

Let's Get Crackin'



- April 13-24 2019
- Category C Superior Byrd Deck cabin
- Retail rate: \$10,900 per person, sharing accommodation
- Minimum bid: \$5,000 per person (55% discount of retail)
- 3 Cabins available!
- International air fare not included (currently \$500/pp Economy from SFO)

# Costa Rica, Panama & Colombia

APRIL 13-24, 2019 \* ABOARD THE *HEBRIDEAN SKY*

*FEATURING A PANAMA CANAL DAYTIME TRANSIT*



Cartagena



Spider Monkeys

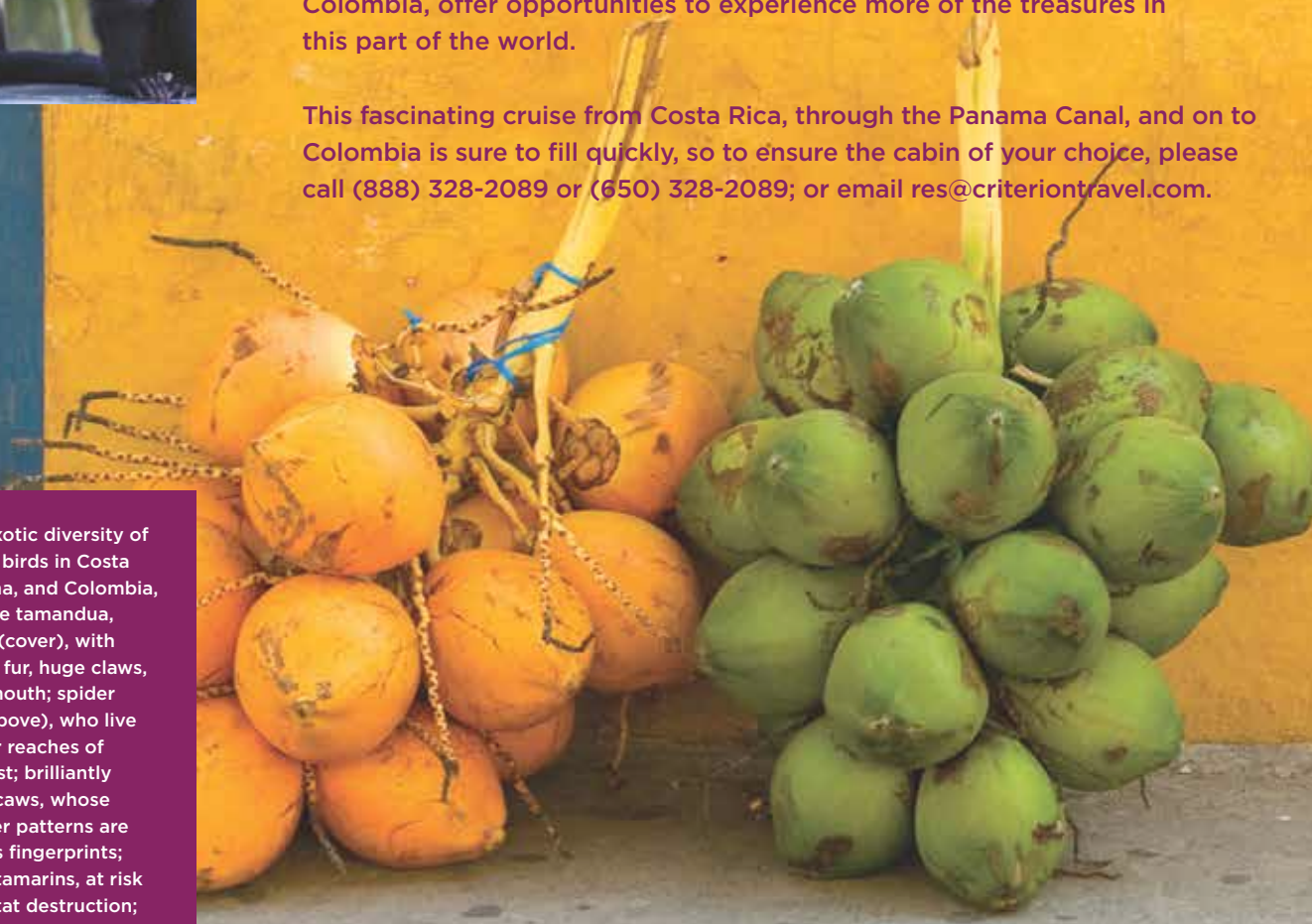
Enjoy some of the loveliest colonial architecture, islands, and rainforest ecosystems in Central America and the Caribbean Sea on a 10-night voyage aboard the all-suite, recently refurbished *Hebridean Sky*. Cruise from Costa Rica, with its fine selection of national parks, to Cartagena, Colombia, a captivating port with beautifully restored Spanish colonial buildings. As you sail along the Pacific coast of Costa Rica and Panama, transit the Panama Canal in daylight, and continue through Caribbean waters, the region's natural beauty comes alive—rainforests teeming with exotic wildlife and bird species; sugary beaches fringed by sparkling azure waters; and dense forests that cascade down impressive mountainsides to the shore.

