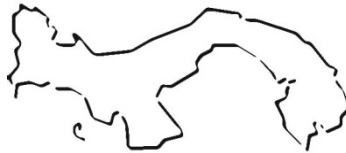




Panama - Exploring the Isthmus
June 19th - 26th, 2011



June 19th, 2011 *Arrival to Panama, transfer to Royal Decameron Golf Beach Resort*

Upon arrival to Panama you will be met in the Tocumen International airport by your interpretive guide and escorted to your hotel.

Royal Decameron Golf Beach Resort & Villas – Located on 2 kilometers of secluded white sand beach, Royal Decameron boasts 8 large pools, 10 restaurants, and 11 bars [including 1 swim up bar], all surrounded by lush gardens on a hill overlooking the Pacific ocean. When not relaxing on the beach or in the spa, you are invited to play a round on the on-site 18-hole golf course; take part in the many organized activities, from volleyball to water aerobics; take advantage of the many free non-motorized water-sports options; or tour the sites of Panama with the on-site tour group, Decameron Explorer.

Overnight at Royal Decameron Golf Beach Resort, all inclusive program.

June 19th - 22nd, 2011 *Royal Decameron Golf Beach Resort & Villas, all inclusive program*

All inclusive features: Breakfast, lunch and dinner buffets, a-la-carte dinners, day and night snacks, unlimited domestic and international alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages, daily activities program, non-motorized water sports (windsurfing, kayaking, paddleboats, snorkeling, and sailing), introductory scuba diving instruction in the pool, beach towels at the activities center, tennis courts, beach volleyball, nightly entertainment.

Overnight at Royal Decameron Golf Beach Resort, all inclusive program.

June 22nd, 2011

Departure from Royal Decameron to Panama City, tour Casco Antiguo.

Today we depart from Royal Decameron and head back to Panama City. After we checked in at the Country Inn Amador we set off to explore the city of Panama. Casco Antiguo, the historic center of Panama City is a quiet, charming district of narrow streets overlooked by the flower bedecked balconies of two and three-story houses. At its tip lies French Park, a monument to the French builders who began the Panama Canal, and the lovely French Embassy. As we meander through the area we will see the remaining ruins of the convents and seminaries, the famous Flat Arch, which reportedly helped convince engineers that Panama was earth-quake-proof and the beautiful Cathedral with its mother of pearl covered spires. Dinner will be enjoyed in Casco Antiguo. (dinner not included)

Overnight at Country Inn Amador at the Panama Canal.

June 23rd, 2011

The Wild Side of the Panama Canal

This day tour combines the thrill of encountering wildlife in their natural habitats while passing in the shadows of the mammoth cargo ships transiting the Panama Canal.

Gatun Lake, with a surface area of 423 square-kilometers, was created in 1914 as the main waterway for the canal and contains many small islands (former hilltops) that provide protected natural habitats for many of the animals that live in the region. With all the rivers in the surrounding watershed area flowing into this reservoir, which provides the 52 million gallons required per lockage, this is a highly protected region. Without the healthy rainforest of the watershed land, over 500,000 hectares, the canal could not function. Healthy rainforest provides good habitats, and therefore these forests are teeming with wildlife.

From the comfort of our expedition boat which allows shoreline access to the rainforest covered islands we will search for white-faced capuchin, mantled howler monkey, Central American spider monkey, and Geoffrey's tamarin. We are likely to spot green iguana and three-toed sloth resting on tree branches, crocodile napping on beaches, osprey hunting for peacock bass, snail kite, and keel-billed toucan. At mid-day, we will enjoy a picnic lunch on a small island with extraordinary views of the Panama Canal and the natural surroundings.

Overnight at Country Inn Amador at the Panama Canal.

June 24th, 2011 The Chagres River and The Embera Indigenous

This is a perfect opportunity to visit an indigenous village in the midst of a wonderful natural setting that supports the harmony of their lifestyle and traditions. Early in the morning guests are picked up at their hotel and transferred to Port El Corotú on the shores of Madden Lake, the main reservoir of drinking water for the cities of Panama and Colon. Madden Lake also supplies 40% of the water required for the operation of the Panama Canal. Here, we board a motorized piragua (dugout canoe) and travel up the Chagres River to the Emberá indigenous village of Emberá Drua. The boat journey takes us through the rainforest of the 320,000-acre Chagres National Park, which is the largest of the National Parks protecting the Panama Canal Watershed.

At the Emberá village we will be greeted with dancing and music. We will learn about Emberá customs and their relationship with nature. There will be handcrafts available for sale and we will have a chance to be painted with the traditional jagua, a natural dye the Emberá use to adorn their bodies. After a lunch of fish, plantain, and fresh fruit served in traditional style by the Emberá, we visit the nearby waterfall where we can take a dip in the crystal-clear waters of the Chagres River before heading back to Panama City.

Overnight at Country Inn Amador at the Panama Canal.

June 25th, 2011 The Panama Canal

One cannot visit Panama without at least doing a partial transit of the canal. This morning we will board a ship designed exactly for visitors wanting to experience what every ship transiting the canal goes through. It will be an unforgettable experience as our boat is raised and lowered through two sets of locks, Miraflores and Pedro Miguel, and transits the infamous Gaillard Cut. Roughly 5 percent of the world's commercial trade transits the Panama Canal. The entire transit is narrated by an expert explaining the history, engineering, and execution of the canal. Lunch will be served on board.

Overnight at Country Inn Amador at the Panama Canal.

June 26th, 2011 Panama Departure

Today we'll say "hasta luego" (see you later) to this enchanting country and return home, where you'll be eager to share your incredible Panama experiences of its exotic wildlife, embracing culture, and inspiring enthusiasm.