

CUBA

HISTORY, CULTURE & CONTEMPORARY LIFE

A People-to-People Cultural Experience
Aboard the Three-Mast Sailing Yacht *Le Ponant*

JANUARY 25 to FEBRUARY 3, 2019



THE ANNEMARIE  VICTORY ORGANIZATION, INC.

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A SPECIAL INTRODUCTION BY ANNEMARIE VICTORY

Dear friends,

For some time now, it has been possible for Americans to obtain a special license to travel to Cuba for people-to-people educational exchange, and many have taken advantage of the opportunity. Most such programs, however, have been limited, by the lack of developed infrastructure, to Havana and its environs, or occasionally including difficult overland travel to a few select points of interest beyond the capital.

The recent opening of negotiations to reestablish diplomatic ties between Cuba and the United States and the attendant relaxation of travel restrictions have now made it possible for us to offer a much more comprehensive introduction to the largest island in the Caribbean by exploring its culture, history, and artistic traditions aboard a small ship, sailing from port to port without worrying about the condition of roads or the quality of local accommodations.

This promises to be an experience you'll never forget. I hope you'll read the pages that follow; if you do, I think you'll find it hard to turn this down.

Best wishes,



LE PONANT



Experience a cruise aboard Le Ponant, crafted to respect the tradition of legendary sailing yachts. The guest capacity is limited to 64, which provides intimacy and a convivial atmosphere. Built in 1991 in France and refurbished in 2012, *Le Ponant's* 32 well-appointed cabins are positioned mid-ship and have outside views, one queen bed or two twin beds, mini-bar, individual air conditioning, bathrobes, and private bathroom. Enjoy the refined life on board, the welcoming comfort of your cabin, the inviting lounges and restaurants, and decks extending along the full length of her 290 feet. This casually chic yacht is appreciated for its small size and a design evoking the sea—including a sun deck, outdoor restaurant, and direct access to the water from the marina swimming platform. With her sleek lines, her three masts reaching for the sky, and her sails ready to glide over the sea with the wind, *Le Ponant* captivates all who sail on her.

ITINERARY

Friday, January 25

Miami to Havana

Meet fellow travelers at Miami International Airport for our group flight to Havana. After clearing customs and immigration, transfer to the city, where an architectural historian will guide a walking tour through the heart of Old Havana, a UNESCO World Heritage site founded in 1519. We will learn about the city's colonial history, its ongoing restoration, and see its vibrant street life. View the handsome main squares including Plazas Vieja, de San Francisco, de la Catedral, and de Armas with its stately Palacio de los Capitanes Generales. Check into the Meliá Cohiba Hotel (or similar). Enjoy a walk along the Malecon, the city's three-mile coastal boulevard and an evening gathering place for Habaneros. (L,D)

Saturday, January 26

Havana

Drive to the Sierra del Rosario, a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve region and mountain range in the provinces of Pinar del Río and Artemisa, and the settlement of Las Terrazas, a sustainable village which originated as a reforestation project in 1968 and is now Cuba's main ecotourism center. Meet the residents to learn about small town life in Cuba. Also visit an artist's studio and learn about his work and about the art scene in Cuba. Alternatively, remain in Havana and learn about traditional and contemporary Cuban art on a tour of the Museo de Bellas Artes. Also visit an organic farm in the outskirts of Havana and learn about their sustainable farming practices. In the late afternoon, meet Cuban musicians and dancers at a cultural performance. (B,L,D)



Museo de Bellas Artes

Sunday, January 27

Havana to Cienfuegos and embarkation

This morning, see the baroque inner cloister of the Seminary of San Carlos y San Ambrosio and visit the Gaspar Melchor de Jovellanos Workshop/School for discussions with artisans specializing in monument restoration. Enjoy lunch in Old Havana at a paladar and learn about domestic cuisine and small business ownership. After lunch, drive through the countryside to Cienfuegos, where we embark *Le Ponant*. (B,L,D)



Old Havana

Monday, January 28

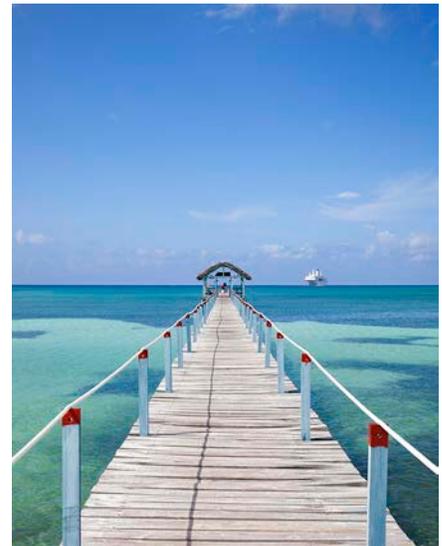
At Sea

Attend lectures and enjoy the experience of *Le Ponant* under sail. (B,L,D)

