



Institut  
océanographique  
Fondation Albert I<sup>er</sup>, Prince de Monaco

Press release  
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VIVONS L'Océan ●

## [EXHIBITION] Set off on a “POLAR MISSION” at the Oceanographic Museum of Monaco from 4 June 2022

The new exhibition at the Oceanographic Museum of Monaco offers you an immersive experience at the heart of the Arctic and the Antarctic. Mélanie Laurent, an actress committed to action for the environment, is the ambassador of this unique two-year-long exhibition.

Interest in these lands of extremes has been enshrined in Monaco's DNA for over a century and began at the end of the 19th century with Prince Albert I, explorer, visionary and founder of the Oceanographic Museum. It continues today with HSH Prince Albert II, the only Head of State to have rallied the two poles.

The balance of Planet Earth is dependent on the good health of these extreme regions: a cause which has not escaped the attention of actress Mélanie Laurent, a fervent protector of the environment and ambassador of the exhibition: *“Through this exhibition, each one of us is invited to become not only a privileged observer of the unbelievable beauty of the polar worlds, but also an informed witness of their great fragility. For the future of the poles is also our future and that of generations to come”* she stresses.

The “Polar Mission” exhibition offers an immersive experience into the heart of the Arctic and the Antarctic where the major issues concerning these lands of extremes, remote and yet vital for the global climate, are decrypted. Objects and documents, digital content side by side with complementary immersive devices offer a 360° experience. The grand voyage can begin!

### LEARN TO KNOW AND LOVE THE OCEANS TO PROTECT THEM BETTER

#### **Space n°1 – Meet the polar explorers from yesterday to today**

Jean Malaurie, Jean-Louis Étienne or Frederik Paulsen as well as pioneers such as Jean-Baptiste Charcot but also Matthew Henson: this space places you face to face with the great names of polar exploration. Here you find out how their discoveries and their work contributed to a better knowledge of the poles.

#### **Space n°2 – Discover the world of the Inuit**

In a scenography which reproduces an icy environment with its traditional igloo, the visitor becomes familiar with the Inuit way of life and its traditions. An immersion seen through the eyes of Jean Malaurie, who has devoted his life to the peoples of the Arctic. This space also testifies to the threats caused by climate change to populations constantly shaken by modernity.

#### **Space n°3 – Discover the secrets of the North Pole and the South Pole**

The challenge of this third space, situated in the Oceanomania salon, is to unlock the secrets of the North and South Poles; not only to understand how they function, but also to realise what tremendous upheavals are taking place there because of climate change. It offers visitors an opportunity to become fully aware of the differences between these two extremes and the crucial role played by them in the Planet's climate balance.



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#### Space n°4 – Embark on a journey in immersion from the North to the South Pole

Visitors find themselves at the North and South Poles as if they were there physically! The wild, grandiose beauty of those icy lands comes to life in a never-before-seen immersive, interactive device\* in the company of bears, seals, beluga whales, whales, sea elephants, killer whales and penguins. A wonderland which culminates in the dreamlike polar aurora. Beyond the wonder, this projection recalls, with the help of a “voice-off”, the fragility of this ecosystem and the dangers which threaten these species.

*\*650 m<sup>2</sup> of projection ● 12 species to discover ● 6 different decors ● 40 video projectors ● projection walls more than 9 m in height ● 250 m<sup>2</sup> of interactivity thanks to a life simulator designed around a mix of matte painting, computer-generated imagery and real time 3D animations.*

#### Space n°5 – Understanding the challenges of polar scientific research in polar regions

How much would we know about the poles without the involvement of science over the years? Three modules respectively reveal how far knowledge of global warming and its consequences has come, how it is impacting biodiversity and, lastly, how it is impacting Humans.

#### VISITORS PLAYING AN ACTIVE PART IN THEIR VISIT

By means of this new exhibition, each visitor, young or old, can witness the mechanisms and the phenomena which are occurring at the extremities of the Earth. Throughout their visit, with the help of their entrance ticket which takes the form of a press card, the visitor-reporter can activate extra content and, at the end of their visit, hand over their report using an interactive terminal! They are also invited, if they so wish, to pledge their support to the Oceanographic Institute and the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation by actively backing measures in favour of the poles, most notably the creation of new Marine Protected Areas in the polar oceans.

*“It is my hope that the emotion aroused by the beauty of these polar regions, together with the awareness of the vital role played by them on a global scale, will lead Mankind to regard them with respect and caution”, explains HSH Prince Albert II, “because one thing of which we are now certain is that the future of the poles foreshadows our own.”*

#### Practical information

“Polar Mission” exhibition from 4 June 2022 for a period of 2 years

Open daily (except the weekend of the Formula 1 Grand Prix and 25 December)

From 10 am to 6 pm January / February / March / October / November / December ● From 10 am to 7 pm April / May / June / September ● From 9.30 am to 8 pm July / August

Admission rates: Adult ( 18 and over ) 18 € ● Student (valid card ) 12 € ● Child (4 to 17 years inclusive) 12 € ● Visitors with disabilities 9€

OCEANOGRAPHIC MUSEUM OF MONACO

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#### Who are we?

**The Oceanographic Institute, Prince Albert I of Monaco Foundation**, was founded in 1906 by Prince Albert I, a passionate and visionary seafarer. Recognised as being in the public interest, the Foundation has been actively supporting the Ocean for over a century. In order to promote the knowledge, love and protection of the Ocean, it brings together players from the worlds of politics, science, business, the associative sector and the general public. Thanks to the support of its two establishments, the Oceanographic Museum of Monaco and the Maison de l'Océan in Paris, the Oceanographic Institute is at the initiative of numerous projects on the national and international stage (symposiums, exhibitions, teaching programmes...) with the aim to promote sustainable management of the Ocean.

**The Oceanographic Museum**, leaning against the legendary Rock of Monaco, is the “flagship” of the Foundation, raising the awareness of more than 650,000 visitors yearly. In addition to its remarkable architecture, it is also renowned for its world-famous aquarium, its exhibition events and its alliance of art with science. A place of culture and dialogue, where experiences around ocean protection are shared, the Oceanographic Museum organises and hosts international symposiums.

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