The Williams College Society of Alumni

Sailing the Windward Islands

Martinique • St. Vincent and the Grenadines • Dominica • Grenada • St. Lucia

aboard the Exclusively Chartered Deluxe Small Sailing Ship

M.Y. LE PONANT

January 23 to 30, 2016

- Experience the Caribbean under full sail
- Only 32 Staterooms—100% ocean-view
- A daily excursion in each port
- Save $2000 per couple!
Dear Williams Alumni, Parents, Widows and Friends:

Elude the depths of winter during this exceptional opportunity to experience seafaring in its most timeless form—beneath 16,000 square feet of billowing white sails aboard the exclusively chartered, three-masted M.Y. LE PONANT. Sail among the idyllic Windward Islands, a remote archipelago of spectacular volcanic islands in the southern Caribbean Sea. Delight in this true sailing experience; discover the historic towns and picturesque harbors favored by yachtsmen for hundreds of years and revel in the sublime charm of island life.

Enjoy a refined yet casual lifestyle on board this intimate, deluxe ship featuring only 32 Staterooms—all ocean-view. The deluxe small sailing ship M.Y. LE PONANT is able to call in smaller ports that are completely inaccessible to larger ships—making this the best way to see the real Caribbean. The idyllic tropical breezes of the southern Caribbean, particularly at this time of year, compel the seasoned crew to unfurl the sails and provide an unforgettable voyage.

Adding knowledge to your nautical experience is Professor Mea Cook of the Williams Geosciences Department. She is an oceanographer with degrees from Princeton and MIT who will discuss the influence of climate upon the oceans. A bonus is Mea’s husband, Hugh Powell, an ornithologist from Cornell whose major interest is sea birds.

Sail round trip from Fort-de-France, Martinique, into secluded harbors and popular sailors’ haunts to explore the rich culture and beautiful natural features of the Caribbean’s remote Windward Islands. On this custom-designed itinerary visit St. Vincent’s lush Botanic Garden, the oldest in the Western Hemisphere; be on deck as you approach St. Lucia for a picturesque glimpse of the Gros and Petit Pitons, stunning twin mountain peaks and a UNESCO World Heritage site; experience Dominica’s geothermal activity and see its famous twin Trafalgar Falls. Snorkel amidst the awe-inspiring reefs and marine life in the lagoons of Tobago Cays Marine Park and Union Island; enjoy the stunning natural beauty of Bequia, the most captivating isle of the Grenadines; visit Grenada, where the scent of spices wafts through the air of this exemplary Spice Island; and explore the old-world charm of St. Vincent and its historic capital, Kingstown.

You do not want to miss this intimate, small sailing ship escape to the warm temperatures and alluring ports of the pristine southern Caribbean. This unique, quintessential island sailing voyage around the Windward Islands is an excellent value and a special small group experience to be shared with those who, too, love the lure of the sea. I encourage you to book now, while space and Early Booking Savings are available.

Cordially,

Robert V. Behr
Alumni Travel-Study Coordinator
413-597-4011
RBehr@williams.edu
In 1493, in pursuit of the ever-elusive route to the gold of the East Indies, Christopher Columbus encountered the sun-drenched shores of an archipelago half a world away—a world abundant with the golden glow of sunshine, the fresh breeze of the cooling trade winds and the lushness of tropical rainforests. Recapture the spirit of this long ago era and retrace the path of discovery aboard an authentic small sailing ship while watching the sails unfurl to harness the wind and carry you toward the unspoiled, secluded havens of the Windward Islands. Each of these tropical island ports played a role in the ongoing rivalry between the great British and French sea powers across the centuries, and each holds its own unique treasures.

**Martinique**

Embark your cruise from the sophisticated French-Caribbean island of beautiful Martinique, the most heavily French-influenced of all the West Indies. Christopher Columbus first landed on Martinique in 1502, and the French Post-Impressionist artist Paul Gauguin lived and painted here in 1887. On the east coast of the island, visit the Clément Plantation, a registered French historical landmark where Clément rum has been produced for more than 125 years. An estate built of typical Creole architecture situated between vast fields of sugarcane, stroll through

**ITINERARY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td><strong>Depart the U.S./Fort-de-France, Martinique/Embark M.Y. Le Ponant</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td><strong>Roseau, Dominica</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td><strong>Kingstown, St. Vincent/Bequia, Grenadines</strong></td>
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<td>4</td>
<td><strong>Tobago Cays</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td><strong>St. George’s, Grenada</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td><strong>Clifton, Union Island, Grenadines</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td><strong>Soufrière, St. Lucia/Rodney Bay</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td><strong>Fort-de-France, Martinique/Disembark ship/Return to the U.S.</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Photo this page: Tobago Cays Marine Park is a snorkeler’s paradise, with its idyllic cluster of uninhabited cays and crystal-clear lagoons known for green sea turtles and colorful coral reefs.

