

# The Northeast Passage

From **8/30/2021**  
to **9/23/2021**

Ship: **L'AUSTRAL**

From **Tromso**  
to **Nome, Alaska**



Flight Paris/Tromso + transfers + Flight Nome/Seattle

With PONANT, sail **from Norway to Alaska** via the **Northeast Passage**, the legendary maritime route that is covered by ice for much of the year. Aboard *L'Austral*, you will navigate the Arctic seas, meandering between the Siberian archipelagos: a voyage in search of little-known lands, rich in countless natural wonders.

**Murmansk**, one of the world's northernmost cities, will be the first port of call on this all-new **25-day expedition cruise**. You will then reach **Franz Josef Land** and **Novaya Zemlya**, magnificent **natural sanctuaries** that are part of the Russian Arctic National Park.

A little further east, the immense **polar desert of the Northern Land Archipelago**, as well as the exceptional biodiversity of the **New Siberian Islands**, will offer you pure moments of wonder.

You will finally reach **Chukotka**, one of the most isolated region in the world. Covered with immense brightly coloured tundra, the region is home to various **villages**: an opportunity for you to **share a few moments of the inhabitants' life**.

Before arriving in your disembarkation port of **Nome**, you will discover **Wrangel Island's** biodiversity: it is unique in the world, like a real **record of the earth's last ice age**.

*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.*

*Visits to Wrangel Island are subject to permission being granted by the Russian authorities. This port of calls can only be confirmed once this authorisation has been received, six months before the cruise departure date.*



The information in this document is valid as of 2/26/2021

# The Northeast Passage

## YOUR STOPOVERS :

### TROMSO

Embarkation 8/30/2021 from 16h00 to 17h00

Departure 8/30/2021 at 18h00

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.

### AT SEA

Arrival 8/31/2021

Departure 8/31/2021

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.

### MURMANSK

Arrival 9/1/2021

Departure 9/1/2021

Along the coastline of Kola Bay, in the Barents Sea, discover **Murmansk**, the world's largest city located **above the Arctic Circle**. Time seems to stand still in these parts, which are subjected to extreme cold and plunged into darkness for several weeks. Between its former warehouses, the vestiges of the port's significant commercial and military activity during the past century, and its Stalinist architecture, the city presents an austere silhouette at first sight: this characteristic is in total contrast with the majestic **beauty of the surrounding landscapes** made up of the hills overlooking the Murmansk fjord.

### AT SEA

Arrival 9/2/2021

Departure 9/2/2021

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.

## FRANZ JOSEF LAND

Arrival 9/3/2021

Departure 9/5/2021

Lost in the heart of the Russian Arctic, **Franz Josef Land** rises up, imposing and majestic, out of the icy waters of the **Barents Sea**. The volcanic archipelago was named in honour of the Austrian-Hungarian Emperor Franz Joseph I of Austria and offers up sumptuous landscapes sculpted by glacial erosion. Particularly difficult to reach because of the ice floe and **still completely unknown until 150 years ago**, this group of islands remains relatively unexplored today. Home to extremely rich wild life, it was declared a **natural sanctuary** and is today part of the Russian Arctic National Park.

## AT SEA

Arrival 9/6/2021

Departure 9/6/2021

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.

## NOVAYA ZEMLYA

Arrival 9/7/2021

Departure 9/7/2021

North of Siberia, discover **Novaya Zemlya**, whose name means "new land" in Russian. Bordered by the **Barents and Kara Seas**, this mountainous archipelago, an extension of the Urals, is home to very rich polar fauna despite its particularly harsh climatic conditions. Moreover, the far north of the region is part of the Russian Arctic National Park, a veritable **Arctic sanctuary** with many **polar bears** and **walruses**. In these parts, you'll also be able to admire majestic glaciers, including the impressive **Severnaya Zemlya ice cap**, which covers almost 40% of this spit of land.

## AT SEA

Arrival 9/8/2021

Departure 9/9/2021

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## NORTHERN LAND ARCHIPELAGO

Arrival 9/9/2021

Departure 9/9/2021

Identified and mapped only at the beginning of the 20th century, **Severnaya Zemlya** (Northern Land) is the last archipelago to be discovered in the world, at this time. Located near the northern coast of Russia, but protected by a **thick ice floe**, the site is particularly difficult to reach and relatively unexplored. An immense polar desert made up of many glaciers and huge rocky expanses, this group of islands offers exceptional landscapes and possesses the **largest glacial expanse in the country**. As you approach the coastline, admire the silent ballet of the icebergs.

## AT SEA

Arrival 9/10/2021

Departure 9/11/2021

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## NEW SIBERIAN ISLANDS

Arrival 9/11/2021

Departure 9/12/2021

## AT SEA

Arrival 9/13/2021

Departure 9/13/2021

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## CHUKOTKA

Arrival 9/14/2021

Departure 9/14/2021

Located between the glacial Arctic Ocean and the Pacific Ocean, on the eastern point of Russia, **Chukotka** is one of the world's most isolated regions. Made up of vast plains of **tundra**, which take on magnificent colours in summer, the region is the kingdom of the **Chukchi**, a nomad people that has now settled. Present on these lands for millennia, they are one of Eastern Siberia's oldest communities and still live from hunting and fishing today.

## WRANGEL ISLAND RESERVE

Arrival 9/15/2021

Departure 9/17/2021

Imagine a natural island that is mostly mountainous and, for the rest of its landscapes, alternates between vast tundra plains and areas of great lakes, lagoons and cliffs. Welcome to **Wrangel**, the most important hotspot of Arctic biodiversity. Situated between the East Siberian Sea and the Chukchi Sea, the island was named after the Russian explorer Ferdinand von Wrangel. Listed as a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**, the island is a rare, **precious** and very ancient **ecosystem** with unique vegetation, as well as an exceptional fauna: it is home to the majestic polar bear and the vast majority of the Russian Arctic's walrus population. The island also holds traces of the last mammoths and is home to several endemic species.

## AT SEA

Arrival 9/18/2021

Departure 9/18/2021

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.

## CHUKOTKA

Arrival 9/19/2021

Departure 9/20/2021

Located between the glacial Arctic Ocean and the Pacific Ocean, on the eastern point of Russia, **Chukotka** is one of the world's most isolated regions. Made up of vast plains of **tundra**, which take on magnificent colours in summer, the region is the kingdom of the **Chukchi**, a nomad people that has now settled. Present on these lands for millennia, they are one of Eastern Siberia's oldest communities and still live from hunting and fishing today.

## AT SEA

Arrival 9/21/2021

Departure 9/21/2021

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.

## CHUKOTKA

Arrival 9/22/2021

Departure 9/22/2021

Located between the glacial Arctic Ocean and the Pacific Ocean, on the eastern point of Russia, **Chukotka** is one of the world's most isolated regions. Made up of vast plains of **tundra**, which take on magnificent colours in summer, the region is the kingdom of the **Chukchi**, a nomad people that has now settled. Present on these lands for millennia, they are one of Eastern Siberia's oldest communities and still live from hunting and fishing today.

## AT SEA

Arrival 9/22/2021

Departure 9/22/2021

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.

## NOME, ALASKA

Arrival 9/23/2021 early morning  
Disembarkation 9/23/2021 at 07h00

Located along the Bering Strait at the westernmost point of Alaska, **Nome** offers the rustic charm of a former gold-mining town, set in the middle of magnificent wilderness. As you weave in and out of the brightly coloured houses, you will discover the pioneering legacy that still marks local traditions. Fishing, **reindeer rearing**, sledge-racing... People here live from their manual labour. The surrounding plains provide stunning vantage points for observing Arctic fauna.