PASSAGE THROUGH THE PANAMA CANAL & COSTA RICA
WITH BRIAN FARRELL
January 1 – 9, 2016

Having celebrated its centennial anniversary just two years ago, this marvel of engineering and 50-mile passage through the narrow isthmus of Panama continues to astonish even today’s most veteran traveler. Experience firsthand the mighty locks that raise and lower ocean-going vessels 85 feet using no other power than the force of gravity, accomplishing in mere hours what would have taken a three-week circumnavigation of South America in years gone by.

We invite you to join us for this voyage of a lifetime, featuring a passage through the historic Panama Canal and to the unspoiled rainforests of Costa Rica and Panama. On this comprehensive itinerary, visit two UNESCO World Heritage sites along with Panama’s San Blas Islands, where the Guna Indians live much as they did centuries ago. Tour one of acclaimed architect Frank Gehry’s newest designs, Panama City’s Biodiversity Museum. Experience Panama and Costa Rica’s world-renowned and protected national parks—rainforests, islands, and archipelagos that foster one of the most pristine ecosystems on our planet.

This exclusive offering features the privately chartered five-star m.v. Tere Moana, relaunched in 2013 under new ownership following a multimillion-dollar refurbishment. A true small ship, m.v. Tere Moana carries only 88 guests, can dock in ports inaccessible to larger vessels, and provides the best of deluxe accommodations and an intimate atmosphere to enjoy this all-inclusive cruise experience.

CO-SPONSORS: Princeton University and Yale University.
THE PANAMA CANAL: MARVEL OF HUMAN ENGINEERING AND MORE THAN A CENTURY OF PASSAGE

Experience firsthand the “greatest liberty ever taken with nature,” which cuts through the Great Continental Divide, spans 50 miles and took 33 years to complete at a cost of $400 million. This historic engineering feat changed the world, opening up new channels of international trade and allowing 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 was turned over to the U.S. in 1903 and construction began during the presidency of Theodore Roosevelt. Among the 100,000 workers involved in the construction was French Post-Impressionist artist Paul Gauguin. 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 Panama Canal is undergoing a $5.25 billion expansion, adding a wider third lane that can accommodate more than twice the cargo of the current lanes, maintaining its status as the “gateway to the world.”

CROSS SECTION OF THE PANAMA CANAL

GATÚN LAKE, PANAMA CANAL
FRIDAY, JANUARY 1

U.S./SAN JOSÉ, COSTA RICA
Depart the U.S. and arrive in vibrant San José, where the horticultural diversity of Costa Rica, the “Garden of the Americas,” is evident in the city’s magnificent parks. Overnight accommodations are in the deluxe, hacienda-style COSTA RICA MARRIOTT HOTEL SAN JOSÉ.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 2

SAN JOSÉ/PUERTO CALDERA
Costa Rica’s capital city is an interesting mix of architectural styles, including Spanish Colonial, Moorish and Modernist. Visit the National Theater, a regal Baroque-style edifice modeled on Milan’s La Scala, and the National Museum, whose exhibits feature impressive pre-Columbian Central American artifacts.
Transfer to Puerto Caldera to embark the M/V TeRe Moana. (b,l,d)

SUNDAY, JANUARY 3

CÚRÚ NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE/MANUEL ANTONIO NATIONAL PARK
Unlike traditional nature reserves, Curú Wildlife Refuge is a unique blend of sustainable agriculture, forest management, and wildlife protection, encompassing five distinctive untouched habitats, making it the ideal place to see the intricacies of interdependent ecosystems.
Enjoy a guided walk this morning, the best time of day to observe an abundance of wildlife including pumas, anteaters, ocelots, otters, and more than 230 species of birds.
This afternoon, experience an unparalleled diversity of wildlife in lush Manuel Antonio National Park, a captivating combination of rainforest, beaches, and coral reefs, home to more than 100 species of mammals, almost 200 species of birds, and various reptiles and amphibians. In this “living Eden,” expert naturalists will help you spot colorful toucans, screeching howler monkeys, camouflaged iguanas, squirrel monkeys, and rare and endangered species such as the scarlet macaw and quetzal, all of which are protected by law in this natural haven. (b,l,R,d)

