

THE ÎLES DU PONANT

Cruise Western France



The **Ponant Islands**, the common theme of this brand-new cruise, are scattered off the Breton coastline. Washed either by the English Channel or by the Atlantic, they owe their name to their Western geographical situation: **Ponant** meaning literally where the sun sets.



DATE: April 19, 2020

DURATION: 8-DAYS/7-NIGHTS

EMBARK: LORIENT, FRANCE
DISEMBARK: HONFLEUR, FRANCE

SHIP: L'AUSTRAL

FROM: \$3,030*

***First Time Ponant Cruisers receive \$600 off these fares**

***Book and deposit by Mar 31, 2019**

With Lorient as the departure point, set sail aboard *L'Austral* for an exceptional cruise along the coast of Brittany.

The **Ponant Islands**, the common theme of this brand-new cruise, are scattered off the Breton coastline. Washed either by the English Channel or by the Atlantic, they owe their name to their Western geographical situation: **Ponant meaning literally where the sun sets.**

HIGHLIGHTS

- A 100%-French cruise, discovering the most beautiful coastlines of Western France around Brittany.
- The singer and harpist Cécile Corbel will be on board.
- From Saint-Malo, visit Mont-Saint-Michel, listed as UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- Sailing around the Ponant Islands, the symbol of our company.
- The Island of Hoëdic, where sea daffodils colour the dunes over the seasons, Port-Navalo at the entrance to the Gulf of Morbihan, and the Glénan Islands.



ITINERARY

DAY 1 — LORIENT

NOTE: We can arrange pre- and post-cruise tour programs for you – see more while you are here! It is always advisable to arrive at least one day early, two or more is preferable.

Rebuilt after the bombings of the Second World War, Lorient is known as the town of five ports: the military port (the Keroman submarine base), a pleasure port, a fishing port which is the second largest in France, a

commercial port and a passenger port. There are two important visits: the museum dedicated to submarines, home to a submarine named Flore and located in the former German military base, and the Cité de la Voile Éric Tabarly, an interactive sailing museum about yachting and the great sea races. Let yourself fall under the charm of the view from the Port-Louis citadel and the quays, evoking the prosperous past of this Breton town, colored with silks and spices.



DAY 2 - HOUAT & BELLE-ÎLE-EN-MER

Houat is a French island off the south coast of Brittany. It is located, along with two other major islands, in the entrance to the Baie de Quiberon.

Lying to the South of Brittany, Belle-Île is very aptly named. The largest of the Ponant islands, it owes its glowing reputation to its exceptional environment and generous natural attributes: pristine moors and dunes, headlands and cliffs cut into granite points, rocky inlets, and sheltered bays with sandy or pebble beaches. Aboard your ship, let the wild coastline of Belle-Île-en-Mer surprise you, this little speck of land lying on the ocean, sparkling with colours in the morning light.

DAY 3 – SAILING AROUND HOËDIC ISLAND & PORT-NAVALO

Hoëdic is an island off the south coast of Brittany in north-western France. Its bigger "twin sister" island is Houat. Port-Navalo is located at the entrance to the Gulf of Morbihan, at the extreme tip of the Rhuys peninsula. The view over Locmariaquer, at the other side of the gulf as well as over the Quiberon peninsula are exceptional. A charming village of traditional Breton houses, Port-Navalo has always been a resolutely maritime town, a traditional fishing port and a well-protected refuge from the Suroit winds. Do not miss the chance to stroll along the coastal footpath in search of

viewpoints over this inland sea that is the gulf, crossed every day by all types of vessels including the famous sinagots with their red sails.

DAY 4 – SAILING ALONG ILE DE GROIX, GLÉNAN ISLANDS & VISIT CONCARNEAU

“Qui voit Groix voit sa joie” (“Whoever sees Groix will see its glee”) —this proverb will make perfect sense as soon as your ship starts following the coastlines of Groix Island.

The Glénan archipelago and its string of islets offer you a magical spectacle with their white sand beaches and emerald green waters, evoking the exoticism of distant islands.

An emblematic town in Brittany, it is hard to resist the delights of Concarneau. The “blue town” will astonish and surprise you with its charm and history. Stroll along the streets of the Ville Close, with its remarkable walls and fortifications overlooking Concarneau Bay. Since the siege of the town by Duguesclin in the 16th Century, it has maintained its taste for adventure. The maritime history of the town and its canning industry is examined in the interesting fishing museum (Musée de la Pêche). Also, do not miss the visit to Keriolet Castle, a neo-gothic gem built in the 19th Century by a Russian imperial princess.



DAY 5 – SAILING ALONG ILE DE SEIN, DOUARNENEZ BAY, ILE DE MOLENE, OUESSANT

The Île de Sein, a simple dash lining the horizon of the Iroise Sea.

Between the Crozon Peninsula in the north and the Pointe du Raz in the south, Douarnenez Bay sketches out a vast sailing area that is over 16 kilometres wide and 20 kilometres long.

