THE ULTIMATE EXPLORER
Discover the world’s first luxury polar exploration vessel

PONANT
YACHT CRUISES & EXPEDITIONS
“From where does this strange, powerful and enduring attraction to the polar regions come, such that after returning one forgets the mental and physical fatigue resulting from the expedition and dreams only of returning? From where do these deserted, terrifying lands attain their extraordinary charm? Is it the pleasure of the unknown? The thrill of the struggle and the effort required to reach them and to survive in them? The arrogance of attempting to do something that others do not? The joy of being far away from small-mindedness and meanness? All of these play their role, as does something more. I now consider that these regions leave a kind of reverent mark on a person. Any man who reaches this place feels his spirit soar.”

Jean-Baptiste Charcot, the gentleman of the poles
Be the first aboard Le Commandant-Charcot, the world's first luxury polar exploration vessel.

Aboard this High Polar Exploration Vessel flying the French flag, enjoy a unique sailing experience in the Arctic or Antarctic. Discover totally new itineraries, while enjoying conditions of unprecedented luxury and comfort, specially developed for you by leading international polar expedition designers.
Polar exploration cruises
Le Commandant-Charcot, the first hybrid electric High Polar Exploration Vessel

By naming the latest jewel in its fleet after him, PONANT wanted to pay tribute to Jean-Baptiste Charcot, an emblematic figure of the first French polar expeditions. In the image of this “gentleman of the poles”, this revolutionary High Polar Exploration Vessel will push the boundaries of sailing in the Arctic and Antarctic and write new pages in the history of cruise travel.

With its hybrid propulsion combining liquefied natural gas (LNG) and electric generators, Le Commandant-Charcot has been designed to minimise the environmental impact of travel to the furthest latitudes. It will also host a scientific research laboratory equipped to study the ecosystems and biodiversity of this polar setting in perpetual change.

Jean-Baptiste Charcot, the gentleman of the poles

A doctor, explorer and exceptional sailor, Jean-Baptiste Charcot (1867-1936) launched the era of great French polar explorations. As early as 1902, he had already crossed the Arctic Circle and embarked on a long series of explorations that would take him from Greenland to Antarctica. Aboard his ship, the Pourquoi-Pas?, Captain Charcot would expand our knowledge of the mysterious world of ice. Topographic studies, cartography, surveys of the seabed, oceanographic readings, studies of magnetism, collections of zoological and botanical samples: the learnings from these scientific expeditions is vast. But this skilled sportsman, a rugby player and Olympic medal winner in sailing, was also a humanist, passionate about multi-cultural encounters with people of the icy North.
A technological revolution

To design this exceptional polar vessel, PONANT joined forces with Aker Arctic, global specialist in ice-sailing technologies. The PC2 polar hull of this hybrid ship was specially developed with an innovative design, making it the most powerful High Polar Exploration Vessel in the world. As a result, *Le Commandant-Charcot* will be able to achieve unrivalled sailing performances, even in the most difficult conditions imposed by these challenging environments.

Technical specifications

- **Length**: 150 m
- **Width**: 28 m
- **Draught**: 10 m
- **Ice Class**: PC2
- **Propulsion**: LNG & Hybrid Electric
- **Shipyard**: VARD
- **Classification**: Bureau Veritas
- **Flag**: French
- **Crew members**: 190
- **Onboard expedition Zodiac® dinghies**: 16
- **Staterooms and Suites**: 135 (including 31 suites)
- **Panoramic Restaurant**: 1
- **Grill Restaurant**: 1
- **Pool area**: 2 (Indoor Pool and winter garden, Outdoor Pool)
- **Spa, Sauna, Fitness room**: 1
Working with nature

Even with the most recent, high-performance onboard technology, caution is the watchword to ensure totally safe sailing. The itineraries of Le Commandant-Charcot in the Arctic and Antarctica are designed to avoid any forced passage and to ensure, as far as is possible, accessibility to the joys of the polar regions. But in this constantly changing environment, humility and respect for the natural forces at play must be the priority.

