

# From Scotland to Spitsbergen

From **4/5/2023**  
to **17/5/2023**

Ship: **L'AUSTRAL**

From **Glasgow, Scotland**  
to **Longyearbyen, Spitsbergen**



TRANSFER + FLIGHT LONGYEARBYEN/PARIS

Set off on a **14-day PONANT expedition cruise** that will take you from **marvellous Scottish shores** to the **Norwegian island of Spitsbergen**. Aboard *L'Austral*, you will discover the preserved landscapes of Northern Europe and the boundaries of Norway and its island, which is among the world's northernmost.

Departing from **Glasgow**, Scotland's warm cultural capital with a rich artistic and architectural heritage, you will set sail for **the Hebrides archipelago**. You will call on **Iona**, the cradle of Christianity and home to an impressive abbey, and you will also discover **Portree** on the **Isle of Skye**, known for its rich Gaelic culture, its famous bridge, and its stunning scenery.

*L'Austral* will then sail towards the **Shetland archipelago** and the **island of Mousa**, which is home to Scotland's best-preserved Broch - constructed in around 100BC, this tower-shaped fortification served to defend against invaders. Then, you will head for the **Isle of Noss**, a natural sanctuary for the colonies of seabirds that live on its gigantic cliffs.

Further north, you will marvel at the mysterious charm of the **Lofoten archipelago**. These islands have landscapes of surreal beauty alternating between sea, spectacular fjords, mountain slopes, fine sand beaches and huts on stilts.

Your Arctic adventure begins with your stopover in **Tromsø**. You will also sail by **Bear Island**, halfway between the North Cape of Norway and the South Cape of Spitsbergen. You will see **many seabirds**, such as guillemots or Atlantic puffins, which have found refuge in the vast cliffs of the south of the island.

Even further north, you will reach **Spitsbergen**, the main island of the **Svalbard archipelago**. In the land at the end of the world, millennial glaciers, steely mountains and spectacular fjords form the backdrop for whales, arctic foxes, walruses and the kings of their realm, polar bears.

Your cruise will end in **Longyearbyen**.

*We are privileged guests in these extreme lands where we are at the mercy of weather and ice conditions. The itinerary, landings on certain sites and the observation of certain wildlife cannot be guaranteed. They vary from day to day, making each PONANT cruise a unique experience. The Captain and the Expedition Leader will make every effort to ensure that your experience is as rich as possible, while complying with the safety rules and instructions imposed by the AECO.*



The information in this document is valid as of 20/5/2022

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## YOUR STOPOVERS :

### GLASGOW, SCOTLAND

Embarkation 4/5/2023 from 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Departure 4/5/2023 at 6:00 pm

In the heart of the **Clyde Valley**, the bustling city of **Glasgow** contrasts starkly with the wild beauty of the surrounding countryside. Scotland's biggest city overflows with landmarks from its extensive artistic heritage and outstanding architectural tradition. The city's chequerboard layout makes walking through the major pedestrian thoroughfares easy: go with the flow and let the lively street atmosphere take you past the many Victorian monuments. Don't miss the collections on display in the numerous museums and art galleries. The Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum is an outstanding example.

### IONA, HEBRIDES

Arrival 5/5/2023

Departure 5/5/2023

Of all the islands in the **Inner Hebrides**, **Iona** is by far the most conducive to contemplation and meditation. And for good reason... it is here that St Columba landed from Ireland in 563 and undertook to establish Christianity in **Scotland**. Now an abbey, the island's true spiritual centre stands where the ancient monastery founded by the Irish missionary was built. Many kings of Scotland, including the legendary **Macbeth**, are buried in the nearby cemetery. In sunny weather, arriving on the Isle of Iona is a stunningly beautiful experience.

### PORTREE, ISLE OF SKYE

Arrival 6/5/2023

Departure 6/5/2023

Nestling in the crux of a gorgeous bay, **Portree** reflects the magnificence of the grandiose **Isle of Skye** as well as being its main town. Apart from the charm of its colourful houses, the town's outstanding location on the banks of a loch makes it a very pleasant place to be. From its colourful harbour bustling with local craftsmen's shops, you can take in a stunning view of the surrounding hills. Before trekking through the wilderness and drinking in the natural beauty of the Isle of Skye, check out some of the beautiful images in the **Aros Centre**.

### MOUSA BROCH, SHETLAND ISLANDS

Arrival 7/5/2023

Departure 7/5/2023

### ISLE OF NOSS

Arrival 7/5/2023  
Departure 7/5/2023

Many colonies of birds have chosen to nest on the towering sandstone cliffs on the eastern coast of the Isle of Noss. The many ledges sculpted into the rock effectively make for ideal breeding sites for the gannets, puffins, guillemots, black-legged kittiwakes, razorbills, arctic fulmars and great skuas that populate this territory. Separated from the island of Bressay by a sound of only 100 metres (328 feet), this wild island in the Shetland archipelago has been a national nature reserve of Scotland since 1955. Make the most of this unique opportunity you have to discover this isolated Eden, bathed by the North Sea.

