



PONANT returning to Spitsbergen from 18 July!



After France, Spitsbergen... PONANT, one of the first cruise lines in the world to get back out to sea, resumed its expedition cruises to the Arctic on Saturday 18 July. The first emblematic destination? Spitsbergen aboard *Le Boréal*, departing on 18 July. PONANT, the reference in expedition cruises aboard small cruising yachts, will then set a course for the mythical Northeast Passage before sailing onward to Kamchatka and the Kuril Islands in the Russian Arctic.

Polar bears, immaculate landscapes... the photos received from Captain Garcia a few days ago hold the promise of an exceptional expedition. With extensive experience in sailing around the polar regions, the cruise line's area of expertise for over 20 years now, the captain is visibly impatient to share the fruits of his scouting mission with his guests.

From 18 July to the coming month of September, PONANT will be running no fewer than five itineraries to the Arctic, four of them brand new. Destinations include the Bering Strait; Chukotka, one of the most remote parts of the world; Svalbard and its Nordaust-Svalbard Nature Reserve; the Kuril Islands, and the Northeast Passage.

As a prerequisite to resuming its operations, PONANT has put in place a series of health and hygiene measures that exceed the international standards for the sector. For peace of mind while cruising, every person on board (guests and crew) must undergo a health check and have a PCR test performed no more than 72 hours prior to boarding. Filtering and decontamination measures are in place upon boarding and the customer journey before, during and after the cruise has been entirely redesigned.

"Our expertise in this part of the world has enabled us to design exceptional itineraries in record time. Our future guests will be able to discover these timeless destinations in exceptional conditions. Thanks to the reinforced health and hygiene measures we have put in place, our guests will be able to travel with total peace of mind," said Hervé Bellaïche, Chief Sales and Marketing Officer at PONANT.

PONANT had already invested some years earlier in high-level on-board hospital facilities for its fleet of ships, including a cutting-edge medical infrastructure (radiology, biology and even life-support equipment). An expert medical team consisting of at least one doctor and nurse are present aboard ship and available around the clock.

The cruise line has been committed to responsible and sustainable tourism for over 30 years. Its fleet is the newest on the market and sails under the French flag. It is equipped with state-of-the-art technology to ensure passenger safety and care for the regions visited. On PONANT expedition cruises, every landing is subject to a rigorous protocol that mobilises a dedicated team to ensure a minimal impact on the sites visited.

THE BEST OF SPITSBERGEN

An exceptional voyage awaits you as you discover the Far North and the vastness of the Arctic polar region and its sea ice that extends all the way to the North Pole. With this cruise to the heart of Spitsbergen, the largest island in the Svalbard archipelago, discovery and the unexpected are combined to offer adventurers moments frozen in time, polar daydreams, and spontaneous spectacles. Among these, the surprises held in store by the exceptional fauna and flora, capable of adapting to extreme conditions with temperatures dropping to around -30 °C (-22 F) in winter, are matched only by the magnificence of the surrounding landscapes. Walrus bask near the impressive 14th of July Glacier, arctic terns dance gracefully across the sky, polar bears, the lords of the Arctic, pad across the immaculate decors with surprising agility. Well beyond the Arctic Circle, as you sail to 80° latitude north, these panoramas shift, transcending the strongest emotions and giving the unique impression of having reached the end of the world.



From Longyearbyen to Longyearbyen - Aboard *Le Boréal*

2 departure dates, from 18 July 2020 to 25 July 2020 and from 25 July 2020 to 1 August 2020. Prices start from €8,070

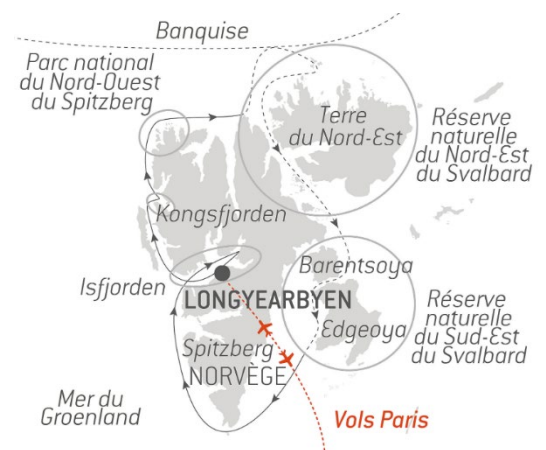
[For more information about this cruise, click here](#)

The itineraries may be altered based on port approvals and to comply with applicable government regulations

UNEXPLORED SVALBARD

INÉDIT

A Norwegian archipelago in the middle of the Arctic vastness, beyond the Arctic Circle, the Svalbard Islands open the doors to the Far North to discover a dense history, breathtaking landscapes, and an exceptional flora and fauna capable of adapting to extreme conditions with temperatures dropping to around -30 °C in winter (-22 F). Sailing to the magnificent Kongsfjorden glaciers and then the Nordvest-Spitsbergen National Park takes guests along the whale hunting routes of old. Today, many sailors are buried at the sites where the whalers had once set up their stations, and several species of cetaceans now thrive in the area. To the east of the archipelago, between the coast of the Nordaust-Svalbard Nature Reserve and Hinlopen Strait, lies a polar desert. Basalt islets and majestic glaciers provide a refuge for a rich ecosystem: colonies of seabirds, walrus, bears and arctic foxes come here to feed. These emblematic species can also be found near the islands of Barentsoya and Edgeoya (also known as Barents Island and Edge Island respectively), in the Sørøst-Svalbard Nature Reserve, the second largest protected zone in Norway.



