Travel Planners
INTERNATIONAL

PONANT
EXPLORATIONS

Overview

PONANT Explorations is one of the most luxurious French cruise lines that offer small-ship expeditions to destinations whether they're remote, popular, or destinations that're only reachable by small-ship docking. With voyages to regions like the Arctic, Antarctica, the Mediterranean, and beyond, each voyage offers guests a seamless blend of modern luxury and immersive explorations alongside expert guides! French-inspired hospitality is the theme of PONANT, and each voyage is carefully crafted to give travelers a personalized experience at sea and unique ports.

Unique Features

- Guests enjoy access to extraordinary destinations that are often unreachable by larger vessels, creating **environmentally friendly expedition opportunities** for exploration in some of the world's most pristine and **remote environments**.
- PONANT's deep relationships with local communities allow for authentic cultural encounters, including **unique culinary moments shaped by regional traditions and ingredients**.
- Life on board reflects the character of each destination, with regional culture integrating **French-inspired hospitality** into dining, entertainment, and enrichment programs for an authentic experience. At the same time, the ships are equipped with advanced technology that ensures comfort, safety, and seamless travel.
- Each voyage is accompanied by a team of naturalists, historians, and destination experts who **enrich the journey with lectures**, **guided excursions**, and **onboard insights**.

Onboard Experiences

- Included Amenities:
  - Full Meals; French culinary experience.
  - Beverages and Liquor—some premium alcoholic beverages are upcharges.
  - 24/7 Complimentary Wi-Fi
  - Multilingual crew and expedition leaders
  - Polar gear (only Polar trips): Parkas, Boot rental program, etc.
  - Heating, seawater swimming pools & solarium (exclude *Le Ponant*)
  - Zodiac Outings and shore explorations with expert guides
  - Access to common areas—varies by ship class.
  - Access to books and board games
- Onboard entertainment varies by ship & voyage and can include: **conferences, concerts, live demonstrations, screenings, etc.**
- Aside from ships *Le Ponant* and *Spirit of Ponant*, a **photo studio** for viewing and ordering photos of you are available.
- Aside from the *Spirit of Ponant* ship, all ships have **fitness centers**. Also, group sessions for **physical fitness activities** like stretching and yoga classes are available.
- Aside from the *Le Ponant* and *Spirit of Ponant* ships, **boutique shopping areas** are available on the ship.
- Various projects and educational opportunities to experience.

General Audience

- **Price Range:** ~$800–$2,800 per person, per night (depending on itinerary and region)
- Luxury travelers with a taste for culture, fine dining, and discovery
- Average age: 45+; mix of affluent couples, retirees, and professionals
- Guests are highly educated, environmentally conscious, and globally curious
- Strong markets: France, United States, United Kingdom, Australia, Canada
- Appeals to eco-conscious explorers, cultural enthusiasts, photographers, and those seeking rare, bucket-list destinations

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Excursion Options

- All guests receive one excursion per person, per port of call—all excursions MUST be pre-booked and are cancellable up to 48 hours prior.
- Boat and Zodiac tours among remote landmark locations, frozen fjords, volcanic shores, coastal environments, and snorkeling/diving trips.
- Tours among castles, museums, churches, gardens, etc. as well as internationally protected landmarks (think: Pyramids, Taj Mahal, etc.) and historically rich cities.
- Wildlife encounters: whale sightings, polar bear sightings, penguin and seal interactions, etc.
- Exciting hikes and treks through wild jungles, tundras, volcanic locations, and deserts.
- Citizen science and sustainability missions with industry-respected experts and leaders.
- Photography experience—in-field lessons and workshop lectures.
- Culturally immersive experiences with locals and indigenous communities.

Ships

- **Le Bellot**: Northern Europe, Mediterranean, Caribbean, South America – 184 guests, ~1.3 guests to 1 crew
- **Le Boréal**: Antarctica, Arctic, South America, Northern Europe – 264 guests, ~1.3 guests to 1 crew
- **Le Bougainville**: Mediterranean, Red Sea, Indian Ocean, Oceania – 184 guests, ~1.3 guests to 1 crew
- **Le Champlain**: Mediterranean, Caribbean, Central America, North America – 184 guests, ~1.3 guests to 1 crew
- **Le Commandant Charcot**: Arctic, North Pole, Antarctica – 245 guests, ~1.2 guests to 1 crew (Polar Icebreaker)
- **Le Dumont-d'Urville**: Mediterranean, Caribbean, Northern Europe, North America – 184 guests, ~1.3 guests to 1 crew
- **Le Jacques Cartier**: Indian Ocean, Red Sea, Arabian Peninsula – 184 guests, ~1.3 guests to 1 crew
- **Le Lapérouse**: Oceania, Asia-Pacific, Indonesia, Pacific Islands – 184 guests, ~1.3 guests to 1 crew

- **Le Lyrial**: Mediterranean, Atlantic Coast, South America, Antarctica – 244 guests, ~1.3 guests to 1 crew
- **Le Ponant**: Mediterranean, Seychelles, Red Sea – 32 guests, ~1 guest to 1 crew (three-masted sailing yacht)
- **Le Soléal**: Arctic, Antarctica, Oceania, South Pacific – 264 guests, ~1.3 guests to 1 crew
- **L'Austral**: Antarctica, Arctic, Mediterranean, Northern Europe – 264 guests, ~1.3 guests to 1 crew
- **Paul Gauguin**: French Polynesia, South Pacific Islands – 330 guests, ~1.5 guests to 1 crew (operates under Ponant brand, dedicated to Polynesia)