



## PONANT takes delivery of *Le Commandant Charcot*: first polar exploration ship



**This Thursday 29 July, PONANT took delivery of *Le Commandant Charcot*, the first hybrid electric polar exploration ship powered by Liquefied Natural Gas. A flag exchange ceremony took place at the VARD shipyard, a subsidiary of Fincantieri, in Norway.**

It took six years of hard work to bring this unique ship, 13<sup>th</sup> in the PONANT fleet, to this point. The French company partnered with a vast range of experts in their fields to design and build this exceptional vessel, including Stirling Design International, Aker Arctic and VARD.

*“Delivery of *Le Commandant Charcot* is both a culmination and the beginning of a new kind of odyssey for the company. The construction of this prototype ship demanded extremely high standards in terms of quality. I am proud of the work that our teams have accomplished. We are welcoming into our fleet a ship that will offer so much more than just a voyage of exploration, but rather a truly inspiring and fascinating discovery of a still little-known polar world,”* said Hervé Gastinel, CEO of PONANT.

### **A ground-breaking ship designed for polar exploration**

With only 123 staterooms, *Le Commandant Charcot* is the first hybrid electric polar exploration ship powered by LNG (Liquefied Natural Gas), a major innovation that strengthens the company’s commitment to sustainable tourism. A Polar Class PC2 ship, her design includes all the latest ‘green’ technologies, such as 100% waste sorted on board and waste treatment. A “Ship of Opportunity”, she will be fitted with facilities and equipment for research, providing the scientific world with a platform for observation, research and analysis to study water, air, ice and biodiversity in extreme polar regions.

For guests, a host of activities will be on offer including citizen science, lectures by experts, kayaking, hovercraft, hiking, ice fishing and more. With room to accommodate up to 245 guests, *Le Commandant Charcot* will be sailing in the world’s most remote regions: the Geographic North Pole, Northeast Greenland’s National Park, circumnavigation of the Svalbard archipelago, the Bellingshausen Sea, Charcot and Pierre I Islands, Weddell Sea and the Larsen Ice Shelf.

## ABOUT PONANT

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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 collaboration with the IHU (Institut Hospitalo-Universitaire) Méditerranée Infection of Marseilles, one of the world's leading centres in the field of infectious diseases, PONANT has developed a protocol with "anti-Covid" precautions based on health standards that exceed international regulations.

For more information, visit [www.ponant.com](http://www.ponant.com)

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