Treasures of Colombia, Panama, & Costa Rica

Featuring a Panama Canal Daytime Transit

January 10–19, 2014

With Roger Cohn, ’73 | Editor, Yale Environment 360
Aboard the Variety Voyager
Dear Yale Traveler,

Enjoy some of the loveliest islands and national parks in Central America and the Caribbean Sea on a 7-day voyage aboard the state-of-the-art yacht *Variety Voyager*. Cruise from Cartagena, Colombia, a wonderfully captivating port with beautifully restored Spanish colonial buildings, to Costa Rica, with its fine selection of national parks. As you sail through Caribbean waters, transit the Panama Canal in daylight, and continue along the Pacific coast of Panama and Costa Rica, the region’s natural beauty comes alive—rainforests teeming with exotic wildlife and bird species; sugary beaches fringed by sparkling azure waters; and dense forests that cascade down impressive mountainsides to the shore.

Swim, snorkel, and explore the fascinating marine life supported by one of the largest coral reefs on the Pacific coast of the Americas. Hike through lush rainforests alive with the vivid sounds and colors of a richly diverse wildlife, and soar overhead through the canopy of vegetation that provides habitat for some very unusual species. Also meet the indigenous tribal populations that have been present for countless generations and who maintain many of the customs practiced by their ancestors.

A pre-tour extension to Colombia’s Caribbean Coast and Tayrona National Park and a post-tour extension to Costa Rica’s Monteverde Cloud Forest Reserve offer opportunities to experience more of the natural treasures in this part of the world.

We are sharing this adventure with travelers from Princeton, the American Museum of Natural History, and the Oceanic Society, so space is sure to fill quickly. To register, please complete the reservation form in this brochure and mail or fax it to Yale Educational Travel. You may also make a secure reservation online at www.yaleedtravel.org/columbia14. If you have questions, please call (203) 432-1952 or email edtravel@yale.edu.

Sincerely yours,

Katherine Edersheim ’87
Senior Director, International Alumni Relations and Travel, Association of Yale Alumni

www.yaleedtravel.org/columbia14
ROGER COHN

Roger Cohn is the editor of Yale Environment 360, an award-winning online magazine published at the Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies. He formerly was editor of Mother Jones and executive editor of Audubon. Roger, who graduated Yale College in 1973, will lecture on key environmental issues affecting Panama and Costa Rica, including the loss of tropical rainforests and coral reefs, and discuss the state of environmental journalism.

PATRICIA LEIGH BROWN

Patricia Leigh Brown, a former staff writer for The New York Times, divides her time between New Haven and San Francisco. She continues to contribute to the Times from California and writes regularly for The Huffington Post and the Center for Investigative Reporting. Patti is teaching a residential college seminar at Pierson College this year. She will lecture on the art of travel writing, including writing about Central America and writing your own travel journal.

RODERIC MAST

Roderic Mast is executive vice president of the Oceanic Society, whose global mission is to protect endangered wildlife and preserve threatened marine habitats worldwide. Rod is an author, photographer, lecturer, and seasoned traveler and tour guide, having visited more than 130 countries. He is a marine biologist, expert in sea turtles, and creator of the State of the World’s Sea Turtles Program.

MICHAEL LITTMAN

Michael Littman, professor of mechanical and aerospace engineering at Princeton, is a historian of technology and innovation. His teaching interests range from automatic control systems and microprocessing to the history of modern engineering and a Freshman Seminar entitled “The Art and Science of Motorcycle Design.” He will offer insights into the history and mechanics of ships and canals.