Cover Photo: Sail along the coast of St. Lucia for an unforgettable view of its iconic twin peaks, the Petit and Gros Pitons, a UNESCO World Heritage site.
the grounds’ lush botanical gardens, watch the rum distillery process and see its galleries featuring exhibitions that highlight local Caribbean artists and Creole heritage.

Dominica
One of the youngest islands in the Lesser Antilles and the southernmost of the Leeward Islands, Dominica is still being formed by geothermal-volcanic activity. Amongst the island’s unspoiled natural beauty are the numerous rivers—there is said to be one for every day of the year—running through the lush, mountainous rainforests. It is also home to endangered Sisserou Parrots and rare plants and animals long extinct on neighboring islands. Enjoy a walk through the rainforest to view the misty twin cascades of the legendary Trafalgar Falls. Enjoy a privately arranged, exclusive tour of the grounds and first floor of the palatial State House in Roseau, official residence of Dominica’s president.

St. Vincent
Travel through the lush tropics of St. Vincent, following the dramatically scenic Leeward Highway. Visit the extensive Botanical Gardens, the largest in the Western Hemisphere. From the ruins of Fort Charlotte, an early 19th-century citadel built atop a steep promontory, enjoy sweeping vistas of the island’s golden beaches, the English-influenced capital city of Kingstown and the Grenadines beyond.

The Grenadines
Verdant and mountainous Bequia, a seven-square-mile island, is arguably the most beautiful of the Grenadines. Enjoy spectacular views of yacht-filled Admiralty Bay from the remains of 18th-century Hamilton Fort and from Mount Pleasant, Bequia’s highest point at over 800 feet. Visit the Old Hegg Turtle Sanctuary, dedicated to raising endangered hawksbill sea turtle hatchlings and safely releasing them into nature.
these small, uninhabited islands provide ideal snorkeling conditions. Swim among the sea turtles and vivid reef fish and observe an abundance of marine life, including colorful sponges and conchs. Union Island features dramatic volcanic peaks that juxtapose the flat and shallow coral reef systems and glistening turquoise water full of exotic, colorful marine life ideal for snorkeling.

Grenada
Before Grenada achieved independence in 1974, the island was a British colony for nearly two centuries, yet today it retains its distinctively 17th-century French influences in its surnames and locales, in its dialect laced with French words and in spicy dishes prepared in a French manner, much like New Orleans Creole. The volcanic island of Grenada is best known as the “Spice Island,” its cool breezes infused with the fragrances of its main exports—nutmeg, cinnamon, cloves, ginger, mace, allspice, wild coffee and organic cocoa. Tour an herb and spice garden, where you will see ginger, pepper and turmeric growing; walk among cinnamon, clove and bay trees; and learn about rare and medicinal botanicals such as zebapique and jump-up-and-kiss-me, commonly used to treat locals’ cold and flu symptoms.

Visit the gorgeous, two-mile Grand Anse Beach, Grenada’s most quintessential of white-sanded shores, ideally located on the island’s southwest coast and a short distance from its capital, St. George’s.

St. Lucia
Approaching the Windward isle of St. Lucia from the sea, be on deck to experience the magnificent view of its unmistakable twin volcanic peaks, the legendary Pitons: Gros Piton and Petit Piton, together a UNESCO World Heritage site. Many other extinct volcanic domes and craters dot this island of spectacular scenery and unspoiled beaches.

Control of St. Lucia passed back and forth between the British and French for 200 years until the early 1800s, when the British prevailed. In Soufrière, visit Diamond Falls Botanical Gardens, renowned for the mineral-rich waters that have tinted the rocks beneath the falls yellow, green and purple. Then, tour the crater of Soufrière Volcano and Sulphur Springs to witness firsthand that even a dormant volcano experiences ongoing geological activity.

From Soufrière, travel to the bustling port of Rodney Bay. The afternoon is at leisure to visit Pigeon Island National Landmark, one of the most important monuments to St. Lucia’s history; explore the ruins of Fort Rodney, where the British defeated the French and gained control of St. Lucia during the Battle of the Saints in 1782; see fascinating exhibits about the Arawak people, the original settlers of the island; walk up Signal Hill, which offers beautiful panoramic views of St. Lucia’s northern coastline; or enjoy the golden sand and afternoon sunshine on a nearby beach.

