Cuba by Land and by Sea

An Extraordinary People-to-People Experience

aboard the Exclusively Chartered, Deluxe Small Sailing Ship

Le Ponant

January 22 to 31, 2018
Dear Fellow Columbian,

Travel with the Columbia Alumni Association (CAA) from January 22–31, 2018, and be among a small group of alumni and friends that will rediscover Cuba. Explore the breadth of Cuba in depth—from west to east, by land and by sea. Interact daily with friendly and inquisitive Cubans from all walks of life who are quick to smile and talk openly with you about their day-to-day lives, culture, work, and family traditions. You will also gain insight into the lasting influence of Spain. From the glamorous playground that once drew celebrities, gangsters, movie stars, writers, and heads of state; to the legacy of Fidel Castro and the island’s emerging future, explore the vivid and mesmerizing landscape, which has lodged itself into the imagination of artists, dancers, and writers, who infuse all aspects of Cuban culture with their irresistible zest for life.

Delight in all that Cuba has to offer during this exceptional opportunity while experiencing seafaring in its most timeless form—beneath 16,000 square feet of billowing white sails aboard the exclusively chartered, three-masted LE PONANT. Enjoy a refined yet casual lifestyle on board this intimate, deluxe small sailing ship featuring only 32 Staterooms—all ocean-view. LE PONANT is able to call in smaller ports that are inaccessible to larger ships, making this combination of sea and land travel the best and most comprehensive way to see Cuba. Enjoy three nights in Havana’s comfortable MELIA HABANA HOTEL, followed by the six-night cruise aboard LE PONANT.

Explore Havana, with its vibrant spirit, iconic Malecón and beautifully restored Old City and fortifications. See the historical center of Cienfuegos, settled in 1819 and built in a neoclassical style; explore the 16th-century colonial town of Trinidad; and visit Santiago de Cuba’s San Pedro de la Roca castle—all UNESCO World Heritage sites. Admire the misty Viñales Valley, replete with lush green tobacco fields, striking karst formations and the azure sea along the island’s stunning coastline, and visit the dynamic city of Santa Clara in Cuba’s heartland.

The CAA is a global network connecting Colombians of all schools to one another and to the intellectual and social fabric of Columbia University, even after graduation. It links over 330,000 alumni through more than 100 regional clubs and shared interest groups, online resources, and over 200 thought-provoking programs around the world. The CAA Travel Study Program is one of the benefits offered to Columbia alumni and is an opportunity to continue one’s Columbia education through new intellectual, cultural, and geographical horizons.

This travel program offers a full schedule of events, all of which involve significant people-to-people exchanges with Cubans from diverse backgrounds that reflect this island’s unique rhythm of daily life, and are eager to share their life experiences with you. Shared with cosponsoring associations, we expect this program to fill quickly. Please contact the CAA Travel Study Program office at 866-325-8664 or by email to Travelstudy@Columbia.edu for more details and to reserve your place today!

Sincerely,

Donna H. MacPhee ’89CC, P: ’17CC
Vice President for Alumni Relations
President, Columbia Alumni Association

SUPERIOR
Our programs are classified in three categories: Value, Superior and Luxury

Cover photo: Admire Havana’s stately 20th-century monument Capitolio Nacional.
Vibrant batas cubanas (traditional dresses) reflect Cuba’s Spanish and African roots.
Welcome to the vivacious and remarkable island of Cuba, where history is rich, and exploration, discovery and tenacity run deep through a culture steeped in a blend of European, African and Asian influences. When Christopher Columbus first landed in Cuba in 1492, he was met by the indigenous Taíno peoples. Diego Velázquez de Cuéllar followed on Columbus’ second voyage and settled the tropical island. During the heyday of seafaring pirates, it became a smuggler’s haven, and even slavery during the early 1800s’ sugarcane industry boom left its own indelible mark. Cuba is lively and artistic, and its residents are among the most charming and welcoming people in the world.