Swim, snorkel, and explore the fascinating marine life supported by one of the largest coral reefs on the Pacific coast of the Americas. Hike through lush rainforests alive with the vivid sounds and colors of a richly diverse wildlife, admire the orchids in a private botanical garden, and visit the Frank Gehry-designed BioMuseum in Panama City. Also meet the indigenous tribal populations that have been present for countless generations and who maintain many of the customs practiced by their ancestors. An exceptional lecture team that includes experts in architectural preservation and Latin American culture will enhance your experience throughout the cruise.

An optional pre-tour extension to Costa Rica's Monteverde Cloud Forest Reserve and an optional post-tour extension to Medellin and Bogota, Colombia, offer opportunities to experience more of the treasures in this part of the world.

This fascinating cruise from Costa Rica, through the Panama Canal, and on to Colombia is sure to fill quickly, so to ensure the cabin of your choice, please call (888) 328-2089 or (650) 328-2089; or email [res@criteriontravel.com](mailto:res@criteriontravel.com).

Enjoy the exotic diversity of wildlife and birds in Costa Rica, Panama, and Colombia, including the tamandua, or anteater (cover), with thick bristly fur, huge claws, and a tiny mouth; spider monkeys (above), who live in the upper reaches of the rainforest; brilliantly colored macaws, whose facial feather patterns are as unique as fingerprints; cotton-top tamarins, at risk due to habitat destruction; and an amazing array of boldly patterned frogs, including the red-eyed tree frog (back cover).



## LECTURER



**ANTHONY VEERKAMP** is Director of Policy Research with the Research & Policy Lab at the National Trust for Historic Preservation. An accomplished nonprofit professional with 25 years of preservation policy and advocacy experience in the San Francisco Bay Area,

Anthony provides leadership in local and state policy, shaping and implementing innovative approaches to help communities achieve preservation, resilience, and equity goals. Anthony has expertise in sustainability & climate change planning, local and state legislative and grass-roots advocacy, urban and land use planning, cultural resource management for parks and open space, and the preservation of intangible heritage. He received an MA in Preservation Studies from Boston University and a BA in Economics and Art History from McGill University in Montreal. Fluent in Spanish, Anthony has lived in Barcelona and has traveled extensively in Spain and Latin America. The son of Dutch immigrants, he is a native of New Jersey and is a 25-year resident of San Francisco's Mission District, where he lives with his partner Michael Paulos.



BioMuseum, Panama City



A daytime transit of the Panama Canal provides opportunities to observe the Panama Canal expansion project (Third Set of Locks Project), which built two new sets of locks, widened and deepened existing channels, and raised the maximum operating water level of Gatun Lake. New Panamax-size ships—one and a half times the previous size and carrying twice as much cargo—began using the expanded canal in June 2016.

Cruise from San Jose, visiting two jewel-like national parks; Coiba Island, a UNESCO World Heritage site; the Darien Rainforest, home of the indigenous Embera people; and the San Blas Islands, where the resident Kuna Indians are known for their colorful textiles. End in Cartagena, whose historic center and Castillo de San Felipe de Barajas are UNESCO World Heritage sites.



## ITINERARY

**SATURDAY, APRIL 13**

### Home \* San Jose, Costa Rica

Depart the U.S. on independent flights to San Jose, and transfer to the hotel upon arrival. This evening enjoy a welcome reception and dinner.

COSTA RICA MARRIOTT HOTEL SAN JOSE (R,D)

**SUNDAY, APRIL 14**

### San Jose (Embark)

After a welcome orientation and lecture, enjoy a short city tour before transferring to Puerto Caldera to embark the *Hebridean Sky*.