The picturesque capital of Grenada, St. George’s is located on the horseshoe-shaped harbor of Carenage and retains many of its French and British influences.
The intimate, three-masted deluxe M.Y. LE PONANT offers an unforgettable and captivating sailing experience—seafaring in its most traditional form. When the 16,000 square feet of majestic sails are unfurled, the ship’s sleek lines and elegant beauty evoke the Golden Age of Sail. A harmonious alliance of nautical tradition and great style, this small ship is designed to cruise into the most secluded harbors where larger vessels cannot reach, and the refined yet casual lifestyle on board is manifest in the warm charm of each Stateroom and in the discreet, impeccable service.

Each of the 32 ocean-view Staterooms features a window or porthole, private bathroom with shower, one fixed queen bed or one queen bed convertible into two twin beds, individual climate control, satellite flat-screen television, wireless Internet access, direct-dial telephone, safe, minibar, dressing table, hair dryer and plush robes.

Meals feature superb French-inspired cuisine and are each served in a single, unassigned seating. Breakfast and lunch can be enjoyed alfresco in the indoor-outdoor Le Diamant Panoramic Restaurant, and dinner is served in the elegant, wood-paneled Karukéra Restaurant. Complimentary alcoholic and nonalcoholic beverages are served throughout the cruise.

The comfortable public areas showcase the ship’s tasteful sophistication favoring life in the open air. There are two lounges, a library and expansive open-air decks that extend the full length of the vessel, and there is an observation platform just above sea level for optional water sports and viewing marine life. Complimentary snorkeling equipment is provided, and fully equipped Zodiacs are used to facilitate island landings and enhance your Caribbean experiences.

The courteous, English-speaking crew provide attentive, professional service, with a guest-to-crew ratio of less than two to one, and they are always delighted to answer your questions about their sailing maneuvers. M.Y. LE PONANT will certainly captivate anyone who steps aboard its gleaming timber decks for a sailing.
Included Features

On board the exclusively chartered deluxe sailing ship M.Y. LE PONANT

◆ Seven-night cruise round trip Fort-de-France, Martinique, with port calls at Roseau, Dominica; Kingstown, St. Vincent; Bequia, Tobago Cays and Union Island, Grenadines; St. George's, Grenada; and Soufrière and Rodney Bay, St. Lucia; the most beautiful locales of the Windward Islands.

◆ Deluxe, ocean-view, air-conditioned Staterooms, each with private bathroom facilities.

◆ Captain's Welcome and Farewell Receptions.

◆ Superb French-inspired cuisine each day at single, unassigned seatings, with breakfast and lunch indoors or alfresco in the elegant Le Diamant Panoramic Restaurant, and dinner in the sophisticated, wood-paneled Karukéra Restaurant.

◆ Complimentary alcoholic and nonalcoholic beverages are served throughout the cruise.

◆ Complimentary snorkeling equipment.

Sailing the Windward Islands

◆ Excursion into the natural paradise of lush, volcanic Dominica, where it is said there is a river for every day of the year, highlighted by a visit to Trafalgar Falls.

◆ Exclusive tour of the grounds and first floor of the palatial State House in Roseau, official residence of Dominica's president.

◆ Island tour of St. Vincent from the historic city center of Kingstown.

◆ Tour of the verdant and mountainous Bequia, the most beautiful isle of the Grenadines and visit to the Old Hegg Turtle Sanctuary where endangered hawksbill sea turtles are hatched, cared for and released into the wild.

◆ Island stop at the breathtaking Tobago Cays Marine Park comprising nearly 1500 acres of lagoons and coral reefs, for the opportunity to snorkel among an abundance of vibrant, fascinating marine life.

◆ Time at leisure for swimming, snorkeling and scuba diving on Union Island. Grenadines; renowned for its pristine reefs and colorful marine life.

◆ Tour of Grenada, the Spice Island, featuring a visit to a local herb and spice garden of rare and common botanicals used in cooking, medicines and liqueurs.

◆ Specially arranged rum tasting at a Grenada distillery.

◆ Visit to Soufrière to admire the beauty of St. Lucia’s Pitons, a UNESCO World Heritage site, featuring an excursion to Diamond Falls Botanical Gardens with its beautiful waterfall and to Soufrière Volcano and Sulphur Springs.

◆ Time in Rodney Bay to explore the ruins of Fort Rodney, to enjoy the panoramic views at the top of Signal Hill, or an afternoon at leisure on the beach, shuttle and beach chairs included.

◆ Visit to Martinique’s beautifully preserved Clément Plantation and Rum Distillery, where then-U.S. President George H.W. Bush and French President François Mitterrand finalized the end of the Gulf War in 1991.

