The Metropolitan Opera Guild

OPERA
in the
EASTERN
MEDITERRANEAN

Aboard the 5-Star Le Bougainville
November 13–25, 2019

Featuring Renowned Baritone
Jose van Dam
Dear Traveler,

The Metropolitan Opera Guild is delighted to invite you on an autumn journey to the Eastern Mediterranean and beyond, to explore the ancient world as you trace the footsteps of history through Greece, Turkey, Egypt and Jordan.

Opera in the Eastern Mediterranean features an intimate and exclusive musical program, paired with excursions to iconic destinations ashore. On this voyage, we join the renowned bass-bartitone José van Dam on the new small ship Le Bougainville, and enjoy one of our opera recitals in front of the ancient library at Ephesus.

Friends of The Metropolitan Opera Guild will comprise a small and congenial group on this cruise—all of our shore arrangements are private, and we will enjoy our own seating in the ship’s dining room. Other travelers on board will include both international opera enthusiasts and members from other leading cultural institutions.

The quality and variety of sites to be visited along these historic shores makes this itinerary truly one-of-a-kind. We hope you will join your fellow opera lovers for an unparalleled artistic voyage you won’t soon forget!

Sincerely,

Richard J. Miller, Jr.
President, The Metropolitan Opera Guild
Guest Performing Artists

A Brussels native, bass baritone JOSÉ VAN DAM is one of today’s leading opera performers. Since his debut in Paris, in Les Troyens, he has been the regular guest at the world’s most important opera houses and festivals (The Metropolitan Opera, Opéra National de Paris, London’s Covent Garden, La Scala of Milan, Wiener Staatsoper, etc.). His most famous roles include Falstaff, Simon Boccanegra, Philip II (Don Carlos), Don Giovanni and many others. Van Dam also developed a career in the oratorio and lied fields; his repertoire is just as wide. He received the rank of Knight in the Order of the Legion of Honor, and in 1998 was ennobled by King Albert II.

ISABELLE KABATU, Belgian soprano of African origins, won first prize at the prestigious Viotti competition in Varallo, Italy, in 1994. In the same year, she made her career debut in the title role of La Traviata in Lisbon. Her repertoire covers Italian, German, and French operas. Isabelle has taken on dramatic roles with Norma, Abigaille (Nabucco), Lady Macbeth, Gioconda, Didon (The Trojans) and Brünnhilde in Wagner’s Ring Cycle.

Baritone LIONEL LHOTE graduated from Brussels’ Conservatoire Royal de Musique. His career started at Opéra Royal de Wallonie, and since his international breakthrough, he has appeared as Sharpless in Madama Butterfly, Faninal in Rosenkavalier, Don Alfonso in Nozze di Figaro, and many others. He distinguished himself in the role of Somarone in two different productions of Berlioz’s Béatrice et Bénédictone.

Pianist ANTOINE PALLOC has worked with singers such as Béatrice Uria-Monzon and Frederica von Stade. Recent engagements have taken him to San Francisco, Berlin, Nice, Toulouse, Strasbourg, Rio, as well as Alice Tully Hall, Carnegie Hall, and the Kennedy Center.

Belgian tenor MARC LAHO studied voice and trumpet at Académie Royale de Beaux-Arts in Liège. He made his debut at Opéra de Monte Carlo in the role of the Officer in J. Massenet Thérese. His repertoire includes the roles of Don Ottavio in Don Giovanni, Fernando in Donizetti La Favorita, and Nemorino in L’elisir d’amore. Recently he has been heard in The Damnation of Faust at Bolshoi Moscow and at the Colmar Festival.

STEFANO MAZZONIS DI PRALAFERA, director of the Royal Opera of Wallonia, will join our performers on board for lectures and discussions.
Itinerary

**Wednesday, November 13, 2019**
**FLY FROM THE USA**

**Thursday, November 14**
**ATHENS, GREECE**
Arrive in Athens and transfer to the Hotel Grande Bretagne. Join fellow travelers for a festive welcome reception in the hotel. (R)

**Friday, November 15**
**ATHENS | PIRAEUS | EMBARK**
Explore the stunning Parthenon, built in the fifth century B.C. We also tour the Acropolis Museum, a superb collection of artifacts from excavations of the Acropolis. In the afternoon, view the Olympia Theater where Maria Callas made her debut and the new Stavros Niarchos Foundation Cultural Center, designed by Renzo Piano, before embarking Le Bougainville. (B,D)

**Saturday, November 16**
**NAFPLION**
Our excursion begins with Mycenae, center of the extraordinary Mycenaean civilization that flourished in the second millennium B.C. A tour of the citadel includes the imposing Lion Gate, other remains of the acropolis, as well as the impressive beehive-shaped tombs set outside the walls. Travel to Epidaurus, the ancient shrine of Asklepios, whose ruins are dominated by a fourth-century theater. (B,L,D)

