

Where the Sea reveals the Land





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.

In 2019, going further in its commitments for a sustainable tourism, PONANT has created a Foundation whose goal is to preserve the oceans and the polar regions and to encourage exchanges between peoples.

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PONANT's philosophy

For over 30 years, PONANT has been sharing with guests the emotions sailors experience as they approach lands on the edge of the world, inviting them to discover and respect all the natural and cultural treasures they harbour.

As the only French owner of cruise ships, PONANT offers a new style of sea travel, with small capacity ships in an intimate, elegant and always welcoming atmosphere.

Committed by nature

PONANT was founded by sailors more than 30 years ago. Their wish was to share their passion and respect for the oceans; their discoveries venturing to the ends of the earth; and their encounters with indigenous people from far-off lands.

With a pioneering spirit

As a pioneer, PONANT continues to innovate the design of their ships, and open new sea routes to unexplored destinations.

Voyage as an experience that opens up to the world

Aboard its ships, where exceptional service and comfort are a way of life, guests discover the treasures of the world by sea, and in exploring these riches learn to respect them.



Expeditions

Polar, tropical or subtropical expeditions:
from the Antarctic to Papua, PONANT
takes its guests as close as possible to
pristine nature and ancestral cultures, far
from the crowded maritime routes.



An exceptional partnership

PONANT and NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC have formed a unique partnership to offer new expedition cruises accompanied by fascinating experts. On board these cruises, a team of experts composed of PONANT naturalists, as well as a NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC expert (writer, archaeologist, anthropologist...) and a photographer, accompany the passengers and pass on their passion.

Away from civilisation

Whether in the Polar Regions or the heart of the Malay Archipelago, the size of its vessels and their shallow draught enable the vessels to get as close as possible to normally hard-to-reach areas.

Zodiac® shore visits and outings

From the villages of Papua to the magic of the glaciers, from landing on a deserted beach in the South Pacific to observing seals on the ice pack: Zodiac® landings enable guests to get as close as possible with nature and gain access to remote, seldom visited destinations.

Polar Expedition voyages

PONANT has been an expert for over 20 years in polar destinations. At the South Pole, guests will discover the icy vastness of Antarctica and the fauna of the White Continent: humpback whales, seals, penguins. While at the North Pole, fjords, glaciers, icebergs with changing colours and varied fauna: polar bears, Arctic foxes, walruses, orcas, whales await. There are also privileged moments of interaction with Inuit people.

Tropical Expedition voyages

Sailing to remote and seldom visited destinations allows travelers to discover the ancient customs of many tribes and ethnic groups that continue their rituals. This is, for example, the case in Oceania, where the Papuan, Polynesian or Māori people welcome passengers for moments of sharing, made possible thanks to the bonds of trust woven over the course of the cruises by the PONANT crews.



Expedition leaders, naturalists, and enthusiastic experts organise safe disembarkation, shore excursions and cultural, scientific or historical conferences on board. Here are the portraits of some of our team members.



Nicolas Dubreuil – Polar & Tropical Expedition Expert

Nicolas, the organiser of many expeditions in all of the circumpolar countries, is a pole specialist who is passionate about the indigenous peoples and has undertaken numerous polar expeditions in Antarctica and in the Arctic, including the crossing of the ice cap in Greenland and Prince William Sound in Alaska. This renowned specialist has been accompanying and guiding our polar expeditions since 2005.



Mick Fogg – Tropical Expedition Expert

As an award-winning wildlife photographer and adventurer, Mick has spent 17 years scouting and developing new itineraries, leading expeditions and photographing some of the world's most remote and spectacular destinations from Antarctica to South East Asia. Mick joined PONANT in 2014 to guide expedition cruises in the Asia Pacific region.



Florence Kuyper – Expedition Leader

Born in the Netherlands, Florence discovered Antarctica in 2004 and now returns annually. When she is not on PONANT's ships, she works on sailing boats that navigate between the Arctic and Antarctic. In the Deep South, her most memorable experience was in Port Lockroy, a historic British base on the Antarctic Peninsula, where she was Base Chief for the 2012 - 2013 season. Beyond her passion for the polar regions, Florence loves to share her love for history, but also for penguins.



Raphaël Sané – Expedition Leader

Raphaël has been passionate about nature since his early childhood. At the age of 15, he became involved in environmental protection associations, to whom he owes his naturalist knowledge. At the same time, he obtained a Master of Advanced Studies in Hydrobiology. He is interested in all aspects of life, but his main focus is vertebrate fauna (birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians). He took part in his first scientific expedition in 1997 (faunistic inventory of the Lena delta, Arctic Siberia). Others followed, in polar (Greenland, Canada, Svalbard), steppe (Kazakhstan), semi-arid (Morocco) and tropical (Peru) environments. Raphaël has been working as a guide, lecturer or expedition leader in the polar (Arctic, Antarctic) and tropical (Amazon, Orinoco) regions since 2000.



