

Northern Romanticism

From **8/5/2023**
to **19/5/2023**

Ship: **LE BOREAL**

From **Honfleur**
to **Bergen**



In partnership with **RADIO CLASSIQUE**, with the exceptional presence on board of **Alain Duault**.

PONANT invites you aboard *Le Boréal* for a 12-day musical cruise from the Normandy coast to Scandinavia, to discover cities with a major cultural heritage and exceptional wild landscapes.

Your voyage will begin in the port of **Honfleur**, a picturesque Norman city. *Le Boréal* will first sail towards Belgium, starting with **Ostend**. Among other scenery, you will be able to admire its sea front and the sumptuous Belle Epoque-style façades that bear witness to the town's rich history as a seaside resort.

Then you will cruise to the Netherlands and reach the port of **Amsterdam**. You will stroll through the city famous for its canals and enjoy its inhabitants' relaxed way of life. Amsterdam is renowned for its museums, but you will also fall under the charm of the incredible flower market and the superb exteriors of the beautiful houses.

In **Stavanger**, a small town with harmonious blend of old and modern styles, you will admire the wonderfully preserved fishermen's houses that date from the 18th century, before sailing to the famous Lysefjorden, bordered by granite cliffs.

Then you will chart a course further north to continue exploring the Norwegian fjords and sail in the calm waters of the **Hardangerfjord**, the second longest in Norway. At the heart of this pristine natural jewel, you will discover the sublime glacier landscapes while an array of abundant orchards is visible on its lush green shores.

Your ship will then sail towards the **Geiranger Fjord**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, before making its way to the village of **Hellesylt**, which boasts a beautiful waterfall.

From the small and charming village of **Olden**, located a few kilometres from Jostedal National Park and home to one of the last ice caps in Europe, you will be able to admire the wonderful **Briksdal** glacier.

Your cruise will end in **Bergen**. The city founded by the Vikings is famous for its Hanseatic wharf that still carries a few traces of its rich historic past.



The information in this document is valid as of 17/8/2022

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YOUR STOPOVERS :

HONFLEUR

Embarkation 8/5/2023 From 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm
Departure 8/5/2023 at 5:30 pm

A treasure of the **Côte Fleurie**, Honfleur is located on the edge of la Crique de Rouen in Normandy. You will no doubt admire the historical ships moored in its **old port**. With its tall, slate-covered houses, the quays provide a great setting for a very nice walk. In the streets behind the harbour, you will see many timber houses. These picturesque places were the cradle of several pre-impressionist painters. You can see their works in the **Eugène Boudin museum**. Exhibited works represent scenes of medieval streets and the coastline as it used to be, as illustrated by the Butin beach and its lush green hillsides.

OSTEND

Arrival 9/5/2023 midday
Departure 9/5/2023 early evening

Located on the Flemish coastline, half way between France and the Netherlands, the elegant city of **Ostend** is a favourite summer destination for Belgians. You can enjoy the “queen of beaches”, a stretch of fine white sand punctuated by breakwaters, covered by the North Sea at high tide. The seafront boasts sumptuous facades from the Belle Epoque, such as **Villa Maritza**, which stands witness to this seaside town’s rich past. Art amateurs will enjoy the excellent **Kunstmuseum Zee**, where a retrospective of Belgian art dating from 1830 is on display.

ANTWERP

Arrival 10/5/2023 early morning
Departure 10/5/2023 early afternoon

Located in the Flemish region of **Belgium**, **Antwerp** is worth a visit for its remarkable architectural heritage. In this moderately-sized, cosmopolitan city, you will be able to stroll around the ancient city centre, dominated by the most important monument in Antwerp, the **Notre-Dame Cathedral**, a UNESCO World Heritage site. The museums of the city retrace the history of Antwerp, including the **home of Rubens**, containing the works of the painter, and the **Plantin-Moretus museum**, a print works and publishing house that are UNESCO listed. From **Grote Markt**, the central square in the city, you will be captivated by the attractive sight formed by the unusual medieval architecture of the guild houses.

AMSTERDAM

Arrival 11/5/2023 early morning
Departure 11/5/2023 late afternoon

Amsterdam is above all a city of water. Omnipresent, it guides the traveller's steps, from street to street, from canal to canal, its bridges seeming to bend their arches to form allegiances with him. Let yourself fall in love with the grace and romanticism that emanate from this charming scene. Known around the world for its **museums** and the finest collection of the Dutch and Flemish masters of the golden age, this city is home to many other treasures. Take a stroll through the old district or pay a visit to a diamond house – do not miss this “treasure chest” of the Netherlands.

AT SEA

Arrival 12/5/2023

Departure 12/5/2023

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.

STAVANGER

Arrival 13/5/2023 early morning

Departure 13/5/2023 midday

At the far end of the country, stands the harbour town of **Stavanger**, with its warm, friendly atmosphere. A friendliness you'll notice in the little old town cobbled streets, which has some **170 old wooden houses**, as well as in its modern city centre, always bustling.

