

New Guinea Odyssey

From **25/09/2022**
to **11/10/2022**

Ship: **LE SOLEAL**

From **Darwin**
to **Cairns**



PONANT invites you to embark on board **Le Soléal** for a **brand-new 17-day tropical expedition** cruise to discover **the sublime natural landscapes of Indonesia and Papua New Guinea**.

From **Darwin**, you will be sailing in the **Maluku Islands**, dubbed the "Spice Islands". You will discover **Banda Neira**, shaped by Dutch and Portuguese influences.

Then, you will sail to the heart of **Triton Bay**. Located within a protected marine environment in the middle of the Coral Triangle, you will enjoy an unforgettable Zodiac[®] cruise through the spectacular rainforest capped karst islands.

Le Soléal will continue to sail in the Indonesian province of West Papua to allow you to admire the superb natural site of **Kitikiti Waterfall** where you could enjoy a swim or snorkel surrounded by lush nature, both on land and under water.

As you voyage across Western New Guinea you will experience the spectacular **Cenderawasih Bay**, with an unforgettable opportunity to swim with whale sharks.

Your ship will then set sail for **Papua New Guinea**, a fascinating land that is home to no fewer than 700 ethnic groups within a highly diverse yet mainly unexplored, ecosystem.

In the village of **Kopar**, situated at the mouth of the Sepik River, you will be welcomed with cultural performances and will witness life in a traditional village.

Your call at **Tufi**, will undoubtedly be one of the highlights of your voyage. You will fall under the charm of this picturesque region, dubbed the "Scandinavia of the Tropics", with its deep fiords or locally known '**rias**' **formed through volcanic activity**. In this unique setting the local **Papuan tribes** will share their customs, beliefs and artwork with you.

You will then head north along the coast to **Madang**, nicknamed "the most beautiful city in the South Pacific". Within this attractive province

with great geographical diversity, 170 different languages are spoken.

Your call at **Tufi** will undoubtedly be one of the highlights of your voyage. Dubbed the “Scandinavia of the Tropics”, you will be charmed by the picturesque vista of Fjords and lush mangrove forests where you will be welcomed by Papuan tribes keen to share their culture and art with you.

The encounters with the wildlife described above illustrate possible experiences only and cannot be guaranteed.



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

New Guinea Odyssey

YOUR STOPOVERS :

DARWIN

Embarkation 25/09/2022 from 15:00 to 16:00

Departure 25/09/2022 at 17:00

Darwin is located in Australia's Northern Territory which is also known as the "Top End". It is the **capital city** and the most populated town of the Northern Territory. Darwin is a beautiful tropical city, a **melting pot of people and cultures**, over 50 different cultures live and work side by side that prides itself in its unique and friendly laid-back lifestyle. Come discover the town's still recent history through its emblematic buildings such as the new **Parliament House** opened in 1994, a magnificent example of tropical architecture or **Admiralty House** declared heritage place, a tropical-style home elevated on stilts that has survived two cyclones and numerous air raids.

AT SEA

Arrival 26/09/2022

Departure 26/09/2022

During your day 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 day without a port of call will also be an opportunity to enjoy the conferences or shows proposed on board, 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.

BANDA NEIRA, MALUKU ISLANDS

Arrival 27/09/2022

Departure 27/09/2022

From age-old traditional cultures and ancient vestiges, to coral reefs and lush green jungle... The attractions of the remote Banda archipelago seem endless. Better known as the legendary "Spice Islands" of the Ancient World, these small volcanic landmasses were the fabled prize of colonial powers for more than four centuries. Every colonial power of significance fought for control of these ten small islands that today have become largely forgotten. Walking the streets of Banda Neira is a surreal experience as your eyes are drawn to the eclectic mix of Portuguese, Dutch and British architecture, the remnants of a rich and tumultuous history. It is without doubt the most historically significant and interesting of all the "Spice Islands".

TRITON BAY, WEST PAPUA

Arrival 28/09/2022

Departure 28/09/2022

Triton Bay is one of three regions in Indonesia's West Papua province that comprise the Bird's Head Seascape (the other two are Raja Ampat and Cenderawasih Bay), which is now considered by marine biologists to be the **epicentre of the Coral Triangle**. It contains more fish and coral species than anywhere else on the planet. Its unparalleled marine biodiversity and endemism, habitat richness, and relatively intact nature of its ecosystems are unique. Join your expedition team for a zodiac voyage through the spectacular rainforest capped karst islands. Later in the day enjoy the opportunity to explore the richness of the underwater realm.

KITIKITI WATERFALL, MOMMON

Arrival 29/09/2022

Departure 29/09/2022

North of **Triton Bay**, in the Indonesian province of West Papua, lie the **Bomberai Peninsula** and **Sebakor Bay**. A real paradise for divers, this protected, authentic and very wild area boasts an exceptional biodiversity. Here, you will be able to admire the superb **Kitikiti Waterfall** where you could enjoy a swim or snorkel surrounded by lush nature, both on land and under water.

AT SEA

Arrival 30/09/2022

Departure 30/09/2022

During your day 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 day without a port of call will also be an opportunity to enjoy the conferences or shows proposed on board, 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.