Elsa Freschet – Naturalist

With a Master's degree in Ecological Engineering, discovering the environment is a constant source of wonder for Elsa. During her university education, she joined various environmental associations, places of exchange and encounters that confirmed her passion for the living world. In her professional career, she has chosen to give priority to field missions. As a marine biologist, she has worked in sunny latitudes (Galapagos, New Caledonia, Montpellier) and cooler ones (Iceland, Antarctica). Her first experience on the white continent took her to the mythical French base Dumont-D'Urville.



Valentin Nivet-Mazerolles – Naturalist

Since 2008, Valentin has been involved in various wildlife conservation projects around the world. These have often led him to the semi-arid steppes of Central Asia for 10 years. Valentin has been a warden in the Haute Chaîne du Jura Nature Reserve (France) to study Capercaillie and Lynx borealis. He wintered for 15 months on the Crozet Archipelago (French Southern & Antarctic Territories) as an ornithologist-ecologist sent by the French National Centre for Scientific Research and the French Polar Institute. Valentin is also a photographer, author of naturalist books and articles. He has found a balance in his wild life, between field and sharing as an expedition guide since 2016.



Yachting Voyages

A PONANT cruise is a constantly renewed spectacle of unknown coastlines and natural sites. It is also the pleasure of cultural discoveries, ashore and onboard.

PONANT revisits the Art of sea travel

Refinement, curiosity, authenticity. Thanks to its unique travel philosophy, PONANT reinterprets cruising and invites its guests to discover or rediscover iconic destinations.

PONANT has always sought to combine passion for travel with passion for learning.

Five-star Culture and Relaxation cruises offer a new way to travel, by combining cultural enrichment with time to unwind in a luxury setting and sites that only insiders know about.

Exceptional guests

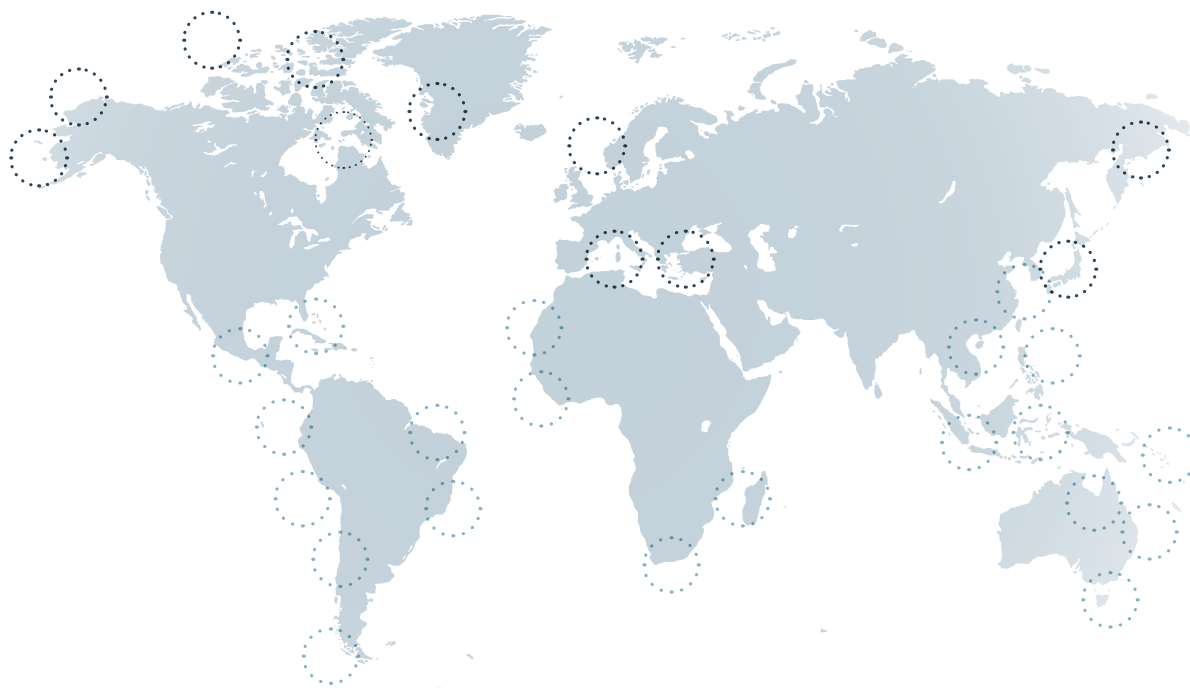
Every year, PONANT welcomes nearly 50 exceptional personalities. Artists, scientists, writers and lecturers join sailings to share their expertise and passion during encounters and lectures.

Themed cruises

Each year, PONANT comes together with experts in the fields of art, literature, gastronomy and music to host themed cruises.



The destinations



Summer

Far North Arctic

Greenland, Northwest Passage, geographic North Pole, Alaska, Iceland, Norway (fjords and Spitsbergen), Russian Arctic

Northern America

Canada, United States

Asia & Oceania

Australia, New Zealand, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, Philippines, Malaysia, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, New Caledonia, Fiji, Wallis and Futuna, Samoa, French Polynesia, Easter Island, Hawaii, Kimberley, etc.

