



Small-ship cruising brings guests to Mediterranean islands that are unique and off-the-beaten track – Lipari (above) and the fiery volcanic island of Stromboli



TREASURES OF THE MEDITERRANEAN

7-NIGHT CRUISE · PROVENCE · ELBA · CORSICA · AMALFI COAST · SICILY · MALTA

Exclusive Tauck Cruise! Explore Provence, the French Riviera, Italy's Amalfi Coast and remote Mediterranean islands by land and sea. Stay at three of southern France's best-located hotels in Provence and Monte-Carlo before an incredible cruise for 7 nights aboard *Le Ponant*.

YOUR CRUISE FEATURES:

- An exclusive cruise aboard *Le Ponant* with only 60 Tauck guests!
- Private Tauck Shore Excursions – **\$545 Value!**
- Six Mediterranean islands best accessed by small ship – Elba, Corsica, Ponza, Lipari, Sicily and Malta – for unique shore excursions to hidden harbors, coastal villages, and countryside antiquities
- A memorable night sailing by the volcanic island of Stromboli to view its eruptions of molten lava
- 5 days in the south of France exploring the heart of Provence and the French Riviera
- A special visit in Châteauneuf-du-Pape featuring Provençal wine, food, and entertainment
- Wine with dinner and local entertainment aboard ship

1. ARRIVE MARSEILLE / ARLES

Tour begins: 6:30 PM, Hotel Jules César, Arles, France. A transfer is included from the Marseille-Provence Int'l Airport to the Hotel Jules César in the Provençal town of Arles. Join us for tonight's welcome reception and dinner.
Hotel Jules César ~ Meals D

2. DISCOVER PROVENCE - ARLES / AVIGNON

A walking tour of Arles, inspiration for many works by Vincent Van Gogh, includes the Roman Arena and the cloisters at St-Trophime. Travel to the Pont du Gard to see the aqueduct spanning the Gardon River, then on to Avignon and the Palace of the Popes. A visit to the wine region of Châteauneuf-du-Pape precedes an evening of local wine and food, served as heavy hors d'oeuvres.
Hotel Jules César ~ Meals BD

3. CITADEL OF LES BAUX / AIX-EN-PROVENCE

See the Van Gogh Bridge, then visit the medieval Citadel of Les Baux. Travel to the ancient Roman town of Aix-en-Provence, today a chic spa town, boasting grand architecture and beautiful fountains. *Note: Sightseeing in the Citadel of Les Baux, and most sites visited in Provence, involves significant walking; these venues are not accessible to vehicles.*
Grand Hotel Mercure Roi René ~ Meals BD

4. MONTE-CARLO DIVERSIONS

Journey to Saint-Paul-de-Vence, a medieval town that once guarded the Var Frontier, and continue on to Monaco. The afternoon and evening are free to spend at your leisure – your hotel is close to the Monte-Carlo Casino.
Fairmont Monte Carlo ~ Meals B

5. DISCOVER NICE / ■ EMBARK LE PONANT

Journey to Nice for a brief tour of the city and several hours of free time; board the sporty yacht *Le Ponant* for your 7-night cruise in the Mediterranean.
Aboard Le Ponant ~ Meals BD

6. ■ ISLAND OF ELBA

Drop anchor in the secluded harbor of Porto Azzurro, Elba, this morning for a visit to the Palazzina dei Mulini; Napoleon and his sister lived here during their brief exile on the island. Enjoy local entertainment aboard ship this afternoon before you sail along the coast.
Aboard Le Ponant ~ Meals BLD

7. ■ SMALL SHIPS ONLY IN BONIFACIO

Corsica's fjord-like harbor of Bonifacio is only accessible to small ships – your majestic entrance aboard *Le Ponant* is truly a special moment! Tour the walled fortress area, explore medieval lanes, stroll along the bluff high above the harbor, and see the former barracks of the French Foreign Legion. An afternoon at sea takes you through the Strait of Bonifacio to Ponza.
Aboard Le Ponant ~ Meals BLD



