Cuba by Land and by Sea

An Extraordinary People-to-People Experience

aboard the Exclusively Chartered, Deluxe Small Sailing Ship

Le Ponant

February 3 to 12, 2019

EARLY BOOKING SAVINGS

SAVE $2000 PER COUPLE

RESERVE BY AUGUST 10, 2018
Dear Fellow Columbian,

Travel with the Columbia Alumni Association (CAA) from February 3 – 12, 2019, and explore Cuba from east to west, by land and by sea. There are few contemporary countries as dynamic as Cuba, a complex living text of global and local history, from its stirring revolutionary past to its lucrative sugar industry. With the invaluable insight of Cubans from all walks of life, happy to share their unique rhythm of daily life and cultural perspectives with you—savor authentic Cuban cuisine in family-operated paladares—privately owned, in-home restaurants; see firsthand the lasting influence of Spain; the glamorous landscape that once drew celebrities, gangsters, writers, artists, and heads of state; the legacy of Fidel Castro; and the country’s emerging future.

Experience five UNESCO World Heritage sites and Cuba’s vivid culture. Explore Havana’s vibrant spirit, iconic Malecón, and beautifully restored Old City and fortifications. See the neoclassical center of Cienfuegos, settled in 1819; explore the 16th-century colonial town of Trinidad, where brightly colored homes line the streets; and visit Santiago de Cuba’s Castillo San Pedro de la Roca (El Morro). Tour the misty Viñales Valley, replete with verdant tobacco fields and striking karst formations; admire the azure sea along the island’s stunning coastline; and visit the historic city of Santa Clara in Cuba’s heartland.

During this exceptional opportunity, delight in 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 ship featuring only 32 ocean-view Staterooms. Le Ponant, able to call in smaller ports inaccessible to larger ships, is the best and most comprehensive way to see Cuba. Following your six-night cruise, enjoy three nights in Havana’s comfortable Meliá Habana Hotel, ideally combining exploration of Cuba by land and by sea.

The CAA is a global network connecting Columbians of all schools to one another and to the intellectual and social fabric of Columbia University, even after graduation. It links over 338,000 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.

Shared with cosponsoring associations, this licensed travel program offers a full schedule of people-to-people interactions with Cubans from diverse backgrounds—the ultimate authorities on this enigmatic island—and is sure to fill quickly. Please contact the CAA Travel Study Program at 866-325-8664 or travelstudy@columbia.edu for more details and to book this experience while choice accommodations are available.

Sincerely,

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

Cover photo: Admire Havana’s stately 20th-century monument Capitolio Nacional.
Photo below: Havana is ornamented with polished vintage cars and timelessly rendered architecture.
Discovering Cuba through its People

Welcome to the vivacious island of Cuba, where history runs deep through a Caribbean 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, and Diego Velázquez de Cuéllar settled on the island on Columbus' second voyage. The early 1800s produced a booming sugarcane industry—and even slavery left an indelible mark still resonant today. During the heyday of Caribbean pirates, Cuba became a smuggler’s haven, and in the 20th century, a lightning rod for revolutionary politics. Characteristically lively and artistic, Cubans are among the world’s most charming and welcoming people. Learn the secrets of their proud country through exclusive People-to-People Cultural Enrichments spanning the breadth of Cuba by land and by sea.

U.S./Holguín, Cuba/
Santiago de Cuba - Day 1
Depart the U.S. Upon arrival in Holguín, meet your host and begin your immersion into Cuban daily life. Transfer to Santiago de Cuba and embark Le Ponant. Enjoy the Captain’s Welcome Reception this evening.

People-to-People Cultural Enrichment:
◆ Meet the multigenerational family living and working on a farm near Holguín and enjoy a light lunch.

Santiago de Cuba - Day 2 and Day 3
Cuba’s second largest city is perhaps its most culturally vibrant, with the rhythms of salsa emanating from its lively streets, rich with Afro-Cuban heritage.