Northern Europe & the Baltic

Ireland, England, Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Estonia, Russia, Scotland, etc.

Mediterranean

Spain, Balearic Islands, Portugal, France, Corsica, Greece, Sardinia, Italy, Sicily, Malta, Croatia, Montenegro, Turkey, etc.

Africa

Cape Verde, Egypt, Canary Islands, Morocco

Winter

Antarctica

Antarctic Peninsula, South Georgia, Falkland Islands, etc.

Latin America & Caribbean

Mexico, Guatemala, Costa Rica, Panama, Dominican Republic, Cuba, French West Indies (Saint-Martin, Martinique, Guadeloupe), Grenada, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saint Lucia, French Guiana, Venezuela, Nicaragua, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Chile, Brazil, Argentina, etc.

Asia & Oceania

Australia, New Zealand, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, Philippines, Malaysia, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, French Polynesia, Hawaii, Emirates, India, Sri Lanka, Maldives, Vietnam, China, etc.

Africa

Cape Verde, Bijagos Islands, South Africa, Scattered Islands, Madagascar, Seychelles, etc.

Northern America

United States



Gastronomy

A trip to the land of flavours! Every day, the delights of a refined table and high-end gastronomic cuisine prepared by talented chefs are offered.



"I love working with fresh produce. To complement what we already have on board I never hesitate to go ashore and scour the markets when we are in port. In Nunavut (Canada), I get my sea trout directly from the local fisherman." explains Philippe TREMEL, PONANT's Corporate Chef

The French "art de la table" (the art of eating)

Fresh products and carefully selected ingredients, mature cheeses, fine and grand cru wines.

Our chefs and their galley team interpret and share with our guests their passion for French culinary heritage, enriched by products and traditions from the countries visited.

The advice and expertise of Ducasse Conseil

In January 2016, PONANT announced a collaboration with Ducasse Conseil, a catering centre of excellence run by Alain Ducasse Enterprise. From the conception of the culinary offerings to the training of PONANT's chefs, this long-term project aims to ensure that our culinary standards are as high as possible.

Gastronomic restaurant and grill restaurant

Two different dining concepts are offered on board:

In the gastro restaurant, à la carte meals are served at the table. At lunch, a selection of dishes inspired by contemporary French brasseries are offered. At dinner, it is time to sample the grand traditions of French fine dining.

The atmosphere is more casual at the grill restaurant with its set buffet menu. From breakfast to dinner, there is a range of healthy, gourmet, hearty and sophisticated buffet options to satisfy all tastes.

Special menus are available on request for guests with specific dietary requirements (low-fat, vegetarian, gluten-free, etc.).

Note: Open Bar is included on all cruises.



Wellness

As a cruise provides the ideal setting to take care of yourself, PONANT has imagined spaces of intimate beauty and well-being aboard its ships. Expert treatments are offered with the ocean as a backdrop.

For moments of serenity at the spa or by the pool, our ships have a variety of well-designed areas to offer moments of relaxation and enhance the journey.

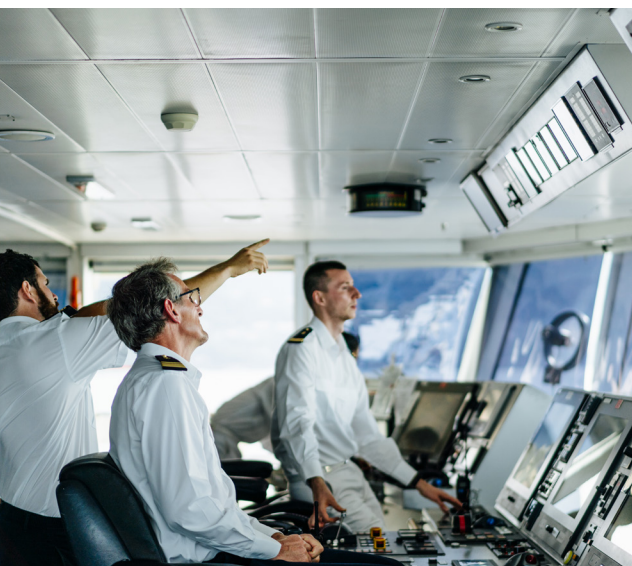
The spa

On our ships (with the exception of *Le Ponant*), the spa offers:

- Moments of pure relaxation in association with the French beauty houses SOTHYS™ Paris and CLARINS (onboard *Le Bellot* and *Le Jacques-Cartier* only)
- A series of treatments performed by experienced beauticians
- Hammam (onboard the Sisterships) and balneo (onboard *Le Boréal* and *L'Austral*)
- Sauna (onboard the PONANT EXPLORERS)
- Hair salon, by KÉRASTASE® and L'ORÉAL PROFESSIONNEL®
- Fitness room with plate-glass windows with views to the horizon and the latest Technogym® and Kinesis Wall® machines.

The pool

The outdoor areas on our ships, comfortable and conducive to relaxation, have been designed to submerge into the sublime scenery and surroundings of the sea and horizon. There is a heated seawater pool featuring its own sun lounge on the top deck of our Sisterships, and on the third deck of the PONANT EXPLORERS.



