

# travel

*itinerary*

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The best way to experience  
the world is to do it with style.



**A CHRISTMAS VOYAGE ABOARD  
LE COMMANDANT CHARCOT**

**A CHRISTMAS LIKE NO OTHER - SET UPON THE WORLDS MOST ELEGANT ICEBREAKER**



# 2026

## A Small-Group Experience For The Discerning Traveller

Set sail into a winter fairytale aboard the world's only luxury icebreaker — where snow-dusted cities glow with festive lights, cobblestone streets whisper tales of old Europe, and every horizon feels like a discovery.

This Christmas voyage is more than a cruise — it's a celebration of elegance, culture, and the pure magic of the Baltic season

Discover the winter soul and timeless traditions of the Baltic's most iconic cities, all while sailing aboard Le Commandant Charcot — your luxurious, couture-inspired sanctuary, opening onto shimmering northern horizons.

Wander through illuminated Scandinavian and Baltic destinations—Stockholm (with an overnight stay), Tallinn, Gdańsk, and Riga—each dressed in festive finery, alive with Christmas markets, candlelit streets, and the dreamlike scenery of the Stockholm archipelago.

As evening falls, the journey takes on a sartorial elegance as you dress for refined cocktail gatherings and chic on-board soirées—moments where style meets seasonal enchantment.

Included curated experiences: an intimate Chopin concert, Riga's celebrated art and architecture, and Tallinn's gothic heritage—each chosen to harmonise culture, elegance, and winter charm.



## Travel isn't about distance — it's about the style in which you discover

Set sail aboard Le Commandant Charcot, a vessel of French elegance and refined design, for a 10-day winter voyage through the enchanted Baltic Sea during the festive season.

Your journey begins with two nights pre-cruise in Helsinki, giving you time to settle into the rhythm of Nordic winter and explore the city's sophisticated blend of architecture, culture, and seasonal charm.

From there, you embark on an itinerary that drapes the Baltic in festive splendour—Stockholm's archipelago, Visby's UNESCO-listed heritage, and the atmospheric streets of Gdańsk and Riga—each destination alive with illuminated markets, old-world beauty, and the timeless traditions of a northern Christmas.

Your voyage concludes with one night post-cruise in Helsinki, offering a final touch of Nordic elegance before your journey home.

By night, life aboard Le Commandant Charcot transforms into a celebration of refined style and conviviality. Sartorial evenings unfold in a series of cocktail gatherings, elegant dinners, and warmly lit lounges where winter's quiet stillness meets tailored sophistication. Daily explorations—from intimate musical performances to architectural immersions and medieval heritage encounters—add texture and cultural richness, creating a journey that blends discovery, elegance, and seasonal wonder into one beautifully curated experience.



A refined voyage through the Baltic's serene winter edges, where Christmas magic meets sartorial discovery



## Meet your hosts

Your journey with Sartorial Travellers Club is personally hosted by Lesley and Rob — known fondly as Ken — whose shared passion for style, culture, and beautifully curated travel lies at the heart of every experience. Devotees of Ralph Lauren Purple Label, Lesley and Rob believe travel is an extension of personal style: thoughtful, elegant, and confidently expressed.

Their love of culture runs deep — from a lifelong appreciation of classical music, ballet, musical theatre, and opera, to Lesley's long-standing passion for Formula One, where precision, performance, and spectacle mirror the elegance she brings to travel design. These interests are woven

seamlessly into their itineraries, creating journeys that balance cultural depth, some with iconic sporting moments.

More than hosts, Lesley and Rob are collectors of moments and places. From long-held bucket-list destinations to treasured favourites discovered through years of global exploration, they delight in sharing locations that inspire, surprise, and linger long after the journey ends.

With impeccable taste, warm hospitality, and an eye for the extraordinary, they invite you to travel — and dress — with intention, confidence, and unmistakable style.

# Thursday 10 – Tuesday 22 December 2026

## Guaranteed Departure

## No Minimum Numbers

### Where Sophisticated Style Meets a Baltic Christmas Wonderland.

Welcome to a journey where the magic of the Baltic Sea's Christmas markets is experienced through the elegant lens of the Sartorial Travellers Club. Here, winter discovery is elevated with impeccable style, refined confidence, and a wardrobe curated for candlelit streets, festive soirées, and evenings aboard a luxurious vessel.

