A voyage aboard the

Small Ship

M.S. SERENISSIMA

January 27 to February 4, 2015

◆

Classic Small Ship

◆ Only 90 Guests!

◆ Over 90% Ocean-View Accommodations

◆ One Port Call Every Day

◆ All Shore Excursions Included
Dear Alumni and Friends,

Few experiences can match one of the world’s most dramatic voyages, a cruise from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific through one of the greatest man-made wonders of the world, the Panama Canal. An engineering marvel when it opened one hundred one years ago, the 50-mile passage through the Panama Canal continues to astonish even the most veteran traveler. Experience firsthand the mighty locks that raise and lower ships 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, following its centennial anniversary, and the unspoiled rainforests of Costa Rica and Panama at the best time of year. During our comprehensive itinerary, visit two UNESCO World Heritage sites and Panama’s ancient 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’s 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 unique offering features the exclusively chartered M.S. SERENISSIMA, a classic small ship carrying only 90 guests and relaunched in 2013 following an extensive renovation. The M.S. SERENISSIMA provides an intimate atmosphere to enjoy the camaraderie of fellow alumni and a unique cruise experience.

This is an extraordinary and exclusive opportunity available only to affinity travelers, and it is an excellent value. I encourage you to book now while space is available.

Raise High the Buff and Blue!

Joshua I. Hiscock
Senior Director, Alumni Benefits & Services
Office of Alumni Relations
http://www.alumni.gwu.edu

For more information, please call Gohagan & Company at (800) 922-3088.

Photo this page: In only three square miles, the natural wonders of Manuel Antonio National Park range from sandy beaches and low-lying marshes to mature tropical forests.

Cover photo: Aboard the M.S. SERENISSIMA, experience firsthand the impressive system of locks that maintain water levels in the Panama Canal despite dramatic Pacific tides.
Called the “coast of riches” by the Spanish conquistadors who discovered it in 1502, Costa Rica offers visitors incredibly beautiful, ecologically diverse and fascinating cultural experiences. More than 25% of the 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 eco-tourism destination. Explore lush rainforests, walk along exquisite beaches and see a stunning palette of wildlife, where rare and endemic species flourish, including howler monkeys, colorful tree frogs and Costa Rica’s 600 species of non-migratory birds. Costa Rica’s national motto is “Pura vida!” which translates literally as “pure life” but is better expressed by the optimistic, carefree spirit and the smiling faces of the ticos (Costa Rican natives) who welcome you to this spectacular landscape.

Cartagena, Colombia
This beautiful Spanish colonial city, founded in 1533 and named after Cartagena, Spain, is one of the best preserved walled cities in the world. Today, its massive fortifications and Castillo de San Felipe fortress are a designated UNESCO World Heritage site and an enchanting tribute to this “Ciudad Heroica,” which withstood countless battles over the centuries. Cartagena’s charming circular plazas served as the setting of the movie Romancing the Stone.

San Blas Islands, Panama
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 Indians, also known as the Kuna Indians, 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.
Panama City

Central America’s most attractive capital city was founded in 1519 by Spanish explorers and rebuilt in the late 17th century. Many historic edifices remain today within the designated UNESCO World Heritage site—Panama Viejo, the oldest European settlement in the Americas, and Casco Antiguo, with its cobblestone streets and its stunning 16th-century cathedral.

Adjacent to the Panama Canal, the Mirafloros Locks Visitor Center provides an ideal opportunity to see how the locks operate. Nearby, the new Biodiversity Museum, designed by architect Frank Gehry of Guggenheim fame, showcases the ecological significance of Panama’s exotic flora and fauna.

Coiba National Park

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, mammals and plants. In addition to 69 species of fish, humpback, orca, sperm and Cuvier’s beaked whales are known to migrate through the marine park’s perimeter.

Linked by an underwater mountain chain to the Galápagos, Granito de Oro is a small island known as the “live aquarium of Coiba.” Enjoy an afternoon snorkeling among its vast array of exquisite marine life including parrotfish and orange-sided triggerfish.

The largest island in Central America and once an isolated political prison, Isla Coiba today is a host of terrestrial wonders—untouched rainforest, rugged headlands, pristine white-sand beaches and mangrove thickets—the perfect environment for the evolution of new and endemic subspecies and for the preservation and protection of endangered species.

