

Inaugural cruise - In the wake of Captain Jean-Baptiste Charcot

From **31/5/2021**
to **14/6/2021**

Ship: **LE COMMANDANT CHARCOT**

From **Le Havre**
to **Reykjavík**



At the boundaries of the Arctic territories, PONANT invites you on the inaugural cruise of *Le Commandant-Charcot*, the first hybrid electric polar exploration vessel.

This exceptional 15-day voyage between Iceland and Greenland will take you to discover the **emblematic sites of the polar adventure** led by the famous French explorer, Jean-Baptiste Charcot.

Your journey will start in Le Havre, which has been the starting point for many expeditions in direction of the frozen territories of the north. After passing the Rockall Rock, frequently battered by impressive waves, you will sail along the coast of the **Alftanes Peninsula**, in the south-west of Iceland. In this region, haunted by the sinking of the *Pourquoi Pas?* IV, you will take part in a small ceremony at the site where the wrecked ship lies: a very emotional moment.

You will then reach the shores of Greenland to sail along the majestic and mysterious **Blosseville Coast**. You will discover the **Scoresby Sund, the world's largest fjord network**. The Arctic will then reveal itself to you such as you had always imagined it: clad in a thick layer of ice and snow with sparkling reflections and spellbinding silence.

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 11/8/2020

Inaugural cruise - In the wake of Captain Jean-Baptiste Charcot

YOUR STOPOVERS :

LE HAVRE

Embarkation 31/5/2021 from 16h00 to 17h00

Departure 31/5/2021 at 18h00

Formerly the **home port of the SS France**, the emblematic ocean liner that in the 1960s was the maritime link between Europe and the United States, Le Havre is rich with a **substantial maritime and port tradition**.

A major trading location during the Industrial Revolution and the gateway to the New World in the era of the **transatlantic adventures**, the town became very prosperous before being bombed heavily during the Second World War. Magnificently rebuilt by the architect Auguste Perret, the city founded in 1517 by François I now boasts a modern style that is perfectly integrated with its historic structure: a fabulous example of **Post-War architecture** that is now a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

SAINT-MALO

Arrival 1/6/2021

Departure 1/6/2021

The mere mention of Saint-Malo's name is enough to plunge us back into the richness of its past. The fortifications stand as testimony to the Malouins' determination to defend their citadel, fought over by France and Britain in turn. When we drop anchor here, immerse yourself in the diversity of its heritage: the time when privateers sailed the oceans in search of trade and victories; the legendary yacht races the port city is still famous for, such as the Route du Rhum; and the final resting place of the French writer François-René de Chateaubriand, who was born here and chose to be buried here anonymously.

AT SEA

Arrival 2/6/2021

Departure 3/6/2021

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.

SAILING IN FRONT OF THE ISLET OF ROCKALL

Arrival 4/6/2021

Departure 4/6/2021

Lost in the middle of the North Atlantic, between Ireland and Iceland, **Rockall** is one of the remotest places on Earth. The **eroded summit of an extinct volcano**, the site was formed some 55 million years ago, when the Laurasia supercontinent broke up, followed by the separation of Europe and Greenland. Frequently swept by immense waves, this granite rock standing some twenty metres above the water will offer you **spectacular panoramas**.

AT SEA

Arrival 5/6/2021

Departure 5/6/2021

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.

ALFTANES

Arrival 6/6/2021

Departure 6/6/2021

In the south-west of Iceland, discover the **Alftanes Peninsula**, made sadly famous by the **sinking of the Pourquoi Pas? IV**. In 1936, the French explorer Jean-Baptiste Charcot was returning to France aboard the Pourquoi Pas? after having provided support to the expedition led by Paul-Émile Victor in Greenland, when the ship was caught in a violent storm and was wrecked off the coast. The memory of this tragic event offers a striking contrast with the **calmness of the surrounding countryside**, made up of **vast green plains** and **distant hills**.

BLOSSEVILLE COAST

Arrival 7/6/2021

Departure 8/6/2021

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.

ITTOQQORTOORMIIT REGION

Arrival 9/6/2021

Departure 10/6/2021

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.

JAN MAYEN ISLAND, SVALBARD

Arrival 11/6/2021

Departure 11/6/2021

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 12/6/2021

Departure 13/6/2021

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.

REYKJAVÍK

Arrival 14/6/2021 early morning
Disembarkation 14/6/2021 at 07h00

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 Óskjuhlíð 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**.