



VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY  
Alumni Association

858

*Captivating*  
CARTAGENA

ONE OF SOUTH AMERICA'S MOST IDYLIC COASTAL CITIES  
WITH VANDERBILT ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

MARCH 9 – 14, 2025

FEATURING *Marshall C. Eakin*



# Captivating CARTAGENA



*“Cartagena has me wrapped around its little finger with every sunset!”*

Dear Vanderbilt Traveler,

With its awe-inspiring Spanish Colonial architecture, enchanting horse-drawn carriages, and winding cobbled streets, Cartagena de Indias stands as one of South America’s most captivating destinations. As the inaugural Spanish colony on the continent’s mainland and a pivotal port for the Spanish armada, this Caribbean gem brims with a rich tapestry of history that has stirred the imaginations of artists, writers, historians, and musicians for centuries. Its vibrant hues and storybook allure beckon travelers to immerse themselves in its charms, encouraging lingering explorations that unveil its myriad wonders.

Embark on an Old Cartagena adventure delving into the heart of the city with a visit to Las Bovedas, where a bustling artisans’ market showcases local crafts, antiques, and galleries. Indulge in a culinary odyssey through the inner walled enclave, savoring the flavors of this colonial marvel. Escape to the pristine shores of Isla Grande in the Rosario Islands for a sun-kissed beach excursion, a sanctuary of natural beauty.

Elevate your senses with a curated Colombian Rum and Chocolate tasting, a sensory journey designed to tantalize even the most discerning palate. No visit to Colombia is complete without tasting the exceptional coffee grown high in the Andes.

Explore the storied lanes of the Old Walled City before bidding adieu with a delightful farewell dinner at a charming Old Town eatery. Tapas, wine, and live music set the stage for an unforgettable evening of revelry.

We eagerly anticipate welcoming you to this extraordinary journey of discovery in Cartagena!

Warm wishes,

Cary DeWitt Allyn  
Director, Vanderbilt Travel Program



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For more details: [WWW.VUCONNECT.COM/TRAVEL](http://WWW.VUCONNECT.COM/TRAVEL)  
615.322.3673

*The Vanderbilt Travel Program strives to engage Vanderbilt alumni, parents and friends of all ages, keeping them connected with each other and the mission of Vanderbilt. Each carefully designed trip offers unparalleled educational opportunities for the exclusive “beyond the classroom” experience.*



## FEATURING *Marshall C. Eakin*

**Marshall C. Eakin** is a historian of Latin America specializing in the history of modern Brazil. He joined the Vanderbilt History Department 1983 and retired in 2024. His research has concentrated on economic and business history, industrialization, and the processes of nationalism and nation-building—primarily in the twentieth century. He has been the recipient of the **Jeffrey Nordhaus Award for Excellence** in Undergraduate Teaching, the **Chancellor’s Cup**, the **Madison Sarratt Prize for Excellence** in Undergraduate Teaching, and the **Alumni Education Award**. He has lectured on eleven alumni trips from Patagonia to the Caribbean. His next book, *The Shattered Mirror: Richard Francis Burton in Nineteenth Century Brazil*, should appear in late 2025.



## CAPTIVATING CARTAGENA - MARCH 9 – 14, 2025

*your hotel*

The allure of Hotel Sofitel Santa Clara lies in its fusion of over three centuries of history with the romantic ambiance of Cartagena. Once a cloister for the Clares nuns, it holds within its walls a tapestry of enigmatic tales. From crypts to confessionals, from hidden windows to ceramic artifacts, each corner whispers stories of its past, including encounters with notorious pirates. The hotel seamlessly marries colonial architecture with contemporary comforts, providing guests with luxurious accommodations, bespoke services, exquisite dining experiences, and a top-tier spa.

### SUN, MARCH 9, 2025: USA / CARTAGENA

### HOTEL SOFITEL SANTA CLARA

Fly from USA to Cartagena's Rafael Núñez Airport. Upon arrival you are met and transferred to your hotel. This evening is your Welcome to Cartagena Dinner. Get to know your fellow Vanderbilt travelers. (D)

### MON, MARCH 10, 2025: CARTAGENA

### HOTEL SOFITEL SANTA CLARA

Today start an exploration of this captivating city. Originally erected by Augustinian Monks in the 17th-century, the "Convento de la Popa" sits atop the city's highest point, offering unparalleled vistas of Cartagena's scenic splendor. Venture to the "Castillo de San Felipe," a formidable fortress constructed by the Spaniards during the 1600s. Continue through the historic "Las Bóvedas," initially crafted as storage vaults, now transformed into a bustling artisans' haven. Here, amidst 23 vaults, a vibrant market awaits, brimming with local handicrafts, antiques, galleries, jewelry, attire, and keepsakes. The morning culminates at the "Iglesia y Convento San Pedro de Claver." Adorned with an imposing stone facade, exquisite stained-glass windows, and a resplendent high altar, this sanctuary offers a glimpse into Cartagena's rich religious heritage. For today's lunch, savor the essence of Cartagena through an immersive culinary journey, "Real Food, Real Places & Real People." Meandering through the inner city, partake in a gastronomic adventure. Discover authentic food and delectable tastings, all while being regaled with captivating tales and insights into Cartagena's vibrant culture and storied past. (B,L)

