

# Great Lakes of North America

From **25/9/2022**  
to **2/10/2022**

Ship: **LE BELLOT**

From **Milwaukee**  
to **Toronto**



Set sail with **PONANT** aboard *Le Bellot* for an **8-day cruise** discovering **the Great Lakes of North America**, in the heart of a flamboyant nature full of the colours of the Indian summer.

You will leave from Milwaukee, in the US state of Wisconsin, the beginning of your voyage following the footsteps of the first settlers, trappers and Native Americans, before a lovely sailing experience on **Lake Michigan**, a veritable inland sea.

The next lake, **Lake Huron**, boasts a myriad of islands in its northern part, with white rocks capped with conifers plunging into the sapphire waters of the lake. Sumptuous landscapes unveil multiple original panoramas, in particular near Flowerpot Island\*, which you will be able to approach by Zodiac®.

You will also discover the charming city of **Parry Sound**, in the heart of the wonderful **UNESCO Biosphere Reserve of Georgian Bay**.

*Le Bellot* will then sail the canal connecting **Lake Erie** to Lake Ontario. From this call in Port Colborne, you will be able to see the impressive sight of Niagara Falls. These three powerful waterfalls, renowned the world over, are an exquisite natural spectacle.

On the shore of **Lake Ontario** you will discover **Toronto**, your disembarkation port. Cosmopolitan and dynamic, Canada's largest city will charm you with its museums, parks and gardens.

\* *Zodiac® cruise weather dependant.*



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

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## YOUR STOPOVERS :

### MILWAUKEE

Embarkation 25/9/2022 from 16h00 to 17h00

Departure 25/9/2022 at 18h00

Nested on the shores of Lake Michigan, **Milwaukee**, the largest city in the State of Wisconsin, harmoniously combines tradition and modernity. Industrial long ago, the city, known as Brew City because of its old breweries renowned all over the world, is experiencing a certain renaissance. While warehouses have given way to restaurants, bars, theatres and art galleries in the city centre, the district still retains traces of its manufacturing past. Further south lies **Chicago**, the economic centre of the Midwest, with an interesting mix of natural and urban landscapes: its immense skyscrapers, diverse architecture, many parks and magnificent beaches make the city a popular destination.

### SAILING LAKE MICHIGAN

Arrival 26/9/2022

Departure 26/9/2022

You will sail the United States' largest freshwater body, which gave its name to **Michigan**, one of the four states that border this lake measuring 500 km long and 200 km wide. The first colonists settled in the south at the end of the 17th century, on the site of the current megalopolis of **Chicago**. Wild landscapes of **forests with sparkling colours**, cliffs, golden sandy beaches and dunes as far as the eye can see stretch along its 2,600 km of shoreline. In the north, magnificent wind-swept islands rise out of the lake's emerald waters. At 8 km long, the **Mackinac Bridge**, which spans the straits between Lake Michigan and Lake Huron, is one of the world's longest suspension bridges.

### MACKINAC ISLAND

Arrival 26/9/2022 midday

Departure 26/9/2022 early evening

Close to the banks of Lake Huron in the State of Michigan, **Mackinac Island** promises a real journey through time. Originally inhabited by Amerindians, then occupied by French and British colonists, this small island measuring only a few km<sup>2</sup> still retains an atmosphere of yesteryear today, with its **Victorian-style** buildings and elegant horse-drawn carriages. Fort Mackinac, on the heights of the island, is a reminder of the conflicts that punctuated the history of this strategic place, a former fur trade centre. In addition to this scenery from the past, the island offers magnificent fine sandy beaches and is home to one of the oldest National Parks in the United States.

### SAULT-SAINTE-MARIE

Arrival 27/9/2022 early morning

Departure 27/9/2022 late afternoon

The oldest city in Ontario and the centre of one of North America's oldest settlements, **Sault Ste. Marie** has a rich historical heritage due to its Amerindian, British and French influences. Linked to its neighbouring and homonymous American city by a bridge spanning St. Marys River, the city owes its name to the river's many rapids, called "les saults de Sainte-Marie" by French colonists. The gateway to the Algoma region, renowned for its wild expanses, Sault Ste. Marie is also known as the home of the **National Historic Site of the Sault Ste. Marie Canal**, which was completed at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and constitutes the final part of a navigation network that connects the Atlantic Ocean to Lake Superior.

## LITTLE CURRENT

Arrival 28/9/2022 midday

Departure 28/9/2022 late afternoon

A small port town located along the North Channel of **Lake Huron**, **Little Current** is considered to be the gateway to Manitoulin Island, the largest freshwater island in the world. The town's emblematic construction, the Little Current Swing Bridge built in 1913, provides the only land access to the island, peaceful lands whose name means "the island of spirits" in the local dialect. A real haven of peace, sheltering wild nature and some hamlets, the place is ideal for outdoor activities such as horse-riding and hiking.

