

Coastal Wonders of the Norwegian Coast & Midnight Sun

Springtime magic in Northern Europe!

10 nights on board

11 Days

PKG No. UC025

Departs in 2025

5 Jun

Starting from

\$12,979

Exclusive Offer!

Ponant Cruises

Norway

Overview

An 11-day luxury cruise exploring Norway's magnificent landscapes in springtime from Bergen to Longyearbyen. Exclusive Ultimate Cruising offer: Receive \$1000 flight credit per cabin and \$500 credit towards your next Ultimate Cruising holiday!

Come aboard *Le Boréal* for a 11-day cruise exploring Norway's magnificent landscapes in springtime, with its majestic fjords and unforgettable experiences. From Bergen, you sail to fairytale lands beyond the Arctic Circle, where you will discover age-old traditions as you go on this exceptional journey.

Your ship first sails into the splendid Geiranger fjord, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, before reaching Alesund. This charming coastal town with its cobbled streets and Art Deco architecture also boasts an attractive hiking trail ideal for admiring the town, as well as Norway's first marine science centre.

Next, you head for the Smola archipelago and a meadow-covered island where sheep graze and majestic sea eagles nest. *Le Boréal* approaches the charming and historic Bronnoysund: a former Viking city and the gateway to the fascinating Vega Archipelago, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Made up of dozens of islands, reefs and isolated rocks, it is a natural sanctuary for numerous colonies of seabirds, particularly common eider ducks during their nesting season.

As the Arctic Circle draws ever closer, an unspoilt natural landscape unfolds before you. The deep blue water contrasts with the heathland, covered with green vegetation at this time of year. You will marvel at the mysterious charm of the Lofoten archipelago. These islands have a truly other-worldly beauty, alternating between sea, spectacular fjords, mountain slopes and colourful huts on stilts. Your ship then sails into Trollfjorden, bordered by craggy mountains, before heading upstream to Tromso, famous for the architecture of its church, nicknamed the "Cathedral of the Arctic".

A typical Lofoten village, Gjesvær was once a trading post. It was probably the first site in Magerøya to have a permanent settlement. This fishing village was one of the most important

in Finnmark from the early Middle Ages until the last century. Here you will find a picturesque church, breathtaking scenery and the Gjesvaerstappen bird sanctuary, ideal for birdwatching.

At Hornvika, the more adventurous can disembark and head for the North Cape on a steep hike. This point, considered the most northerly in Europe, can also be reached by bus from Skarsvag. On this cliff with its iconic monument in the form of an earthly globe, you can contemplate the immensity of the Barents Sea beneath the midnight sun.

Le Boréal then heads for Lakselv. This small village, whose name means “salmon river”, is the main town in this territory, and provides an opportunity to discover local life and customs. This stopover will be marked by an immersion in the land of the Sami, the indigenous reindeer herding people.

Then you take a trip in the majestic Porsangerfjorden. As you sail, you will fall under the spell of raw and wild nature. The deep blue water contrasts with the land and the season’s verdant vegetation. On Reinoya Island, you will criss-cross the nature reserve of the same name and attempt to identify the many species of birds that hide in this rich ecosystem.

It is now time to leave continental Europe to reach the Svalbard archipelago and the High Arctic. Midway between Norway’s North Cape and the southern tip of Spitsbergen, you will sail past Bjornoya (Bear Island). Hundreds of seabirds have found refuge in the island’s huge rocky cliffs. It is a fascinating sight to observe.

Vessel



Like *Le Soleal* and *L’Austral*, the two sister ships that preceded it, *Le Boreal* further reaffirms PONANT's signature approach: to take passengers to the farthest reaches of the planet onboard five-star ships offering top-of-the-range services.

An elegant appearance and refined interior design combine with cutting-edge technology to offer a new type of cruising: adventure in a luxury setting.

Features:

- All meals on board
- the Open Bar: beginning with boarding, and during the duration of the cruise, a wide selection of drinks (mineral water, soft drinks, wine, beer, Charles Heidsieck champagne, spirits, coffee, tea) is served on request and at any time of the day. Certain premium alcoholic beverages on the menu are not included in the Open Bar,

- free Wi-Fi internet access 24 hours a day*,
- activities and excursions offered during expedition cruises as specified in the itinerary
- Spa and Wellness Centre
- Swimming pool
- Guest Lecturer
- Fitness Room

Tonnage: 10944
 Build date: 2010
 Crew: 145
 Capacity: 264
 Length: 142m

Itinerary



Day 1 Bergen

Located at the end of Byfjord, Bergen was the capital of Norway in the 12th and 13th Centuries and has preserved some very beautiful monuments from the time when it was home to royalty. Wandering through Bergen's streets means going back in time, in search of the hidden treasures that have been listed as World Heritage Sites by UNESCO. A veritable open-air museum, Bergen is home to a thriving artistic community of painters, potters, jewellers. The Bergen cable car offers you a splendid panorama over the port and the surrounding fjords. Do not miss the visit to the old quarter with its narrow streets, a testimony of the power of the hanseatic League that controlled trade in Northern Europe at the end of the Middle Ages.

