

Treasures of India

From **21/1/2022**
to **30/1/2022**

Ship: **LE BELLOT**

From **Colombo**
to **Mumbai (ex Bombay)**



PONANT invites you to discover the wonders of **Sri Lanka** and **India**, during a **all-new 9-day cruise** from **Colombo** to **Mumbai**. Let yourself fall under the spell of these eastern lands bordered by the Indian Ocean and influenced by Buddhist and Hindu traditions.

You will board *Le Bellot* in **Colombo**, the Sri Lankan capital located at the crossroads of the sea trade between Europe and Asia. You will be able to admire the **fortifications** of the old town of **Galle**, testimony to its Portuguese and Dutch heritage and a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Your ship will then arrive in **Kerala**, on Malabar Coast, in south-western India. From **Trivandrum**, you will be able to visit Padmanabhapuram Palace, one of the finest examples of traditional Kerala architecture, before setting 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 of Kerala**.

You will discover **Goa**, a former colony of the Portuguese Indies. Goa is 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 :

COLOMBO

Embarkation 21/1/2022 from 16h00 to 17h00
Departure 21/1/2022 at 18h00

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...

GALLE

Arrival 22/1/2022 early morning
Departure 22/1/2022 midday

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.

TRIVANDRUM

Arrival 23/1/2022 mid morning
Departure 23/1/2022 late afternoon

Capital of the State of Kerala, **Trivandrum** boasts a rich and colourful past. Constructed on seven hills, the "**green city of India**", as **Gandhi** called it, is home to sumptuous Victorian buildings, vestiges of British colonisation. You will also be able to admire superb examples of traditional architecture, such as **Padmanabhapuram Palace**. A former residence of Kerala princes, this elegant wooden palace from the 16th century is composed of three levels evoking the shape of a Far Eastern pagoda. Entering and roaming its maze of galleries, halls and corridors is like plunging into the lavish life of the Travancore kings.

COCHIN

Arrival 24/1/2022 early morning
Departure 25/1/2022 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 26/1/2022

Departure 26/1/2022

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.

MARMUGAO (GOA)

Arrival 27/1/2022 early morning

Departure 27/1/2022 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 28/1/2022

Departure 28/1/2022

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.

MUMBAI (EX BOMBAY)

Arrival 29/1/2022 early morning

Disembarkation 30/1/2022 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.