See Parque Céspedes including 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. Walk through the expansive Cementerio Santa Ifigenia, the grandiose final resting place of former president Fidel Castro and Cuban national hero and literary figure José Martí. View imposing Revolution Square, historic San Juan Hill—a pivotal site during the Spanish-American War—and the Palace of Justice. Visit the Moncada Barracks, where Castro led a small group of revolutionaries against Fulgencio Batista in 1953.

Visit the UNESCO World Heritage-designated Castillo San Pedro de la Roca (El Morro), a 17th-century fortress built to protect Santiago de Cuba Bay.

In the lush Jardín de los Helechos, walk among over 350 species of ferns and 90 types of orchids.

People-to-People Cultural Enrichments:
◆ Celebrate Cuban music, dance and culture with a vibrant performance in the multifaceted Casa de la Trova.
◆ Visit the Basílica de Nuestra Señora del Cobre, dedicated to Cuba’s patron saint, La Virgen de la Caridad (Our Lady of Charity), which Pope Francis visited in 2015. Observe Cuban pilgrims revering this sacred shrine, the statue of which, by legend, was found floating in Nipe Bay some 400 years ago.
◆ Enjoy a performance by a female Cuban vocal quartet.

The multilevel fortress of Castillo San Pedro de la Roca (El Morro) is the best-preserved example of Spanish-American military architecture.

Lively Brasil Street in Old Havana.
Cruising the Caribbean Sea - Day 4
Engage in onboard discussions and enjoy time at leisure while cruising the Caribbean Sea.

Trinidad - Day 5
UNESCO World Heritage-designated Trinidad is a fascinating cultural mélange—centuries of French, British and Spanish rule characterize the colonial architecture, while the cultures of the Arawak and Carib peoples, former African slaves and 19th-century immigrants from India endure in popular traditions. Stroll past pastel-hued houses and through 18th-century Plaza Mayor, and visit a former colonial mansion, the neoclassical Palacio Cantero, now a museum of Trinidadian history.

People-to-People
Cultural Enrichments:
◆ Enjoy a lively rumba performance at the Palenque de los Congos Reales, an outdoor music center devoted to traditional Afro-Cuban music and dancing.
◆ Meet with and visit the workshop of Lázaro Niebla and view a collection of his reverse woodcarvings depicting elder Cubans on colonial window panels.
◆ Visit Casa Chichi, a multigenerational pottery workshop established in 1892 that still uses clay sourced from Cuba's caves.

Cienfuegos for Santa Clara - Day 6
The “Pearl of the South,” this UNESCO World Heritage-designated harbor city was considered Spanish territory when it was colonized by French settlers from Louisiana and Bordeaux in 1819. Cienfuegos was once a trading port for sugar cane, coffee and tobacco and was built in a neoclassical style from the wealth of these industries. Traces from these influences are embedded here, from its French street names to its Spanish Enlightenment-style geometric layout. Visit the eclectic Teatro Tomás Terry, which hosted its first opera in 1895 and where famed musicians such as Enrico Caruso once performed.

Travel to Santa Clara, the gateway to Cuba's historically and agriculturally rich region shaped by its prestigious university and grand colonial theater. The site of the Cuban Revolution's last battle, Santa Clara has long been associated with Ernesto “Che” Guevara; see his impressive monument and explore the comprehensive History Museum of the Revolution.

Attend the Captain's Farewell Reception on board this evening.

People-to-People
Cultural Enrichments:
◆ Listen to a musical performance by the Orquesta de Cámara and meet the musicians.
◆ 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 Cuban dance tradition, the danzón.
◆ Enjoy lunch in a paladar.

Cienfuegos/Havana - Day 7
Disembark in Cienfuegos. En route to Havana, visit Finca Vigía, the former home of Ernest Hemingway, affectionately called “Papa” by locals. Here, he wrote The Old Man and the Sea and For Whom the Bell Tolls.

