Caribbean Culture:
Houses, History & Hamilton
Round-trip Barbados Aboard Sea Cloud
With Reeve Huston, Associate Professor of History at Duke
January 24–31, 2020
dukealumnitravels.com
Dear Duke Alumni and Friends,

The Caribbean region plays a significant, if often overlooked, role in the early history of the United States—not least as the birthplace of Alexander Hamilton and the inspiration for many of his theories about politics, economics, and trade. Uncover the forgotten connections between the Caribbean and 18th-century America on a delightful winter voyage aboard the historic sailing ship **Sea Cloud**. Explore lush gardens and charming colonial towns, and swim or snorkel from exquisite white-sand beaches.

We are pleased that Reeve Huston, Associate Professor of History at Duke, will be traveling with us. Professor Huston’s teaching, thinking, and writing center on U.S. political history and on the history of capitalism, and he is currently working on a book titled, *Reforging American Democracy: Political Practices in the United States, 1812-1840*.

Embark **Sea Cloud** in Barbados for a seven-night voyage. Cruise to Nevis to visit the house where Alexander Hamilton was born, and stroll through the island’s spectacular botanic garden. On St. Kitts, where Hamilton’s mother lived for several years, see the UNESCO-listed site of a decisive battle in the American Revolution. We will also discover the gardens of Romney Manor, an 18th-century plantation house formerly owned by a direct ancestor of Thomas Jefferson. Take an architectural walking tour on the Dutch island of St. Eustatius, and soak up the *je ne sais quoi* of Gustavia, capital of St. Barthélemy. Call at the archipelago of Îles des Saintes to learn about the 1782 conflict that took place here between the British and the French. Explore the volcanic wonders of St. Lucia before disembarking in Barbados.

The elegant **Sea Cloud** is a destination unto herself. Watch as her energetic crew scales the masts to set the sails by hand, and relax in the congenial company of members of the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the alumni association of Yale University. An optional prelude in Barbados is offered for travelers who wish to experience Caribbean culture more deeply.

We hope you will join us for this unique exploration of stunning landscapes and surprising legacies. We expect this cruise to fill quickly, so be sure to return the enclosed registration form at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

Beth Ray-Schroeder
Director, Duke Alumni Travels

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**Cruise Highlights**

**Spend** seven nights aboard the elegant sailing yacht **Sea Cloud**, originally built for C. W. Post heiress Marjorie Merriweather Post

**Stroll** in spectacular tropical gardens on Nevis, St. Lucia, and other islands

**Rediscover** long-forgotten connections between the Caribbean and early America

**Visit** the childhood home of Alexander Hamilton on the island of Nevis

**Explore** Brimstone Hill, a UNESCO World Heritage Site where a decisive battle in the American Revolution occurred

**Swim** at exquisite hidden beaches and snorkel in clear blue waters

**Traveling with You**

Reeve Huston is Associate Professor of History at Duke University, where he teaches US history between the Revolution and the Civil War, U.S. political history, and the history of capitalism. One of his courses is “Alexander Hamilton and his World,” which uses Lin-Manuel Miranda’s hit musical as an entry-point into the American Revolution and the ways in which historians and others tell and re-tell stories about the past. He has written the award-winning *Land and Freedom: Rural Society, Popular Protest, and Party Politics in Antebellum New York*, and is at work on a book titled, *Democratic Discontent: Remaking American Politics, 1815-1840*. 
TUESDAY, JANUARY 28: GUSTAVIA, ST. BARTHÉLEMY
Call at small but cosmopolitan St. Barthélemy. Experience the island’s French savoir faire as we stroll past stylish cafés and boutiques. Swimmers will have an opportunity to enjoy one of many beautiful beaches. Return to the ship in time for lunch. Onboard festivities this evening feature a tasting of fine rums from island distilleries. B,L,D

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29: ÎLES DES SAINTES
The Îles des Saintes is an archipelago of eight tiny volcanic islands and site of the 1782 Battle of the Saintes between the British Royal Navy and the French fleet. Tour the colonial-style capital, Terre-de-Haut, or visit 17th-century Fort Napoleon, with its commanding views and exotic gardens. Or perhaps enjoy a swim at one of the white-sand beaches before returning to Sea Cloud. B,L,D

