Sailing the Windward Islands

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

aboard the
Exclusively Chartered,
Deluxe Small Sailing Ship
Le Ponant

February 26 to March 5, 2019

Experience the Caribbean under full sail
Only 32 Staterooms—100% ocean-view
An excursion in each port

Sponsored by the University of Oklahoma Alumni Association
Dear Alumni and Friends:

Elude the depths of winter in the idyllic Windward Islands, a remote archipelago of dynamic volcanic peaks, lush gardens and white-sand beaches in the southern Caribbean. Experience seafaring in its most timeless form—beneath 16,000 square feet of billowing white sails aboard the exclusively chartered Le Ponant—during this exceptional opportunity, calling at historic towns and picturesque islands favored by yachtsmen for hundreds of years.

The intimate, deluxe motor yacht Le Ponant, featuring only 32 ocean-view Staterooms, is able to call in smaller ports and secluded bays that are completely inaccessible to larger ships—making this the best way to see the real Caribbean. The idyllic tropical breezes this time of year compel the seasoned crew to unfurl three-masted sails amid the turquoise waters and balmy temperatures. Enjoy a refined yet casual lifestyle on board and revel in the sublime charm of island life.

This custom-designed itinerary spans the boundlessly lush natural landscapes of the Windward Islands from Barbados to Martinique to Grenada. Visit St. Vincent, which boasts the oldest botanic garden in the Western Hemisphere, and travel amid waving coconut palms alongside the Caribbean Sea on the most captivating isle of the Grenadines, Bequia. Be on deck as you approach St. Lucia for a stunning panorama of the Gros and Petit Pitons, twin mountain peaks and a UNESCO World Heritage site, and see the island’s geothermal activity in volcanic Sulphur Springs. Snorkel amid the intricate reefs blooming with marine life in the lagoons of Tobago Cays Marine Park, Mayreau and Union Island; and delve into the history of Grenada, where the scent of spices permeates the air. Learn about the enduring West African, Creole, Arawak and Carib heritages and their colonial influences, unique to each island and historic city.

Join fellow OU alumni and friends, along with alumni and friends from other colleges and universities as we escape to the warm temperatures and alluring ports of the pristine southern Caribbean by intimate sailing ship; this quintessential cruise 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. Book now, while space and Early Booking Savings are available.

Sincerely,

Lea Ann Quirk
Director of Alumni Programs
OU Alumni Association
In 1493, while pursuing the ever-elusive route to the gold and spices of the East Indies, Christopher Columbus encountered the sun-drenched shores of an archipelago abundant with lush tropical rainforests and the fresh breeze of the cooling trade winds. Recapture the spirit of this long-ago era aboard your exclusively chartered small ship. Watch the sails unfurl to harness favorable winds and carry you toward the unspoiled, secluded havens of the Windward Islands. Each of these tropical ports, which alternated between rivalrous British and French rule, today holds its own local heritage and natural treasures.

Barbados
Commence your Caribbean cruise in UNESCO World Heritage-designated Bridgetown. Originally inhabited by Arawaks, stunning Barbados was the first landing spot for many Spanish and Portuguese explorers, who named it Los Barbados—“the bearded ones”—for the unusual bearded fig trees.

St. Vincent
Walk through the largest botanical gardens in the Western Hemisphere, populated with trees from around the world and the endangered St. Vincent parrot. Enjoy sweeping vistas of the Caribbean Sea and the capital city of Kingstown from the early-19th-century ruins of Fort Charlotte, built atop a steep promontory. Known as the “City of Arches,” Kingstown is replete with historic architecture, including the 19th-century cathedrals of St. George and St. Mary.

The Grenadines
Sail to lush Bequia, the largest of the Grenadines at just seven square miles and arguably the most beautiful. Although Amerindians from South America first inhabited Bequia, it was the Caribs who named it the “Island of Clouds.” Enjoy spectacular views of yacht-filled Admiralty Bay from the remains of 18th-century Hamilton Fort.
Visit the Old Hegg Turtle Sanctuary, dedicated to raising and safely releasing endangered hawksbill sea turtles.

Spend time swimming and snorkeling in Saline Bay, Mayreau, where iridescent blue waves wash peaceful shores, and savor a seaside barbecue lunch.

An ideal snorkeling retreat shielded from the sea by Horseshoe Reef, Tobago Cays Marine Park is an underwater gallery of colorful sponges, conchs, sea turtles and reef fish.