HEBRIDEAN SKY (B,L,D)

**MONDAY, APRIL 15**

### Manuel Antonio National Park

Often rated as one of the most beautiful national parks in the world, Manuel Antonio National Park packs a variety of impressive landscapes into approximately 4,000 acres, including white sand beaches, lush foliage, imposing mountains, and dense forests that reach to the shoreline. Swim in the park's beautiful bay or explore the park's fragile rainforest ecosystem on the well-maintained trails, keeping an eye out for sloths and monkeys. *HEBRIDEAN SKY* (B,L,D)

**TUESDAY, APRIL 16**

### Corcovado National Park \* Drake Bay

Corcovado National Park is considered the crown jewel in Costa Rica's extensive system of national parks and biological reserves. Biologically rich

and diverse, the abundance of wildlife is due in part to the park's great variety of habitats and vegetation and in part to the park's location on the "land bridge" that links North America and South America. Explore the park or enjoy a boat tour of Drake Bay to observe its dolphin, whale, and sea turtle populations. *HEBRIDEAN SKY* (B,L,D)

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17**

### Golfo Dulce \* Osa Peninsula

Anchor off the Osa Peninsula, bounded by the Pacific Ocean to the west and the Golfo Dulce to the east, and home to at least half of all of the species living in Costa Rica. Visit the Orchid House, a private botanical garden with beautiful landscaping, amazing flowers, and unique fruits, or learn about medicinal plants and organic chocolate production at Finca Kobo. The afternoon is free for snorkeling in the warm waters of the Golfo Dulce. *HEBRIDEAN SKY* (B,L,D)

**THURSDAY, APRIL 18**

### Coiba Island, Panama

Linked by the underwater Cordillera mountain chain to the Cocos and Galapagos Islands, Coiba Island is surrounded by one of the largest coral reefs on the Pacific coast of the Americas. Its waters teem with marine life, including whale and tiger sharks, sperm whales, sea turtles, angel rays, and giant schools of fish. Coiba is also a refuge for a number of threatened terrestrial animals, such as the crested eagle, and several subspecies of agouti, possum, and howler monkey. Established as a national park in 1992, Coiba Island is a UNESCO World

Heritage site. Swim and snorkel in this amazing marine world, then enjoy a hearty barbecue on the beach.

HEBRIDEAN SKY (B,L,D)

**FRIDAY, APRIL 19**

### Darien Rainforest

Travel by motorized cayuca (traditional canoe) into the Darien Rainforest to meet the indigenous Embera people and learn about their ancestral customs, which date back to pre-Columbian times. The rainforest is on the Panamanian side of the Darien Gap, a large swath of undeveloped swampland and forest between Panama and Colombia that interrupts the Pan-American Highway. *HEBRIDEAN SKY* (B,L,D)

**SATURDAY, APRIL 20**

### Panama City \* Agua Clara Locks

Discover Panama City's historic and cultural highlights, including the new Biomuseum, designed by Frank Gehry and dedicated to exhibitions on Panama's biodiversity. Also explore Panama Viejo ("Old Panama"), the architectural vestiges of the first Spanish city founded on the Pacific coast of the Americas; and the San Felipe District, the colonial heart of the city and a UNESCO World Heritage site. Continue to the newly opened Agua Clara Locks, which allows larger ships carrying twice as much cargo to transit the Panama Canal. *HEBRIDEAN SKY* (B,L,D)

**SUNDAY, APRIL 21**

### Panama Canal Daytime Transit

The 48-mile Panama Canal cuts through the Isthmus of Panama to



Macaws

connect the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. Built between 1881 and 1914, the canal has been named one of the seven wonders of the modern world by the American Society of Civil Engineers. Begin our transit from the Pacific side at the two-stage Miraflores Locks, rising rapidly to the level of Gatun Lake. Then descend via the Gatun Locks, a three-stage lock, which brings the ship back down to sea level on the Atlantic side. *HEBRIDEAN SKY (B,L,D)*

**MONDAY, APRIL 22**  
**San Blas Islands**

The San Blas Islands (Guna Yala) form an archipelago off the north coast of Panama. They are home to the Kuna (Guna) Indians, who were driven off Panama during the Spanish invasion. Visit a local community where native women produce intricate, highly distinctive, and much acclaimed needlework. *HEBRIDEAN SKY (B,L,D)*

**TUESDAY, APRIL 23**  
**Cartagena, Colombia**

Cartagena was founded in 1533 by Spanish maritime explorer Pedro de Heredia. Spend a full day exploring this colonial walled city and the Casillo de San Felipe de Barajas, a UNESCO World Heritage site and a superb example of Spanish military engineering. Las Bóvedas, structures built into the walls of the old city as storage vaults, were used as dungeons during the civil wars of the 19th century and now house shops and boutiques offering traditional Colombian handicrafts. Celebrate your journey at a farewell reception and dinner. *HEBRIDEAN SKY (B,L,R,D)*