CENDERAWASIH BAY

Arrival 01/10/2022

Departure 02/10/2022

Cenderawasih Bay is located at the western end of New Guinea Island, south-east of the Bird's Head Peninsula. Covering more than 1.4 million hectares the bay is home to an abundant array of uninhabited islands, **pristine coral reefs** and the world's largest fish, the **Whale Shark**. Over the years the whale sharks have learnt the habits of local fishermen who catch baitfish at night in nets lowered from fishing vessels known as "Bagans". The Whale Sharks are now regular visitors feeding on the baitfish that spill from the nets at the surface. Cenderawasih Bay is part of the Bird's Head seascape, the **centre of marine biodiversity at the heart of the coral triangle**. Do not miss the chance to discover these multicoloured reefs and **extraordinary marine fauna**. Depending on the conditions, you may also have the opportunity to snorkel and swim with Whale Sharks.

AT SEA

Arrival 03/10/2022

Departure 03/10/2022

During your day 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 day without a port of call will also be an opportunity to enjoy the conferences or shows proposed on board, 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.

JAYAPURA, PAPUA

Arrival 04/10/2022

Departure 04/10/2022

Jayapura City is the provincial capital of Papua province, Indonesia. It is a modern industrial city contrasting markedly with the surrounding hinterland where Papuan tribes live a subsistence lifestyle. The vast majority of Jayapurans are transmigrants from western Indonesia who control most of the industry and economics of the region. Leaving the city behind, guest will travel to the traditional village of **Asai** on Lake Sentani. Here you can enjoy a cultural performance and witness life in a traditional Papuan village. Asai is famous for its production of Tapa cloth.

KOPAR

Arrival 05/10/2022

Departure 05/10/2022

The people of the Sepik region speak more than 250 languages and are knitted together in systems of trade and cultural interaction. Kopar village's location at the mouth of the Sepik river makes it an important trading point for surrounding villages. Here **the crocodile** is worshiped as the water spirit. As is custom in all Sepik societies, the men's house is the place where important decisions regarding the village are made, where boys are initiated and become men and ceremonies to please the spirits are performed. Guests will be welcomed ashore with a ceremony and cultural performance, including the famous "dragon dance." There will be an opportunity to walk around **the village of Kopar** to experience traditional life in the lower Sepik.

MADANG

Arrival 06/10/2022

Departure 06/10/2022

Madang Township was once known as the "prettiest town in the South Pacific". Its peninsula setting is a show-place of parks, waterways, luxuriant shade trees and sparkling tropical islands. The diverse geographical nature of Madang province is reflected in the 170 different languages that are spoken. This diversity is showcased in the Madang festival with its colourful displays of "sing sings" performed by numerous cultural groups from across the Madang Province. Today, you will also be treated to a number of cultural performances showcasing the local customs, costume and

dance of the coastal, midland and highland communities.

TAMI ISLANDS

Arrival 07/10/2022

Departure 07/10/2022

The **Tami Islands** (Kalal, Wanam & Idjan) are a small group of uplifted coral atolls, with two main villages on the two larger islands and many smaller reefs and cays. In the centre is a beautiful, crystal clear blue lagoon with abundant marine life and stunning coral formations. The islands, located in Morobe Province not far from the town of Finschhafen are seldom-visited. Tami Islanders are renowned artisans and are most famous for their intricately decorated bowls.

TUFI

Arrival 08/10/2022

Departure 08/10/2022

Often described as the “Scandinavia of the tropics”. The spectacular **Tufi** “fiords” plunge over 90 metres deep and rise over 150 metres vertically above the water making for a spectacular backdrop. The traditional way of life plays an important role amongst the villagers with many living in isolated areas along the coast of Cape Nelson and on the slopes of Mount Trafalgar. The area is known for its production of tapa cloth, made from the bark of the paper mulberry tree and skilfully decorated. Guests will travel into the ancient mangrove forests of the Fiords to witness one of the most colourful traditional performances in all of Papua New Guinea. There is also the opportunity to swim and snorkel in the clear waters of Kamoia Beach.

ALOTAU

Arrival 09/10/2022

Departure 09/10/2022

Alotau became the provincial capital of Milne Bay in 1969 and today has a population of approximately 16,000. It serves as our port of entry into Papua New Guinea. Missionaries, miners, pearl divers, Japanese and American warships have all contributed to the History of Milne Bay. Perhaps the most significant history surrounds the Battle of Milne Bay. It was here that the invading Japanese army suffered their first land defeat in the Pacific War in 1942. A memorial park at the battle site commemorates the event. The local people are warm and welcoming resulting in one of the most relaxed, secure and easy-going towns in Papua New Guinea. Join your expedition team for a tour taking in the town markets and WWII memorials.

AT SEA

Arrival 10/10/2022

Departure 10/10/2022

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CAIRNS

Arrival 11/10/2022 early morning

Disembarkation 11/10/2022 at 09:00

Washed by the Coral Sea, the harbour town of **Cairns** is located on Australia's north-east coast. The seafront esplanade is a popular place for locals and visitors to walk, swim and picnic under the shade of swaying **palm trees**. The hills surrounding Cairns form the gateway to the **Queensland Rainforests**, proclaimed a UNESCO World Heritage site for their fauna and flora from the Gondwana era.