Day 2 Sailing in the Geiranger Fjord & Alesund

Listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 2005, Geirangerfjord is part of the West Norwegian Fjords. Located in the south-west of Norway, to the north-east of Bergen, the fjord stretches from Stavanger in the south to Andalsnes, 500 km north-east. It is one of the longest and deepest fjords in the world and considered to be one of the most spectacular landscapes

on the planet. You will admire the exceptional natural beauty of its narrow and steep-sided crystalline rock walls, rising to a height of 1,400 m and extending 500 m below sea level. Numerous waterfalls are part of the great variety of natural terrestrial and marine phenomena to be found at this site. Surrounded by a multitude of islands, fjords and majestic mountains, the town of Ålesund surprises many visitors. In fact, it is internationally renowned for its Art nouveau architecture. After the terrible fire of 1904 which reduced a large part of the town to ashes, Norwegian architects inspired by the Art nouveau style contributed to its reconstruction, with a very picturesque result. Not far from Ålesund, you will also discover Giske, the native island of Rollon, the great Viking leader who commanded the Norse expeditions to Normandy, or the beautiful island of Godoy and the village of Ales, which offers a grandiose panorama over the Atlantic Ocean and the surrounding islands.

Day 3 Smøla

A natural paradise, Smøla is an island surrounded by an archipelago of thousands of small islands, islets and reefs, all bathed in an extraordinary light. The sheep freely graze the moorland. Ocean and fresh water meet, forming bays, ponds and pools of brackish water conducive to the development of a high biodiversity. In winter, the island serves as a refuge to numerous seabird species. One of these is the sea eagle, or white-tailed eagle – a protected species of which the densest population is found here. The island's inhabitants subsist primarily on fishing and will share their culinary traditions with you by introducing you to some local products. If you are feeling adventurous, you can even try your hand at fishing in the crystal-clear waters or you can visit the island of Hitra.

Day 4 Bronnoysund

Nestling on the Torget peninsula a short distance from the Arctic Circle, not far from the mythical Torghatten granite dome, Bronnoysund invites you on an unforgettable journey into the heart of wild nature, between chains of rocky, green and snow-covered islets. The port of call in this former Viking city will also be an opportunity to discover the Vega archipelago, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Its 6,500 or so islands will offer you indelible moments in this natural setting, where time seems to stand still. Surrounded by high mountains that drop sharply into the Norwegian Sea, these insular natural sanctuaries are home to many species of seabirds, like the common eider.

Day 5 Reine, Lofoten & Sailing in the Trollfjorden

Way beyond the Arctic Circle, Lofoten Islands are truly considered to be in "another world". A jewel of nature in its most pristine state, this archipelago with its jagged coastline offers you majestic settings of high alpine summits, sandy beaches, green prairies and fjords of a deep blue, where countless bird colonies make their nests. Whether you visit Å, or Nusjford, listed by UNESCO, enjoy authentic and memorable moments. According to legend, trolls were the guardians of this 2-km long fjord accessible via the Raftsund Strait, between the Vesterålen Archipelago and the Lofoten Islands. Dominated on both sides by vertical rock faces that stand up to 1,000 metres high in parts, Trollfjorden welcomes you in a magical atmosphere which its narrowness helps to create. During this unforgettable journey, you will indeed have the impression that you're grazing the surrounding mountains and that you'll never see the end of this marine cul-de-sac. After a delicate U-turn, your ship will finally head back in the opposite direction: this will perhaps be the opportunity to observe, for want of trolls, seals and eagles, which are often present in this site, unique on earth.

Day 6 Tromsø

In the north of the Arctic circle you'll discover Tromsø, a secluded town located in the county of Troms. Norwegians call it the "Paris of the north". You'll soon see why when you discover its extensive neoclassical architectural heritage. A stunning example is the Arctic cathedral, a major monument whose stylistic purity echoes the outline of the mountains surrounding the town.

