

THE CUBAN PANORAMA CRUISE - 2016/17

7 night cruises Havana to Cienfuegos & reverse

On board the sister ships **M/S Panorama** & and the **M/V CALLISTO**



Variety Cruises

Experience a harmonious balance between conventional cruising and private yachting, along with an exciting voyage of discovery, unravelling the wonders of Cuba that await to be discovered. Each day you will discover a new port of call, a hidden cove with crystal blue waters to cool you, a glimpse of history to amaze you and rich cultural diversity to intrigue you. Vibrant Havana and its Old Town, the historical Island of Youth, the colonial cities of Cienfuegos and Trinidad, the verdant landscapes of Vinales / Pinar del Rio, the historical treasures of Isla de Juventud.

The Ships: Motorsailer Panorama, Motorsailer Panorama II and Motoryacht Callisto

The 24-cabin M/S Panorama accommodates 49 guests and was launched in 1993 and renovated in 2001 and 2014. The 25-cabin M/S Panorama II accommodates 49 guests and was launched in 2004 and renovated in 2015. These state of the art Motorsailers have performed several Atlantic Ocean crossings, have sailed from the Seychelles to Monte Carlo and from the Black Sea to Tunis and offer a high standard of accommodation, comfort and safety.

The elegant Motor Yacht Callisto joined the VARIETY CRUISES fleet in 2015 and is true to her name: Elegant, classic. She was fully refit / rebuilt in 2015-16. The M/V Callisto will operate five test cruises in the Spring of 2017 to prepare for a full October 2017-April 2018 CUBA operation.

Life on Board

During the day, life on board the ships centre around the indoor and outdoor common areas including the vessels' classy dining and indoor lounge areas and the outdoor lounges. All ships have sun deck areas with sun lounger. The swimming platform on the vessels' stern enables guests to swim when weather and anchorage conditions permit.

The Cabins

The M/S PANORAMA and M/S PANORAMA II cabins on the Upper and Main decks are equipped with windows while cabins on the Lower deck have portholes. The M/Y Callisto cabins on the Main deck are equipped with windows while cabins on the Lower deck are equipped with portholes. The fully equipped bathrooms are finished with marble or Corian materials. All cabins are air-conditioned and fitted with flat screen TV, telephone (for internal use), hairdryers, mini-fridge, central music, public address system and safe boxes.



THE CUBAN PANORAMA ITINERARIES -2016/17

CIENFUEGOS TO HAVANA

DAY 1: Cienfuegos.

Optional Excursion offered: [Port of CIENFUEGOS: Trinidad Walking Tour](#)

Transfer from Melia COHIBA Hotel - where you will be met and assisted by a member of our team – to Cienfuegos by bus. Continue to the pier for embarkation on the ship, followed by a boat drill and welcome briefing. Late in the afternoon, we will drive to Trinidad for an [optional walking tour](#) in the evening followed by dinner at a local restaurant. Late at night the ship will sail to Casilda. **Overnight at sea to Casilda**

Day 2 : Casilda – Cienfuegos & Trinidad

Optional Excursion offered: [Port of CASILDA – Cienfuegos & Trinidad City tour](#)



This morning we depart for an [optional tour](#) to Cienfuegos & Trinidad. We drive to Cienfuegos and visit the “Pearl of the South” as the city is called by Cubans, the only city founded by French settlers and today, a UNESCO World Heritage site. Mid-morning we return to Trinidad for a daylight visit of a city sometimes referred to as the ‘Museum City of Cuba. Trinidad is a meticulously well-preserved Spanish colonial city with cobblestone streets, palaces and colourful plazas. We will walk through the town and then meet with a representative of the Office of the City Historian and be shown a scale model of the city. Later we will stop at the Romantic Museum located in the old palace of the Count Brunet, with samples of furniture and decorative arts. Visit the unique woodcarving studio of Lasaro. Dinner on board. **Late afternoon sailing to Isla de la Juventud- the Island of Youth – Overnight at sea.**

Day 3: At sea – Isla de Juventud



All day sailing. We reach Isla de Juventud late afternoon and anchor in Bay of Singuanea.

Overnight at anchor

Day 4: Isla de la Juventud

Optional excursion offered: [JUVENTUD Island-tour to NUEVA GERONA](#)



We disembark in the morning and board the bus for our [optional excursion](#) to Nueva Gerona, the capital city of the island. We will visit the “Universidad de la Isla de la Juventud Jesus Montane Oropesa,” enjoy panoramic sightseeing and tour the Presidio Modelo, abandoned panopticon prison of Cuba. While thousands of prisoners were interred in the corrupt prison during its operation, the most infamous inmates were Fidel & Raoul Castro, housed there from 1953 to 1955. Stop for lunch in Nueva Gerona before returning to the beach at the Colony Hotel for an afternoon of leisure. Dinner on board. **Overnight at sea to Maria la Gorda**

Day 5 : Maria La Gorda- Vinales Valley

Complimentary - excursion to Vinales Valley & overnight in hotel



Morning arrival in Maria la Gorda. Disembarkation and we leave our ship for a one day land tour ending in Havana on Thursday (where we will re-embark the ship).