A CLEANSHIP fleet

Composed of 12 vessels, the PONANT fleet is one of the most modern and recent in the world, fully CLEANSHIP certified by Bureau Veritas, attesting to a reduced environmental impact.



From the start in 1988, PONANT's founders stood out for their innovative approach with a new French flag. An exceptional sailing yacht was born followed by four small capacity ships with character, *Le Boréal*, *L'Austral*, *Le Soléal* and *Le Lyréal*, and later by a new series of six sistership yachts, the PONANT EXPLORERS. Following the acquisition of Paul Gauguin Cruises, the *m/s Paul Gauguin* joined the fleet in 2019. 2021 will see the arrival of the first high polar exploration vessel, *Le Commandant Charcot*.

The PONANT EXPLORERS

Le Lapérouse, *Le Champlain*, *Le Bougainville*, *Le Dumont-d'Urville*, *Le Bellot* and *Le Jacques-Cartier*

A new generation of ships flying under the French flag, fitted with the latest technologies, the PONANT EXPLORERS comply with the most recent environmental regulations and have been awarded the "CLEANSHIP" label. The ships offer 92 staterooms, including four suites; all cabins include a private balcony. With limited capacity, the PONANT EXPLORERS are designed for landing in the most inaccessible locations, where others do not go.

The four Sisterships

Le Boréal, *L'Austral*, *Le Soléal* and *Le Lyréal*

These four sisterships, elegant yachts with 122 to 132 cabins and suites, perpetuate PONANT's philosophy: limited capacity, unique atmosphere, a subtle combination of luxury, privacy and well-being.



Le Commandant Charcot

Hybrid electric polar exploration vessel powered by Liquefied Natural Gas, *Le Commandant Charcot* is a pioneer in terms of environmental protection. With her 135 staterooms and luxury service, this innovative polar vessel will take passengers to rarely explored polar destinations, such as the geographic North Pole (90 degrees North Latitude), and places where fewer people have been than the moon, such as the Weddell Sea, the Ross Sea and Peter I Island.



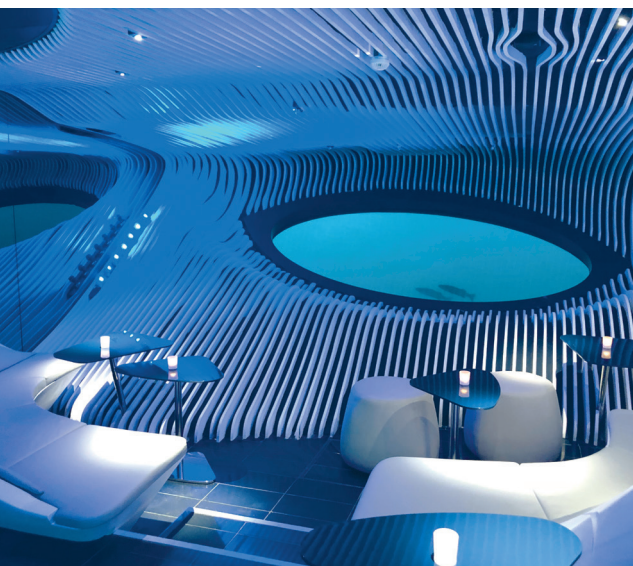
The m/s Paul Gauguin

The *m/s Paul Gauguin*, a 166-stateroom vessel, was specially designed for sailing in Polynesian waters. Her draft allows her to get as close as possible to shallow lagoons and isolated islands.



Le Ponant

Le Ponant, a latest-generation sailing yacht, has been completely redesigned and will incorporate new luxury features (jacuzzi, gym, hair salon). This uniquely designed three-masted yacht will be able to sail only and be connected to the electricity network in certain ports to limit her ecological impact.



The PONANT EXPLORERS

PONANT expanded its luxury expedition cruise concept with the PONANT EXPLORERS series: *Le Lapérouse*, *Le Champlain*, *Le Bougainville*, *Le Dumont-d'Urville*, *Le Bellot* and *Le Jacques-Cartier*

A different kind of expedition

Fitted with innovative equipment, elegantly designed cabins, spacious suites with windows, and lounge areas opening onto the outside, these six new limited-capacity yachts (only 88 staterooms, each with a private balcony, four suites, each with a plate glass window and private terrace) provide a unique cruising experience thanks to their design and their small size. The PONANT EXPLORERS have a modular marina, allowing a swimming access directly from the ship, as well as a submerged mini-port facilitating numerous nautical activities (kayak, paddle, etc.).

Blue Eye, the first multi-sensory underwater lounge worldwide

The six yachts are fitted with a world exclusive multi-sensory underwater lounge, called Blue Eye. Located within the hull beneath the water line, it allows passengers to see, hear and feel the underwater world. This exclusive concept, a veritable technological achievement, has been designed in collaboration with the architect Jacques Rougerie.

