



**Windstar Sails Deeper into the Caribbean & Latin America in 2019 & 2020:  
11 New Itineraries & 150 Sailings Expand the Small Ship Line's Footprint in  
the Region Featuring New Calls to Mexico's Atlantic & Pacific Ports,  
Honduras, Grand Cayman, Dominican Republic, and Jamaica**



*First Ever 56-day Grand Caribbean Voyage Offers Cruise Guests an Epic Exploration  
Visiting 38 Ports & 27 Countries and First-ever Panama Canal Partial Transit  
Aboard the 310-guest Wind Surf, the World's Largest Sailing Ship*

**Seattle, WA, October 9, 2018** — [Windstar Cruises](#) announces 2019 and 2020 Caribbean and Latin America sailings including new visits to ports in Mexico, Honduras, Grand Cayman, the Dominican Republic, and Jamaica. Cruisers seeking active adventure may choose from an impressive 152 departure dates ranging in length from 7- to 56-days. All departures focus on less-visited tropical ports and unusual vacation experiences on board – with the line's signature Open Bridge and Watersports Platform – to exciting wet landings by Zodiac and hand-crafted excursions.

A first for Windstar in 2020, the boutique line debuts a new *Star Collector: Grand Caribbean Adventure* aboard the iconic *Wind Surf*, the world's largest sailing ship. The nearly two-month cruise is a new option for travelers ready for an encyclopedic exploration of the Caribbean's Greater and Lesser Antilles and Latin America. The wide-ranging itinerary features a first-time-ever visit to the Panama Canal for *Wind Surf* where the ship will bring guests on a remarkable journey through the three-tiered Gatun Locks, the historic Atlantic connector locks, followed by scenic cruising on Gatun Lake, then back to the Caribbean through the Gatun Locks that afternoon. Perfect for destination collectors, the journey offers incredible seafaring depth calling on 38 ports and 27 countries in just 56 days.

"At Windstar we are on a mission to deliver the most authentic destination experiences in small ship cruising and this Grand Caribbean sailing is a perfect example of how we do things 180 degrees from ordinary," said Windstar President John Delaney. "No other cruise line has ever offered such an

expansive sailing in this part of the world, visiting 38 ports and 27 countries. And the fact that we offer this on the world's largest sailing ship with our open bridge policy, complimentary water sports marina and Signature Beach Barbecues will ensure our guests experience the very best of these beautiful warm water destinations.”

Windstar's Caribbean and Latin America cruises provide thoughtful travelers, who appreciate the region's stunning beauty, a welcome alternative. The collection of Sea of Cortez, Coastal, Canal, and Caribbean Sea voyages emphasizes hidden harbors on smaller islands and inland coves like picture-perfect Bequia and Mayreau in the Grenadines, and lush Bahia Herradura, Costa Rica.

“The beaches, wildlife, and rainforests are a sure draw, but the way we plan and approach itineraries is what sets Windstar apart – we discover the most authentic cultural experiences a destination has to offer so that adventurous, imaginative travelers can come away with a different view and an enhanced understanding of their ports of call,” commented Delaney.

### **Destination Authenticity on Small Ships: Why Sail Windstar to the Caribbean & Latin America**

The award-winning small ship cruise line will have four of their six ships sailing in the regions accessing tiny harbors, like Man-O-War Bay in Tobago, with many itineraries offering late-night and overnight port calls that allow guests the time to engage in local cultures in a more immersive way. Guests will appreciate the additional time to wander local markets, sample the many great restaurants, and meet the locals.

All Windstar tropical cruises offer a memorable and indulgent day of beach play and fabulous island cuisine during a once-a-cruise Signature Beach Barbecue that is only equaled by an extravagant Signature Onboard Barbecue featuring an amazing array of food including arguably the largest paella pan at sea followed by an enthusiastic deck dance party led by the multi-talented Windstar crew.

All Windstar ships offer complimentary watersports and trained Sports Coordinators to help guests enjoy water activities, featuring stand-up paddle boards, small sail boats, gigantic floating sun mats, water trampolines, inflatable tows, and waterskiing. The balance of active adventure, culture, and culinary exploration can't be beat.

Windstar visits destinations where small group shore excursions let guests discover a virgin path far from the crowds; where secluded beaches, aquatic life, adventure, romance, and water play is just around the corner. Variety, depth, and detail are the primary focus that Windstar's Product Development travel experts seek when curating and testing each tour. Nothing is offered to guests that the team hasn't approved of and personally experienced with an eye to appealing to variety of tastes and activity levels.