We will visit the Vinales Valley, a UNESCO World Heritage site in the Pinar del Rio Province of Cuba. Encircled by mountains, its landscape is interspersed with dramatic rocky outcrops. Traditional techniques are still in use for agricultural production, particularly of tobacco. Visit a tobacco farm where you will learn about the production of those world famous Cuban cigars. After lunch at an organic foods restaurant, we'll visit an organic farm to hear about how the climate and fertile soil have contributed to the success of organic farming in the region. **Overnight in hotel.**

Day 6: Havana

Optional excursion offered: [Port of Havana – OLD HAVANA](#)



Early in the morning we reach Havana by bus where we re-join our ship. We start our day with an optional walking exploration of Old Havana. Founded in 1519 by the Spanish, Havana became one of the most important ship building centres in the Caribbean, around which a sprawling metropolis grew. Now numbering a population of 2 million, it is a mixture of beautiful old baroque and neo-classical monuments, arcades and private balconies. Old Havana is considered one of the most impressive historical city centres in the Caribbean and in the Americas. We will stop at Fusterlandia, studio of artist Jose Rodriguez Fuster. His brightly coloured mermaids, roofs, walls, benches, doorways and roosters stretch across houses and adorn the entire area. It is said that he was greatly inspired by Gaudi in Barcelona and Brancusi in Rome, but most of all by Picasso and Dubuffet. Lunch will be at one of the restaurants or paladares on shore, followed by a stop at the Merger Art Studio to view some magnificent sculptures before we continue to the San Jose Arts and Crafts Market. Here, in an old 1885 warehouse near the pier, you will find wonderful gifts from carvings, shirts, art, music and more. Enjoy dinner at a local restaurant with live Cuban music at the “Café Taberna” or similar, complete with salsa music in the style of the Buena Vista Social Club. Return to the ship. **Overnight in Sierra Maestra – Havana**

Day 7: Havana

Optional excursion offered: [Port of Havana – ERNEST HEMINGWAY](#)



Disembark for [an optional city tour](#); visit the University of Havana, followed by a visit to Finca Vigia, beloved home of Ernest Hemingway, where he lived for 21 years and wrote *For Whom the Bell Tolls* and *The Old Man and the Sea*. Stop to enjoy lunch at another paladar before continuing to a very unique nostalgic car garage to view just how the Cubans manage to creatively keep those old cars in such fine working condition. Then it's a short drive back to Havana for an exciting performance from the Havana Compass Dance Troupe. These gifted percussionists use drums, chairs, and anything they can find to beat out magnificent dance rhythms, weaving a colourful and exciting dance performance that you are sure to enjoy and long remember. Captain's Farewell Dinner on board.

Overnight in Sierra Maestra – Havana

Day 8 – Havana

Disembarkation

Important note: All CUBAN excursions must be PRE-BOOKED and PRE-PAID 20-days prior to embarkation, with no possibility for last-minute notice/participation.

Note: This itinerary may be subject to change as a result of weather and other factors not in our control. Our vessels have been granted the longest stays of any cruise boats in the port of Havana. Since space at the dock itself is severely limited, this itinerary might involve a combination of having to tender in to shore, as well as docking at one of only two piers.

A/Cruise fares are per person and include

- Accommodation in double or twin cabins with private SH/WC & air conditioning
- Full-board: American buffet breakfast and two meals daily, including a Welcome Cocktail, and Captain's Dinner
- Regular (filter) coffee, tea and still mineral water free all day
- Services of our Cruise Coordinator on and off the ship
- Transfer from Havana to Casilda for Casilda- Havana sailings or from Casilda to Havana for Havana-Casilda sailings

B/ The cruise fares do not include:

- Beverages (except those mentioned above)
- Crew tips
- Passenger personal expenses
- WIFI access not available

Excursions. **Important note: All CUBAN excursions must be PRE-BOOKED and PRE-PAID 20-days prior to embarkation, with no possibility for last-minute notice/participation.**

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Conditions and restrictions

PROOFREADING Tour Operators featuring our Cruises in their Catalogue or Internet site by itinerary, vessel's description and images, will send **VARIETY CRUISES** a draft for error-checking of the contents prior publication as well as two brochure copies when printed. In order to secure correct information given to our clients and keep our high customer satisfaction levels. **Variety Cruises will not bare any responsibility for innacurate information or misrepresentation of our vessels or cruise itineraries without having accepted a draft prior to the brochure going to print or internet page published.**

PAYMENT 25% deposit is required upon confirmation. Balance of payment is due no less than 60 days prior to day of embarkation.

CANCELLATIONS

Up to 120 days from embarkation € 100—cancellation fees

119 to 90 days from embarkation 15% of the cruise fare

89 to 60 days from embarkation 25% of the cruise fare

59 to 30 days from embarkation 50% of the cruise fare

29 to 00 days from embarkation 100% of the cruise fare

Cancellations must be confirmed by **VARIETY CRUISES** in writing in all cases.

AMENDMENTS There may be a charge for amendments of cruise date or decreasing guest numbers received less than 60 days prior to sailing. Amendments must be confirmed by **VARIETY CRUISES** in writing.

NOT INCLUDED IN CRUISE FARE Such personal expenses as drinks (other than included in the rate), laundry and gratuities, (gratuities are optional but as a rule, satisfied clients are expected to give to the captain, at the end of the cruise, approximately Euro 10.00- 12.00 p/p p/day for distribution among crew members) medical expenses, port taxes, shore excursions (shore excursions are proposed and arranged on board by the tour leaders) expenditures incurred ashore, and anything not mentioned in cruise program.

Itineraries can be changed at the discretion of Variety Cruises and of the Vessel's Captain in case of adverse weather conditions - winds of 6/7 beaufort or more depending on the vessel- on port authorities not allowing a vessel to leave port or in case of other extraordinary conditions. Such itinerary changes do not entitle automatically passengers to any refunds but Variety Cruises guarantees that passengers are disembarked at the advertised port of disembarkation on time for their flights.