

Panama Canal Cruise, Rainforests & Beaches

8 Days from \$1195

Day 1 – Panama City, Panama

Welcome to fun, vibrant Panama, home to the Panama Canal, the most important waterway in the world. Take two daytime cruises on the Panama Canal: one through the canal locks and another cruise on Gatun Lake. The Isthmus of Panama links North and South America. See both the Atlantic and Pacific oceans. With us you explore rain forests and sandy beaches. Meet friendly native Indians living in the jungle. Company provides transfers from Panama's Tocumen Airport to your hotel for a two night stay. Rooms are available for check in after 4:00 p.m. Join us for an 8:00 p.m. welcome briefing. Dinner is served until 9:30 p.m. at your hotel. **D**



Day 2 – Old Panama, Miraflores Locks

This morning, visit the ruins of Panama Viejo (Old Panama), the city founded by the Spanish in 1519, as a gateway for gold from the Inca Empire. Next, on your scenic drive of Panama City's bayfront, enjoy views of Casco Antiguo (The Old French Quarter) and today's modern skyline. Panama City is a blend of Manhattan, Miami, and Las Vegas seasoned with Latin American flavor and style. Lunch. Visit the Canal Museum at Miraflores, overlooking the Panama Canal locks. Learn about the Canal construction and operation. From Pre-Columbian times to the present day, Panama had a prominent role as the major transit route between the Pacific and Atlantic oceans. Next, drive through the City of Knowledge, the former United States Army Base, Fort Clayton and return to your hotel. Enjoy dinner. **BLD**

Day 3 – Panama Canal Cruise - Gatun Lake

This morning cross the Isthmus to Colon, the Caribbean port at the north end of the Panama Canal. Your short drive through Colon passes by the Free Trade Zone, the largest in the Americas and the Panama Canal Railway Station. Visit the Panama Canal Expansion Observation Center. See the construction of the new locks at the Atlantic entrance to the Panama Canal. Learn how the locks raise ships 87 feet above the Caribbean Sea on to the Panama Canal. Lunch. Afternoon boat ride on Gatun Lake, the artificial lake which forms part of the Panama Canal. See the lush jungle watershed region of the Panama Canal. Cruise through jungle canals and by hilltop islands, home to a variety of wildlife. Look for monkeys. Enjoy a relaxing two night stay at your resort located in the rainforest. Dinner. **BLD**



Day 4 – Panama Canal Cruise - Locks Transit

Today an unforgettable adventure as you cruise another portion of the Panama Canal. Cruise by the Bridge of the Americas, pass through Miraflores and Pedro Miguel Locks, and cross the Continental Divide. Then wind through the Gaillard Cut to the town of Gamboa. Your small passenger vessel allows for close-up views of the opening and closing of the huge six foot thick steel gates of both the Miraflores and Pedro Miguel Locks. See, at eye-level, how transiting vessels are guided by tugboats and pulled by small trains. (Please note that the route may be reversed.) Next, drive by the Smithsonian's Tropical Research Institute. Return to your jungle resort. Stroll the gardens, swim in the pool, or enjoy the scenic views from your private balcony. Dinner. **BLD**

Day 5 – Embera Indians, Butterflies, Orchids

This morning, cruise on the Chagres River to visit an Embera Indian village. The Embera inhabit the rainforests of Panama. See exotic Embera handicrafts, such as tightly woven palm fiber baskets and carvings made from tagua nuts and the cocobolo tree. Lunch. Look for colorful butterflies on your visit to a butterfly garden. See rare tropical orchids at an orchid nursery. Visit an open air frog garden. Next, cross over the Panama Canal on the Centenario Bridge. Continue to your beach hotel for a relaxing two night stay on the Pacific Coast. Dinner. **BLD**

Day 6 – Playa Bonita

Entire day at leisure to enjoy your beach resort. Swim in your hotel's infinity pool. Lunch. Enjoy a carefree afternoon. Time to beach comb and enjoy your resort's amenities. Dinner. **BLD**

Day 7 – Handicrafts, Biodiversity Museum

Morning return to Panama City via the Bridge of the Americas. Enjoy spectacular views from Amador Causeway connecting Perico, Naos, Culebra and Flamenco Islands. Visit a Kuna Indian marketplace. Shop for colorful Kuna mola embroidery depicting rainforest animals and marine life, and exotic wood handicrafts. Lunch. Visit the world-renowned Museum of Biodiversity, designed by architect Frank Gehry. Enjoy a farewell dinner. **BLD**

Day 8 – Panama City

Your tour ends after breakfast this morning at your hotel. Breakfast begins at 6:00 a.m. Company provides transfers to Panama's Tocumen airport, arriving at 5:30 a.m., 8:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Thanks for vacationing with us. *Hasta la vista!* **B**

Arrival Transfers

Company's vacation packages include arrival transfers from Tocumen Panama International Airport (PTY) in Panama City, Panama to the Courtyard by Marriott in Panama City on the day the tour begins. After you clear customs and exit the baggage claim area, a COMPANY representative will meet you. If you do not see your airport representative, please wait a few minutes as he or she may be assisting other passengers. The representative will arrange a transfer to your hotel, where you will spend the next two nights. If your flight is delayed, there is no need to call us, since your transfer representative will wait for you, no matter how late your arrival on the day the tour begins. Company transfers are included only on the day your tour begins. If you are arriving a day or two early, or later, you will need to transfer on your own, at your own expense. Taxi fares from Tocumen Airport to the Courtyard by Marriott hotel in Panama City run approximately \$30.00 USD. The driving time from the airport to the hotel is approximately 30-60 minutes, depending on traffic. To enter Panama, you will need a U.S. passport valid for 6 additional months after the date of your arrival into Panama.

Departure Transfers

Company's vacation packages include departure transfers from the Courtyard by Marriott hotel in Panama City to Tocumen Panama International Airport (PTY) in Panama City, Panama arriving at 5:30 am, 8:00 am and 11:00 am. on the day the tour ends. If you wish to leave at another time, you will need to transfer on your own, at your own expense. Taxi fares from your hotel to Tocumen Airport cost about \$30.00 USD. The driving time from the hotel to the airport is approximately 30-60 minutes, depending on traffic. Please advise the Tour Director if you will be taking your own taxi separately.

included in the tour price

Hotels, all meals, all of the activities described in the itinerary pages, airport transfers, gratuities to hotel porters, restaurant staff and local guides. Professional Tour Directors conduct every land tour from start to finish. They are fluent in English, experienced and fun, ensuring a worry free vacation.

not included in the tour price

Prices do not include air travel, country entry or departure fees, airport porters, visas, phone calls, valet, laundry, all items of a personal nature, extra food and beverages not on the regular menu, and tips to the Tour Director and Driver. General fees and taxes are additional and listed separately beneath each tour's price.