

Greenland of Great Explorers

From **7/3/2021**
to **7/17/2021**

Ship: **L'AUSTRAL**

From **Longyearbyen, Spitsbergen**
to **Kangerlussuaq**



Flight Paris/Longyearbyen + transfers + flight
Kangerlussuaq/Paris

Set sail with **PONANT** on an itinerary discovering the unexplored shores of the eastern coast of **Greenland**. During this **15-day expedition cruise**, you will follow in the footsteps of the **great French explorers** who pushed the boundaries of polar navigation from the 19th century onwards.

From Longyearbyen in Spitsbergen, *L'Austral* will make its way to **Jan Mayen Island**, which was very dear to **Captain Jean-Baptiste Charcot**. Located on the threshold of the Arctic and North Atlantic Oceans, this isolated and uninhabited volcanic island was a whale hunting centre and is home to large bird colonies.

Your ship will then sail on toward the west coast of Greenland, known for its wild natural environments, its alpine landscapes, and its sea ice carried along the Transpolar Drift.

You will then sail along the **Blosseville Coast**, named after the French captain who saw it for the first time in 1833. Here, the ice sheet meets the sea.

During the last part of your cruise, you will sail up the west coast of Greenland. You will be able to admire the sublime fjords of Prins Christian Sund and the blue-tinged icebergs of Narsaq, before heading for **Kangerlussuaq**, where this unforgettable cruise will end.

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 2/26/2021

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YOUR STOPOVERS :

LONGYEARBYEN, SPITSBERGEN

Embarkation 7/3/2021 from 16h00 to 17h00

Departure 7/3/2021 at 18h00

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.

STELLINGFJELLET, SVALBARD

Arrival 7/4/2021

Departure 7/4/2021

To the east of the southern tip of the **South Spitsbergen National Park**, you'll discover **Stellingfjellet**, one of the largest cliffs of the **Svalbard archipelago**. This impressive rocky promontory, located south of the Markhambreen glacier in the Torell Land massif, is bordered by shallow waters, rich in fish and nutriment. These feed the many colonies of nesting birds which have found refuge in the crevices of its vertiginous walls. The heights of this geological wonder are a theatre for the skilful and endless dance of its inhabitants. From the sea, you'll have a privileged viewpoint for observing this grandiose decor.

ISBUKTA, SPITSBERGEN

Arrival 7/4/2021

Departure 7/4/2021

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[®] 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.

AT SEA

Arrival 7/5/2021

Departure 7/5/2021

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.

JAN MAYEN ISLAND, SVALBARD

Arrival 7/6/2021

Departure 7/6/2021

The **island of Jan Mayen**, belonging to Norway, lies hidden off Greenland's coastlines, lost between the Arctic Ocean and the North Atlantic Ocean. This small piece of land is inhabited by only a handful of Norwegian meteorologists. **Tongues of ice** descend from its volcanic summit, which culminates at 2,227 metres and is covered with a thick glacial coat. These tongues join the sea, between ranges of black **volcanic rocks** at times tinged with red. If the sky is clement, you will have the chance to glimpse the summit, decked out in magnificent light. The visit of a small fin whale will perhaps enable you to complete this memorable picture.

AT SEA

Arrival 7/7/2021

Departure 7/7/2021

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.

WATKINS FJORD

Arrival 7/8/2021

Departure 7/8/2021

At the entrance to **Kangerlussuaq** Fjord (East Greenland), you'll explore one of its small side branches: the magnificent **Watkins Fjord**. The huge glacial valley of **Frederiksborg** pours into this sumptuous **desert of rock and ice** surmounted by the jagged silhouette of the summits of the **Lemon Range**. The fjord owes its name to the British explorer **Gino Watkins** (1907-1932), who in 1930 led an expedition aboard *Quest*, the former ship of famous explorer Ernest Shackleton, in the aim of finding a supply point in this region on the airway between England and Canada. Come and discover this mythical place in the history of Arctic exploration.

TUGTILIK

Arrival 7/9/2021

Departure 7/9/2021

STORO ISLAND

Arrival 7/9/2021

Departure 7/9/2021

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.

SERMILIK FJORD

Arrival 7/10/2021

Departure 7/10/2021

You will be captivated by the spectacular scenery of the **Sermilik Fjord**, the largest in the **south-east of Greenland**. To the north, above the glacial valleys, the **Schweizerland Alps** and their peaks that rise to an altitude of more than 3,000 metres (10,000 feet) stretch out in the distance, while in the south, where it opens onto the Irminger Sea, heavy erosion has carved the landscape. Three main glaciers calve a multitude of dazzling **icebergs** that drift serenely along the indigo waters of this majestic fjord. It owes its name to the Inuit word *Sermilik*, which generally refers to a fjord into which a glacier flows. It was mapped in 1884 by the Danish explorer **Gustav Holm** and his crew, while they wintered in the **Ammassalik region**.

