



Travel is an Art: New theme cruises collection for 2023/2024

Knowledge, commitment and emotions shared are why PONANT has always surrounded itself with internationally renowned personalities passionate about their subjects and has created immersive experiences to better understand and rediscover the world with fresh eyes. In keeping with its Explore to Inspire philosophy, PONANT voyages offer a wealth of meaningful encounters and sources of inspiration.

Voyages planned around four themed collections

For 2023, four main themes will enrich nearly a hundred sailings. They are:

- **Environmental protection.** Awaken to the world and the challenges of protecting the oceans and poles by going on a voyage with world-leading explorers, scientists and naturalists who support PONANT.
- **Cultural influence.** Relish in the thrill of discovering a new work of art, experience the soul of a relic, explore iconic museums and meet the artists.
- **Geopolitics.** Gain insight into every region visited with the experts, and discover their cultural, civilisation and geopolitical issues to give purpose to a voyage. Diplomats, journalists, essayists, historians, war reporters, philosophers and psychoanalysts are among the profiles of the experts chosen to accompany PONANT.
- **Wellness / Lifestyle.** Taking care of oneself and getting back to basics. 100% disconnect experiences are on offer, combining wellbeing, yoga, exquisite healthy food and sleep. Discovering the world's spiritualities between wisdom, self-indulgence and Epicureanism will be among the themes, as of course will be gastronomy.

Sharing knowledge and passions

PONANT surrounds itself with loyal employees as well as new partners and ambassadors. Explorers, scientists, naturalists, adventurers, journalists, historians and many other world-renowned experts will enhance guests' experiences with talks and workshops and by sharing their passions.

- Observers and those involved in politics and geopolitics share their knowledge, like **Jean-Louis Debré**, former President of the French National Assembly, **Christophe Ono Dit Biot** and **Patrick Mahé**, French journalists at *Le Point* and *Paris Match*. Former *L'Express* journalist **Christian Makarian**, who has already been on board in 2022, will be joined in 2023 by war reporter **Didier François** who has covered most of the major conflicts over the last 40 years.
- Experts accompany the high polar exploration voyages aboard *Le Commandant Charcot*: astronaut **Jean-François Clervoy** and explorers like **Laurence de La Ferrière** from the **CERCLE POLAIRE Women at the Poles** project will bring their expertise, ready to answer any environmental or geopolitical-related questions. Ambassador of the French Ministry of National Education and Youth and sustainability expert **Maud Fontenoy** raises guests' awareness of the need to protect the planet and oceans, a cause she has been fighting on behalf of for over 20 years.
- Writer, poet and musicologist **Alain Duault** with his selection of exceptional musicians and recitals are on the programme for six musical cruises in 2023, in partnership with French radio station **Radio Classique**. New for 2023 is a 100% Jazz cruise by the **Marseille Jazz des 5 Continents festival**. Partnerships have also been renewed with

the **Mucem** – Museum of the Civilizations of Europe and the Mediterranean – in Marseille, France, the **Musée du Quai Branly-Jacques-Chirac** (Paris, France) and **Paris Match**, as have the gastronomic cruises with **Relais & Châteaux**, **Cuisine & Vins de France** and **Château Latour**. Finally, Opéra de Paris dancer **Eugénie Drion** will be back in August for another ‘Artists in Residence’ project.

- PONANT has taken an innovative approach with a new wellness theme. Tranquillity and deep relaxation to re-energise the mind and body are the buzz words for two itineraries in partnership with **TIGRE YOGA CLUB** and its founder **Élodie Garamond**, the first to Croatia in 2023 and the other to India in 2024.

PONANT also surrounds itself with prestigious guests of honour. Writers **Douglas Kennedy**, **Éric-Emmanuel Schmitt**, **Jean-Marie Rouart**, **Pascal Bruckner** and physician and former French Ambassador to Senegal **Jean-Christophe Rufin** will share their expertise and knowledge of itineraries to all four corners of the world.

Former French Minister of Culture and Communication **Jean-Jacques Aillagon** and writer **Yann Queffélec** will be guests of honour on two separate Loyalty cruises in 2023.

Focus on exclusive itineraries:

Planet: Emblematic Antarctica

Two exceptional women are accompanying guests on this phenomenal expedition into the heart of the ice: French explorer **Laurence de la Ferrière**, the only woman to have crossed the whole of Antarctica solo, and Norwegian **Liv Arnesen**, who led the first women’s crossing of the Greenland ice cap without assistance in 1992. Aboard *L’Austral*, they will guide exploration of the White Continent, bringing with them their own unique insights. From Drake Passage to the Antarctic Peninsula, they will reveal all the secrets behind these breathtaking icy vistas and the amazing wildlife. In this uninhabited land, which was only discovered and explored in the 19th century, encounters with wildlife will be the highlights of guests’ experience. Gentoo, Adélie and Chinstrap penguins, humpback whales, seals and seabirds will leave lasting memories.

Ushuaia – Ushuaia, on L’Austral. From 22 February to 5 March 2023. 12 days – 10 nights on board
From €9,720 – [Find more about this voyage](#)

Geopolitics: In the wake of Jean-Baptiste Charcot

In partnership with French editorial house **Les Éditions Tallandier** and accompanied by writer and journalist **Dominique Le Brun**, *Le Commandant Charcot* will venture to the ends of the earth to the Antarctic. From the White Continent’s peninsula to the Bellingshausen Sea and little-known islets, *Le Commandant Charcot* will head with humility to the Far South for a 15-day expedition in the wake of a legend after whom this ship is named. From crossing the mythical Drake Passage to exploring the Bellingshausen Sea, guests will be taking the same sea routes that Jean-Baptiste Charcot took on his ship *Le Français*. Throughout the voyage, PONANT teams of experts will bring his historic exploits to life and share their knowledge of the wildlife and landscapes. Adélie and Gentoo penguins, leopard seals, crabeaters, humpback whales and orcas are the only inhabitants of these southern seas that guests will cross, like the legendary men before them.

