

Ancient shores of the Mediterranean

From **31/10/2026**
to **10/11/2026**

Ship: *Le Bougainville*

From **Valletta**
to **Málaga**



With a departure from **Valletta**, PONANT invites you to discover archaeological and historical sites – most of them **UNESCO World Heritage sites** – on a 11-day cruise to Malta, Italy, Tunisia, Algeria and Spain. You will be captivated by an unforgettable voyage aboard *Le Bougainville* in the Mediterranean.

Throughout your journey, you will benefit from an excursion included per person per port of call, to choose from a selection offered by PONANT. During this cruise, marvel at Greek, Norman and Baroque influences during a walk on the **island of Ortygia** in Syracuse, discover the **ruins of Hippo Regius** in Annaba, or explore the history-laden streets of the Casbah, the jewel of Algiers's heritage. The diversity of experiences on offer promises you intense and varied moments (to discover the full range of excursions, go to the itinerary tab).

Leaving from **Valletta**, capital of the island of Malta and former stronghold of the Knights of the Order of Malta, you will set sail north towards Italian shores. In **Syracuse**, the Sicilian soul unfolds across the **island of Ortygia, a UNESCO World Heritage Site**. The oldest part of the city, a maze of small streets dotted with churches, palaces, ancient remnants, shelters a majestic cathedral in its very heart. Then you will head for **Porto Empedocles**, gateway to the legendary **Greek temples of Agrigento**: some of the most fascinating ruins in the Mediterranean, also UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

Le Bougainville resumes its journey to head for the Tunisian shores and capital, **Tunis**. Rome's great rival, **Ancient Carthage**, is yours to discover as you visit its ruins, **a UNESCO World Heritage Site**. Your journey then continues along the coast of nearby Algeria to **Annaba**, where you visit the archaeological site of **Hippo**, one of Roman Africa's main cities.

You will set sail again, heading for **"Algiers the White"**. The capital of Africa's largest country, radiant and vibrant, will reveal its centuries of history. In **Tipasa, a UNESCO World Heritage Site**, the wisteria-scented ruins mingle with the sun and the sea, summoning up the *Nuptials* essays by

Albert Camus.

Your last port of call will be **Cartagena**, an ancient walled city with a remarkable architectural heritage, lying in the heart of a rolling landscape. Then, **Almeria**, the easternmost Andalusian city has a remarkable citadel and a cathedral whose towering structure stands in the very heart of the historic centre edged with narrow alleyways and traditional houses with whitewashed walls.

you will sail south to reach **Melilla**, a Spanish city nestling on the North African coast, with a subtle blend of history and modernity. Here, the military past is a contrast with the Art Nouveau curves of the Assembly, the Casa Melul or the Plaza de Menéndez Pelayo.

After stopping in **Motril**, you will navigate towards **Málaga**, the lively cultural capital of the Costa del Sol, where you will disembark.



The information in this document is valid as of 13/09/2026

Ancient shores of the Mediterranean

YOUR STOPOVERS :

VALLETTA

Embarkation 31/10/2026 from 16:00 to 17:00

Departure 31/10/2026 at 18:00

The whole of the Maltese capital Valletta is **UNESCO World Heritage** listed and occupies a peninsula in the north-east of the island. From the fountain of Tritons to Saint-Elme fort, there are as many majestic streets as there are narrow staircase vennels to explore. The painted loggia and carved corbels on the tall houses will accompany you in your explorations, and you'll rarely be bothered by traffic. You can visit the Grandmasters palace decorated with coats of arms and frescoes. **Saint-John's cathedral** and the ramparts which have guarded the city since the 16th century are also among the most emblematic sites of the city. Arranged in terraces, the **Barrakka Gardens** will punctuate your promenade with a green and floral experience.

SYRACUSE, SICILY

Arrival 01/11/2026 early morning

Departure 01/11/2026 late afternoon

Its undulating rocky coastline, the endless sandy beaches, the menacing form of **Mount Etna** which surveys its island like a patriarch, the flowery gardens on the hillside... **Sicily** lays out its varied landscapes like a shopkeeper displays his wares. Described by Cicero as "the most beautiful city in the world", **Syracuse** was one of the most prestigious cities in Sicily and at her height was even a rival for Athens. **A central city of Ancient Greece**, it was home to a succession of civilisations, each of which has left their mark. The blend of Arabic, Roman, Norman, Byzantine and Spanish cultures makes Syracuse a town that is extraordinarily rich in fragrances, colours and flavours.

PORTO EMPEDOCLE, SICILY

Arrival 02/11/2026 early morning

Departure 02/11/2026 early afternoon

Huddled on the south-western coast of Sicily, **Porto Empedocles** bears the name of the philosopher Empedocles, who lived in the region in the 5th century BC. An age-old city offered up to sun and sea, this is your doorway to the exceptional archaeological site of **Temple Valley**, a high place of Greek civilisation listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site. You can admire the remains of many temples dedicated to Zeus, his wife Hera and Hephaestus. Make sure you take in the magnificent Italian countryside, with its olive orchards that cover the hillsides.