Indulge in a voyage crafted for travellers who believe that the world is best explored with grace and glamour — where illuminated old towns inspire, artisanal markets delight, and every moment becomes an opportunity to celebrate the art of travelling well, and dressing even better. This is Christmas in the Baltic as you've never experienced it: timeless, atmospheric, and exquisitely sartorial.

Your journey begins in Helsinki, where our pre-cruise stay sets the tone for the days ahead. On the first evening, we gather for a welcoming cocktail and dinner — a perfect occasion to unveil your finest attire and step gracefully into the world of sartorial travel.



On board, each evening invites a new level of refinement. From chic cocktail gatherings to black-tie elegance and even the grandeur of a white-tie affair, these nights are designed for travellers who delight in dressing with intention.

Silk, velvet, tailored lines, sparkling accessories — this is your stage to showcase personal style. As the Baltic winter glimmers beyond the windows, the ship becomes a floating salon of elegance, conversation, and beautifully curated moments.



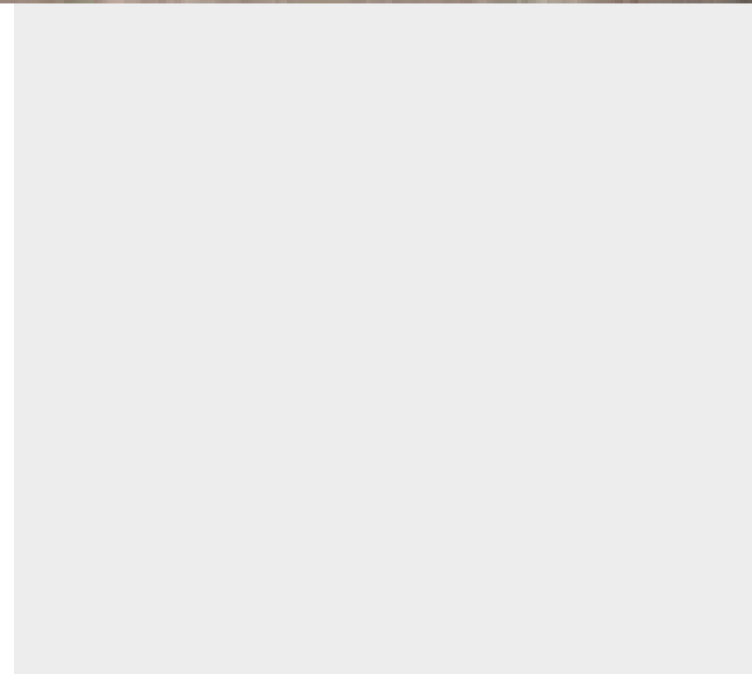
## Thursday 10th December

### Helsinki Arrival | A Sartorial Welcome

Upon arrival in Helsinki, you'll be privately transferred to our beautifully appointed hotel, where we settle in for a two-night stay.

The afternoon is yours to enjoy at leisure — perhaps a stroll through the city's winter streets or time to perfect your evening ensemble.

As night falls, we gather for our first formal Sartorial Travellers Club soirée. Cocktails are served as we meet your hosts and fellow travellers who share a passion for style, culture, and beautifully curated journeys — a ritual we expect will become a cherished nightly tradition. Dinner follows, accompanied by carefully selected wines, as conversations unfold and the spirit of the journey truly begins.



### Included:

Airport transfers · Two nights' accommodation in Helsinki · Welcome cocktail gathering · Dinner with wines



## Friday 11th December

### Helsinki Arrival | Style, Culture & Poise

After breakfast, we step out in style for a privately hosted sightseeing tour of Helsinki, exploring the city's refined architecture, design heritage, and winter elegance through a distinctly local lens. This curated introduction offers the perfect balance of culture and calm — unhurried, considered, and beautifully paced.

Midday, we gather for a relaxed group lunch at a carefully selected local venue — an opportunity to continue conversations, share impressions of the morning, and enjoy Helsinki's culinary character together.

Returning to the hotel mid-afternoon, the remainder of the day is yours — a moment to relax, reflect, and prepare for the evening ahead. As twilight settles over the city, it's time to dress once more for dinner, where sartorial flair and shared stories continue to define the journey.

### Included:

Breakfast · Private group sightseeing tour ·  
Dinner with wines



## Saturday 12th December

### Helsinki Arrival | A Graceful Transition to the Sea

Today unfolds at a leisurely pace, allowing time to further explore Helsinki at your own rhythm — perhaps revisiting a favourite boutique, enjoying a final coffee by the harbour, or simply soaking in the city's winter elegance.

