



Travel with  
The Met

January 25–February 2, 2018

Cuba by Sea: Cienfuegos to Havana Aboard *Variety Voyager*  
with Medill Higgins Harvey,  
Assistant Curator of American Decorative Arts

THE  
MET



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# Cuba by Sea: Cienfuegos to Havana

Dear Members and Friends of The Metropolitan Museum of Art,

Please join me next January for a cultural cruise along Cuba's Caribbean coast. From Cienfuegos to Havana, we will journey aboard a privately chartered yacht, discovering well-preserved colonial architecture and fascinating small museums, meeting talented artists in their studios, and enjoying private concerts and other exclusive events.

In Cienfuegos, where travelers may wish to join an optional prelude, our itinerary will include admiring the city's French-accented architecture and attending an intimate performance by an *a cappella* group. Then board the sleek *Variety Voyager* to travel to Trinidad, one of the most picturesque and best-preserved colonial cities in the Americas. On remote Isla de la Juventud, see the prison (now a museum) that once held Fidel Castro. We will also have the opportunity to chat with marine ecologists on María la Gorda, a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve and haven for divers, before continuing to Havana for our two-day finale in Cuba's spirited capital city. Our time there will allow you to stroll the cobblestone streets of Old Havana, visit Ernest Hemingway's hilltop home, and meet up-and-coming artists at a private reception.

As a specialist in the decorative arts, I am particularly looking forward to our visit to the Romantic Museum in Trinidad. This wonderful collection of French porcelain, mahogany furniture, and other lavish and fascinating objects faithfully recreates the ambiance of a colonial sugar baron's home.

*Variety Voyager* features only 36 cabins and is the perfect conveyance for exploring Cuba. With the ship as our elegant hotel, we will call at various ports, meeting Cubans from all walks of life and taking advantage of The Met's long-standing friendships in this country, where we have been offering educational travel since 1999.

An optional postlude includes more special visits in Havana and an excursion to the lush Pinar del Río province.

I look forward to welcoming you on this singular exploration of a rapidly changing nation.

Sincerely,  
Medill Higgins Harvey  
Assistant Curator of American Decorative Arts  
The Metropolitan Museum of Art



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## Traveling with you

Medill Higgins Harvey

Medill Higgins Harvey, Assistant Curator of American Decorative Arts, is a specialist in 19th- and early 20th-century American silver, metalwork, and furniture. She joined the staff of The American Wing to direct research for the exhibition *Art and The Empire City* (2000). She is co-author of *Early American Silver in The Metropolitan Museum of Art* (2013), contributed to the 2009 and 2011 reinstallations of the American silver and jewelry collections, and researches and interprets the 19th-century period rooms. She holds a BA in art history from Dartmouth College and was awarded an MA in decorative art history by the Cooper-Hewitt Museum/Parsons. Ms. Harvey looks forward to engaging you in an exploration of the relationships between Cuban and North American decorative arts and interiors.

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## Trip Highlights

- Cruise Cuba's Caribbean coast, with its rugged mountains, pristine beaches, and well-preserved colonial architecture
- Spend seven nights aboard the privately chartered yacht, *Variety Voyager*
- Experience the French flavor of Cienfuegos and stroll the streets of lost-in-time Trinidad
- Delight in the soaring voices of a world-renowned choir during an exclusive performance
- Learn about *santería*, the syncretic Afro-Catholic religion practiced by millions of Cubans
- Conclude with two days in Havana, meeting up-and-coming artists and performers at specially arranged events



Cayo Largo, photo by Torpedolov Ukraine



Photos clockwise from top right: Women in traditional costumes, Havana, photo by Isabelle Chauvel; Old Havana: Colón Cemetery, photo by E. Sorensen; El Morro Castle with classic cars; Plaza de la Catedral, Old Havana, photo by Jaimedelamata; regional map. Front cover: *View of Ranch El Valle in Camaguey Cuba 1950*. Emilio Sanchez (American, born Cuba 1921–1999). Watercolor. The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Gift of Emilio Sanchez, 1965 [65.713.48]. Back cover photo: Trinidad, photo by wickedmrb (top); Cienfuegos, photo by Natalie Maynor (bottom).



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Trinidad, photo by Gregory Smith

An optional two-night prelude is offered in Cienfuegos from January 23-25, 2018.

## U.S. Departure / Cienfuegos

Thursday, January 25

Arrive in Cienfuegos where you will be met and transferred to the Hotel Jagua for an overnight stay. Dinner this evening is at a lively local restaurant.

