



Set Sail this Winter on a Northern Lights Quest with PONANT



28 October 2024 | Beyond the Arctic Circle, when the winter sun is only visible for a few minutes a day, strange curtains of emerald green lights illuminate the sky. These are the Northern Lights, a fascinating phenomenon that PONANT guests may witness during their exploration of the Far North this winter.

Discovering the Northern Lights

A pioneer and expert in polar exploration cruises, PONANT has crafted itineraries for winter 2025 to maximise encounters with the Northern Lights. The time of year and latitude are ideal for observing these luminescent undulations that have fired the imaginations and fascinated humans since Antiquity:

- On board the warm and refined cocoon of PONANT ships, common areas which are largely open to the outdoors, and the staterooms, all with balconies, allow guests to immerse themselves in the Northern Lights magic.
- Ashore during ports of call, excursions with local guides continue the lights quest. After having coffee under the *lavvu*² set up on the snowy expanses of the tundra, the evening begins... and with a little luck, the magic begins!

¹ One excursion included per stopover and per guest

² Traditional tent resembling Native American tipis

The Northern Lights, A Natural Phenomenon Behind Many Legends



Northern Lights occur when particles from powerful solar storms are projected into space. It takes them four days to travel the 150 million kilometres that separate the Sun from the Earth. Some of these particles are drawn to the earth's magnetic poles and, on contact with the earth's atmosphere, a tremendous energy is released, made visible by colours to the naked eye: **these are the Northern Lights**. The intensity of the colours, dancing in the polar night, arouses deep emotions in all those who are lucky enough to witness the phenomenon.

Before science provided an explanation, the Northern Lights gave rise to myths and legends among peoples in the Far North, like the Inuits in Greenland and the Samis in Scandinavia. Indigenous peoples' beliefs and their spirituality are explained on board during lectures by naturalist guides, who are experts in these regions.

"Sami people are animists, they believe in spirits; for the elders, the Northern Lights represent the tail of the red fire fox running across the sky".

José Sotoca, Expedition Experience Director



A wonderful spectacle to be seen at least once in a lifetime! PONANT offers several sailings for a chance to observe the Northern Lights.

- **Nordic Discoveries & Traditions**

At the end of the Arctic winter, Norway's stunning scenery awaits the traveler who loves wild wide-open spaces where nature reigns supreme. PONANT invites guests to go beyond the Arctic Circle on a hunt for the Northern Lights. From the Lofoten islands to the North Cape, PONANT's destination experts have selected ports of call and activities to offer an experience that is as intense as it is varied: embracing traditions and customs of the Sami people; cog sledding, or snowshoeing (depending on the weather and snow conditions); visiting local villages with their wooden houses and churches, or bird watching (skuas, guillemots, puffins and many others). One excursion per guest per port of call is included.³

Tromsø-Tromsø, 4 sailings on the Champlain from 24 February to 26 March 2025, 11 days-10 nights.

From €9,720. [Discover these voyages](#)



³ Pre-booking opens around two months before the departure date. Requests processed on a first come first served basis subject to availability.

Venture further on the ultimate polar exploration aboard *Le Commandant Charcot*. There is still an opportunity to embark on the world's only luxury icebreaker on an exclusive and unprecedented itinerary at this time of year:

- *Disko Bay: Meeting the Inuit & Discovering the Unknown*

A voyage to the heart of Greenland, from Reykjavik to Disko Bay. In the immaculate landscapes of the Far North, snow-covered expanses give way to the unsuspected relief of Greenland at this time of year, where the largest icebergs in the northern hemisphere anchor in the frozen waters of Disko Bay. PONANT takes its guests on an unprecedented polar exploration. Encounters with Inuit communities, immersion in their daily lives and discovery of their traditions add a human, authentic and unforgettable dimension to this exceptional voyage.

Reykjavik - Nuuk, aboard Le Commandant Charcot on 21 March 2025, 16 days -15 nights.

From €22,380. [Discover this voyage](#)

ABOUT PONANT

Explore to Inspire: explore to better understand, learn, share and protect. PONANT has been committed to more responsible tourism, and purposeful voyages of exploration for 35 years. Aboard a fleet of 14 French-flagged small ships, fitted with the latest environmental technologies, the journey of exploration is always elegant, authentic and inspiring. For more information www.ponant.com

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