

Treasures of India & Sri Lanka

From **11/2/2022**
to **23/2/2022**

Ship: **LE BELLOT**

From **Chennai (ex Madras)**
to **Mumbai (ex Bombay)**



With this brand-new itinerary, **PONANT** invites you to discover the **wonders of India and Sri Lanka**, during a **13-day cruise** around the Indian peninsula. From **Chennai to Mumbai**, fall under the spell of these eastern lands marked by Buddhist and Hindu traditions.

You will board *Le Bellot* in Chennai, formerly Madras.

Your ship will first head south to **Sri Lanka**. From **Trincomalee**, visit the UNESCO World Heritage Sites of historic city of **Polonnaruwa**, a fortified city from the 11th century, and the splendid **golden Temple of Dambulla**.

During your port of call in **Galle**, admire the fortifications of this old town, testimony to its Portuguese and Dutch heritage and a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Le Bellot will then arrive in **Kerala**, on Malabar Coast, in south-western India. and set sail for **Cochin**. A former royal town where the air is rich with the aroma of cardamom and cloves, this port of call will also be the opportunity to discover, aboard **traditional boats, the fishing villages** settled along the banks of the "**backwaters**", a network of lakes and canals that criss-cross the lush landscapes.

You will then discover Goa, a former colony of the Portuguese Indies, prized for its **beaches** and its rich cultural heritage, in particular a collection of late **16th-century churches and convents**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Finally, *Le Bellot* will call at **Mumbai**, India's cultural and economic capital. Make sure you visit the **Elephanta Caves**, a Hindu sanctuary on an island off the coast, and the Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus **railway station** (formerly known as Victoria Terminus), a remarkable example of Victorian **neo-gothic** architecture: both sites are UNESCO World Heritage Sites.



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

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YOUR STOPOVERS :

CHENNAI (EX MADRAS)

Embarkation 11/2/2022 from 16h00 to 17h00

Departure 11/2/2022 at 18h00

Called **Madras** in the days of the British East India Company, **Chennai** is now the economic capital of South India. Mingling intoxicating flavours, colours and rhythms, Chennai is also the cradle of the traditional Indian music and cuisine from the south. Don't miss your chance to discover **Mahabalipuram**, a group of sanctuaries carved out of rock and thousands of statues from the 7th and 8th centuries, listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Gigantic bas-reliefs such as the famous **Descent of the Ganges**, and temples, such as the magnificent Shore Temple, built out of granite on a promontory that juts out into the Bay of Bengal, celebrate the glory of Shiva in an artistic outpouring unlike any other.

AT SEA

Arrival 12/2/2022

Departure 12/2/2022

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.

TRINCOMALEE

Arrival 13/2/2022 early morning

Departure 13/2/2022 early evening

A large port city in the north-east of Sri Lanka, **Trincomalee** will be your gateway to two exceptional sites. **The Golden Temple of Dambulla**, a rock temple listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is sure to fill you with wonder. Its Buddhist mural paintings, its caves and its **famous statue of reclining Buddha** heighten the beauty of this place that is like none other in the world, created over 2,000 years ago. The other cultural gem you will be able to discover: **the Ancient City of Polonnaruwa**. Also listed as UNESCO World Heritage, it is home to the vestiges of a fabulous garden-city from the 12th century. There, you will be able to admire the **Gal Vihara**, an exceptional site featuring four statues of Buddha carved out of rock.

AT SEA

Arrival 14/2/2022

Departure 14/2/2022

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 15/2/2022 early morning

Departure 15/2/2022 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.

AT SEA

Arrival 16/2/2022

Departure 16/2/2022

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.

COCHIN

Arrival 17/2/2022 early morning

Departure 18/2/2022 late afternoon

An important port in the South-West of India, **Cochin** (Kochi) is one of the most beautiful on the Malabar Coast where the scent of cardamom mingles with cloves. It was here that **Vasco de Gama** disembarked over 500 years ago. But how many Phoenicians, Greeks, Arabs and Romans dropped anchor before him in the turquoise waters of the Arabian Sea? So many nations, at a time when **pepper from Malabar** was almost as precious as gold, left these shores laden with precious spices. Today, the city, a surprising metropolis with multiple identities, has a rich cultural and natural heritage combining former colonial residences, ancestral fishing methods and **charming landscapes in the**

backwaters.

AT SEA

Arrival 19/2/2022

Departure 19/2/2022

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.

MARMUGAO (GOA)

Arrival 20/2/2022 early morning

Departure 20/2/2022 late afternoon

Mormugao is a sub-district of **South Goa** located in the **state of Goa**, in India. This is where the state's main maritime port is to be found. Renowned around the world for its climate, the beauty of its beaches, its rice paddies and its waterfalls, Goa will surprise you with the **cultural and religious heritage of its old town**. It has a great many 16th- and 17th-century churches, making up a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**, including the **Basilica of Bom Jesus** but also Hindu temples and mosques. The **Goa Chitra Museum, Goa's main ethnographic museum**, is also worth a visit.

AT SEA

Arrival 21/2/2022

Departure 21/2/2022

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.

MUMBAI (EX BOMBAY)

Arrival 22/2/2022 early morning

Disembarkation 23/2/2022 at 07h00

Mumbai, a fascinating city located on the Arabian Sea, will give you a real immersion in Hindu culture. You will be able to discover the **Elephanta Caves** that are home to collection of rock art typical of the cult of Shiva. Don't miss out on visiting the **Gandhi Museum and House**, dedicated to the memory of the man who played a vital role in the

emancipation and independence of India, or the Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus railway station (formerly known as **Victoria Terminus**), the finest example of Victorian architecture in India. In the **Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya museum**, you will find very fine collections of sculptures, miniatures and portraits of the man who would become King George V.