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SMITHSONIAN JOURNEYS EXPANDS 2028 SMALL-SHIP CRUISE COLLECTION WITH PONANT EXPLORATIONS

New Costa Rica and Adriatic Sailings Added to Collection of Voyages in Antarctica, the Mediterranean, Asia, North America, the Indian Ocean, Europe and More

Smithsonian Journeys, the travel program of the Smithsonian Institution and a recognized leader in enriching, small-group exploration, today announces 15 additional new small-ship cruise departures for 2028 in collaboration with PONANT EXPLORATIONS. With these offerings, the 2028 collection now includes 36 thoughtfully curated voyages worldwide.

Highlights include two all-new itineraries: a Costa Rica voyage showcasing the rich biodiversity and rainforests of the Pacific Coast and an Adriatic journey exploring the cultural and historic treasures of eastern Italy and Sicily. The expanded collection features a range of returning favorites across Europe, the Mediterranean, Canadian Maritimes, the Caribbean, the Indian Ocean, Antarctica and beyond.

Designed to deliver exceptional value and a deeply enriching experience, each departure includes two Smithsonian Journeys Experts who lead engaging lectures and informal discussions on board. Ashore, a carefully curated shore excursion or activity in each port complements the onboard educational programming. Complimentary airport transfers on embarkation and disembarkation days are also included.

“With the expansion of our 2028 small-ship cruise program, we are pleased to offer travelers an even broader range of thoughtfully curated journeys that reflect the Smithsonian’s commitment to discovery, learning and cultural understanding,” said Walter Littlejohn III, senior vice president of Smithsonian Journeys. “From new itineraries in Costa Rica and the Adriatic to our returning favorites, each voyage is designed to bring guests closer to the world’s most compelling destinations through expert insight, meaningful experiences and the highest standards of enrichment at sea.”

Details on the new 2028 itineraries are provided below. For more information on all Smithsonian Journeys and PONANT EXPLORATIONS small-ship ocean cruises, visit [the Smithsonian Journeys website](https://www.SmithsonianJourneys.org). To book, visit www.SmithsonianJourneys.org or call 855-330-1542.

New for 2028:

Costa Rica by Sea: Wildlife and Rainforests of the Pacific Coast

Feb. 16–23, 2028

Eight days starting from \$6,200 per person double occupancy

Smithsonian Journeys Experts: Arianna Soldati, volcanologist; Dennis Wille Sáenz, naturalist

Costa Rica has set a global standard for environmental stewardship, and this voyage explores the country's extraordinary ecological richness and cultural heritage along its Pacific coast. From the Osa Peninsula, one of the most biologically diverse regions on Earth, to the striking convergence of rainforest and shoreline in Manuel Antonio National Park, guests explore protected parks and wildlife refuges teeming with life. Encounters may include scarlet macaws, sloths, squirrel monkeys and an exceptional diversity of bird species, offering an immersive experience in one of the world's most vibrant natural environments. Full details are [available on the website](#).

Sailing the Adriatic: Treasures of Italy's Eastern Coast and Sicily

Sept. 27–Oct. 5, 2028

Nine days starting from \$8,340 per person double occupancy

Smithsonian Journeys Experts: Ross King, art historian and author; Allen Glazner, geologist

Travelers sail along Italy's eastern shores, where an extraordinary concentration of World Heritage sites awaits discovery, from the canal-laced splendor of Venice to the ancient Greco-Roman city of Syracuse. Cruising the shimmering Adriatic, guests encounter remarkable art and architecture in less-traveled cultural centers such as Ravenna and Urbino. Along the way, they experience the distinctive charm of Apulia, savoring its rich traditions and cuisine, before sailing beneath the dramatic silhouette of Mount Etna into Sicily's storied ports. Full details are [available on the website](#).

Highlights of some returning favorites are below. A full list of what is available for 2026, 2027 and 2028 is at www.smithsonianjourneys.org/PONANT.

Treasures of Japan and South Korea by Sea

NEW DATE—*Apr. 2–10, 2028*

Nine days starting from \$9,290 per person double occupancy

Smithsonian Journeys Experts: Jonathan Hall, cultural historian; Kaitlyn Ugoretz, East Asian cultural studies specialist

Travelers set sail from Busan's vibrant harbor, charting a course for Japan to explore a rich tapestry of history, tradition and craftsmanship. Along the way, they encounter centuries-old temples, elegantly preserved castles and samurai-era streets that illuminate the enduring legacy of Japanese culture. The journey offers deeper insight into iconic destinations, from the historic townscapes of Hagi and the restorative hot springs of Beppu to Miyajima's famed floating torii gate and the poignant landmarks of Hiroshima's Peace Memorial. Full details are [available on the website](#).

Mediterranean Island Voyage: Sicily, Sardinia, Corsica, and Elba

NEW DATE—*May 4–11; May 14–21, 2028*

Eight days starting from \$5,780 per person double occupancy

Smithsonian Journeys Experts: Wayne Ranney, geologist; Pedar Foss, classicist (May 4 departure) and Allison Mickel, anthropologist; Jennifer Ermeeva, writer and historian (May 14 departure)

Guests explore four islands and three millennia of Mediterranean history on this voyage. From the ancient Greek theaters of Syracuse and Taormina to Cagliari's Phoenician and Roman ruins, the cliffside medieval lanes of Bonifacio and the island of Elba, Napoleon's storied place of exile, each port reveals a distinct chapter of the region's past. This sailing offers an elegant and unhurried journey through the heart of the Mediterranean, rich in culture, history and timeless allure. Full details are [available on the website](#).

