

# Musical Voyage with Maxim Vengerov & friends

From **15/05/2022**  
to **26/05/2022**

Ship: **L'AUSTRAL**

From **Dublin**  
to **Tromso**



Transfer + flight Tromso/Paris

In partnership with **RADIO CLASSIQUE**, with the exceptional presence on board of **Maxim Vengerov** and **Alain Duault**.

**PONANT** invites you on an all-new **cruise** from the **North Atlantic** to the **Norwegian Sea**. Set sail aboard *L'Austral* for a **12-day** circuit and allow yourself to be captivated by these **singular archipelagos**, marrying the beauty of nature with the weight of rich cultural heritage.

From Dublin, the UNESCO World Heritage capital and home of Oscar Wilde, you will sail along the Gulf Stream and discover the British archipelagos.

Located to the north of Great Britain, the **Hebrides**, the **Orkneys** and the **Shetland Islands** form a 200-km arc frequented by whales and, much to the delight of ornithologists, a **multitude of seabirds**. In particular, you will call on **Iona**, the cradle of Christianity and home to an impressive abbey, and **Kirkwall**, a former **Viking** trading post with a magnificent cathedral.

*L'Austral* will then reach the Norwegian town of **Geiranger** and its sublime **fjord**, a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**, before crossing the Arctic Circle.

Further north, you will marvel at the mysterious charm of the **Lofoten archipelago**. These islands have landscapes of **surreal beauty** alternating between sea, spectacular fjords, mountain slopes, fine sand beaches and huts on stilts. A veritable paradise for fishermen and photographers.

Your cruise will end in **Tromso**, your port of disembarkation.



The information in this document is valid as of 27/01/2022

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## YOUR STOPOVERS :

### DUBLIN

Embarkation 15/05/2022 from 16:00 to 17:00

Departure 15/05/2022 at 18:00

The Irish capital stretches along the banks of the Liffey to Dublin bay, on the East coast of Ireland. Discover Ireland's warm conviviality in the pedestrian district of **Temple Bar**. Its cobbled streets are brimming with fabulous shops, pubs and arts centres. Next to Trinity College, famous for its 18th century library, you can stroll along Grafton Street: in one of its famous tea shops, try a delicious scone and clotted cream served hot and melt-in-the-mouth with jam. Not far from here, the majestic O'Connell bridge leads you to the avenue with the same name, on which **Spire**, a luminous contemporary sculpture presides.

### IONA, HEBRIDES

Arrival 16/05/2022 midday

Departure 16/05/2022 late afternoon

Of all the islands in the **Inner Hebrides**, **Iona** is by far the most conducive to contemplation and meditation. And for good reason... it is here that St Columba landed from Ireland in 563 and undertook to establish Christianity in **Scotland**. Now an abbey, the island's true spiritual centre stands where the ancient monastery founded by the Irish missionary was built. Many kings of Scotland, including the legendary **Macbeth**, are buried in the nearby cemetery. In sunny weather, arriving on the Isle of Iona is a stunningly beautiful experience.

### STORNOWAY, HEBRIDES

Arrival 17/05/2022 early morning

Departure 17/05/2022 late afternoon

Discover **Lewis**, the largest island of the Hebrides, considered to be the cradle of Gaelic culture. Here, the peat- and heather- covered valleys and lochs stretch on to infinity, and numerous bird colonies have taken up residence in the long, jagged coastlines where. Not far from **Stornoway**, the island's main town, built by the Vikings in the 9th century stands one of Scotland's most prominent prehistoric sites: The **Standing Stones of Callanish**. Dating back to more than 3,000 years B.C., these imposing stones placed in a cruciform pattern were laid out according to the moon and stars and their main purpose was to keep track of seasonal cycles, as this was essential for farmers at the time.

## KIRKWALL, SCOTLAND

Arrival 18/05/2022 midday

Departure 18/05/2022 early evening

Capital of the **Orkney archipelago, Kirkwall**, which means “church bay”, is an ideal stopover before continuing on to the **Northern Isles**. Sheltered in a wide bay, the lively town welcomes the visitor with its charming paved alleyways edged by old houses and craft shops. **Tankerness House**, the oldest homestead in the town, is a must-see landmark. But the true architectural treasure of the aptly named Kirkwall is none other than its remarkable red and gold stone cathedral. And because whisky is inseparable from Scotland’s identity, stop at the Highland Park Distillery for a highly instructive visit.

## LERWICK, SHETLAND ISLANDS

Arrival 19/05/2022 early morning

Departure 19/05/2022 midday

The small and charming **capital of the Shetland Islands**, with its sea front of old houses and narrow streets, offering travellers its old districts and a warm port atmosphere. **Geopark Shetland**, a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**, is located to the north. Incredibly well-preserved archaeological sites and ruins prove that the islands’ occupation dates back to the first Neolithic colonies. **The Shetland Museum** and Archives recounts the Shetlands’ history of heritage and culture: Lerwick’s abundant waters were even fished by the Dutch in the past.