Accommodations for three nights are in the Meliá Habana Hotel.

People-to-People
Cultural Enrichments:
◆ See a performance by dance and percussion group Habana Compás.
◆ Enjoy lunch in a paladar.

Musicians showcase their expressive talents to passersby on the streets of Cienfuegos.
Havana - Day 8
Cuba’s capital, the early-20th-century “Paris of the Caribbean,” remains arguably one of a kind, mixing urban architecture and culture with an informal vibe and a lively arts and music scene. Havana’s distinctly vintage feel is bolstered by the prevalence of 1950s American-made automobiles fondly called “Yank tanks” by the locals who painstakingly maintain them.

Cruise along in a private, antique car on the iconic Malecón (oceanfront promenade) in Old Havana to the Spanish colonial core of Habana Vieja, a UNESCO World Heritage site. This colorful neighborhood is filled with cobblestone streets and architectural beauty, including Plaza de Armas, the site where San Cristóbal de la Habana was founded in 1514.

In the downtown district of Vedado, see the University of Havana, the pre-revolutionary Capitolio reminiscent of the U.S. Capitol and the legendary Hotel Nacional de Cuba. See Revolution Square, where Fidel Castro gave his famous hours-long May Day speeches.

Attend the Farewell Reception in the hotel this evening.

People-to-People Cultural Enrichments:
◆ Meet a tobacco farmer and cigar-roller and spend time with his family as he welcomes you into his home to sample Cuban coffee.
◆ Tour an organic farm, enjoy an enriching discussion with the farmer and share a homestyle lunch.
◆ In Pinar del Río, visit a community art project where creativity is fostered in young people with Down syndrome.

Havana/U.S. - Day 10
This morning, transfer to the airport for your return flight to the U.S.

Miami Hotel Pre-Program Option
Arrive in Miami the day before your flight to Cuba. Enjoy overnight accommodations in the DOUBLETREE MIAMI AIRPORT HOTEL, a complimentary welcome drink, Cuba briefing and a convenient shuttle to the airport for your flight to Cuba.

The Pre-Program Option is available at additional cost. Details will be provided with your reservation confirmation.

People-to-People Cultural Enrichments:
◆ Enjoy a walk through Old Havana with a focus on architectural preservation.
◆ Enjoy dinner in a local paladar.

Havana/Pinar del Río and Viñales Valley - Day 9
In Cuba’s westernmost province of Pinar del Río is striking Viñales Valley, a UNESCO World Heritage site known for its natural beauty. The 270-square-mile plain is surrounded by limestone karst hills called mogotes, and the farmland here produces robust coffee and some of the world’s best tobacco, products central to Cuban agriculture, history and identity.
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

Six Nights Sailing Aboard Le Ponant
◆ Deluxe, ocean-view, air-conditioned Staterooms.
◆ Captain’s Welcome and Farewell Receptions.
◆ All meals aboard ship.
◆ Complimentary alcoholic and nonalcoholic beverages available throughout the cruise.
◆ Complimentary Wi-Fi throughout the ship.

Exclusive People-to-People Excursions and Cultural Enrichments

Holguín
◆ Visit to a nearby multigenerational family farm.

Santiago de Cuba
◆ Music and dance performances by local groups.
◆ Visit to El Morro, a UNESCO World Heritage site.
◆ Walk through Cementerio Santa Ifigenia.
◆ Visit to the Basílica del Cobre to observe Cubans during their pilgrimage.
◆ Lunch in a local paladar.

Trinidad
◆ Guided walk through the colonial city of Trinidad, a UNESCO World Heritage site.
◆ Rumba performance at Palenque de los Congos Reales.
◆ Visit to the Casa Chichi pottery workshop to observe traditional Cuban pottery-making.

Cienfuegos
◆ Visit to the eclectic Teatro Tomás Terry.
◆ Performance by Orquesta de Cámara and interactions with the musicians.
◆ Excursion to Santa Clara, with visits to the Che Guevara Monument, the History Museum of the Revolution and a senior citizen community center.
◆ Lunch in a paladar.

