2019
HARVARD ALUMNI TRAVELS
DISCOVER • LEARN • CONNECT • EXPLORE

A CRUISE OF
THE PANAMA CANAL & COSTA RICA
with Don Pfister, Asa Gray Professor of Systematic Botany
February 2-10, 2019
Experience one of the greatest man-made wonders of the world. Voyage from the Pacific to the Atlantic through the ingenious Panama Canal, an experience nearly unmatchable in its drama and engineering marvel, during a specially arranged and narrated daylight transit.

This comprehensive itinerary also features the pristine rainforests, islands, and archipelagos of Panama and Costa Rica during the best time of year. Explore Panama City’s UNESCO World Heritage-designated old town, tour acclaimed architect Frank Gehry’s only design in Latin America, and visit the 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 multisensory observation lounge. This sophisticated small ship offers only 92 suites and staterooms, each with a private balcony, and all the advantages of Five-Star cruising—elegant ocean-view accommodations, enriching excursions led by experienced onboard naturalists, and attentive, personal service.

What to Expect

This active program features:

• Dry and Wet Shore Landings by Zodiac Inflatable Craft
• Walking Excursions over Uneven Terrain in Warm to Hot Temperatures
• Heavily Scheduled Days

Scheduled guest speakers may be altered due to circumstances beyond our control. See Terms & Conditions.
Schedule by Day

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 2
U.S./San José, Costa Rica
Depart the U.S. and arrive in vibrant San José, in the heart of the fertile Valle Central. Overnight accommodations are in the hacienda-style COSTA RICA MARriott HOTEL san José.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 3
San José/Puerto Caldera
Costa Rica’s dynamic capital city is 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.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 4
Curú National Wildlife Refuge/Isla Tortuga
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. 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.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 5
Quepos for Manuel Antonio National Park
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, camouflage iguanas, squirrel monkeys, two- and three-toed sloths, and rare and endangered species such as the scarlet macaw.

Local musicians join you on board for a guitar performance. (b,L,D)

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 6
Isla Cébaco, Panama
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. (b,L,D)

TO BOOK A TRIP CALL 800-422-1636. FOR DETAILED ITINERARIES, VISIT ALUMNI.HARVARD.EDU/TRAVEL
What is Included:

- Daylight passage through the Panama Canal, accompanied by historical narration
- Enrichment program of lectures and discussions by our Harvard Study Leader
- Seven-night cruise aboard the five-star Le Champlain
- One night in the hacienda-style Costa Rica Marriott Hotel San José
- Complimentary alcoholic and nonalcoholic beverages throughout the cruise
- Complimentary Wi-Fi throughout the ship
- All activities, excursions, entrance fees, and meals per detailed itinerary
- Taxes and gratuities to ship and hotel personnel, guides, and drivers
- Complimentary bottled water in your suite or stateroom and on excursions
- Services of a tour manager throughout the program
- Transfers and luggage handling abroad if your arrival(s)/departure(s) coincide with the scheduled group transfer(s)
- $200,000 emergency medical evacuation insurance

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 7
Panama City
Arrive in Central America’s most attractive capital city. At the end of the scenic Amador Causeway, the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute’s Punta Culebra Nature Center is an open-air museum focused on marine science and conservation. Enjoy a specially arranged, Smithsonian staff-led tour. Nearby, the Biodiversity Museum designed by architect Frank Gehry of Guggenheim fame, showcases Panama’s exotic flora and fauna.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 8
Panama Canal Transit/Colón
Experience a daylight passage across the Great Continental Divide through the historic Panama Canal, accompanied by a historical narration.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9
San Blas Islands
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. Gunas 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 opportunity for swimming.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 10
Colón/Panama City/U.S.
Disembark the ship in Colón. Continue on the Dynamic Panama Post-Program Option or transfer to the Panama City airport, with a stop at the Panama Canal’s Agua Clara Visitor Center en route, for your return flight to the U.S.

Surrounded by lush rainforest. Costa Rica’s imposing Arenal Volcano entered into a resting phase in 2010.

See Casco Antiguo’s blend of colonial architecture.
The Panama Canal
MARVEL OF HUMAN ENGINEERING AND MORE THAN A CENTURY OF PASSAGES

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.”

Costa Rica’s Cultural and Natural Riches
PRE-PROGRAM OPTION
$1,295 per person, double occupancy
$1,895 per person, single occupancy

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. Spend two nights in the hacienda-style Costa Rica Marriott Hotel San José and two nights in the ideally located Tabacón Grand Spa Thermal Resort.

Pre-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.

Dynamic Panama—The Renaissance of a City
POST-PROGRAM OPTION
$595 per person, double occupancy
$845 per person, single occupancy

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. Accommodations are for two nights in the ideally located, deluxe Bristol Panama Hotel.

Further details will be provided with your reservation confirmation.

Trip Sampling

CRUISES

Expedition to Antarctica on Le Boréal
JAN 5–18, 2019
Joyce Chaplin

Cuba by Land & Sea on Le Ponant
FEB 3–12, 2019
Lizabeth Cohen & Herrick Chapman

Cruising Tahiti & French Polynesia on Wind Spirit
FEB 5–15, 2019
David Armitage

RIVERS & LAKES

The Pride of South Africa, Namibia, Botswana & Zimbabwe
MAR 14–30, 2019
Suzanne Blier

Dutch Waterways on Amadeus Silver II
APR 25–MAY 3, 2019
Peter Bol

Passage along the Danube River: Vienna to Black Sea on Amadeus Queen
OCT 12–24, 2019
Thomas W. Simons Jr.
Luxury Small Ship, Innovative Design: The exclusively chartered, five-star Le ChampLain, launching in 2018, provides an unparalleled cruising experience. The 92 elegant, ocean-view staterooms and suites range from 205 to 484 square feet and feature a private balcony, individual climate control, two twin beds or one queen bed, a private bathroom, and luxurious hotel amenities. Complimentary Wi-Fi is available throughout the ship.

