

Alaska and its fur traders

From **18/09/2023**
to **02/10/2023**

Ship: **L'AUSTRAL**

From **Nome, Alaska**
to **Vancouver**



Flight Seattle/Nome + transfer

PONANT invites you to follow the steps of **trappers** and of the indigenous peoples of **Alaska**, during a **15-day expedition voyage** aboard *L'Austral*.

From Nome to Vancouver, discover a remote territory still unknown and wild, landscape from infinite **tundra** to glittering lakes, **wide spaces**, gigantic **glaciers**, steep mountains and temperate rainforest.

During your trip, discover the unique wildlife at some of the sites that have marked the history of Alaska.

Your ship will first sail along the **Bering Strait**, before heading south to reach Saint Paul in the Pribilof Islands. In a Zodiac[®] dinghy you will then land on the lush shores of Dutch Harbor in the Aleutian Islands, where you will have the option of participating in organised hikes.

After sailing in the magnificent **Icy Bay** to discover a fjord surrounded by hanging glaciers and vertiginous waterfalls, succumb to the charms of Alaska's **forests** and discover the Tlingit village of Kake, where you might be lucky enough to spot some **black bears**.

Then, set off to meet the whales and other **marine mammals** in **Alert Bay**, in British Columbia, before making your way to Vancouver, your disembarkation port.

We are privileged guests in these extreme lands where we are at the mercy of weather and ice conditions. The itinerary, landings on certain sites and the observation of certain wildlife cannot be guaranteed. They vary from day to day, making each PONANT cruise a unique experience. The Captain and the Expedition Leader will make every effort to ensure that your experience is as rich as possible, while complying with the safety rules and instructions imposed by the AECO.



The information in this document is valid as of 21/10/2021

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YOUR STOPOVERS :

NOME, ALASKA

Embarkation 18/09/2023 from 16:00 to 17:00

Departure 18/09/2023 at 18:00

Located along the Bering Strait at the westernmost point of Alaska, **Nome** offers the rustic charm of a former gold-mining town, set in the middle of magnificent wilderness. As you weave in and out of the brightly coloured houses, you will discover the pioneering legacy that still marks local traditions. Fishing, **reindeer rearing**, sledge-racing... People here live from their manual labour. The surrounding plains provide stunning vantage points for observing Arctic fauna.

AT SEA

Arrival 19/09/2023

Departure 19/09/2023

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.

ST MATTHEW ISLAND

Arrival 20/09/2023

Departure 20/09/2023

Saint Matthew island is right in the middle of the Bering Sea, between Siberia and Alaska. Classified as a National Wildlife Refuge by the United States, this island covered in **wet tundra** corresponds to the northern boundary of the polar bear's range during winter. It is home to many birds, including the **McKay's bunting**, an endemic species whose population is estimated at 6,000 individuals. We can also find **Arctic foxes** there. Although populated by the Aleut during prehistoric times Saint Matthew Island is **uninhabited** today.

SAINT PAUL ISLAND, PRIBILOF ISLANDS

Arrival 21/09/2023

Departure 21/09/2023

Part of the Earth's History was written between Alaska and Russia. We invite you to discover a unique environment

that seems to stretch out to infinity. Lost in the middle of the Bering Sea, **the Pribilof archipelago** is made up of four volcanic islands where nature has crafted exquisitely beautiful landscapes. Here, on the islands of **Saint Paul and Saint George**, you will find **majestic volcanoes**, lava deserts and crater lakes, offering travelers a magnificent vantage point from which to observe a fauna composed almost exclusively of fur seals. The archipelago is also renowned as a paradise for birds, especially on Saint Paul, as more than 240 different species of seabirds take flight from the top of its majestic cliff.

DUTCH HARBOR, UNALASKA

Arrival 22/09/2023

Departure 22/09/2023

During your cruise, discover an exceptional site: **Unalaska Island** and its port, **Dutch Harbor**. Located between the Pacific Ocean and the Bering Sea, on the Aleutian Islands, Dutch Harbor is the only deep water port in the archipelago. As for the island itself, it offers you unique landscapes: volcanic summits swept by the wind and surrounded by the sea, lush green valleys, sometimes covered with bright summer flowers, sometimes with deep winter snow... Unalaska is not only an island with astonishing nature and very varied wildlife, it is also rich in history, where ancient **indigenous cultures** and remains from World War II can be seen and their tales be told.

UNGA ISLAND, ALASKA

Arrival 23/09/2023

Departure 23/09/2023

After a short Zodiac[®] journey between the rocks in the company of your naturalist-guides, you will land in a former village of which many vestiges remain: run-down wooden houses scattered around a flowery meadow, a church with crumbling walls but a roof that still stands, a cemetery... Originally called Ougnagok by the **Aleuts**, this small hamlet, which was home to some 100 inhabitants in the 19th century, was renamed Delarof, after Evstratii Ivanovich **Delarov**. While working for the Shelikhov-Golikov Company, he was the first Greek mariner to discover the Aleutian Islands. These days, this small **ghost-village** now overrun by willowherb is called **Unga**.

