Smith College

Cuba
by Land and by Sea
An Extraordinary People-to-People Experience
aboard the Exclusively Chartered, Deluxe Small Sailing Ship
Le Ponant
January 10 to 19, 2018
Dear Smith Alumnae and Friends:

Explore the breadth of Cuba in depth—from west to east, by land and by sea—while interacting 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. Gain insight into the lasting influence of Spain; the glamorous landscape that once drew celebrities, gangsters, movie stars, writers, artists and heads of state; the legacy of Fidel Castro; and the island’s emerging future. Experience Cuba’s vivid culture and its irresistible zest for life. The National Trust for Historic Preservation will be co-sponsoring this departure.

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 MELÍA 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, a UNESCO World Heritage site. 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, a UNESCO World Heritage site 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.

This travel program offers a full schedule of events, all of which involve significant people-to-people exchanges with Cubans from diverse backgrounds who reflect this island’s unique rhythm of daily life and are eager to share their triumphs, challenges, experiences and cultural perspectives with you. This program will sell out quickly, so book now while space and Early Booking Savings are still available!

Sincerely,

Elizabeth A. Bigwood
Director, Smith Travel
Office of Alumnae Relations
Smith College

Cover photo: Admire Havana’s stately 20th-century monument Capitolio Nacional.

Vibrant bata cubanas (traditional dresses) reflect Cuba’s Spanish and African roots.
Discovering the Island through its People

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. A revolutionary lightning rod for 20th-century politics, Cuba is lively and artistic, and its residents are among the most charming and welcoming people in the world. Meet them during this specially designed itinerary spanning the breadth of Cuba by land and by sea, and 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 local experts including musicians, artists, farmers and academics.

♦ Meet lifelong residents of Cuba, who will share their perspectives on daily life.

♦ 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 verdant 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 MELIÁ 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.

This afternoon, embark Le Ponant and attend the Captain’s Welcome Reception this evening.

PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE CULTURAL ENRICHMENT:

◆ Enjoy lunch in a local paladar.

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

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.

Singers showcase their expressive talents to passersby on the streets of Trinidad.

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.

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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.

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**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.

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**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 Río 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.

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.

Trinidad
◆ Guided walk through the colonial city of Trinidad, a UNESCO World Heritage site.
◆ Spirited 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.

Santo Domingo 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.

Enhanced Travel Services

◆ Transfers and luggage handling abroad 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.
Send to: Smith Travel
Office of Alumnae Relations
33 Elm Street
Northampton, MA 01063
(800) 225-2029  Fax: (413) 585-2015

Please make my/our reservation(s) in Stateroom Category:

1st Choice ___  2nd Choice ___

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

☐ I/We want you to book my/our air from ______________ (fill in departure city) to Havana, Cuba, with return from Holguín at additional cost to be advised.‡

☐ Economy Class
☐ Business Class

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

*Taxes are an additional $495 per person and are subject to change.

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.

Thomas P. Gohagan & Company has been issued a license (#CT-2014-310067-1) by the Department of the Treasury, Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC), authorizing us to organize and operate People-to-People programs to Cuba.

Program reservations require a deposit of $800 per person. By reserving and depositing on this program, you agree to the Release of Liability, Assumption of Risk and Binding Arbitration Agreement as printed on the outside back cover of this brochure.

☐ Enclosed is my/our check(s) for $________ as deposit. Make checks payable to Thomas P. Gohagan & Company.

☐ I/We authorize you to charge my/our deposit of $________ to:
  ☐ Visa  ☐ 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 6, 2017.

*Note: Airfare is subject to change and availability and is nonrefundable.

Singles are available in category 5 at $13495* and in category 3 at $14995* on or before June 20, 2017. Add $1000 for reservations made after June 20, 2017.
Release of Liability, assumption of Risk and Binding Arbitration Agreement

Responsibility: Thomas P. Gohagan & Company, the sponsoring association/organization, and its and their employees, shareholders, subsidiaries, affiliates, officers, directors or trustees, successors, and assigns (collectively “Gohagan”), do not own or operate any entity which is to or does provide goods or services for your trip including, for example, lodging facilities, airline, vessel, or other transportation companies, guide services, local ground operators, providers or organizers of optional excursions, food service or entertainment providers, etc. All such persons and entities are independent contractors. As such, Gohagan shall not be liable for any negligent or willful act or failure to act to any such person or entity or of any other third party. In the event of any accident, injury, death, or loss, 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, acts of war or civil unrest, insurrection or revolt, strikes, bites or attacks by animals, insects or pests, 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 accommodation, 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.

Other: To the extent that the itinerary or trip features at any time and for any reason, with or without notice, and Gohagan 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, special programs and guest lecture series (if applicable), are subject to change and Gohagan cannot be held liable for substituting motorcoach transportation using hotels, inns or cruise accommodations if necessary due to weather, water conditions or levels, other events of force majeure, mechanical or other conditions beyond Gohagan’s control. Gohagan is required to cancel any trip for any reason without including limitation, United States Department of State, World Health Organization or other Warnings or Advisories of any kind. Gohagan is not responsible for penalties assessed by air carriers resulting from operational and/or itinerary changes, even if penalties are based on the airfare paid by you. If Gohagan, however, is not required under these circumstances to refund the airfare paid you, Gohagan is not required to substitute motorcoach transportation using hotels, inns or cruise accommodations 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. Cancellations for all or any part of the trip after final payment, unless specifically stated in the itinerary, may be the only source of reimbursement. Insurance information will be sent to you by Smith Travel on receipt of your registration.

Cancellation penalties may apply. 04/17-1

Discounted Reservations: Discounts apply only to those reservations received in the offices of Gohagan in writing, accompanied by the required deposit, by June 20, 2017. 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-fare tariff. Cancellation penalties may apply.

Registration: Cancellations for all or any part of the trip made up to 70 days before departure must be made in writing. Cancellations made after this time will be governed by substantive (but not procedural) Illinois law and 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 mental, physical or other condition of disability that would create a hazard for himself/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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