Passage through the Panama Canal and Costa Rica

aboard the Exclusively Chartered, Newly Launched, Five-Star, Small Ship LE CHAMPLAIN

February 10 to 18, 2019

- Daylight Transit through the Panama Canal
- Luxury Small Ship
- 100% Ocean-View Staterooms
- All Shore Excursions Included
Dear Smith Alumnae and Friends:

We invite you to voyage from the Atlantic to the Pacific through one of the greatest man-made wonders of the world, the ingenious Panama Canal—an experience nearly unmatchable in its drama and engineering marvel. Having celebrated its centennial anniversary just four years ago, and recently completing a monumental expansion doubling its capacity, this 50-mile passage through the narrow isthmus of Panama continues to astonish even today’s most veteran traveler. During a specially arranged and narrated daylight transit, experience firsthand the mighty locks that raise and lower oceangoing vessels 85 feet, employing only the force of gravity to accomplish in mere hours what would have taken a three-week circumnavigation of South America in years gone by.

This journey of a lifetime also features the planet’s most pristine ecosystems in the rainforests, islands and archipelagos of Panama and Costa Rica during the best time of year. On this comprehensive itinerary, explore the heart of Panama City’s UNESCO World Heritage-designated Casco Antiguo—the city’s old town—and tour acclaimed architect Frank Gehry’s only design in Latin America, Panama City’s Biodiversity Museum. Visit Panama’s ancient San Blas Islands, where the native Guna people live as they did centuries ago.

Cruise aboard the exclusively chartered Five-Star **Le Champlain**, launching in 2018 and featuring the extraordinary **Blue Eye**, the world’s first multisensory observation lounge. This sophisticated small ship offers only 92 Suites and Staterooms, each with a private balcony. Dock in small ports of call inaccessible to larger vessels and enjoy the advantages of Five-Star, small-ship cruising—elegant ocean-view accommodations, an exclusive itinerary carefully crafted with enriching excursions led by experienced onboard naturalists and attentive, personal service.

Space is limited for this extraordinary travel opportunity and excellent value, so book now!

Sincerely,

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

P.S. At this time a Smith faculty member has not been confirmed but this information will be shared on the Smith Travel website at a later date.
Called the “coast of riches” by the Spanish conquistadors who sought to colonize it following Columbus’s arrival in 1502, Costa Rica offers diverse and fascinating riches, from its impossibly fertile landscapes to the perseverant culture of its indigenous people. More than 25 percent of this captivating country is a national park, wildlife refuge or protected rainforest, earning Costa Rica the distinction of the greenest country in the world and the leading destination for eco-tourism. Explore lush rainforests, stroll coral-fringed beaches and encounter a vivid array of wildlife, including howler monkeys, colorful tree frogs and 600 species of non-migratory birds. The national motto of Costa Rica is “Pura vida!” which translates to “pure life”; it is expressed in the proud and welcoming faces of the ticos (Costa Rican natives), the passionate biologists captivated by the flourishing rare and endemic species, and the spectacularly vivacious landscape itself.

San Blas Islands, Panama
Located on the Caribbean side of Panama, the sun-drenched San Blas Islands are a living testament to Panama’s indigenous Guna people, also known as the Kuna, and their centuries-old language, customs and culture. Villagers live in typical thatched-roof huts, barter or trade in fish and agricultural products, and paddle dugout canoes, their main mode of transportation. Guna women continue to hand stitch traditional colorful molas (reverse appliqué panels) and wear winis, long strings of tiny beads wrapped around their forearms and legs in striking geometric patterns.

The pristine, turquoise waters of Golfo de San Blas—populated with untouched coral reefs and vibrant marine life—offer an exciting opportunity for swimming.

Panama City
By special arrangement, cruise through the fascinating Panama Canal. Arrive in Central America’s most attractive capital city and learn more about the operation of the canal’s locks in the adjacent Miraflores Locks Visitor Center. Nearby, the new Biodiversity Museum, designed by architect Frank Gehry of Guggenheim fame, showcases the ecological significance of Panama’s exotic flora and fauna.

