



14th July 2020: Sailing under the French flag in the Antipodes!



As France celebrates its national day, PONANT is proud to see two more ships in its fleet flying the French flag. *Le Jacques Cartier*, the latest in the PONANT EXPLORERS series and the *m/s Paul Gauguin*, acquired 9 months ago by the company, have just raised their French flags.

This 14th of July, French national day, two new ships in the PONANT fleet will be sailing under the French flag.

Le Jacques Cartier, the latest addition to the PONANT EXPLORERS series, raised its French flag as it was delivered from the VARD shipyard.

For the *m/s Paul Gauguin*, the change in flag is a return to her origins. This emblematic Polynesian ship flew the French flag when she was launched more than 20 years ago. The ceremony to mark this transfer was held by Olivier de Kersauson and honored by the presence of the High Commissioner, in Papeete, the vessel's home port. The *m/s Paul Gauguin* joined the PONANT's fleet 9 months ago.

"PONANT, the first French cruise ship owner, has been part of the maritime landscape of this country for more than thirty years. I am delighted to see these two new ships proudly flying the French flag and joining our fleet, which now numbers some 12 vessels. Since the glory hours in the 50s and 60s of the Compagnie des messageries maritimes and the Compagnie générale transatlantique, famous «French Line», no company has operated so many cruise ships under French flag." said Jean Emmanuel Sauvé, PONANT CEO.

French flag and PONANT exemplarity

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 in the BUREAU VERITAS and operated in accordance with the US Coast Guard standards.

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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