

Polar Odyssey between North East Greenland & Spitsbergen

From **3/6/2022**
to **15/6/2022**

Ship: **LE COMMANDANT CHARCOT**

From **Reykjavík**
to **Longyearbyen, Spitsbergen**



TRANSFER + FLIGHT LONGYEARBYEN/PARIS

PONANT invites you to experience the exceptional by discovering the **east coast of Greenland** and following the ice to the **majestic lands of Spitsbergen** during a **brand-new 13-day cruise**. In the footsteps of the great explorers and Norwegian trappers, plunge into the history of these remote territories, during a period of extreme conditions – the end of spring – when the ice still envelops the wild and deserted landscape.

Thanks to *Le Commandant Charcot*, the **first hybrid electric polar exploration ship**, you will brave the elements, in a season that is inaccessible to the majority of ships, to reach **Greenland** and the **Scoresby Sund** region. In the heart of this hostile yet sublime world of ice, you will navigate in the wake of Jean-Baptiste Charcot, who was deeply connected to the Inuit land, where vestiges of his passage remain. The sumptuous decor is made up of snow-topped peaks and majestic fjords, icebergs of poetic shapes, and ice as far as the eye can see.

You will then set sail towards the **Northeast Greenland National Park**, the largest national park in the world and a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve: here, the trappers' cabins are lost in the immensity of the magically coloured alpine landscapes and the impressive glaciers. You will go where few have had the chance, to the sites of the Arctic tales written by **Jorn Riel**. This immense territory, which represents almost 45% of the total area of Greenland, is home to the **King Oscar Fjord** and **Kaiser Franz Joseph Fjord**, where the bare ochre cliffs disappear into the boreal sea. **Polar bears** and **musk oxen** live in these distant lands and you may be lucky enough to spot them on the horizon.

Follow the ice and cross the Greenland Sea to reach the **Nordvest-Spitsbergen National Park** much further north. Former **whalers**, once settled on the sites that are now home to the graves of many sailors, have made way for various species of **cetaceans** and walrus, which have recolonised their lands.

Before disembarking in **Longyearbyen**, you will discover the **glaciers of Kongsfjorden**

, right near **Ny-Alesund, international research base** and former mining city, which was the departure point for many expeditions to the North Pole.

We are privileged guests in these extreme lands where we are at the mercy of weather and ice conditions. Our navigation, mainly in the fjords, will be determined by the type of ice we come across; as the coastal ice must be preserved, we will take this factor into account from day to day in our itineraries. The sailing programme, outings, activities and observation of fauna cannot be guaranteed and are subject to weather and ice conditions. The experiences are unique and vary from day to day and for each departure. The Captain and the Expedition Leader will make every effort to ensure that your experience is as rich as possible, while respecting safety instructions and regulations imposed by the AECO.



The information in this document is valid as of 4/12/2021

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YOUR STOPOVERS :

REYKJAVÍK

Embarkation 3/6/2022 from 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Departure 3/6/2022 at 7:30 pm

Iceland's capital stretches along the edge of a vast bay in the west of the country. **Perlan**, the "Pearl of Reykjavík", a museum located on 'Oskjuhlíð hill, offers a panoramic view of the lush, green landscapes. A little further, one can easily spot the signpost showing the way to the evangelical **Hallgrímskirkja** church, and to the historical centre where one can stroll along the Skólavörðustígur and the Laugavegur, two lively streets with charming small shops. For some relaxation just outside of the city, visitors have the opportunity to visit the Reykjanes peninsula and its famous thermal lagoons of the **Blue Lagoon**.

AT SEA ABOARD LE COMMANDANT CHARCOT

Arrival 4/6/2022

Departure 4/6/2022

Spend exceptional moments sailing aboard *Le Commandant Charcot*, the world's first luxury polar exploration vessel and the first PC2-class polar cruise ship capable of sailing into the very heart of the ice, on seas and oceans which the frozen conditions render inaccessible to ordinary ships. *Le Commandant Charcot* is fitted with oceanographic and scientific equipment selected by a committee of experts. Take advantage of the on-board lectures and opportunities for discussion with these specialists to learn more about the poles. Participate in furthering scientific research with PONANT and let us discover together what these fascinating destinations have yet to reveal to us.

SCORESBY SUND

Arrival 5/6/2022

Departure 7/6/2022

Covering an area of 13,700 km² (5,290 mi²), **Scoresby Sound** is the largest and deepest fjord system in the world. Named after the explorer and whale hunter William Scoresby, who mapped the region in 1822, it opens onto the Greenland Sea to the north of the **Blosseville Coast**. This wild and desert region offers untouched panoramas of infinite beauty, with high snow-capped peaks rising tall alongside icebergs immersed in clear, blue-tinged waters. **Rode Fjord** and its cliffs coloured red by iron ore provide a fascinating setting you will not want to miss. Discovering these stunning places in the wake of great explorers like **Captain Charcot**, who was deeply attached to the land of the Inuit, inspires a profound reverence.