### TUE, MARCH 11, 2025: CARTAGENA

### HOTEL SOFITEL SANTA CLARA

Day at leisure for independent exploration. A list of areas to explore will be provided. (B)

### WED, MARCH 12, 2025: ROSARIO ISLANDS - MAJAGUA

### HOTEL SOFITEL SANTA CLARA

Escape the confines of Cartagena's walls and immerse yourself in the splendor of one of the many jewels nestled within the Islas del Rosario: Isla Grande. This archipelago, adorned with coral reefs, boasts pristine white sands and crystalline Caribbean waters. Embark on a scenic one-hour boat journey where a world of exploration awaits. Whether you choose to lounge on the sun-kissed shores, dip into the azure waves, or embark on an array of optional activities such as snorkeling, kayaking, diving, ecological strolls, bicycle rides, or indulgent massages, Isla Grande promises an unforgettable experience. Relaxation takes center stage at a hotel's beach-front bar, where refreshing beverages and delectable snacks are readily available. Delight in a sumptuous lunch featuring a refreshing welcome fruit punch, succulent grilled lobster, crispy fried plantains, and fragrant coconut rice. As the late afternoon casts its golden glow upon the horizon, bid farewell to this island paradise and embark on a leisurely return journey to Cartagena. (B,L)

### THU, MARCH 13, 2025: CARTAGENA

### HOTEL SOFITEL SANTA CLARA

This morning prepare your senses for an exquisite journey into the heart of Colombian indulgence with a specialized Rum & Chocolate Tasting. You are welcomed with a tantalizing cocktail, setting the stage for an exploration of Colombian rum, aguardiente, and artisanal rum infusions, harmoniously paired with an array of sumptuous Colombian chocolates. Chef Dau's culinary mastery provides the perfect accompaniment with a selection of light bites. Each rum and chocolate pairing is meticulously curated, offering a glimpse into the diverse flavors and textures found across Colombia's coastal and mountainous regions. Embark on a magical Sunset Cruise, where the Caribbean breeze whispers tales of Cartagena's storied past. As night descends, join us for the grand finale of your Cartagena escapade - the Farewell Dinner at a local restaurant. Indulge in a feast for the senses, where tantalizing flavors, convivial ambiance, and heartfelt farewells intertwine. (B,D)

### FRI, MARCH 14, 2025: DEPART CARTAGENA / ARRIVE USA

### EN ROUTE

Transfer to Rafael Nunez Airport for your return flight to USA. Welcome Home! (B)



## *Cost of Adventure:*

**CARTAGENA LAND PROGRAM: \$5,395** PER PERSON DOUBLE OCCUPANCY

**SINGLE SUPPLEMENT: \$1,395**

**EARLY BOOKING DISCOUNT BY SEPTEMBER 15, 2024: \$200** PER PERSON DOUBLE OCCUPANCY

**AIRFARE NOT INCLUDED "GUIDANCE PROVIDED"**

## *Included in your program are:*

- Five nights luxury accommodations at the Hotel Sofitel Santa Clara including buffet breakfast
- All touring mentioned in program on private basis including all entrance fees
- DAI-select Professional English-speaking Guide throughout the program
  - All transfers and touring by private air-conditioned vehicles
- Meals as indicated by **(B)**, **(L)**, **(D)** **B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner**
  - Meet & greet services at airports for arrival and departure
  - Gratuities, service charges and room taxes

## *Not Included are:*

- International airfare from USA to Cartagena and return
- Cost of visas and departure taxes
- Items of a personal nature such as laundry, telephone calls, internet/WiFi, all alcoholic & non-alcoholic drinks unless specified otherwise, items of a personal nature, incidental expenses at hotels, etc.
- Trip cancellation insurance (*Highly Recommended!*)

## *Payment Schedule:*

- A \$1,500 per person deposit is required to confirm services
  - Final payment is due 90 days prior to departure
- Payment is accepted by personal check, wire transfer and all major credit cards

## *Rates & Fares:*

- All rates shown are accurate at the time of publication and are subject to change
- Prices are based on foreign exchange rates the company feels will be in effect at the time of departure

## *Refunds & Cancellations:*

**All cancellations must be in writing. The per person cancellation charges are:**

- More than 90 days prior to departure: 50% of deposit
- 89-60 days prior to departure: 50% of tour price
- 59-30 days prior to departure: 75% of tour price
- Less than 30 days prior to departure: 100% of tour price
- There is no refund for a partially completed tour or for unused services of any kind



PROGRAM DESIGNED BY **DESTINATIONS & ADVENTURES**  
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**V** VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY  
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# Captivating CARTAGENA

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**VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY  
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**CARTAGENA LAND PROGRAM • MARCH 9 – 14, 2025**

**\$1,500 pp** is required to secure your reservation



Secure your reservation with a deposit of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ charged to the credit card below,  
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