After breakfast, late checkout has been thoughtfully arranged. The hotel will securely store our luggage, freeing you to enjoy the day unencumbered and unhurried. In the late afternoon, we reconvene for our transfer to the ship, embarking between 4.00pm and 5.00pm.

As we settle into our cabins and take in our surroundings, anticipation builds. At 6.00pm, we set sail, marking the beginning of our Baltic Sea Christmas voyage — where style, celebration, and serene winter seascapes await.

### Included:

Breakfast · Late checkout · Luggage storage · Group transfers to the ship



## Sunday 13th December

### Stockholm | Nordic Elegance in Motion

Set across a graceful archipelago where Lake Mälaren meets the Baltic Sea, Stockholm is a city of effortless style and layered history. Wander the cobbled streets of Gamla Stan, where medieval charm leads to the stately Royal Palace, before discovering the cultural refinement of Djurgården — from historic treasures to contemporary icons. For a final flourish, Stockholm reveals itself from above, offering sweeping views that perfectly frame this city's poised blend of tradition and modernity.

As evening settles, we return onboard *Le Commandant Charcot* for a refined sartorial gathering in one of her elegant bars. Together, we select the evening's themed cocktail — a reflection of both mood and attire — before continuing on to dinner, where conversation, style, and camaraderie define the night in true Sartorial Travellers Club fashion.



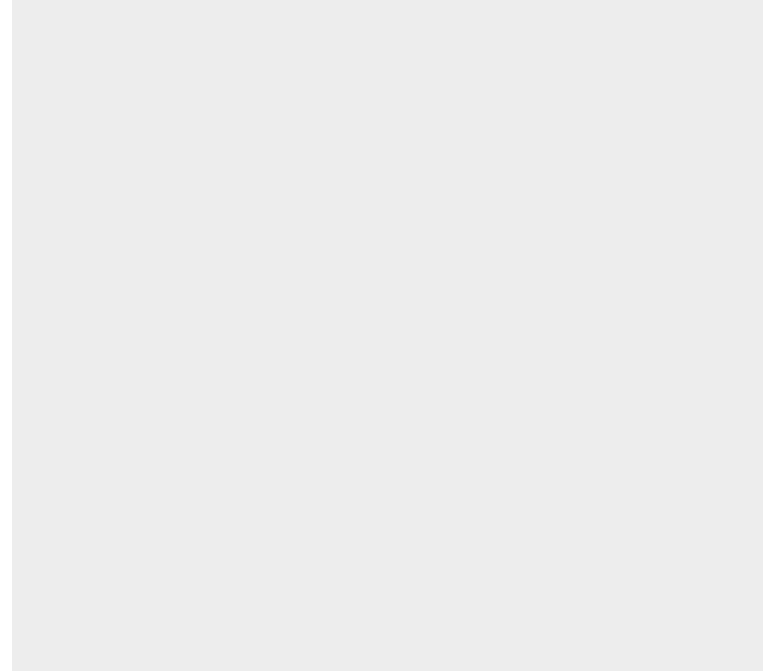
## Monday 14th December

### Le Commandant Charcot | Innovation at Sea

Sail aboard Le Commandant Charcot, the world's first luxury polar exploration vessel, designed to reach remote waters inaccessible to ordinary ships. Purpose-built for discovery, she combines cutting-edge technology with refined comfort.

Onboard, engage with expert-led lectures and discussions, and take part in PONANT's ongoing scientific initiatives — an enriching dimension to a journey where exploration, knowledge, and exceptional moments unfold seamlessly.

As evening settles, we meet at one Le Commandant Charcot's bars for a refined sartorial gathering in one of her elegant bars.