Photo this page: In only three square miles, Costa Rica’s Manuel Antonio National Park showcases an abundance of natural wonders among its sandy beaches, low-lying marshes and mature tropical forests.
Visit the UNESCO World Heritage-designated “old quarter” of Casco Antiguo, a charming neighborhood replete with cobblestone streets and many architecturally significant historical edifices, including a 16th-century cathedral.

**Isla Cébaco**
A winding coastline of rarely visited sandy beaches and towering palm trees front the dense rainforests that dominate Isla Cébaco, a gem in the sparkling Gulf of Montijo. Snorkel in its emerald waters, where schools of brilliantly colored fish, giant manta rays and four different species of turtles swim amid spectacular coral reefs.

**Manuel Antonio National Park, Costa Rica**
Experience an unparalleled diversity of wildlife in this lush tropical haven, a captivating combination of rainforest, beach and coral reef, home to more than 100 species of mammals, almost 200 species of birds and various reptiles and amphibians.

Explore this protected “Living Eden,” where expert naturalists will help you spot colorful toucans, screeching howler monkeys, camouflaged iguanas, squirrel monkeys, two- and three-toed sloths and rare and endangered species such as the scarlet macaw.

**Curú National Wildlife Refuge**
Unlike traditional nature reserves, Curú Wildlife Refuge is a unique blend of sustainable agriculture, forest management and wildlife protection, reestablishing species like the scarlet macaw and spider monkey, both reintroduced into the wild here. Encompassing five distinctive untouched habitats—including mangrove swamps and both dry and humid forests—it is the ideal place to see the intricacies of interdependent ecosystems. Enjoy a guided walk in the morning, the best time of day to observe an abundance of wildlife including capuchin and howler monkeys, more than 230 species of birds, white-tailed deer and iguanas.

**Isla Tortuga**
Nestled in a private reserve near the stunning Nicoya Peninsula, idyllic Isla Tortuga is named for its tortoise-like volcanic rock formations. Against a backdrop of coconut palm trees and white-sand beaches, enjoy opportunities to swim and snorkel in this protected island’s clear, sheltered waters, home to fascinating marine life such as angel fish, spotted eagle rays and sea horses.
San José
In the heart of the fertile Valle Central, Costa Rica’s dynamic capital city of San José possesses an eclectic mix of museums, landscaped parks, lively cafés and art galleries and an interesting fusion of architectural styles including Spanish Colonial, Moorish and Modernist.

Visit the National Theater, a regal Baroque edifice modeled on Milan’s La Scala, with marble staircases, gilded statues and red velvet carpeting, and peruse the National Museum’s impressive pre-Columbian Central American artifacts, stonework, gold jewelry and statuettes.

Dynamic Panama—
The Renaissance of a City
Pre-Program Option
An exploration of old and new, Panama is the perfect complement to “the crossroads of the Americas.” Visit the UNESCO World Heritage-designated Panama Viejo to see the ruins of the oldest European settlement on the Pacific American coast, cruise the Gatún River to meet the indigenous Embera people and visit the fascinating Agua Clara Visitor Center for panoramic views of the Panama Canal expansion. Spend two nights in the ideally located, deluxe Bristol Panama Hotel.

Costa Rica’s Cultural and Natural Riches
Post-Program Option
Experience a medley of Costa Rica’s diverse biospheres, from steamy hot springs to misty cloud forests. In view of towering Arenal Volcano, explore the lush rainforest along a series of suspended and fixed bridges. Tour historic San José, an organic chocolate workshop, an award-winning coffee estate and a traditional artisan town known for intricately hand-painted woodcrafts. Accommodations are for two nights in the ideally located Hotel Royal Corin and two nights in the hacienda-style Costa Rica Marriott Hotel San José.

Post-Program pricing includes a credit for one night’s accommodations in San José and the San José city tour already included in the cost of the main program. The Pre- and Post-Program Options are available at additional cost. Details will be provided with your reservation confirmation.