Iceland Voyage: Land of Fire and Ice

NEW DATE—June 1–8, 2028

Eight days starting at \$9,750 per person double occupancy

Smithsonian Journeys Experts: Stephanie Sykora, geologist; Victoria Whitworth, author and cultural historian

Guests explore Iceland's dramatic natural beauty as it unfolds along the country's rugged west coast, where glaciers, fjords and volcanoes create a striking mosaic of landscapes at the edge of the Arctic. Along the way, they encounter extraordinary wildlife, from whale watching near Grundarfjörður to vast seabird colonies on Heimaey and Grimsey. The journey also reveals Iceland's geothermal wonders, from the otherworldly terrain of Lake Mývatn to the iconic waterfalls and valleys of Reykjavík's famed Golden Circle. Full details are [available on the website](#).

Cruising the Historic Cities of the Baltic Sea

NEW DATE—June 22–30; July 12–20, 2028

Nine days starting from \$11,580 per person double occupancy

Smithsonian Journeys Experts: Elisabeth Ida Ward, cultural heritage specialist; Ralph DeFalco, historian (June 22 departure) and Hugh Neighbour, foreign affairs specialist and former diplomat; Glenn Krinking, Scandinavian studies professor (July 12 departure)

Travelers trace centuries of trade, culture and history along the shores that shaped Northern Europe, from Copenhagen's royal palaces and Visby's medieval legacy to Tallinn's World Heritage-listed Old Town and Helsinki's distinctive Art Nouveau architecture. In Gdańsk, guests are treated to an exclusive presentation by former Polish President and Nobel Peace Prize laureate Lech Wałęsa, who offers a rare and personal perspective on the events that helped reshape modern Europe. Full details are [available on the website](#).

Cruising the Greek Islands of the Southern Aegean

NEW DATE—June 24–July 1; Sept. 20–27, 2028

Eight days starting from \$6,630 per person double occupancy

Smithsonian Journeys Experts: Joanne Murphy, archaeologist; Stephanie Larson, classicist (June 24 departure) and David Guinee, classicist; Aneta Georgievska-Shine, art historian (Sept. 20 departure)

Guests navigate the heart of the Aegean, Patmos, Amorgos, Santorini, Delos and Mykonos at a pace that honors both landscape and mythology. From the sacred ruins of Delos to Santorini's dramatic volcanic caldera, each stop reveals a powerful sense of place while the enduring traditions of Amorgos offer a deeper connection to island life. The result is a voyage as evocative and resonant as any in the Mediterranean world. Full details are [available on the website](#).

Fall Foliage on the St. Lawrence: Québec to the Canadian Maritimes

NEW DATE—Oct. 1–13, 2028

13 days starting from \$14,030 per person double occupancy

Smithsonian Journeys Experts: Keith Edgerton, environmental historian; Maria Banks, geologist

Guests sail through the brilliance of autumn along the rugged coasts of eastern Canada and New England, where soaring cliffs and picturesque villages have captivated travelers for generations. The voyage weaves together vibrant Montreal, the historic charm of Québec City and the whale-rich waters of Tadoussac. Along the way, guests explore Charlottetown's storied heritage, the World Heritage-listed beauty of Lunenburg, and the enduring seafaring traditions of Portland, Maine, an

evocative journey through some of the region's most treasured landscapes and cultures. Full details are [available on the website](#).

For more information, visit the [Smithsonian Journeys website](#).

About Smithsonian Journeys

Smithsonian Journeys is a global leader in cultural travel, offering unique, expert-led trips on all seven continents. It offers small-group land journeys, river cruises, small-ship cruises, active journeys, cultural stays, private jet trips and tailor-made journeys for the independent traveler. Smithsonian Journeys is part of Smithsonian Enterprises, a division of the Smithsonian that oversees the Institution's commercial activities, including the Smithsonian Channel; the retail operation, which includes 35 museum and airport stores and food concessions; *Smithsonian* magazine, which reaches more than 8 million monthly readers; Smithsonianstore.com, an E-Commerce business; consumer and education licensing; and books. For more information, visit www.SmithsonianJourneys.org or call 855-330-1542.

About the Smithsonian

Since its founding in 1846, the Smithsonian Institution has been committed to inspiring generations through knowledge and discovery. It is the world's largest museum, education and research complex, consisting of 21 museums, the National Zoological Park, education centers, research facilities, cultural centers, libraries and gardens. Two of the 21 museums—the National Museum of the American Latino and the Smithsonian American Women's History Museum—are in the early planning stages. The total number of objects, works of art and specimens at the Smithsonian is about 157 million. To commemorate America's 250th anniversary, the Smithsonian is hosting a full slate of special exhibitions, festivals and public events, including the completion of the National Air and Space Museum's renovation, which opened to the public 50 years ago for the nation's bicentennial.

About PONANT EXPLORATIONS

Ponant Explorations has been committed to more responsible tourism and purposeful voyages of exploration for almost 40 years. Aboard a fleet of 12 French-flagged ships, fitted with the latest environmental technologies, the journey of exploration is always elegant, authentic and inspiring.

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