Ice navigation

The thickness of the ice is constantly changing, and the challenge of sailing in these regions is to find the ideal route which allows the ship to make the most of the cracks existing between two sheets, charting a course through the channels which have formed naturally in the ice. To achieve this, PONANT has developed innovative routing software based on historical weather patterns and ice thicknesses throughout the seasons, in order to predict the behaviour of the ice in the coming five days, and optimise the route according to the weather forecasts. However, the ship is powerful enough to sail through the pressure ridges that form when two sheets collide with each other, and to extricate itself from the dense sea ice in order to reach open water.

Only time and ice are masters.
The Greenlandic proverb perfectly encapsulates the all-consuming power of nature, and reminds us that in these extreme latitudes, it is the elements that dictate their law.
Sustainable development at the heart of the design

Powered by electricity and engines running on Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG), the polar exploration vessel, *Le Commandant-Charcot*, will be fitted with the latest environmental protection technology, in line with the sustainable development undertakings made by PONANT.

*Le Commandant-Charcot*, like all our ships, will be “clean ship” certified, exceeding the currently applicable environmental regulations:

- Reduction of SOx, Nox, CO2 and particle emissions thanks to the use of LNG
- Digital navigation assistance to reduce fuel consumption
- Optimised power output
- Zero emissions and noise reduction in hybrid electric mode
- Recycling of waste
- Advanced wastewater treatment system

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PONANT is a full and proud member of the International Association of Antarctica Tour Operators (IAATO). IAATO is an industry group organisation that sets the highest possible tourism operating standards in an effort to ensure appropriate, safe and environmentally sound travel to Antarctica. Its rules include guidelines about the maximum number of guests during shore landings, and other specific guidelines about wildlife watching, visitor briefings and key safety obligations on operators.

In the Arctic, PONANT is a member of AECO, the Association of Arctic Expedition Cruise Operators. AECO is dedicated to managing responsible, environmentally friendly and safe tourism in the Arctic.
Nicolas Dubreuil

Nicolas Dubreuil, PONANT director of expedition cruises and in charge of sustainable development, is a specialist in the polar regions, which he has been visiting for more than 25 years. He explains why Le Commandant-Charcot and its itineraries have been designed in order to limit their environmental impact, ensuring it is minimal and short-lived.

“The preservation of nature is a constant feature of our approach for the last thirty years. During our cruises, to the most remote regions of the planet, we seek to introduce our guests to a natural environment so powerful that mankind rediscovers their rightful place and harmony. The cruises aboard Le Commandant-Charcot, led by naturalists who are specialists in the polar regions and by scientists, will be the occasion for a true voyage of exploration and the discovery of these regions.

To design this exploration vessel, we have applied all the very latest technology in this area. We will use liquefied natural gas combined with electric engines in order to radically reduce sulphur emissions into the atmosphere and save as much energy as possible when accelerating or decelerating. Even the paint used on the hull has been specially designed to reduce friction and thus use less energy for propulsion!”
PONANT, polar specialist

The world leader in polar cruises to the Arctic and Antarctica, PONANT has been taking its guests to the most remote regions of the planet for more than 20 years. Today we are inviting you to push the boundaries further and enjoy a fascinating experience aboard the first cruise ship capable of reaching the most extreme northerly and southerly latitudes: *Le Commandant-Charcot*.

Recognised experience, a tradition of excellence

Captains, officers and crew, trained in sailing in icy conditions, have accumulated precious experience and expertise to meet the challenge of sailing to the North Pole and the most inaccessible coastlines of the Antarctic continent. The latest generation technological equipment of *Le Commandant-Charcot* will allow us to respect the very strict rules governing sailing in a polar environment. The commitment and the flexibility of the entire crew will ensure that you fulfil your dream of polar adventures.

Polar exploration, an unforgettable experience

Aboard *Le Commandant-Charcot*, a fleet of 16 Zodiac® expedition dinghies will be used for outings and shore visits throughout the cruise. Getting closer to a glacier calving huge icebergs, setting foot on a sheet of sea ice, observing seals, sea lions and penguins up close: so many unforgettable moments that very few people will ever have the chance of experiencing in these regions that are hostile to man and home to unique wildlife. Overland hikes will also be organised.