From Longyearbyen to Longyearbyen - Aboard *Le Boréal*

2 departure dates, from 30 July 2020 to 10 August 2020 and from 6 August 2020 to 17 August 2020. Prices start from €6,820

[For more information about this cruise, click here](#)

The cruise line is also offering a brand new, exceptional 13-night cruise, *Svalbard: on the edge of the Arctic lands*, from 13 to 30 August aboard *Le Boréal*, for an even more intense experience discovering the Norwegian archipelago. Prices start from €9,640

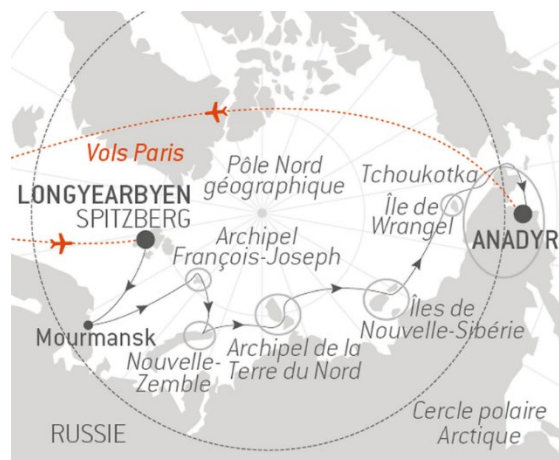
[For more information about this cruise, click here](#)

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THE NORTHEAST PASSAGE

INÉDIT

This is a pure expedition voyage along a mythical shipping route that is covered in ice for much of the year, between Norway and the Russian Far East. Sailing along the Northeast Passage is a chance to experience an extraordinary adventure in the wake of Roald Amundsen, one of the greatest polar explorers. From the very start of the cruise the ship sails from one natural sanctuary to another, starting with Franz Josef Land and Novaya Zemlya, gateways to the Russian Arctic National Park; the vast polar desert of Severnaya Zemlya; the New Siberian Islands and their exceptional biodiversity; Wrangel Island and its unique ecosystem which provides something of a record of the Earth's last ice age. As guests on the ship cross the Bering Strait separating Eastern Siberia from Alaska, they get a true sense of what travel was like for early man and enter into a mystical world. Discovering Chukotka, one of the most remote regions on the planet, will be an opportunity to visit some villages, meet their inhabitants and share in some moments of their daily life.



From Longyearbyen to Anadyr - Aboard *Le Boréal*

1 departure date, from 26 August 2020 to 19 September 2020. Prices start from €22,410.

[For more information about this cruise, click here](#)

The itineraries may be altered based on port approvals and to comply with applicable government regulations

THE RUSSIAN ARCTIC, FROM KAMCHATKA TO THE KURIL ISLANDS

INÉDIT

This region stretches out over more than 720,000 km² (278,000 sq mi), making it vaster than any country in Europe. It is also one of the most remote on the planet and one of the least dense. In the Russian Far East, on the auroral circle where dance the Northern Lights, the flamboyant tundra landscapes of Chukotka are home to 50,000 inhabitants. Visiting certain villages is an opportunity to share in some real moments in the daily lives of these Siberian peoples that were once nomadic but have now settled in one place. Present on these lands for millennia, the Chukchi are one of the oldest communities in Eastern Siberia. Along the Kamchatka Peninsula, the spectacular volcanic landscapes are home to Kamchatka brown bears, but also to many species of seabirds and marine mammals such as Steller's sea eagles, Steller sea lions, orcas, fur seals and whales... They will be exceptional travel companions before sailing on to the Kuril Islands, in the Sea of Okhotsk, not far from the emerged portion of the Pacific Ring of Fire. Here, every island is a volcano. The striking volcanic landscapes, such as the Yankicha caldera, succeed one another until Tokyo, the bustling capital of Japan, revealing wild and unspoiled natural environments.



From Anadyr to Tokyo – Aboard *Le Boréal*

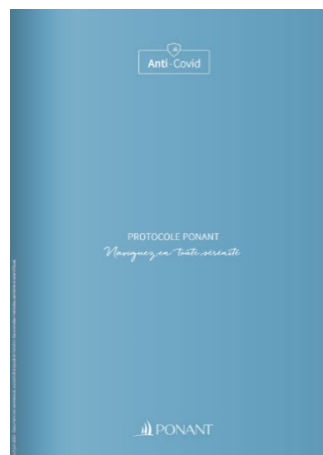
1 departure date, from 19 September 2020 to 5 October 2020. Prices start from €9,240

[For more information about this cruise, click here](#)

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

*This document may be adjusted to take into account scientific, medical and health 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 Marseilles, 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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