



SONIA JONES
T R A V E L



Embark on a cruise to New Zealand onboard Le Lapérouse de Ponant

For those of you who follow us on our social networks, you may have seen the highlights of Sonia's last cruise onboard one of the Ponant cruise ships, Le Lapérouse. The best moments in photos, the beautiful discoveries, and some tips for you. Let's go sailing to New Zealand!



Le Lapérouse

The first in the Ponant Explorers series, Le Lapérouse represents the new generation of Ponant ships. Fitted with innovative equipment and complete with lounges designed to be largely open to the exterior, this new and intimately sized yacht offers a unique type of cruise experience. Onboard this ship sailing under the French flag, you'll experience the incomparable pleasure of a cosily

intimate cruise offering the possibility of exploring an ever-increasing range of destinations in an ethnic chic ambiance and with five-star service. The Blue Eye, a multisensorial underwater lounge offering a unique experience unlike anything else in the world.

Some beautiful stopovers

Te Puia - Rotorua

Te Puia is home to the New Zealand Māori Arts and Crafts Institute and offers a state-of-the-art Kiwi Conservation Centre, so you can get closer than ever before to New Zealand's national treasure- the Native Kiwi. Symbolic carvings are an important Māori tradition and depict renowned ancestors of the tribe. This fierce face can be found on the walls of the meeting house at Te Puia in Rotorua.



Chathams Islands

Your ship will arrive in the morning and will spend the day here. The remote Chatham Islands are renowned for their stunning scenery, intriguing history, flora, fauna and friendly hospitality. Located 800 kilometres to the east of the South Island, the archipelago consists of about ten islands. Within an approximate 60-kilometre radius, the largest of which are Chatham Island and Pitt Island. The islands were first inhabited by Moriori, who named the islands 'Rekohu' – translated as 'misty skies' or 'misty sun'.

Napier

This colourful city is a major North Island landmark. Rebuilt in the 1930s after an earthquake destroyed the city, Napier was rebuilt in the style of the time: Art-Deco! and is now world-famous for it. Besides its art-deco city centre, Napier is a lively city with many things to do, including a visit to the National Aquarium. Get your camera ready !



Looking for ideas before or after your cruise?



Queenstown

This beautiful town is known as the adrenaline capital of the world, being a popular destination for adventure seekers all year round. Queenstown offers spectacular scenery set against the dramatic southern alps and majestic Lake Wakatipu. Trip up the Skyline for impressive views.

Arrowtown

One of the most picturesque settlements in New Zealand, Arrowtown sits alongside the gold-bearing Arrow River and is just 20 minutes from Queenstown. It's charming and quirky with colonial architecture and the perfect spot for a wander, a shop or for a bite to eat. Pop it on your South Island must-visit list!



Church of the Good Shepherd - Lake Tekapo

Built in memory of the pioneers of the Mackenzie, the Church of the Good Shepherd on Lake Tekapo was constructed from local stone



gathered from within 5 miles of the site. It's a pretty spot and a great place to break the road trip from Queenstown to Christchurch.

Sonia's tips

Are you an early bird? The east coast of New Zealand is one of the first places in the world to see sunrise - in fact, the Chatham Islands are the very first!

And when you're sailing the high seas, it is always good to be prepared in case things are rougher than expected. While there are different sea-sickness remedies available, Sonia recommends the patches which can be bought onboard the Ponant - even the crew swear by them!

For more information on Ponant cruises, vessels and itineraries, reach out to SJT today !

Office Address - 69 Wardell Street, Ashgrove QLD 4060

Office Hours - By Appointment, Monday-Friday 9am-4pm

Phone - Office 07 3366 1180 | Sonia 0450 154 478 | Amy 0405 218 154

Book an online appointment!

Yours in Travel

Sonia, Amy, Christine & Ferial

The Sonia Jones Travel Team



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