Molène is an island unlike any other. At around 15 kilometres from the west coast of the Finistère, Molène will surprise you with its changing and constantly renewed face.

Ouessant boasts a wild and bitter beauty. Its landscapes carved by the sea and the wind, the vegetation of the moors and the heather, the rocks ceaselessly whipped by the Atlantic waves, are the home to thousands of sea birds. The island has been continuously inhabited since prehistoric times, with women dedicating themselves to farming while the men were fishermen and sailors. From Lampaul, the “capital”, you can admire the powerful lighthouses that adorn the Ouessant coastline, including the Créac’h lighthouse, which stands out from the rest with its black and white stripes!

DAY 6 & 7– BRÉHAT ISLAND & SAINT-MALO

The mere mention of Saint-Malo’s name is enough to plunge us back into the richness of its past. The fortifications stand as testimony to the Malouins’ determination to defend their citadel, fought over by France and Britain in turn. When we drop anchor here, immerse yourself in the diversity of its heritage: the time when privateers sailed the oceans in search of trade and victories; the legendary yacht races the port city is still famous for, such as the Route du Rhum; and the final resting place of the French writer François-René de Chateaubriand, who was born here and chose to be buried here anonymously.

DAY 8 – HONFLEUR - DISEMBARK

A treasure of the Côte Fleurie, Honfleur is located on the edge of la Crique de Rouen in Normandy. You will no doubt admire the historical ships moored in its old port. With its tall, slate-covered houses, the quays provide a great setting for a very nice walk. In the streets behind the harbor, you will see many timber houses. These picturesque places were the homes of several pre-impressionist painters. You can see their works in the Eugène Boudin museum. Exhibited works represent scenes of medieval streets and the coastline as it used to be, as illustrated by the Butin beach and its lush green hillsides.

We can arrange pre- and post-cruise tour programs for you – see more while you are here!



ALL SUITES HAVE PRIVATE BALCONIES

(Except Deck 3 Superior)

Book early to get UP TO 15% Savings.

Rates are per person, Double Occupancy

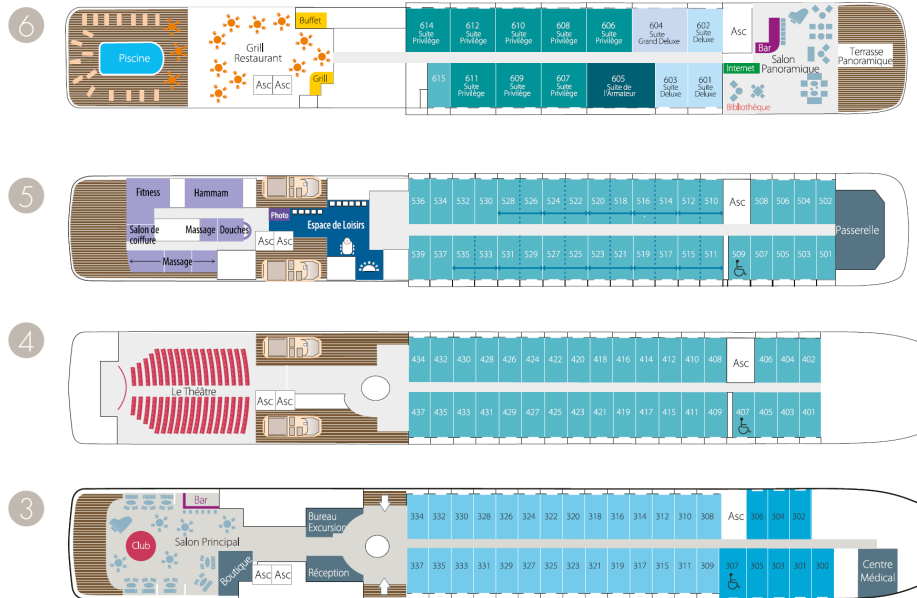
Pre- and Post-Cruise tours are available to suit your interests.

Included features:

- All accommodations, meals, and excursion described above
- Gratuities to crew guides and drivers on included excursions
- Comprehensive 7-night cruise aboard the deluxe L'Austral, with all the amenities for which Ponant ships are famous.

Not included:

- Airfare
- Meals and beverages other than those specified above
- Optional excursions
- Personal expenses (such as laundry, telephone, Internet, etc.)
- Travel Insurance



SUITE – 2020 Rates – Per Person Double	
Superior – Deck 3	\$3,030
Deluxe – Deck 3	\$3,250
Prestige – Deck 4	\$3,610
Prestige – Deck 5	\$3,780
Presitige – Deck 6	\$3,950
Deluxe Ste – Deck 6	\$5,430
Prestige Ste – Dk 5	\$7,310
Prestige Ste – Dk 6	\$7,660
OWNER SUITE	\$12,300



Reservations & Information
1-855-EXPLOR1 (397-5671)

Email - info@explorcruises.com

www.explorcruises.com