Cuba by Sea
Cienfuegos to Havana
Aboard Variety Voyager

Michael E. Veal
Professor of Ethnomusicology, Department of Music
Dear Yale Traveler

Escape the winter with Yale on a cultural cruise along Cuba’s Caribbean coast. Cuba by Sea: January 24-February 1, 2019 is a journey aboard a privately chartered yacht, Variety Voyager. Yale travelers will discover well-preserved colonial architecture and fascinating small museums, visit artists in their studios, and enjoy private concerts and other exclusive events.

To introduce myself, I am Michael E. Veal, Professor of Ethnomusicology at Yale for 20 years. I specialize in the music of Africa and the African diaspora, and am excited to provide the musical component of this voyage. Cuba has been one of the “powerhouses” of music in the twentieth century and we will have a great time enjoying its legendary musical traditions together.

Variety Voyager features only 36 cabins and is the perfect home for exploring Cuba. With the ship as an elegant hotel, engage with Cubans from all walks of life. Highlights of this program include visiting the prison (now a museum) that once held Fidel Castro, an opportunity to chat with marine ecologists on María la Gorda, a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve and haven for divers, and two days in Cuba’s spirited capital city. Time in Havana will allow for a stroll in the cobblestone streets and meeting up-and-coming artists at a private reception. Optional pursuits are as varied as a swim or snorkel on a pristine island beach and an evening at the famous Tropicana nightclub. An optional postlude in Santiago de Cuba is offered.

Cuba is a rapidly changing nation. This delightful program is co-sponsored with The Metropolitan Museum of Art and is sure to sell out fast. Please visit www.yaleedtravel.org/cubasea19 to register now. Or call Yale Educational Travel at 203-432-1952 to hold your space on this wonderful program.

With best wishes from Yale,

Michael E. Veal
Professor of Ethnomusicology, Department of Music
Yale University
Michael E. Veal has been a member of the Yale faculty since 1998. Before coming to Yale, he taught at Mount Holyoke College (1996 – 1998) and New York University (1997–1998). Undergraduate courses that Professor Veal has taught have included: Music Cultures of the World; Music of Sub-Saharan Africa, Jazz in Transition: 1960 – 1985 and Jazz & Architecture. Graduate courses have included Theory & Practice of Ethnomusicology, Critical Approaches to Popular Music, and Topics in Jazz Studies. During his time at Yale he has published four books: Fela: The Life & Times of an African Musical Icon (2000), Dub: Soundscapes and Shattered Songs in Jamaican Reggae (2007), Tony Allen: Master Drummer of Afrobeat (2013), and Punk Ethnography: Artists and Scholars Listen to Sublime Frequencies (co-edited with E. Tammy Kim, 2015). He is currently at work on his next project, Living Space: John Coltrane from Analog to Digital. Professor Veal is also an electric bassist and leader of the Afrobeat-jazz group Michael Veal & Aqua Ife.
ITINERARY
JANUARY 24 – FEBRUARY 1, 2019

WELCOME PHONE CALL
Wednesday, January 9 (tentative)
Please join a pre-trip welcome call with Professor Michael Veal at 4pm EST to meet other travelers, learn more about what to expect, and ask questions.

DEPARTURE / HAVANA / CIENFUEGOS
Thursday, January 24
Arrive independently in Havana at the José Martí Airport by the early afternoon and join a group transfer to Cienfuegos. Check into the Hotel Jagua. This evening, enjoy welcome drinks and have dinner at a restaurant by the hotel. (D)

CIENFUEGOS / EMBARK
Friday, January 25
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). Attend a private recital by the world-renowned Cienfuegos Chamber Choir. Then explore the internationally recognized Cienfuegos Botanical Garden, or visit a historic cigar factory to discuss the importance of tobacco to the Cuban economy. Embark Variety Voyager in the late afternoon for a welcome briefing and dinner. The ship sails overnight to Trinidad. (B/L/D)

CAYO LARGO
Sunday, January 27
Arrive on the tiny island of Cayo Largo for a visit to a local clinic, where you 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. Dinner is onboard as the ship sails to Isla de la Juventud. (B/L/D)

ISLA DE LA JUVENTUD
Monday, January 28
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 an 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 (pending scheduling), and explore the main square of Nueva Gerona, the capital. Return to the ship for a lecture and dinner. The ship sails in the evening for Maria La Gorda. (B/L/D)

Havana
Wednesday, January 30
After morning arrival in the port of Old Havana, join an architectural walking tour through the historic district, where many buildings have been restored to their original splendor. In the afternoon, stop at El Morro for a panoramic view of Havana before embarking on an architectural tour, focusing on Art Deco and mid-century masterpieces. Sample a mojito or Cuba libre on the terrace of the landmark Hotel Nacional, overlooking Havana’s iconic waterfront. We have been