CHANKLIUT ISLAND, ALASKA

Arrival 24/09/2023

Departure 24/09/2023

Off the Alaska Peninsula hides a small gem: **Chankliut**. From mountainous terrain to flowery moors and valleys covered in sea lyme-grass, this island, which is part of **the Aleutian archipelago**, offers landscapes with a unique charm. During your walk around a lake, you will cross a sumptuous meadow where beautiful aconite and willowherb vie for attention. The more courageous will venture onward to the neighbouring valley and its **ancient calderas** to admire the splendour of the scenery. This totally uninhabited island bears no trace of any past settlement. Small, curious heads will catch your attention, however: crested puffins and horned puffins bask on the water near spotted seals...

AT SEA

Arrival 25/09/2023

Departure 25/09/2023

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.

TSAA FJORD, ICY BAY, ALASKA

Arrival 26/09/2023

Departure 26/09/2023

Formed by the retreat of the Guyot, Yahtse and Tyndall glaciers over the past 100 years, **Icy Bay** is one of those timeless places where silence reigns supreme. Let yourself be enthralled by landscapes of breathtaking beauty, enhanced by magnificent views over the **Saint Elias Mountains**, visible in the background. The bay, several kilometres wide, is often scattered with **icebergs** sliding on clear and deep waters. It will let you access several sounds, among which are the **Tsaa fjord**, very close to the **Guyot glacier**. Many marine mammals and sea birds have chosen to live on this territory with very few visitors in the south of Alaska.

SITKA, ALASKA

Arrival 27/09/2023

Departure 27/09/2023

Formerly a Russian colony located on **Baranof island**, to the west of the **Alexander archipelago**, **Sitka** is brimming with history. The historical national park of Sitka shelters totems carved out of red cedar, a tree that is omnipresent in the region. These totems are testimonials of the former presence of **Tlingit Indians**. This place is full of natural wonders too. You just have to look up to admire the mountain range around the port. In the distance, the snow-peaked **Edgecumbe volcano** stands majestic. Numerous islands scattered around Sitka stretch out before you in a vision of preserved Alaska.

KAKE, ALASKA

Arrival 28/09/2023

Departure 28/09/2023

Discover the small Tlingit village of **Kake**, around 60 kilometres west of Petersburg. Located on Kupreanof Island, it houses a community of over 500 inhabitants. Kake is paradise for **salmon**, which spawn in the Gunnuk River near the village. Bald eagles often make an appearance, as do **black bears**, which come to enjoy the fish. Another singularity of these parts: the presence, on a hill, of a **totem pole standing over 60 metres tall**, considered the highest in the world.

PRINCE RUPERT

Arrival 29/09/2023

Departure 29/09/2023

Wild and extraordinary, **Prince Rupert** is a dynamic town where the open spaces are “larger than nature”. Located on the remote Kaien Island, off the coast of British Columbia, this little town founded in 1910 witnessed the history of the North West Pacific with the birth of American Indian nations, such as the Haida and Gitksan. During this port of call, make a point of admiring its grandiose landscapes where more than 300 pairs of bald eagles have made a home here; its picturesque residential districts where the sea mist often lingers; and its famous **Museum of Northern British Columbia**, home to a large collection of **ancient totems**.

AT SEA

Arrival 30/09/2023

Departure 30/09/2023

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ALERT BAY

Arrival 01/10/2023

Departure 01/10/2023

Right near the north coast of Vancouver Island, in British Columbia, hides the small **wooded island of Cormorant**. Surrounded by pebble beaches, it offers wonderful opportunities for hikes and for **whale watching**. The surrounding waters are also home to harbour seals, orcas, Steller sea lions, dolphins, and a multitude of seabirds. When your ship calls at **Alert Bay**, a small sheltered fishing port located in the island's south, set off to discover **the indigenous culture** and its traditions. The 'Namgis community, which is part of the Kwakwaka'wakw First Nations, lives here in harmony with the other village inhabitants.

SAILING IN THE JOHNSTONE STRAIT

Arrival 01/10/2023

Departure 01/10/2023

Along the north-east coast of Vancouver Island, **Johnstone Strait** is a 100 km-long channel formed by an old glacier bed, dotted with a string of lush islands. Sailing amid this wilderness offers fantastic opportunities to observe the wildlife. Indeed, **blue whales**, **humpback whales** and the world's largest population of orcas can be found in the cool and sheltered waters of the strait, and you can try to spot some from your ship's deck.

VANCOUVER

Arrival 02/10/2023 early morning

Disembarkation 02/10/2023 at 07:00

Verdant and cosmopolitan, Vancouver is one of Canada's most multi-cultural cities. Located in British Columbia on Canada's west coast, it's surrounded by mountains and outdoor activities are popular. In the city, you can immerse yourself in the Asian atmosphere of bustling Chinatown, shop for pashminas and silk saris at the **Punjabi Market** Indian district and explore the historic area of **Gastown**. Vancouver Art Gallery is known for works by regional artists, while the Museum of Anthropology houses important First Nations collections. **Granville Island Jetty** is a fascinating revitalised industrial area that hosts galleries, restaurants and a huge produce market.