

At the genesis of the French polar expeditions

From **30/04/2022**
to **10/05/2022**

Ship: **LE COMMANDANT CHARCOT**

From **Reykjavík**
to **Reykjavík**



PONANT invites you to experience the exceptional by discovering the **east coast of Greenland in Spring, during a brand-new 11-day cruise.** In this season, where a thick layer of ice protects access to the shores and the day stretches into infinity, you will have a unique opportunity to venture into an extremely remote part of the world, source of fascination to generations of explorers.

Aboard *Le Commandant Charcot*, the **first hybrid electric polar exploration ship**, you will brave the elements to reach the **region of Ammassalik.** Between **immense glaciers, winding fjords carrying gigantic icebergs, polar caps and thick patches of ice floe**, you will discover a nature enhanced by the special luminosity of the midnight sun. In this season, the sun's rays lie level with the horizon diffusing a magical palette of blue, magenta, purple and pink.

Then you will continue sailing ever further north until you reach the **coast of Blosseville.** This wild region of jagged peaks was identified in 1833 by Commander Blosseville during a voyage that caused his disappearance and that of his crew: an enigmatic wreck that would lead to one of the biggest French exploration missions two years later.

Relive this **period in the history of sailing** during this unique cruise which will take you also further north to the **Ittoqqortoormiit Region**, to the heart of this hostile but sublime realm of ice.

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 28/11/2021

At the genesis of the French polar expeditions

YOUR STOPOVERS :

REYKJAVÍK

Embarkation 30/04/2022 from 16:00 to 17:00

Departure 30/04/2022 at 18:00

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 01/05/2022

Departure 01/05/2022

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.

NANSEN HARBOR

Arrival 02/05/2022

Departure 02/05/2022

Travelling to **Nansen Harbor** is the guarantee of a voyage back in time and will enable you to discover a superb bay, into which the ice cap plunges directly. It was because of the proximity and accessibility of the glacier that Fridtjof Nansen chose this location for his crossing of the **ice cap crossing** in August 1888. Sailing along the coast, you can imagine the first steps of the great explorer on the Greenland ice sheet.

AMMASSALIK REGION

Arrival 03/05/2022

Departure 03/05/2022

Still almost unknown just a century ago, the east coast of Greenland remains the most authentic and majestic region. Here, the **alpine mountains** merge intimately with the sea, while the **fjords** are adorned with high snow-capped peaks

and drifting icebergs. Follow in the wake of Captain **Jean-Baptiste Charcot**'s famous ship, the *Pourquoi Pas?*, which set off with its crew to discover **Ammassalik**, a small island of primitive and wild beauty where the Inuit people chose to live. The name of this island is a reference to the capelin, a small flamboyant silver coloured fish, whose presence in the thousands announces to inhabitants the return of spring. A surprising discovery in a spectacular setting.

STORO ISLAND

Arrival 04/05/2022

Departure 04/05/2022

In the Ammassalik region, the small **island of Storo** welcomed the famous French explorer **Paul-Emile Victor** during his first stay in Greenland in 1932. This young ethnologist was set down by **Captain Charcot** at Ammassalik then made his way to the island of Storo, where he spent a year hosted by an Inuit family. Bones, stones, a tomb and a few vestiges of huts and wooden cabins are evidence that people have been coming to the island for a very long time. Its location facing the **Denmark Strait**, at the entrance of a small fjord, is indeed ideal for hunting or for observing the whales, narwhals or belugas that live in the fish-rich waters of the Greenland Sea.

KANGERLUSSUAQ (EAST GREENLAND)

Arrival 05/05/2022

Departure 05/05/2022

Midway between the magnificent **Sermilik** fjord and the vast expanses of **Liverpool Land**, you will discover the impressive **Kangerlussuaq Fjord**, one of the largest on the **south-east coast of Greenland**. You will sail through a wonderful décor of ice and vertiginous, jagged peaks of dark grey rock coated in snow that plunge into the deep blue waters of the fjord. The fjord is fed by the gigantic **Kangerlussuaq glacier**, the largest on the east coast of the **Greenland Ice Sheet**. In the north-west, the **Watkins Range** is home to the tallest peaks in the Arctic. Gunnbjorns Fjeld stands 3,693 metres (12,000 feet) tall. Known for its abundant fauna, this hard-to-reach fjord is uninhabited, although Inuit hunters have been visiting it for thousands of years.

EXPLORATION OF BLOSSEVILLE COAST

Arrival 06/05/2022

Departure 06/05/2022

Aboard your ship, follow in the footsteps of Jules Poret de Blosseville, a French explorer and sailor. In 1833, aboard *La Lilloise*, he set off to discover this **isolated and unexplored part of eastern Greenland** and gave French names to various sites on the coast. The adventure probably has an unfortunate outcome, since the crew was never found. This uninhabited territory, which now bears his name, lies to the south of Scoresby Sund. Surrounded by ice, icebergs and pieces of pack ice, **Blosseville Coast** is one of these wild and hard-to-reach places that very few people are lucky enough to explore.

D'AUNAY BAY

Arrival 07/05/2022

Departure 07/05/2022

Along the **Blosseville Coast**, you'll explore the magnificent **D'Aunay Bay** and superb glaciers in the surrounding area. This wide sheltered bay was baptised in 1833 by the French sailor Jules de Blosseville in honour of Raoul D'Aunay, second-in-command on *La Lilloise*. Shimmering reflections of the Greenland Sea, permanent snow cover, prominent peaks, and the silent, majestic drifting of the ice and icebergs... from the deck of your ship or during an outing in a zodiac dinghy in the company of our naturalist guides, you will experience pure moments of contemplation far from any other trace of human life as you discover virtually unexplored lands.

ITTOQQORTOORMIIT REGION

Arrival 08/05/2022

Departure 08/05/2022

Located between the largest national park and the longest system of fjords in the world, the town of Ittoqqortoormiit, whose name means "great house" in Greenlandic, is **one of the remotest inhabited places in the world**. Covered with ice and snow for nine months of the year, you will be able to discover the ancestral way of life of the **last hunters of the polar region**. As soon as the thickness of the ice floe allows, they set out on the trail of walruses, seals, narwhals, musk ox and polar bears, travelling by traditional dog sleds.

AT SEA ABOARD LE COMMANDANT CHARCOT

Arrival 09/05/2022

Departure 09/05/2022

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REYKJAVÍK

Arrival 10/05/2022 early morning

Disembarkation 10/05/2022 at 07:00

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