**Sunday, November 17**
**PATMOS**
Dominating this island’s landscape is the hilltop Monastery of St. John, built in the 11th century. Our visit will reveal precious icons and liturgical objects, rare manuscripts and antiquities. Hugging the hill are old stone houses that line the town’s alleyways. (B,L,D)

**Monday, November 18**
**KUSADASI, TURKEY | EPHESUS | KUSADASI**
Ephesus was renowned for its great mother goddess, Cybele, later identified as Artemis, or Diana of the Ephesians. The immense Hellenistic and Roman excavation site includes the ancient theater, the Library of Celsus, terrace houses with mosaics and frescoes, as well as early Byzantine remains. (B,L,D)

**Tuesday, November 19**
**RHODES, GREECE**
Rhodes was known in the ancient world for its schools of philosophy and rhetoric. Discover Rhodes Town’s labyrinthine streets and splendid open plazas as we visit the Palace of the Grand Master of the Crusader Knights of St. John and the Archaeological Museum. (B,L,D)

**Wednesday, November 20**
**AT SEA (B,L,D)**

**Thursday, November 21**
**CROSSING THE SUEZ CANAL (B,L,D)**

**Friday November 22**
**SAFAGA, EGYPT | LUXOR**
Disembark in Safaga for an overnight excursion to Luxor. Built on the site of the ancient city of Thebes, Luxor was the capital of Egypt from 1550 to 1070 B.C. Visit Luxor Temple, originally built during the reign of Amenophis the III, and then expanded by Ramses II. Explore the Luxor Museum and its displays of pottery and jewelry including an assortment of items from the Theban temples and necropolis. (B,L,D)

**Saturday, November 23**
**LUXOR | SAFAGA**
Tour the Valley of the Kings, where most kings of the 18th, 19th, and 20th dynasties were buried, and visit Queen Nefertari’s tomb. This afternoon visit the Karnak Temple Complex. Pass through the Avenue of the Sphinxes, admiring the obelisks and monuments that line the path to the Great Temple of Amun. Return to Safaga and reboard Le Bougainville. (B,L,D)

**Sunday, November 24**
**AT SEA | AQABA, JORDAN (B,L,D)**

**Monday, November 25**
**AQABA | DISEMBARK | FLY TO THE USA (B)**

**OPTIONAL POST-CRUISE EXTENSION**
**PETRA & THE TREASURES OF JORDAN**
Spend more time in the fascinating ancient world of Jordan with an extension that includes a tour of the breathtaking ruins of Petra and the holy sites of Amman, the capital.

FOR RESERVATIONS OR INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL US AT 212-769-7062
ALL-INCLUSIVE FARES & UNIQUE FEATURES

Our fares are truly all-inclusive. Coupled with a high-quality lecture and educational program, we provide a most attractive value.

Included

• One night at the Hotel Grande Bretagne in Athens prior to embarkation, with breakfast and sightseeing

• Comprehensive 7-night cruise aboard the deluxe *Le Bougainville*. All accommodations are outside staterooms and suites, 95% of which feature a private balcony.

• One opera recital performed by José van Dam; additional recitals by other guest artists

• Complete program of shore excursions and activities

• All meals aboard ship including early riser’s coffee & pastry, breakfast, lunch, afternoon tea and dinner

• Welcome and farewell cocktail receptions aboard ship

• Complimentary open bar aboard ship

• Gratuities to shipboard personnel, porters, guides and drivers

• Port taxes and charges

• Airport/hotel/pier transfers and handling of luggage

• 24-hour room service

• Comprehensive pre-departure materials

Not Included

Airfare; passport and visa fees and/or immigration reciprocity taxes (if applicable); trip cancellation and baggage insurance; medical and repatriation insurance; meals and beverages other than those specified above; personal expenses (such as telephone, laundry service, hair salon services, à la carte spa treatments, etc.)
The five-star Le Bougainville is one in a series of four new EXPLORER vessels commissioned by PONANT. This state-of-the-art ship is equipped with the latest environmental preservation technology and combines understated elegance with a spirit of adventure. Le Bougainville is a small-capacity ship—430 feet in length with just 92 staterooms and a crew of 110—and features the Blue Eye, the world’s first multi-sensory underwater lounge.

### Deck Plan

- **Owner’s Suite**
  - Deck 6
- **Grand Deluxe Suites**
  - Decks 5 - 6
- **Privilege Suites**
  - Decks 5 - 6
- **Prestige Suites**
  - Decks 3 - 4 - 5 - 6
- **Deluxe Suites**
  - Decks 4 - 5 - 6
- **Prestige Staterooms**
  - Decks 5 - 6
- **Deluxe Staterooms**
  - Deck 3

### Fares

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<tr>
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**Single Occupancy Cabins:** Singles are available; subject to availability. Contact PONANT for details.
Compagne du PONANT, PONANT Group USA, LLC, and PONANT USA, LLC are hereinafter collectively referred to as "PONANT GROUP." Please read carefully the following terms and conditions, which constitute the sole, legally enforceable agreements between the passenger and PONANT GROUP and the tour’s sponsoring organization.

