The James Cook Collection

Exceptional cruises onboard small, luxury ships on the 250th Anniversary of James Cook’s first voyage

PONANT proud sponsor of James Cook: The Voyages exhibition
In the wake of great explorers

PONANT cruises sponsors the British Library’s iconic exhibition entitled “JAMES COOK: THE VOYAGES”

As the world leader in luxury expeditions and with 30 years of maritime exploration, PONANT is delighted to sponsor the iconic exhibition “JAMES COOK: THE VOYAGES” held at the British Library between April-August 2018.

In this booklet, we have compiled a special collection of luxury expedition voyages which sail the same waters as Cook and his fellow 18th century explorers, de Bougainville and La Perouse. Our elegant, luxurious ships may offer much higher levels of comfort than Cook and his men experienced however what is unique among today’s cruise operators is our intimate, boutique-size ships, which we are able to sail into places that even the most well-travelled can only dream of.

James Cook, Louis de Bougainville and the Comte de La Perouse

James Cook’s ship Endeavour set sail from Plymouth 250 years ago and over the course of three voyages, Cook travelled further south than anyone else in the world, crossing the Antarctic Circle for the first time. Cook achieved the first recorded European contact with the eastern coastline of Australia.

French explorer Louis de Bougainville was a contemporary of Cook and circumnavigated the globe. He is known for colonising the Falkland Islands and for achieving the first sighting of the Papua New Guinea island.

Louis XVI commissioned the Comte de La Perouse to continue Cook’s work after his death, at a time when the coasts of California, the China Sea and the southern part of New Holland remained unmapped. La Perouse’s expedition (1785-1788) would sail along the unexplored coasts Cook had never reached.

In keeping with the spirit of adventure embodied by these heroic men, PONANT has named two of its six upcoming Explorer class ships Le Lapérouse & Le Bougainville.

Read on and let yourself be tempted…...
Discover the Ponant difference

Enjoy the experience of a PONANT cruise
Discover Earth's treasures by sea on board luxurious yachts which are built on an intimate, human scale: 30 years of expertise, attentive service, gastronomy: set sail in a five-star environment and enjoy a travel experience that is simultaneously authentic and sophisticated.

On board state-of-the-art yachts with a maximum of 132 cabins and suites, you will find a very special intimate atmosphere imbued with French flair: a blend of gastronomy, French wines, fine materials, elegant details and sleek yet welcoming design.

The world leader in luxury expeditions
In the wake of the great explorers, discover the world's most remote and inaccessible regions in supreme comfort.

Enjoy unique itineraries where flexibility is the approach at all times. Aboard yachts designed to navigate in extreme regions and which are small enough to be able to land passengers in the most exceptional sites, discover places which other ships are unable to reach.

Under the guidance of PONANT’s expedition teams composed of passionate experts, regular outings and landings in zodiacs will allow you to get as close to nature as possible.

Exceptional itineraries and mythical ports of call
Mythical ports of call in secret berths accessible only to small ships... We have been planning the most beautiful itineraries for our passengers for 30 years. On board, nature guides enrich your travel experience and share their knowledge and passion with you.

The French Touch
Our bilingual French crew is attentive, discreet, and ready to meet your expectations. Aboard all our ships, you can enjoy an atmosphere of French “art de vivre”: delicate and refined cuisine and a sleek and welcoming design.

Gastronomy
Our French chefs offer you carefully devised menus with a focus on a delicate and varied cuisine accompanied by a selection of exquisite wines, all orchestrated by professional and personalised service.

Elegance & intimacy
Aboard our latest-generation luxury yachts with 122 to 132 spacious suites and staterooms, most of which boast a balcony, discover the unparalleled joy of an intimate cruise in the heart of 5-star comfort.

When you choose a Ponant cruise, you are choosing a state of mind: a blend of elegance and authenticity, exploration and total comfort, adventure and refinement...
PONANT is expanding its unique luxury expedition cruise concept with the arrival of six new sisterships, the PONANT Explorers.

PONANT guests will be able to enjoy new travel experiences, such as tropical and subtropical expeditions. Offering a unique blend of discovery and exceptional comfort, even in the most remote corners of the world, is our hallmark.

Le Laperouse, Le Champlain, Le Bougainville, Le Dumont-d’Urville, Le Bellot, Le Surville

The six new stars of our fleet pay tribute to the great French explorers and will carry guests in the wake of these men who, long ago, set off for adventure in search of new lands. Taking inspiration from these navigators was a natural choice for PONANT, the only French cruise line to sail to little-known, remote lands that are inaccessible to larger ships.

In keeping with our cruise line’s philosophy, each ship combines a limited guest capacity, sleek design, cutting-edge technology, and respect for the environment. They will enable PONANT to offer an ever-wider range of destinations.

World exclusive, multisensory innovation

PONANT is at the forefront of innovative sea exploration with the launch of the world’s first ever multisensory underwater lounge, “Blue Eye” featured onboard four small luxury exploration vessels, the PONANT Explorers.

What is the Blue Eye lounge?