Amenities

Individually controlled air-conditioning • Double bed or two single beds, communicating rooms available (for families with children) • Minibar • Kettle and Nespresso coffee machine • Flat-screen, TV channels via satellite • On-demand video • Bose™ Bluetooth speaker system • Desk with writing pad • Electronic safe • Selection of HERMÈS bath products • Dressing table and hairdryer • Direct phone line via satellite • 110/220 volt outlets • Room Service 24/7 • Butler service • Complimentary unlimited Wi-Fi internet access • Outdoor hot tub in Owner's Suite



Le Boréal, L'Austral, Le Soléal and Le Lyrial

The four sisterships embody PONANT's unique atmosphere, a subtle combination of luxury, intimacy and well-being which is the company's hallmark.

Exceptional design

These limited-capacity sisterships, perfectly adapted to extreme destinations, are designed to allow all guests to make the most of the breathtaking ocean and shore views.

On board, selection of fine materials in discreet and soothing shades of taupe, grey, white, and natural wood gives these ships a unique style that is both contemporary and inviting.

Small is beautiful

Limited capacity, secluded destinations: PONANT has chosen to remain true to its philosophy by developing an ultra-modern but always moderately-sized fleet. Thus *Le Boréal*, *L' Austral*, *Le Soléal* boast only 132 staterooms and suites, and 122 for *Le Lyrial*. The perfect blend of luxury and cutting-edge technology.

Commitment for the environment

PONANT chose to equip its sisterships with ecologically sensitive equipment. As a result, they have all been awarded the CLEANSHIP label by Bureau Veritas.

Amenities

132 staterooms and suites on *Le Boréal*, *L'Austral* and *Le Soléal* (124 with balcony), 122 on *Le Lyrial* (114 with balcony) • Individually controlled air-conditioning • Double bed or two single beds, communicating rooms available (for families with children) • Minibar • Flat screen, TV channels via satellite • Bose™ Bluetooth speaker system • Desk with writing pad • Electronic safe • Selection of HERMÈS bath products • Dressing table and hairdryer • Direct phone line via satellite • 110/220 volt outlets • Room Service 24/7 • Complimentary unlimited Wi-Fi internet access



Le Commandant Charcot

Latest addition to the PONANT fleet and first high polar exploration vessel, *Le Commandant Charcot* takes her passengers in the footsteps of the great polar explorers.

First high polar exploration vessel running on LNG

Le Commandant Charcot has been designed to minimise the environmental impact of travel in the furthest latitudes. Propelled by electricity and engines running on Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG), this vessel is fitted with the latest environmental protection technology, thus limiting her fine particle emissions. This major innovation is a mark of PONANT's commitment to sustainable and responsible tourism. It will also host a scientific research laboratory equipped to study the ecosystems and biodiversity of this polar setting in perpetual change.

Brand-new itineraries, inaccessible up until now

PONANT polar cruises are taking a new direction with *Le Commandant Charcot*, the first PC2-class luxury polar cruise ship capable of sailing into the very heart of the ice. Thanks to this remarkable new ship, mythical destinations like the Geographic North Pole or the Bellingshausen Sea are now available to PONANT guests who will reach the ultimate level of adventure.

Exceptional design, comfort and refinement

For the design of *Le Commandant Charcot*, PONANT commissioned two internationally renowned architecture agencies, the studio of Jean-Philippe Nuel and Wilmotte & Associés. The atmosphere of the ship is designed to be in harmony with the environment. Equipped with just 135 staterooms including 31 suites with balconies. Outstanding gastronomy, relaxation in the indoor pool surrounded by its winter garden, or in the heated outdoor Blue Lagoon with a stunning view of the ice floe.



The m/s *Paul Gauguin*

Built in 1998, *The Gauguin* was specially designed to explore the South Pacific: Tahiti, Moorea, Bora Bora, the Marquesas Islands in Polynesia, Rarotonga, Aitutaki in the Cook Islands, Suva in Fiji, Vava'u in Tonga...

Polynesia and South Pacific expert

The *m/s Paul Gauguin* is an elegant luxury vessel, specially designed for navigation in Polynesian waters. Her shallow draft allows her to get in close to shallow lagoons and isolated islands. With her limited capacity, *The Gauguin* has 166 staterooms and suites, all with lagoon views. Quality materials such as precious woods, antique engravings and tiki details pay homage to Polynesian culture. All-inclusive offer, attentive staff, outstanding service, refined gastronomy and a warm atmosphere contribute to make the cruises unforgettable.

Amenities

166 staterooms and suites (70% with private balconies) • 160 cm queen-size bed or two single beds • Minibar • Individually controlled air-conditioning • Flat-screen TV, CD/DVD player • Phone • Safe • Marble bathrooms with bathtub (except seven cabins with shower only) • Selection of ALGOTHERM bath products and hairdryer • 110/220 volt outlets • Room Service 24/7 • Butler service for Category B cabins and above • Complimentary unlimited Wi-Fi internet access

Paul Gauguin
CRUISES



Sailors committed by nature

A pioneer from the beginning, PONANT has never ceased to innovate in the design of its ships, opening up new sea routes and new destinations, reinventing responsible sea travel and placing the environment, safety and security at the heart of its heritage.



