Passage through the Panama Canal and Costa Rica

A voyage aboard the Exclusively Chartered All-Suite Small Ship
Five-Star M.V. STAR BREEZE

January 29 to February 6, 2016

- Luxury Small Ship—only 106 Suites
- 100% Ocean-View Suites
- All Shore Excursions Included
- A Port Call Every Day!
Dear Alumni, Friends, and Parents,

Few experiences can match one of the world’s most dramatic voyages, a cruise from the Pacific Ocean to the Atlantic through one of the greatest man-made wonders of the world, the ingenious Panama Canal. Having celebrated its centennial anniversary just two years ago, this marvel of engineering and 50-mile passage through the narrow isthmus of Panama continues to astonish even today’s most veteran traveler. During a specially arranged daylight transit, experience firsthand the mighty locks that raise and lower ocean-going vessels 85 feet using no other power than the force of gravity, accomplishing in mere hours what would have taken a three-week circumnavigation of South America in years gone by.

We invite you to join us for this voyage of a lifetime featuring a passage through the historic Panama Canal, and to the unspoiled rainforests of Costa Rica and Panama during the best time of year. On this comprehensive itinerary, visit two UNESCO World Heritage sites along with Panama’s ancient San Blas Islands, where the Guna Indians live much as they did centuries ago. Tour one of acclaimed architect Frank Gehry’s newest designs, Panama City’s Biodiversity Museum. Experience Panama and Costa Rica’s world-renowned and protected national parks—rainforests, islands and archipelagos that foster one of the most pristine ecosystems on our planet.

This spectacular offering features the privately chartered, all-Suite, Five-Star M.V. STAR BREEZE, just relaunched by an award-winning cruise line after an expansive, $8.5 million refurbishment. This sophisticated small ship features only 106 Suites, six with a private furnished veranda and 36 with private French-style balcony—ideal for your own private viewing while enjoying a daylight passage through the Panama Canal. Dock in small ports of call inaccessible to larger vessels and enjoy the advantages of Five-Star small-ship cruising—casually elegant ocean-view accommodations, an exclusive itinerary carefully crafted with daily excursions led by experienced onboard naturalists and no waiting in long lines.

This is an extraordinary opportunity and an excellent value. I encourage you to book now while space is available.

Sincerely,

Dan Stypa
Associate Director of Alumni Engagement

Please call the Traveling Owls at 713-34-TRIPS (87477) or email travelingowls@rice.edu if you have questions.

“The Gohagan staff really nailed the logistics for our trip! Everything ran smoothly and seemingly effortlessly from our viewpoint. I was very impressed! The staff on the tour went out of their way to make sure we had everything we needed.”

—Rice alums, class of ’73 & ’74, on a recent Traveling Owls trip operated by Thomas P. Gohagan & Company.
Called the “coast of riches” by the Spanish conquistadors who discovered it in 1502, Costa Rica offers visitors incredibly beautiful, ecologically diverse and fascinating cultural experiences. More than 25% of the country is a national park, wildlife refuge or protected rainforest, earning Costa Rica the distinction of the greenest country in the world and the leading destination for eco-tourism. Explore lush rainforests, walk along exquisite beaches and see a stunning array of wildlife, where rare and endemic species flourish, including howler monkeys, colorful tree frogs and Costa Rica’s 600 species of non-migratory birds. Costa Rica’s national motto is “Pura vida!” which translates literally as “pure life” but is better expressed by the optimistic, carefree spirit and the smiling faces of the ticos (Costa Rican natives) who welcome you to this spectacular landscape.

San José, Costa Rica
The horticultural diversity of Costa Rica, the “Garden of the Americas,” is evident in the parks of this vibrant capital city. San José is also an interesting mix of architectural styles, including Spanish Colonial, Moorish and Modernist. Its National Theater is a regal Baroque edifice modeled on Milan’s La Scala. The National Museum’s exhibits feature impressive pre-Columbian Central American artifacts.