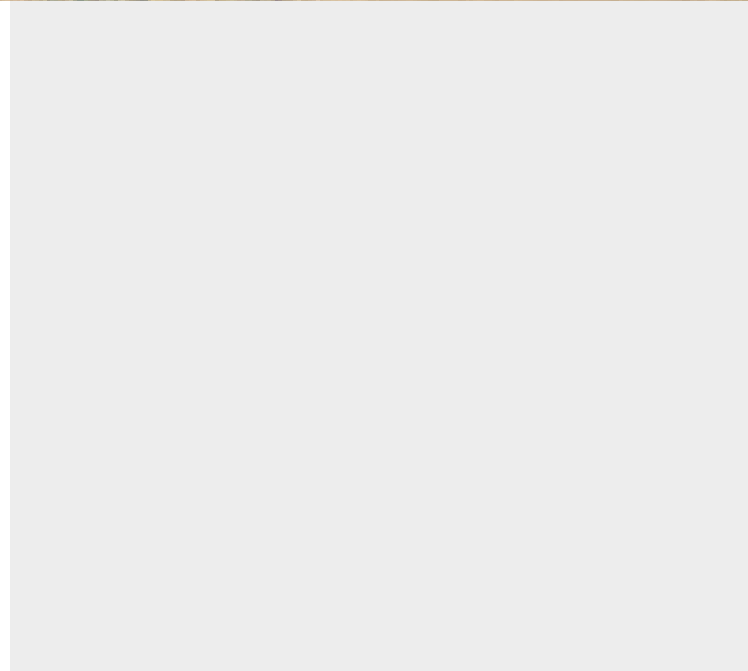


## Tuesday 15th December

### Visby, Gothland | Timeless Stone & Roses

Encircled by remarkably preserved fortifications, Visby is a jewel of the Baltic and a UNESCO World Heritage city. Wander the cobbled streets of the old town, where grand merchant houses sit alongside charming wooden cottages, and landmarks such as Saint Mary's Cathedral and the historic Powder Tower quietly anchor centuries of history.

As evening approaches, we return onboard for a relaxed yet stylish gathering — a chance to reflect on the day's discoveries before dinner. Cocktails are enjoyed in one of the ship's elegant lounges, where Visby's medieval charm gives way to an evening of conversation, elegance, and understated sartorial flair.





## Wednesday 16th December

### **Gdansk | Baltic Brilliance & Hanseatic Style**

Often called the Golden Door of Poland, Gdańsk reveals itself in a tapestry of colour, craftsmanship, and elegant Hanseatic design. Stroll past richly detailed façades and sculpted gables, where centuries of trade and artistry have shaped a city of quiet grandeur.

Along the Vistula Quays and the refined Mariacka Street, artisan boutiques and amber jewellers invite a closer look — a natural playground for those who appreciate detail and design. Historic landmarks, including St Mary's Church with its remarkable astronomical clock and the stately Long Market with Artus Court, provide a graceful backdrop to a day where culture, style, and storytelling walk hand in hand.



## Thursday 17th December

### **Le Commandant Charcot | Innovation at Sea**

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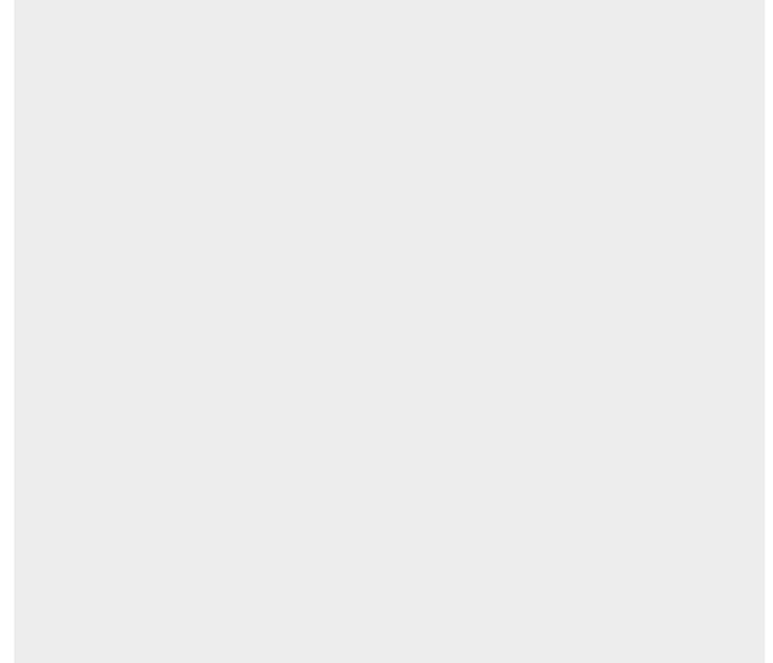
## Friday 18th December

### Riga | Baltic Elegance, Old World to New

At the place where East meets West on the edge of the Baltic Sea, Riga, the capital of Latvia, will charm you with its contrasts. Although it is one of the oldest cities in the Baltic states, with a unique atmosphere that is imbued with the memory of its medieval past, Riga is also tangibly dynamic and modern.

As you stroll through its old town, you will enjoy its exceptional architecture, its cathedrals, the remains of old walls and the typical narrow streets.

Nicknamed "the Paris of the North" in the 1930s, this cosmopolitan city boasts a rich heritage.