Dramatic volcanic peaks juxtapose the shallow coral reef in Chatham Bay, Union Island. Snorkel in turquoise waters flourishing with marine life. Gather on deck for a barbecue dinner under a bright blanket of stars (weather permitting).

Martinique
The most heavily French-influenced of all the Caribbean Basin, Martinique celebrates its Creole heritage amid paradisical scenery. In Fort-de-France, see the varied architectural styles of its historic buildings blending harmoniously with the landscape, including the elaborate Romanesque Schoelcher Library. Admire the verdant Pitons du Carbet from the Sacré Cœur de Balata, a reduced replica of Paris’s Basilica of Montmartre.

Mineral deposits in Soufrière cause Diamond Falls to be the most colorful waterfall in the Caribbean.

From the veranda of a Creole farmhouse in the famous Balata Gardens, watch effervescent hummingbirds feed on sweet nectar. Then, wind through a shaded canopy of trees, including twining begonias, mahogany, musa nana and bamboo, and around the 3000 varieties of its tropical plants. In the St. Pierre Volcanological Museum, see artifacts excavated from the petrified ash of Mount Pelée.

Grenada's historic capital of St. George is scenically tucked into the horseshoe-shaped harbor of Carenage.

Snorkel among peaceful hawksbill sea turtles in the clear-blue waters of the Grenadines.

Later, admire typical Creole architecture amid vast sugarcane fields at the Clément Plantation, a French historical landmark and producer of Clément rum for more than 125 years. Tour the former distillery and see galleries that highlight local Caribbean artists and Creole heritage.

Stop in the manor house, notable as the site of the 1991 post-Gulf War meeting between the leaders.
St. Lucia

The view of St. Lucia’s twin volcanic peaks—the Gros Piton and Petit Piton, together a UNESCO World Heritage site—is majestic and unmistakable. In Soufrière, wander a canopied haven of vivid flora in Diamond Falls Botanical Gardens, cultivated since the 18th century, when mineral baths were crafted over steaming springs for King Louis XVI’s Frenchmen, past rocks tinted yellow, green and purple from the falls’ mineral-rich waters.

At Sulphur Springs, witness firsthand ongoing geological activity in the dormant crater of Soufrière Volcano.

Encircled by thickly forested hilltops, crisp-blue Marigot Bay is a naturally formed shelter and long-time sailor hideaway. Enjoy an afternoon at leisure on the secluded beach in this sublime respite, where an alluring variety of luxurious vessels routinely anchor.

Grenada

Best known as the “Spice Island,” this volcanic isle enjoys cool breezes perfumed with fragrant exports—salt air swirled with nutmeg, cinnamon, cloves, mace, allspice, wild coffee and organic cocoa. First controlled by the French in the early 17th century, Grenada was a British colony for nearly two centuries before achieving independence in 1974; however, distinctive French influences remain in surnames, dialect and spicy dishes, much like New Orleans Creole.

See historic landmarks in the picturesque capital, St. George’s, including the cannons and defensive tunnels of Fort George. Enjoy panoramic views of the Carenage, a scenic waterfront dotted with colorful fishing boats and Georgian buildings. Walk among cinnamon, clove and bay trees in an herb and spice garden, where ginger, pepper and turmeric also grow, and learn about rare botanicals, such as zebapique and jump-up-and-kiss-me, used in cooking, medicines and liqueurs.

Visit Grenada’s largest rum distillery and savor regional, impeccably aged rum. Later, stroll the quintessential white-sand shores of Grand Anse Beach at your leisure.

The Beauty of Barbados

Pre-Cruise Option

The ideal complement to your cruise, tropical Barbados celebrates a thriving geographical and cultural landscape. In the labyrinthine Hunte’s Gardens, exotic plant life blooms in a deep rainforest gully. UNESCO World Heritage-designated Bridgetown showcases more than 350 years of English architecture, including one of the Western Hemisphere’s oldest synagogues, 17th-century St. John’s Church and the George Washington House. Spend two nights in the deluxe Hilton Barbados.

Sojourn on the “Spice Island” Post-Cruise Option

Savor life in the Caribbean with two nights in handsome St. George’s, Grenada. Explore the lush and biodiverse Grand Etang Rainforest, where a crater lake rests on an extinct volcano; visit a 17th-century plantation; and stop in the Grenada Nutmeg Station to learn more about the island’s famed spice. Enjoy deluxe tropical accommodations in the Radisson Grenada Beach Resort—on Grand Anse Beach.

