

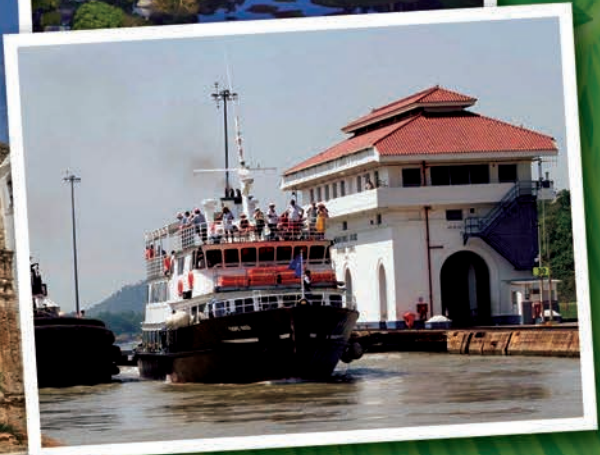
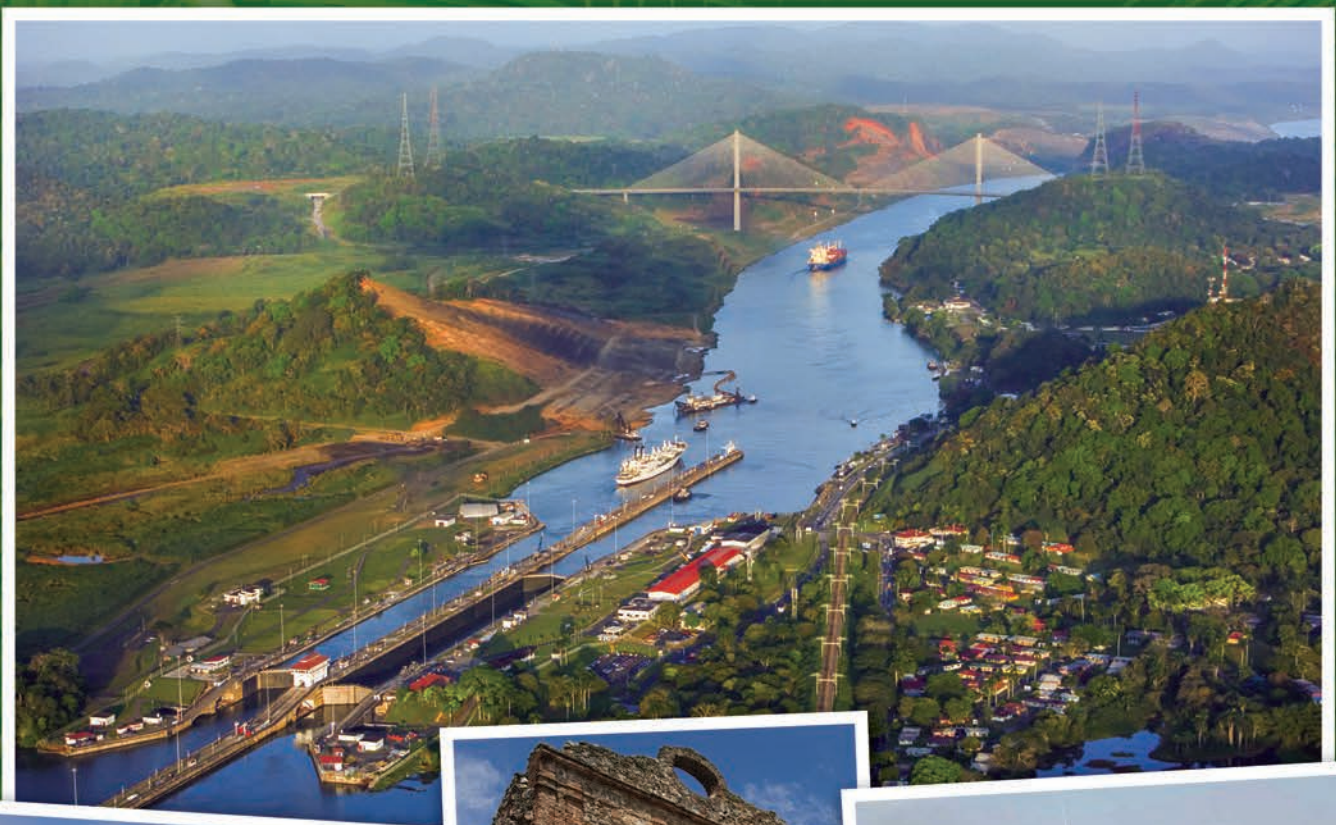
Wendinger Travel

