

# THE GREAT LAKES

## SMITHSONIAN JOURNEYS



*This cruise is part of a collection of PONANT voyages that are specially tailored for English-speaking travelers who want to engage with the world. In addition to the usual elements of the PONANT experience, the listed price for these voyages includes transfers to and from the ship, talks and discussions aboard ship by world-class experts, and a shore excursion or activity in each port of call that encourages guests to experience the sights, sounds, tastes, and aromas of the local environment and culture.*



### **DATES:**

**2026** – Aug 11-19 | 19-27\*+

**2027** – Aug 13-21 | 21-29\*+

**DURATION:** 9 DAYS/8 NIGHTS

**EMBARK:** TORONTO, ON

**DISEMBARK:** MILWAUKEE, WI

\*Reverse Itinerary

**SHIP:** LE BELLOT

**FROM:** \$9,150

All Inclusive – Port Charges, Open Bar,  
Gratuities to ship crew, Shore excursions

**+NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT**

## Expedition Highlights

- Engaging discussions onboard with Smithsonian Journeys Experts.
- A cruise with the opportunity to explore the five Great Lakes of North America, between the United States and Canada.
- A journey along the UNESCO Biosphere Reserve of Georgian Bay.
- An itinerary combining nature and culture: picturesque landscapes and geological curiosities, the history of indigenous Americans inhabiting the region before European colonization.
- An excursion to the magnificent Niagara Falls.
- A visit to charming Mackinac Island, with its preserved Victorian architecture.

## ITINERARY

### DAY 1 - TORONTO - EMBARK

The largest city in Canada and capital of the province of Ontario, Toronto fascinates as much for its incredible diversity as for its size.

### DAY 2 - PORT COLBORNE – NIAGARA FALLS - SAILING LAKE ERIE

Port Colborne is a small port city located in southern Ontario, at the mouth of the Welland Canal. It 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. An included excursion to Niagara Falls.



### DAY 3 – PORT COLBORNE - SAILING LAKE ERIE

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 meters, this lock, the 8th 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.

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 17th 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.

### DAY 4 – CRUISING DETROIT – ST. CLAIRE RIVER

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, a 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. 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.

### DAY 5 – CRUISING LAKE HURON – PARRY SOUND

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. The charming city of Parry Sound enjoys an exceptional natural setting in the heart of a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, east of Georgian Bay.

#### **DAY 6 – LITTLE CURRENT**

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.



#### **DAY 7 - SAULT STE. MARIE**

Located to the east of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, Sault Ste. Marie is one of the oldest cities in the United States. Separated from its Canadian twin city by St. Marys River, it is famous among other things for its locks, known as either the Sault Locks or the Soo Locks, which enable ships to navigate the change in elevation between Lake



Superior and the lower Great Lakes. These locks, which date back over 160 years, are considered the most important in the world due to their shipping traffic.

#### **DAY 8 - MACKINAC ISLAND - SAILING LAKE 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 center.

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.



#### **DAY 9 - MILWAUKEE - DISEMBARK**

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.

**Pre- and post-cruise arrangements are available.**



## Le Bellot

**GUESTS:** 184

**RATES – 2026-27** (Rates subject to change without notice – Book early for best rates.)

**All inclusive** – Gratuities to crew; all beverages – open bar; Port Charges; Room Service; Shore excursions.

SUITE –	8/11/26	8/19/26*	8/13/27 30% OFF	8/13/27* 30% OFF
Deluxe – Deck 3	\$10,870	\$11,440	\$9,150	\$9,170
Prestige – Deck 4 - 6	\$14,020	\$12,650	\$10,120	\$10,140
Deluxe Ste – Decks 3-6	\$18,340	\$19,350	\$15,480	\$15,500
Prestige Suite – Dk 5 & 6	\$24,660	\$26,030	\$20,850	\$20,870
Privilege Suite – Dk 5-6	\$27,190	\$28,720	\$22,990	\$23,010
Grand Deluxe Suite	\$29,840	\$31,520	\$25,230	\$25,250
OWNER SUITE	\$36,700	\$36,680	\$37,560	\$37,580

**\*NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT**



**Reservations & Information**

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