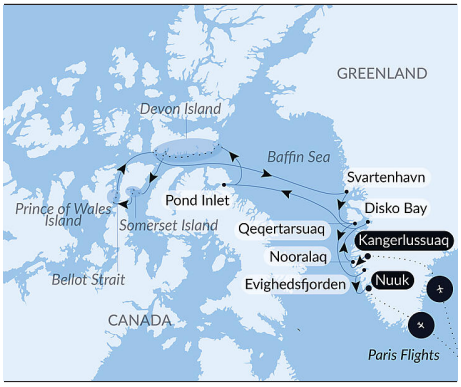
In the heart of the Northwest Passage

From **28/08/2027** to **16/09/2027**	Ship: ***L'Austral***	From **Kangerlussuaq** to **Nuuk**



FLIGHT PARIS/KANGERLUSSUAQ + TRANSFERS + FLIGHT NUUK/PARIS

Set off on an exploration through the ice of Baffin Bay in the heart of the Northwest Passage, one of the most mythical maritime routes that exists. Along the western coast of Greenland, discover the colourful Inuit villages and the largest icebergs in the northern hemisphere in Disko Bay, before you head to Canada's Nunavut territory and its communities. Following in the footsteps of the great explorers, including Sir Franklin and his doomed expedition, you will experience the raw emotion of the Arctic and its history. Here, where pioneers tried to pave the way on this northern route between the Atlantic Ocean and the Pacific Ocean, make sure you keep your eyes peeled and perhaps you will get a glimpse of the real lord of the manor: the polar bear.

We are privileged guests in these remote lands where we are at the mercy of weather, ice, tidal and current conditions. 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.?



The information in this document is valid as of 05/11/2026

In the heart of the Northwest Passage

YOUR STOPOVERS :

The itinerary may be modified depending on weather conditions, port authorizations, and applicable government regulations. The order of port calls may change during the cruise in order to ensure the best possible experience. As a result, sea days may be repositioned within the itinerary.

KANGERLUSSUAQ

Embarkation 28/08/2027 from 16:00 to 17:00

Departure 28/08/2027 at 19:00

From 1941 to 1992, the town of **Kangerlussuaq** in Greenland was home to an American military base. Nowadays, thanks to its international airport, it has become a transit point for travellers seeking adventure in the Far North. Located to the north of the Arctic Circle, this town is the starting point of magnificent discoveries surrounded by **unspoiled nature**. Indeed, just a few dozen kilometres from there it is possible to get close to the Greenland ice sheet, the largest **body of ice in the Northern Hemisphere**. From Kangerlussuaq, admire also the superb landscapes of tundra in autumnal colours, where Arctic hares, musk oxen, Arctic foxes, reindeer, falcons and eagles live.

NOORALAK

Arrival 29/08/2027 midday

Departure 29/08/2027 mid afternoon

Located a few kilometres away from the Arctic Circle, the **Nooralaq** peninsula features raw and untamed beauty. Nature reigns supreme here, **with the tundra stretching as far as the eye can see**, decked out in various forms of flora and inhabited by Greenland's emblematic fauna — snow buntings, common ravens, reindeer, musk oxen, and the discreet Arctic fox. The heights of Nooralaq afford **sublime panoramas over the Itteleq fjord**, whose water reflects the moving skies of the Far North.

DISKO BAY

Arrival 30/08/2027 midday

Departure 31/08/2027 early afternoon

To the east of Baffin Bay, discover **Disko Bay**, scattered with countless icebergs produced by the Ilulissat Icefjord, a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**. From your ship, admire the majestic ballet of these ice giants as they slowly drift across the dark waters. This site is a natural marvel of Greenland, and is also renowned as an observation point for the region's many humpback whales. The encounters with wild fauna and stunning landscapes in the heart of this spectacular and fragile nature will be pure moments of wonder for you.

AT SEA

Arrival 01/09/2027

Departure 01/09/2027

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.

POND INLET, NUNAVUT

Arrival 02/09/2027 midday

Departure 02/09/2027 mid afternoon

In northern Canada, on **Baffin Island**, at the entrance to the legendary Northwest Passage, lies a small Inuit hamlet where the first inhabitants settled around 4,000 years ago, giving it the name **Mittimatalik**. Today, the community is home to approximately 1,500 residents, many of whom still work as trappers and hunters, maintaining a way of life that remains closely connected to the surrounding wildlife. What sets the people of Pond Inlet apart is not so much their daily life as their extraordinary natural environment, nestled within these far northern latitudes. To reach this remote outpost, you will cross Baffin Bay from Greenland to Canada, with Pond Inlet serving as the administrative port of entry where immigration and customs formalities will be completed.