Curú National Wildlife Refuge
Unlike traditional nature reserves, Curú Wildlife Refuge is a unique blend of sustainable agriculture, forest management and wildlife protection, encompassing five distinctive untouched habitats making it the ideal place to see the intricacies of co-dependent ecosystems. Enjoy a guided walk in the morning, the best time of day to observe an abundance of wildlife including pumas, anteaters, ocelots, otters and more than 230 species of birds.

Manuel Antonio National Park
Experience an unparalleled diversity of wildlife in this lush tropical paradise, a captivating combination of rainforest, beaches and coral reefs, home to more than 100 species.
of mammals, almost 200 species of birds and various reptiles and amphibians. In this “Living Eden,” expert naturalists will help you spot colorful toucans, screeching howler monkeys, camouflaged iguanas, squirrel monkeys and rare and endangered species such as the scarlet macaw and quetzal, all of which are protected by law in this natural haven.

**Golfo Dulce**
The secluded natural wonderland of Golfo Dulce, bordering the Piedras Blancas National Park, was declared “one of the most biologically intense places on earth.” Explore flora and fauna firsthand on the grounds of the Saladero Eco Lodge, an exclusive, pristine private property accessible only by boat and encompassing nearly 500 acres of primary old-growth rainforest, tropical gardens and beach, offering spectacular viewing of Costa Rica’s rich wildlife, including scarlet macaws and the endangered spider monkey. In nearby Casa Orquídeas, a stunning, maze-like botanical garden of over 100 species of orchids, bromeliads, heliconias and edible plants, look for colorful toucans, scarlet macaws and jewel-hued hummingbirds.

**Coiba National Park, Panama**
Designated a UNESCO World Heritage site, Coiba National Park and its Special Zone of Marine Protection has emerged as a rich laboratory for studying coral, mammals and plants. In addition to 69 species of fish, humpback, orca, sperm and Cuvier’s beaked whales are known to migrate through the marine park’s perimeter. Explore Isla Coiba, the largest island in Central America. Once an isolated political prison, Isla Coiba today is a host of terrestrial wonders—untouched rainforest, rugged headlands, pristine white-sand beaches and mangrove thickets—the perfect environment for the evolution of new and endemic subspecies and for the preservation and protection of endangered species. Enjoy opportunities to snorkel or swim in the turquoise waters of the Gulf of Chiriquí and encounter the wildlife during a guided nature walk on this tranquil and pristine, lesser-traveled paradise.

**Panama City**
Central America’s most attractive capital city was founded in 1519 by Spanish explorers and rebuilt in the late 17th century. In the UNESCO World Heritage site “old quarter” known as...
Casco Antiguo, discover a charming neighborhood with cobblestone streets, a stunning 16th-century cathedral and many historic architectural edifices that remain intact. 

Adjacent to the Panama Canal, the Miraflores Locks Visitor Center provides an opportunity to see how the locks operate. Nearby, the new Biodiversity Museum, designed by architect Frank Gehry of Guggenheim fame, showcases the ecological significance of Panama’s exotic flora and fauna.

San Blas Islands
Located on the Caribbean side of Panama, the sun-drenched San Blas Islands are an extraordinary testament to Panama’s commitment to the indigenous Guna Indians, also known as the Kuna Indians, and their centuries-old language, customs and culture. Villagers live in typical thatched roof huts, barter or trade in fish and agricultural products and paddle dugout canoes, their main mode of transportation. Guna women continue to hand stitch traditional colorful molas (reverse appliqué panels) and wear winis, long strings of tiny beads wrapped around their forearms and legs in striking geometric patterns.

Costa Rica’s Cloud Forests and Volcanoes Pre-Program Option
A medley of Costa Rica’s diverse biospheres, this spectacular opportunity features the mysterious Los Angeles Cloud Forest Private Biological Reserve, an enlightening exploration of the richly unique layers of the Arenal Volcano rainforest along suspended and fixed bridges, a dip in soothing geothermal springs nestled among powerful volcanoes and historic San José, with a taste of its rich culture—coffee and chocolate. Accommodations are for two nights in the ideally located HOTEL ROYAL CORIN and one night in the hacienda-style COSTA RICA MARRIOTT HOTEL SAN JOSÉ.

