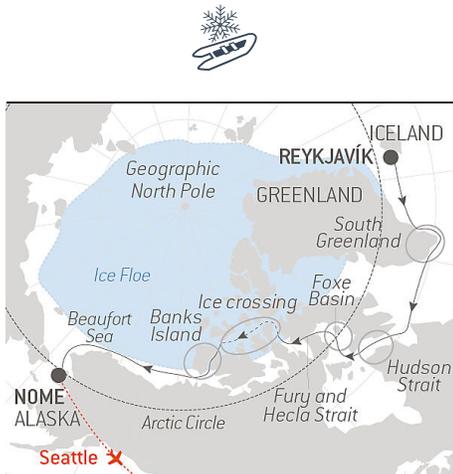


The Northwest Passage

From **11/9/2023**
to **5/10/2023**

Ship: **LE COMMANDANT CHARCOT**

From **Reykjavík**
to **Nome, Alaska**



FLIGHT NOME/SEATTLE + TRANSFERS

Explore the expanse of the Arctic world during extraordinary polar odyssey from **Iceland** to **Alaska**, via the mythical **Northwest Passage**.

Le Commandant Charcot, a luxurious vessel fitted out to navigate in **extreme zones**, will take you to a literal labyrinth of icy channels, inaccessible to traditional ships.

The Hudson Strait, Foxe Basin, Fury and Hecla Strait, all legendary names, follow one another and will plunge you, like modern-day explorers, into one of the most mythical sagas of polar exploration. In untamed and wild nature, you will have the privilege of sailing along **Greenland**.

On your route, you will visit an **Inuit village** and witness **Banks Island**, famous for the wreck of *HMS Investigator* lying offshore and also for its National Park with its abundant fauna including the **world's largest concentration of musk oxen**.

Beyond the **Arctic Circle**, your senses will further be ignited as the sight of the **glistening ice floes, blue-tinged glaciers, rugged mountain chains** and **rolling tundra** captivates you. Long fantasised about before being discovered at the beginning of the 20th century, the Northwest Passage promises you a trip that is synonymous with going back to basics.

Find out more about the world of *Le Commandant Charcot* here!

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 fast 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 6/7/2022

The Northwest Passage

YOUR STOPOVERS :

REYKJAVÍK

Embarkation 11/9/2023 from 7:30 pm to 8:30 pm

Departure 11/9/2023 at 9:30 pm

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 12/9/2023

Departure 12/9/2023

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.

SOUTHERN COAST OF GREENLAND

Arrival 13/9/2023

Departure 14/9/2023

Set sail in the traces of the Norwegian explorer Erik Le Rouge by travelling along the **south coast of Greenland**. Your ship will head deep into the longest network of fjords in the region, the **Prins Christian Sund**. This sumptuous natural canal, surrounded by **craggy mountains** and impressive **glaciers** will offer you stunning landscapes.

AT SEA ABOARD LE COMMANDANT CHARCOT

Arrival 15/9/2023

Departure 16/9/2023

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.

HUDSON STRAIT

Arrival 17/9/2023

Departure 19/9/2023

Linking Hudson Bay, the second largest bay in the world, to the Atlantic Ocean, the Hudson Strait was identified for the first time by the Venetian explorer Sebastian Cabot in 1517. However, it wasn't until 1660 that the English sailor Henry Hudson explored this maritime passage as far as the bay. Offering privileged access to the centre of Canada, in the 18th Century the Hudson Strait became a **commercial route, notably used for fur trading**. Some 800 km in length and **congested with ice** for most of the year, it will offer you a truly unique sailing experience.

FOXES BASIN

Arrival 20/9/2023

Departure 21/9/2023

Named after the 17th-century explorer Luke Fox, who was the first to reach it, Foxe Basin marks the entry of the mythical Northwest Passage, much coveted since the 15th century and first crossed from one side to the other by Roald Amundsen in 1906. Blocked by ice for much of the year, Foxe Basin is home to the last emerged lands to be discovered in North America, in 1948, during aerial surveys: the **Prince Charles, Air Force and Foley Islands**. In summer, bowhead whales take up residence here to give birth.

FURY AND HECLA STRAIT

Arrival 22/9/2023

Departure 22/9/2023

At the heart of the Arctic Ocean, set sail in the footsteps of the British explorer W.E. Parris who in 1822, during his desperate quest to find the North West Passage, discovered the **Fury and Hecla Strait**. The expedition that he led with two Royal Navy vessels, *HMS Fury* and *HMS Hecla*, in the hope of crossing the mythical maritime passageway, ended in failure. Trapped in the ice, the two ships were blocked to the north of Foxe Basin, but this allowed them to identify the strait separating the Melville peninsula and Baffin Island. **Covered by ice floe for the majority of the year**, this narrow stretch of sea is very difficult to access. When you enter the passage, you will have the privilege of visiting the Inuit village of Igloodik.

ICE CROSSING OF THE NORTHWEST PASSAGE

Arrival 23/9/2023

Departure 28/9/2023

At the far north of the American continent, in the **most northerly part of the Arctic archipelago**, the Northwest Passage is the shortest waterway between the Atlantic and the Pacific Oceans. Its crossing has been coveted since the 15th century and **Roald Amundsen** was the first to do so in 1906. Blocked by thick ice floe for most of the year, to date only a

lucky few have managed to sail from one side to the other. The crossing of this little-mapped and little-explored region is a challenge worthy of *Le Commandant Charcot*, which was designed to sail in extreme environments. Sheltered in its refined and protective setting, you will make the most of this exploration of the ice with the inimitable appeal of the first time: just like the first explorers, you will sail in its channels sculpted by glacial erosion and discover **spectacular landscapes**, made up of **craggy terrain** and **monumental fjords**. You will be able to measure the privilege of undertaking such an exploration in the light of the experience's rarity.

BANKS ISLAND

Arrival 29/9/2023

Departure 30/9/2023

Located in the north of Canadian archipelago of the Northwest Territories, Banks Island, also known as Banks Land offers landscapes that are as sumptuous as they are spectacular. The island, covering some 70,000 km², offers a landscape of hills and valleys as well as sheer cliffs and canyons, a result of the glacial erosion. To the north of the island, the **Aulavik National Park** is home to a very rich wildlife mainly consisting of Arctic wolves, muskox, caribou, Arctic foxes, lemmings and many varieties of birds.

SAILING ICE FLOES IN BEAUFORT SEA

Arrival 1/10/2023

Departure 4/10/2023

Bordering the north coasts of Alaska and Canada, the **Beaufort Sea** was feared for centuries because of its extreme climatic conditions. Covered for most of the year with a **thick layer of ice**, and **unexplored until 1914**, this part of the Arctic Ocean, named in honour of the British Admiral Francis Beaufort, will reveal to you its sumptuous icy landscapes. Will a bit of luck, maybe you will cross the path of some Beluga, the region being renowned for hosting many colonies of these white whales.

NOME, ALASKA

Arrival 5/10/2023 early morning

Disembarkation 5/10/2023 at 7:00 am

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.