THURSDAY, JANUARY 30: SOUFRIÈRE, ST. LUCIA
Anchor this afternoon in the Bay of Soufrière, tucked between the dramatic Anse des Pitons. Soak in mineral-rich mud baths fed by Soufrière Volcano, or tour the lush Diamond Falls Botanical Gardens. In the early afternoon, Sea Cloud sets sail for Barbados. The captain’s farewell dinner is tonight. B,L,D

FRIDAY, JANUARY 31: BARBADOS / RETURN
Disembark Sea Cloud early this morning and transfer to the airport for flights home. B

DISCLAIMER: This itinerary is subject to change at the discretion of Duke Alumni Travels and Arrangements Abroad. For complete details, please carefully read the terms and conditions at www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms.
Sea Cloud is often called “legendary,” and indeed, her story is as fascinating as a novel. She was built in 1931 for E. F. Hutton, a Wall Street broker, but it was his wife, Marjorie Merriweather Post, who truly shaped the character of this four-masted windjammer.

Marjorie was the only child of C.W. Post, who founded the Postum Cereal Company and groomed his daughter as an executive starting from age 10, when she began attending company board meetings. When C.W. passed away in 1914, Marjorie, then 27, took over the business. Through a series of canny mergers she transformed Postum into General Foods, the company behind Jell-O, Maxwell House, Birdseye, and other household names.

Celebrated for her glamour and style, Marjorie was also renowned for her philanthropy; she gave generous, often anonymous gifts to the Red Cross, Boy Scouts, and other favorite charities. Still, the Huttons worried that their wealth could attract the wrong attention. Thus Marjorie, E.F., and their only child Dina (who later became the movie star Dina Merrill) spent much of the Depression safe in relative isolation aboard Sea Cloud, sailing the world. In 1935 E.F. and Marjorie divorced, and 20 years later, Sea Cloud was sold to Rafael Trujillo, the dictator of the Dominican Republic, who renamed it the Angelita after his daughter.

In 1961, Trujillo was assassinated, and his son Ramfis tried to spirit his father’s body away to Europe by hiding it in the ship’s smoking room, along with a rumored $5 million in cash. En route, the ship was intercepted by a Dominican gunboat and forced to turn back. (The smoking room where the body was hidden no longer exists; it was removed when Sea Cloud was remodeled.)

After changing hands—and names—several times, Sea Cloud was bought by a German ship’s captain and a group of Hamburg associates in 1978. They rechristened her Sea Cloud and spent eight months making her seaworthy again. In 2011, Sea Cloud was refurbished again to conform to the latest Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) regulations.

Today, Sea Cloud’s romantic spirit is especially evident in her splendidly restored original cabins —especially the two owner’s suites, filled with refurbished antiques and other period details—and her traditional rigging. A favorite pastime.
CRUISE RATES

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cabin Categories</th>
<th>Decks</th>
<th>Double Rates</th>
<th>Single Rates</th>
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<tr>
<td>Cabins 14 to 17</td>
<td>Promenade Deck</td>
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<td>Lido Deck</td>
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<td>Cabins 30 &amp; 31</td>
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<td>Main Deck</td>
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Seven nights cabin accommodations aboard Sea Cloud
Meals as indicated in the itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, R=Reception, D=Dinner); bottled water and coffee/tea with all meals; wine and beer with lunches and dinners; complimentary open bar throughout the cruise
Airport/pier/airport group transfers for all participants on suggested group flights
Enrichment program of lectures and special events
Escorted sightseeing by private motorcoach; entrance fees for included visits
Customary shipboard gratuities
Taxes, service, and porterage charges; gratuities to local guides and drivers

RATES INCLUDE

NOT INCLUDED IN RATES
International airfare; passport fees; personal items and expenses; airport transfers for those not on suggested group flights; baggage in excess of one suitcase; trip insurance; optional Barbados prelude, any other items not specifically mentioned as included.

On the front cover: Sea Cloud sails. On the back cover: torch ginger (top) and twin Pitons of St.Lucia (bottom)
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