

IN THE HEART OF THE NORTHWEST PASSAGE LUXURY EXPEDITION CRUISE

With PONANT , set off to discover Baffin Bay all the way to the mythical Northwest Passage during a 20-day expedition cruise aboard _L'Austral_. Leaving from Kangerlussuaq, explore the heart of this historic maritime route and set off for an unforgettable stay among the Arctic's most beautiful landscapes. First of all, you will explore the western coast of Greenland which will welcome you with its majestic icebergs in Disko Bay, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and its colourful villages encircled by mountains and basalt formations. This is the ideal opportunity for meeting the local population and learning about Greenland Inuit culture. Then set sail for the Nunavut province in Northern Canada, to approach the entrance of the Northwest Passage. Amundsen was the first to pave the way on this northern route between the Atlantic and the Pacific Oceans, which long remained just a theory for navigators and scientists. On Beechey Island , retrace the steps of the Franklin expedition, before marvelling at the sublime canyon at Fury Beach. Throughout your trip, you will enter grandiose fjords and sail at the edge of the ice floes, in the hope of glimpsing the polar bear , the lord of the Far North. After Bellot Strait , the narrow passage of Coningham Bay will provide the perfect spot for an encounter with majestic belugas. In Artic Bay , you will meet the inhabitants of an Inuit village and will be able to build unique relationships. The exploration of nature and wildlife and, above all, the polar history linked to this mythical route are the common theme of this journey, which will let you experience magic and unforgettable moments. The raw beauty of the Arctic offers an unforgettable backdrop, while the team of on-board naturalists sharpens your adventurer's soul. With a keen eye, you will scan the coastlines, fjords and glaciers in search of traces of life – a colony of walruses, a polar bear, beluga, northern fulmar, guillemot, Arctic tern, black-legged kittiwake... – and comprehend the historic places that bear witness to this iconic passage. _We are privileged guests in these remote lands where we are at the mercy of weather, ice, tidal and current conditions. 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.?_



ITINERARY

Day 1 Nuuk

When Erik Le Rouge, the exiled Norse chief, landed on the coast of Nuuk, he found a fertile and welcoming land dotted with fjords. He settled there with a group of his former countrymen, and **the Norse** remained the principal inhabitants until, over a period of 500 years, their population declined and gave way to the Inuit. **Nuuk** is situated at the mouth of one of the largest networks of fjords in the world, where the waters never freeze. The town spreads gently out towards the **Davis Strait** and enjoys an historic center that is particularly rich in national heritage. The vivid reds, blues, greens and yellows of the houses are a lively contrast to the somber waters of Greenland and serve to lift the spirits of the locals during the Winter months.

Day 2 Nooralak

Located a few kilometres away from the Arctic Circle, the **Nooralaq** peninsula features raw and untamed beauty. Nature reigns supreme here, **with** **the tundra stretching as far as the eye can see** , decked out in various forms of flora and inhabited by Greenland's emblematic fauna -- snow buntings, common ravens, reindeer, musk oxen, and the discreet Arctic fox. The heights of Nooralaq afford **sublime panoramas over the Itteleq fjord** , whose water reflects the moving skies of the Far North.

Day 3 Disko Bay

To the east of Baffin Bay, discover **Disko Bay** , scattered with countless icebergs produced by the Ilulissat Icefjord, a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**. From your ship, admire the majestic ballet of these ice giants as they slowly drift across the dark waters. This site is a natural marvel of Greenland, and is also renowned as an observation point for the region's many humpback whales. The encounters with wild fauna and stunning landscapes in the heart of this spectacular and fragile nature will be pure moments of wonder for you.

Day 4 At Sea

During your journey 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 journey without a port of call will also be an opportunity to enjoy the conferences or shows proposed on board, depending on the activities offered, or 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.

Day 5 Pond Inlet, Nunavut

On **Baffin Island** , located in northern Canada at the mouth of the famous NorthWest Passage, there is a small Inuit settlement at the very bounds of infinity. To get there, cross the **Arctic Circle** , the imaginary line that separates man from lands of mystery and wonder. It's not so much the way of life that sets Pond Inlet's inhabitants apart, so much as the setting. Snow-capped mountains, **fjords** and **glaciers** combine in a dazzling natural environment that fills space and expands time. Some discoveries change you forever: this is one of them.



