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WILDERNESS FROM GREENLAND TO THE EAST COAST OF CANADA - KANGERLUSSUAQ TO SAINT PIERRE ISLAND

See the infinity of the polar expanses unfurl its grandeur during an cruise taking you from Greenland to the Nunavut to reach the coastlines of Labrador and the sumptuous island of Newfoundland. Encounters with local people, the exciting history of the Arctic territories and many unforgettable hikes will mark this 15-day journey aboard Le Lyrial. Sisimiut, with its colourful houses facing the ocean, is the first port of call on your exploration before crossing the Labrador Sea to reach the Canadian shores of Nunavut. When the weather is fine, the mountains are reflected in the crystal-clear waters of the gigantic fjord which will lead you up to the Grinnell Glacier. In Zodiac dinghies and on foot, you will criss-cross the territory that the Inuit share with polar bears, musk oxen, seals and cetaceans. The ramparts formed by the limestone cliffs around Akpatok Island have made it inaccessible to humans, but perfect for the thick-billed murres that nest in its fissures. A succession of landscapes will leave you with sentiment of tranquillity, inherent to the contemplation of these spaces, which exceed any known proportions. You will soon discover the province of Newfoundland and Labrador and its highest mountains, those encircling the splendid Nachvak Fjord. A little further on, the town of Rigolet - only accessible by the sea - will offer you, along its bay and its lake, a unique observation point to maybe spot rorquals and the region's birds. The last part of your cruise will open the doors to the island of Newfoundland and, while it seems very remote, it has a great many historic sites. Your exploration will begin with L'Anse aux Meadows. Like an ancient relic, the archaeological site bears witness to the audacity of the Viking explorers who once set foot on these



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shores. Further south, Twillingate, an insular jewel, offers you an enchanting network of coastal paths that wind their way along the rugged coastline. Then, picturesque Bonavista, cradle of the discovery of Cabot, will reveal its rich maritime history and its panoramas of breathtakingly spectacular geological formations. Finally, Saint-John's, the lively capital nestling in a natural haven, gracefully blends its historic heritage with contemporary cultural hustle and bustle, thus crowning this land of striking contrasts. Your journey will end on the island of Saint Pierre, a fragment of France on the other side of the world, which is home to fascinating wild

From 1941 to 1992, the town of Kangerlussuaq in Greenland was home to an American military base. Nowadays, thanks to its international airport, it has become a transit point for travellers seeking adventure in the Far North. Located to the north of the Arctic Circle, this town is the starting point of magnificent discoveries surrounded by unspoiled nature. Indeed, just a few dozen kilometres from there it is possible to get close to the Greenland ice sheet, the largest body of ice in the Northern Hemisphere. From Kangerlussuaq, admire also the superb landscapes of tundra in autumnal colours, where Arctic hares, musk oxen, Arctic foxes, reindeer, falcons and eagles live.



biodiversity.

ITINERARY

Day 1 Kangerlussuaq

Day 2 Sisimiut

During your cruise, we invite you to discover Sisimiut, founded in 1756 and the second largest town in Greenland. This small town is typical of Greenland, boasting bewitching panoramas: here and there, colourful stilt houses dot the undulating landscape, and the small fishing port stands as the gateway to an icy realm. As for the town centre, it is home to a number of historic buildings, a small church and a museum which retraces the history of the Inuit people, as well as many craft shops. When your ship drops anchor here, you will set out to meet the locals in a typically arctic atmosphere.

Day 3 Qikiqtarjuaq, Nunavut

The small hamlet of Qikiqtarjuaq is on the east coast of Baffin Island, in the heart of Nunavut territory. Bounded by the Davis Strait, the island of Qikiqtarjuaq, formerly known as Broughton Island, is marked by the history of whale hunting. During the 19th century, European whalers travelled around the region and began trading with the Inuits. Later on, the installation of a military post and a landing strip facilitated access to this part of the world. Located very close to the Auyittuq National Park,



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Qikiqtarjuaq has very beautiful landscapes of mountains, hills and ice, and is home to many emblematic Arctic animals: whales, seals, walruses, narwhals and polar bears.

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 Grinnell Glacier, Nunavut

To the south of Baffin Island, at the entrance to the fjord leading to Iqaluit, the capital of Nunavut, lies the Grinnell Glacier. Iqaluit's name is derived from the Inuktitut language; it means "place of many fish", as the waters of the fjord are teeming with Arctic char. The glacier, which is approximately 800 metres (2,625 feet) high, is named after Henry Grinnell, an American philanthropist who funded several polar expeditions in the 19th century. Weather permitting, you will have the privilege of admiring the glacier front from the sea during an outing in an inflatable dinghy, before landing to walk up the valley running along the glacier, in a rocky landscape with tundra vegetation.