Enjoy the exotic diversity of wildlife and birds in Colombia, Panama, and Costa Rica, including the tamandua, or anteater (cover), with thick bristly fur, huge claws, and a tiny mouth; an amazing array of boldly patterned frogs, including the red-eyed tree frog; brilliantly colored macaws, whose facial feather patterns are as unique as fingerprints; cotton-top tamarins, at risk due to habitat destruction; and capuchin monkeys, who live in the rainforests of Central America.
**ITINERARY**

**HOME / CARTAGENA, COLOMBIA**

**Friday, January 10**
Depart home and fly to Cartagena. Upon arrival, check in to the Hotel Santa Teresa. This evening enjoy a welcome reception and dinner. Hotel Santa Teresa (R,D)

**CARTAGENA**

**Saturday, January 11**
Cartagena was founded in 1533 by Spanish maritime explorer Pedro de Heredia and named after the Spanish town where most of Heredia's crew had resided. Spend a full day exploring Cartagena's colonial walled city and the Castillo de San Felipe de Barajas, a UNESCO World Heritage site and a superb example of Spanish military engineering. Las Bóvedas, structures built into the walls of the old city as storage vaults, were used as dungeons during the civil wars of the 19th century and now house shops and boutiques offering traditional Colombian handicrafts. Hotel Santa Teresa (B,L).

**CARTAGENA**

**Sunday, January 12**
Today choose for your morning activity either a culinary/market tour or a literary tour based on Nobel-winning author Gabriel García Márquez’s characters. Embark on the **Variety Voyager** this afternoon. Variety Voyager (B,L,D)

**SAN BLAS ISLANDS, PANAMA**

**Monday, January 13**
The San Blas Islands (Guna Yala) form an archipelago off the north coast of Panama. They are home to the Kuna (Guna) Indians, who were driven off Panama during the Spanish invasion. Visit a local community where native women produce intricate, highly distinctive, and much-acclaimed needlework. Variety Voyager (B,L,D)

**PANAMA CANAL (DAYTIME TRANSIT)**

**Tuesday, January 14**
The 48-mile Panama Canal cuts through the Isthmus of Panama to connect the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. Built between 1881 and 1914, the canal has been named one of the seven wonders of the modern world by the American Society of Civil Engineers. Begin your day-long transit of the canal on the Atlantic side at the Gatún Locks, which raise the **Variety Voyager** to the level of Gatún Lake. Cross the lake and proceed through the canal to Miraflores Lake, where the Miraflores Locks bring the ship back down to sea level on the Pacific side. Variety Voyager (B,L,D)

**COIBA ISLAND**

**Wednesday, January 15**
Linked by the underwater Cordillera mountain chain to the Cocos and Galapagos Islands, Coiba Island is surrounded by one of the largest coral reefs on the Pacific coast of the Americas. Its waters teem with marine life, including whale and tiger sharks, sperm whales, sea turtles, angel rays, and giant schools of fish. Coiba is also a refuge for a number of threatened terrestrial animals, such as the crested eagle, and several sub-species of agouti, possom, and howler monkey. Established as a national park in 1992, Coiba Island is a UNESCO World Heritage site. Variety Voyager (B,L,D)

**GOLFITO, COSTA RICA**

**Thursday, January 16**
Dock in the small port of Golfito for a visit to either the Orchid House, a private botanical garden with beautiful landscaping, amazing flowers, and unique fruits, or the Golfito National Wildlife Refuge’s flourishing monkey, bird, amphibian, and reptile populations. Variety Voyager (B,L,D)

**CORCOVADO NATIONAL PARK / DRAKE BAY**

**Friday, January 17**
Corcovado National Park is considered the crown jewel in Costa Rica’s extensive system of national parks and biological reserves. Biologically rich and diverse, the abundance of wildlife is due in part to the park’s great variety of habitats and vegetation and in part to the park’s location on the “land bridge” that links North America and South America. Explore the park or enjoy a boat tour of Drake Bay to observe its dolphin, whale, and sea turtle populations. Variety Voyager (B,L,D)

**MANUEL ANTONIO NATIONAL PARK**

**Saturday, January 18**
Often rated as one of the most beautiful national parks in the world, Manuel Antonio National Park packs a variety of impressive landscapes into approximately 4,000 acres, including white sand beaches, lush foliage, imposing mountains, and dense forests that reach to the shoreline. Soar high above the jungle floor on a canopy tour or explore the park’s fragile rainforest ecosystem on the well-maintained trails below. Variety Voyager (B,L,D)