New shore excursion standouts for the coming seasons include a private chocolate-making tour in St. Lucia where guests actually make their own dark chocolate bar made from cocoa nibs broken down from local, dried trinitario beans. Also on St. Lucia, guests receive expert instruction in a painting class led by a local artist, taking home their creation as a unique memory of the island. Another new favorite is power cruising to Mustique, a 14-acre island off Bequia that boasts a coral reef, coves, and dazzling beaches frequented by the rich and famous with lunch enjoyed at a chic island restaurant.

Long-standing favorite tours let travelers go cave tubing in Belize, windsurfing off Bonaire, snorkeling with friendly sea turtles and rays in waters as clear as glass, climbing the battlements of colonial forts and scaling the arrowhead peak of famous Gros Piton in St. Lucia.

### **Cuisine Meets Culture in the Caribbean: JBF Culinary Cruise Collection**

Water shapes the region's food and beverage heritage, and Windstar's [culinary program](#) and affiliation as the Official Cruise Line of the James Beard Foundation (JBF) is especially valuable as guests find their way through the cultures that blend Mayan, European, and Afro-Caribbean influences. Upcoming JBF Culinary Collection Sailings offer multiple food and beverage fusions, taking place in the region – on December 15, 2018 round trip from San Juan; January 5, 2019 from San Juan to Bridgetown; and on February 16, 2019 from Puerto Caldera to Colón; 2020 sailings will be announced at a later date.

### **NEW Grand Caribbean Adventure Headlines Star Collectors: Small Ships, Big Adventures**

Popular Star Collector cruises provide opportunities for travelers to create epic itineraries that are new era voyages of discovery in 2019/20 starting with the 56-day Grand Caribbean Adventure. Star Collector sailings offer longer voyages that may also be booked in shorter segments to suit cruise guest schedules. [Star Collector Voyages](#) combine thoughtful itinerary planning with few (if any) repeat ports, hand-crafted excursions, additional savings, and added value with complimentary daily laundry service.

#### **Star Collector: Grand Caribbean Adventure (56 days, 38 ports, 27 countries)**

All the color, colonial charm, history and on-water and underwater exploration travelers could ever want are packed into this ultimate Caribbean itinerary. The 56-day *Grand Caribbean Adventure* includes 38 ports in 27 countries as *Wind Surf* makes its way from Philipsburg, St. Maarten through the Greater and Lesser Antilles visiting dozens of diverse island ports enroute to Colombia, Panama, Honduras, Belize, Mexico, and back.

A true highlight for cruise and sailing enthusiasts will be the chance to pass through the century-old Gatun Locks on the way to a day of sailing Gatun Lake with a visit to the Gatun Lake Yacht Club before returning to the Caribbean for more adventure. The ship will be first raised and later lowered approximately 85 feet (26 m.) as it passes through the triple flight of the mighty Gatun Locks made up of three chambers that connect the Atlantic to large Gatun Lake, south of Colón. *Wind Surf* will sail 21 miles (33 km) of open water across the Isthmus of Panama.

*Wind Surf*, the [world's largest sailing ship](#) with 21,000 feet of sparkling sail cloth, hosts just 310 guests and was recently named by readers of *Travel+Leisure* magazine as the #1 *World's Best Mid-size Ship Ocean Cruise Line* in 2018. The Grand Caribbean voyage departs from Philipsburg, St. Maarten on January 4, 2020, and completes the expansive circumnavigation of the Caribbean Sea nearly two months later on Feb. 29. Rates start at \$11,924 per person (based on double occupancy) and include complimentary daily laundry.

#### **Star Collector: 3 Americas (39 days, 29 ports, 8 countries)**

The 39-day [3 Americas](#) expedition aboard *Star Legend* takes the full measure of the Americas from Vancouver down the Pacific Coast of the U.S. and Mexico and through the Panama Canal, concluding in San Juan, Puerto Rico. A portion of the cruise is a [James Beard Foundation culinary themed cruise](#), exploring delicious cuisine, wine and beer delights all down the coast of the Western United States. The

cruise departs on September 24, 2019, with rates starting at \$9,999 per person (based on double occupancy).

### ***New! 2 Cruises Sail the Pacific Coast, Mexico & the Sea of Cortez on the All-suite Star Legend***

#### [Fishing for the Sea of Cortez](#) (7 days)

Cruise aboard *Star Legend* from San Diego to Puerto Vallarta. The magical Sea of Cortez is packed with sea life and surrounded by laid-back village culture that charmed John Steinbeck and Jacques Cousteau. It is seven days of seafaring, snorkeling (with sea lions) and fishing that are unforgettable.

#### [Southern Mexico: Fish Tales & Mayan Trails](#) (8 days)

*Star Legend* carries travelers from Puerto Vallarta to Puerto Caldera on a journey that explores Mayan ruins, volcanic summits and UNESCO-designated cultural and snorkeling sites. This trip pairs the adventure of trekking and snorkeling with a glimpse into an important site in the origin of civilizations.