## Saturday 19th December

### At Sea | Le Commandant Charcot

A refined day at sea unfolds aboard Le Commandant Charcot, the world's first luxury polar exploration vessel. Designed to journey deep into icy waters beyond the reach of ordinary ships, this PC2-class marvel blends cutting-edge exploration with understated elegance.

Engage in expert-led lectures and intimate discussions with polar specialists, gaining rare insight into these remote regions while enjoying the ship's beautifully curated spaces. In true Sartorial Travellers Club style, the day invites effortless sophistication — layered daytime elegance giving way to evening champagne and polished conversation.

An at-sea experience where discovery, intellect, and impeccable style travel as one.



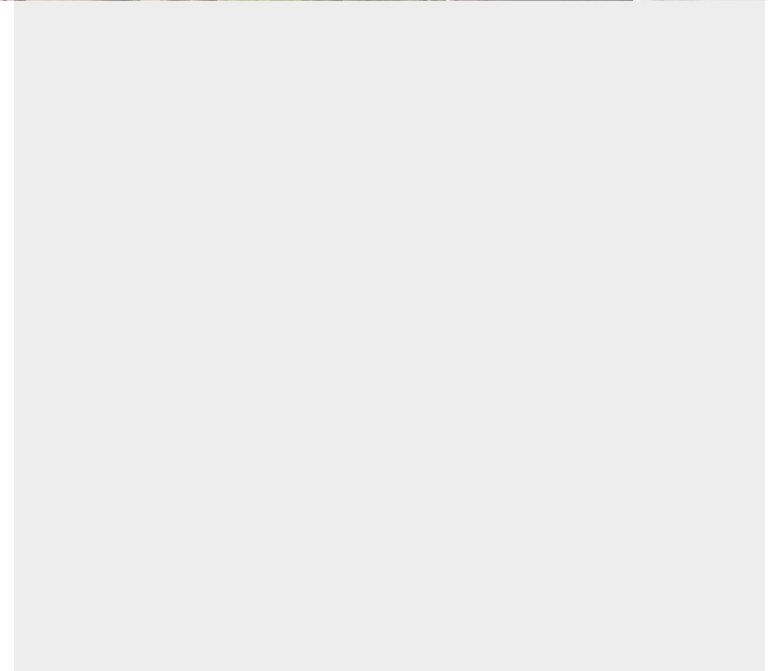
## Sunday 20th December

### Tallinn, Estonia | Medieval Elegance, Baltic Charm

Opening onto the Baltic Sea, Tallinn enchants with a storybook elegance that feels perfectly preserved in time. Within its UNESCO-listed medieval heart, cobbled lanes wind past beautifully detailed façades, leading to the Gothic Town Hall, standing proudly since 1404.

This is a city shaped by centuries of trade and influence — from the formidable Kiek in de Kök tower and the onion domes of Alexander Nevsky Cathedral to the commanding presence of Toompea Castle above the old town. Each landmark offers a glimpse into Tallinn's rich medieval past, still vividly alive today.

In true Sartorial Travellers Club style, this is a place to wander unhurriedly — polished boots on cobblestones, a tailored coat against the Baltic air — losing yourself in layers of history, elegance, and quiet northern charm.





## Monday 21st December Helsinki | Disembarkation

At 8.00am, we disembark in Helsinki, Finland's poised and stylish capital, you are welcomed into a city where refined design and effortless sophistication coexist beautifully. Set on a southern peninsula, Helsinki blends neoclassical grace with striking modern architecture, creating a cityscape that is both harmonious and inspiring. We will be met by our driver and transferred to our hotel.

Free time until dinner tonight - stroll through the historic centre, where soft-toned façades meet contemporary landmarks, before exploring the lively Kallio district — a hub of independent boutiques and celebrated eateries.

A graceful conclusion to a journey defined by winter beauty, cultural depth, and sartorially inspired travel. Tonight, we gather for a farewell dinner — an elegant closing chapter and a moment to reflect on a journey rich in style, discovery, and shared memories.

### Included:

Ship to hotel transfer · Farewell dinner with wines and farewell cocktail · Accommodation



## Tuesday 22nd December Helsinki| Departure

After breakfast, we bid farewell to our hosts as they depart early for Aberdeen to lead a Christmas tour to the Shetland Islands.

Transfers have been thoughtfully arranged to connect with your onward travel arrangements.

We look forward to welcoming you again as part of the Sartorial Travellers Club — thank you for travelling with us, and for dressing the journey with impeccable style.