**PUERTO CALDERA / HOME**

**Sunday, January 19**
Disembark the **Variety Voyager** and transfer to the airport in San Jose for flights home. (B)
OPTIONAL PRE-TRIP EXTENSION  
COLOMBIA’S CARIBBEAN COAST AND TAYRONA NATIONAL PARK

January 7–10
Spend two full days exploring Tayrona National Park, home of the critically endangered cotton-top tamarin (right), where the lush jungles of the Cordillera Mountains meet the brilliant white sand beaches, crystal-clear waters, and coral reefs teeming with colorful fish of the Caribbean coastline. Visit indigenous archaeological sites and sheltered bays that are ideal for kayaking, snorkeling, and hiking. Continue to Barranquilla to appreciate Colombia’s African, indigenous, and Spanish cultural influences at the Carnival Museum and Museum of the Caribbean before starting the main tour in Cartagena. Details and pricing will be sent to participants confirmed on the cruise.

OPTIONAL POST-TRIP EXTENSION  
COSTA RICA’S MONTEVERDE CLOUD FOREST RESERVE

January 19–21
Spend a full day walking the trails of the Monteverde Cloud Forest Reserve. Perched atop Costa Rica’s continental divide at 4,662 feet and sustained by moist clouds and fog, Monteverde’s complex ecosystem supports more than 100 species of mammals, 400 species of birds, tens of thousands of insect species, and at least 2,500 varieties of plants, 420 of which are orchids alone. Details and pricing will be sent to participants confirmed on the cruise.

Responsibility
Criterion Travel, its owners and employees act only as agents for the various independent suppliers and contractors providing transportation, hotel accommodations, restaurant and other services connected with this tour. Such travel and services are subject to the terms and conditions under which such accommodations, services and transportation are offered or provided and the Association of Yale Alumni and Criterion Travel and their respective, employees, agents, representatives and assigns, accept no liability therefor. The Association of Yale Alumni and Criterion Travel, assume no liability for any injury, damage, loss, accident, delay or other irregularity which may be caused by the defect of any aircraft or vehicle or the negligence or default of any company or person engaged in carrying out or performing any of the services involved. Additionally, responsibility is not accepted for losses, injury, damages or expenses of any kind due to sickness, weather, strikes, local laws, hostilities, wars, terrorist acts, acts of nature or other such causes. All services and accommodations are subject to the laws of the country in which they are provided. The Association of Yale Alumni and Criterion Travel reserve the right to make changes in the published itinerary whenever, in their sole judgment, conditions warrant, or if they deem it necessary for the comfort, convenience or safety of the tour participants. They reserve the right to withdraw this tour without penalty. The right is also reserved to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of the tour, or to substitute another qualified leader or special guest. Baggage and personal effects are the sole responsibility of the owners at all times. The price of the program is given in good faith based on current tariffs and rates and is subject to change. Any tariff, exchange rate, airfare, or fuel increases will be passed onto participants. Neither the Association of Yale Alumni nor Criterion Travel accept the liability for any airline cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a nonrefundable airline ticket. The air ticket when issued shall constitute the sole contract between the passenger and the airline concerned. As part of the consideration and right to participate in this tour, each participant will be asked to sign a liability release.
**VARIETY VOYAGER**

The *Variety Voyager* is a state-of-the-art yacht that accommodates just 72 passengers in 36 cabins. Guests will enjoy her sleek lines and ample deck space, designed to the high standards of the finest privately owned yachts. Cabins and public areas are finished with warm fabrics, rich marbles, luxurious Axminster carpeting, and rich wood paneling. Cabins have oversized port holes or double windows, en suite facilities with marble floors, individually controlled air-conditioning, TV/DVD, and access to 24-hour WiFi. Throughout the ship, guests have unobstructed views of the ocean and of the ports visited, as well as the services of a friendly and professional crew of 28. There are opportunities to dine both inside the yacht and on the deck, and to enjoy the shaded sun deck lounge bar, the Internet corner and library, and the mini-spa with massage room, sauna, hair salon, and fitness equipment.