Dynamic Panama—The Renaissance of a City Post-Program Option
The perfect complement to Panama’s man-made wonder and “the crossroads of the Americas” is an exploration of old and new Panama. Visit Panama Viejo, the remains of the 16th-century Spanish town and a UNESCO World Heritage site, enjoy an architectural tour featuring Panama City and cruise on the Chagres River through the rainforest to learn more about Panama’s indigenous people. Accommodations for two nights are in the ideally located, deluxe BRISTOL PANAMA HOTEL.

Costa Rica’s imposing Arenal Volcano entered into a resting phase in 2010 and is now surrounded by lush rainforest.
The exclusively chartered, Five-Star, all-Suite M.V. STAR BREEZE is relaunching this year after an $8.5 million refurbishment by a top Small-Ship cruise line. Intimate cruising at its finest, this Small Ship can dock in ports inaccessible to larger vessels and celebrates traditional “sail aways” on deck. Its Zodiacs carry small groups on island landings and excursions that are led by expert naturalists.

Each of the 106 Five-Star, spacious, ocean-view Suites features one queen bed (most convertible to two twin beds), a private granite-finished bathroom with shower (most with full bathtub), luxurious European linens and amenities, individual climate control, flat-screen satellite television, wireless Internet access, safe, minibar, dressing table, plush robes and slippers and hair dryer. Ideal for private viewing of the Panama Canal daylight transit are the six larger Suites, each with a furnished veranda, and the 36 French Balcony Suites, each with floor-to-ceiling sliding glass door and wooden railing. Ocean-View Suites have one picture window. Complimentary welcome flowers and fruit are provided in each Suite upon arrival.

The elegant AmphorA dining room accommodates all guests at a single, unassigned seating, and an attentive staff serves contemporary international cuisine. Guests may enjoy indoor or outdoor dining in the Veranda restaurant for breakfast and lunch or reserve a table at Candles for alfresco evening dining. The Yacht Club coffee bar and lounge offers light snacks in between meals. Complimentary house wine is served with dinner; nonalcoholic beverages are included throughout the cruise. Room service is also available.

The inviting public areas are tastefully appointed and include a large lounge, where a program of enriching lectures is held; two bars; a comfortable library; computer center with Internet access; spa; fitness center; boutique; casino; outdoor whirlpools and swimming pool; and a watersports marina with complimentary paddleboarding, kayaking and snorkeling equipment. The ship has two elevators and a medical facility staffed with a physician.

With a ratio of one crew member for every 1.5 guests, the English-speaking, Travel + Leisure award-winning crew provides personal and attentive service.
Included Features

In San José, Costa Rica

◆ One night in the hacienda-style COSTA RICA MARRIOTT HOTEL SAN JOSÉ.
◆ American breakfast.
◆ Tour of San José, including the National Theater and National Museum.

Scenic transfer from San José to Puerto Caldera.

On board the exclusively chartered, all-Suite Small Ship Five-Star M.V. STAR BREEZE

◆ Seven-night cruise from Puerto Caldera, Costa Rica, to Colón, Panama, Panama Canal Transit, and featuring port calls at Curú National Wildlife Refuge; Quepos for Manuel Antonio National Park; Golfo Dulce for Saladero Eco Lodge and Casa Orquideas, Costa Rica; and Isla Coiba, Panama City and the San Blas Islands, Panama.

◆ Spacious, Five-Star ocean-view, all-Suite accommodations, each with a private bathroom and individual climate control.

◆ Captain’s Welcome and Farewell Receptions.

◆ All gourmet meals—breakfast, lunch and dinner—served at single, unassigned seatings.

