

In the ice of the Arctic, from Greenland to Svalbard

From **22/06/2023**
to **10/07/2023**

Ship: **LE COMMANDANT CHARCOT**

From **Reykjavík**
to **Longyearbyen, Spitsbergen**



Transfer + flight Longyearbyen/Paris

Enjoy an exceptional experience roaming the **Far North**, as close as possible to the Arctic's most legendary islands, from majestic **Greenland** to the immaculate territories of the **Svalbard archipelago**. During a **brand-new 19-day exploration**, you will sail into the heart of the ice aboard *Le Commandant Charcot*, in the footsteps of the great explorers and meeting the Greenlandic Inuit people. Plunge into the history of these remote territories in the relaxed setting of an exceptional ship, during a period of extreme conditions when the ice still envelops the wild and deserted landscape.

Thanks to *Le Commandant Charcot*, **the first hybrid electric polar exploration ship**, you will brave the elements, in a season that is inaccessible to the majority of ships, to reach **Greenland** and the **Scoresby Sound region**. In the heart of this hostile yet sublime world of ice, you will navigate in the wake of Jean-Baptiste Charcot, who was deeply connected to the Inuit land, where vestiges of his passage remain. The sumptuous decor is made up of snow-topped peaks and majestic fjords, icebergs of poetic shapes, and ice as far as the eye can see.

You will then set sail towards the **Northeast Greenland National Park**, the largest national park in the world and a **UNESCO Biosphere Reserve**: here, the trappers' cabins are lost in the immensity of the magically coloured alpine landscapes and the impressive glaciers. You will go where few have had the chance, to the sites of the *Arctic tales* written by **Jorn Riel**. Polar bears and musk oxen live in these distant lands and you may be lucky enough to spot them on the horizon.

The shores of the **Nordaust-Svalbard Nature Reserve** will appear progressively on the horizon. This total immersion in the polar desert in search of the sea ice offers the promise of an unforgettable adventure. You will admire Europe's largest ice cap and the impressive fjords that punctuate this icy landscape.

Your exploration amidst these remote lands continues to the east.
Le Commandant Charcot

will attempt to reach the easternmost island of the **Svalbard archipelago**, **Kvitoya** – the white island –, entirely covered by the ice cap and overrun by walrus. Before the end of your journey, you will cross the **Hinlopen Strait** where basalt islets and majestic glaciers hide a rich marine ecosystem.

The polar silence, the encounter with the people of the North, the pristine landscapes of the Arctic, the sudden appearance of a narwhal or a seal in the distance... Everything here will leave you with everlasting memories.

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.



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YOUR STOPOVERS :

REYKJAVÍK

Embarkation 22/06/2023 from 16:00 to 17:00

Departure 22/06/2023 at 18:00

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 23/06/2023

Departure 24/06/2023

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.

SCORESBY SOUND

Arrival 25/06/2023

Departure 26/06/2023

Covering an area of 13,700 km² (5,290 mi²), **Scoresby Sound** is the largest and deepest fjord system in the world. Named after the explorer and whale hunter William Scoresby, who mapped the region in 1822, it opens onto the Greenland Sea to the north of the **Blosseville Coast**. This wild and desert region offers untouched panoramas of infinite beauty, with high snow-capped peaks rising tall alongside icebergs immersed in clear, blue-tinged waters. **Rode Fjord** and its cliffs coloured red by iron ore provide a fascinating setting you will not want to miss. Discovering these stunning places in the wake of great explorers like **Captain Charcot**, who was deeply attached to the land of the Inuit, inspires a profound reverence.

EXPLORATION OF NORTHEAST GREENLAND NATIONAL PARK

Arrival 27/06/2023

Departure 27/06/2023

With a craggy coastline formed by **gigantic fjords**, magnificent **alpine mountains** looming over them, the shores of north-east Greenland offer breathtaking landscapes and are home to the largest national park in the world. Covering an area of around one million square kilometres, almost half the island, the North-East Greenland National Park, a **UNESCO Biosphere Reserve**, is a particularly isolated region. Cut off for many months of the year by the ice floe, it is renowned for its pristine nature and **rich wildlife**.

DODMANSBUGTEN

Arrival 28/06/2023

Departure 28/06/2023

In Gael Hamke Bay, you will sail towards **Dodmansbugten**, or “dead man’s bay”, in the south of **Clavering Island**. This is where the last Inuit settlement of Northeast Greenland was discovered around 1823. Here, you can still find typical **trapper cabins** like those described by the Danish explorer and writer Jørn Riel in his stories of the Arctic, humoristic accounts drawn from the dozens of years he spent exploring the fascinating lands of what is now the **Northeast Greenland National Park**. Further west, you will be able to discover the vestiges of the former **Eskimonaes radio and weather station**, captured by German troops during World War II to achieve control of the meteorological intelligence for the region.

DANMARKSHAVN

Arrival 29/06/2023

Departure 29/06/2023

Sailing through the fascinating landscapes of the **Northeast Greenland National Park**, you will make your way to **Danmarkshavn** on the southern coast of Germania Land. Built in 1948, to this day **Danmarkshavn** remains a station of prime importance for determining meteorological conditions in Europe and North America. Despite the difficulty in accessing this coast often covered by ice, the spot was chosen during the wintering of the *Danmark* in 1906 as the base for an important scientific expedition through the region by dog sled. The north of this bay that is only free of ice for a very short time each year in August can only be reached by ships built to sail through ice.