• World’s first multi-sensory underwater lounge.
• Beneath sea level, it is open to all guests
• Underwater projectors enable observation of the sea bed and photo-luminescent organisms
• Design evokes cetaceans and jellyfish
• Underwater cameras project live images on digital screens
• Hydrophones allow guests to experience world-exclusive acoustic immersion
• Body Listening sofas vibrate and offer unique sensory listening through corporal resonance

Introducing The PONANT Explorers
Our fleet
Small is beautiful

L’Austral, Le Boréal, Le Soléal & Le Lyrial: a superb series of 4 sisterships

These four elegant yachts with 122 to 132 cabins and suites perpetuate our philosophy: limited capacity, unique atmosphere and a subtle combination of luxury, privacy and well-being. Launched between 2010 and 2015, they form the youngest fleet on the market.

Onboard, there are no more than 260 guests, attentively looked after by 132 staff members who are perfectly bilingual.

The onboard atmosphere is refined yet convivial; uniquely in the cruise industry the bridge is open to any guest who wants to visit and have a chat with the captain and crew.

SAIL THE SAME WATERS
as Captain Cook…
James Cook circumnavigated New Zealand and was the first to accurately chart the whole of its coastline. He discovered that New Zealand consisted of two main islands, north (Te Ika a Maui) and south (Te Wai Pounamu) islands (October 1769-March 1770).

French explorer the Comte de la Perouse, commissioned by Louis XVI, landed in Botany Bay in 1788. Some 18 years after Cook, La Perouse stayed there for 6 weeks, in what is now known as the La Perouse peninsula, before departing for New Caledonia, the Solomons and the Louisiades.
James Cook landed in Hawai’i on January 18, 1778 and named the archipelago “Sandwich Islands” in honour of his sponsor at the time, the Earl of Sandwich. The Marquesas islands were discovered by the Spanish explorer Alvaro de Mendana in 1593. Cook’s ambition however was to chart the exact position of previously discovered lands as well as to observe more closely indigenous people, flora and fauna. James Cook was the first European to sight New Caledonia, on 4 September 1774. He named it “New Caledonia”, as the northeast of the island reminded him of Scotland (Caledonia being the Latin name for Scotland). Cook also named the islands to the north of New Caledonia the New Hebrides (now Vanuatu), after the islands north of Scotland. Point Venus in Tahiti is the site of Cook’s observation of the transit of Venus in 1769.
James Cook crossed the Antarctic Circle aboard the Resolution on 17 January 1773. Pack ice and the solid freezing of the ship’s sails prevented him from exploring the region any further. He crossed the Antarctic Circle twice more, with his most southerly penetration on 30 January 1774, reaching latitude 71°10′ South at longitude 106°54′ West. At this point Cook and his men could go no further because of the solid sea ice. On this occasion, Cook wrote: “I who had ambition not only to go farther than anyone had been before, but as far as it was possible for man to go, was not sorry in meeting with this interruption...”

Our polar expeditions are designed through preliminary exploratory trips undertaken by Mick Fogg (renowned for his conservation work and the first ever Ambassador for the Orangutan Foundation International) and Nicolas Dubreuil (an ethnologist who spends 8 months of the year near the poles and has travelled across by kayak, on skis, on a sleigh, on foot and under water). Our latest generation fleet is the youngest in the world and has the most modern technology and equipment; ensuring ultimate safety and respect for the regions we visit.

Our stable and silent ICE-certified ships meet the most stringent international standards: 3D seabed visualisation using a dual sonar system, satellite weather station and GPS trackers on Zodiac inflatables.

Leave your packing worries behind and focus on your polar adventures… we provide parkas and boots for your comfort!!

**BEYOND THE POLAR CIRCLE**

Ushuaia - Ushuaia | Le Boréal
6 February 2020

**FROM ANTARCTICA TO AFRICA**

Ushuaia - Cape Town | Le Lyrial
3 March 2019

**Polar Expeditions**
On March 6, 1778 Captain Cook landed near Cape Foulweather on the Oregon coast, which he named after the stormy weather his expedition encountered there.

Cook entered Nootka Sound on Vancouver Island, where he stayed for one month, after which he headed for the Bering Strait, exploring and mapping the coast all the way and identifying what came to be known as Cook Inlet in Alaska.

In a single visit, Cook charted the majority of the North American northwest coastline on world maps for the first time, and determined the extent of Alaska.

Cook made several attempts to pass through the Bering Strait and eventually sailed south to Unalaska in the Aleutian Islands where he spent three weeks, meeting Russian traders.

Cook made detailed maps of Newfoundland prior to making three voyages to the Pacific Ocean.
A total of 95 persons sailed in Endeavour, 94 leaving England and one seaman being impressed at Madeira. Fifty-six of the original 94 reached home 2 years and 11 months later. 

In August 1772, Cook landed in Madeira onboard the Resolution, where he stocked up on provisions such as beef, onions, fruit and fresh water, before setting sail for Cape Verde. 

The island of Gorée, off the coast of Dakar, switched hands between the Portuguese and Dutch several times before falling to the English under Admiral Robert Holmes in 1664, finally won over by the French in 1677. The infamous “House of Slaves” was built at Gorée in 1776. 

Resolution arrived home at Spithead, Portsmouth on 30 July 1775 having visited St Helena and Fernando de Noronha on the way.