded with those emblematic **large granite rocks with their pink highlights** like at the famous Anse Source d'Argent: the perfect picture postcard... **Authentic and preserved**, the island follows a peaceful rhythm, with the only means of transport along its little roads being bikes or traditional oxcarts.

PRASLIN ISLAND

Arrival 11/1/2022 early morning

Departure 11/1/2022 late afternoon

Situated some forty kilometres away from Victoria, **Praslin** is the second largest island in the Seychelles. Its idyllic beaches where granite rocks nestle in immaculate sand correspond perfectly to how we imagine the Seychelles to be. They invite visitors to dive into the **turquoise waters**, which are ideal for snorkelling. In the centre of the island, hidden in the heart of a stunning tropical rainforest, lies the **Vallée de Mai Nature Reserve, listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site**. In this veritable plant sanctuary, several endemic species of palm trees can be observed, as well as the famous sea coconut, which can weigh up to 20 kg and is sometimes called "*coco fesse*" because its shape calls to mind a pair of buttocks.

AT SEA

Arrival 12/1/2022

Departure 15/1/2022

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.

RASDHOO ATOLL

Arrival 16/1/2022 early morning

Departure 17/1/2022 late afternoon

Rasdhoos is **one of the smallest atolls in the Maldives**. Once occupied by Buddhist communities, the atoll is made up of five islands, two of which are uninhabited. Sitting at the heart of a stunning lagoon protected by a **coral reef**, this atoll is truly a paradise for lovers of the underwater world. It is an ideal location for **scuba diving** and **snorkelling**, offering the possibility of observing species that are emblematic of the Maldives, such as **hammerhead sharks, rays, and turtles**.

BAA ATOLL

Arrival 18/1/2022 early morning

Departure 18/1/2022 mid afternoon

At the heart of the Indian Ocean, discover Baa Atoll in the Maldives. This exceptional site, **listed as a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve** since 2011, is a perfectly preserved tropical paradise. The fifty-odd islets that make up the atoll offer visitors **long stretches of white sand and beaches with crystal-clear water, lined with palm trees**. While **snorkelling** or **scuba diving**, you will have the chance to observe the magnificence of the marine life, which includes **coral, whale sharks, manta rays and sea turtles**.

AT SEA

Arrival 19/1/2022

Departure 19/1/2022

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.

GALLE

Arrival 20/1/2022 early morning

Departure 20/1/2022 late afternoon

Discover Galle, **one of Sri Lanka's oldest cities**. Thanks to its commercial port, from which were exported spices and precious stones, Galle was once the country's most major city. Colonised by the Portuguese and later by the Dutch, today it still bears traces of this colonial past. When your ship calls here, have a wander around **the old town and its fortifications, which are listed as UNESCO World Heritage**. Built by the Portuguese at the end of the 16th century, they are perfectly preserved. To learn more about daily and rural life in Sri Lanka, do not miss the visit to the **Martin Wickramasinghe Folk Art Museum in Koggala**, not far from Galle.

COLOMBO

Arrival 21/1/2022 early morning

Disembarkation 21/1/2022 at 06h00

A former trading post along the **Silk Route**, the old quarter of Colombo offers you the fabulous sight of its picturesque streets. The city was known to Arab, Persian and Chinese traders as early as the 8th century and this former village, nestled between two dunes, was a trading post on the mythical **Spice Route**. Today the **economic capital of Sri Lanka**, the city offers picture-postcard scenery with its **beaches** stretching languorously along the south-western coast of the country. Here the sand dazzles you and the sea invites you to dream...