Day 6 Philpots Island, Nunavut

Located **off the eastern coast of Devon Island** , in Nunavut, **Philpots Island** is an ideal stop for admiring the **raw beauty of the Canadian High Arctic**. In this remote place, the retreat of the glaciers has given way to small beaches alternating with majestic ice fronts, which you may see from the inflatable dinghies if conditions allow. The site is also **a refuge for polar bears** , which you may spot in the distance, while drifting icebergs provide resting places for seals and birds.

Day 7 Devon Island, Nunavut

Located in Baffin Bay, **Devon Island** is part of the Canadian Arctic Archipelago. Robert Bylot and William Baffin were the first Europeans to sight Devon Island in 1616 but it would only be mapped two centuries later by the British sailor William E. Parry, who named it after the eponymous English region. Around 1920, the **Hudson's Bay Company** set up a fur-trading outpost there, until the departure of the Inuits in 1936. A new attempt to populate it was made at the beginning of the 1950s. Only a few buildings in ruins, vestiges of that time, remain today. In the heart of these Far North landscapes, keep your eyes peeled for the Arctic wildlife that populates these shores, including the Lord of the Kingdom, the polar bear, that you may be lucky enough to spot.

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Day 9 Somerset Island, Nunavut

The Canadian Arctic Circle is home to one of the planet's best preserved natural sanctuaries: Somerset Island. This immaculate northern desert is renowned for its phenomenal landscapes, its **midnight sun** and its huge tundra, where **musk oxen** roam. Covering 24,786 square kilometres (15,400 square miles), it is the Arctic archipelago's ninth-largest island. Vegetation is rare except in some hollows and lowlands, where **Peary caribou** are common.

Day 10 Bellot Strait

A key stage in the North West Passage, the **Bellot Strait** , crossed by strong currents, promises you an **unforgettable sailing experience**. The entrance to the strait is dominated by the Ross Cairn. The buildings of Fort Ross also stand not far from here. Separating Somerset Island from the Boothia Peninsula, this 2-km-wide strait was discovered in 1852 by Captain William Kennedy of the Royal Navy, and the Frenchman Joseph-Rene Bellot, during an expedition in search of Sir John Franklin. Discover a **magnificent d ecor** covered in snow, fragmented by large ice floes. As you sail between them, your ship will perhaps be accompanied by a few polar bears.

Day 11 Prince of Wales Island, Nunavut

Nestling in the wild reaches of the Canadian Arctic, **Prince of Wales Island** , in Canada's Nunavut, offers a gateway to



untamed nature of striking beauty. Looking out over the Arctic tundra, with its permafrost and low-lying mosses, surrender to the majesty of these vast open spaces and keep a watchful eye. In this boundless wilderness, life can appear where it is least expected. **Polar bears, Arctic foxes, walruses, seals, belugas and a multitude of migratory birds** , such as snowy owls, Arctic terns and eiders, inhabit this harsh yet fascinating territory.

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Day 12 Prescott Island, Nunavut

Prescott Island is located between **Somerset Island and Prince of Wales Island** , in the heart of**Peel Sound** , and its shorelines provide a perfect playground for **belugas**. However, the opportunity to observe and listen to these **"sea canaries "** is not the only reason to scan the horizon: here, between the icebergs and the dramatic landscapes, you may also be able to spot **polar bears** , as well as summon up memories of **Sir John Franklin** , who was the first to cross Peel Sound in 1846 during his expedition in search of the **Northwest Passage** , followed in 1903 by **Roald Amundsen** , who was the first to find a route through that passage!

Day 13 Sailing in the Lancaster Sound

Between **Devon Island** and **Baffin Island** , in the Canadian territory of Nunavut, **Lancaster Sound** forms part of the **Northwest** **Passage** , a shipping route crossing the Canadian Arctic Archipelago, along the northern coast of North America. Coveted for almost 300 years, it saw several expeditions including the fatal one led by John Franklin, seen for the last time near Lancaster Sound in August 1845. Many colonies of cetaceans, polar bears and seabirds have taken up residence in or near these nourishing waters at the confluence of the currents. Situated in Inuit territory, the Sound is the subject of plans to create a marine conservation area intended to protect this rich ecosystem and its inhabitants.

Day 14 Beechey Island, Nunavut

Beechey Island , at the eastern end of Resolute Bay, will call to mind some of the most important moments of Franklin's expedition. Sir John set off in 1845 in search of the mythical **Northwest Passage** and was forced to take shelter in Erebus Harbour for two long years, while he waited for the ice floes to recede and allow him a way through. It is a spectacular location; seeing the three wooden grave markers, bleached by the sun (indicating the burial places of at least three of Captain Franklin's men) and visiting the **memorial** that has been erected in memory of Franklin and his men can only reinforce the hushed sense of reverence. If the surrounding wilderness impresses us, the ochre and yellows of the rocky desert soften the landscape.