Kuna woman wearing a mola



Castillo de San Felipe de Barajas

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24**  
**Cartagena \* Home**

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for flights home. (B)

**PHOTO CREDITS** (From *Dreamstime.com*): Colonial Cartagena © Craig Hastings; Cartagena street © Maura Reap; Spider monkeys © Hugoht; Coconuts and door © Javerman; Panama Canal © Adeliepenguin; San Blas Islands © Robert Lerich; Macaws © Luciana Bueno; Castillo © Jenny 37; Cotton-top tamarin © Rene Drouyer; Tree frog © Tzooka; Details of Molas © Onedayoneimage. (From *Wikipedia.com*): BioMuseum © Editorpana; Kuna woman © Himasaram; Antioquia Museum © Scabredon. Ship photos courtesy of Noble Caledonia.

**OPTIONAL EXTENSIONS**



**PRE-TOUR**

**Monteverde Cloud Forest Reserve, Costa Rica**

**APRIL 11-13**

Explore the trails of the Monteverde Cloud Forest Reserve. Perched atop Costa Rica's continental divide at 4,662 feet and sustained by moist clouds and fog, Monteverde's complex ecosystem supports more than 100 species of mammals, including cotton-top tamarins, 400 species of birds, tens of thousands of insect species, and at least 2,500 varieties of plants, 420 of which are orchids alone.



**POST-TOUR**

**Medellin and Bogota, Colombia**

**APRIL 24-28**

Begin this four-night extension in dynamic Medellín to learn about its creative award-winning urban design and civic social progress projects. Also visit the collection of works by Medellín native Fernando Botero at the Antioquia Art Museum (above), and the Santa Elena flower farm, which supplies 600,000 flowers to the annual flower festival. Continue to the capital city of Bogotá, located on a high plateau in the Eastern Cordillera of the Andes. Explore its notable museums, historic center including the La Candelaria neighborhood with its Spanish Colonial, Baroque, and Art Deco architecture, and the colorful Paloquemao market, a foodie's paradise.

DETAILS AND PRICING FOR BOTH EXTENSIONS WILL BE SENT TO CONFIRMED PARTICIPANTS.



## PROGRAM RATES INCLUDE

All accommodations, meals, and excursions as specified in the itinerary • Entrance fees • Full program of briefings, lectures, and presentations • Group airport transfers for all participants on group arrival and departure days • Baggage handling • Port fees and embarkation taxes • Gratuities to porters, wait staff, guides, drivers, and shipboard personnel • Welcome and farewell wine receptions • Bottled water on motor coaches • Minimal evacuation insurance • Complete packet of pre-departure information • Professional tour manager

**WHAT TO EXPECT** We consider this program to be moderately active. Much of the touring is done by motor coach and ship, but some

excursions may require walks that range from one to three miles, and/or standing for long periods of time. Temperatures can range from 60° to 90° F, and rain is a strong possibility in the tropical and rainforest areas. Participants need to be able to climb into and out of Zodiacs for snorkeling activities and shore excursions, and while ashore, to walk unaided along beaches and sometimes on slippery trails. Excursions in San Jose, Panama City, and Cartagena involve walking, often on cobblestone streets. Participants should be physically fit, active, and in good health.

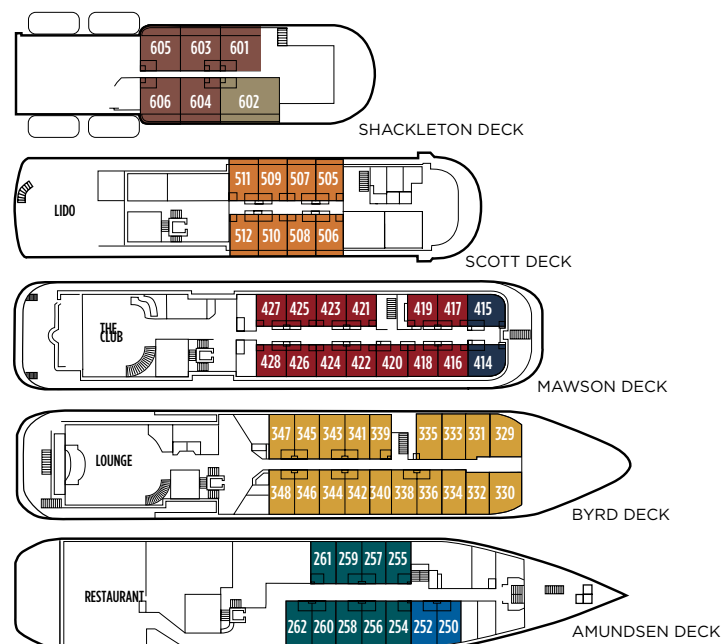
**AIRFARE** Valerie Wilson Travel, Inc., can help with airline arrangements for this trip and can be reached at 877-376-1754. You are also welcome to book your air transportation through your local travel agent, an online travel site, or the airline of your choice. **Please note:** U.S. domestic and international airfare is not included in the program rates. Round-trip economy-class airfare from New York to San Jose, Costa Rica, with return from Cartagena, Colombia, is approximately \$690 per person as of May 2018 and is subject to change without notice.