Havana
◆ Three nights in the comfortable Meliá Habana Hotel.
◆ Breakfast daily, two dinners and a Farewell Reception in the hotel.
◆ Two lunches and one dinner in a paladar.
◆ Architectural walking tour of Old Havana, a UNESCO World Heritage site, with lunch.
◆ Visit to the 16th-century Plaza de Armas.
◆ Excursion to the UNESCO World Heritage-designated Viñales Valley for a cigar-rolling demonstration and refreshments, and a tour of organic crops, including a homestyle lunch.
◆ Interaction with volunteers at a community art project for young people with Down syndrome in Pinar del Río.
◆ 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.

Always Included
◆ Transfers and luggage handling abroad if your arrival(s)/departure(s) coincide with the scheduled group transfer(s).
◆ Cuban visa fee.
◆ Experienced, English-speaking local host for individual excursions.
◆ 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.
◆ Experienced Gohagan & Company Travel Director at your service.
◆ Complimentary use of an audio headset during guided excursions.
◆ Automatic $250,000 flight insurance policy for each participant ticketed on flights by Gohagan & Company.
An Extraordinary People-to-People Opportunity

Enjoy this unique and comprehensive exploration of Cuba by land and by sea, featuring unprecedented people-to-people opportunities. Engage with Cubans from all walks of life—artists, tobacco farmers, artisans, cigar rollers, senior citizens, paladar owners, religious pilgrims, musicians, dancers—who will openly share with you their values, insights and interests.

Experience firsthand the true character and traditions of residents of the Caribbean’s largest island by special arrangement and U.S. Treasury-approved license. Explore Cuban history, art, culture, professions, trades, religion and cuisine in an intimate travel experience that will immerse you in Cuba’s rhythms of daily life.

Walk through Plaza de Armas at the entrance to Old Havana and 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. Join this once-in-a-lifetime, educational journey and enamórese de (fall in love with) the people of Cuba and their culture.

Habana Compás musicians and dancers exemplify the lively tradition of musical expression in Cuba.
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

Please make my/our reservation(s) in Stateroom Category:
1st Choice __________ 2nd Choice __________

囚 Double occupancy (two twin beds).
囚 Double occupancy (one queen bed).
囚 Single accommodations.
囚 I am reserving as a single but prefer to share accommodations and will allow you to select my roommate (shares cannot be guaranteed).

Please make my/our reservation(s):
Miami Pre-Program Hotel Option
囚 Double at $225 per person.
囚 Single at $365 per person.
囚 I am reserving as a single but prefer to share accommodations and will allow you to select my roommate (shares cannot be guaranteed).

囚 I/We want you to book my/our air, at additional cost to be advised, from:

(fill in departure city)

囚 Economy Class
囚 Business Class

囚 Flight schedules to Cuba are subject to change and availability, and airfare is nonrefundable. Currently, most flights to Holguín depart from Miami; therefore, we strongly recommend you plan to arrive one night early in Miami. We recommend you book your domestic and international air concurrently.

囚 I/We will make my/our own air arrangements.

Program reservations require a deposit of $800 per person.

囚 Enclosed is my/our check(s) for $__________ as deposit.
Make checks payable to 2019 Cuba by Land and by Sea.

囚 I/We authorize you to charge my/our deposit of $__________ to:
囚 Visa 囚 MasterCard

Card Number Exp. Date

Signature as it appears on credit card

All FINAL PAYMENTS are required to be made by check or wire transfer by October 31, 2018.

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.
Santiago de Cuba celebrates a dynamic coalescence of Spanish Colonial and Afro-Cuban influences.