VOYAGE AT A GLANCE

■ 7 Cruise Days

DAY	DESTINATION	ARRIVE	DEPART
1	Arrive Marseille		
2	Provence		
3	Provence		
4	Monte-Carlo		
■ 5	Embark Nice		5:00 PM
■ 6	Elba, Italy	10:00 AM	6:00 PM
■ 7	Bonifacio, Corsica	8:00 AM	2:30 PM
		<i>1/2 Day at Sea</i>	
■ 8	Ponza, Italy	9:00 AM	1:00 PM
■ 9	Amalfi, Italy	12:00 AM	6:00 PM
■ 10	Lipari, Italy	12:00 PM	10:00 PM
■ 11	Taormina, Sicily	8:00 AM	6:00 PM
12	Disembark Malta		8:30 AM
13	Depart Malta		



Only small ships have access to hidden harbors such as Bonifacio, Corsica – just one of the many delights!



Enjoy a one-night stay at *Le Méridien Phoenicia* in Malta

8. ■ PONZA / CRUISE THE MEDITERRANEAN

Charming Ponza is fringed with dramatic coves and cliffs, featuring yellow and pink houses. Fishing boats set out from the 18th-century harbor, and vineyards cover the hillsides. Spend the morning exploring before setting sail for the Amalfi Coast, arriving in the Gulf of Salerno.

Aboard Le Ponant ~ Meals BLD

9. ■ TRAVEL THE AMALFI COAST / RAVELLO

Travel ashore today for a memorable journey along the Amalfi Coast. Stop in the town of Amalfi en route to Ravello; enjoy splendid sea views during a lunch of regional specialties before visiting 13th-century Villa Rufolo.

Aboard Le Ponant ~ Meals BLD

10. ■ LIPARI / FIERY LAVA OF STROMBOLI

A tender takes you ashore to explore Lipari, largest of the Aeolian Islands. Sail by Stromboli, the “Black Giant,” one of the few volcanos in the world that is frequently active. The view from the sea at night is unforgettable!

Aboard Le Ponant ~ Meals BLD

11. ■ CRUISE TO SICILY / TAORMINA

Explore Taormina, clinging to the cliffs above the coast of eastern Sicily – stroll the Corso Umberto through Old Town, and take a guided tour of the ancient Greek Theatre, dating back to 2 BC, boasting inspiring views of Mt. Etna.

Aboard Le Ponant ~ Meals BLD

12. ARRIVE AT VALLETTA, MALTA

Le Ponant sails into the dramatic Grand Harbor of Valletta in Malta. A guided island tour includes the city of Mdina, a coastal drive around St. Julian’s Bay, and a walking tour of Valletta. Join us for a farewell dinner tonight.

Le Méridien Phoenicia ~ Meals BLD

13. JOURNEY HOME

Tour ends: Valletta, Malta. A transfer is included from *Le Méridien Phoenicia* to Malta International Airport. Allow a minimum of 2½ hours for flight check-in. **Meals B**



Spend five days exploring Provence, including a visit to Avignon

13 DAYS FROM \$6,790 PLUS AIRFARE
(12 Breakfasts, 7 Lunches & 11 Dinners)

BEGINS MARSEILLE

May 22 Aug 28 Sep 11

BEGINS MALTA

May 11 Jun 1 Sep 7 Oct 19

Go to www.tauck.com for up-to-the-minute space availability.

Dates in red indicate special departures where the single price is \$7990. Ask at booking for details.

LAND / CRUISE PRICE PER PERSON

Double \$6790 Single \$10,762 Triple \$6190

International Airfare is additional. Call Tauck for special rates on international air for travel originating in the U.S. (subject to availability). Departure tax is additional.

Land / Cruise Price includes everything outlined in General Information as well as private Tauck shore excursions, cruise fare, port charges, wine with dinner aboard *Le Ponant*, and gratuities to ship staff.

Travel North or South: This cruise operates both Northbound from Malta and Southbound from Marseille. Visit www.tauck.com for Northbound itinerary.

Please ask at time of booking about additional hotel nights before your tour begins and about our comprehensive Cruise Protection Plan.

See page 68 for *Le Ponant's* deck plans and ship specifications.