Golfo Dulce, Costa Rica

Located along the southern Pacific coast, this secluded natural wonderland 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 Orquideas, a stunning, maze-like botanical garden of over 100 species of orchids, bromeliads, heliconias and edible plants, visitors can observe colourful toucans, scarlet macaws and jewel-hued hummingbirds.

Manuel Antonio National Park

Experience an unparalleled diversity of wildlife in this lush tropical paradise, a captivating
Combination of rainforest, beaches and coral reefs, home to more than 100 species of mammals, almost 200 varieties of birds and various reptiles and amphibians. In this “Living Eden,” expert naturalists will help you spot vibrant toucans, screeching howler monkeys, camouflaged iguanas, squirrel monkeys and rare and endangered species such as the quetzal and scarlet macaw, protected by law in this natural haven.

**Curú National Wildlife Refuge**

Unlike traditional nature reserves, Curú Wildlife Refuge is a unique blend of sustainable agriculture, forest management and wildlife protection, encompassing five distinctly different untouched habitats making it the ideal place to see entire ecosystems coexisting. During a guided walk, look for the diversity of wildlife including pumas, anteaters, ocelots, otters and more than 230 species of birds.

**San José**

The horticultural diversity of Costa Rica, the “Garden of the Americas,” is evident in the parks of this vibrant capital city. San José is also an interesting mix of architectural styles, including Spanish Colonial, Moorish and Modernist. Its National Theater is a regal Baroque edifice modeled on Milan’s La Scala. The National Museum’s exhibits feature impressive pre-Columbian Central American artifacts.

**Cartagena Pre-Program Option**

Designated a UNESCO World Heritage site and the “Venice of Colombia,” romantic Cartagena is just the right mix of modern beachfront and colonial charm. Admire grand flower-decked balconies in the old walled city and visit San Felipe’s fort, the Convent of La Popa, Las Bóvedas and the Modern Art Museum. Accommodations for two nights are in the deluxe Sofitel Santa Clara Cartagena.

**Costa Rica’s Cloud Forests and Volcanoes Post-Program Option**

A medley of Costa Rica’s diverse biospheres, this spectacular extension features the mysterious cloud forest, a walk across hanging bridges in the rainforest, a dip in soothing geothermal springs nestled among powerful volcanoes, historic San José and a taste of the rich culture—coffee and chocolate. Accommodations are for two nights in the deluxe Hotel Royal Corin and two nights in the hacienda-style Costa Rica Marriott Hotel San José.

*The Pre- and Post-Program Options are available at additional cost. Details will be provided with your reservation confirmation.*
The classic M.S. SERENISSIMA entered service in 2013 under new ownership following a complete refurbishment. The descendant of a long line of sturdy Norwegian coastal steamers, this exclusively chartered, 90-passenger vessel perfectly fits the profile of small ship cruising and can navigate scenic shorelines, dock in the heart of historic cities and sail into smaller, remote ports inaccessible to larger ships.

Each comfortable Suite and Cabin is attractively furnished in charming Gustavian style, a bright 18th-century Swedish country ambiance that perfectly fits this vessel and provides an intimacy and classic nautical sensibility found only aboard a small ship. All accommodations feature a private bathroom with shower, individual climate control, telephone, satellite television, safe and hair dryer. Executive Suites feature private balconies, the two Owner Suites are exceptionally large with wrap-around ocean-view windows, and most cabins feature an ocean view. Because the M.S. SERENISSIMA is a traditional vessel, each cabin is unique, with variances in size and configuration.

The light and airy Venice Restaurant accommodates all guests at a single, unassigned seating. Buffet breakfast, buffet lunch and four-course dinner are served daily featuring tasteful continental cuisine and local specialties. Complimentary house wines, beer, soft drinks, mineral water, coffee and tea are served with lunch and dinner.

The inviting public areas include an all-teak Sun Deck with teak deck chairs, spacious observation deck, two lounges, library with computers and Internet access, fitness room and massage services. The ship also offers laundry service and has an elevator.

