

# Wonders of the Orient

From **13/11/2021**  
to **25/11/2021**

Ship: **LE JACQUES CARTIER**

From **Antalya**  
to **Aqaba**



Set off to discover the **splendours of the Orient**. This brand new itinerary taking you from the **Mediterranean** to the **Red Sea**, from **Antalya** to **Aqaba**, has many a surprise in store.

During this **13-day cruise** aboard *Le Jacques Cartier*, you will sail along the waters of the Near East and explore mythical sites, gems of the great civilisations.

Your ship will depart from **Antalya**, once a major Roman port and now a seaside resort on the **Turkish Riviera**, and set a course for **Haifa**. A city of many languages and cultures, Haifa mixes historical visits and the pleasures of the Mediterranean way of life. From there, you will be able to make your way to the legendary **Galilee** region and visit **Nazareth**, the birthplace of Christianity where Jesus is said to have been raised, or **Acre**, whose extraordinary old city is listed as a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**.

Your cruise will continue along the shores of Israel until reaching **Ashdod**. The largest port in the country, this incredibly vibrant city is the gateway to the three-times-holy city of **Jerusalem** and to the extraordinary ancient site of **Masada**, overlooking the **Dead Sea**. You will also have the possibility of discovering **Tel Aviv**, the white city.

Chart a course for Egypt and the mythical **Alexandria**, the next port of call on your cruise. This legendary city has fascinated travellers since it was founded 2,300 years ago by Alexander the Great, who gave it his name.

You will cross the famous **Suez Canal**, which was built by Ferdinand de Lesseps and widened recently to facilitate trade before joining **Safaga**, in Egypt. From this port on the **Red Sea**, you will have the chance to discover the region's exceptional underwater treasures, but also **Luxor**, the ancient city of **Thebes** and the capital of the pharaohs.

Your journey will end in **Aqaba**, a Jordanian port city on the shores of the Red Sea.



The information in this document is valid as of 20/06/2021

# Wonders of the Orient

## YOUR STOPOVERS :

### ANTALYA

Embarkation 13/11/2021 from 16h00 to 17h00

Departure 13/11/2021 at 18h00

On the Turkish Mediterranean coast, discover the seaside resort of **Antalya**. While the city sports magnificent fine sandy beaches, it is also known for its significant historical heritage. Many vestiges bear witness to the importance of this **former Roman port**, such as Hadrian's Gate, built in the year 130 in honour of the visiting emperor. In the old town, it is possible to admire **magnificent Ottoman houses** with flowery gardens, as well as the **broken minaret**, built on the ruins of a former Byzantine church. The city's surroundings also provide an opportunity to discover major archaeological sites, such as that of the ancient city of **Aspendos**, renowned for its impressive Roman theatre.

### AT SEA

Arrival 14/11/2021

Departure 14/11/2021

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.

### HAIFA

Arrival 15/11/2021 at night

Departure 15/11/2021 evening

Ideally located on the shores of the Mediterranean, **Haifa** is a dynamic and lively city in the north of Israel and the country's main port. Religious communities live together in harmony in the heart of this multicultural and welcoming city and you'll be charmed by the riches of its historic heritage. In particular you'll be able to discover the **Cave of Elijah**, a pilgrimage site for the three monotheistic religions, and **Mount Carmel**, from where you'll enjoy magnificent views over the city and **Haifa's sacred Bahá'í sites**, a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**: the **Shrine of the Báb** with its **golden dome**, recently restored, is a must-see monument and the Hanging Gardens an admirable work of art.

## ASHDOD

Arrival 16/11/2021 early morning

Departure 16/11/2021 late evening

On the eastern shore of the Mediterranean, discover Ashdod, **the largest port in Israel**. An former Philistine city, the town is today home to the only museum in the world dedicated to the culture of this ancient people. Ashdod is also famous for being one of the gateways to Jerusalem. This city is one of the most sacred in the world and is fascinating due to its millennia-old history, its spirituality, and its incredibly rich religious heritage. Within its defensive walls, the Old City holds over **200 historic monuments** including the Western Wall (or Wailing Wall), the Dome of the Rock, and the Holy Sepulchre. Visiting Jerusalem makes for a fascinating and moving experience as you immerse yourself in **a mystical and magical place**.

## AT SEA

Arrival 17/11/2021

Departure 17/11/2021

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.

## ALEXANDRIA

Arrival 18/11/2021 early morning

Departure 18/11/2021 evening

The mythical **Alexandria** is a port city in the Nile Delta. Its rich history has always been the source of dreams for archaeologists, writers and artists around the world. Founded in 331 BC by Alexander the Great, the city was mainly known for **its library** and **its monumental lighthouse**. The library aimed to be a storehouse of universal knowledge, while the lighthouse was considered **one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World**. Both are now destroyed. Alexandria is also the place where began the legendary love story between Mark Antony and Cleopatra. For centuries, this city was one of the greatest cultural centres in the Mediterranean and its landmarks now provide a fascinating glimpse into its proud past.

## PORT SAID

Arrival 19/11/2021 early afternoon

Departure 19/11/2021 evening

The city was born from an audacious but successful project: to link the Mediterranean with the Red Sea in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century and create a maritime route via a canal. The **Suez Canal** crosses the desert for 162 kilometres and was inaugurated in 1869 in the presence of Empress Eugenie, then nationalised by Nasser in 1956. In the city, to the rhythm of the colourful carts, you will admire the colonial houses with their large balconies, which give **Port Said** its

cachet.

## CROSSING THE SUEZ CANAL

Arrival 20/11/2021 mid afternoon

Departure 20/11/2021 mid afternoon

Without the waterway linking the Red Sea to the Mediterranean this part of the world would be an arid sandy desert inhabited by a few nomads. **The Suez Canal** slices through 162 km of desert and was inaugurated in 1869 in the presence of Empress Eugenie, then nationalised by Nasser in 1956.

## AT SEA

Arrival 21/11/2021

Departure 21/11/2021

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.

## SAFAGA

Arrival 22/11/2021 at night

Departure 23/11/2021 evening

A former fishing and mining village, **Safaga** is now a charming seaside resort with much to offer. Located on the western coast of the Red Sea and preserved from mass tourism, the town will really **plunge you into the heart of authentic Egypt** and is an ideal departure point for an excursion into the desert in search of the Bedouin. The site is also renowned for the beauty of its **underwater world, perfect for scuba diving** and snorkelling. Above all, though, this stop in Safaga provides the opportunity to discover Luxor, the ancient Egyptian city of Thebes, considered to be one of the world's greatest open-air museums thanks to its **exceptional Pharaonic heritage**.

## AT SEA

Arrival 24/11/2021

Departure 24/11/2021

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.

## AQABA

Arrival 25/11/2021 early morning

Disembarkation 25/11/2021 at 07h00

Located in the Red Sea within the eponymous gulf, **Aqaba** offers Jordan its only access to the sea. At the crossroads of the land and sea routes that linked Asia, Africa and Europe, the town is rich with more than 5,000 years of history. The warm waters of the Red Sea attract holidaymakers and divers to this seaside destination; the underwater sites home to coral and fishes are some of the most beautiful in the world. Aqaba is also the gateway to the magnificent **desert of Wadi Rum** and the marvellous site of **Petra**.