TUNIS

Arrival 03/11/2026 early morning

Departure 03/11/2026 mid afternoon

At the crossroads of civilisations, the capital of Tunisia is rich in cultural discoveries. The ruins of **Ancient Carthage**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and particularly well preserved, testify to the splendour of this city that was once Rome's great rival. The hill of Byrsa, the former fortified **citadel of the Phoenician port** and one of the presumed burial places of Saint Louis who died there during the Eighth Crusade, offers spectacular views over the Gulf of Tunis. In the **Bardo National Museum**, you will be able to admire one of the world's finest Roman mosaic collections, including the magnificent portrait of the poet Virgil.

ANNABA

Arrival 04/11/2026 early morning

Departure 04/11/2026 midday

Annaba, a coastal town in eastern Algeria, is the country's fourth largest city. It contains many **heritage treasures**, including the **ancient site of Hippo**, the largest Roman forum in Africa. From the Cap de Garde lighthouse, you get a splendid and varied panoramic view with mountains and sea, while the **basilica of Saint Augustine**, the bishop of Hippo in the 4th century, overlooks the city with its majestic white dome. A stroll along the Corniche and the Cours de la Révolution will introduce you to the **lively, elegant town** that inspired numerous artists and writers.

ALGIERS

Arrival 05/11/2026 early morning

Departure 05/11/2026 late afternoon

The beauty of the Bay of Algiers offers travellers arriving by sea an unforgettable view. The Casbah houses cascade down to the Haussmann-style buildings and the hustle and bustle of the Mediterranean city creates a unique atmosphere. Algiers the White proudly bears the traces of its history with its magnificent **Casbah**, listed as UNESCO World Heritage, its tropical garden called **Jardin d'Essai**, its **Martyr's Memorial**, its imposing **Basilica of Our Lady of Africa**, and its lively city centre with its **Grande Poste** (main post office) and **French quarter**. Seventy kilometres (43 miles) away, you will have the possibility of visiting **Tipaza**, one of the most extraordinary archaeological complexes of the Maghreb, listed as World Heritage by UNESCO. Once a trading post of the Carthaginians and later the Romans, the ancient city is home to the **Royal Mausoleum of Mauretania**, a funerary monument providing precious evidence of what was once the Punic world.

CARTAGENA

Arrival 06/11/2026 midday

Departure 06/11/2026 late afternoon

Surrounded by hills, the natural site of the **Bay of Cartagena** presided over the fate of this **former fortress** which has been home to the greatest European civilisations. Today, these Phoenician, Roman, Carthaginian, Moorish and Christian influences form a rich architectural heritage. Its **Roman theatre** is one of the most significant and best conserved in Spain. You will also be able to cross the landscapes of vines and citrus groves stretching endlessly towards **Murcia**, to visit this dynamic regional capital.

ALMERIA

Arrival 07/11/2026 early morning

Departure 07/11/2026 late afternoon

On the Mediterranean shore, the easternmost Andalusian capital, the legendary **Almería** (from the Arab *Al-Mariy-yat*, meaning watchtower), has a coastline of preserved beaches with an interior characterised by its typical desert ecosystem. In the past an important **port for the Caliphate of Córdoba**, Almería has a remarkable citadel and a cathedral whose imperious structure stands in the very centre of the old town. This old town, with its narrow streets, will charm you with its lime washed walls and its rich historical and cultural heritage.

MELILLA

Arrival 08/11/2026 early morning

Departure 08/11/2026 late afternoon

An autonomous city of Spain on the North African coast, Melilla and its citadel sit on the edge of Cape Three Forks, between Morocco and the Mediterranean Sea, offering breathtaking views of this blue expanse. A perfect blend of history and modernity, the city boasts charming cobbled streets, imposing ramparts and a number of historic sites that are well worth a visit, including the Baluarte de la Concepción and the Hospital del Rey. In contrast to these vestiges of the city's military past, the Art Nouveau curves of the Palacio de la Asamblea, Casa Melul, the Reconquista building and Plaza Menéndez Pelayo reflect the influence of Gaudi's student Enrique Nieto, who lived here, and the great Catalan Modernist period. After Barcelona, Melilla has the largest number of buildings in this style.

MOTRIL

Arrival 09/11/2026 early morning

Departure 09/11/2026 late afternoon

On the shores of the **Mediterranean**, **Motril** enjoys a special place on the **Costa Tropical**. Sheltered from the cold northerly winds thanks to the mountains that surround this Andalusian city, the city benefits from an ideal micro-climate.

MÁLAGA

Arrival 10/11/2026

Disembarkation 10/11/2026 at 08:00

A historical and festive town, Málaga is located in Andalusia, on the Costa del Sol. Between the marina and the beaches, the seaside promenade of La Farola offers an ideal setting for strolling and relaxing. Set slightly further back, the Malagueta bullring is one of the emblematic sites of the city. From the hill overlooking the old town, one can see **Gibralfaro castle** and **the Alcazaba**, two fortified ensembles rising out from the cypresses and maritime pines. To visit **Pablo Picasso's birthplace**, you will go first to the courtly plaza de la Merced. A few streets back from here, you can explore the museum dedicated to the artist, in the Buenavista palace.