Day 14 Devon Island, Nunavut



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Day 15 At sea

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Day 16 At sea

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Day 17 Svartenhavn

Nestled at the heart of a silent fjord, **the small bay of Svartenhavn** opens onto a **wild Arctic landscape** where rocky hills dotted with tundra meet calm waters. As you walk across this unspoilt land, you will be captivated by its treasures: a **historic hut** dating from 1920 and a **wide array of wildlife** , with the area providing a potential refuge for many species, including wild geese, eider ducks, musk oxen and Arctic foxes.

Day 18 Qeqertarsuaq

On the southern coast of **Disko Island** , Qeqertarsuaq is one of just two small villages on this island **the size of Corsica****.** Its isolation makes it an observation post popular among naturalists since the beginning of polar exploration and the set-up, in 1906, of the Arctic Centre research facility. During a zodiac cruise you will have the chance to explore the natural wonders of Greenland, meet its wildlife such as the humpback whale and contemplate the basaltic organ landscapes that offer pure moments of wonder for you. In the heart of this spectacular and fragile nature, enjoy the breath-taking views of the grandiose and varied landscapes of



Disko Island and Disko Bay.

Day 19 Evighedsfjorden

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.

Day 20 Nuuk

When Erik Le Rouge, the exiled Norse chief, landed on the coast of Nuuk, he found a fertile and welcoming land dotted with fjords. He settled there with a group of his former countrymen, and **the Norse** remained the principal inhabitants until, over a period of 500 years, their population declined and gave way to the Inuit. **Nuuk** is situated at the mouth of one of the largest networks of fjords in the world, where the waters never freeze. The town spreads gently out towards the **Davis Strait** and enjoys an historic center that is particularly rich in national heritage. The vivid reds, blues, greens and yellows of the houses are a lively contrast to the somber waters of Greenland and serve to lift the spirits of the locals during the Winter months.

Please note:

Itineraries are subject to change.



YOUR SHIP: L'AUSTRAL

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VESSEL TYPE:

LENGTH: 142 metres. Passenger Capacity: 264 (200 in Antarctica). Built: 2011

PASSENGER CAPACITY:

BUILT/REFURBISHED:

Luxury Expedition / Cruise Ship This superb mega-yacht with 132 cabins is the result of the expertise of the Italian Fincantieri shipyard and French sophistication, as interpreted by designer Jean-Philippe Nuel. L'Austral has a unique atmosphere, a subtle blend of luxury, intimacy and well-being. A sleek silhouette softened by elegantly smooth contours and large, arched windows opening up to the sea and the light: so many features come together to give L'Austral her distinctive shape. Precious materials, discreet elegance and a perfect balance between chic and casual, combine to make you feel as if you are on your own private yacht. A design blending tradition and innovation, where a nautical mood has been subtly recreated. Precious materials in smoothing neutral tones are brought to life with splashes of cheerful reds. So many personal touches create the spirit of a "private yacht". Suites and staterooms You can expect magnificent ocean views as 124 staterooms and suites have balconies. Individually-controlled airconditioning · Cabin layout: kingsize bed, or twin beds, communicating cabins available (children welcome) · Minibar · Flat screen satellite TV · IPod™ players · Desk with stationery · Electronic safe · French bath products · Dressing table and hairdryer · Bath robes · Satellite direct line telephone · 110/220 volts · 24hr room service · WiFi · Balcony Cuisine Loyal to the great French tradition, the haute cuisine on board is worthy of the finest restaurants, where discreet, attentive service is the hallmark. Choose from two restaurants for breakfasts, lunch and dinner. The Gastronomic Restaurant is situated on Le Liberte Deck and serves you French and international cuisine accompagnied by fine wine. On the Grill Restaurant, you have the opportuniny to eat outside and enjoy buffet lunch and themed dinner. Life On Board Whether you want to join other guests in the theatre or games area (Wii™ consoles, etc), or relax on your own in a quiet corner of the library, L'Austral has been designed to meet the needs of every guest. Everything has been done to preserve the independence of each guest to suit their personal tastes: lounges for lectures and shows, a spa in partnership with Sothys™, but also more intimate spaces such as the library and internet corner. Comfortable cabins, nearly all with private balcony, are available for families either as triples or as communicating cabins. There is also a games area with Wii™ consoles, children's menus, and a baby-sitting service. Just as if you were on a private yacht, your time is your own to do as you please. Fitted with the latest equipment (Kinesis Wall, running machine) and in partnership with the famous Sothys™ brand, the Beauty Centre on L'Austral welcomes you for some unforgettable moments of relaxation and pampering (beauty treatments, hairdresser). Wheelchairs 3 specially adapted wheelchair cabins (Deck 3 = Superior cabin no. 307, no balcony, Deck 4 = Prestige Cabin no. 407 - with