MONDAY, JANUARY 4

GOLFO DULCE
The secluded natural wonderland of Golfo Dulce, bordering the Piedras Blancas National Park, was declared “one of the most biologically intense places on earth.” Explore flora and fauna firsthand on the grounds of the Saladero Eco Lodge, an exclusive, pristine private property accessible only by boat and encompassing nearly 500 acres of primary old-growth rainforest, tropical gardens, and beach, offering spectacular viewing of Costa Rica’s rich wildlife, including scarlet macaws and the endangered spider monkey.
In nearby Casa Orquídeas, a stunning, maze-like botanical garden of over 100 species of orchids, bromeliads, heliconias, and edible plants, look for colorful toucans, scarlet macaws, and jewel-hued hummingbirds. (b,l,d)

TUESDAY, JANUARY 5

COIBA NATIONAL PARK, PANAMA
Designated a UNESCO World Heritage site, Coiba National Park and its Special Zone of Marine Protection has emerged as a rich laboratory for studying coral, plants, and mammals. In addition to 69 species of fish, humpback, orca, sperm, and Cuvier’s beaked whales are known to migrate through the park’s waters.
Linked by an underwater mountain chain to the Galápagos, Granito de Oro is a small island within the park known as the “live aquarium of Coiba.” Enjoy a morning snorkeling among its vast array of exquisite marine life including parrotfish and orange-sided triggerfish.
Spend the afternoon exploring pristine Isla Coiba, the largest island in Central America. Once an isolated political prison, Isla Coiba today is a host of terrestrial wonders—virgin rainforest, rugged headlands, pristine white-sand beaches, and mangrove thickets—a perfect environment for the evolution of new and endemic subspecies and for the preservation and protection of endangered species. (b,l,d)

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6

PANAMA CITY
Central America’s most attractive capital city was founded in 1519 by Spanish explorers and rebuilt in the late 17th century. In the UNESCO World Heritage site “old quarter” known as Casco Antiguo, discover a charming neighborhood with cobblestone streets, a stunning 16th-century cathedral, and many historic architectural edifices that remain intact.
Prepare for your upcoming Panama Canal transit by touring the Miraflores Locks Visitor Center to see how the canal locks operate. (b,l,d)
THURSDAY, JANUARY 7
PANAMA CITY/ PANAMA CANAL TRANSIT/ COLÓN

This morning, tour the new Biodiversity Museum—designed by architect Frank Gehry of Guggenheim fame—which showcases the ecological significance of Panama’s exotic flora and fauna. Later today enjoy the once-in-a-lifetime experience of passage from the Pacific Ocean to the Caribbean Sea through the locks of the historic Panama Canal, accompanied by a specially arranged narration on the canal’s history.

(b,l,d)

Transit times through the canal are controlled by the Panama Canal Authority and subject to traffic conditions; therefore, full transit during daylight hours is not guaranteed.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 8
SAN BLAS ISLANDS

Located on the Caribbean side of Panama, the sun-drenched San Blas Islands are an extraordinary testament to Panama’s commitment to the indigenous Guna, or Kuna, Indians. Encounter their centuries-old language, customs and culture in a Guna village, where you will visit a communal house of chiefs (the seat of local authority), learn how they construct their thatched-roof huts, and see Guna women hand-stitching traditional colorful molas (reverse appliqué panels) and winis, long strings of tiny beads they wrap around their forearms and legs in striking geometric patterns.

(b,l,R,d)

SATURDAY, JANUARY 9
COLÓN/PANAMA CITY/U.S.

Disembark the ship and continue to the Dynamic Panama Post-Program Option or depart for the U.S.

(b)
Fitness Center

M.V. TERE MOANA

AMENITIES
The exclusively chartered, five-star M.V. TERE MOANA, a sophisticated and authentic small ship, entered service in 2013 under new ownership following a multimillion-dollar refurbishment, and its operator, Paul Gauguin Cruises, received the award for Top Small Ship Cruise Line from the readers of Travel + Leisure in its 2014 World’s Best Awards. The ship features complimentary alcoholic and nonalcoholic beverages and 100% ocean-view staterooms. All shipboard gratuities are included.

AMENITIES

OVERALL LENGTH: 330 feet

MAXIMUM PASSENGERS: 88

FLAG: Bahamas

years of operation: 1998

YEAR CONSTRUCTION: 1998

OVERALL LENGTH: 330 feet

MAXIMUM PASSENGERS: 88

FLAG: Bahamas

TO BOOK A TRIP CALL 800-422-1636 OR VISIT ALUMNI.HARVARD.EDU/TRAVEL

M.V. TERE MOANA

GENERAL INFORMATION
TOUR COST INCLUSIONS: Taxes; all transfers and luggage handling abroad for all participants whose arrival(s)/departure(s) coincide with the scheduled group transfer(s); all activities, excursions, entrance fees, accommodation, and meals per detailed itinerary; gratuities to ship personnel and naturalists, local guides and drivers; tour manager throughout; $200,000 emergency medical evacuation insurance.