## Cienfuegos / Embark Variety Voyager

Friday, January 26

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). Then explore the internationally recognized Cienfuegos Botanical Garden, founded by an American sugar baron, or visit a historic cigar factory to discuss the importance of tobacco to the Cuban economy. Afterwards, attend a private recital by the world-renowned Cienfuegos Chamber Choir. Embark *Variety Voyager* in the late afternoon for a welcome reception and dinner. The ship sails overnight to Trinidad. B, L, R, D

## Trinidad

Saturday, January 27

This morning choose a walking tour of charming Trinidad, also a UNESCO World Heritage Site, with a guided visit to the Romantic Museum, filled with exquisite antiques, furniture, and other items once belonging to the local aristocracy. Or hike through Topes de Collantes, a nature reserve park that is home to wild banana trees, unique hummingbirds, and other exotic flora and fauna. After lunch at a popular *paladar*, tour

the studios of prominent local artists and meet a *santería* priest (*babalao*) for a riveting talk on this Afro-Catholic religion, practiced by millions of Cubans. B, L, D

## Cayo Largo

Sunday, January 28

Arrive on the tiny island of Cayo Largo for a visit to the local clinic, where we 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. There will be time to swim or snorkel at one of the island’s pristine beaches before reboarding. B, L, D

## Isla de la Juventud

Monday, January 29

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 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 and a local maternity ward, pending scheduling. B, L, D

## María la Gorda

Tuesday, January 30

Legend has it that this island’s name derives from the story of a beautiful, *zafitig* 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 hike with a local guide. Savor our last day at sea as *Variety Voyager* cruises overnight to Havana, docking for two nights in port of Old Havana. B, L, D

## Havana

Wednesday, January 31

Embark on a morning walk through Old Havana, where many historic buildings have been restored to their original splendor. In the afternoon, drive to Finca Vigía, the hilltop retreat where Ernest Hemingway lived for 20 years and wrote two of his most famous books. We have been 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. B, L, R, D

## Havana

Thursday, February 1

Begin the day with a curatorial tour of the Cuban collection at the National Museum of Fine Arts. Then attend an informal rehearsal of the Rosario Cárdenas Company, a contemporary dance troupe combining classical ballet with modern and folkloric elements. Lunch is at La Guarida, Havana’s most celebrated *paladar*, followed by a visit to Colón Cemetery, whose ornate tombstones commemorate Cuban heroes, statesmen, and novelists. Sample a *mojito* or *Cuba libre* on the terrace of the landmark Hotel Nacional, overlooking Havana’s iconic waterfront, before returning to *Variety Voyager* for our farewell dinner. B, L, D

## Havana / U.S. Return

Friday, February 2

Disembark and transfer to the airport for flights home. B

An optional two-night postlude in Havana and Pinar del Río is offered from February 2–4, 2018.

The itinerary is subject to change at the discretion of The Metropolitan Museum of Art and Arrangements Abroad. For complete details, please carefully read the Terms & Conditions at [www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms](http://www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms)

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## More Travels with The Met

**Japan: Ancient Traditions, Modern Art & Architecture** October 13–24, 2017

**The Great Châteaux & Vineyards of Bordeaux Aboard *AmaDolce*** October 18–26, 2017

**India: In the Footsteps of the Buddha** October 27–November 10, 2017

**Buenos Aires & Beyond** November 27–December 6, 2017

For details, please go to [metmuseum.org/travel](http://metmuseum.org/travel)

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## Land / Cruise Rates

Cabins	Decks	Double Rates	Single Rates
108 to 113 Staterooms, double bed or twin beds.	Marina Deck	\$8,999	\$11,699
101 to 107 Staterooms, double bed or twin beds.	Marina Deck	\$10,299	\$13,389
212 to 215 Staterooms, double bed or twin beds.	Riviera Deck	\$10,299	\$15,449
201 to 211 Staterooms, double bed or twin beds.	Riviera Deck	\$11,999	\$17,999
301 to 306 & 308 Master Staterooms, double bed or twin beds.	Horizons Deck	\$12,999	\$20,799
307 Owner's Suite, double bed.	Horizons Deck	\$14,999	\$29,999

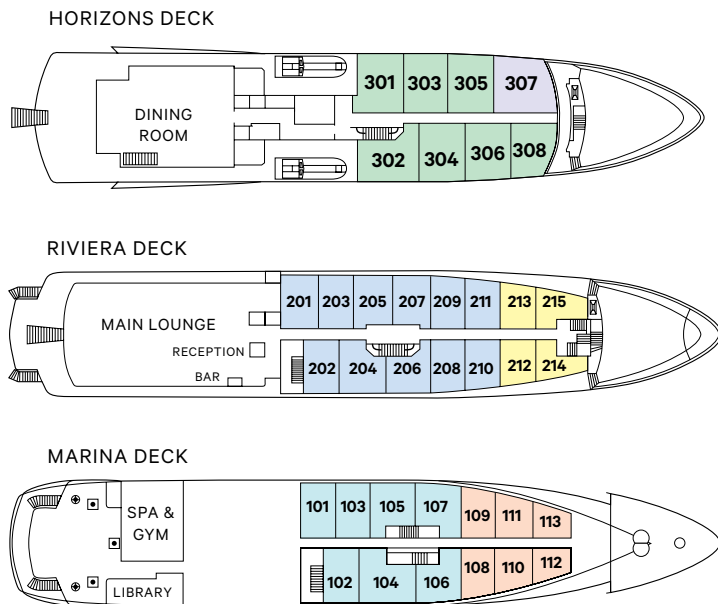
## Rates Include

- Seven nights cabin accommodations aboard *Variety Voyager*
- Overnight stay at the Hotel Jagua in Cienfuegos
- All meals during the cruise (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, R=Reception, D=Dinner). Bottled water and coffee/tea with all meals; wine and beer with lunches and dinners
- Airport/hotel/pier/airport group transfers for all participants on suggested flights
- Enrichment program of lectures and special events comprised of a full-time schedule of people-to-people activities
- Transportation by private motor coach; entrance fees for all included visits
- Customary shipboard gratuities; gratuities to local guides and drivers
- Taxes, service, and portage charges

### Not included in rates

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; airport/hotel transfers for those not on suggested flights; luggage in excess of one suitcase; meals not specified; trip insurance; optional Cienfuegos prelude; optional Havana/Pinar del Rio postlude; any other items not specifically mentioned as included.