NABU, Europe's leading environmental NGO, has ranked PONANT at the top of its 2020 ranking of the most environmentally-friendly cruise lines.

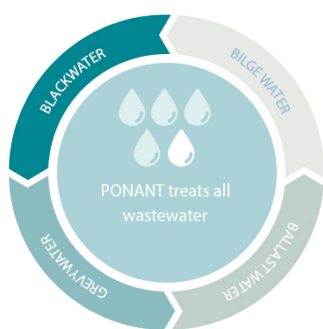
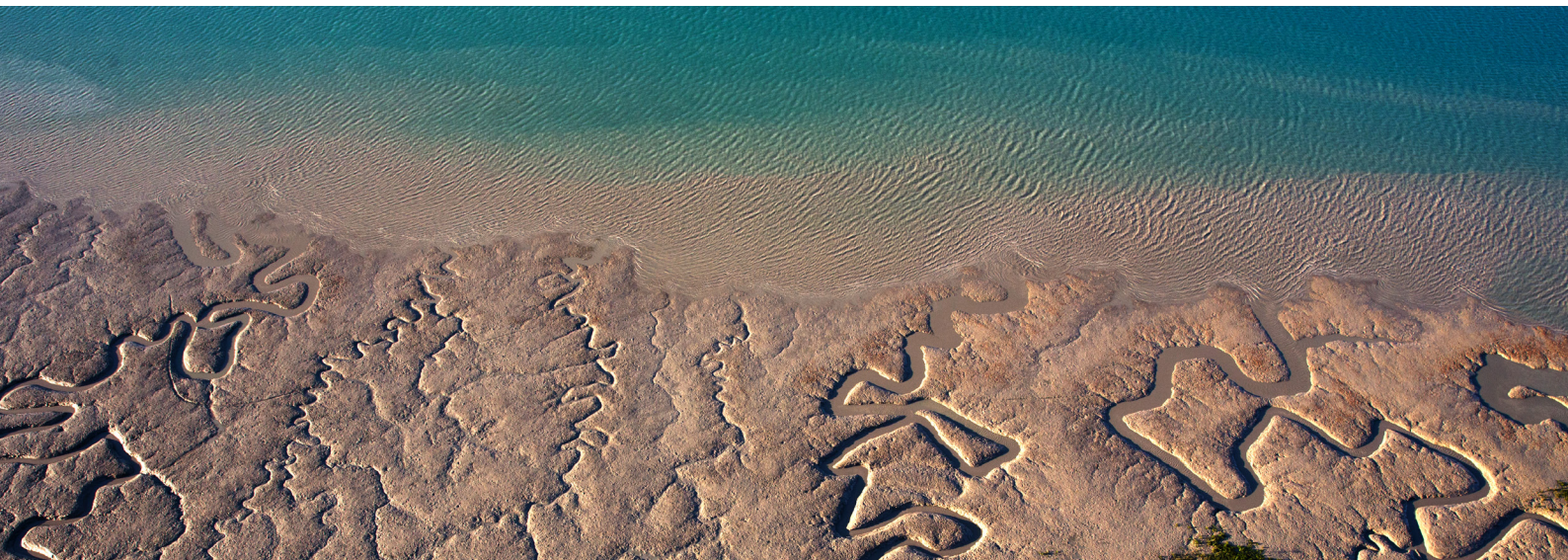
The PONANT fleet at the heart of its commitment

PONANT has invested over €1 billion in building a modern fleet, with the goal of achieving the sector's highest standards. The more technologically advanced the equipment, the less it pollutes. Today, the company has the newest fleet in the industry, with 12 ships. In addition, their smaller capacity (160 staterooms at most) limits propulsive power and reduces the quantity of fuel and emissions. 100% of the fleet has the Bureau Veritas CLEANSHIP label. Fitted with electric propulsion engines powered by generators, all the ships have obtained Comfort Class 1, which means they produce the lowest levels of noise and vibration for the greatest comfort of guests, but also for the respect of marine wildlife.

Continuing to lower emissions and carbon offsetting fixed at 150%

PONANT has made a significant effort to reduce its emissions through fuel consumption:

- Limiting the average speed of ships to 10 knots
- Fitting ships with electrical connections to connect them to the local mains supply when docked where possible
- Developing hybrid capability in ships: fitting batteries to be able to switch off the generators when docked, moored or near inhabited areas



100% of waste is separated and sorted on board.



On-board recycling: PONANT having achieved 60% recycling of waste in 2019 and is aiming at 85% in 2023.



Over 50,000 ships sail the world's seas today, generating at most 2% to 3% of global CO₂ emissions.

Cruise ships represent only 500 vessels, 10 of which are operated by PONANT.



Lowering sulphur oxide emissions (SOx)

PONANT took the decision to completely eliminate the use of heavy fuel oil as of January 1, 2019. PONANT is the first cruise company to have taken this direction, regardless of the ship or destination. By using a much cleaner fuel (LS MGO - Low Sulphur Marine Gas Oil), PONANT now has an average sulphur oxide rate of 0.05%. This is 10 times lower than the current maritime standards. In addition, PONANT supports international bodies, like for example the Rome Declaration, which are campaigning to extend the Sulphur Emission Control Areas (SECAs) to all the oceans.

