



PONANT returns to sea today with an ultra-reinforced health protocol



Saturday 11 July 2020 - Today, PONANT is one of the first cruise lines in the world to resume its operations. The reference in Ocean Voyages aboard small cruising yachts has developed a rigorous health protocol to guarantee a safe sailing experience. Eight of the ships in the fleet are setting sail from France, Iceland or French Polynesia. Others should follow in the coming weeks.

France is beautiful from the sea, a unique collection of summer 2020 cruises

To adapt to the current situation and the new demand, the company has reinvented its offering with 5 new exceptional itineraries along the French coast, well off the beaten track.

As an ambassador of the French way of life, PONANT is inviting its guests to rediscover the richness and diversity of France this summer. With a fleet of smaller-sized ships accommodating an average of 150 guests, the company remains true to its core principle of responsible and sustainable tourism. PONANT is drawing on the expertise of its captains, all natives of France and its regions, and relying on the precious assistance of its partners, keepers of the natural, cultural, and gastronomic heritage of the different regions.

The company will reveal France differently, from the sea, through a series of new sailing routes and tailored activities in unspoiled nature (outings in Zodiac dinghies or canoes, diving and snorkelling, kayak, paddle-boarding, hiking, and more). Each experience will be enriched by PONANT's expert naturalists, who will provide explanations during the outings and share their knowledge during lectures held beforehand.

With this programme placing France centre stage, PONANT, which was once called *Compagnie des Îles du Ponant* as an homage to its maritime heritage, has returned to its roots.

Renowned partners and speakers aboard

The cruises offered are enriched by the on-board presence of prestigious speakers, important figures and experts in the areas of culture, music, art, science or gastronomy. These very special guests will share their experience during talks and discussions with our guests. For this new series of cruises, speakers include: Alain Duault and his group of talented and famous artists, Michel Cymes,

Patrick Poivre d'Arvor, Christophe Barbier, Pascal Bruckner, Nicolas Bouzou, François de Closets, Jean-Louis Debré, André Dussollier, Franck Ferrand, Luc Ferry, Franz-Olivier Giesbert, Christine Ockrent, Erik Orsenna and many more.



Alain Duault



Michel Cymes



Patrick
Poivre d'Arvor



Alain Baraton



Christophe Barbier



Nicolas Bouzou



Pascal Bruckner



François
de Closets



Fabienne Conrad



Julia de Funès



Jean-Louis
Debré



André Dussollier



Franck Ferrand



Luc Ferry



Patrice Gélinet



Franz-Olivier
Giesbert



Pascal Gueret



Serge Legat



Christian Makarian



Christine Ockrent



Erik Orsenna



Patricia Petibon



Nemanja Radulovic



Béatrice
Uria Monzon

Thanks to its partners, Le Point, GEO and the Mucem (Museum of European and Mediterranean Civilisations), PONANT is also offering themed cruises. Through a series of conferences, concerts and events, the company is inviting its guests to combine their love of travel and knowledge.

Five exceptional itineraries from the Atlantic to the Mediterranean from the 11th of July, starting from €2,550

Nature and terroir of Nouvelle-Aquitaine

[Discover the itinerary from Bordeaux](#)

8 days / 7 nights aboard *Le Bougainville* - Departures each Saturday between July and September.

Brittany: between wild coasts and lighthouses

[Discover the itinerary from Saint-Malo](#)

8 days / 7 nights aboard *Le Champlain* - Departures each Saturday between July and September.

Authentic coasts of Normandy and Brittany

[Discover the itinerary from Le Havre](#)

8 days / 7 nights aboard *Le Dumont-d'Urville* - Departures each Saturday between July and September.

The heritage of the Mediterranean coast



[Discover the itinerary from Marseille](#)

8 days / 7 nights aboard *L'Austral*, - Departures each Saturday between July and September.

Wild and secret Corsica



[Discover the itinerary from Nice](#)

8 days / 7 nights aboard *Le Lyréal*, - Departures each Saturday between July and September.

To find out more about the brand-new PONANT collection for summer 2020: [click here](#)



Inaugural season of *Le Bellot* in Iceland and getaway cruises aboard the *m/s Paul Gauguin* in French Polynesia

PONANT is also offering new expedition cruises to discover Iceland in July and August 2020. For her inaugural season, *Le Bellot*, the latest addition to the PONANT EXPLORER series, will sail around this land of ice and fire on an 8-day itinerary to discover the glaciers, fjords, waterfalls and volcanoes of this mythical country.

Le Boréal is resuming service with cruises to Iceland and then to Spitsbergen.

In French Polynesia, the *m/s Paul Gauguin*, which PONANT is happy to have welcomed into its family, is also resuming her cruises today. From the Society Islands to the Tuamotus and the Marquesas Islands.... The *m/s Paul Gauguin* has more than 20 years of experience sailing among these archipelagos.

Sailing with confidence

To prepare for this resumption, the company has reinforced its protocols and infrastructures, especially its on-board hospitals and medical teams. It is collaborating with the IHU (Institut Hospitalo-Universitaire) Méditerranée Infection of Marseilles, one of the world's leading centres in the field of infectious diseases.

Bureau Veritas, a world leader in testing, inspection and certification services, has just certified these processes with its "SAFEGUARD" label, demonstrating that some of the most effective infection prevention measures have been implemented.

PONANT's reinforced health protocol is based on health standards that exceed all international regulations. It relies on the provision and maintenance of a "Covid-Safe" area around its ships, a hermetic sanitary bubble, thanks to the rollout of three layers of shields: stringent on-board access conditions, rigorous sanitary protocols throughout the cruise as well as daily checks (guests, equipment, ships).

It includes the implementation of a health check for 100% of the people on board (guests and crew members) and filtering and disinfection at boarding in a guest circuit that has been entirely redesigned for before, during and after the cruise. In addition, all passengers and crews must perform a PCR test a maximum of 48 hours before boarding and 72 hours for long trips. Automated temperature-taking terminals have been set up in strategic areas, allowing continuous monitoring several times a day at each passage.

Moreover, PONANT had already been investing for many years to set up high-level hospitals aboard the ships in its fleet, made up of a state-of-the-art medical infrastructure (radiology, biology and even resuscitation devices, etc.) that exceeds all current standards in tourism. An expert medical team made up of at least one doctor and a nurse, available around the clock, are present in these hospitals.

To find out more about our health protocol*: [click here](#)

* This document may be adjusted depending on medical, sanitary and scientific developments



ABOUT PONANT

Created in 1988, by officers of the French Merchant Navy, PONANT has created a new style of cruising, under the French flag, through a unique conception of sea travel and a commitment to promoting sustainable and responsible tourism. Accessing exceptional territories aboard yachts featuring refined design, on which the art of living and excellent cuisine take pride of place: such is the promise of a unique and authentic PONANT voyage.

The small size of its vessels, the medical infrastructure and teams on board and its protocols ensured that there were no cases of Covid-19 contamination in the PONANT fleet. To prepare for the resumption of its activity, PONANT is collaborating with the IHU (Institut Hospitalo-Universitaire) Méditerranée Infection of Marseille, one of the world's leading centres in the field of infectious diseases, as well as Bureau Veritas. The "Covid-Safe" protocol developed by PONANT is based on health standards that exceed international regulations.

For more information, visit www.ponant.com

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