## Variety Voyager



Variety Voyager

Christened in 2012, the intimate, 36-cabin yacht *Variety Voyager* 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.

## Cuba by Sea: January 25–February 2, 2018

### Reservation Form

To secure your reservation, please call Academic Arrangements Abroad at 844-TRVLMET (844-878-5638); or complete this form and return it with your deposit of \$1,000 (of which \$500 is non-refundable for administrative fees), to be paid by debit card, credit card, wire transfer, or check payable to *Academic Arrangements Abroad*. Mail to: Academic Arrangements Abroad, 1040 Avenue of the Americas, 23rd Floor, New York, NY 10018-3721.

Names in full as on passports. Please print.

Address

City State Zip

Telephone (home) (business)

Fax Email

### Accommodations

Variety Voyager cabin preference (1) \_\_\_\_\_ (2) \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to share a cabin with \_\_\_\_\_

### Optional Prelude

I/We wish to join the optional prelude in Cienfuegos

### Optional Postlude

I/We wish to join the optional postlude in Havana & Pinar del Rio

Hotel Room Preference  One bed  Two beds  Single

### Form Of Payment

Enclosed is my check (payable to *Academic Arrangements Abroad*)  Debit card  Credit card

Name on debit/credit card

Debit/credit card number

3- or 4-digit security code

Expiration date

**Each participant must sign below. I/We have read, understand and agree to the Terms & Conditions at [www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms](http://www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms) and detailed in forthcoming program documents. I/We agree to full payment 120 days prior to departure.**

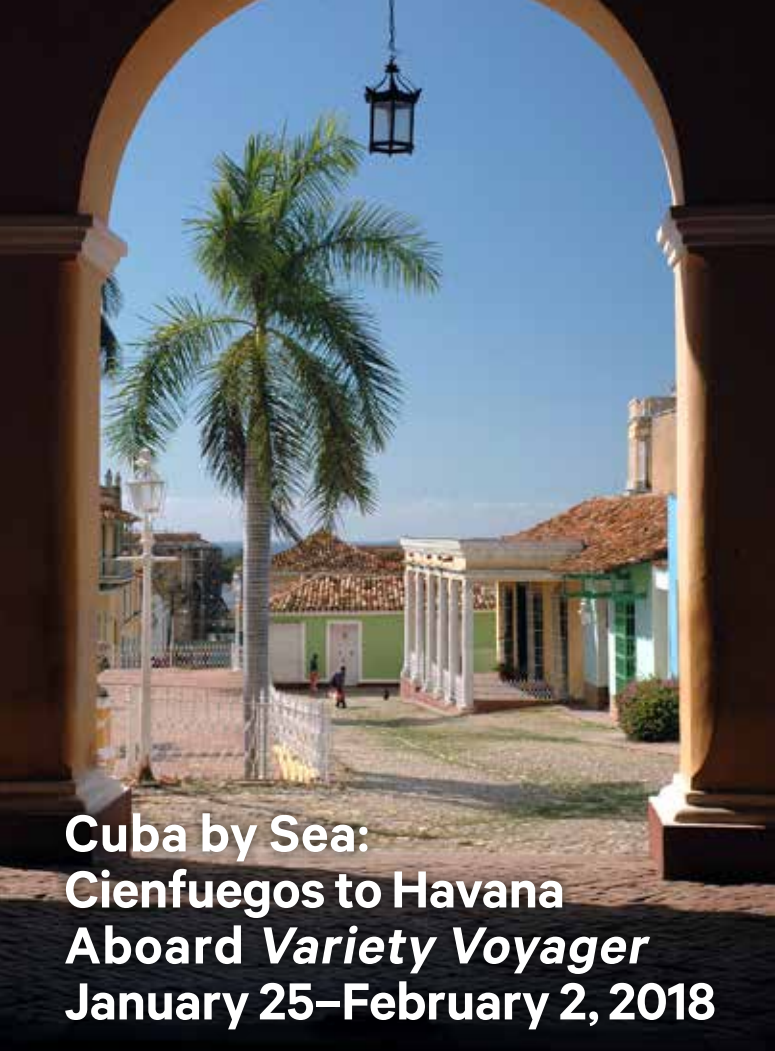
Signature (required)

Date

Signature (required)

Date





**Cuba by Sea:  
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Aboard *Variety Voyager*  
January 25–February 2, 2018**

**The Metropolitan  
Museum of Art**

1000 Fifth Avenue  
New York, NY 10028

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