## HEBRIDEAN SKY

The all-suite *Hebridean Sky* (formerly the *Sea Explorer*) is known for its effortless elegance, impeccable service, and atmosphere of charm and camaraderie. During the ship's most recent refurbishing, in 2016, a host of new amenities as well as state of the art stabilization, fuel efficiency, and an upgraded communications systems were added. Wood and brass appointments throughout the vessel convey the feeling of a private yacht. Passenger suites are arranged over five decks; all have outside views, and on the Scott and Shackleton Decks have private balconies. Each of the 59 suites features a sitting area; en suite bathroom with walk-in rainfall shower; large wardrobes and excellent storage; mini-fridge; flat-screen TV; telephone; individual temperature controls; electronic safe; and hair dryer. In all but two suites, the beds can be configured as two twins or one queen (suites 601 and 602 have fixed queen beds). Meals are served at a single seating and feature local produce, the daily catch, and local specialties whenever possible. An elevator serves all passenger decks, and medical services are available 24 hours a day. Other amenities include Wi-Fi access in the library, public areas, and all suites; complimentary Internet access on computers in the library; a panoramic top-deck observation platform; and a bar/lounge.

## PROGRAM RATES, PER PERSON

CATEGORY/DECK		DOUBLE	SINGLE
<b>A</b>	<b>AMUNDSEN DECK Standard Suites forward</b> Approx. 238 sq. ft., 2, 3, or 4 large portholes	\$7,990	—
<b>B</b>	<b>AMUNDSEN DECK Standard Suites</b> Approx. 238 sq. ft., 2, 3, or 4 large portholes	\$9,490	\$14,290
<b>C</b>	<b>BYRD DECK Superior Suites</b> Approx. 241 sq. ft., large window	\$10,990	\$16,490
<b>D</b>	<b>MAWSON DECK Premium Suites</b> Approx. 221 sq. ft., two windows	\$11,990	—
<b>E</b>	<b>MAWSON DECK Corner Suites</b> Approx. 224 sq. ft., two windows	\$12,990	—
<b>F</b>	<b>SCOTT DECK Deluxe Balcony Suites</b> Approx. 221 sq. ft., sliding glass door	\$13,990	—
<b>G</b>	<b>SHACKLETON DECK Owner's Balcony Suites</b> Approx. 245 sq. ft., sliding glass door	\$14,990	—
<b>H</b>	<b>SHACKLETON DECK Hebridean Suite</b> Approx. 349 sq. ft., sliding glass door	\$15,990	—



## GENERAL INFORMATION

**PROGRAM RATES DO NOT INCLUDE** U.S. domestic and international airfare • Passport and visa fees • Medical expenses and immunizations • Private airport transfers • Trip cancellation/interruption and baggage insurance • Optional excursions or deviations from the scheduled tour • Excess-baggage charges • Meals and beverages other than those specified as included • Laundry or dry cleaning • Telephone, email, and fax charges • Room service • Other items of a personal nature

**GROUP SIZE** This program is limited to 96 participants.

**TRAVEL INSURANCE** We strongly recommend the purchase of trip cancellation insurance, which is available for coverage of expenses in conjunction with cancellation due to illness or accident. Baggage insurance is also recommended. In the event that you must cancel your participation in a travel program, trip cancellation insurance may be the only source of reimbursement.

**A NOTE ABOUT COSTS** Tour costs are based upon current fuel prices, currency values, taxes, tariffs, and a minimum number of participants. While we will do everything possible to maintain the listed prices, they are subject to change. If there are significant changes, details and costs will be advised prior to departure.