During this specially designed itinerary spanning Cuba by land and by sea, learn the secrets of their proud country through exclusive People-to-People Cultural Enrichments:

♦ **Hear it from the Experts!** An experienced, English-speaking Cuban host will accompany you throughout the program and discuss historical, cultural and contemporary Cuba. Interact with lifelong residents and local experts including musicians, artists, farmers and academics.

♦ **Savor** authentic Cuban cuisine in family-operated paladares—privately owned, in-home restaurants.

♦ **Learn** more about preservation efforts in Old Havana, tobacco and organic farming in the Viñales Valley and Cuba’s social welfare system in Santa Clara.

**U.S./Havana, Cuba - Day 1 and Day 2**

Depart the U.S. Upon arrival in Havana, meet your host and begin your immersion into Cuban daily life.

Accommodations for three nights are in the MELIA HABANA HOTEL.

Cuba’s capital, the early-20th-century “Paris of the Caribbean,” remains arguably one of a kind, mixing impressive urban architecture and culture with an earthy, informal vibe and a lively arts and music scene, while retaining a distinctly vintage feel bolstered by the prevalence of 1950s American-made automobiles fondly called “Yank tanks” by the locals who painstakingly maintain them.

Visit the downtown district of Vedado, a fascinating mix of old and new. See the University of Havana, the pre-revolutionary Capitolio reminiscent of the U.S. Capitol and the iconic Malecón (oceanfront promenade). See Revolution Square, where Fidel Castro gave his famous hours-long May Day speeches.

Cruise along in a private, antique American-made car on the Malecón in Old Havana to the Spanish colonial core of Habana Vieja, a UNESCO World Heritage site. This colorful neighborhood of winding cobblestone streets, pastel-hued houses and picturesque squares is filled with architectural beauty, including Plaza de Armas, the site where San Cristóbal de la Habana was founded in 1514.
PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE CULTURAL ENRICHMENTS:
◆ See an invigorating performance by dance and percussion group Habana Compás.
◆ Enjoy a walk through Old Havana with a focus on the preservation and evolution of art and architecture.
◆ Enjoy one lunch and one dinner each in local paladares.

Havana/Pinar del Río and Viñales Valley - Day 3
The striking Viñales Valley in Cuba’s westernmost province of Pinar del Río is designated a UNESCO World Heritage site. Known for its natural beauty, the valley is a much-photographed 270-square-mile plain surrounded by limestone karst hills called mogotes. The farmland here is among Cuba’s richest, and the ancient agricultural practices produce robust coffee and some of the world’s best tobacco, products central to Cuban history and identity.

PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE CULTURAL ENRICHMENTS:
◆ Meet a traditional tobacco farmer and cigar-roller in Vuelta Abajo, the country’s tobacco heartland. Spend time with his family as he welcomes you into his home to sample Cuban coffee.
◆ Tour an organic farm and enjoy an enriching discussion with the farmer and share a homestyle lunch with his family.
◆ In the historic town of Pinar del Río, visit a community art project where creativity is fostered in young people with Down syndrome.

Havana/Cienfuegos - Day 4
This morning, visit Finca Vigía, the former home of Ernest Hemingway, affectionately called “Papa” by locals. Here, he wrote The Old Man and the Sea, based on a local fisherman, and For Whom the Bell Tolls. Known as the “Pearl of the South,” the UNESCO World Heritage-designated colonial harbor city of Cienfuegos was founded in 1819 by French settlers from Louisiana and Bordeaux while located in a Spanish territory, which has made for a fascinating blend of history and local culture today. Once a trading port for sugar cane, coffee and tobacco, the city was built in a neoclassical style from the wealth of these industries, and its original grid layout plan is an incredible example of early urban planning.

Cienfuegos for Santa Clara - Day 5
This morning, visit the eclectic Teatro Tomás Terry, which hosted its first opera in 1890. From Cienfuegos, travel to Santa Clara, the gateway to Cuba’s historically and agriculturally rich central region. Santa Clara, long associated with Ernesto “Che” Guevara, has been shaped by the most prestigious university outside Havana and features one of the country’s most spectacular grand colonial theaters. See the beautiful Teatro La Caridad, constructed in 1885 and one of the Eight Grand Theaters of the Cuban Colonial era, where famed musicians such as Enrico Caruso once performed. See the impressive Che Guevara Monument and walk through the comprehensive History Museum of the Revolution.

PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE CULTURAL ENRICHMENTS:
◆ Listen to a musical performance and meet the musicians of the Orquesta de Cámara.
◆ In a typical senior citizen community center, learn more about social welfare in Cuba and enjoy conversations with its residents and staff, who will introduce you to a longtime Cuban dance tradition, the danzón.
◆ Enjoy lunch in a paladar.

Trinidad - Day 6
Developed from the wealth of the sugar industry in the 19th century, UNESCO World Heritage-designated Trinidad retains much of its colonial charm, with terra-cotta tiled roofs, pastel-hued houses, cobblestone streets and ornate tiled courtyards. Walk through 18th-century Plaza Mayor and visit the neoclassical Palacio Cantero, showcasing the history of Trinidad’s residents.

The Basilica de Nuestra Señora del Cobre, located just outside of Santiago de Cuba, is Cuba’s most sacred religious pilgrimage site.


**People-to-People Cultural Enrichments:**
- Enjoy lively rumba and salsa performances at the Palenque de los Congos Reales, an outdoor music center devoted to traditional Cuban music and dancing.
- Visit the authentic Casa Chichi, a multigenerational pottery workshop established in 1892 that still uses clay sourced from Cuba’s caves.

**Cruising the Caribbean Sea - Day 7**
Enjoy onboard discussions and time at leisure while cruising the Caribbean Sea.

**Santiago de Cuba - Day 8 and Day 9**
Cuba’s second largest city is perhaps the island’s most vibrant and culturally rich, with its lively music and attractive colonial architecture. On the panoramic city tour of Santiago de Cuba, see Céspedes Park including historic City Hall, where Fidel Castro announced victory of the Cuban Revolution in 1959, and 15th-century Casa de Diego Velázquez, the oldest standing house in Cuba. Visit the expansive Cementerio Santa Ifigenia, the grandiose final resting place of former president Fidel Castro; Cuban national hero and important Latin American literature figure José Martí; Emilio Bacardí Moreau, known for his namesake rum; and Compay Segundo, guitarist of the Buena Vista Social Club.

Visit the expansive Cementerio Santa Ifigenia, the grandiose final resting place of former president Fidel Castro; Cuban national hero and important Latin American literature figure José Martí; Emilio Bacardí Moreau, known for his namesake rum; and Compay Segundo, guitarist of the Buena Vista Social Club. View imposing Revolution Square and historic San Juan Hill, a pivotal site during the Spanish-American War. See the original Bacardí rum factory, first opened in 1868, and enjoy a traditional Cuban rum tasting.

In the lush Jardín de los Helechos, walk among over 350 species of ferns and 90 types of orchids. Visit the UNESCO World Heritage-designated Castillo San Pedro de la Roca (El Morro), a 17th-century fortress built to protect the important port of Santiago de Cuba Bay.

Attend the Captain’s Farewell Reception on board.

**People-to-People Cultural Enrichments:**
- Enjoy a colorful performance and tour at the Casa de la Trova, a vibrant, multifaceted institute that celebrates Afro-Cuban music, dance and culture.
- Tour the Basílica de Nuestra Señora del Cobre and visit La Virgen de la Caridad (Our Lady of Charity), the patron saint of Cuba, a brilliant shrine and Cuba’s most sacred pilgrimage site, which Pope Francis visited. Interact with Cuban pilgrims, and hear the captivating legend behind this revered shrine.
- Enjoy a performance by a female Cuban vocal quartet.
- Savor a lunch in a local paladar with panoramic views of the Caribbean Sea.

**Santiago de Cuba/Holguín/U.S. - Day 10**
This morning, disembark Le Ponant and transfer to Holguín for your return flight to the U.S.

**People-to-People Cultural Enrichment:**
- Visit La Granja La Cieba near Holguín to meet a multigenerational family living and working at the farm and enjoy light refreshments.