The M.S. SERENISSIMA meets the most stringent standards of construction, dependability and safety requirements and possesses state-of-the-art navigational equipment and stabilizers. The English-speaking, European crew provides courteous, professional service, and there is a physician on board.
Included Features

On board the exclusively chartered Small Ship M.S. SERENISSIMA

- Seven-night cruise from Cartagena, Colombia, to Puerto Caldera, Costa Rica, and through the Panama Canal, with port calls at San Blas Islands, Colón, Panama City, Granito de Oro and Isla Coiba, Panama; and Manuel Antonio National Park, Curú National Wildlife Refuge and the Golfo Dulce for Casa Orquídeas and Saladero Eco Lodge, Costa Rica.
- Newly refurbished, comfortable, air-conditioned accommodations, each with private bathroom and most with ocean views.
- Captain’s Welcome and Farewell Receptions.
- All meals on board, served at single, unassigned seatings—continental buffet breakfast, buffet lunch, afternoon tea and dinner—featuring continental cuisine.
- Complimentary house wine, beer and soft drinks served with lunch and dinner.
- Expert onboard naturalist guides to lead small group excursions.
- Excursion to the remote, ancestral San Blas Islands.
- Passage through the Panama Canal, accompanied by a specially arranged narration on the history of the canal. 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.
- Tour of Panama City, highlighted by a visit to its UNESCO World Heritage site, Casco Antiguo (“old quarter”), the new Biodiversity Museum and the Miraflores Locks Museum.
- Specially arranged excursion to the UNESCO World Heritage site of Coiba National Park.
- Visit to the pristine Saladero Eco Lodge, located in the Piedras Blancas National Park.
- Walking tour of the spectacular botanic gardens of Casa Orquídeas.
- Excursion in stunning and biodiverse Manuel Antonio National Park.
- Guided tour through Curú National Wildlife Refuge to see a wide array of wildlife in a natural habitat.
- 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 the National Theater and National Museum.

Enhanced Travel Services

- Transfers and luggage handling abroad for participants whose arrival(s)/departure(s) coincide with the scheduled group transfer(s).
- Gratuities to local guides, drivers and naturalists on included excursions and transfers.
- The services of an experienced team of Gohagan & Company Travel Directors throughout the program.
- Hospitality desk aboard ship and in the hotel.
- Travel document wallet, name badge and pre-departure information.
- Automatic $250,000 flight insurance policy for each participant ticketed on flights by Gohagan & Company.
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.

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, one hundred one years 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.

Tens of thousands of workers labored and sacrificed to complete the largest engineering endeavor of the early 20th century.
**LAND/Cruise Tariff** (per person, based on double occupancy)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cabin Category</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Early Booking Price through September 12, 2014</th>
<th>Regular Price after September 12, 2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6* Inside cabin with two twin beds together or separate, shower. Deck 3.</td>
<td></td>
<td>$3195</td>
<td>$4195</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5* Outside cabin with porthole or window, two twin beds, shower. Decks 3, 4.</td>
<td></td>
<td>$4195</td>
<td>$5195</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Outside cabin with porthole or window, two twin beds together or separate, shower. Decks 3, 4.</td>
<td></td>
<td>$4395</td>
<td>$5395</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Outside cabin with porthole or window, two twin beds together or separate, shower. Decks 3, 4.</td>
<td></td>
<td>$4595</td>
<td>$5595</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Outside cabin with porthole or window, two twin beds, shower. Decks 3, 4.</td>
<td></td>
<td>$4995</td>
<td>$5995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Outside cabin with portholes or window, two twin beds or one double bed, shower. Decks 3, 4.</td>
<td></td>
<td>$5395</td>
<td>$6395</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deluxe Outside cabin with two windows, two twin beds together or separate, bathtub and/or shower. Decks 4, 5, 6.</td>
<td></td>
<td>$5595</td>
<td>$6595</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Junior Suite* Outside cabin with three or four windows, two twin beds or one double bed, bathtub with shower. Deck 6.</td>
<td></td>
<td>$6495</td>
<td>$7495</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Owner’s Suite* Outside cabin with seven windows, two twin beds or one double bed, bathtub with shower. Deck 6.</td>
<td></td>
<td>$7695</td>
<td>$8695</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Executive Suite* Outside cabin with two windows, <strong>Private Balcony</strong>, two twin beds or one double bed, shower. Deck 7.</td>
<td></td>
<td>$8395</td>
<td>$9395</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Single cabins with one bed are available in category 6 at $5495, category 4 at $6495 and category 3 at $6995 on or before September 12, 2014. Add $1000 for reservations made after September 12, 2014.
- Taxes are an additional $520 per person and are subject to change.

**The Panama Canal and Costa Rica Reservation Form**

Send to: 2015 The Panama Canal and Costa Rica The George Washington Alumni Association c/o Thomas P. Gohagan & Company 209 South LaSalle Street, Suite 500 Chicago, IL 60604-1446

For more information, please call Gohagan & Company at (800) 922-3088.