TOUR COST EXCLUSIONS: International airfare from the U.S.; baggage charges on aircraft; local departure air taxes; associated local taxes, airport facility taxes and federal inspection fees not listed in the “Inclusions” section; transfers and baggage handling to/from airport on day(s) of arrival and/or departure if you are arriving earlier or later than and/or departing earlier or later than the scheduled group transfer(s); passport fees; visas and fees for obtaining visas; personal expenses such as laundry, telephone calls and Internet access; accident/sickness, trip cancellation, and baggage insurance; gratuities to hotel personnel; optional sightseeing excursions; meals and alcoholic beverages not listed in the “Inclusions” section; and all other services not specifically mentioned in the “Inclusions” section.

RESERVATIONS, DEPOSITS, & FINAL PAYMENT: To reserve a space on this program, a $1,000 deposit is required per person (plus $200 per person Pre- and/or Post-Program). Please either call us at 800-422-1636 or 617-496-0806 or fill out and mail or fax the registration form found in the back of this brochure. Reservations are acknowledged in order of receipt until the maximum enrollment has been reached. Deposits may be made by check, payable to Harvard Alumni Association, or with a major credit card. Final payment, payable by check, is due 120 days before departure.

CANCELLATIONS & REFUNDS: All cancellations must be made in writing to the HAA. Should you have to cancel, the following terms will apply: reservation cancellation(s) are subject to a $200 ($50 Pre-Post-Program(s)) per person administrative fee from the time of booking through 180 days prior to departure; from 120 through 179 days prior to departure, $1,000 ($200 Pre-Post-Program(s)) per person; from 61 through 119 days prior to departure, 60% of the published full regular tariffs; cancellations 60 days or less prior to departure, a no-show, or 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.

CHANGES IN ITINERARY AND COSTS: The itinerary is subject to change at the discretion of HAA Travels and the tour operator. Ship schedules, port calls, hours of arrival and departure, sightseeing events, special programs and guest lecture series are subject to change or cancellation without prior notice. HAA Travels and the tour operator are not responsible therefore and are not required to compensate passengers under these circumstances. Deviations from the scheduled itinerary are at the expense of the individual. All prices quoted are based on prevailing fuel prices, airfare and currency exchange rates in effect at the time of brochure printing and are subject to change. While the tour operator will do everything possible to maintain the published trip price, it may be necessary to institute a surcharge.

INSURANCE: We highly recommend the purchase of trip cancellation insurance. An application for insurance will be provided by the HAA upon confirmation.

RESPONSIBILITY: Certain other provisions apply regarding limitations of liability and rights of HAA and the tour operator. The statement of responsibility is available at http://alumni.harvard.edu/travel/trips/costa-rica-panama-2018. If you are not able to access the Internet, please call HAA Travels at 800-422-1636 or 617-496-0806.

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QUESTIONS: Please call HAA Travels at 800-422-1636 or 617-496-0806, email: haatravels@harvard.edu.

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CATEGORIE 1, $8,540

Larger ocean-view stateroom with sliding glass doors that open to a private balcony, sitting area. Deck 5, Bougainville.

Taxes and gratuities to ship personnel and naturalists, local guides and drivers are included.

CATEGORIE 6, $5,540

Ocean-view stateroom with one large window. Decks 3, Champlain, and 4, La Pérouse, forward. (limited availability)

CATEGORIE 5, $6,340

Ocean-view stateroom with one large window and sitting area. Deck 3, Champlain, forward.

CATEGORIE 4, $6,940

Ocean-view stateroom with one large window and sitting area. Deck 3, Champlain.

Single Pricing: $30,340

CATEGORIE 3, $7,040

Ocean-view stateroom with one large window and sitting area. Deck 4, La Pérouse, forward.

CATEGORIE 2, $8,040

Ocean-view stateroom with one large window and sitting area. Deck 4, La Pérouse.

Single Pricing: $11,140

CATEGORIE 1, $8,540

Larger ocean-view stateroom with sliding glass doors that open to a private balcony, sitting area. Deck 5, Bougainville.

Taxes and gratuities to ship personnel and naturalists, local guides and drivers are included.