Expert naturalist guides

A team of 16 polar specialists are aboard to lead each cruise. Marine biologists, ornithologists, glaciologists, geologists, experts in the history of the great polar expeditions, these scientists prepare and accompany each outing. During fascinating conferences, they share with our guests their expertise, knowledge and, above all, their passion for this fragile and pure polar world, so that each one becomes an ambassador for these remote regions.
At the heart of the ice, a refined setting with luxury services that have never before been available.

PONANT offers you the possibility of experiencing the intensity of a polar exploration cruise aboard a ship where everything is luxurious, harmonious and comfortable. An innovative concept that is unique in the world!

Designers with an international reputation

An exceptional ship requires exceptional partners. For the design and decoration of Le Commandant-Charcot, PONANT commissioned two internationally renowned design and architecture firms, the studio of Jean-Philippe Nuel and Wilmotte & Associés.

The decoration of the ship is designed to be in harmony with the environment. The approach is contemporary with the desire to create a warm and elegant setting. Particular care is taken with the details and the choice of materials: stone, wood and leather recall the natural environment in which the ship is sailing. Lines are fluid, in coherence with a maritime signature. Two tones of wood are in dialogue throughout the entire ship to create a contrast while maintaining a light palette. Special care is taken with the transition between the areas and the management of light.

The art of French-style living

Whatever your desires, our professional and attentive staff are at your disposal to make your cruise an exceptional experience. In the high Arctic, or in the most remote Antarctic seas, you will find the refined facilities and discreet service that have forged PONANT’s signature over the last thirty years.
In a warm and refined atmosphere, come and sample the intimate comfort of *Le Commandant-Charcot*. Outstanding gastronomy in the two restaurants, relaxation in the indoor pool surrounded by its winter garden, relaxation in the well-being area with sauna and Snow Room, a meditation session looking out at the ice, comfortably ensconced in one of the enveloping sofas of the panoramic lounge... Like on a private yacht, each of our guests is unique.
1 - In the Panoramic Lounge at the front of deck 9, a little piano music to enhance your relaxation experience.
2 - The Main Lounge. Stone, wood and leather combine to form a welcoming and intimate ambiance.
3 - The Panoramic Lounge at the front of deck 9, where you can enjoy the view of the icy world around the ship from the comfort of one of the welcoming sofas.
4 - The Lobby, designed as a spectacular indoor atrium extends skyward, reaching the height of all the decks.
1 - Le Lido, the grill restaurant located on deck 9.
2 - The Captain’s table, in the background, our cellar of fine wines.
3 - The panoramic gastronomic restaurant where you can enjoy delicious refined cuisine in the heart of the polar landscape.
1 - The indoor pool on deck 9, extended by a winter garden and bathed in the polar daylight from a huge glass roof.
2 - A beauty treatment cabin, always with extensive view of the icy world outside …
3 - The Snow Room: try this fun and invigorating experience as you come out of the sauna. Stimulation is guaranteed!
4 - The gym, equipped with state-of-the-art fitness equipment.
5 - The Health and Well-Being space: pampering overlooking the icy vastness …
Equipped with just 135 staterooms including 31 suites with balconies and outside views, *Le Commandant-Charcot* welcomes you in an intimate and refined atmosphere. The luxurious Owner’s Suite, some 115 sq.m (1237 sq.ft) with an immense private terrace, the four remarkable Duplex Suites with jacuzzi, the Privilege Suites with spa bath, the staterooms where every detail of the decoration has been designed for your pleasure and your comfort... This is the setting for your next voyage to the Poles!
1 - All our staterooms offer a harmonious brown and glacier blue colour scheme with stylishly luxurious fittings, where every detail of the interior design is created for your comfort and pleasure.

2 - On deck 8, find the luxurious 115 sq.m (1237 sq.ft) Owner’s Suite, complete with a private 186 sq.m (2002 sq.ft) terrace and spa.

3 - All staterooms have a balcony and outdoor view.
Welcome aboard the first High Polar Exploration Vessel in the world.