## BERGEN

Arrival 20/05/2022 late morning

Departure 20/05/2022 late afternoon

Located at the end of **Byfjord, Bergen** was the capital of Norway in the 12th and 13th Centuries and has preserved some very beautiful monuments from the time when it was home to royalty. Wandering through Bergen’s streets means going back in time, in search of the hidden treasures that have been listed as **World Heritage Sites by UNESCO**. A veritable openair museum, Bergen is home to a thriving artistic community of painters, potters, jewellers. The Bergen cable car offers you a splendid panorama over the port and the surrounding fjords. Do not miss the visit to the old quarter with its narrow streets, a testimony of the power of the hanseatic League that controlled trade in Northern Europe at the end of the Middle Ages.

## OLDEN

Arrival 21/05/2022 midday

Departure 21/05/2022 late afternoon

With its two wooden churches, one red and the other white, plus its breathtaking view of the mouth of the river Oldeelva, **Olden** looks just like a picture post card. Located a few kilometres from the Jostedalsglacier park, home to one of the last **glacier polar icecaps**, this little village is a definite must for exploring the blue languages of the **Briksdal** or Kjennalen **glaciers**. Make sure you find some time to visit the Norwegian Glacier Museum. Absolutely amazing. Another gem is lake Lovatn and its turquoise waters inviting you to quiet contemplation.

## GEIRANGER

Arrival 22/05/2022 early morning

Departure 22/05/2022 early afternoon

A must-see stopover in Norway, located halfway between Bergen and Trondheim, **Geiranger** offers the stunning beauty of a natural decor, listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site. The splendour of the sheer cliffs, dark rock and crystalline water are the stars of the show here. The sides of the fjord offer many possibilities for hiking: the **Eagle's Road** takes you up to a steep stretch offering a gorgeous panoramic view. A visit to **Geiranger** village will immerse you in the rhythm of life in the little local community.

## CROSSING THE ARCTIC CIRCLE

Arrival 23/05/2022

Departure 23/05/2022

On board your ship, cross the mythical line of **the Arctic Circle**. This famous parallel runs at around 66° 33' latitude north. Often considered the **gateway to the Arctic**, it is simply the latitude from which it is possible to observe the midnight sun at least once in the year. Once over the Circle, during the summer months, you will therefore be able to sail in permanent daylight and the low light that is so particular to the polar regions. A **unique moment**, which will doubtless remain one of the highlights of your cruise.

## LEKNES, LOFOTEN

Arrival 24/05/2022 midday

Departure 24/05/2022 late afternoon

Way beyond the Arctic Circle, **Lofoten Islands** are truly considered to be in "another world". A jewel of nature in its most pristine state, this archipelago with its jagged coastline offers you majestic settings of high alpine summits, sandy beaches, green prairies and fjords of a deep blue, where countless bird colonies make their nests. Whether you visit Å, or Nusjford, listed by UNESCO, enjoy authentic and memorable moments.

## SVOLVAER, LOFOTEN

Arrival 25/05/2022 early morning

Departure 25/05/2022 midday

Located on the island of Austvågøy, in the county of Nordland, **Svolvær** will be your ideal entry point for discovering the **Lofoten islands**. An important stopover to the north of Norway, fishing is one of the town's main features. And its speciality is? Cod. A picturesque white Lutheran church rests atop a hillside ridge, overlooking the town's multi-coloured houses. Still higher, the "**The Solvær Goat**" mountain looks over the town from its rocky heights. Topped with two peaks like the horns of an animal, it is one of the region's must-see natural attractions.

## SAILING IN TROLLFJORDEN

Arrival 25/05/2022

Departure 25/05/2022



According to legend, trolls were the guardians of this 2-km long fjord accessible via the Raftsund Strait, between the Vesterålen Archipelago and the Lofoten Islands. Dominated on both sides by **vertical rock faces** that stand up to 1,000 metres high in parts, **Trollfjorden** welcomes you in a **magical atmosphere** which its narrowness helps to create. During this unforgettable journey, you will indeed have the impression that you're grazing the surrounding mountains and that you'll never see the end of this marine cul-de-sac. After a delicate U-turn, your ship will finally head back in the opposite direction: this will perhaps be the opportunity to observe, for want of trolls, **seals** and **eagles**, which are often present in this site, unique on earth.

## TROMSO

Arrival 26/05/2022 early morning

Disembarkation 26/05/2022 at 07:00

In the north of the Arctic circle you'll discover **Tromsø**, a secluded town located in the county of Troms. Norwegians call it the "Paris of the north". You'll soon see why when you discover its extensive neoclassical architectural heritage. A stunning example is the **Arctic cathedral**, a major monument whose stylistic purity echoes the outline of the mountains surrounding the town.