

TRAVEL AND HOSPITALITY

Ponant seeks security on the seas with new screening process

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Ponant Explorer. Image courtesy of Ponant

By STAFF REPORTS

French cruise line Ponant is heightening its security efforts through a partnership with international police organization Interpol.

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Through a passenger screening system developed by Interpol named I-Checkit, the international organization will screen travel documents against its databases. Starting this month, the program will roll out across all of Ponant's cruise operations after a recently successful pilot program.

"I-Checkit's initiative with Ponant offers an additional layer of safety in the travel sector by establishing an international standard for security screening," said Harald Arm, director of Interpol's operational support and analysis directorate and head of the I-Checkit program, in a statement. "It provides an invaluable preventative and investigative capability for global policing.

"It is also important in raising awareness with travelers on the need to only travel with valid identity documents," he said.

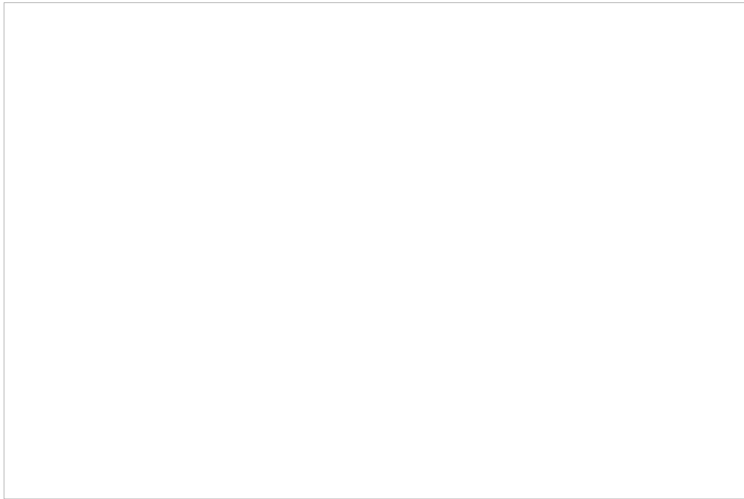
Cruising with security

A variety of databases will be accessed during the screening process including the Stolen and Lost Travel Documents database with more than 87.5 million records from 177 countries.

"The safety and security of our guests, crews and ships has always been a priority for Ponant, the only cruise company flying the French flag, the safest in the world," said Jean Emmanuel Sauve, president of Ponant, in a statement. "As a cruise company carrying thousands of passengers annually, having a highly effective and efficient security screening process is a crucial part of our corporate social responsibility in terms of how we serve our guests every day, worldwide.

"This partnership with Interpol reflects our strong intention to set the security standards across our fleet as high as our service standards and our commitment to protecting the environment," he said. "This represents another important step for our industry as we continue to enhance our efforts on the safety and security of our passengers

and crew members."



The two executives sign the agreement. Image credit: Ponant

In addition to security, the cruise line is strengthening its culinary offerings.

Ponant has linked with hospitality group Relais & Châteaux to launch culinary-centric journeys.

Relais & Châteaux chefs will host three different itineraries in 2020 spanning Europe, Africa and Asia. Dining is a key component of consumers' travel plans, whether they are venturing to land or sea ([see story](#)).

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