Enhanced Travel Services

◆ Transfers and luggage handling abroad for participants whose arrival(s)/departure(s) coincide with the scheduled group transfer(s).

◆ All excursions and visits, as outlined above, with experienced local guides.

◆ Gratuities to local guides and drivers on included excursions and transfers.

◆ Hospitality desk aboard the ship.

◆ The services of an experienced Gohagan & Company Travel Director throughout the program.

◆ Travel document wallet, name badge and pre-departure information.

◆ Automatic $250,000 flight insurance policy for each participant ticketed on flights by Gohagan & Company.
The 18th-century cannons at Bequia’s hilltop Hamilton Fort evoke the Caribbean’s maritime legends and history.

**Legends of the Caribbean**

Caribbean tales call to mind elusive treasure maps, resonant cannon blasts and the locally produced beverage of choice, rum. The history of the Caribbean islands, while owing much to British, Dutch and French influences, would be incomplete without a mention of those fearsome swashbucklers of legend—pirates. From 1650 to 1720, thousands of these seafaring robbers, also known as buccaneers, targeted merchant ships and coastal towns. Notorious among them were Calico Jack, Henry Morgan and Captain Kidd, but perhaps most legendary of all was Edward Teach, better known as Blackbeard.

In 1717, Blackbeard famously captured the French slave ship *La Concorde* off the coast of Martinique, abandoned its crew and captive passengers ashore on Bequia and robbed them of their gold. Blackbeard renamed the ship *Queen Anne’s Revenge* and set sail, plundering the Caribbean and the southern Atlantic colonies and commandeering ships for his fleet. He grew quickly in infamy, tucking smoldering ropes into his wild hair and beard to intimidate his enemies with an air of supernatural terror. Barely a year later, however, Blackbeard battled Royal Navy Lieutenant Robert Maynard, commissioned by the Crown governor of colonial Virginia, and fell in defeat, ending his notorious yet riveting swashbuckling legend.
LAND/Cruise Tariff (per person, based on double occupancy)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stateroom Category</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Early Booking Price</th>
<th>Regular Price</th>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Ocean-view Stateroom with one fixed queen bed and a porthole. Marie-Galante Deck, forward.</td>
<td>$4495</td>
<td>$5495</td>
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<td>$6395</td>
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<td>4</td>
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<td>$5895</td>
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<td>$7595</td>
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<td>Larger ocean-view Stateroom with one fixed queen bed and a window. Antigua Deck.</td>
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◆ Singles are available in category 5 at $9695 and in category 3 at $10995 on or before July 17, 2015. Add $1000 for reservations made after July 17, 2015.

◆ Taxes are an additional $500 per person and are subject to change.

* M.Y. Le Ponant has been specially contracted for this tour, and the applicable deck plan is available on request from Gohagan & Company and reflects the only valid cabin categorization of the vessel.
RESPONSIBILITY:

AND BINDING ARBITRATION AGREEMENT
RELEASE OF LIABILITY, ASSUMPTION OF RISK

by the required deposit, by reservations received in the offices of Gohagan in writing, accompanied by the required deposit, by July 17, 2015. In the event of a "discounted" reservation must be reported in writing when example, the need for a wheelchair) must be reported in writing when you must spend an additional night(s), you will be charged any failure of any transportation mechanism to arrive or depart timely or safely.

PHYSICAL ACCESSIBILITY: All programs require physical independence and mobility. Any physical or mental condition that may require special medical attention or physical assistance (for example, the need for a wheelchair) must be reported in writing when you make your reservation. Travelers must be able to embark or disembark motorcoaches alone or with minimal assistance from your traveling companion and climb stairs and step over raised thresholds without assistance. Travelers requiring assistance must travel with a companion who will be responsible for handling equipment.

CANCELLATIONS: Cancellations for all or any part of the trip will not be effective until received in writing in the offices of Gohagan. If you have to cancel, the following terms will apply: reservation cancellation(s) are subject to a $200 per person administrative fee from the time of booking through 120 days prior to departure; from 95 through 119 days prior to departure, $600 per person; from 60 through 94 days prior to departure, 70% 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 optional excursion cancellation fees and administrative fees may apply.

TRIP 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 a travel program, trip cancellation insurance may be the only source of reimbursement. Trip cancellation insurance is available through Williams College, Gohagan, and others 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: All prices 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, even after full payment, Gohagan reserves the right to increase the price due to increases in fuel or energy surcharges and/or for any other reason that may increase trip costs. Any such increases are to be paid to Gohagan upon notice to the tour supplier costs, currency fluctuations or fuel or energy surcharges and all such increases are to be paid to Gohagan upon notice to the tour supplier.

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