**PAYMENT SCHEDULE:** In order to secure a booking, the guest is required to pay a 25% deposit. Final payment is due 90 days prior to departure. Checks and credit cards are accepted.

**CANCELLATION, MODIFICATION PENALTIES & REFUNDS:** All cancellations or modifications must be in writing. Any and all guests not reporting for departure or prevented from reporting for departure or waiving for any reason whatsoever the benefit of services included in the program cannot claim any refund. PONANT GROUP shall not be required to refund any monies to any guests who must leave the cruise temporarily for any reason, nor shall PONANT GROUP be held responsible for any costs, fees, damages or causes of action which result from the transportation expenses incurred by guest’s early departure.

For any deposited or fully paid booking, cancellation penalties will be assessed as noted below. These cancellation penalties are applicable on all services booked with PONANT GROUP:

- From confirmation of booking date until 91 days prior to departure: 100% of full fare
- 90-61 days prior to departure: 50% of full fare
- Within 60 days of departure: 100% of full fare

**TRAVEL INSURANCE:** Passengers shall be responsible for subscribing to cancellation/luggage assistance reparation/medical insurance(s).

**ITINERARY:** PONANT GROUP reserves the right to withdraw and/or cancel a sailing to make changes in the itinerary whenever, in its sole judgment, or in the judgment of the vessel owner or operator, conditions warrant it. PONANT reserves the right to substitute musicians.

**INDEPENDENT CONTRACTORS/LIMIT OF LIABILITY:** The passenger agrees that PONANT GROUP acts as agent and/or trustee for any person, ground and maritime agents and subcontractors, who provide any service forming, or in connection with, any part of the cruise. Transportation services to the port of departure, transfers to the ship, including, as applicable, hotel room and restaurant bookings or guided tours, are performed by independent suppliers who are not employees of PONANT GROUP. In this respect, PONANT GROUP reserves the right to substitute musicians.

PONANT GROUP shall not be held liable for bodily injury to, or death of, passengers, or for loss of, or damage to luggage or other personal belongings, unless it is proved that the carrier has infringed statutory obligations or that it or one of its employees or agents has committed gross negligence. However, in the event the liability of PONANT GROUP is incurred, such liability is limited (details available upon request).

PONANT GROUP shall in any case not be liable for failure of an improper performance when the same is due or caused by the fault of the passenger; the unforeseeable or unavoidable fault of a third party unconnected with the provision of any services to be provided under the contract; unusual and unforeseeable circumstances beyond the control of PONANT GROUP; an event of "Force Majeure" such as a war, threat of war, riots, civil commotion, acts of God, terrorist activities, natural and nuclear disaster, fire, technical problems with transport, closure of ports, strikes and any industrial action, or any other event beyond the control of PONANT GROUP.

**RATES:** The prices given at the time of booking are based on economic conditions known on December 21, 2018 and are subject to change. These conditions are, amongst others, the cost of transport and fuel, relevant duties and taxes for the proposed operation (port taxes, embarkation and disembarkation taxes, entrance costs to tourist sites), currency exchange rates relevant to the pricing of these programs. PONANT GROUP reserves the right to vary prices if necessary. All variation of the cost of transport, fuel, taxes, duties and visa costs will be passed on within the voyage cost. Additionally, any surcharge levied will be increased to include an amount to cover agent’s commission.

Any change in fare cannot be imposed less than 60 days prior to departure. For the cruise-only rate, daily surcharge, if any, will be calculated based on:

- Fuel variation* x daily consumption**

**Ship capacity:**


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**JURISDICTION:** These terms & conditions are subject to and interpreted according to international regulations and concern the transportation of passengers and their luggage from the time of boarding the ship to the moment of disembarking, as well as at ports of departure, destination, or stopover. PONANT GROUP shall incur no liability outside this period of time.

Without prejudice to required legal regulations, any actions related either to the interpretation, or execution of this agreement shall be brought before the competent courts of Marseille-France.

PONANT GROUP is not responsible for omissions, printing and/or presentation errors and reserves the right to make corrections as required.

**SHIPS’ REGISTRY:**

France

FL Seller of Travel Ref No ST37706
CA Seller of Travel Ref No 2120712-40

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For further information or reservations, please call Kimberly Goodis of The Metropolitan Opera Guild at 212-769-7062 or PONANT at 888-400-1082 (Monday to Friday, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm Eastern Time)