

EDUCATION

Hublot highlights Polar POD from partner and explorer Jean-Louis tienne

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Hublot shows off partner Polar Pod from Jean-Louis tienne. Image credit: Hublot

By LUXURY DAILY NEWS SERVICE

Swiss watch brand Hublot is sponsoring an ambitious expedition of Jean-Louis tienne, who is planning to use the Polar POD to explore the Southern Ocean for three years, starting in 2024.

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The French explorer and environmental advocate has spent almost a half-century venturing through the polar regions of the world. For 40 years he has worked to reach places that were previously considered to be unreachable.

"In all my expeditions, there always was a specific construction to explore a remote area," Mr. tienne said in a statement. "The Polar POD is certainly the most important of my career as an explorer."

The explorer has roamed the ice caps of the world, and explored oceans too remote for most to ever even heard of them. This exploration, however, will be his most ambitious trip yet, as the area has been too unreachable for scientists to study it.

Mr. tienne and the other researchers will be tracking the CO2 intake of the waters, as well as documenting the Antarctic animals using underwater microphones. They will also be discovering the extent of the pollution present there, and confirming data from satellites.

Hublot is honoring the upcoming feat with a [video](#), where the explorers and researchers donned the brand's elite watches as they discussed the journey ahead of them.

Choppy waters

The waters surrounding Antarctica are so treacherous and hard to research that they have been dubbed "the furious fifties," referring to the extreme latitude of the region.

Despite how dangerous waters are, they are among the biggest carbon sinks on Earth. The **Polar POD** was built for this important reason to examine the waters.

"The question was: what kind of ship would allow us to navigate these waters in safe and comfortable conditions?" Mr. tienne said.

The Polar POD has to allow for research equipment, long spans of time where researchers would be living onboard and, of course, it had to brave the famously rough sea.

Weighing more than 1,000 tons, the vessel stands 100 meters in height. Eighty meters of that is underwater, made up of woven tubes for water to pass through.

There is also a 150-ton ballast at the end of the underwater portion, allowing for safer movement and stronger stability. Researchers will live above the water in a four-level capsule.

"We were looking for something that would bear these stormy, difficult waters," said Elsa Peny-tienne, head of communication of the Polar POD project, in a statement.

"Its strongest quality is that it's zero emission and that its travel relies on the currents," she said.

Hublot: Polar POD: The revolution. Video: Hublot

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