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For Immediate Release

BREAKING: FIRST-EVER LGBTQ+ CHARTER EXPEDITION TO NORTH POLE
VACAYA Announces History-Making 2028 Expedition
The Gays Are Taking the Pole!

Washington, DC, March 31, 2026 – After rewriting LGBTQ+ travel history, VACAYA launches Year 11 with what will be the first full-ship LGBTQ+ charter ever to sail to 90° North.

VACAYA, the vacation company that made history with the first all-LGBTQ+ full-ship expedition to Antarctica in 2022 and returned again in 2024, today announced its boldest polar journey yet: a roundtrip expedition from Longyearbyen, Norway, to the Geographic North Pole aboard PONANT's *Le Commandant Charcot*, sailing August 5-17, 2028.

The announcement follows extraordinary demand for VACAYA's polar adventures, including its recently released 2027 Antarctica Cruise, which sold out in a record 18 minutes into Alumni sales.

As VACAYA launches its final 10th Birthday Season departures, this extraordinary Arctic expedition pushes the company into Year 11 in the same spirit that defined its first decade: going bigger, farther, and more fearlessly on behalf of LGBTQ+ travelers than any company who's come before them. VACAYA Co-founder and CMO Patrick Gunn shares, "This journey may take us to 90° North, but its meaning reaches far beyond a point on a map. It marks a bold new chapter for VACAYA and a historic leap for LGBTQ+ travel."

At 90° North, all lines of longitude converge, every direction points south, and the world as we know it simply falls away. There's no permanent settlement here, no harbor, no road. Only a shifting kingdom of ice at the very top of the planet, reached by only a tiny fraction of humanity throughout history. For generations, the Geographic North Pole lived in the realm of myth, obsession, and heroic exploration. Now, that almost-unimaginable triumph becomes Vacayans' reality. Imagine traveling to one of the rarest places on Earth, a destination so remote and so extreme that only 0.0006% of humanity has ever reached it. In all of human history, that's not even enough people to fill the Roman Colosseum.

To stand at the North Pole is to stand at the apex of the Earth itself, in a place so remote, so extreme, and so utterly extraordinary that few people who have ever lived can say they've been here. This isn't just a bucket-list moment. It's a history-making, soul-stirring, bragging-rights-forever kind of moment.

There may be no more fitting a vessel for this milestone than *Le Commandant Charcot*. Named for Jean-Baptiste Charcot, the French explorer and oceanographer known for extensive charting

around the Antarctic Peninsula, the ship is PONANT's flagship of modern polar exploration: the world's first luxury polar exploration vessel, the world's only luxury icebreaker, the first PC2-class polar cruise ship, and the only passenger vessel with a PC2-class icebreaking hull – a rare standard that allows it to sail where ordinary ships cannot. The ship first reached the Geographic North Pole in 2021.

What makes *Le Commandant Charcot* so special is not only where it can go, but how it gets there. The ship uses hybrid electric propulsion powered by liquefied natural gas, carries oceanographic and scientific equipment selected by experts, and includes more than 100 square meters dedicated to science along with two onboard laboratories. Yet for all its technical prowess, it remains unmistakably luxurious, with 122 staterooms and suites for a maximum of 244 guests, French interior design by Jean-Philippe Nuel and Wilmotte & Associés, exceptional Michelin-level gastronomy, an indoor pool surrounded by a winter garden, and a heated outdoor Blue Lagoon overlooking the ice.

VACAYA Co-founder and CEO Randle Roper adds, "First Antarctica. Now the North Pole. This is what VACAYA was built to do. We create extraordinary vacations, yes, but we also create visibility. We take our community to places that have historically felt distant, inaccessible, or simply unimaginable for us. In August 2028, our community will stand hand-in-hand together at the top of the world – not as a niche footnote, but as a powerful reminder that LGBTQ+ travelers belong everywhere."

With this voyage, VACAYA isn't just opening another itinerary. It's staking a new claim in travel history – one built on visibility, possibility, and the thrill of doing something no other LGBTQ+ company has done before. From August 5-17, 2028, the top of the world belongs to VACAYA and the LGBTQ+ community.

This fantastic journey can be previewed at [VACAYA.com](https://www.vacaya.com).

About VACAYA

VACAYA is the first and only large-scale travel company built exclusively for the entire LGBTQIAPK community and their allies. Through full-ship charters, full-resort takeovers, and exclusive tours, VACAYA reimagines the travel experience, offering curated journeys to extraordinary destinations with world-class entertainment, elevated hospitality, and a welcoming, inclusive environment.

By creating spaces where guests are free to express their authentic selves, VACAYA fosters meaningful connection, celebration, and exploration. VACAYA's all-encompassing approach brings travelers together to share in unforgettable experiences, whether they're seeking adventure, relaxation, or community.

Founded on the principles of dignity, visibility, and joy, VACAYA stands at the forefront of global queer travel, setting a new standard for inclusivity and excellence. [VACAYA.com](https://www.vacaya.com)

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