



**Cuba by Sea**  
**Cienfuegos to Havana Aboard *Variety Voyager***

**January 25–February 2, 2018**



Dear Travelers and Friends,

Since 1999, Academic Arrangements Abroad has helped thousands of Americans discover the rich history and culture of Cuba and experience the island through the eyes of its people. But it was not until this year that we were able to offer opportunities to explore Cuba as Columbus first saw her: by sea.

Please join us next January for a cultural cruise along the nation's Caribbean coast. From Cienfuegos to Havana, we will journey aboard the privately chartered *Variety Voyager*, discovering well-preserved colonial architecture and fascinating small museums, meeting talented artists in their studios, and enjoying private concerts and other exclusive events.

In Cienfuegos, where travelers may wish to join an optional prelude, our itinerary will include an architectural tour highlighting the city's French-accented buildings. Then board the sleek *Variety Voyager* to travel to Trinidad, one of the most picturesque and best-preserved colonial cities in the Americas. On remote Isla de la Juventud, see the prison (now a museum) that once held Fidel Castro. We will also have the opportunity to chat with marine ecologists on María la Gorda, a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve and haven for divers, before continuing to Havana for our two-day finale in Cuba's spirited capital city. Our time there will allow you to stroll the cobblestone streets of Old Havana, visit Ernest Hemingway's hilltop home, and meet up-and-coming artists at a private reception.

With just 36 cabins, *Variety Voyager* is the perfect conveyance for exploring Cuba. With the ship as our elegant hotel, we will call at various ports, meeting Cubans from all walks of life and enjoying the benefits of Arrangements Abroad's long-standing friendships in this country.

An optional postlude includes more special visits in Havana and an excursion to the lush Pinar del Río province.

We look forward to welcoming you on this singular exploration of a rapidly changing nation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jim".

Jim Friedlander

President, Academic Arrangements Abroad



## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

**CRUISE** Cuba's Caribbean coast, with its rugged mountains, pristine beaches, and well-preserved colonial architecture

**SPEND** seven nights aboard the privately chartered yacht, *Variety Voyager*

**EXPERIENCE** the French flavor of Cienfuegos and stroll the streets of lost-in-time Trinidad

**DELIGHT** in the soaring voices of a world-renowned choir during an exclusive performance

**LEARN** about *santería*, the syncretic Afro-Catholic religion practiced by millions of Cubans

**CONCLUDE** with two days in Havana, meeting up-and-coming artists and performers at specially arranged events

Women in traditional costumes, Havana, photo by Isabelle Chauvel



# Cuba by Sea

## Cienfuegos to Havana Aboard *Variety Voyager*

January 25–February 2, 2018



Colón Cemetery, photo by E. Sorensen

An optional two-night prelude is offered in Cienfuegos from January 23-25, 2018.

### THURSDAY, JANUARY 25:

#### U.S. DEPARTURE / CIENFUEGOS

Arrive independently in Havana at the José Martí Airport by the early afternoon and join a group transfer to Cienfuegos. Alternatively, fly directly to Cienfuegos, and transfer to the Hotel Jagua. This evening, gather for a "Welcome to Cuba" dinner.

D

### FRIDAY, JANUARY 26: CIENFUEGOS

Devote the day to this alluring, UNESCO-listed city, founded by the French and nicknamed "The Pearl of the South." Admire the splendid Tomás Terry Theater on a guided architectural walk that concludes with lunch at a *paladar* (privately owned restaurant). Then explore the internationally recognized Cienfuegos Botanical Garden, founded by an American sugar baron, or visit a historic cigar factory to discuss the importance of tobacco to the Cuban economy. Afterwards, attend a private recital by the world-renowned Cienfuegos Chamber Choir. Embark *Variety Voyager* in the late afternoon for a welcome briefing and dinner. The ship sails overnight to Trinidad.

B,L,D

### SATURDAY, JANUARY 27: TRINIDAD

This morning choose a walking tour of charming Trinidad, also a UNESCO World Heritage Site, with a guided visit to the Romantic Museum, filled with exquisite antiques, furniture, and other items once belonging to the local aristocracy. Or hike through Topes de Collantes, a nature reserve park that is home to wild banana trees, unique hummingbirds, and other exotic flora and fauna. After lunch at a popular *paladar*, tour the studios of prominent local artists and meet a *santería* priest (*babalao*) for a riveting talk on this Afro-Catholic religion, practiced by millions of Cubans.