◆ All gifts and tour guides on included and optional excursions.

◆ Expert onboard naturalist guides to lead small group excursions.

◆ Guided tour through Curú National Wildlife Refuge to see a wide array of wildlife in a natural habitat, such as the rare scarlet macaw and the spider monkey.

◆ Excursion in stunning and biodiverse Manuel Antonio National Park.

◆ Visit to the pristine Saladero Eco Lodge, located in the undisturbed Piedras Blancas National Park, a perfect setting for kayaking, walking or relaxing in a tranquil primary rainforest environment.

◆ Walking tour of spectacular Casa Orquídeas, a private botanical paradise alive with the scents and colors of bromeliads, heliconias, cycads, orchids, flowering gingers, spice trees and more.

◆ Specially arranged visit to the unspoiled Island of Coiba, a UNESCO World Heritage site, with opportunities for snorkeling and swimming in the pristine waters of the Gulf of Chiriqui and a guided nature walk.

◆ Guided tour through Panama City, highlighted by a visit to its UNESCO World Heritage site, Casco Antiguo, the new Frank Gehry-designed Biodiversity Museum and the informative Panama Canal Mirafl ores Locks Museum.

◆ Specially arranged passage through the Panama Canal during daylight hours, accompanied by a narration on the history of the canal.

◆ Excursion to the remote, ancestral San Blas Islands.

Scenic transfer from Colón to Panama City.

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 and naturalists.

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

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

◆ Hospitality desk aboard ship and in the hotel.

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

◆ Automatic $250,000 fl ight insurance policy for each participant ticketed on fl ights by Gohagan & Company.
The Panama Canal
Marvel of Human Engineering
More than a Century of Passages

During a specially arranged daylight passage, experience firsthand the “greatest liberty ever taken with nature,” which cuts through the Great Continental Divide, spans 50 miles and took 33 years to complete at a cost of $400 million. This historic engineering feat changed the world, opening up new channels of international trade and allowing ships to travel between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans in a fraction of the time it took to circumnavigate South America.

After France’s failed attempt to build a sea-level canal here in the 19th century and following the U.S. involvement in Panama’s independence, the project was turned over to the U.S. in 1903 and construction began during the presidency of Theodore Roosevelt. Among the 100,000 workers involved in the construction was French Post-Impressionist artist Paul Gauguin. When completed in 1914, the Panama Canal was considered one of the seven wonders of the modern world. Now, more than a century later, the Panama Canal is undergoing a $5.25 billion expansion, adding a wider third lane that can accommodate more than twice the cargo of the current lanes, maintaining its status as the “gateway to the world.”

Tens of thousands of workers labored and sacrificed to complete the largest engineering endeavor of the early 20th century.
LAND/CRUISE TARIFF (per person, based on double occupancy)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Suite Category*</th>
<th>Description: Ocean-view Suites range from 277 to 575 sq. ft. and most have one queen bed convertible to two twin beds. All feature a private bathroom with shower (most with tub), sitting area and walk-in closet.</th>
<th>Early Booking Price July 7, 2015</th>
<th>Regular Price July 7, 2015</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>One picture window, Deck 4, forward (limited availability)</td>
<td>$4395</td>
<td>$5395</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>One picture window, Deck 4, forward (limited availability)</td>
<td>$4895</td>
<td>$5895</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>One picture window, Deck 4, midship</td>
<td>$5595</td>
<td>$6595</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>One picture window, Deck 5, forward (limited availability) and midship</td>
<td>$5895</td>
<td>$6895</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>One picture window, Deck 6, forward (limited availability) and midship</td>
<td>$6395</td>
<td>$7395</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>French-style private balcony (floor-to-ceiling sliding glass door and wooden railing), Deck 5, midship</td>
<td>$6995</td>
<td>$7995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>French-style private balcony (floor-to-ceiling sliding glass door and wooden railing), Deck 6, midship</td>
<td>$7495</td>
<td>$8495</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Classic Suite II**

| Large Suite with French-style glass doors and private furnished veranda, two obstructed-view picture windows and living/dining room. Deck 6, midship, (limited availability) | $7995 | $8995 |