Reducing nitrogen oxide emissions (NOx)

By activating their catalytic converter 24 hours a day in all geographic areas, the ships in the PONANT EXPLORERS series have reduced their nitrogen oxide emission rate by four; the only one to adopt this measure in the world making it a reference for the industry.

Offsetting carbon emissions (CO₂)

The entire PONANT fleet emits less than 0.0001% of maritime CO₂ emissions. Even in this context the subject is no less essential for the company. In agreement with its shareholder, PONANT has taken a decision that is unique in the cruise market: to offset 150% of its carbon emissions. Since September 15, 2019, PONANT has been investing in Verified Carbon Standard certified projects for reforestation in Amazonia and the production of renewable energies in India.



The PONANT Foundation

A Foundation to preserve the oceans,
protect the poles and bring
peoples together.

The Foundation chose to provide support to a number of projects focused on research, awareness-raising or conservation, thus widening the scope of the company's environmental and societal actions.

Preserving biodiversity in Antarctica

The PONANT Foundation and Conservation International have joined forces to work on several projects, the first of which concerns the preservation of humpback whales in Antarctica. The main objective is to determine the song structure and acoustic feeding behaviour of humpback whales on Antarctic feeding grounds, and to determine connectivity with geographical breeding areas using acoustic survey methods. Guests are also invited to take part in this project through a citizen science initiative in which they aid the research team in conducting surveys and visual counts of the whales.

Beach cleaning in the Indian Ocean

The Aldabra Clean-Up Project was launched in May 2018 at the Royal Society of London and at the State House in the Seychelles.

The project, supported by the PONANT Foundation, is a collaboration between Queen's College, Oxford and the Seychelles Islands Foundation. It brings together Oxford graduates and volunteers from the Seychelles committed to an ambitious project: to clean up the Aldabra Atoll in the Indian Ocean, which is seriously affected by the pollution caused by plastic waste. This atoll, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is the second-largest coral atoll in the world.



The operation successfully took place between February and April 2019. In addition to the clean-up, this project aims to promote positive measures to reduce the use of plastics and to use information campaigns and the media to raise awareness of the plastic pollution problem among Seychellois and global communities. Scientific research will enhance our understanding of the threats that plastic poses to these precious insular ecosystems

The fight against “plastic” pollution

The world’s population is increasingly gathered along the coasts and is facing the largest accumulation of plastic waste of all time. For more than 50 years, global production and consumption of plastic have continued to increase. Plastic waste represents a significant economic and environmental loss.

Plastic Odyssey is an association committed to fighting against the pollution of the oceans by plastic waste. More specifically, Plastic Odyssey is engaged in a global awareness raising effort, the goal of which is to warn of the impact of plastic pollution, reduce this pollution, propagate know-how in terms of the reduction, collection and processing of plastic waste, present technologies that recover this waste and, finally, increase public awareness about the issues of plastic pollution. According to its estimate, 300 million tons of plastic are produced annually; nine million tons of this end up in the sea. A deposit estimated at €100 billion. The project will raise awareness in the general public while equipping them to deal with the problems of plastic pollution. To develop and test these solutions, namely educational waste treatment machines and waste-free plastic alternatives, Plastic Odyssey will create a site in France and, at the same time, undertake awareness raising and training activities adapted to local contexts in the areas most polluted by plastic.



Safety

Ashore as at sea, PONANT applies strict safety regulations that are subject to regular international controls.

French flag

At the head of the global rankings of the Paris MoU (Memorandum of Understanding), the French flag is considered to be one of the safest in the world. The entire PONANT fleet is also classified by Bureau Veritas and operated in accordance with the US Coast Guards standards.

Polar regions specialist

The PONANT fleet is monitored in real time, even in the polar regions. The Captain is assisted by an officer specialised in sailing in icy waters and the crew is trained in the behaviour required for navigation in polar waters. With their reinforced hulls and structure certified by Bureau Veritas, the vessels obtained the “Ice 1C” classification, authorising them to sail in the polar regions. The safety equipment aboard allows the ships to withstand extreme conditions while waiting for help to arrive in case of a problem.

Officers training

In 2018, PONANT and CMA CGM, a world leader in transport and logistics, have joined forces to acquire a latest-generation navigation simulator for the training of their crews. Unique in France, it has the particularity of being the only navigation simulator for navigating officers in polar waters to offer training compliant with regulation.

Located at the Ecole Nationale Supérieure Maritime (ENSM), on its Marseille site, this tool is used to train young officers. It also enables all captains and senior officers to regularly practise manoeuvring in all weather conditions and all possible nautical situations.



Sailing with confidence

Faced with the Covid-19 pandemic, 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 Marseille, one of the world's leading centres in the field of infectious diseases.

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, 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).

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.