Ushuaia – Ushuaia, on Le Commandant Charcot. From 12 to 27 December 2023. 16 days – 14 nights on board
From €21,475 - [Find more about this voyage](#)

Culture: Musical adventures in Celtic lands

Appreciated by people all over the world, Celtic music is a link between Celtic cultural traditions and folklore. This voyage, created in partnership with **Radio Classique** under the artistic direction of writer and poet **Alain Duault**, illustrates it to perfection. From Dublin to Glasgow via Fishguard – once a key Viking trading post, to the sacred island of Iona, cradle of Christianity in Europe, and the picturesque fishing village of Tobermory with its multi-coloured houses, travellers will be borne along on the crest of Celtic songs. And there is more: aboard *L’Austral*, will perform the dazzling yet sensitive **Trio Wanderer**; the brilliant solo violist **Lise Berthaud** and talented soprano **Jeanne Gérard**. An enchanting authentic voyage into Celtic culture awaits.

Dublin – Glasgow, Scotland, on L’Austral. From 27 April to 4 April 2023. 8 days – 7 nights
From €4,310 – [Find more about this voyage](#)

Wellness: The best of Croatia

The historical charm and remarkable cultural heritage of sites in Croatia provide the ideal setting for a voyage that puts peace of mind and exquisite pleasures centre stage. Sailing on *Le Lyrial* near the turquoise Adriatic Sea's most beautiful treasures, the ship will call into Dubrovnik and Split, both UNESCO World Heritage sites. The beautiful islands of Hvar and Korcula will live up to expectations, as will Montenegro with its stunning Kotor bay and medieval city. There to add a special flavour to this voyage at sea and ashore will be **Elodie Garamond**, founder of the **TIGRE YOGA CLUB** and yoga teacher, who will accompany guests on their own personal development journey through a range of wellness activities.

Venice – Venice, on *Le Lyrial*. From 8 to 15 June 2023. 8 days – 7 nights
From €4,150 – [Find more about this voyage](#)

Geopolitics: Great Lakes of North America

As an historian and political scientist specialising in the United States, **Nicole Bacharan** will share her invaluable knowledge and bring a fresh perspective to all those interested in this region's geopolitics. All the pleasures of this fascinating area await as *Le Bellot* carves her way through the waves across the vast expanse of Lake Michigan, the sapphire waters of Lake Huron, and along the canal between Lake Erie and Lake Ontario, following in the footsteps of the first settlers, trappers and Native Americans. There are so many breathtaking sites along the way waiting to be discovered anew, including Niagara Falls and the magnificent Georgian Bay Littoral, a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, all painted in the colours of an Indian summer.

Milwaukee – Toronto, on *Le Bellot*. From 11 to 18 September. 8 days – 7 nights
From €4,710 – [Find more about this voyage](#)

Culture: Jazz Festival at Sea

In partnership with **Marseille Jazz des Cinq Continents** festival and with the privilege of having its Director **Hugues Kieffer** on board, alongside artists such as **Raphael Imbert, Pierre-François Blanchard, Anne Pacey, Pierre Fenichel** and **Célia Kameni**, *Le Lyrial* will be criss-crossing the Adriatic and Tyrrhenian seas via Malta, for a cruise combining history and culture and the **Jazz Festival at Sea**. From La Serenissima Venice, the ship sails along the Italian coast towards Malta and the architectural splendours and art treasures of its capital Valletta. *Le Lyrial* then sets course for Sicily to call into Catania, a UNESCO World Heritage site, before heading for southern Italy's jewel in the crown, the Amalfi Coast, and on to Civitavecchia. This will be the final destination of a musical cruise steeped in history.

Venice – Civitavecchia, on *Le Lyrial*. From 24 September to 1st October 2023. 8 days – 7 nights
From €3,860 – [Find more about this voyage](#)

Event: Napoleon Bonaparte - history and heritage

Genius political leader or military chief, Napoleon Bonaparte continues to divide, captivate and fascinate people more than two centuries after his death. Aboard *Le Lyrial*, PONANT is offering an exceptional cruise in the footsteps of the first French Emperor with **Franck Ferrand**, a renowned historian and host of "Franck Ferrand raconte" broadcast, and **Thierry Lentz**, Director of the Napoleon Foundation, responsible for the course on the French Consulate and Empire at the Institut Catholique d'Études Supérieures. These two experts and other special guests like **Michel Dancoisne-Martineau**, Curator of the French Properties on St Helena, and British historian and church musician **Peter Hicks** will bring their knowledge to guests throughout the voyage. From Dakar, *Le Lyrial* follows the sea route taken in 1815 by the *Northumberland*, the ship that escorted Napoleon to St Helena, his first resting place, before heading for Brazilian shores. After ports of call at the intoxicating bay of Rio de Janeiro and authentic Paraty, the voyage ends in Santos, one of the first Portuguese colonies to be established in the New World, famous for its picturesque historic centre.

Dakar – Santos, on *Le Lyrial*. From 14 October to 3 November 2023. 21 days – 20 nights
From €10,580 – [Find more about this voyage](#)

ABOUT PONANT

Explore to Inspire: explore to better understand, learn, share and protect. For 35 years, PONANT has been committed to more responsible tourism and voyages of exploration which have meaning. The French-flagged fleet comprises 13 small capacity ships equipped with state of the art environmentally friendly equipment. With PONANT, exploration is refined, authentic and a source of inspiration. For more information www.ponant.com

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