PHILPOTS ISLAND, NUNAVUT

Arrival 03/09/2027 early morning

Departure 03/09/2027 early evening

Located **off the eastern coast of Devon Island**, in Nunavut, **Philpots Island** is an ideal stop for admiring the **raw beauty of the Canadian High Arctic**. In this remote place, the retreat of the glaciers has given way to small beaches alternating with majestic ice fronts, which you may see from the inflatable dinghies if conditions allow. The site is also **a refuge for polar bears**, which you may spot in the distance, while drifting icebergs provide resting places for seals and birds.

DEVON ISLAND, NUNAVUT

Arrival 04/09/2027 early morning

Departure 05/09/2027 late afternoon

Located in Baffin Bay, **Devon Island** is part of the Canadian Arctic Archipelago. Robert Bylot and William Baffin were the first Europeans to sight Devon Island in 1616 but it would only be mapped two centuries later by the British sailor William E. Parry, who named it after the eponymous English region. Around 1920, the **Hudson's Bay Company** set up a fur-trading outpost there, until the departure of the Inuits in 1936. A new attempt to populate it was made at the beginning of the 1950s. Only a few buildings in ruins, vestiges of that time, remain today. In the heart of these Far North landscapes, keep your eyes peeled for the Arctic wildlife that populates these shores, including the Lord of the Kingdom, the polar bear, that you may be lucky enough to spot.

SOMERSET ISLAND, NUNAVUT

Arrival 06/09/2027 early morning

Departure 06/09/2027 evening

The Canadian Arctic Circle is home to one of the planet's best preserved natural sanctuaries: Somerset Island. This immaculate northern desert is renowned for its phenomenal landscapes, its **midnight sun** and its huge tundra, where **musk oxen** roam. Covering 24,786 square kilometres (15,400 square miles), it is the Arctic archipelago's ninth-largest island. Vegetation is rare except in some hollows and lowlands, where **Peary caribou** are common.

BELLOT STRAIT

Arrival 07/09/2027

Departure 07/09/2027

A key stage in the North West Passage, the **Bellot Strait**, crossed by strong currents, promises you an **unforgettable sailing experience**. The entrance to the strait is dominated by the Ross Cairn. The buildings of Fort Ross also stand not far from here. Separating Somerset Island from the Boothia Peninsula, this 2-km-wide strait was discovered in 1852 by Captain William Kennedy of the Royal Navy, and the Frenchman Joseph-René Bellot, during an expedition in search of Sir John Franklin. Discover a **magnificent décor** covered in snow, fragmented by large ice floes. As you sail between them, your ship will perhaps be accompanied by a few polar bears.

PRINCE OF WALES ISLAND, NUNAVUT

Arrival 07/09/2027 midday

Departure 08/09/2027 late morning

Nestling in the wild reaches of the Canadian Arctic, **Prince of Wales Island**, in Canada's Nunavut, offers a gateway to **untamed nature of striking beauty**. Looking out over the Arctic tundra, with its permafrost and low-lying mosses, surrender to the majesty of these vast open spaces and keep a watchful eye. In this boundless wilderness, life can appear where it is least expected. **Polar bears, Arctic foxes, walruses, seals, belugas and a multitude of migratory birds**, such as snowy owls, Arctic terns and eiders, inhabit this harsh yet fascinating territory.

PRESCOTT ISLAND, NUNAVUT

Arrival 08/09/2027 early afternoon

Departure 08/09/2027 early evening

Prescott Island is located between **Somerset Island and Prince of Wales Island**, in the heart of **Peel Sound**, and its shorelines provide a perfect playground for **belugas**. However, the opportunity to observe and listen to these **"sea canaries"** is not the only reason to scan the horizon: here, between the icebergs and the dramatic landscapes, you may also be able to spot **polar bears**, as well as summon up memories of **Sir John Franklin**, who was the first to cross Peel Sound in 1846 during his expedition in search of the **Northwest Passage**, followed in 1903 by **Roald Amundsen**, who was the first to find a route through that passage!

SAILING IN THE LANCASTER SOUND

Arrival 09/09/2027

Departure 09/09/2027

Between **Devon Island** and **Baffin Island**, in the Canadian territory of Nunavut, **Lancaster Sound** forms part of the **Northwest Passage**, a shipping route crossing the Canadian Arctic Archipelago, along the northern coast of North America. Coveted for almost 300 years, it saw several expeditions including the fatal one led by John Franklin, seen for the last time near Lancaster Sound in August 1845. Many colonies of cetaceans, polar bears and seabirds have taken up residence in or near these nourishing waters at the confluence of the currents. Situated in Inuit territory, the Sound is the subject of plans to create a marine conservation area intended to protect this rich ecosystem and its inhabitants.