### **Included:**

Breakfast · Airport transfer

# What's Included

## Highlights:

Enjoy two nights pre-cruise and one night post-cruise in Helsinki, staying in a 4.5-star, centrally located boutique hotel with breakfasts.

Begin and conclude your journey in refined comfort, with time to wander Helsinki's enchanting Christmas markets and soak in the city's festive winter glow.

Enjoy a special welcome dinner with cocktails and wines — a relaxed, elegantly hosted evening with Lesley and Rob Whyte. It's the perfect opportunity to meet your fellow Sartorial Travellers, share conversation, and begin building connections before embarking aboard Le Commandant Charcot.

Private, hosted sightseeing tour of Helsinki, showcasing the city's iconic landmarks, elegant architecture, and key cultural highlights, with time to enjoy its festive atmosphere and refined Nordic charm.



All Transfers Included – Seamless travel with return airport transfers plus hotel-to-ship and ship-to-hotel transfers for a smooth, stress-free experience.

9-Night Luxury Cruise aboard Le Commandant Charcot – Journey through Helsinki, Tallinn, Riga, Visby, Stockholm, Luleå, Oulu, and Kemi, discovering the magic of the Baltic in winter.

All-Inclusive Onboard Luxury — Indulge in gourmet dining, an open bar, 24-hour room service, enriching lectures, and expertly guided shore excursions, with Wi-Fi and gratuities included for effortless travel.

Have questions or ready to join us?

We'd love to welcome you into the world of Sartorial Travellers Club.

Please email [lesley@travelwithlesleywhyte.com](mailto:lesley@travelwithlesleywhyte.com) for further details or to reserve your place.



## Price Per Person - Share Twin

**Prestige Stateroom** – Deck 6: AU\$22,900

**Prestige Stateroom** – Deck 7: AU\$23,500

**Solo Travellers** - A limited number of solo cabins may be available. Please enquire for details and pricing.

## Deposit

**Deposit** - A non-refundable deposit of AUD \$3,000 per person secures your place on this voyage.

**Balance of Payments** – managed by The Private Travel Company

All payments are non-refundable; however, if you need to cancel up to 6 weeks prior to departure, your balance (less the non-refundable deposit) will be refunded only if we are able to resell your place. Thereafter, any refund of payments made will be at the sole discretion of Ponant.

20 % due by 1 April 2026

50 % due by 1 June 2026

30 % due by 1 November 2026

All payments are in Australian dollars and should be made by the due dates to confirm participation. Please note that any payments made by credit card to The Private Travel Company will attract a credit card processing fee.

## What's Not Included

**Flights** – Airfares from your home location to Helsinki and return.

**Travel Insurance** – Comprehensive travel insurance, including cruise cover is mandatory.

**Visas** – Any required entry visas or travel documentation.

**Meals & Alcohol in Helsinki** – Meals and alcohol during your pre and post-cruise stay unless otherwise noted.

**Onboard** – Personal laundry and dry-cleaning services aboard Le Commandant Charcot and at Helsinki hotels.

**Premium Alcohol** – While the cruise includes premium alcoholic beverages, top-shelf selections are available at an additional cost.

**Personal Expenses** – Purchases of a personal nature such as souvenirs, spa treatments, and optional activities not listed in the itinerary.

## Who is Lesley Whyte

Lesley Whyte is the founder and creative force behind Travel With Lesley Whyte and the Sartorial Travellers Club — a renowned boutique travel curator with an established reputation for crafting highly personalised, culturally rich, and impeccably styled journeys across the globe.

She holds an Executive MBA, is a Justice of the Peace, and has previously held senior executive leadership roles across New Zealand and Australia, including within Top 100 listed organisations and Local Government.

Lesley has also served as a Council (Board) Member of Massey University, contributing to governance, strategy, and institutional leadership at a national level.

A multi-award-winning photographer and IAATO Antarctic Ambassador, Lesley is widely recognised for her ability to create exclusive, meaningful travel experiences through long-standing relationships and a deep respect for local communities. Her journeys often provide access to places, people, and moments not readily available to the general traveller.

Lesley's travel philosophy centers on small groups, inclusivity, and thoughtful curation — where every detail is considered, from cultural programming and dining to style, pacing, and atmosphere. Her itineraries span continents, from polar regions to Europe, Australia, and beyond, weaving together music, art, fashion, photography, and gastronomy.

“ Travel should be meaningful, elegant, and deeply human — an experience to be lived well, dressed well, and remembered long after the journey ends.  
— Lesley Whyte



# THE END

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