Rates Per Person

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<th>CATEGORY/DECK</th>
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Picture window, single door onto private partial-wall balcony, shower. 
Deck 3, forward. (limited availability)

Deck 4, forward. 

Deck 4, midship. Single Pricing: $12,915

Deck 4, forward. (limited availability)

Deck 5 and 6, aft. (limited availability)

Deck 5, midship. Single Pricing: $15,515

Deck 5, forward. (limited availability)

Deck 6, midship.

Luxury Small Ship, Innovative Design: The exclusively chartered, five-star Le ChampLain, launching in 2018, provides an unparalleled cruising experience. The 92 elegant, ocean-view staterooms and suites range from 205 to 484 square feet and feature a private balcony, individual climate control, two twin beds or one queen bed, a private bathroom, and luxurious hotel amenities. Complimentary Wi-Fi is available throughout the ship.

Blue Eye – The World’s First Luxury Underwater Observatory

Exclusive to the Ponant fleet is the extraordinary Blue Eye observation lounge that immerses you in the beauty of the ocean’s ecosystem. Observe marine life through the large subaquatic windows and on digital screens projecting underwater activity in real time, while specially designed hydrophones echo the sounds beneath the surface. Wildlife viewing varies by location.

Taxes and gratuities to ship and hotel personnel are included.
Terms & Conditions

TOUR COST INCLUSIONS: Taxes; all transfers and packaging handling 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 and hotel personnel; 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; 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 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 95 days before departure.

CANCELLATIONS & REFUNDS: All cancellations must be made in writing to Harvard Alumni Travels. Should you have to cancel, the following terms will apply: reservation cancellation(s) are subject to a $200 ($50 Pre- and/or Post-Program(s)) per person administrative fee from the time of booking through 120 days prior to departure; from 95 through 119 days prior to departure, $1,000 ($200 Pre- and/or Post-Program(s)) per person; from 61 through 94 days prior to departure, 70% 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 Harvard Alumni 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. Harvard Alumni 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 Harvard Alumni Travels upon confirmation.

RESPONSIBILITY: Certain other provisions apply regarding limitations of liability and rights of Harvard Alumni Travels and the tour operator. The statement of responsibility is available at http://alumni.harvard.edu/travel/trips/panama-costa-rica-2019. If you are not able to access the Internet, please call Harvard Alumni Travels at 800-422-1636 or 617-496-0806.

DISCLAIMER: Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of information presented in this publication. Harvard Alumni Travels nor the tour operator is responsible for errors in or damages resulting from use of the information contained herein. Information contained in this brochure is subject to change.

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

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Registration Form

To register, fill out this form and return to Harvard Alumni Travels with your deposit of $1,000 per person, plus $200 per person Costa Rica Pre-Program, plus $200 per person Panama Post-Program.

Please return this form by mail to: Harvard Alumni Travels 124 Mount Auburn Street, 6th Floor, Cambridge, MA 02138 Or by FAX: 617-496-4011

Please call with any questions: 800-422-1636 or 617-496-0806

How did you hear about this trip?

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PROGRAM NAME: START DATE:  
FIRST PERSON NAME ON PASSPORT: DATE OF BIRTH: 
EMAIL ADDRESS:  
STREET ADDRESS:  
CITY / STATE / ZIP OR POSTAL CODE:  
HOME TELEPHONE: WORK TELEPHONE:  
SECOND PERSON NAME ON PASSPORT: DATE OF BIRTH:  
EMAIL ADDRESS:  
STREET ADDRESS:  
CITY / STATE / ZIP OR POSTAL CODE:  
HOME TELEPHONE: WORK TELEPHONE:  
METHOD OF DEPOSIT:  
CHECK (please enclose check):  
MASTERCARD:  
VISA:  
CARD NUMBER:  
EXPIRATION DATE: 3-DIGIT SECURITY CODE:  
NAME AS IT APPEARS ON CARD:  
I/WE CONFIRM THAT I/WE HAVE READ AND ACCEPT THE GENERAL INFORMATION FOR THIS TOUR, INCLUDING REFUNDS AND CANCELLATIONS AND THE RESPONSIBILITY CLAUSE AT ALUMNI.HARVARD.EDU/TRAVEL. 
SIGNATURE:  
SIGNATURE:  
ACCOMMODATIONS:  
CATEGORY PREFERRED:  
DOUBLE ROOM:  
SINGLE ROOM:  
SHARE A ROOM WITH:  
ROOMMATE:  
EXTENSION PROGRAM:  
I/WE WOULD LIKE TO REGISTER FOR THE COSTA RICA PRE-PROGRAM (PER PERSON):  
$1,295 DOUBLE OCCUPANCY:  
$1,895 SINGLE OCCUPANCY:  
I/WE WOULD LIKE TO REGISTER FOR THE PANAMA POST-PROGRAM (PER PERSON):  
$595 DOUBLE OCCUPANCY:  
$845 SINGLE OCCUPANCY:  