B,L,D

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 28: CAYO LARGO

Arrive on the tiny island of Cayo Largo for a visit to the local clinic, where we will meet medical staff and observe Cuba's health-care system in action. Continue to the Sea Turtle Rescue Center for a talk with local naturalists, who gather and incubate thousands of turtle eggs every year, releasing the hatchlings back into the sea. There will be time to swim or snorkel at one of the island's pristine beaches before reboarding.

B,L,D

### MONDAY, JANUARY 29: ISLA DE LA JUVENTUD

Step ashore on remote Isla de la Juventud, at turns a pirates' hideout (and the inspiration for both *Neverland* and *Treasure Island*), penal colony, expatriates' enclave, and experiment in communist education. At the now-shuttered Presidio Modelo, a "model prison" of panopticon design, we will visit the section where Fidel Castro was held, now a museum. Following lunch, visit an art school and a local maternity ward, pending scheduling.

B,L,D

Trinidad, photo by Gregory Smith



## TUESDAY, JANUARY 30: MARÍA LA GORDA

Legend has it that this island's name derives from the story of a beautiful, *zaftig* woman left behind when the place was a popular stop for pirates prowling the Caribbean. Visit Guanahacabibes National Park, one of Cuba's largest nature reserves, for a hike with a local guide. Savor our last day at sea as *Variety Voyager* cruises overnight to Havana, docking for two nights in port of Old Havana. B,L,D

## WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31: HAVANA

Embark on a morning walk through Old Havana, where many historic buildings have been restored to their original splendor. In the afternoon, drive to Finca Vigía, the hilltop retreat where Ernest Hemingway lived for 20 years and wrote two of his most famous books. We have been invited this evening for a cocktail reception and dinner on the penthouse terrace of the Ludwig Foundation for the Arts; other guests include artists whose work is supported by the Foundation. Later, for those interested, a visit to the Tropicana nightclub or another popular venue can be arranged. B,L,R,D

## THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1: HAVANA

Begin the day with a curatorial tour of the Cuban collection at the National Museum of Fine Arts. Then attend an informal rehearsal of the Rosario Cárdenas Company, a contemporary dance troupe combining classical ballet with modern and folkloric elements. Lunch is at La Guarida, Havana's most celebrated *paladar*, followed by a visit to Colón Cemetery, whose ornate tombstones commemorate Cuban heroes, statesmen, and novelists. Sample a *mojito* or *Cuba libre* on the terrace of the landmark Hotel Nacional, overlooking Havana's iconic waterfront, before returning to *Variety Voyager* for our farewell dinner. B,L,D

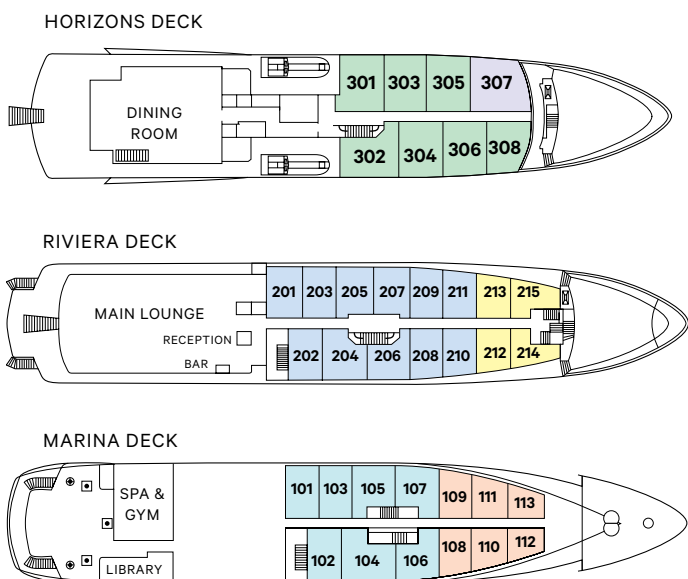
## FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2: HAVANA / U.S. RETURN

Disembark and transfer to the airport for flights home. B

**An optional two-night postlude in Havana and Pinar del Río is offered from February 2–4, 2018.**

**DISCLAIMER:** *The itinerary is subject to change at the discretion of The Museum Travel Alliance and Academic Arrangements Abroad. For complete details, please carefully read the terms and conditions at [www.museumtravelalliance.com/terms](http://www.museumtravelalliance.com/terms)*