Tuesday, January 29

Punta Frances, Isla de la Juventud

Today we visit one of the most remote and beautiful beaches on Cuba, where we take advantage of the excellent swimming and snorkeling. The beach is part of Parque Nacional Marino de Punta Frances Punta Pederales, a marine conservation area established in 1978. We will have an opportunity to meet and talk with Cubans concerned with preserving the natural environment and fragile ecosystem of the island. (B,L,D)



Punta Frances National Park

Wednesday, January 30

Cienfuegos

After a morning at sea, arrive in Cienfuegos where you may either travel to the Bay of Pigs and Playa Giron or spend time exploring Cienfuegos itself. The Bay of Pigs was the site of the ill-fated Bay of Pigs invasion, where in 1961, 1,300 armed Cuban exiles were thwarted in their attempt to overthrow Fidel Castro. We will view the landing beach, see the Playa Giron Museum's exhibits, and learn about this critical event from the Cuban perspective. If you elect to stay in Cienfuegos, you will tour the city, learn from local officials about architectural conservation, visit Palacio de Valle, and meet with local folk artists. Late in the afternoon, everyone will gather to hear a private performance of the Cantores de Cienfuegos before returning to the pier. (B,L,D)



Cienfuegos

Thursday, January 31

Casilda and Trinidad

Trinidad is the crown jewel of Cuba's colonial towns. Founded in 1514, it is now a UNESCO World Heritage site. Its cobblestoned streets are lined with neoclassical and baroque homes and buildings embellished with wrought-iron grillwork. A walking tour will be led by Office of the City Historian representatives, with resident interactions along the way. Highlights include the Plaza Mayor; the Palacio Cantero's wonderful collection of art and antiques; the Architecture Museum; the church of the Convent of San Francisco; and Plaza Santa Ana. Meet with an owner of a free-enterprise "casa particular" (Cuban bed and breakfast) and learn about this relatively new form of independent business in Cuba. We will also learn about the owner's family history as it is tied to the home he has transformed into a casa particular. Trinidad is steeped in religiosity, including Santeria and other Afro-Cuban religions. We will meet with practitioners and explore these belief systems and also attend a private performance of Afro-Cuban music and dance. (B,L,D)



Trinidad

Friday, February 1

At Sea

As we sail from Trinidad to Santiago, we will take the opportunity to reflect with one another on where we have been, what we have seen, and what we have learned. (B,L,D)

Saturday, February 2

Santiago de Cuba

Set at the head of a spacious bay that is surrounded by mountains, Santiago, Cuba's second largest city, is one of the island's oldest cities, founded in 1515. The city is known for its eclectic architectural styles that range from Colonial to Art Nouveau, as well as for its flourishing artistic and cultural scene. Visit the Ateneo de Santiago, an important organization of artists. Meet with the organization's members, each representing different professions within the arts, and discuss Santiago's contemporary arts scene. Our exploration, in the company of local cultural leaders, continues at Parque Cespedes, a charming square where in the 18th-century town hall Fidel Castro delivered his victory speech in 1959. See the Cementario de Santa Ifigenia; the 1516 Casa de Don Diego Velasquez; and Calle Heredia, the Old City's loveliest street. Also visit restored San Juan Hill and its monuments to the Spanish-American War, where we will hear Cuba's perspective on this war. *Le Ponant* is overnight in port. (B,L,D)



Santiago de Cuba



Parque Cespedes

Sunday, February 3

Santiago de Cuba to Miami

Disembark and travel to Holguin for our group flight to Miami.

Your Hotel:

Meliá Cohiba is a stylish, 5 Star hotel, exceptionally located alongside the Malecón and close to Old Havana. Featuring free WiFi throughout the property, guests can enjoy the on-site restaurant and outdoor swimming pool. Each room is equipped with a flat-screen TV, telephone, safe, minibar, iron, bathrobes, bathroom toiletries and a hairdryer.

- This itinerary is offered as a people-to-people program in Cuba authorized by the U.S. government pursuant to the code of Federal Regulations (31 C.F.R. §565(b)(2).
- This voyage is offered on a space available basis.
- Program is subject to change without notice.