Thanks to its bold design, Le Commandant-Charcot pushes the boundaries of sailing in the Arctic and Antarctica and is writing new pages in the history of cruise travel. By its design and its unrivalled comfort and facilities, its warm, contemporary decor using natural materials in harmony with the environment, it is the ideal setting for an unusual journey.
Deck Plans*


Owner’s Suite – 14 Privilege Staterooms – 7 Privilege Suites – 18 Prestige Staterooms (including 1 for person of reduced mobility and 10 Prestige Staterooms convertible into 5 Prestige Suites) – Bridge

22 Privilege Staterooms – 30 Prestige Staterooms (including 24 Prestige Staterooms convertible into 12 Prestige Suites)

4 Duplex Suites – 2 Prilivege Suites – 14 Privilege Saterooms – 23 Prestige Staterooms (including 2 Prestige Staterooms for person of reduced mobility)


Medical centre

(*Non-contractual plans, ship under construction)
**Stateroom Plans**

**OWNER’S SUITE** (115 sq.m +186 sq.m private terrace with hot tub - Balneo bathtub) / (1237 sq.ft +2002 sq.ft private terrace with hot tub - Balneo bathtub)

**4 DUPLEX SUITES** (94 sq.m + 26 sq.m private terrace with hot tub - Balneo bathtub) / (1011 sq.ft + 279 sq.ft private terrace with hot tub - Balneo bathtub)

**Amenities**

- Balcony or Terrace (Duplex Suites, Owner’s Suite)
- Individually-controlled airconditioning
- Stateroom layout: king-size bed, or twin beds, communicating
- Staterooms available, children welcome
- Minibar - 24hr room service
- Flat screen satellite TV
- Video on demand
- iPod™ docks
- Safe
- French bath products
- Dressing table, bath robes, Hairdryer
- Direct line telephone
- 110V American (two flat pins)/220V European (round sockets with two round pins)
- Internet access Wifi
- Butler service (Owner’s Suite, Duplex Suites, Privilege Suites)
Public areas:

**LOBBY** 177 sq.m / 1905 sq.ft - Reception/concierge desk, expeditions desk, Hospitality & Travel Manager office, boutique, image & photo desk

- **Main Lounge** 302 sq.m - 3250 sq.ft and 28 sq.m - 301 sq.ft - Cigar lounge - Afternoon tea, lounge, live music on selected evenings.
- **Panoramic Bar and Lounge** 400 sq.m - 4305 sq.ft - Capacity: 88
- **Open-air Bar**

**RESORTAURANTS**

- **Gastronomic Restaurant** 484 sq.m - 5209 sq.ft - Capacity: 284
  - Elegant main dining room for breakfast, lunch and dinner serving French and international cuisine, fine wine cellar.
  - **Grill Restaurant – Lido** 320 sq.m - 3444 sq.ft - Outside capacity: Grill: 62
  - Outside capacity: Lido: 70 - Inside capacity: 150
  - Casual eating venue for breakfast, buffet lunch and themed dinner

**RECREATION / RELAXATION**

- **16 Zodiac®**
- **Fitness & Beauty Corner**
  - Fitness room: Elliptic, running machines, bicycles...
  - Beauty Corner: Hairdresser, Massage rooms, Sauna, Snow Room, Nail Shop.
- **Pool area**: Indoor Pool and winter garden - Outdoor Pool
- **Theatre**: Capacity: 270-276 - Main show room for conferences and live entertainment on selected evenings - State-of-the-art audio and video technology
- **Leisure area**: Public areas - Library - Medical centre

**9 PRIVILEGE SUITES** (48 sq.m + 12.5 sq.m private balcony - Balneo bathtub) / (516 sq.ft + 134.5 sq.ft private balcony - Balneo bathtub)

**50 PRIVILEGE STATEROOMS** (28 sq.m + 5 sq.m private balcony) / (301 sq.ft + 53 sq.ft private balcony)

**17 PRESTIGE SUITES** (40 sq.m + 10 sq.m private balcony) / (430 sq.ft + 107 sq.ft private balcony)

**71 PRESTIGE STATEROOMS** (20 sq.m + 5 sq.m private balcony) / (215 sq.ft + 53 sq.ft private balcony)

(*Non-contractual plans, ship under construction *)