The Pre- and Post-Cruise Options are available at additional cost. Details will be provided with your reservation confirmation.
Deluxe Small Sailing Ship My Le Ponant

Seafaring in its Most Timeless Form
Join us aboard the exclusively chartered, deluxe Le Ponant, an intimate, three-masted motor yacht with sleek lines and elegant beauty. This small ship is designed to cruise into secluded bays larger vessels cannot reach, unfurling 16,000 square feet of sails when winds prevail.

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

With Our Compliments
Indulge in our complimentary amenities—alcoholic and nonalcoholic beverages throughout the cruise and in your Stateroom minibar, and Wi-Fi access on board.

Chic and Casual Dining
Enjoy superb, French-inspired international specialties alfresco in the indoor-outdoor restaurant or in the elegant, wood-paneled dining room. Wine is served with lunch and dinner.

Life on Board
Epitomizing the refined yet casual lifestyle on board, the comfortable public areas showcase the ship’s tasteful sophistication. There is one lounge, a library, expansive open-air decks that extend the full length of the vessel, and an observation platform. Fully equipped Zodiacs are used to facilitate landings.

World-Class Service
The ship’s guest-to-crew ratio of less than two to one allows for the most courteous, attentive and professional service, and the crew are always delighted to answer your questions about sailing. There is a doctor on board.
Included Features

On Board the Exclusively Chartered, Deluxe Sailing Ship Le Ponant

◆ Seven-night cruise featuring the most beautiful locales of the Windward Islands—Barbados; St. Vincent and the Grenadines, including Bequia, Mayreau, Tobago Cays and Union Island; Martinique; St. Lucia; and Grenada.
◆ Deluxe, ocean-view, air-conditioned Stateroom.
◆ Captain’s Welcome and Farewell Receptions.
◆ All meals aboard ship.
◆ Complimentary alcoholic and nonalcoholic beverages available throughout the cruise.
◆ Complimentary Wi-Fi throughout the ship.
◆ Complimentary snorkeling equipment.

Sailing the Windward Islands

◆ Tour of St. Vincent’s historic city center of Kingstown and visit to colonial Fort Charlotte.
◆ Excursion on verdant Bequia, the most beautiful isle of the Grenadines, featuring a visit to the Old Hegg Turtle Sanctuary for endangered hawksbill sea turtles.
◆ City tour of Fort-de-France, Martinique, with a visit to the beautifully preserved Clément Plantation and Rum Distillery and the St. Pierre Volcanological Museum.
◆ Walk through the lush Balata Gardens on Martinique.
◆ Excursion in Soufrière, St. Lucia, featuring panoramic views of the iconic, UNESCO World Heritage-designated Pitons, and visits to Diamond Falls Botanical Gardens and volcanic Sulphur Springs.
◆ 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.
◆ Tour of Grenada, the “Spice Island,” featuring historic Fort St. George and a visit to a local herb and spice garden.
◆ Specially arranged rum tasting at Grenada’s largest distillery.
◆ Time at leisure to enjoy the beach, swim, snorkel or scuba dive in Marigot Bay, St. Lucia; Saline Bay, Mayreau, and Chatham Bay, Union Island, Grenadines; and St. George’s, Grenada.

Always Included

◆ Transfers and luggage handling abroad if your arrival(s)/departure(s) coincide with the scheduled group transfer(s).
◆ Experienced, English-speaking local guides for included excursions.
◆ Gratuities to local guides and drivers on included excursions and transfers.
◆ Hospitality desk aboard the ship.
◆ Complimentary bottled water in your Stateroom and on excursions.
◆ Experienced Gohagan & Company Travel Director at your service.
◆ Automatic $250,000 flight insurance policy for each participant ticketed on flights by Gohagan & Company.
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 these islands, while owing much to colonial and native 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, according to legend. 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 days.

The 18th-century cannons at Bequia's hilltop Hamilton Fort evoke the Caribbean's maritime legends and history.
Please make my/our reservation(s) in Stateroom Category:

1st choice _____  2nd choice _____

- Double occupancy (two twin beds).
- Double occupancy (one queen 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):

Barbados Pre-Cruise Option

- Double at $995 per person.
- Single at $1495 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).

