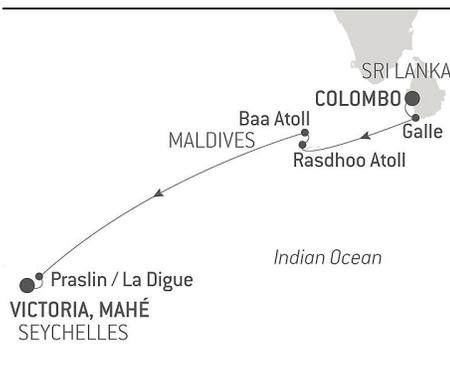


Sri Lanka, Maldives & Seychelles

From **01/02/2023**
to **13/02/2023**

Ship: **LE CHAMPLAIN**

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



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

You will board *Le Champlain* 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 set sail to the **Maldives**. Those island specks scattered across the warm, blue waters of the Indian Ocean, transport you to a marvellous and infinitely beautiful world. The archipelago counts some 1,200 islets and 19 atolls protected by coral reefs, offering travellers their transparent waters, home to millions of brightly coloured fish.

At the heart of the archipelago, discover **Baa Atoll**. 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.

You will then chart a course for the magnificent **Seychelles**. 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 Champlain will then sail for the island of **La Digue**, a veritable post card of the Seychelles: palm trees, granite rocks, white sand and crystal-clear waters.

Finally you will reach Victoria on the island of **Mahé**, where your fabulous trip in the Indian Ocean ends.

The encounters with the wildlife described above illustrate possible experiences only and cannot be guaranteed.



The information in this document is valid as of 06/07/2022

Sri Lanka, Maldives & Seychelles

YOUR STOPOVERS :

COLOMBO

Embarkation 01/02/2023 from 16:00 to 17:00

Departure 01/02/2023 at 18:00

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 02/02/2023 early morning

Departure 02/02/2023 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 03/02/2023

Departure 03/02/2023

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 04/02/2023 late morning

Departure 05/02/2023 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 06/02/2023 early morning

Departure 06/02/2023 late 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 07/02/2023

Departure 10/02/2023

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.

PRASLIN ISLAND

Arrival 11/02/2023 early morning

Departure 11/02/2023 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.

LA DIGUE ISLAND

Arrival 12/02/2023 early morning

Departure 12/02/2023 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.

VICTORIA, MAHÉ

Arrival 13/02/2023 early morning

Disembarkation 13/02/2023 at 07:00

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.