**Musicians showcase their expressive talents to passersby on the streets of Trinidad.**
DELUXE, EXCLUSIVELY CHARTERED, SMALL SAILING SHIP MY LE PONANT

The intimate, three-masted, deluxe LE PONANT offers an unforgettable and captivating sailing experience—seafaring in its most traditional form. When the 16,000 square feet of majestic sails are unfurled, the ship’s sleek lines and elegant beauty evoke the Golden Age of Sail. A harmonious alliance of nautical tradition and great style, this small ship is designed to cruise into the most secluded harbors where larger vessels cannot reach, and the refined yet casual lifestyle on board is manifest in the warm charm of each Stateroom and in the crew’s impeccable service.

Each of the 32 ocean-view Staterooms features a window or porthole, private bathroom with shower, one fixed queen bed or one queen bed convertible into two twin beds, individual climate control, satellite flat-screen television, complimentary Wi-Fi, direct-dial telephone, safe, minibar, dressing table, hair dryer and plush robes.

Meals feature superb international and Cuban specialties and each is served in a single, unassigned seating. Breakfast and lunch can be enjoyed alfresco in the indoor-outdoor Le Diamant Panoramic Restaurant, and dinner is served in the elegant, wood-paneled Karukéra Restaurant. Complimentary alcoholic and nonalcoholic beverages are available throughout the cruise.

The comfortable public areas showcase the ship’s tasteful sophistication favoring life in the open air. There are two lounges, a library and expansive open-air decks that extend the full length of the vessel, and there is an observation platform just above sea level for viewing marine life. Fully equipped Zodiacs are used to facilitate landings. There is a doctor on board the ship.

The ship’s guest-to-crew ratio of less than two to one allows the courteous, English-speaking crew to provide attentive, professional service, and they are always delighted to answer your questions about their sailing maneuvers. LE PONANT will certainly captivate anyone who steps aboard its gleaming timber decks.

MELIÁ HABANA HOTEL

Located in Havana’s quaint Miramar district, near the Gulf of Mexico coast, the MELIÁ HABANA HOTEL provides comfortable, air-conditioned accommodations and modern amenities and services. It offers guests an array of dining options, two outdoor pools, a piano bar, live evening entertainment, cigar sommelier service, state-of-the-art fitness center, and salon and massage services.
Included Features

- Comprehensive 10-day People-to-People Program
- Six-night cruise on board the deluxe, exclusively chartered, small sailing ship LE PONANT
- Deluxe, ocean-view, air-conditioned Staterooms, each with a private bathroom.
- Captain’s Welcome and Farewell Receptions.
- Breakfast, lunch and dinner each day, featuring superb international and Cuban specialties served at single, unassigned seatings.
- Complimentary alcoholic and nonalcoholic beverages are available throughout the cruise.
- Complimentary Wi-Fi available throughout the ship.

Exclusive People-to-People Hosted Excursions and Cultural Enrichments in:

**Havana**
- Accommodations for three nights in Havana’s comfortable MELIA HABANA HOTEL.
- Breakfast daily, two dinners and a reception in the hotel.
- Dinner in a paladar in Old Havana.
- Architectural walking tour of Old Havana, a UNESCO World Heritage site, with lunch in a paladar.
- Visit to the 16th-century Plaza de Armas.
- Excursion to the UNESCO World Heritage-designated Viñales Valley for a cigar-rolling demonstration and refreshments with the tobacco farmer’s family, and an interactive tour of organic crops, including a homestyle lunch with the organic farmer’s family.
- Visit to a community art project for young people with Down syndrome in Pinar del Rio to interact with volunteers.
- Musical performance by Cuban dance and percussion music ensemble Habana Compás.
- “Cruise” along Old Havana’s Malecón in a private, vintage American-made car.
- Visit to Finca Vigía, the former residence of Ernest Hemingway.

**Cienfuegos**
- Visit to the eclectic Teatro Tomás Terry.
- Performance by Orquesta de Cámara and interactions with the musicians.
- Full-day excursion to Santa Clara, including visits to the Che Guevara Monument, the History Museum of the Revolution and a senior citizen community center for a conversation with elder Cubans, with lunch in a paladar.