## PARRY SOUND

Arrival 29/9/2022 midday

Departure 29/9/2022 late afternoon

The charming city of **Parry Sound** enjoys an exceptional natural setting in the heart of a **UNESCO Biosphere Reserve**, east of Georgian Bay. A holiday destination favoured by the province's inhabitants, the city and its surroundings offer a condensed version of all that the **Great Lakes region** has to offer: windswept forests of conifers, rocky shores characteristic of the Canadian Shield, beaches of fine sand, clear and calm waters producing magnificent reflections that change with the time of day and luminosity... A real paradise for fauna and flora, the place will delight fans of nature and photography.

## SAILING ALONG FLOWERPOT ISLAND

Arrival 29/9/2022

Departure 29/9/2022

In the heart of **Georgia Bay**, discover the magnificent coastal landscapes of **Flowerpot Island**. Surrounded by crystal-clear water, the site is reputed for its sheer cliffs, its dense vegetation, its rare flora, its heritage lighthouse, and its two strange rock formations that look like flowerpots. A result of the actions of the wind and rain, these pillars of stone detached from the coast are one of the site's curiosities and gave the island its name. Your ship will sail along these coasts and give you the opportunity to take magnificent photos of this island belonging to the Fathom Five National Marine Park, which is Canada's oldest National Marine Conservation Area.

## SAILING LAKE HURON

Arrival 29/9/2022

Departure 29/9/2022

A natural border between the American State of Michigan and the Canadian province of Ontario, **Lake Huron** is one of the five American Great Lakes and one of the largest freshwater lakes in the world. Comprising the main lake, Saginaw Bay, the North Channel and Georgian Bay, and home to around **30,000 islands**, it offers varied coastal landscapes and unique views. From your ship, you'll thus be able to admire the wild beauty of the wooded and at times craggy coastline of Manitoulin Island, or the spectacular cliffs of the Bruce Peninsular.

## SAILING ST. CLAIR RIVER

Arrival 30/9/2022

Departure 30/9/2022

Forming a natural line of separation between the United States and Canada, the **St. Clair River**, which flows from Lake Huron into Lake St. Clair, is a significant element of the **Great Lakes Waterway**. Used in the 18<sup>th</sup> century for the fur trade by the French colonists of North America who sailed it on small boats to trade with the Amerindians, it was then travelled by freighters transporting lumber, iron ore and copper from the Great Lakes region to the cities of the Rust Belt.

## SAILING THROUGH DETROIT

Arrival 30/9/2022

Departure 30/9/2022

During your navigation along the Detroit River, an important **commercial waterway linking Lake Erie and Lake St. Clair to Lake Huron**, you will sail along the largest city in Michigan. You'll then enjoy panoramic views over the skyscrapers of the former **Motor City**, jewel of the automotive industry, Fordism and Motown music in the 20th century. You'll also be able to admire the **Ambassador Bridge**, which spans the river and enables access to Windsor, on the Canadian shore of the river. This steel suspension bridge, over two kilometres long, was constructed in 1929. This bridge alone carries over 25% of trade between the United States and Canada.

## SAILING LAKE ERIE

Arrival 1/10/2022

Departure 1/10/2022

Located to the south of Lake Huron and connected to Lake Ontario by the Welland Canal, **Lake Erie**, which owes its name to one of the Amerindian tribes which peopled its banks before the arrival of the French in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, is remarkable for its **unique ecosystem**. Its shallow fish-filled waters make it an excellent fishing spot, while its banks, famous for their many **migratory birds**, attract photographers and ornithology enthusiasts.

## PORT COLBORNE

Arrival 1/10/2022 midday

Departure 1/10/2022 evening

**Port Colborne** is a small port city located in southern **Ontario**, at the mouth of the **Welland Canal**. It is well-known for one of the longest locks in the world: measuring 420 metres, this lock, the 8<sup>th</sup> in the canal, has an observation footbridge and marks the final transit point before the **Erie Canal**. In addition to the discovery of this tremendous hydraulic infrastructure, this port of call will be your privileged access point to the famous **Niagara Falls**, renowned all over the world for their spectacular beauty. Located on the river of the same name, which means “water thunder” in Amerindian language, these wonders of nature are among the most powerful waterfalls in the world.

## TORONTO

Arrival 2/10/2022 early morning

Disembarkation 2/10/2022 at 07h00

The largest city in Canada and capital of the province of Ontario, **Toronto** fascinates as much by its incredible diversity as by its size. Make sure you visit the CN Tower, the tallest tower in the western hemisphere, as well as the St. Lawrence Market whose stalls reflect the multicultural wealth of this city known as the global city. Not far from there, the historic Distillery District unveils its brick-paved streets imbued with romantic charm and its myriad of small **restaurants, cafés, boutiques, theatres and art galleries**. The Royal Ontario Museum and its impressive collections devoted to the world’s natural and cultural history will also be an unmissable stop during this port of call.