*Presents*

# *Exploring the Panama Canal and Beyond*

February 4 - 11, 2021

\$3,298 Per Person, Double Occupancy from Minneapolis



*This is an exclusive travel program offered by Wendinger Travel and InterTrav*



# Day by Day Itinerary

## Thursday, February 4 – MINNEAPOLIS / PANAMA CITY

We depart Minneapolis this morning by scheduled airline service to begin our journey south to Panama City, Panama. On arrival at Tocumen International Airport we'll meet our Tour Guide who will travel with us throughout our stay in Panama City, followed by a short drive to our downtown hotel. Cosmopolitan and compact, Panama's capital city spreads along the shores of a broad Pacific bay at the southern entrance to the Panama Canal. At a crossroads between two continents and two oceans, Panama City has served for centuries as a commercial route between the Old and New Worlds.

## Friday, February 5 – PANAMA CITY (B,L,D)

Today we explore Panama City, beginning our day with a visit to Panama Viejo where Pedro Arias de Avila founded the first Spanish City on August 15, 1519. We'll visit the Old Panama Museum tracing the nation's history from the arrival of Balboa until 1977, and climb the steps inside the Cathedral Metropolitana tower for a sweeping panoramic view. Then we'll travel to the Old Quarter of Casco Viejo, the most colorful and intriguing part of the city, full of historic buildings, quaint plazas, charming sidewalk cafes and museums. After lunch, we'll travel to nearby Balboa, named for Vasco Nunez de Balboa, the first Spaniard to see the Pacific Ocean. Here, we'll visit the Miraflores Locks Visitor Center to enjoy a presentation by the Panama Canal Authority on the history of the Panama Canal.

## Saturday, February 6 – PANAMA CITY (Panama Canal Tour) (B,L)

One of the great engineering feats of the 20th century, the Panama Canal accomplished what nature forgot to do; it connected the Atlantic to the Pacific, and reduced the 12,000-mile sailing distance between New York and San Francisco by more than 7,000 miles. Without question, the best way to experience this magnificent wonder is from the deck of a transiting ship.

This morning we travel to the town of Gamboa and board the Pacific Queen for a southbound journey through the Panama Canal. We'll begin by cruising through an 8.5-mile-long portion of waterway named the Gaillard Cut. The narrowest section of the Panama Canal is flanked by the backbone of the Continental Divide and with luck, we may see toucans and parrots bursting from the green forests that line the waterway. Before reaching the first set of locks, we'll cruise beneath the new Centennial Bridge which crosses over the Canal. Then we'll enter the Pedro Miguel Locks, where the boat is lowered 30 feet in one step. From here we enter Lake Miraflores, a small artificial body of fresh water that separates the Pedro Miguel Locks from the Miraflores Locks, the tallest in the locks system due to the extreme tidal variation of the Pacific Ocean. In two steps, our boat will be lowered 56 feet in the almost 1¼ mile long lock set, where the transition takes place from fresh water to salt water. Next, we'll see the Third Cut, an unfinished canal dug in the 1940's to permit the passage of U.S. battleships, before sailing under the Bridge of the Americas, which raises over 300 feet above sea level and reunites the land divided during construction of the canal. Once in the Pacific Ocean we'll enjoy an off-shore view of Panama City's fabulous skyline as we make our way to the Flamenco Resort and Marina in Balboa.

## Sunday, February 7 – PANAMA CITY (El Valle de Anton) (B,L)

Today we travel to the picturesque mountain town of El Valle de Anton, known simply as El Valle. As we'll soon find out, El Valle has a geologically unique setting; it's nestled in the second largest volcano crater in the world. This 5 by 3-mile crater was created when a volcano blew up five million years ago. Look up - those "mountains" surrounding El Valle are actually the edges of the giant crater. El Valle's great variety of attractions includes an open-air Handicrafts Market. Be sure to have your cameras ready for this colorful market. The Ngobe-Bugle Indians flock to the traditional market to sell crafts, including the figurines of ranas doradas, the endangered yellow-and-black poison dart frogs synonymous with El Valle. For the more adventurous travelers in our group, you'll have an opportunity to enjoy an exhilarating Canopy Zipline Adventure carrying you through the rainforest canopy and over a waterfall. A thrilling adventure you're sure to remember forever.