**Trinidad**
- Guided walk through the colonial city of Trinidad, a UNESCO World Heritage site.
- Spiritually charged performance of rumba and salsa dancing at the outdoor Palenque de los Congos Reales.
- Visit to the 19th-century Casa Chichi pottery workshop to observe pottery-making by traditional Cuban methods.

**Santiago de Cuba**
- Music and dance performances by local groups.
- Visit to the 17th-century Castillo de San Pedro de la Roca (El Morro), a UNESCO World Heritage site.
- Walk through the impressive Cementerio Santa Ifigenia.
- Interaction with local Cubans during their pilgrimage to Our Lady of Charity shrine in the Basílica del Cobre.
- Lunch in a local paladar.

**Holguín**
- Visit to La Granja La Cieba to meet a multigenerational family living and working at the farm.

Enhanced Travel Services

- Transfers and luggage handling aboard for participants whose arrival(s)/departure(s) coincide with the scheduled group transfer(s).
- Visa fees.
- All excursions and visits, as outlined above, with an experienced, English-speaking local host.
- Gratuities to local guides and drivers on included excursions and transfers.
- Hospitality desk aboard the ship.
- Complimentary bottled water in your Stateroom aboard ship and on excursions.
- The services of an experienced Gohagan & Company Travel Director throughout the program.
- Travel document wallet, name badge and pre-departure information.
- Automatic $250,000 flight insurance policy for each participant ticketed on flights by Thomas P. Gohagan & Company.
An Extraordinary People-to-People Opportunity

Enjoy this unique and comprehensive exploration of Cuba by land and by sea, which provides an unprecedented people-to-people opportunity engaging Cubans from all walks of life—artists, architects, tobacco farmers, tradesmen, cigar rollers, senior citizens, paladar owners, religious pilgrims, musicians, dancers—and U.S. travelers with one another to openly share their values, insights and interests. Experience firsthand the true character and traditions of residents of the Caribbean's largest and most complex island by special arrangement and U.S. Treasury-approved license. See the UNESCO World Heritage sites of Santiago de Cuba's Castillo de San Pedro de la Roca (El Morro), Trinidad, Cienfuegos, the Viñales Valley and Old Havana; and visit Santa Clara and Pinar del Río. Immerse yourself in an intimate travel experience that explores history, art, culture, professions, trades, religion and cuisine to better understand how the Cuban people live and discover our shared interests.

Walk through Plaza de Armas at the entrance to Old Havana and engage local architects to learn about preservation efforts in Havana. Meet musicians from the Palenque de los Congos Reales music center in Trinidad, who will perform traditional and popular Cuban music and dance. Travel into the agricultural core of the country to interact with local organic and traditional tobacco farmers. Converse with elder Cubans in a typical senior citizen community center. Experience this unique journey and learn more about local Cuban culture and customs as you se enamora de la gente de Cuba (fall in love with the people of Cuba).

Habana Compás musicians and dancers exemplify the lively tradition of musical expression in Cuba.
CUBA BY LAND AND BY SEA RESERVATION FORM

Send to:  
Columbia Alumni  
Travel Study Program  
P.O. Box 930  
Riverside, CT 06878  
or fax: (203) 724-0844

For more information:  
Phone: (866) 325-8664 (toll free)  
email: travelstudy@columbia.edu  
www.Alumni.Columbia.edu/Travel

Title  Full Name (exactly as it appears on your passport)  School/Degree/Year

Street Mailing Address (no P.O. Box number please)
City  State  ZIP Code

Telephone: (Home)  (Mobile)  (Business)

Email Address  Columbia UNI

Preferred Name(s) on Badge(s)  Tour No. 143-01/22/18-021

Program reservations require a deposit of $800 per person.

☐ Enclosed is my/our check(s) for $_______ as deposit.

☐ I/We authorize you to charge my/our deposit of $_______ to:  
  ☐ Visa  ☐ MasterCard

Card Number  Exp. Date

Signature as it appears on credit card

Clothing is casual. Please pack your own rain gear. The weather in Cuba can be hot in the daytime and warm at night.