## VARIETY VOYAGER



Christened in 2012, the intimate, 36-cabin yacht *Variety Voyager* features a sun deck and glass-enclosed dining room with panoramic views and an al fresco option. The spa and gym offer massage, fitness equipment, and a sauna. All cabins have DVD players, flat-screen televisions, and bathrooms with marble finishing. ■

## LAND / CRUISE RATES (Per Person)

| Cabins                                      | Decks         | Double Rates | Single Rates |
|---|---------------|--------------|--------------|
| 108 to 113                                  | Marina Deck   | \$8,999      | \$11,699     |
| Staterooms, double bed or twin beds.        |               |              |              |
| 101 to 107                                  | Marina Deck   | \$10,299     | \$13,389     |
| Staterooms, double bed or twin beds.        |               |              |              |
| 212 to 215                                  | Riviera Deck  | \$10,299     | \$15,449     |
| Staterooms, double bed or twin beds.        |               |              |              |
| 201 to 211                                  | Riviera Deck  | \$11,999     | \$17,999     |
| Staterooms, double bed or twin beds.        |               |              |              |
| 301 to 306 & 308                            | Horizons Deck | \$12,999     | \$20,799     |
| Master Staterooms, double bed or twin beds. |               |              |              |
| 307   | Horizons Deck | \$14,999     | \$29,999     |
| Owner's Suite, double bed.                  |               |              |              |

## RATES INCLUDE

- Seven nights cabin accommodations aboard *Variety Voyager*
- One night at the Hotel Jagua in Cienfuegos
- One dinner in Cienfuegos and all meals during the cruise (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, R=Reception, D=Dinner). Bottled water and coffee/tea with all meals; wine and beer with lunches and dinners
- Airport/hotel/pier/airport group transfers for all participants on suggested flights
- Enrichment program of lectures and special events comprised of a full-time schedule of people-to-people activities
- Transportation by private motor coach; entrance fees for all included visits
- Customary shipboard gratuities; gratuities to local guides and drivers
- Taxes, service, and portage charges

**NOT INCLUDED IN RATES** International airfare; passport fees; Cuban visa; Cuban departure tax; limited Cuban health insurance policy (required for all foreign travelers to Cuba under age 80); personal items and expenses; airport/hotel transfers for those not on suggested flights; luggage in excess of one suitcase; meals not specified; trip insurance; optional Cienfuegos prelude; optional Havana/Pinar del Río postlude; any other items not specifically mentioned as included.



Variety Voyager



**THE MUSEUM TRAVEL ALLIANCE**  
**CUBA BY SEA ■ JANUARY 25–FEBRUARY 2, 2018**  
**RESERVATION FORM**

To reserve a place, please call Academic Arrangements Abroad at phone: 212-514-8921 or 800-221-1944, fax: 212-344-7493; or complete and return this form with your deposit of \$1,000 per person (of which \$500 is non-refundable for administrative fees) payable to *Academic Arrangements Abroad*. Mail to: Academic Arrangements Abroad, 1040 Avenue of the Americas, 23rd floor, New York, NY 10018-3721.

Name(s) in full as on passport(s). Please print.

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Address

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City

State

Zip

Telephone (home)

(business)

Fax

E-mail

**ACCOMMODATIONS**

Variety Voyager cabin preference (1) \_\_\_\_\_ (2) \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to share a cabin with \_\_\_\_\_

**OPTIONAL PRELUDE & OPTIONAL POSTLUDE**

I/We would like to join the optional prelude in Cienfuegos

I/We would like to join the optional prelude in Havana and Pinar del Río

Hotel Room Preference     One bed     Two beds     Single

**MTA MUSEUM AFFILIATION**

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**FORM OF PAYMENT**

Enclosed is my check (payable to *Academic Arrangements Abroad*)

Debit card

Credit card

Name on debit/credit card

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Debit/credit card number

3- or 4-digit security code

Expiration date

I/We confirm that I/we have carefully read and agree to the *Terms & Conditions* of this Program (see [www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms](http://www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms) to review or call for a copy). I/We agree to full payment 120 days prior to departure. Each participant must sign below.

Signature (required)

Date

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Signature (required)

Date