EXPLORATION OF NORTHEAST GREENLAND NATIONAL PARK

Arrival 30/06/2023

Departure 30/06/2023

With a craggy coastline formed by **gigantic fjords**, magnificent **alpine mountains** looming over them, the shores of north-east Greenland offer breathtaking landscapes and are home to the largest national park in the world. Covering an area of around one million square kilometres, almost half the island, the North-East Greenland National Park, a **UNESCO Biosphere Reserve**, is a particularly isolated region. Cut off for many months of the year by the ice floe, it is renowned for its pristine nature and **rich wildlife**.

MYGGBUKTA

Arrival 01/07/2023

Departure 01/07/2023

To the south of the **Northeast Greenland National Park**, near the Hold with Hope Peninsula, in the King Christian X Land region, you will visit **Myggbukta**, a former Norwegian whaling, meteorological and radio station established in 1922 by Johan A. Olsen. It was he who gave this site its name meaning “mosquito bay” in Norwegian. This large bay situated at more than 73° latitude north is covered in **superb arctic tundra** extending as far as the eye can see. This rich vegetation cover allows a large population of **musk oxen** to thrive. If you are lucky, you may get to spot a few.

AT SEA ABOARD LE COMMANDANT CHARCOT

Arrival 02/07/2023

Departure 03/07/2023

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.

SAILING ICE FLOES

Arrival 04/07/2023

Departure 04/07/2023

Enjoy the absolutely unique experience of sailing to the heart of the **ice floe**, this **vast expanse of virgin, immaculate ice**. The landscapes are constantly changing, shifting from a smooth, flat wilderness to a chaos of ice, then to channels of open water. Your ship will sail along these naturally open channels and through the areas where the frozen layer is thinnest, offering you the chance to experience magic maritime moments in the midst of drifting sea ice. It will also often be an opportunity to see a particular kind of fauna, totally dependent on the ice floe.

NORDAUST-SVALBARD NATURE RESERVE

Arrival 05/07/2023

Departure 07/07/2023

The Nordaust-Svalbard Nature Reserve has been protecting the northernmost and coldest part of the archipelago, **Nordautlandet** (North East Land), since 1973. This vast **polar desert** covered by two ice caps is the second largest island in the Svalbard archipelago. Protected by the Gulf Stream, the fjords and cliffs in the west and north are home to large **colonies of birds and walruses**. The landscapes in the colder east and south are dominated by imposing glaciers that calve **majestic icebergs** in the vast **Hinlopen Strait**. Large colonies of **thick-billed murre**s have taken up residence on the sheer cliffs. You may even get the chance to see a **bear** or an **Arctic fox** roaming in the vicinity.

SAILING IN THE HINLOPEN STRAIT

Arrival 08/07/2023

Departure 08/07/2023

Sailing in the **Hinlopen Strait**, in the heart of the Arctic Ocean, between the Norwegian islands of **Spitsbergen** and **Nordautlandet** promises an unforgettable experience. This territory of the **Nordaut-Svalbard Nature Reserve** offers breathtaking panoramas, with magnificent basalt formations and the ice cap stretching as far as the eye can see, diving into the sea. The shore line cut by the fjords moving inland composes a magical landscape in which icebergs float here and there, the result of the calving of the surrounding glaciers. This place, today a popular spot to observe the seabirds nesting in the enormous cliffs, polar bears and walruses, was once intrinsically linked to the history of the whalers who frequented the region from the 17th century. Indeed, it was one of them, **Thijmen Jacobsz Hinlopen**, then director of a Dutch whaling company, who gave the strait its name. Later on, Russian trappers, European explorers, scientists and even mountaineers roamed this region, as hostile as it is sublime.

NORDVEST-SPITSBERGEN NATIONAL PARK

Arrival 09/07/2023

Departure 09/07/2023

Like the other protected areas of Svalbard, the Nordvest-Spitsbergen National Park was established in the early 1970s to protect this exceptional environment against the growing interest of the mining industry. Nunataks, glaciers, islands and large bays, **arctic tundra** scattered with moss and lichen in shades of silver and gold... This region will fascinate you with its landscapes and with the **numerous vestiges that bear witness to the history of the men** whale hunters and those involved in the first expeditions to the North Pole who found themselves on these shores from the start of the 17th century. In this pristine environment, you will be able to observe **arctic sterns** or **seals** on the rocks that emerge at low tide.

LONGYEARBYEN, SPITSBERGEN

Arrival 10/07/2023 early morning

Disembarkation 10/07/2023 at 07:00

Longyearbyen is the capital of the Norwegian **Svalbard** archipelago, located on **Svalbard's** main island, and is the northernmost territorial capital on the planet. With winter temperatures dropping to below 40°C, the landscapes of this mining town are simply breathtaking. The glaciers, the mountains stretching as far as the eye can see and the untouched nature, make you feel like you're in completely unexplored territory.