**Title** | **Full Name (exactly as it appears on your passport)”** | **Class Year**
---|---|---
Title | Full Name (exactly as it appears on your passport)” | Class Year
Street Mailing Address (no P.O. Box number please)
City | State | Zip Code
Telephone: (Home) | (Business)
Email Address | (Mobile)
Preferred Name(s) on Badge(s) | Tour No. 096-01/27/15-039
Program reservations require a deposit of $600 per person and $200 per person Cartagena Pre-Program Option and $200 per person Costa Rica Post-Program Option. By reserving and depositing on this program, I/we 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 24, 2014.

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

1st Choice | 2nd Choice |
---|--- |
- Double occupancy (two twin beds).
- Double occupancy (one double 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/our reservation(s): Cartagena Pre-Program Option

- Double at $730 per person.
- Single at $1030 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 $995 per person.
- Single at $1450 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).

- I/We want you to book my/our air from (fill in departure city) to Cartagena, Colombia, with return from San José, Costa Rica, at additional cost to be advised.¹

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

- I/We will make my/our own air arrangements.
RELEASE OF LIABILITY, ASSUMPTION OF RISK AND BINDING ARBITRATION AGREEMENT

Gohagan does 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, guides or guide services, local ground operators, providers or organizers of optional excursions, food service or entertainment providers, or any other third parties. 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 to any such person or entity or of any other third party. In addition and without limitation, Gohagan is not responsible for any injury, loss, death, inconvenience, delay, or damage to person or property in connection with the activities, or who is abusive to other trip participants, leaders, or third parties, or who Gohagan determines to detract from the enjoyment of the trip by others. Specific room/cabin assignments are within the sole discretion of the hotel or cruise line. Gohagan reserves the right to change the itinerary or trip of any participant, leader or third party, or remove from a trip, without refund, any person whose presence is determined by Gohagan to detract from the enjoyment of the trip by others. Specific room/cabin assignments are within the sole discretion of the hotel or cruise line. Gohagan reserves the right to change the itinerary or trip of any participant, leader or third party, or remove from a trip, without refund, any person whose presence is determined by Gohagan to detract from the enjoyment of the trip by others.

PHYSICAL ACCESSIBILITY: All programs require physical independence and mobility. Any physical or mental condition that may detract from the enjoyment of the trip by others. Specific room/cabin assignments are within the sole discretion of the hotel or cruise line. Gohagan reserves the right to change the itinerary or trip of any participant, leader or third party, or remove from a trip, without refund, any person whose presence is determined by Gohagan to detract from the enjoyment of the trip by others.

CANCELLATIONS: Cancellations for all or any part of the trip including Pre/Post Program(s) reservation(s) will not be effective until received in writing in the offices of Gohagan. Should you have to cancel, the following terms will apply: reservation cancellation(s) are subject to a $200 ($30 Pre/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, $600 ($200 Pre/Post Program(s) per person; from 60 through 94 days prior to departure, 50% of the published full regular tariffs; cancellations 59 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 fee and/or excursions cancellation fees and administrative fees may apply.

TRAVEL INSURANCE: Because our cancellation policies are strictly enforced, we strongly recommend that you purchase trip cancellation insurance. In the event that you must cancel your participation in any program, trip cancellation insurance may be the only source of reimbursement. Trip cancellation insurance is available for comprehensive coverage of such expenses in conjunction with cancellation due to illness or accident, and damaged or lost luggage. We will send you an application upon receipt of your reservation.

RATES: Prices quoted are based on fares in effect at the time of printing and are subject to change at any time. On land and/or cruise programs, daylight crossings are not guaranteed. Ship schedules, port calls, hours of arrival and departure if you are arriving earlier or later than and/or departing earlier or later than the scheduled time of booking through 120 days prior to departure; from 95 through 119 days prior to departure, $600 ($200 Pre/Post Program(s) per person; from 60 through 94 days prior to departure, 50% of the published full regular tariffs; cancellations 59 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 fee and/or excursions cancellation fees and administrative fees may apply.

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. In any such proceeding, the substantive, but not procedural law of Illinois will apply. The arbitrator and not any federal, 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 unenforceable.

 Prayer Credit: AGE Fotostock, Alamy, Corbis Images, Danita Delimont, Estock Photo, Glow Images, Robert Harding; all images are rights managed and cannot be licensed without written permission.