### TERMS & CONDITIONS

Complete Terms and Conditions including Statement of Responsibility will be made available to you at time of registration, or in advance upon request. A signed "Terms & Conditions, Release from Liability, Assumption of Risk, and Binding Arbitration Clause" is required from each applicant prior to participation on the tour.

### RESERVATIONS & PAYMENTS

A deposit of \$1,000 per person is required to reserve space on this program. You may complete the reservation form included in this brochure and mail it with your check or credit card information to Criterion Travel, 165 Jessie Street, Suite 4, San Francisco, CA 94105. Or you may fax the completed reservation form to (650) 560-6400. If you have questions, please call (888) 328-2089 or email [res@critteriontravel.com](mailto:res@critteriontravel.com). Final payment deadline is December 14, 2018. After December 14, 2018, full payment is due upon registration.

### CANCELLATIONS & REFUNDS

Upon payment of the \$1,000 per person deposit, all reservations are subject to the cancellation provisions set forth below and by which the passenger agrees to be bound.

Cancellations shall not be in effect until they are received in writing and confirmed by Criterion Travel. Deposits are refundable (less a \$250 per person administration fee) if written notice of cancellation is received within 30 days of reservation; after that, deposits are 100% nonrefundable. Cancellations after final payment deadline of December 14, 2018: All payments are 100% nonrefundable, regardless of booking date. Trip cancellation insurance is strongly recommended. Note: Criterion Travel accepts no liability for any airline cancellation penalties incurred with the purchase of nonrefundable tickets.

**ITINERARY CHANGES** The itinerary presented for this tour is subject to modification and change by Criterion Travel. Every reasonable effort will be made to operate the program as planned; however, should unforeseen world events and conditions require the itinerary to be altered, Criterion Travel reserves the right to do so for the safety and best interest of the group. Any extra expenses incurred in this situation are the responsibility of the participant.

California Seller of Travel  
Program CST #2088800-40

## Costa Rica, Panama & Colombia

APRIL 13-24, 2019 \* ABOARD THE *HEBRIDEAN SKY*

### RESERVATION FORM

To reserve a place, please complete and return this form with your deposit of \$1,000 per person, payable to Criterion Travel, to: Criterion Travel, 165 Jessie Street, Suite 4, San Francisco, CA 94105. For more information or to reserve by phone, please call (888) 328-2089 or (650) 328-2089; or email [res@critteriontravel.com](mailto:res@critteriontravel.com). You may also fax the completed reservation form to (650) 560-6400.

### PAYMENT

- Enclosed is my check for \$\_\_\_\_\_ (\$1,000 per person, payable to Criterion Travel), to reserve \_\_\_\_\_ place(s) on *Costa Rica, Panama & Colombia*. OR
- Please charge the deposit to my:
- VISA  MasterCard  American Express  Discover

CREDIT CARD NUMBER

EXP. DATE

CARDHOLDER SIGNATURE

SECURITY CODE

I/we understand that final payment is due December 14, 2018, 120 days prior to departure. Registrations after December 14, 2018: full payment is due.

NAME #1 (AS ON PASSPORT)

DATE OF BIRTH

NAME #2 (AS ON PASSPORT)

DATE OF BIRTH

STREET ADDRESS

CITY/STATE

ZIP/POSTAL CODE

HOME PHONE

WORK PHONE

FAX

E-MAIL

### SINGLE TRAVELERS

If this is a reservation for one person, please indicate:

- I prefer to have single accommodations.
- I plan to share accommodations with

I'd like to know about roommates. I am a  Non-smoker  Smoker.

I understand that if a roommate cannot be found by the final payment deadline of December 14, 2018, I will pay the single rate.

### ACCOMMODATIONS

Cabin Category Preference: 1st \_\_\_\_\_ 2nd \_\_\_\_\_  
Bed Preference in hotel (not guaranteed):  Two beds  One bed

*I/We have read the tour information section of the brochure and agree to the Terms and Conditions stated therein.*

SIGNATURE

DATE

SIGNATURE

DATE



## Costa Rica, Panama & Colombia

APRIL 13-24, 2019 \* ABOARD THE *HEBRIDEAN SKY*  
FEATURING A PANAMA CANAL DAYTIME TRANSIT

DAYLIGHT TRANSIT OF PANAMA CANAL RAINFOREST ECOSYSTEMS COLORFUL BIRDS  
EXOTIC WILDLIFE KUNA AND EMBERA INDIANS CORAL REEFS WORLD HERITAGE SITES