Day 7 Gjesvaer & Hornvika

You cannot fail to be enchanted by the wild lands of this small Viking port in Finnmark county in the north of Norway, thanks to the beauty of the preserved landscapes or the observation of the birds that have come to nest in this fantastic paradise with nutrient-rich waters and sheer cliffs bordering the sea. You will have the opportunity to take an excursion to the neighbouring island of Gjesvaerstappen, one of the largest reserves in Europe, where you will be able to admire the many migratory birds... The small village of Gjesvaer has kept its yesteryear soul, with its pretty church and its colourful wooden houses. Like the first explorers, disembark on the ancestral land of the North Cape, in Hornvika, the world's northernmost fishing village. For centuries, this Norwegian jewel nestling in the fjords remained the only entrance to the North Cape, only accessible to members of the royal family and great explorers, and only by boat. You will also have the opportunity to go on a hike where you will be able to admire exceptional wild landscapes as well as Arctic wildlife in all its riches. Let the adventure begin here, on the North Cape.

Day 8 Skarsvag, Lakselv & Sailing in Porsangerfjorden

At the far north of continental Norway, in Finnmark county, Skarsvag can claim to be one of the world's northernmost villages. A land of fishermen on the island of Magerøy, the village is inhabited by a handful of men and women who share their territory with wild reindeer — indeed, it is not uncommon to come across these animals at a street corner. The short vegetation of this hilly landscape bestows a charming monotony, interrupted only by its jagged shores. Discover Lakselv, whose name means "Salmon River", lying at the end of the immense Porsangerfjorden. As its name indicates, this small village is renowned for the salmon fishing in the waters of its river, which are brimming with this fish and others. The village is ideally located, offering privileged access to the surrounding magnificent nature. In particular, it retains traces of the last ice age in Trollholmsund, where dolomites with dreamlike silhouettes can be seen. Do not miss this extraordinary sight! During an exceptional sailing experience in the Porsangerfjorden, discover the fourth-longest Norwegian fjord (measuring 123 kilometres - 76 miles). This real labyrinth will show you the region's craggy coastlines, which extend into a background of Finnmark's snow-covered mountains. The southern part of the fjord has been designated an Important Bird and Biodiversity Area (IBA). In particular, it is home to the lesser white-fronted goose, the common eider and the purple sandpiper in its unique and varied ecosystem, which is made up of moors, meadows, peat bogs and forests of birch trees.

Day 9 At Sea

During your journey 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 journey without a port of call will also be an opportunity to enjoy the conferences or shows

proposed on board, depending on the activities offered, or 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.

Day 10 Sailing along Bjornoya (Bear Island)

Halfway between Norway and Spitsbergen, you will sail not far from the coastlines of Bjørnøya, the southernmost island of Svalbard. From your ship, observe this isolated piece of land discovered in 1596 by the Dutch navigator Willem Barents, then looking for the Northwest Passage. Following a tough fight between a polar bear and the members of the expedition, he dubbed the place Bear Island. Regularly covered by a thick layer of fog, Bjørnøya shelters a meteorological station built in 1923, which is still in operation. Declared a nature reserve in 2002, the island is above all home to an enormous colony of sea birds: skuas, guillemots, puffins, Tridactyl gulls, petrels, gulls and little auks all coexist here.

Day 11 Longyerbyen, Spitsbergen

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.

Special Inclusion



Package Includes:

- * 10 night luxury cruise aboard Ponant's Le Boreal from Bergen to Longyearbyen
- * All meals on board
- * The Open Bar: beginning with boarding, and during the duration of the cruise, a wide selection of drinks (mineral water, soft drinks, wine, beer, Charles Heidsieck champagne, spirits, coffee, tea) is served on request and at any time of the day. Certain premium alcoholic beverages on the menu are not included in the Open Bar
- * Free Wi-Fi internet access 24 hours a day*
- * Access to all the common areas: fitness room, steam room, hair salon, swimming pool (sea

water, heated), solarium, lounges, theater, boutique & leisure area.

* Expedition excursions throughout the cruise

* Transfer to the airport

* Flight from Longyearbyen to Paris (selected by Ponant) in economy class

PLUS - Book with Ultimate Cruising and also receive:

* \$1000 flight credit per couple

* \$500 credit towards your next Ultimate Cruising booking

Special Information

TRAVEL DOCUMENTS & ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Please contact us for the latest information on entry and visa requirements.

INOCULATIONS

At time of publishing, vaccinations were not required. Passengers should consult their travel agent for the latest requirements.

RATES

Rates are per adult, in double or single occupancy. These fares are correct at the time of printing and are subject to change; with or without notice.

RATES DO NOT INCLUDE

Shipboard purchases, gratuities, port taxes other than those specifically provided for, and other personal items. Rates quoted at the time of printing are based on current costs and are subject to change up to and including the date of sailing.

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