**Airfare**

U.S. domestic and international airfare is not included in the program rates. Round-trip economy-class airfare from New York to Cartagena, Colombia, and return from San Jose, Costa Rica, is approximately $650 as of May 2013; from Miami to Cartagena and return from San Jose is approximately $775 as of May 2013. Both fares are subject to change without notice.

**What to Expect**

The weather in January will be pleasant, with average daytime temperatures in the low 80s F and little rain. This is a moderately active program that involves extended periods of walking on uneven terrain on trails and beaches. There are also opportunities for swimming and snorkeling. Participants should be fit, in active good health, and able to keep up with the group without assistance from tour staff.

**Group Size**

This program is limited to 64 participants, including travelers from Yale, Princeton, American Museum of Natural History, and Oceanic Society.

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**PROGRAM RATES, per person**

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<th>Category</th>
<th>Double</th>
<th>Single</th>
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**Marina Deck.** 129–145 sq.ft. depending on location, oversized twin port holes, twin beds or queen bed, shower.

**Category B**

**Marina and Riviera Decks.** 145–216 sq.ft. depending on location, oversized twin port holes (Marina Deck) or double windows (Riviera Deck), twin beds or queen bed (7 of the 11 cabins offer flexible bedding configuration), shower.

**Category A**

**Riviera Deck.** 151–195 sq.ft. depending on location, double windows, twin beds or queen bed (9 of the 11 cabins offer flexible bedding configuration), shower.

**Category P**

**Horizons Deck.** 227–248 sq.ft. depending on location, double windows, twin beds or queen bed (all cabins offer flexible bedding configuration and 4 of the 7 include an extra sofa bed), shower.

**Owner’s Suite**

**Horizons Deck.** 292 sq.ft., four windows, twin beds or queen bed (flexible bedding configuration), shower.
To reserve today, fax this reservation form to Yale Educational Travel at (203) 432-0587 to hold your space for one week, pending receipt of your deposit or credit card instructions. Please make your deposit check payable to Criterion Travel and mail it with this registration form to: Association of Yale Alumni, Box 209010, New Haven, CT 06520-9010. You can also make a secure reservation at www.yalededtravel.org/columbia14.

Charge my deposit to:
- MasterCard
- VISA
- AmEx
- Diners Club
- Discover

NAME ON CREDIT CARD

CREDIT CARD NUMBER EXP. DATE SECURITY CODE

SIGNATURE AS IT APPEARS ON CREDIT CARD DATE

SINGLE TRAVELERS
- I prefer to have single accommodations.
- I plan to share accommodations with
- I’d like to know about roommates. I am a ☐ Non-smoker ☐ Smoker

I understand that if a roommate cannot be found by the final payment deadline of September 13, 2013, I will pay the single rate.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Cabin category preference: 
1st ☐ 2nd ☐ 3rd ☐ 4th ☐

☐ I/We have read the Terms and Conditions section of this brochure and understand and agree with them as stated herein.

PAYMENT

Enclosed is my check for $_____ ($1,000 per person) to hold ____ place(s) on Treasures of Colombia, Panama, & Costa Rica. OR

Visit www.yalededtravel.org/columbia14
to book online or return the above form with credit card authorization or check payable to “Criterion Travel” to Association of Yale Alumni, P.O. Box 209010, New Haven, CT 06520-9010. Phone: (203) 432-1952. Fax: (203) 432-0587.

TERMS & CONDITIONS

Program Rates Include: Educational program by Yale lecturer • Additional programming by co-sponsors’ lecturers and local guides • All accommodations and meals as specified in the itinerary • All excursions, including entrance fees, as specified in the itinerary • Group arrival and departure transfers by coach • Baggage handling • Gratuities to porters, wait staff, guides, drivers, and shipboard personnel for all group activities • Port charges • Welcome and farewell wine receptions • House wine, beer, and soft drinks at all group lunches and dinners • Bottled water on excursions • Complete packet of pre-departure information • Professional tour manager throughout.