EXPLORATION OF NORTHEAST GREENLAND NATIONAL PARK

Arrival 8/6/2022

Departure 8/6/2022

With a craggy coastline formed by **gigantic fjords**, magnificent **alpine mountains** looming over them, the shores of north-east Greenland offer breathtaking landscapes and are home to the largest national park in the world. Covering an area of around one million square kilometres, almost half the island, the North-East Greenland National Park, a **UNESCO Biosphere Reserve**, is a particularly isolated region. Cut off for many months of the year by the ice floe, it is renowned for its pristine nature and **rich wildlife**.

KING OSCAR FJORD

Arrival 8/6/2022

Departure 8/6/2022

The **King Oscar Fjord** marks the northern border of **Scoresby Sound** to the east of **Greenland**. The sea heads into its main fjord, formed by a maze of valleys, which makes an impression with its majestic and gigantic size. Few have set eyes on this dreamlike yet hostile landscape, where bare and jagged mountains disappear into waters dotted with icebergs, crowned with their characteristic turquoise blue. Here you will be able to admire the strange beauty of **Berzelius Bjerg**, a mountain made up of strata of coloured rock formed by former marine sediments. During his expedition in 1899, the geologist and explorer A.G. Nathorst named the fjord after Oscar II, the king of Sweden and Norway.

FRANZ-JOSEPH FJORD

Arrival 9/6/2022

Departure 9/6/2022

Explored during the Second German North Polar Expedition between 1869 and 1870 by **Carl Koldewey**, the **Kejser Franz Joseph Fjord** bears the name of the eponymous Austrian emperor. Located in the **Northeast Greenland National Park**, this major geological formation is characterised by its size. Everything here is larger than life. **Attestupan**, the world's highest coastal cliff, edges the fjord with ochre walls, contrasting with the deep blue of the sea and the cerulean-hued white of the floating icebergs. As you sail, perhaps you'll spot the reddish **Teufelsschloss – the Devil's castle in German** – that looks over the waters of the fjord from 1,303 metres (4,275 feet) up.

EXPLORATION OF NORTHEAST GREENLAND NATIONAL PARK

Arrival 10/6/2022

Departure 11/6/2022

With a craggy coastline formed by **gigantic fjords**, magnificent **alpine mountains** looming over them, the shores of north-east Greenland offer breathtaking landscapes and are home to the largest national park in the world. Covering an area of around one million square kilometres, almost half the island, the North-East Greenland National Park, a **UNESCO Biosphere Reserve**, is a particularly isolated region. Cut off for many months of the year by the ice floe, it is renowned for its pristine nature and **rich wildlife**.

AT SEA ABOARD LE COMMANDANT CHARCOT

Arrival 12/6/2022

Departure 12/6/2022

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NORDVEST-SPITSBERGEN NATIONAL PARK

Arrival 13/6/2022

Departure 13/6/2022

Like the other protected areas of Svalbard, the Nordvest-Spitsbergen National Park was established in the early 1970s to protect this exceptional environment against the growing interest of the mining industry. Nunataks, glaciers, islands and large bays, **arctic tundra** scattered with moss and lichen in shades of silver and gold... This region will fascinate you with its landscapes and with the **numerous vestiges that bear witness to the history of the men** whale hunters and those involved in the first expeditions to the North Pole who found themselves on these shores from the start of the 17th century. In this pristine environment, you will be able to observe **arctic sterns** or **seals** on the rocks that emerge at low tide.

KONGSFJORDEN (KING BAY), SPITSBERGEN

Arrival 14/6/2022

Departure 14/6/2022

Very close to the former mining town of Ny-Ålesund, set off to discover **Kings Bay**. Your ship will sail in one of the most beautiful fjords in Svalbard: **Kongsfjorden** (the fjord of the King), a gateway to grandiose landscapes. Here, the snow-capped mountains are reflected in the water where superb **icebergs** try to outdo each other in their beauty, a delight for photographers. **Seals, reindeer**, barnacle geese and black guillemots frequent these places that have a unique atmosphere. Once you arrive at the end of the fjord, admire the **Kongsbreen** (glacier of the King) and its three characteristic rocky points, which take their names from three Scandinavian countries: Svea (Sweden), Dana (Denmark) and Nora (Norway).

LONGYEARBYEN, SPITSBERGEN

Arrival 15/6/2022 early morning

Disembarkation 15/6/2022 at 7:00 am

Longyearbyen is the capital of the Norwegian **Svalbard** archipelago, located on **Svalbard's** main island, and is the northernmost territorial capital on the planet. With winter temperatures dropping to below 40°C, the landscapes of this mining town are simply breathtaking. The glaciers, the mountains stretching as far as the eye can see and the untouched nature, make you feel like you're in completely unexplored territory.