RELEASE OF LIABILITY, ASSUMPTION OF RISK AND BINDING ARBITRATION AGREEMENT

REGISTRATION:

Gohagan reserves the right to substitute vessels, hotels or attractions of a similar level, other events of force majeure, mechanical or other conditions beyond the control of Gohagan. Gohagan is not responsible therefor and is not required to compensate passengers under these circumstances. Gohagan may cancel a trip or (an option) for any reason whatsoever; if so, its sole responsibility is to refund monies paid by the participant to it. Gohagan, however, is not required to refund under these circumstances to the cost of any purchased travel insurance. Gohagan shall not be liable for any consequential loss of any kind as a result of any such changes. Ship schedules, port calls, hours of arrival and/or departure, special events and guest lecturer series (if applicable), are subject to change or cancellation. Gohagan reserves the right to substitute motorcoach transportation using hotels, inns or lodges for any reason, including, but not limited to, weather and travel conditions, overbooking or downgrading of accommodations, mechanical or other failure of airplanes, vessels, or other means of transportation, or for any failure of any transportation mechanism to arrive or depart timely or safely.

In the event a “discounted” reservation must be cancelled, no “replacement” reservation can be substituted at the discounted rate. A “replacement” reservation is a new reservation and can be substituted only at the full-face fare. Cancellation penalties may apply.

CANCELLATIONS: Cancellations for all or any part of the trip including Pre/Post Program(s) reservation(s) will not be effective until received in writing in the offices of the Columbia Alumni Travel Study Program. Should you have to cancel, the following terms will apply; reservation cancellation(s) are subject to a $200 per person administrative fee from the time of booking through 120 days prior to departure; from 95 through 119 days prior to departure, $800 per person; from 60 through 94 days prior to departure, 70% of the published full regular tariffs; cancellations 59 days or less prior to departure, a no-show, no early return from the trip will result in forfeiture of 100% of the published full regular tariffs. In addition, any applicable airline cancellation fees, optional excursion cancellation fees and administrative fees may apply.

TRIP INSURANCE: We strongly recommend that you purchase trip cancellation insurance. In the event that you must cancel your participation in a travel program, trip cancellation insurance may be the only source of reimbursement. Additional information on insurance options will be sent upon receipt of your reservation.

RATES: Prices quoted are based on fares in effect at the time of printing and are subject to change at any time. On land and/or cruise programs, even after full payment, Gohagan reserves the right to increase the tour price in the event of cost increases due to changes in supplier costs, currency fluctuations or fuel or energy surcharges and all such increases are to be paid by Gohagan upon notice to the tour participant of such increases. On programs which include Gohagan purchased interstate or international air (which originates or returns to the United States), no increased costs will be passed on after final payment except for subsequently imposed governmental tax increases.

REGISTRATION: CST#: 2031888-40, WST#: 601 767 666, OST#: TA 0905, BINDING ARBITRATION: Any dispute concerning, relating or referring to this Agreement, the brochure or any other literature concerning the trip, or the trip itself, shall be resolved exclusively by binding arbitration pursuant to the Federal Arbitration Act, 9 U.S.C. Sections 1-16, either according to the then existing Commercial Rules of the American Arbitration Association (AAA) or pursuant to the Comprehensive Arbitration Rules & Procedures of the Judicial Arbitration and Mediation Services, Inc. (JAMS). Such proceedings will be governed by substantive (but not procedural) Illinois law and will take place in Chicago, Illinois. The arbitrator and not any federal, state, or local court or agency shall have exclusive authority to resolve any dispute relating to the interpretation, applicability, enforceability, conscionability, or formation of this contract, including but not limited to any claim that all or any part of this contract is void or voidable. Please understand that by agreeing to these terms and conditions, the participant and Gohagan are waiving the right to a trial by jury.

ACCEPTANCE OF CONTRACT: By forwarding of deposit, the participant certifies that he/she does not have any medical, physical or other condition of disability that would create a hazard for him/herself or other participants and accepts the terms contained in this Release of Liability, Assumption of Risk and Binding Arbitration Agreement.

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