**Classic Suite I**

| Larger Suite with French-style glass doors and private furnished veranda, full wall of front-view picture windows and living/dining room. Deck 5, forward | $8395 | $9395 |

**Owner’s Suite**

| Larger Suite with glass door onto private furnished veranda, full wall of front-view picture windows, additional private powder room and larger living/dining room, Deck 6, forward (limited availability) | $8795 | $9795 |

*The M.V. Star Breeze has been specially contracted for this tour, and the applicable deck plan is available on request from Kohagan & Company and reflects the only valid cabin categorization of the vessel.

**The Panaman Canal and Costa Rica Reservation Form**

Send to: Office of Alumni Relations - MS S20  Attn: Rice Alumni Traveling Owls PO Box 1892 Houston, TX 77251-1892 Fax: 713-348-5210

Please call the Traveling Owls at 713-34-TRIPS (87477) or email travelingowls@rice.edu to make reservations, or with questions regarding this tour.

**The Association of Rice Alumni and Rice University** serve only in a capacity of assisting the undersigned travelers in making arrangements for travel, services, accommodations, and products provided by the tour operator, certain land transport carriers, and other providers of services and accommodations during the trip and in no way serve as agents for these businesses, or accept responsibility for their services and products. Such travel, services, accommodations, and products are subject to the terms and conditions under which they are offered or provided. Therefore, having read and understood the above, as well as the schedule of activities for this tour and the Responsibility statement appearing on this brochure, the undersigned hereby agrees for and on behalf of himself, his dependents, heirs, executors, administrators, and assigns, to release and hold harmless the Association of Rice Alumni and Rice University and any of their respective officers, agents, licensees, or representatives from any and all liability for delays, injuries, or death, or for the loss of, or damage to, his property however occurring during any portion of, or in relation to the tour. Therefore, having read and understood the above, as well as the schedule of activities for this tour and the Responsibility statement appearing on this brochure, the undersigned hereby agrees for and on behalf of himself, his dependents, heirs, executors, administrators, and assigns, to release and hold harmless the Association of Rice Alumni and Rice University and any of their respective officers, agents, licensees, or representatives from any and all liability for delays, injuries, or death, or for the loss of, or damage to, his property however occurring during any portion of, or in relation to the tour.

**Early Booking Price**

- First Choice: $10945
- 2nd Choice: $11399

**Regular Price**

- $10945
- $11399

**M.V. Star Breeze**

Category

- Deck 8
- Deck 7
- Deck 6
- Deck 5
- Deck 4
- Deck 3

**Preferred Name(s) on Badge(s)**

**Tour No.** 096-01/29/16-168

**Program requirements**

- A limited number of singles are available in category 5 at $9995, in category 4 at $10495 and in category 2 at $13995 on or before July 7, 2015. Add $1000 for reservations made after July 7, 2015.

**Taxes**

- Add taxes at $330 per person and are subject to change.
RELEASE OF LIABILITY, ASSUMPTION OF RISK AND BINDING ARBITRATION AGREEMENT

RESPONSIBILITY: Thomas P. Gohagan & Company, the sponsoring entity or of any other third party.

In addition and without limitation, Gohagan is not responsible for any injury, loss, death, delay, detention, 3rd party, or other condition of disability that would create a hazard for him/herself or other participants and accepts the terms contained in this Release of Liability, Assumption of Risk and Binding Arbitration Agreement.

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.

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 180 days prior to departure; $120 through 179 days prior to departure, $800 to $200 Pre/Post Program(s) per person; from 61 through 119 days prior to departure, 50% of the published full regular tariffs; cancellations 60 days or less prior to departure, 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 RATES: Prices quoted 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 with full payment, Gohagan reserves the right to increase the tour price 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.

All programs require physical fitness and 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.

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