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Surrounded by lush rainforest, Costa Rica’s imposing Arenal Volcano entered into a resting phase in 2010.
Blue Eye – The World’s First Luxury Underwater Observatory

Exclusive to the Ponant fleet is the extraordinary Blue Eye, a multisensory underwater observation lounge that incorporates bionic and biomimetic technology to immerse you in the beauty of the ocean’s ecosystem. Observe marine life through the large subaquatic windows and on digital screens projecting undersea activity in real time, while specially designed hydrophones echo the ebb and flow of the sounds beneath the water’s surface. Marine life viewing varies by location.

Luxury Small Ship, Innovative Design
Le Champlain, launching in 2018, ushers in a new generation of Five-Star small ships, combining revolutionary design and a new standard of luxury for an unparalleled cruising experience. Dock in smaller ports inaccessible to larger ships and where authentic cultural experiences and majestic scenery await you.

Respect for the Environment
The newest addition to the Ponant “Clean Ship” fleet, a rare designation among ocean-cruising vessels, Le Champlain is energy efficient and eco-friendly, protecting fragile marine ecosystems while providing a safe and comfortable voyage.

Chic and Casual Dining
Dine indoors or alfresco on international and regional cuisine served in the stylish, spacious indoor-outdoor restaurant, at the casual pool deck grill or from 24-hour room service. Daily meals include continental and buffet breakfasts, buffet lunch, afternoon tea and four-course dinner.

92 Elegant Suites and Staterooms, 100% with Private Balconies
Each Five-Star Stateroom and Suite (up to 484 square feet) features a private balcony. Grand Deluxe Suites have a bay window and spacious private terrace. Accommodations offer two twin beds or one queen bed, individual climate control and luxurious hotel amenities.

Life on Board
Enjoy sweeping views from the lounges, which open to the outdoors, and lectures, cultural performances or film screenings in the state-of-the-art theater. Relax in the spa and sauna or the Sun Deck’s infinity-style swimming pool. There is a beauty salon, fitness room and two elevators. Complimentary Wi-Fi is available throughout the ship.

World-Class Service
The highly trained, English-speaking crew are personable and attentive, and the ship has a medical center staffed with a doctor and a nurse.
Included Features

Scenic transfer from Panama City to Colón.

On Board the Exclusively Chartered, Five-Star, Small Ship Le CHAMPLAIN
- Seven-night cruise from Colón, Panama, to Puerto Caldera, Costa Rica.
- Elegantly appointed, Five-Star Suite or Stateroom.
- Captain’s Welcome and Farewell Receptions.
- Complimentary alcoholic and nonalcoholic beverages available throughout the cruise.
- All meals aboard ship.
- Complimentary Wi-Fi throughout the ship.
- Blue Eye—the world’s first luxury, multisensory, underwater observatory.
- Expert onboard naturalist guides to lead small group excursions.
- Excursion to the remote San Blas Islands, where you will meet the Guna people.
- Daylight passage through the Panama Canal, accompanied by a historical narration. Transit times through the canal are controlled by the Panama Canal Authority and are subject to traffic conditions.
- Tour of Panama City, highlighted by a visit to the UNESCO World Heritage site of Casco Antiguo, the new Frank Gehry-designed Biodiversity Museum and the informative Panama Canal Miraflores Locks Museum.
- Visit to pristine Isla Cébaco, with opportunities for swimming and snorkeling among colorful marine life.
- Excursion in stunning and biodiverse Manuel Antonio National Park with a naturalist-led trail walk through the protected rainforest.
- Specially arranged, onboard guitar performance by local Quepos musicians.
- Guided tour through Curú National Wildlife Refuge to see a wide array of wildlife in its natural habitat, such as the rare scarlet macaw and the spider monkey.
- Visit to unspoiled Isla Tortuga, with opportunities for snorkeling.
- Culinary demonstration by the ship’s chef.

Scenic transfer from Puerto Caldera to San José.

In San José, Costa Rica
- One night in the hacienda-style COSTA RICA MARRIOTT HOTEL SAN JOSÉ.
- American breakfast.
- Tour of San José, including visits to the National Theater and National Museum, with lunch.