"The small size of our vessels, the infrastructure and medical teams on board, as well as our protocols and the professionalism of our crews, allow our passengers to travel in the best possible safety conditions"

explains Frédéric Gallois, PONANT Chief Maritime Operating Officer.

A history
like no other



1988	COMPAGNIE DES ÎLES DU PONANT launches in Nantes on April 1st, founded by Jean Emmanuel Sauvé, current CEO and Co-Founder, and a dozen young officers recently graduated from the Merchant Navy academy. To make their dream a reality, they devise an innovative solution for operating ships under the French flag, and a ground-breaking means of funding when they launch a public offering in 1989 to build their first ship.
1991	Committed from the beginning to responsible tourism, the company's first vessel is a three-mast sailing yacht with 32 staterooms: <i>Le Ponant</i> is built at the Villeneuve-La-Garenne shipyard in France.
2004	The company joins CMA CGM and moves to Marseille. It becomes COMPAGNIE DU PONANT. In 2007, at the instigation of this Group, heir to Compagnie des Messageries Maritimes and Compagnie Générale Transatlantique, it takes a pivotal step towards its future development: to design "the ideal cruise ship", a yacht with only 132 staterooms, equipped with all the latest technology. The result is <i>Le Boréal</i> , built by the Italian Fincantieri shipyard and launched in 2010, followed by <i>L'Austral</i> in 2011. The company's unwavering commitment, to designing and operating ships which respect the environment, is recognised internationally when it obtains the CLEANSHIP label for both of these vessels.
2012	The acquisition of COMPAGNIE DU PONANT from the CMA CGM Group, by investment firm BRIDGEPOINT, provides the means to continue its growth and take the company onto the next development stage into international markets. In 2013, a third sistership <i>Le Soléal</i> is launched. In keeping with the company's pioneering spirit, it becomes the first French commercial ship to complete the Northwest Passage from Greenland to Siberia, with 200 guests on board, in September 2013.
2014	COMPAGNIE DU PONANT becomes PONANT, a decision which accompanies and supports its expansion, particularly abroad.
2015	Launch of <i>Le Lyréal</i> in the spring of 2015 marks the last of this series of four sisterships, unique in the cruise sector due to their size and innovative design. In July, the acquisition of PONANT by ARTEMIS, holding company of the Pinault family, enables PONANT to continue its development. This is achieved while honouring its environmental commitments in the same spirit of innovation and excellence, all values shared by its shareholder.
2016	PONANT announces its order for the PONANT EXPLORERS series: four yachts with 92 staterooms and suites designed for expeditions, including the first multi-sensory underwater lounge, the Blue Eye. <i>Le Lapérouse</i> and <i>Le Champlain</i> will start sailing in summer 2018. <i>Le Bougainville</i> and <i>Le Dumont-d'Urville</i> will undertake their maiden voyages in 2019.
2017	PONANT reaffirms its reputation as a pioneer in the sustainable tourism field when it launches construction of the first high polar exploration ship, an electric-liquefied natural gas hybrid. <i>Le Commandant Charcot</i> is designed to reach the geographical North Pole and will also serve as logistical support for oceanic research and marine conservation. Scientists will be invited on board where there will be a research laboratory at their disposal, so they can make the most of their journeys on remote shipping routes. This exceptional vessel is due to be delivered in 2021.
2018	PONANT announces an order for two more ships in the PONANT EXPLORERS series. <i>Le Bellot</i> and <i>Le Jacques-Cartier</i> will be delivered in 2020. PONANT continues its commitment to sustainable tourism and creates the PONANT Foundation focused on preserving the oceans, protecting the poles and developing contacts with indigenous people.
2019	PONANT acquires Paul Gauguin Cruises, which has specialised in the South Pacific for nearly 20 years, to offer a wider range of itineraries and destinations for new memorable authentic travel experiences.



Key figures and awards

KEY FIGURES

7 explored continents
350 cruises in 2019
12 ships in 2021
60,000 passengers in 2019
9 offices: Marseille (Head Office), Paris, Brussels, Hamburg, Sydney, New York, Seattle, Shanghai, Mata Utu

AWARDS AND HONOURS

Palmes du Tourisme Durable
Travel category (2020)

Berlitz Cruising Guide
"Top 10 boutique ship" (2020)

Victoires du Tourisme
Best cruise company (2015, 2016, 2017, 2019)

Cruise Passenger Reader's Choice
Best Adventure Cruise line in Australia (2019)

Cruise Critic USA Editor's Pick
Best for Adventure in the United States (2019)

Deutscher Kreuzfahrtpreis 2018 (German Cruise Award 2018)
N°1 Product Innovation (Blue Eye)

Magellan Awards – Travel Weekly
Gold Winner in "Small Ships" (2016, 2017), "Eco-Friendly 'Green' Ships" (2017), and "Itinerary" (2016) categories

Signature Luxury Travel & Style Cruise Awards (2017)
N°1 Luxury Expeditions, N°1 Tall Ships, N°3 Boutique Ships

Armateurs de France (French Shipowners' Association)
Blue Charter Trophy (2016)