Day 6 Akpatok Island, Nunavut



In the north-west of Ungava Bay, in Nunavut, the northernmost Canadian province, Akpatok Island reveals its chiselled coastline. Uninhabited by men, it is occupied by the thick-billed murres for which it was named (Akpat is their name in Inuit). Its cliffs, rising up to 200 metres (656 feet) high, make an ideal nesting environment for these birds. Dominated by a vast limestone plateau, the island is also surrounded by numerous beaches where walruses sun themselves in the summertime. From your inflatable dinghy, if the weather conditions allow it, you might also have the chance to glimpse some polar bears roaming along the cliffs in search of food.

Day 7 Nachvak Fjord, Torngat Mountains National Park

Nachvak Fjord is one of the longest fjords on the north coast of Labrador, stretching out over 20 km (12.4 miles). Steep-sided, it is 2 km (1.2 miles) wide and lined with sheer rock faces. On its western end, its two arms, Tallek and Tasiuyak, form the outlet of glacial valleys with a characteristic U shape. The Torngat Mountains, the highest points of the surrounding relief, are Labrador's tallest. Nachvak Fjord has always been an important fishing spot for the Inuit of Labrador, and was once the northernmost trading post of the Hudson's Bay Company. You will be able to admire spectacular views from the ship's exterior decks, before taking your place aboard an inflatable dinghy to get as close as possible to the coast.

Day 8 Nain

Nain is the northernmost permanent settlement in Newfoundland and Labrador, accessible only by air or by sea. The town was established by Moravian missionaries in 1771 and has been inhabited ever since. It now has a population of around 850, composed mainly of Inuits. Fishing is the main income-generating activity, with hunting and traditional trapping



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activities resuming in the winter months. Accompanied by your naturalist guides and local guides, you will have the chance to discover daily life in Nain, then set off on a hike in the surrounding hills. There, you will discover a beautiful view of the small wooded valley in which the village lies.

Day 9 Rigolet

Discover the picturesque community of Rigolet, on the north coast of Labrador. The wooden promenade, looking out onto the spruce forest and the waters of Hamilton Inlet, is one of the longest in the world. The village, located very near to Lake Melville, houses a community of 300 inhabitants who are, in the main part, descendants of the Labrador Inuit and the European traders who came to settle in these parts from the 18th century onwards. During your port of call, you'll admire the beautiful pieces of local craftsmanship: weaved baskets, mats, sealskin clothing, sculptures... As for wildlife fans, they will not be disappointed, with the possibility of observing whales, as well as seals, orcas, bears, foxes, otters and migratory birds.

Day 10 Battle Harbour

Lying some 15 kilometres (9 miles) off the wind-battered coast of Labrador, the small and isolated Battle Harbour cultivates the traditions of a community of Newfoundland fishermen. Once home to a saltfish mercantile complex established around 1770, the island offers visitors a carefully maintained heritage in a stunning setting of rocky coves and emerald moors... The small, colourful wooden houses, the shops and fish warehouses, all vestiges reflecting the rich local history, have earned the island its designation as a National Historic Site of Canada. Your team of naturalists will guide you along the island's paths, for an immersion into the past of the tough fishermen who settled here.

Day 11 L'Anse aux Meadows, Newfoundland

Located at the Northern extremity of the island of Newfoundland, L'Anse aux Meadows is listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site and is the only site known to have been established by the Vikings in North America. Its ancient vestiges provide the very first traces of European presence in the new world. The remains found on this splendid 11th century Scandinavian archaeological site are identical to those found in Iceland. Aboard your ship, cruise in the wake of those first Vikings who discovered the tip of North America 500 years before Christopher Columbus arrived on the shores of the American continent. A memorable adventure in a setting punctuated with coastal peat bogs, grass and many varieties of shrubs and lichen.