TASIILAQ

Arrival 7/10/2021

Departure 7/10/2021

QINGMINGUARTALIK

Arrival 7/11/2021

Departure 7/11/2021

Welcome to a small protected bay on the eastern coast of Greenland, around 200 km south of Tasiilaq, for a date with history and ice. During this port of call, you will have the opportunity to visit the **remains of old peat houses from the Thule civilisation**. Then, after sailing through the ice, you will reach the starting point of the very first crossing of the Greenland ice cap, led in 1888 by **Fridtjof Nansen**, the great Norwegian polar explorer. A magical place where you can climb the gentle slopes of the ice cap's first foothills to better appreciate its huge size.

NANSEN HARBOR

Arrival 7/11/2021
Departure 7/11/2021

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.

SKJOLDUNGEN

Arrival 7/12/2021
Departure 7/12/2021

Discover **Skjoldungen Island** on the south-east coast of Greenland. This uninhabited land boasts magnificent landscapes that are sure to dazzle you. The island is surrounded by a stunning **fjord**, a distinctive feature of which is its **double entrance**: it forms a bend before joining the sea on the other side. Mountains, glacial valleys, rocky outcrops, tundra and willow forests make up the beautiful scenery which you will be able to admire more closely when you land here. At this port of call, surrounded by wild and pristine nature, it is quite common to see **bearded seals, orcas**, but also birds such as the common redpoll, the northern wheatear, or the common raven.

PRINS CHRISTIAN SUND

Arrival 7/13/2021
Departure 7/13/2021

Your ship glides silently towards the Greenland coast, in a setting punctuated by pointed peaks and majestic glaciers... You are on the verge of crossing **the Prins Christian Sund**, a narrow channel that stretches out and zigzags over some **one hundred kilometres** between Greenland's south-east and south-west. Fall under the spell of the primitive beauty of these unique landscapes, including rocky cliffs and waterfalls that are fed by the ice sheet and plunge into the icy waters. Here, **bearded seals** love to lie on the floating ice to soak up the sunshine. If you are lucky, you may get to witness an aurora borealis, a stunning light show put on by the polar night...

AUGPILATOK

Arrival 7/13/2021
Departure 7/13/2021

Augpilatok, also called Aappilattoq, is a small Inuit village of around one hundred inhabitants, whose name means "sea anemone" in Greenlandic. Located in a mountainous region inaccessible by road, its picturesque, colourful houses stretch out to the southern tip of Greenland, on the banks of the spectacular **Prince Christian Sound**. Some one hundred kilometres long, the sound connects the Labrador Sea to the Irminger Sea, meandering through stunning landscapes such as majestic glaciers, craggy peaks, and rocky cliffs with waterfalls fed by the ice sheet. This region was uninhabited in the 19th century. The village was created in the 1920s and the main activities revolve around hunting, fishing and livestock farming.

IGALIKU

Arrival 7/14/2021
Departure 7/14/2021

NARSAQ FJORD

Arrival 7/14/2021
Departure 7/14/2021

From your ship, discover the town of **Narsaq**. You will be dazzled by the beauty of the surrounding **icebergs** – large masses of ice in different shapes and shifting colours. Dominated by **lush mountains**, this small town is typical of Greenland and is located in the heart of a wonderful natural landscape. The multicoloured house facades and the glaciers with their myriad shades of blue offer a magical setting, conducive to wonderment.

AT SEA

Arrival 7/15/2021
Departure 7/15/2021

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.

EVIGHEDSFJORDEN

Arrival 7/16/2021
Departure 7/16/2021

Your ship glides slowly along the water towards the west coast of Greenland, to enter **Evighedsfjorden**, just a few kilometres south of Kangerlussuaq. Evighedsfjorden means “**the fjord of Eternity**”, and for good reason: just when you think you've reached the end of this stretch of sea measuring over 100 kilometres in length, it seems to go on forever, as though to bring even more pleasure to those sailing in it. The spectacular scenery ranges from glaciers to **tundra** with an abundant flora, and jagged cliffs where **numerous bird species** have taken up residence. Take the time to observe the white-tailed eagles and the colonies of seagulls and black-legged kittiwakes flying overhead in the area.

KANGERLUSSUAQ

Arrival 7/17/2021 early morning
Disembarkation 7/17/2021 at 07h00

From 1941 to 1992, the town of **Kangerlussuaq** in Greenland was home to an American military base. Nowadays, thanks to its international airport, it has become a transit point for travellers seeking adventure in the Far North. Located to the north of the Arctic Circle, this town is the starting point of magnificent discoveries surrounded by **unspoiled nature**. Indeed, just a few dozen kilometres from there it is possible to get close to the Greenland ice sheet, the largest **body of ice in the Northern Hemisphere**. From Kangerlussuaq, admire also the superb landscapes of tundra in

autumnal colours, where Arctic hares, musk oxen, Arctic foxes, reindeer, falcons and eagles live.