



The French Riviera Aboard *Le Ponant*: Exclusive New Itinerary for Summer 2026



18 December 2024 | PONANT EXPLORATIONS is unveiling a brand new itinerary along the Côte d'Azur, aboard the company's iconic three-master, *Le Ponant*. From May 2026, the first Relais & Châteaux labelled sailing yacht will be offering her 32 guests a unique travel experience. Hedonistic and revitalising.

With a breeze ruffling the sails, waves lapping gently on the hull and sunlight glinting off the wake, it's no wonder that sailing is synonymous with freedom and being in total harmony with the elements. And when the mistral makes an appearance, sailing aboard *Le Ponant* is infused with Mediterranean fragrances.

From Iconic Destinations to Emblematic Harbours

Like a stroll along the Côte d'Azur, all the charms of legendary ports of call and secret harbours are revealed during this new itinerary. Due to her size (88 metres length overall, 12 metre beam) and shallow draft, *Le Ponant* can visit intimate ports and coves along the French Riviera. May is also an ideal time to enjoy the beautiful scenery and pleasures of the sea before the high season of summer begins.



This part of the coast never fails to inspire, be it Nice the pearl of the Riviera, or Portofino and the Italian *'dolce vita'*, the picturesque queen of lemons that is Menton, Cannes with its stars and boutiques, Antibes the favourite of painters, Saint-Tropez and its stunning setting, or Cassis and the intimate side of Provence in the Calanques. Against these fabulous time-honoured natural backdrops, guests are free to enjoy a programme of included excursions, from hikes to enriching cultural visits and activities, far from the usual busy circuits.

Close to the Sea, as If Aboard Their Own Sailboat



“Le Ponant is a proper sailing yacht for sailors, as we are managing the wind and sea every day. Le Ponant is also a state of mind and connection with the marine element and environment, shared by the crew and the guests. Like a big family for the duration of this sailing cruise.”

Jean-David Lemaire, Captain on *Le Ponant*

Le Ponant also has facilities and equipment that respect the marine environment. At anchor, as soon as conditions allow, the marina is deployed for watersports. Guests can go swimming or explore the coast on a paddleboard or observe marine flora and fauna from a glass-bottomed kayak, while Zodiac outings are an opportunity to enjoy sunny coves from another point of view.

On board, the crew embodies at every moment the values of authentic hospitality and bespoke experiences shared by the finest Relais & Châteaux properties. Gastronomy is of course high on the agenda with a dedicated chef who takes delight in producing sublime menus from local produce and flavours synonymous with the south of France.

“The French Riviera under Le Ponant’s sails”

Nice-Nice, 2 sailings between 7 and 23 May 2026, 8 days-7 nights

From €10,080. [Discover more about these sailings](#)

ABOUT PONANT EXPLORATIONS

Explore to Inspire: explore to better understand, learn, share and protect. PONANT EXPLORATIONS has been committed to more responsible tourism, and purposeful voyages of exploration for over 35 years. Aboard a fleet of 13 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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