All FINAL PAYMENTS are required to be made by check or wire transfer by October 19, 2017.

By forwarding the deposit for this travel program, I/we acknowledge that I/we have read and accept the Release of Liability, Assumption of Risk and Binding Arbitration Agreement in this brochure.

LE PONANT has been specially contracted for this tour, and the applicable deck plan is available on request from Gohagan & Company and reflects the only valid cabin categorization of the vessel.

Gohagan & Company's People-to-People Cuba programs are licensed (#CT-2014-310067-1) by the U.S. Department of the Treasury, Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC), per U.S. Government regulations June 16, 2017.

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RELEASE OF LIABILITY, ASSUMPTION OF RISK AND BINDING ARBITRATION AGREEMENT

RESPONSIBILITY: Columbia University, its agent, TSS LLC, and operating carriers, stevedores, hotel operators, motels, restaurants, luggage companies, local ground operators, providers or organizers of optional excursions, food service or entertainment providers, etc. All such persons and entities are independent contractors. As a result, Gohagan is not liable for any negligent or willful act or failure to act of any such person or entity or of any other third party.

In addition and without limitation, Gohagan is not responsible for any injury, loss, death, inconvenience, delay, or damage to person or property in connection with the provision of any goods or services whether resulting from, but not limited to, acts of God or force majeure, acts of government, stevedores, or any of their agents or employees, strikes or other labor activities, criminal or terrorist activities of any kind or the threat thereof, sickness, illness, epidemics or the threat thereof, the lack of availability of or access to medical attention or the quality thereof, overbooking or downgrading of accommodations, mechanical or other failure of airplanes, vessels, or other means of transportation, or for any failure of any transportation means to arrive or depart timely or safely.

If weather, flight schedules or other uncontrollable factors, you or the participant are unable to arrive on an arrival date or time specified for your own hotel, transfers and meal costs. Baggage is entirely at owner’s risk. The right is reserved to decline to accept as a trip participant, or for any reason, or to substitute no accident/sickness, trip cancellation, and baggage insurance; gratuities and other expenses such as laundry, telephone calls and Internet access; additional meals; taxes, including any air travel tax; and the street and hotel tax.

Gohagan reserves the right to change the itinerary or trip features at any time. Gohagan’s liability to you or the participant shall not be liable for any loss of any kind as a result of any such changes.

Ship schedules, port calls, hours of arrival and departure, sightseeing events, meal times and accommodations; excursions and special lecture series (if applicable) are subject to change or cancellation. Gohagan reserves the right to substitute other motorcoaches or ships using hotels, inns or lodges for cruise accommodations if necessary due to weather, water conditions or any other circumstance beyond the control of Gohagan. Gohagan is not responsible therefor and is not required to compensate passengers under these circumstances. Gohagan is not responsible for any loss of data or for any equipment failure.

Gohagan is unable of meeting the requirements of the participation in the activity, or if he / she is otherwise unable to take part in the trip participants, leaders or third parties, or who Gohagan determines to detract from the enjoyment of the trip by others. Specific room/cabin assignments are within the sole discretion of the hotel or cruise line.

Gohagan reserves the right to change the itinerary or trip features at any time. Gohagan’s liability to you or the participant shall not be liable for any loss of any kind as a result of any such changes. Ship schedules, port calls, hours of arrival and departure, sightseeing events, meal times and accommodations; excursions and special lecture series (if applicable) are subject to change or cancellation. Gohagan reserves the right to substitute other motorcoaches or ships using hotels, inns or lodges for cruise accommodations if necessary due to weather, water conditions or any other circumstance beyond the control of Gohagan. Gohagan is not responsible therefor and is not required to compensate passengers under these circumstances. Gohagan is not responsible for any loss of data or for any equipment failure.

Group member(s) who will be responsible for handling equipment. 06/17-2 without assistance. Travelers requiring assistance must travel with a traveling companion and climb stairs and step over raised thresholds without assistance. Travelers requiring assistance must travel with a companion who will be responsible for handling equipment.