BEECHEY ISLAND, NUNAVUT

Arrival 10/09/2027 early morning

Departure 10/09/2027 midday

Beechey Island, at the eastern end of Resolute Bay, will call to mind some of the most important moments of Franklin's expedition. Sir John set off in 1845 in search of the mythical **Northwest Passage** and was forced to take shelter in Erebus Harbour for two long years, while he waited for the ice floes to recede and allow him a way through. It is a spectacular location; seeing the three wooden grave markers, bleached by the sun (indicating the burial places of at least three of Captain Franklin's men) and visiting the **memorial** that has been erected in memory of Franklin and his men can only reinforce the hushed sense of reverence. If the surrounding wilderness impresses us, the ochre and yellows of the rocky desert soften the landscape.

DEVON ISLAND, NUNAVUT

Arrival 10/09/2027 early afternoon

Departure 10/09/2027 early evening

Located in Baffin Bay, **Devon Island** is part of the Canadian Arctic Archipelago. Robert Bylot and William Baffin were the first Europeans to sight Devon Island in 1616 but it would only be mapped two centuries later by the British sailor William E. Parry, who named it after the eponymous English region. Around 1920, the **Hudson's Bay Company** set up a fur-trading outpost there, until the departure of the Inuits in 1936. A new attempt to populate it was made at the beginning of the 1950s. Only a few buildings in ruins, vestiges of that time, remain today. In the heart of these Far North landscapes, keep your eyes peeled for the Arctic wildlife that populates these shores, including the Lord of the Kingdom, the polar bear, that you may be lucky enough to spot.

AT SEA

Arrival 11/09/2027

Departure 12/09/2027

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.

SVARTENHAVN

Arrival 13/09/2027 early morning

Departure 13/09/2027 midday

Nestled at the heart of a silent fjord, **the small bay of Svartenhavn** opens onto a **wild Arctic landscape** where rocky hills dotted with tundra meet calm waters. As you walk across this unspoilt land, you will be captivated by its treasures: a **historic hut** dating from 1920 and a **wide array of wildlife**, with the area providing a potential refuge for many species, including wild geese, eider ducks, musk oxen and Arctic foxes.

QEQERTARSUAQ

Arrival 14/09/2027 early morning

Departure 14/09/2027 midday

On the southern coast of **Disko Island**, Qeqertarsuaq is one of just two small villages on this island **the size of Corsica.** Its isolation makes it an observation post popular among naturalists since the beginning of polar exploration and the set-up, in 1906, of the Arctic Centre research facility. During a zodiac cruise you will have the chance to explore the natural wonders of Greenland, meet its wildlife such as the humpback whale and contemplate the basaltic organ landscapes that offer pure moments of wonder for you. In the heart of this spectacular and fragile nature, enjoy the breath-taking views of the grandiose and varied landscapes of Disko Island and Disko Bay.

EVIGHEDSFJORDEN

Arrival 15/09/2027 midday

Departure 15/09/2027 late afternoon

Your ship glides slowly along the water towards the west coast of Greenland, to enter **Evighedsfjorden**, just a few kilometres south of Kangerlussuaq. Evighedsfjorden means "**the fjord of Eternity**", and for good reason: just when you think you've reached the end of this stretch of sea measuring over 100 kilometres in length, it seems to go on forever, as though to bring even more pleasure to those sailing in it. The spectacular scenery ranges from glaciers to **tundra** with an abundant flora, and jagged cliffs where **numerous bird species** have taken up residence. Take the time to observe the white-tailed eagles and the colonies of seagulls and black-legged kittiwakes flying overhead in the area.

NUUK

Arrival 16/09/2027 early morning

Disembarkation 16/09/2027 at 08:00

When Erik Le Rouge, the exiled Norse chief, landed on the coast of Nuuk, he found a fertile and welcoming land dotted with fjords. He settled there with a group of his former countrymen, and **the Norse** remained the principal inhabitants until, over a period of 500 years, their population declined and gave way to the Inuit. **Nuuk** is situated at the mouth of one of the largest networks of fjords in the world, where the waters never freeze. The town spreads gently out towards the **Davis Strait** and enjoys an historic center that is particularly rich in national heritage. The vivid reds, blues, greens and yellows of the houses are a lively contrast to the somber waters of Greenland and serve to lift the spirits of the locals during the Winter months.