

The Russian Arctic: Between Wrangel & Chukotka

From **21/09/2023**
to **03/10/2023**

Ship: **LE BOREAL**

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



Flight Seattle/Nome + transfers + flight Nome/Seattle

Embark with **Ponant** aboard **Le Boréal** for an unforgettable **expedition cruise** to discover the wonders of Russian High Arctic.

Over 13 days, cruising **between Russia and Alaska**, you will have the chance to sail in the **Bering Strait** and discover extraordinary landscapes combining taiga and tundra dotted with the ephemeral flowers that bloom during the Arctic summer.

This is also a wonderful region for wildlife observation. Listed with UNESCO, the **nature reserve on Wrangel Island** is a unique ecosystem where the greatest biodiversity in the Arctic can be found. It is home to a large population of walrus, countless sea birds, and of course the lord of the Arctic: the **polar bear**.

Le Boréal will then make its way along **Chukotka**. Located between the Chukchi Sea and the Bering Sea, it is one of the most remote parts of the world. In this region where the tundra landscapes display myriad colours in the summertime, the **Chukchi**, a now sedentary people, continue to live from hunting and fishing.

At the end of your cruise, you will disembark in the city of Nome.

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.

Visits to Wrangel Island are subject to permission being granted by the Russian authorities. This part of calls can only be confirmed once this authorisation has been received, six months before the cruise departure date.



The information in this document is valid as of 25/10/2021

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YOUR STOPOVERS :

NOME, ALASKA

Embarkation 21/09/2023 from 16:00 to 17:00

Departure 21/09/2023 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.

CROSSING THE INTERNATIONAL DATE LINE

Arrival 22/09/2023

Departure 22/09/2023

Your itinerary enables you to cross **the International Date Line**. This imaginary line across the Earth's surface approximately follows the 180th meridian in the Pacific Ocean. Because of the roundness of the Earth and the necessity of having reference time meridians, we have to change dates when we cross this line. So if your ship is travelling west, you will need to add a day to the expected date; conversely, if travelling east, you will take away a day. This paradox, already noted by Magellan's crews during his circumnavigation, serves as dramatic motivation in several novels, including Jules Verne's famous *Around the World in Eighty Days*.

AT SEA

Arrival 23/09/2023

Departure 23/09/2023

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.

PROVIDENIYA

Arrival 24/09/2023

Departure 24/09/2023

Across the Bering Strait from Alaska, which it almost touches and can be glimpsed when the weather is fine, the town of **Provideniya** seems to keep a watchful eye over ships heading for the East Siberian Sea. Nestled against mountains with peaks of up to 2,000 m, Provideniya is the gateway to the **Chukotka Peninsula**, a polar region as yet unknown to the general public, with striking landscapes and a primitive beauty like no other.

CHUKOTKA

Arrival 25/09/2023

Departure 25/09/2023

Located between the glacial Arctic Ocean and the Pacific Ocean, on the eastern point of Russia, **Chukotka** is one of the world's most isolated regions. Made up of vast plains of **tundra**, which take on magnificent colours in summer, the region is the kingdom of the **Chukchi**, a nomad people that has now settled. Present on these lands for millennia, they are one of Eastern Siberia's oldest communities and still live from hunting and fishing today.

KOLYUCHIN ISLAND

Arrival 26/09/2023

Departure 26/09/2023

The northern coast of Chukotka shelters a small inhabited island going by the name of **Kolyuchin**. During your visit to these parts, you will be able to observe, on the western edge, a former Russian **scientific research station**, now abandoned. Not far from these buildings rise one of the most spectacular **bird cliffs** in the Arctic: puffins, gulls, guillemots, cormorants, geese, sandpipers, loons and sandhill cranes all rub feathers here. **Walruses, grey whales** and **polar bears** are also part of the décor, as if they wanted to fully complete this typically Arctic tableau in which the tundra, which covers the entire island, welcomes a vast plain dotted with shallow lakes.

WRANGEL ISLAND RESERVE

Arrival 27/09/2023

Departure 29/09/2023

Imagine a natural island that is mostly mountainous and, for the rest of its landscapes, alternates between vast tundra plains and areas of great lakes, lagoons and cliffs. Welcome to **Wrangel**, the most important hotspot of Arctic biodiversity. Situated between the East Siberian Sea and the Chukchi Sea, the island was named after the Russian explorer Ferdinand von Wrangel. Listed as a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**, the island is a rare, **precious** and very ancient **ecosystem** with unique vegetation, as well as an exceptional fauna: it is home to the majestic polar bear and the vast majority of the Russian Arctic's walrus population. The island also holds traces of the last mammoths and is home to several endemic species.

AT SEA

Arrival 30/09/2023

Departure 30/09/2023

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.

CHUKOTKA

Arrival 01/10/2023

Departure 01/10/2023

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AT SEA

Arrival 02/10/2023

Departure 02/10/2023

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.

CROSSING THE INTERNATIONAL DATE LINE

Arrival 02/10/2023

Departure 02/10/2023

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NOME, ALASKA

Arrival 03/10/2023 early morning

Disembarkation 03/10/2023 at 07:00

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.