## AT SEA

Arrival 8/5/2023  
Departure 9/5/2023

During your day at sea, make the most of the many services and activities on board. Treat yourself to a moment of relaxation in the spa or stay in shape in the fitness centre. Depending on the season, let yourself be tempted by the swimming pool or a spot of sunbathing. This day without a port of call will also be an opportunity to enjoy the conferences or shows proposed on board, to do some shopping in the boutique or to meet the PONANT photographers in their dedicated space. As for lovers of the open sea, they will be able to visit the ship's upper deck to admire the spectacle of the waves and perhaps be lucky enough to observe marine species. A truly enchanted interlude, combining comfort, rest and entertainment.

## REINE, LOFOTEN

Arrival 10/5/2023  
Departure 10/5/2023

Way beyond the Arctic Circle, Lofoten Islands are truly considered to be in "another world". A jewel of nature in its most pristine state, this archipelago with its jagged coastline offers you majestic settings of high alpine summits, sandy beaches, green prairies and fjords of a deep blue, where countless bird colonies make their nests. Whether you visit Å, or Nusfjord, listed by UNESCO, enjoy authentic and memorable moments.

## TROMSO

Arrival 11/5/2023  
Departure 11/5/2023

In the north of the Arctic circle you'll discover **Tromsø**, a secluded town located in the county of Troms. Norwegians call it the "Paris of the north". You'll soon see why when you discover its extensive neoclassical architectural heritage. A stunning example is the **Arctic cathedral**, a major monument whose stylistic purity echoes the outline of the mountains surrounding the town.

## SAILING BY BJORNOYA (BEAR ISLAND)

Arrival 12/5/2023  
Departure 12/5/2023

Halfway between Norway and Spitsbergen, you will sail not far from the coastlines of **Bjørnøya**, the southernmost island of Svalbard. From your ship, observe this isolated piece of land discovered in 1596 by the Dutch navigator Willem Barents, then looking for the Northwest Passage. Following a tough fight between a polar bear and the members of the expedition, he dubbed the place **Bear Island**. Regularly covered by a thick layer of fog, Bjørnøya shelters a meteorological station built in 1923, which is still in operation. Declared a **nature reserve** in 2002, the island is above all home to an **enormous colony of sea birds**: skuas, guillemots, puffins, Tridactyl gulls, petrels, gulls and little auks all coexist here.

## ISBUKTA, SPITSBERGEN

Arrival 13/5/2023

Departure 13/5/2023

Nestling on the south-east point of the island of Spitsbergen, this small bay shelters an immense glacier, the **Vasil'evbreen**, whose front is more than 20 kilometres long. This is an opportunity for an unforgettable Zodiac<sup>®</sup> outing. If the conditions allow it, you will be able to land directly at the foot of this **majestic glacier**, so as to discover the moraine and walk on the first section of the glacier. Depending on the ice conditions, you will also perhaps be lucky enough to approach **Stellingfjellet**, home to one of the largest **guillemot colonies** on the archipelago.

## HORNSUND

Arrival 14/5/2023

Departure 14/5/2023

Nestling between **millennial glaciers** and carved mountains, and considered to be “the crown of Arctic Norway”, Spitsbergen is a place that never sees the night. Your ship will take you closer to this fascinating archipelago and, more particularly, the **Hornsund fjord**. Considered to be **Svalbard's southernmost fjord**, it is especially reputed to be its most stunning: at the end of its vast bay, 8 great glaciers slowly make their way down to the sea before giving way to the many icebergs elegantly drifting along its cold and mysterious waters.

## BELLSUND, SPITSBERGEN

Arrival 15/5/2023

Departure 15/5/2023

You will head to the **Bellsund fjord** to follow in the footsteps of the first explorers who came from the Norwegian coast, or those of the many fur traders seeking game and trophies. Boasting an astonishingly rich wildlife, the arms of the fjord separate to form two lush valleys. Give free rein to your imagination in the heart of this majestic natural environment where time seems to stand still.

## ISFJORDEN

Arrival 16/5/2023

Departure 16/5/2023

The vast **Isfjorden** is one of the main fjords in **Svalbard**. These different branches reach the heart of the island of Spitsbergen. Located deep inside the Billefjorden, the **Nordenskiöld Glacier** with its front of ice, nearly 5 km wide, is

one of the most **spectacular** in the Svalbard Archipelago. You will perhaps have the opportunity to discover the **ghost town** of **Pyramiden**. Constructed at the foot of a mountain in the form of a pyramid, this former mining town, founded by Sweden at the beginning of the 20th century before being sold a few years later to the Soviet Union, and abandoned in 1998, has conserved all the buildings from its glory days, when it lived off coal mining.

## LONGYEARBYEN, SPITSBERGEN

Arrival 17/5/2023 early morning

Disembarkation 17/5/2023 at 8:00 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.