

Exploring Nordaustlandet

From **15/06/2022**
to **23/06/2022**

Ship: **LE COMMANDANT CHARCOT**

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



FLIGHT PARIS/LONGYEARBYEN + TRANSFERS
+ FLIGHT LONGYEARBYEN/PARIS

The **Far North** and the expanse of the Arctic polar world and its sea ice stretching all the way to the North Pole are yours to admire during an **all-new 9-day exploratory cruise**. With Ponant, discover these **remote territories from the North of Spitsbergen to Nordaustlandet**, a region inaccessible to traditional cruise ships at this time of year.

Aboard *Le Commandant Charcot*, the **first hybrid electric polar exploration ship**, you will cross the magnificent landscapes of **Kongsfjorden**, then the **Nordvest-Spitsbergen National Park**.

You will then sail east to try to reach the shores of the **Nordaust-Svalbard Nature Reserve**. 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. You are entering the kingdom of the polar bear and will perhaps be lucky enough to spot a mother teaching her cub the secrets of hunting and survival.

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 –, as its name indicates, entirely covered by the ice cap and overrun by walruses.

The crossing of the **Hinlopen Strait** guarantees an exceptional panorama. Its basalt islets and its majestic glaciers hide a rich marine ecosystem: seabird colonies, walruses, polar bears and Arctic foxes come to feed here.

Before your return to **Longyearbyen**, your ship will take you to **Isfjorden**, one of Svalbard's most imposing fjords, famous for sheltering many species of cetaceans.

The exploration of these distant territories will give you a unique feeling of having arrived at the end of the world aboard *Le Commandant Charcot*, capable of reaching extreme sites, usually inaccessible at this time of the year. An unforgettable odyssey, during which your ship will reach 80 degrees north latitude.

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 coastal 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.



The information in this document is valid as of 03/12/2021

Exploring Nordaustlandet

YOUR STOPOVERS :

LONGYEARBYEN, SPITSBERGEN

Embarkation 15/06/2022 from 16:00 to 17:00

Departure 15/06/2022 at 18:00

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.

NORDAUST-SVALBARD NATURE RESERVE

Arrival 16/06/2022

Departure 19/06/2022

The Nordaust-Svalbard Nature Reserve has been protecting the northernmost and coldest part of the archipelago, **Nordaustlandet** (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 19/06/2022

Departure 21/06/2022

Sailing in the **Hinlopen Strait**, in the heart of the Arctic Ocean, between the Norwegian islands of **Spitsbergen** and **Nordaustlandet** promises an unforgettable experience. This territory of the **Nordaust-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 22/06/2022

Departure 22/06/2022

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 23/06/2022 early morning

Disembarkation 23/06/2022 at 08:00

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