

A second PONANT EXPLORERS on the way and... a world first to come!



March 2017 | Construction of *Le Lapérouse* continues with the laying of the first block, while the first sheet of steel has been cut for *Le Champlain*, marking the launch of the construction of the second in the series of four PONANT EXPLORERS sisterships, due to be delivered in Summer 2018 and Summer 2019. These 4 yachts will be fitted with a multi-sensorial underwater lounge, an exclusive design and a world first, which will be revealed in May 2017.

The only French cruise ship owner and world leader in luxury expeditions, PONANT is continuing the construction of its four future sistership yachts, the PONANT EXPLORERS series. The first block of *Le Lapérouse* was laid on 22 February 2017 in the Vard shipyard, the Norwegian subsidiary of Fincantieri. On that occasion, the hull was formed from 2 blocks weighing 60 and 29 tons.

Following this first yacht in the PONANT EXPLORERS series is *Le Champlain*, and her first steel was cut on 1st March, in the presence of Hughes Decamus, Newbuilding chief engineer for PONANT.

These first two sisterships will be operational for Summer 2018, while the next two ships, *Le Bougainville* and *Le Dumont d'Urville* will arrive for the Summer 2019 season. This new generation of ships flying the French flag will be fitted with the latest technology and will be certified 1C (Ice class). These flagships will meet the standards of the international Cleanship label (Bureau Veritas), as a result of their innovative green technology. Combining moderate size (131 metres in length and 92 cabins), design and technology, the PONANT EXPLORERS are built to be able to drop anchor in the most inaccessible sites, where other ships do not venture. They will start their inaugural season in the Mediterranean and Northern Europe, but their itineraries will also take them to the tropical and sub-tropical regions.

And finally, at the end of May, PONANT will reveal a world first: a brand-new and exclusive concept of a multi-sensorial underwater lounge, designed in conjunction with the Architect – Member of the Institut de France Jacques Rougerie. Watch this space!

ABOUT PONANT

The only French-owned cruise line and the world leader in luxury expeditions, PONANT was created in 1988 by Jean Emmanuel Sauvée and a dozen officers of the French Merchant Navy. Today, PONANT is leading the way with a new style of luxury cruising through a unique conception of sea travel which combines exceptional itineraries and luxury hotel services, aboard luxurious smaller-scale ships. www.ponant.com

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