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

Legend has it that this hamlet’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 gentle hike with a local guide. Savor our last day at sea as Variety Voyager cruises overnight to Havana, docking for two nights in the port of Old Havana. (B/L/D)
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. The ship is docked overnight in port. (B/L/D)

HAVANA

Thursday, January 31
Attend an informal rehearsal of Danza Contemporánea de Cuba, a contemporary dance troupe combining classical ballet with modern and Afro-Cuban elements. Continue to the National Museum of Fine Arts for a curatorial tour of the Cuban collection. Lunch is at La Guarida, Havana’s most celebrated paladar. Visit the Colón Cemetery, whose ornate tombstones commemorate Cuban heroes, statesmen, and novelists. Enjoy a private, after-hours tour and reception at the Ceramics Museum, housed in a restored 18th-century mansion. Return to Variety Voyager for a festive farewell dinner. (B/L/D)

Included meals indicated each day as B/L/D = Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner.

OPTIONAL POSTLUDE IN SANTIAGO DE CUBA

February 1–4, 2019
Explore Santiago de Cuba with Stephanie Herdrich, a curator at the Metropolitan Museum who is currently planning an exhibition on Winslow Homer’s Caribbean. Spend three nights in the city to see the Castillo de San Pedro de la Roca, the subject of Homer’s most important Cuban painting Searchlight on Harbor Entrance. Also visit San Juan Hill, site of a decisive battle in the Spanish-American War; the Moncada Barracks Museum; and the Basílica del Cobre, home of Cuba’s patron saint. At Santa Ifigenia cemetery, where José Martí and Fidel Castro are buried, witness the changing of the guard. Accommodations are at the Meliá Santiago.

Postlude rate: $1,999
Single rate: $2,199
Includes three nights at the Meliá Santiago; three breakfasts, two lunches, and three dinners; wine/beer with lunches and dinners.

What is Included:
- Enrichment program of lectures by Professor Michael Veal and other experts
- One night hotel accommodation at the Hotel Jagua (or similar).
- Seven nights accommodations aboard Variety Voyager
- All meals during the cruise (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner). Bottled water and coffee/tea with all meals; wine and beer with lunches and dinners
- Airport/hotel/pier/airport transfers for all participants
- Overnight stay at the Hotel Jagua in Cienfuegos
- Escorted sightseeing, transportation, and entrance fees for all included visits
- Gratuities to local guides and drivers; customary shipboard gratuities
- Taxes, service charges, and porterage
- Emergency medical evacuation services through UHC Global

What is Not Included:
- 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
- Luggage in excess of one suitcase
- Meals not specified
- Optional Santiago de Cuba postlude
- Trip insurance
- Any other items not specifically mentioned as included

www.yaleedtravel.org/cubasea19
Christened in 2012, this intimate, 36-cabin yacht 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, Double Occupancy)

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Oceans Lounge
Owner’s Suite
Owner’s Suite

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Book online: www.yaleedtravel.org/cubasea19
MOBILITY AND FITNESS TO TRAVEL
The right is retained to decline, to accept, or to retain any person as a member of this trip who, in the opinion of Yale Educational Travel ("YET") is unfit for travel or whose physical or mental condition may constitute a danger to themselves or to others on the trip. Passengers requiring special assistance, including without limitation those who permanently or periodically use a wheelchair, must be accompanied by someone who is fit and able to assist them, and who will be totally responsible for providing all required assistance.

CANCELLATION
In addition to airline cancellation penalties, all cancellations for any reason whatsoever will be subject to a $500 per person cancellation fee. Cancellation from 120 days to 91 days prior to departure will result in forfeiture of 20% of the entire cost of the trip per person; 90 days to 61 days, 50% of the trip cost per person; cancellation from 60 days up to the time of departure will result in 100% forfeiture of the entire cost of the trip. All cancellations must be submitted in writing to Yale Educational Travel.

Terms & Conditions

PAYMENT SCHEDULE
A deposit of $1,000 per person, payable to Arrangements Abroad, of which $500 is non-refundable for administrative fees, is required with the reservation application. Final payment must be received 120 days prior to departure. Mail to: The Association of Yale Alumni, Yale Educational Travel, Box 209010, New Haven, CT 06520-9010. Or fax: 203-432-0587.

Complete Terms & Conditions will be sent after registration and are available at: www.yaleedtravel.org/faqs

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Visit the Sea Turtle Rescue Center on the tiny island of Cayo Largo, and explore Maria La Gorda’s stunning national park.

Spend two days docked in Havana’s harbor, to enjoy a walking tour through Old Havana, visits to artists’ studios, and a private look at the Cuban collection in the National Museum of Fine Arts.

Mojitos at Hotel Nacional, Havana, photo by Class V