Day 12 Twillingate, Newfoundland

In the azure setting of the Newfoundland coast, Twillingate stands like a rare jewel, with its jagged cliffs embracing the ocean. This picturesque haven, inhabited for over 3,000 years, was once the fiefdom of intrepid fishermen. The municipality now proudly shelters its secular lighthouse, an immutable sentinel facing the Atlantic. In this area, as soon as you arrive on the island, you will make the most of six walking trails in the heart of the famous Rockcut Twillingate Trails, from where you will be able to admire the striking views of local birdlife, unique geological formations and, if you are lucky, majestic northern moose. These itineraries wind their way through wild and preserved nature, providing a complete immersion in a coastal ecosystem featuring rare beauty. For those wishing to enjoy a more contemplative experience, the local museum, the historic lighthouse and the church make for very rich cultural alternatives, enabling visitors to explore the secrets of Twillingate's fascinating maritime heritage, which is remarkably



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concentrated.

Day 13 Bonavista, Newfoundland & Trinity Bay, Newfoundland

Bonavista is a charming and picturesque fishing village nestled along the eastern flank of the island of Newfoundland and it will surprise you with its authentic and preserved character. Fall in love with these mysterious and untamed lands, where the ocean clashes vigorously against the protruding and sheer cliffs and the wind ripples the high wild grass covering the moor. In the nearby Dungeon Provincial Park, you will be able to explore this unique nature while observing the ballet of the many seabirds that have taken up residence on these coastlines.

In the northern confines of Newfoundland, Trinity Bay unfolds like an aquatic jewel set in the granitic case of the Atlantic coast. Its deep azure waters creep into the crevices of the coastline, creating a maze of fjords and inlets that provide refuge for myriad marine species. The jagged cliffs that overlook it, age-old remnants of glacial erosion, offer a splendid spectacle for the contemplative gaze. This maritime enclave, the cradle of abundant biodiversity, remains an eloquent witness to the untamed magnificence of boreal nature.

Day 14 St. John's, Newfoundland

You will be charmed by the small multi-coloured wooden houses hanging to the side of cliffs at the entrance to the bay or edging the small steep streets of the capital of the Canadian province of Newfoundland and Labrador. Their green, blue, red and yellow colours are reminiscent of fishing boats. This quiet little port at the end of the world, the easternmost in North America, became the first English colony founded on American territory in 1497. Protected by the Gulf Stream, the climate here is relatively mild and the natural landscapes are spectacular. You'll

be able to enjoy magnificent panoramas from Signal Hill. It was at the summit of this hill that Guglielmo Marconi received the first transatlantic wireless signal in 1901.

Day 15 Saint Pierre Island, Saint Pierre and Miquelon

Off the Canadian coast, discover Saint Pierre Island, one of the two main islands of the Saint Pierre and Miquelon archipelago, the only French territory in North America. Endowed with a natural harbour, the island, whose name is a reference to the patron saint of fishermen, developed around the fishing industry and still has many traces of its past today. Whale hunting, cod fishing, alcohol smuggling during the Prohibition: all of these memories are still very much alive in the capital, Saint-Pierre. The island is also renowned for the observation of exceptional fauna including, among others, whales, fin whales, dolphins, seals, puffins and petrels.

Please note:

Itinerary is subject to change according to port authorizations and government regulations. We are privileged guests in these remote lands where we are at the mercy of weather, 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 naturalists 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.



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YOUR SHIP: Le Lyrial

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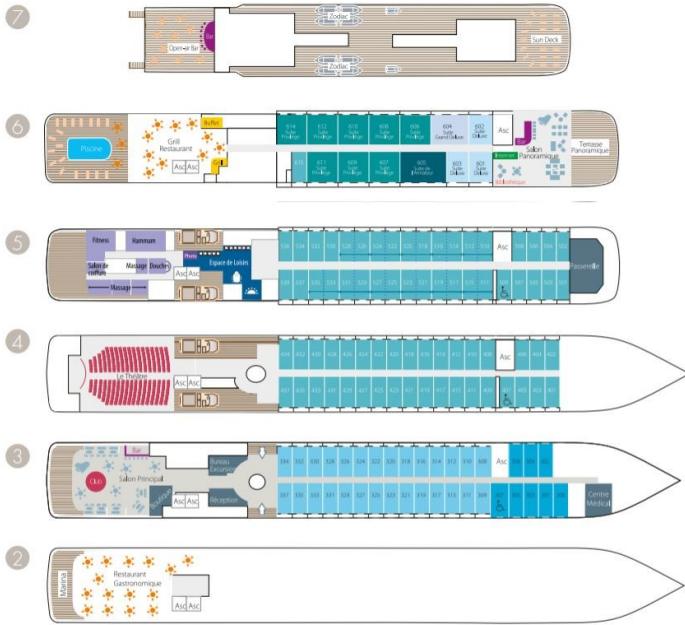




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