Cruise rates for the two new itineraries visiting Mexico's Pacific Coast start at \$2,499 per person, double occupancy.

### ***More! Caribbean and Latin America – 7 New Itineraries Join Popular Favorites***

Windstar's Caribbean season in 2019/20 will return to islands including St. Maarten, Puerto Rico, the British Virgin Islands, Dominica, and St. Bart's with classic itineraries like [Classic Caribbean](#) and [Yachtsman's Caribbean](#), but the new cruises below reflect additional offerings for the company. Rates for the cruises below start at \$1,799 per person, double occupancy and vary by sail date and destination.

#### [The Spanish Main: Rise of the New World](#) (7 days)

This voyage from Colón, Panama to San Juan, Puerto Rico is perfect for the history buff – whether ancient, colonial or pirate – who loves to snorkel, paddle and hike. *Star Legend* takes guests to the San Blas Archipelago, accessible only by small ship, and Cartagena, a UNESCO site, jewel of the Spanish Main and re-emergent must-see of South America.

#### [In the Wake of the Spanish Armadas](#) (9 days)

*Wind Surf* makes its way from Oranjestad, Aruba to Colón, Panama, the cruise route traces the history of Spanish exploration in the region. It will mark the first time *Wind Surf* has entered the famous Panama Canal and will be the closest this gorgeous ship has ever come to the Pacific Ocean. On this journey, guests can explore the fortresses of Aruba and Cartagena, the engineering triumph of the Panama Canal and the lush rainforest canopies of the region.

#### [Mayan Legacies](#) (8 days)

Travelers are not done with this region until they have explored the uncommon Caribbean along the Gulf of Honduras, from Colón to Cozumel aboard *Wind Surf*. This is a fantastic voyage for nature adventurers studded with chalk-white beaches, underground waterfalls, up-close encounters with howler monkeys and sea turtles, the Mesoamerican Barrier Reef and Isla San Andres, part of a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve accessible only to small ships, and capped with some of the most breathtaking sites of Mayan history.

### [Lush & Lovely Islands of the Lesser Antilles](#) (7 days)

Sail from chic St. Maarten to relaxed Barbados enjoying a mix of must-see Caribbean towns and harbors off the beaten path as the ship sails the royal beauties of the Lesser Antilles islands. Explore colonial history in pastel waterfronts, weathered forts and former sugar plantations. See the Caribbean at its most wild and beautiful on Dominica, St. Lucia and St. Kitts. Join the jetsetters on St. Barts, and make a rare visit to Montserrat, the “Pompeii of the Caribbean.”

### [Stars of the Greater Antilles](#) (11 days)

This cruise from Cozumel to St. Maarten aboard *Wind Surf* will take guests to magical places that fell off the map and tiny gems that were never on it in the first place. This itinerary explores beyond the crowds and beneath the sea including diving on pirate shipwrecks.

### [Windward Ways & Tobago Cays](#) (7 days)

This *Wind Surf* transit from Barbados to Aruba is the perfect adventure for those who put watersports and diving at the top of their Caribbean vacation to-do list. With stops at multiple marine parks including Tobago Cays Marine Park and Bonaire National Marine Park and plenty of beach time, the action is on the ocean. Visits to four colonial towns will indulge guests in a taste of yesteryear.

### [Dutch Treats Steel Drum Beats](#) (11 days)

*Wind Star* island-hops the colonial confections of the Dutch Caribbean from St. Maarten through Willemstad and on to Colón. St. Bart’s pink-sand beaches and Bonaire’s blue tangs keep excursions colorful for guests immersing themselves in the parks, sites, and culture of this itinerary.

To learn more about authentic small ship cruising with Windstar in the Caribbean, Latin America or elsewhere around the globe, contact a travel advisor or Windstar Cruises by phone at 877-958-7718, or visit [www.windstarcruises.com](http://www.windstarcruises.com).

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### **About Windstar Cruises**

*Windstar Cruises operates a six-ship fleet of small sailing and all-suite ships sailing throughout Europe, the Caribbean, Costa Rica and the Panama Canal, Asia, Alaska and British Columbia, Canada and New England, and cruising year-round in Tahiti. Windstar’s fleet is the market leader in small ship cruising with a total of 1,242 passenger berths calling on off-the-beaten-path and popular ports in nearly 80 countries. The boutique cruise line carries 148 to 310 passengers on six small ships and takes travelers on cruises that are 180 degrees from ordinary. Windstar is known for immersive experiences and destination authenticity, port-intensive itineraries, exceptional award-winning service, and an innovative culinary program with culinary-themed cruises as the Official Cruise Line of the James Beard Foundation. Windstar Cruises is a part of Xanterra Travel Collection, an award-winning, globally diversified travel company offering once in a lifetime experiences in some of the most beautiful and iconic places on earth.*

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