Program Rates Do Not Include: U.S. domestic and international airfare • Passport and visa fees • Medical expenses and immunizations • Trip cancellation/interruption and baggage insurance • Optional excursions or deviations from the scheduled tour • Excess-baggage charges • Meals not specified in the itinerary; dishes and beverages not part of the included meals • Alcohol or soft drinks except where indicated as included • Private transfers or transfers not on program arrival and departure days • Personal items such as room service; email, telephone, and fax charges; laundry; gratuities for non-group services; and other items of a personal nature.

Insurance: Travel insurance for trip cancellation and interruption, medical problems, baggage loss and delay, etc., is highly recommended, and we hope that you will obtain it for this expedition. Trip cancellation policies that apply to this expedition are included in this brochure. Please be sure to carry the details of your travel insurance coverage with you on the program. Travelers are free to purchase the travel insurance of their choice. It is recommended that travelers clearly understand the difference between “primary” and “secondary” travel insurance.

Reservations & Deposits: To reserve space, please complete the reservation form and mail it with your check or credit card information to the address at the top of the form. You may also fax the form to (203) 432-0587 and your reservation will be held for five working days pending receipt of your check or credit card information. If you have questions, please call (203) 432-1952 or email margaret.carnright@yale.edu. Final payment deadline is September 13, 2013, 120 days before departure.

Cancellations & Refunds: Upon payment of a $1,000 deposit per person, all reservations are subject to the cancellation provisions set forth below and by which the passenger agrees to be bound. Cancellations shall not be effective until they are received in writing and confirmed by the Association of Yale Alumni. Deposits are refundable (less a $250 per person administration fee) if written notice of cancellation is received within 30 days of reservation; after that, deposits are 100% nonrefundable. Final payment is due September 13, 2013 (120 days prior to departure). Cancellations within 120 days of departure are 100% nonrefundable. For this reason we strongly urge participants to purchase trip cancellation insurance. If the program is cancelled by the Association of Yale Alumni or the tour operator, you will receive a full refund, without further obligation on our part. No refunds will be made for any part of this program on which you choose not to participate. Note: Neither the Association of Yale Alumni nor Criterion Travel, Inc., the tour operator, accepts liability for any airline cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a nonrefundable ticket in conjunction with this tour.

Itinerary Changes: The itinerary presented for this tour is subject to modification and change by the Association of Yale Alumni (AYA) and Criterion Travel (the tour operator). Every reasonable effort will be made to operate the program as planned; however, should unforeseen world events and conditions require the itinerary to be altered, AYA and the tour operator reserve the right to do so for the safety and best interest of the group. Any extra expenses incurred in this situation are the responsibility of the participant.

Reservation Contact: (203) 432-1952 or edtravel@yale.edu. For information on all YET programs, visit www.YaleEdTravel.org.

California Seller of Travel Program CST #2088800-40

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This program has been designed to introduce Yale travelers to the beautiful islands and national parks in Central America and the Caribbean. Opportunities abound for swimming and snorkeling in the waters around UNESCO World Heritage site Coiba Island, which is surrounded by one of the largest coral reefs on the Pacific coast of the Americas, providing a magnificent habitat for an extraordinary diversity of marine life.

Cartagena’s harbor, once the point of departure for all the Inca gold plundered by the Spanish conquistadores, was a magnet for the pirates of the Caribbean, and today its stone fortresses and thick, towering walls serve as reminders of assaults from seafaring buccaneers such as Francis Drake and John Hawkins.

Central America’s 202,000 square miles represent only 0.1 percent of the Earth’s surface, but this tiny subcontinent boasts 7 percent of the world’s biodiversity, with Costa Rica and Panama being the most biodiverse.

The Kuna Indians of the San Blas Islands had a long tradition of decorating their bodies with colorful designs, but when the Spanish missionaries encouraged them to wear clothes, they transferred their artwork onto fabric, called molas, which they then wore.

Transiting the Panama Canal in daylight, possible only by special arrangement, offers program participants a unique opportunity to observe the construction under way to increase the canal’s carrying capacity, with two new flights of locks expected to open in 2015.