Grenada Post-Cruise Option

- Double at $795 per person.
- Single at $1095 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, at additional cost to be advised,‡ from:
  _____________________________________________________  __________
  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)       (Mobile)
  _____________________________________  ____________________________________
  Email Address       (Business)
  _____________________________________________________  __________
  Preferred Name(s) on Badge(s) Tour No. 112-02/26/19-142

Program reservations require a deposit of $600 per person and $200 per person Barbados Pre-Cruise Option and/or $200 per person Grenada Post-Cruise Option. By reserving and depositing on this program, I 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.

- I/We authorize you to charge my/our deposit of $__________ to:
  - Visa  - MasterCard

Card Number                           Exp. Date

- All FINAL PAYMENTS are required to be made by check or wire transfer by November 23, 2018.

- Please make my/our reservation(s) in Stateroom Category: 1st choice _____ 2nd choice _____

- Double occupancy (two twin beds).
- Double occupancy (one queen 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).

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- Single at $1095 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, at additional cost to be advised,‡ from:
  _____________________________________________________  __________
  (fill in departure city)

- Economy Class
- Business Class

- 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

RESPONSIBILITY: Gohagan & Company, the sponsoring association, its officers, directors, shareholders, and its employees, agents, subsidiaries, affiliates, directors, or trustees, successors, and assigns (collectively “Gohagan”), do not own or operate any entity which is to or has been utilized in your travel, or to provide accommodations, lodging facilities, airline, hotel, railroad, or bus transportation, guided tours, guides or service guides, local ground operators, providers or organizers of optional or extra services, food service or entertainment providers, etc. All such persons and entities are independent contractors. As a result, Gohagan is not liable for any negligent or willful act or failure of act of such person or entity or any other third party.

In addition and without limitation, Gohagan is not responsible for injury, loss, death, inconvenience, delay, or damage to person or property in connection with the provision of any goods or services whether resulting from but not limited to, acts of God or force majeure, acts of government, acts of war or civil unrest, insurrection or revolt, flight, from or by attacks by animals, insects or pests, strikes or other labor activities, criminal or terrorist activity, weather, deviation from the lack of availability of or access to medical attention or the quality thereof, overbooking or downgrading of accommodations, mechanical or other failure of airplanes, vessels, or other means of transportation, or for any failure of any transportation mechanism to arrive or depart timely or safely.

In the event that weather, flight schedules or other uncontrollable factors, you are required to spend an additional night(s), you will be responsible for your own hotel, transfers and meal costs. Baggage is entirely at owner’s risk. The right is reserved to decline to accept as a trip participant, or remove from a trip, without refund, any person Gohagan judges to be incapable of meeting the rigors of the trip for any reason, including but not limited to, age, health, or 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.

Gohagan reserves the right to change the itinerary or trip features at any time and for any reason, with or without notice, and Gohagan shall not be liable for any direct or consequential changes. Ship schedules, port calls, hours of arrival and departure, sightseeing events, special programs and guest lecture series (if applicable), are subject to change or cancellation. Gohagan reserves the right to substitute the motorcoach transportation using hotels, inns or lodges for cruise accommodations if necessary due to weather, water conditions or levels, other events of force majeure, mechanical or other control of the participant and Gohagan. Gohagan is not responsible therefor and is not required to compensate passengers under these circumstances. Gohagan may cancel a trip (or an option) for any reason whatsoever; if so, its sole responsibility is to refund monies paid by the participant to it. Gohagan, however, is not required under these circumstances to refund the cost of any purchased travel insurance. Gohagan is not responsible to refund any person Gohagan judges to be incapable of meeting the requirements of the trip in the event of cost increases due to changes in supplier costs, currency fluctuations or fuel or energy surcharges and all such increases are to be paid to Gohagan upon notice to the tour participant of such increases. On programs which include Gohagan purchased interstate or international air (which originates or returns to the United States), no increased costs will be passed on after final payment except for subsequently imposed governmental tax increases.

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 ($50 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, 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 fees, optional excursion cancellation fees and administrative fees may apply.

TRIP INSURANCE: 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 for comprehensive coverage of such expenses in conjunction with cancellation due to illness or accident, damaged or lost luggage. We will send you an application upon receipt of your reservation.

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University of Oklahoma Alumni Association

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