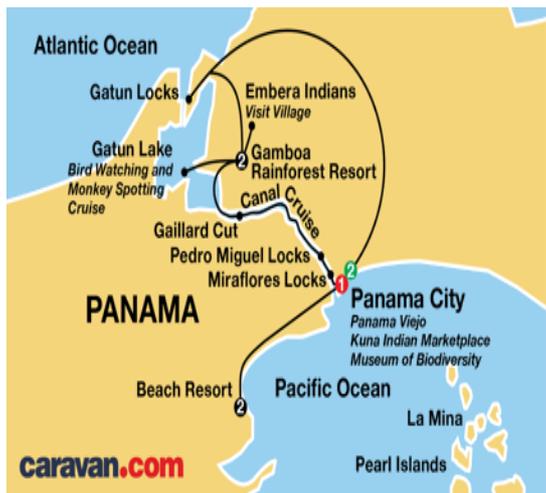


Panama

Canal Cruise, Rainforests & Beaches

Jan. 31 – Feb. 7, 2017

Escorted by Monica Marshall



The Panama Canal is one of the greatest feats of engineering the world has ever seen. The Canal is 48 miles long, was 17 years in the making and had enough rock and rubble dug from the isthmus of Central America to circle the earth four times. But as awe-inspiring as the "big ditch" is, it's still only a tiny sliver of what Panama has to offer. Away from the commerce and concrete of the canal, the country is teeming with rain forests, beaches, indigenous people and colonial history.

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 Caravan you explore rainforests and sandy beaches. Meet friendly native Indians living in the jungle. Caravan 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 Caravan 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



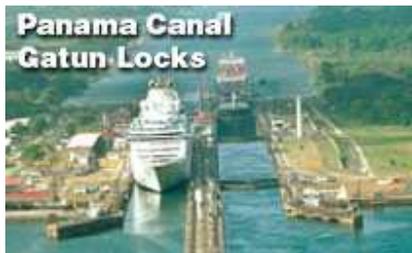
the present day, Panama had a prominent role as the major transit route between the Pacific and Atlantic oceans. Next, drive through the City of Knowledge, the former United States Army Base, Fort Clayton. Enjoy dinner. BLD

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.) Lunch. 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, Museum of Biodiversity

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. Caravan provides transfers to Panama's Tocumen airport, arriving at 5:30 a.m., 8:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Hasta la vista! B

****Welcome Home****

Tour cost:

\$1,493.00 per person, based on double occupancy
(\$1,195.00 tour cost + \$298.00 taxes)

Airfare additional.

Optional Trip insurance: \$99.00 per person and strongly recommended
(Trip insurance must be purchased with deposit, it cannot be added later.)

A valid passport is required for this tour. Passports must be valid at least 6 months beyond the end date of the tour.

Tour includes:

- All taxes
- All meals as listed in the itinerary (BLD)
- Sightseeing and admissions as outlined in the itinerary

- Arrival and departure transfers on Jan. 31 and Feb. 7. Departure transfers on Feb. 7 will arrive at the Panama City airport at 5:30 am, 8:00 am and 11:00 am. 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.
- Hotel accommodations, includes hotels taxes
- Services of a professional full-time tour director
- Transportation by luxury motor coach

Hotels listed by day:

- 1 & 2 Panama City - Marriott Courtyard Multiplaza
- 3 & 4 Gamoba - Gamboa Rainforest Resort
- 5 & 6 Playa Bonita - Westin Playa Bonita Resort
- 7 Panama City - Intercontinental Miramar

Not included in the tour cost:

- Airfare
- Trip insurance - strongly recommended
- Any pre- or post tour accommodations

Terms & Conditions:

Any cancellations must be received in writing to Thomas Travel.

Cancellation Penalties are as follows:

Tour cancellation-

61 or more days before departure: \$300 per person

60-8 days before departure: 50% of tour cost

7 days or less prior to departure: 100% penalty

Airfare is non-refundable once tickets have been issued.

Trip insurance is non-refundable once purchased and strongly recommended.

RESERVATION FORM
Panama
Canal Cruise, Rainforests & Beaches
Jan. 31 – Feb. 7, 2017

Your Name(s): _____
(Name as it appears on your valid passport. Penalty fees will be charged for name corrections)

Birth dates _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone #: _____

Email Address: _____

Number of persons in room Single: _____ Double: _____ Triple: _____

Seating Preference Aisle: _____ Window: _____ Next: _____

Frequent Flyer #s if any: _____

A non-refundable deposit of \$300.00 per person is enclosed

-Trip insurance is strongly recommended (\$99.00 per person)-
(insurance must be paid with deposit)

A valid passport is required for this tour

Please remit to:

Thomas Travel
535 East 4500 South, Suite D200
Salt Lake City, UT 84107
Phone: (801) 266-2775 / (800) 255-3230
email: monica@thomatravel.com

Serving You for 65 Years