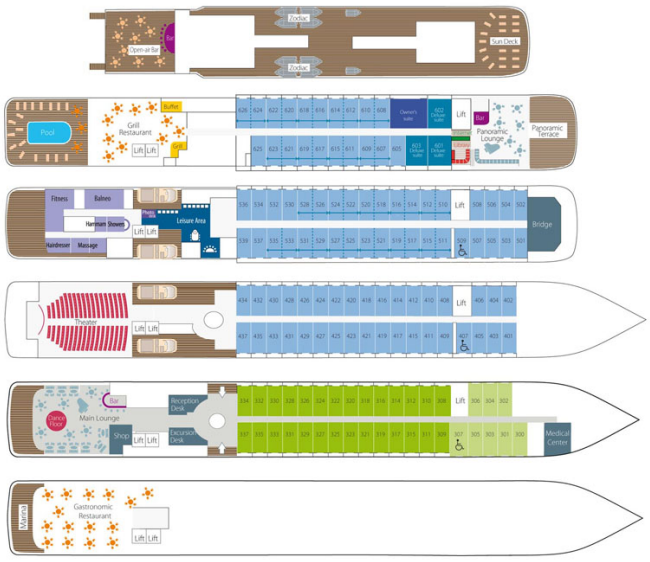
balcony and Deck 5 = Prestige Cabin no 509, with balcony) and lifts to all decks/areas. Details Please click the following links to read more about Ponant and the other Ponant



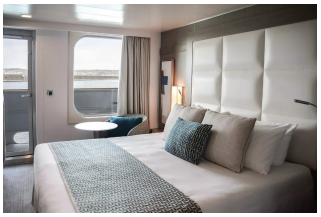
cruise ships.



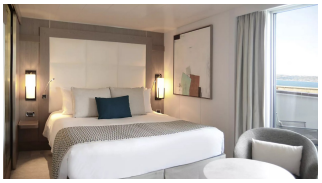
INSIDE YOUR SHIP



Deluxe Stateroom



Deluxe Suite



Owner's Suite



Prestige Stateroom Deck 4



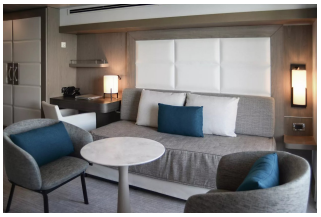
Prestige Stateroom Deck 5



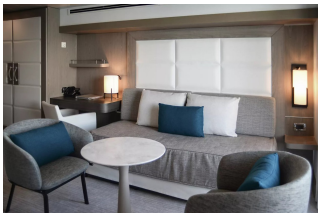
Prestige Stateroom Deck 6



Prestige Suite Deck 5



Prestige Suite Deck 6





Superior Stateroom





PRICING

28-Aug-2027 to 16-Sep-2027

Deluxe Suite	£37480 GBP pp
Prestige Stateroom Deck 5	£26420 GBP pp
Prestige Stateroom Deck 4	£25310 GBP pp
Deluxe Stateroom	£23100 GBP pp
Owner's Suite	£65540 GBP pp
Prestige Suite Deck 6	£52080 GBP pp
Prestige Suite Deck 5	£49650 GBP pp
Prestige Stateroom Deck 6	£27740 GBP pp
Superior Stateroom	£21550 GBP pp

26-Aug-2028 to 14-Sep-2028

Superior Stateroom	£19960 GBP pp
Prestige Stateroom Deck 5	£24220 GBP pp
Deluxe Stateroom	£21320 GBP pp
Deluxe Suite	£33900 GBP pp
Prestige Stateroom Deck 6	£25380 GBP pp
Prestige Suite Deck 5	£44550 GBP pp
Prestige Stateroom Deck 4	£23250 GBP pp
Owner's Suite	£69250 GBP pp
Prestige Suite Deck 6	£46680 GBP pp