

Ponant – Le Boreal

May 2019

by

Gemma Cunningham



It is not often that we get the opportunity to visit cruise ships of this size, so I did not hesitate to take up Ponant's kind invitation to take a closer look.

This beautiful cruise ship was put into service on the 6th May 2010. With a capacity of only 264 passengers and 136 crew, there is a feeling of intimacy, peace and indulgence. The colour scheme is natural tones with splashes of red adding to the luxury feel.

Ponant offers both yachting and expedition cruises in Northern Europe, Mediterranean, tropical waters', The Americas, Australasia and with an addition of amazing Antarctica adventures in partnership with National Geographic. Included on these specialist cruises, are a National Geographic specialist, expert and photographer on board, with your excursions.



Food is of an exceptional standard with French and international cuisines offered in both the al a carte and self-serve restaurants. Most dietary requirements can be accommodated.



All of the staterooms and suites offer sea views. 95% of these have balconies with large windows and exterior decks, enabling guests to enjoy breath-taking views of the horizon. Again, the décor here continues with natural tones plus red. Cabins are bright, airy with an indulgent luxury feel and have the options of twin or double beds. Suites have more room as well as a separate lounge area.

The on-board spa on-board offers various treatments to pamper guests. A fully equipped gym with floor to ceiling windows means you can work out with a view.



Alternatively, simply relax out on deck by the pool!

Unlike most cruise ships, the Captain will frequently open the 'bridge'. Guests can visit and see how the ship operates, ask questions and meet the bridge crew.

At the stern of the ship there is easy access to the water allowing guests to step straight into their Zodiac before heading off on the days excursion.



Ponant will be taking ownership of a new hybrid ship in 2021. In addition to being more environmentally friendly, the ship will be used to take guests on exciting new itineraries going further into more remote places.

Cruising with Ponant is open to all ages and offers different itineraries to suite all guests' requirements with that added sense of luxury and service.

I feel the expedition cruises offer our clients something more and different to a normal cruise holiday. With excursions to thrill and excite guests get an unforgettable experience of these truly beautiful, relatively untouched areas.

For many wildlife enthusiasts what could be better than seeing penguins, seals or whales in their most natural environment? The National geographic experts are on hand to guide clients through excursions, answer questions and give informative talks. Expedition cruises include excursions in the price of the cruise holiday too!



Top tips -When booking a cruise, ensure you investigate your stop off destinations, so you know what to expect to make the most of your cruise holiday.

Cabin location is important; study the deck plans and make sure you are booking both the cabin type and location that is right for you.