## Monday, February 8 – PANAMA CITY (Trans-Isthmian Route) (B,L)

Today we travel across the Isthmus of Panama to the Caribbean province of Colon. We'll arrive at the Gatun Observation center and view the recently completed Panama Canal Expansion project on the Atlantic. Our next visit is to the Castle of San Lorenzo, built at the mouth of the Chagres River to protect the entrance to the Las Cruces Trail. The 400-year-old colonial trail was used by the Spaniards to transport gold across the isthmus that led to Panama City and the Pacific Ocean. Afterward, we'll board the Trans-Isthmian Train and relax as we take in the views along the magnificent waterways flanked by the rainforest of Soberania National Park.

## Tuesday, February 9 – PANAMA CITY / GAMBOA (Gatun River & Embera People) (B,L)

This morning we depart Panama City and travel to the shores of the Gatun River, the main feeder to Lake Gatun, the freshwater lake that provides the 52 million gallons of water necessary to operate the locks every time a ship passes through the canal. Here we'll embark aboard a motorized piragua, or dugout canoe, and travel up the river to an Embera indigenous village. The journey will take us through the Chagres National Park, the largest of the National Parks protecting the Panama Canal Watershed. Along the way, we'll be on the lookout for the Little Blue and Green Heron, Great Egret, Anhingas, Neotropical Cormorant, Amazon, Ringed, and Green Kingfishers, along with Keel-billed Toucans and Ospreys flying above. On our arrival at the Embera village, we'll be greeted with



music and dancing followed by an introduction to the Embera customs and their relationship with nature. We'll also enjoy a traditional Embera lunch, and you'll have an opportunity to be painted with the traditional jagua, a natural dye the Embera use to adorn their bodies. Afterward, we'll travel to our resort where we'll spend the last two evenings on tour deep in the heart of the Panamanian rainforest.

**Wednesday, February 10 – GAMBOA (B,D)**

The day is at leisure in our rainforest resort designed for you to do as much or as little as you'd like. As we'll soon discover, the resort provides a variety of educational and adventure experiences, or you can simply relax and work on your tan poolside. Exploring the rainforest has never been easier. For a bird's eye view of the Soberania National Park, a must-see destination for avid bird watchers, climb aboard the specially designed aerial tram and glide quietly through the rainforest canopy where you'll encounter plants and animals rarely seen by visitors on the ground.

**Thursday, February 11 – GAMBOA / MINNEAPOLIS (B)**

Early this morning we travel to Tocumen International Airport in preparation for our return journey home. No better time to celebrate a beginning of new friendships and reflect on memories of our *Exploring the Panama Canal and Beyond* vacation to last a lifetime!

**\* \* \* Welcome Home \* \* \***

**The Vacation Price Includes:**

- Economy-class airline transportation from Minneapolis.
- Transportation by deluxe private motor coach with accompanying Panama Tour Guide.
- First-class hotel accommodations.
- All meals as shown in the Day by Day Itinerary.
- Sightseeing as shown in the Day by Day Itinerary including applicable entrance fees.
- Luggage handling and portorage charges for one suitcase per person at the hotels.

**The Vacation Price Does Not Include:**

Items of a personal nature such as passport fees; gratuities to the motor coach driver(s), Tour Guide, and local guide(s); luggage handling at airports; and meals other than those stated above.

*Wendinger Travel purchases Travel Insured's Group Protection Plan on behalf of all travelers.*

**RESERVATION APPLICATION**

**Please detach and mail to:**

Wendinger Travel  
P.O. Box 386  
New Ulm, MN 56073

Telephone: 507/359-3111  
Toll-Free: 888/363-9104

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ places for me/us on the **Exploring The Panama Canal and Beyond** vacation. Enclosed is my/our check in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (\$500 deposit per person).

Please make checks payable to: **INTERTRAV CORPORATION**

Mr.  Mrs.  Ms. \_\_\_\_\_  
(PRINT NAME - IDENTICAL TO PASSPORT)

Mr.  Mrs.  Ms. \_\_\_\_\_  
(PRINT NAME - IDENTICAL TO PASSPORT)

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
Area Code Home Area Code Cell

I will room with (if other than spouse) \_\_\_\_\_

Other passengers I/we are traveling with \_\_\_\_\_

I do not have a roommate but will share. If a roommate cannot be found, I will pay the single supplement.

I desire single room accommodations (subject to availability) at the supplementary charge of \$480.

**PLEASE ENCLOSE A COPY OF THE PHOTO PAGE OF YOUR PASSPORT WITH YOUR RESERVATION.**

## TOUR CONDITIONS

**TOUR DEPOSIT AND PAYMENT:** Payments are accepted by personal or bank checks. Credit cards can be accepted for payment(s); however, the vacation price reflects a 3.5% cash discount. Please call InterTrav at 1-800-624-8338 to arrange payment by credit card; 3.5% of the payment amount will be assessed on credit card payments. **You will be invoiced for the balance of payment due on or before Friday, October 30, 2020.** Reservation requests received after Friday, October 30, 2020, are subject to tour availability.