PROGRAM INCLUSIONS

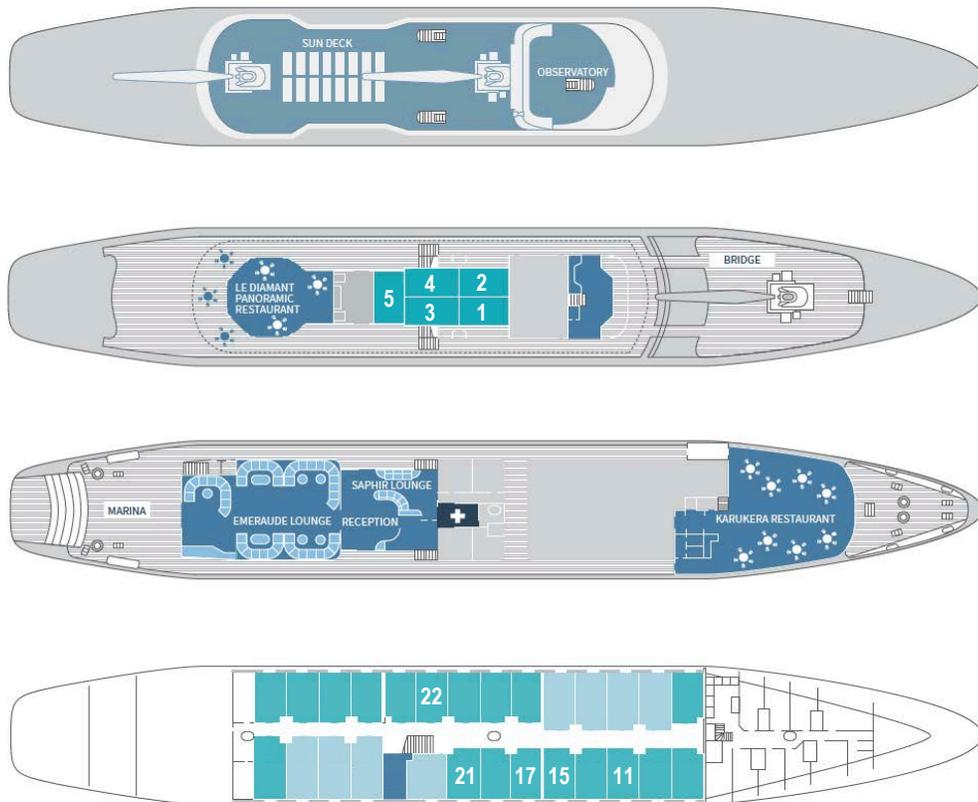
WHAT IS INCLUDED

- Airfare from Miami to Havana and from Holguin to Miami
- Two nights at the Meliá Cohiba Hotel (or similar), breakfast included
- Transfers and luggage handling from Havana airport to the hotel and from hotel to the ship
- Pre-cruise sightseeing in Havana as described above
- Comprehensive 7-night cruise aboard the deluxe Le Ponant, with all the amenities for which Ponant ships are famous
- ALL excursions and onboard activities during the cruise as described above
- Gratuities to guides and drivers throughout
- Transfer and luggage handling from the ship to Holguin airport

WHAT IS NOT INCLUDED

- Airfare other than noted above
- Airport taxes
- Visa for U.S. citizens
- Passport fees and/or immigration reciprocity taxes (if applicable)
- Trip cancellation and baggage insurance
- Medical and repatriation insurance
- Meals and beverages other than those specified above
- Personal expenses (such as telephone, Internet, laundry service, etc.)

DECK PLAN



Marie Galante

CABIN CATEGORIES

Price per Person, Double Occupancy

CATEGORY	CABIN #	PRICE
MARIE-GALANTE DECK STATEROOMS	11, 15, 17, 21, 22	\$7,980
Cabin with a porthole window and a queen bed or twin beds 113 sq. ft. to 145 sq. ft.		
<i>Single Supplement: 50%</i>		

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

RESERVATIONS

- To reserve space, please send us the completed and signed reservation form together with the full payment.

PAYMENT

- Full payment is due at date of booking. Credit cards are not accepted.

CANCELLATION POLICY

- For cancellations received fewer than 89 days prior to departure, the cancellation fees per person are 100% of the total cost.
- All cancellations must be received in writing.
- No refunds will be made as a result of airline delays, labor or civil strife, acts of God, acts of war or other events over which we have no control. No partial refunds can be made.

INSURANCE

- We offer trip cancellation insurance at extra cost, which we strongly recommend.

RESERVATION FORM

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New York, NY 10065

Tel: (212) 486-0353 | Fax: (212) 751-3149

Email: amvorg@aol.com | Website: annemarievictory.com

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

EMAIL _____

HOME PHONE (_____) _____

OTHER PHONE (_____) _____

PLEASE INDICATE CABIN NUMBER _____

Enclosed is my check in the amount of US \$ _____ payable to: The Annemarie Victory Organization.

If your cabin preference is sold out by the time your signed reservation request and deposit are received, you will be contacted regarding other options.

I have read and understand the *Terms and Conditions* as set forth in this brochure.

SIGNATURE _____

DATE _____