SAILING IN LYSEFJORDEN

Arrival 13/5/2023 late afternoon

Departure 13/5/2023 late afternoon

You will sail into the heart of one of Norway's most breathtaking fjords, its marvellous décor dominated by pristine nature, between vertiginous granite cliffs, crystal-clear waters and luxuriant vegetation. Very close to Stavanger, the quiet waters of **Lysefjorden** stretch out over around forty kilometres, beneath impressive rocks. Admire the world-famous site of **Preikestolen** (Pulpit Rock), a majestic cliff in the shape of a pulpit that rises to more than 600 metres above the waters. A bit further on, **Flørli**, from the top of its 4,444 steps, is the world's longest wooden stairway, whereas the Kjerag, with its mythical boulder wedged between two rock faces, provides an unusual and unforgettable spectacle.

SAILING IN THE HARDANGERFJORD

Arrival 14/5/2023

Departure 14/5/2023

In the heart of Norway's natural scenery, to the southeast of Bergen, you will sail the peaceful waters of the **Hardangerfjord**

, the second longest fjord in Norway. At the wide mouth of this majestic fjord, gently sloping valleys offer the sight of lush meadows and fruit trees galore. Moreover, it is rightly nicknamed the "fruit orchard of Norway". As you continue sailing and move further inland, the fjord narrows and the rolling surroundings make way for vertiginous walls and high mountainous areas. Enhanced by the reflections of the light on the soft waters, at times clear, at times deep, the landscapes become wilder and reveal an uncut diamond of singular beauty.

ULVIK

Arrival 14/5/2023 midday

Departure 14/5/2023 late afternoon

About 150 kilometres from Bergen, the little town of **Ulvik** is one of the rare pearls in the county of Hordaland, in the south-west of the country. You'll find it tucked away in one of the quieter **Hardanger fjords**. Why not spend a quiet interlude in its orchards, between the apple and cherry trees. All around, a spectacular **landscape of mountains** with steep rock-faces culminate in a 1,000 metre high altitude – a paradise for walkers. On the mountainsides, a few scattered farmsteads stand witness to the region's farming activity. At their feet, gentle hills of silky green tumble into the cobalt seas.

FLORO

Arrival 15/5/2023 early afternoon

Departure 15/5/2023 late afternoon

A charming seaport in Vestland County, Floro is the westernmost town in Norway. Founded by royal decree in 1860, this charming, picturesque port developed thanks to the herring trade, which made it prosperous in the 19th century. Nowadays, the small town stands out for its proximity to numerous hiking trails, offering exceptional views of the captivating beauty of a string of islands. Floro will welcome you to its typically Norwegian natural environment, where snow-covered peaks and verdant plains form a spellbinding postcard.

ALESUND

Arrival 16/5/2023 early morning

Departure 16/5/2023 late afternoon

Surrounded by a multitude of islands, fjords and majestic mountains, the town of **Ålesund** surprises many visitors. In fact, it is internationally renowned for its **Art nouveau architecture**. After the terrible fire of 1904 which reduced a large part of the town to ashes, Norwegian architects inspired by the Art nouveau style contributed to its reconstruction, with a very picturesque result. Not far from Ålesund, you will also discover **Giske**, the native island of Rollon, the great Viking leader who commanded the Norse expeditions to Normandy, or the beautiful island of Godoy and the village of Alnes, which offers a grandiose panorama over the Atlantic Ocean and the surrounding islands.

GEIRANGER

Arrival 17/5/2023 early morning

Departure 17/5/2023 midday

A must-see stopover in Norway, located halfway between Bergen and Trondheim, **Geiranger** offers the stunning

beauty of a natural decor, listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site. The splendour of the sheer cliffs, dark rock and crystalline water are the stars of the show here. The sides of the fjord offer many possibilities for hiking: the **Eagle's Road** takes you up to a steep stretch offering a gorgeous panoramic view. A visit to **Geiranger** village will immerse you in the rhythm of life in the little local community.

HELLESYLT

Arrival 17/5/2023 early afternoon

Departure 17/5/2023 mid afternoon

Hellesylt is a small village located 20 kilometres from the Geiranger site. Here, you'll get a taste of a traditional Norwegian village. Colourful houses, wooden walkways, rustic stalls where you can have a refreshment before heading off to discover more of the local colour. The surroundings are **simply magnificent** with cliffs, mountains and lakes with peaceful waters. The village is crossed by a river whose charming cascade tumbles into the fjord waters.

OLDEN

Arrival 18/5/2023 early morning

Departure 18/5/2023 midday

With its two wooden churches, one red and the other white, plus its breathtaking view of the mouth of the river Oldeelva, **Olden** looks just like a picture post card. Located a few kilometres from the Jostedalsgreen park, home to one of the last **glacier polar icecaps**, this little village is a definite must for exploring the blue languages of the **Briksdal** or Kjennalen **glaciers**. Make sure you find some time to visit the Norwegian Glacier Museum. Absolutely amazing. Another gem is lake Lovatn and its turquoise waters inviting you to quiet contemplation.

BERGEN

Arrival 19/5/2023 early morning

Disembarkation 19/5/2023 at 7:00 am

Located at the end of **Byfjord**, **Bergen** was the capital of Norway in the 12th and 13th Centuries and has preserved some very beautiful monuments from the time when it was home to royalty. Wandering through Bergen's streets means going back in time, in search of the hidden treasures that have been listed as **World Heritage Sites by UNESCO**. A veritable openair museum, Bergen is home to a thriving artistic community of painters, potters, jewellers. The Bergen cable car offers you a splendid panorama over the port and the surrounding fjords. Do not miss the visit to the old quarter with its narrow streets, a testimony of the power of the hanseatic League that controlled trade in Northern Europe at the end of the Middle Ages.