**TOUR PRICING:** The tour price is based on a minimum participation of 20 persons and includes planning, handling and operational charges and is quoted on the current rate of exchange, tariff rates and airfares in effect as of June 1, 2020. In the event the tour does not reach the minimum participation level or of a marked increase or decrease in foreign currency or in tariff rates, the cost is subject to revision. This is a package tour in which special group airfares and land tour costs have been combined in the most advantageous way. Should you wish to deviate from the package tour by changing your departure and/or return dates of travel or take the land tour only this will eliminate the advantages of the package tour price. There will be a service charge of \$100 per person for altering the airline itinerary, plus any additional charges assessed by the airlines.

**TRIP CANCELLATION, BAGGAGE AND MEDICAL INSURANCE:** Trip cancellation, baggage and medical insurance has been purchased by Wendinger Travel on behalf of all travelers on the tour. The insurance includes: Trip Cancellation Insurance up to the full price of the tour cost; Trip Interruption up to 150% of the tour cost; Travel Delay - \$750; Missed Connection - \$500; Baggage - \$1,500; Baggage Delay - \$400; Emergency Accident/Sickness Medical Expense: \$50,000; Emergency Medical Transportation - \$250,000.

**CANCELLATION:** If after making your initial deposit you find it necessary to cancel from the tour for any reason, there is a charge of \$100 per person up to 90 days prior to departure. For cancellation between 89 and 60 days prior to departure, there is a cancellation charge equal to 50% of the tour cost. For cancellation within 59 days of departure, the cancellation charge is 100% of the tour cost. **IMPORTANT:** Cancellations will not be accepted by telephone and must be sent in writing to: Wendinger Travel, P.O. Box 386, New Ulm, MN 56073, faxed to: 507-354-2509 or emailed to [sdhowk@yahoo.com](mailto:sdhowk@yahoo.com).

**PASSPORTS AND VISAS:** Your tour requires a valid passport, which the U.S. Department of State recommends be valid for a minimum of three months after your return date of travel. No visas are required for your tour. However, if you are a citizen of a country other than the United States, additional travel documentation may be required.

**AIRLINE TICKETING:** For ticketing purposes InterTrav requires a copy of the information (photo) page of your passport. Once airline tickets have been issued and if a ticket requires a name change because of incorrect information supplied to our office, the client is responsible for any applicable airline charges.

**SPECIAL NOTE REGARDING PRICING:** The tour price as quoted is based on tariffs in effect for estimated 2021 prices as of June 1, 2020. Tour prices do increase every year, and it is therefore possible that increases could occur after the printing of this brochure in advance of your tour's departure. InterTrav Corporation will do everything possible to avoid an increase in the tour cost. However, should increases occur in airfares, hotel prices, and/or coach transportation costs, they will be added to the tour cost and passengers will be notified accordingly.

## RESPONSIBILITY

WENDINGER TRAVEL, INTERTRAV CORPORATION, and/or any travel agency or supplier of services pursuant to or in connection with this itinerary shall not be responsible or become liable for any delay or cancellation incurred by any person in connection with transportation; for any loss, damage or injury to person or property by reason of any event beyond the control of any agency or supplier; or for any events occurring without the fault or negligence of such agency or supplier. The right is reserved to substitute the airline to be used; the type of aircraft; to alter the dates of the tour; the tour routing; or to cancel the trip if a minimum number of bookings is not reached for any portion of this itinerary. This right is also reserved for any cancellation, delay, reschedule, or precautions added of any portion of this itinerary due to acts of terrorism, political unrest, war, defects in vehicles, breakdown of equipment, strikes, or disease outbreak/pandemic. The right is also reserved to substitute hotels for other hotels in available categories. Further, the right is reserved to decline to accept or to retain at any time any person as a participant on any tour or to cancel any tour. No refund will be made for voluntary absence from the tour unless arrangements are made at the time of booking. Refunds and credits due to the cancellation of an portion of the itinerary by the airline, travel agency, hotel, or any third party providing for items on the itinerary and not due to the traveler shall be made on a case by case basis and is dependent on the policies of those suppliers at the time of the change in service. The schedules contained herein are subject to change without notice. All rates are based on current Tariff and Exchange rates in effect at the time of the printing of this itinerary and are subject to adjustment without prior notification in the event of changes therein or in changes in the number of participants on which the rates are based. The carriers concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time passengers are not on board their plane or conveyance. The passage contract in use by carrier concerned, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the carrier and the purchaser of this tour.