Always Included
- Transfers and luggage handling abroad if your arrival(s)/departure(s) coincide with the scheduled group transfer(s).
- Experienced, English speaking local guides for included excursions.
- Gratuities to hotel personnel, local guides and drivers on included excursions and transfers.
- Hospitality desk aboard ship and in the hotel.
- Complimentary bottled water in your Suite or Stateroom and on excursions.
- Experienced Gohagan & Company Travel Directors at your service.
- Automatic $250,000 flight insurance policy for each participant ticketed on flights by Gohagan & Company.
The Panama Canal
Marvel of Human Engineering
More than a Century of Passages

The 580-foot-long SS Kroonland was the largest passenger ship of its time to transit the Panama Canal in 1915.

During a daylight passage, experience firsthand the “greatest liberty man has ever taken with nature,” which cuts through the Great Continental Divide, spans 50 miles and took 33 years and 100,000 laborers to complete at a cost of $400 million. This historic engineering feat changed the world, opened new channels of international trade and allowed ships to travel between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans in a fraction of the time it took to circumnavigate South America.

After France’s failed attempt to build a sea-level canal here in the 19th century, and following the U.S. involvement in Panama’s independence, the project resumed under the watchful eye of President Theodore Roosevelt. When completed in 1914, the Panama Canal was considered one of the Seven Wonders of the Modern World. Now, more than a century later, the canal has undergone a $5.25 billion expansion to accommodate more than twice the cargo, maintaining its status as the “gateway to the world.”

Tens of thousands of workers labored and sacrificed to complete the largest engineering endeavor of the early 20th century.
### The Panama Canal and Costa Rica Reservation Form

**Land/Cruise Tariff excluding taxes**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stateroom Category</th>
<th>Land/Cruise Tariff Excluding Taxes (Per person, based on double occupancy)</th>
<th>Early Booking Tariff* through Aug. 6, 2018</th>
<th>Tariff* after Aug. 6, 2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Deluxe Suite with expansive sliding glass door, large private balcony, shower, sitting area with sofa, Decks 3, 4, 5 and 6. (Limited availability)</td>
<td>$10295</td>
<td>$11295</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Grand Deluxe Suite with expansive sliding glass door, spacious private terrace, full bathroom with tub and separate shower, additional private powder room, sitting area with sofa, Decks 5 and 6. (Limited availability)</td>
<td>$12695</td>
<td>$13695</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Please make my/o 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)

**Please make my/o our reservation(s): 
Panama Pre-Program Option**

- Double at $595 per person
- Single at $845 per person
- I am reserving as a single but prefer to share accommodations and will allow you to select my roommate (shares cannot be guaranteed)

**Costa Rica Post-Program Option**

- Double at $1295 per person
- Single at $1895 per person
- I am reserving as a single but prefer to share accommodations and will allow you to select my roommate (shares cannot be guaranteed)

**Enclosed is my/our check(s) for $__________ as deposit.**

**Make checks payable to Gohagan & Company.**

**I/We authorize you to charge my/o 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 November 7, 2018.**
LISTEN: For the throaty call of the howler monkey, one of Costa Rica’s most common species.

RELEASE OF LIABILITY, ASSUMPTION OF RISK AND BINDING ARBITRATION AGREEMENT

RESPONSIBILITY: Gohagan & Company is the sponsoring agent for the programs and activities described in this brochure, and for any actions by their 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 travel, for example, airfare, airline, vessel, or other transportation companies, guides or guide services, local ground operators, providers or organizers of optional excursions, food and beverage providers, tour 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 the event of any litigation, 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, bites from 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 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.

If due to any kind of schedule changes or other uncontrollable factors, you are required to spend an additional night(s), you will be responsible for your own hotel, transfers and meal costs. Baggage is entirely at owner’s risk. The right is reserved to decline to accept reservations or to operate the tour or trip itself, shall be resolved exclusively by binding arbitration pursuant to the Judicial Arbitration and Mediation Services, Inc. (JAMS). Such proceedings 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 mechanism to arrive or depart timely or safely.

Any dispute concerning, relating or referring to the interpretation, applicability, enforceability, conscionability, or formation of this contract, including but not limited to any claim or all parties 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 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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