

Wendinger Travel

Presents

Exploring the Panama Canal and Beyond

February 17 - 24, 2022

\$3,398 Per Person, Double Occupancy from Minneapolis



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

Day By Day Itinerary

Thurs., Feb. 17 – 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.

Fri., Feb. 18 – PANAMA CITY (B,L,RD)

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.

Sat., Feb. 19 – PANAMA CITY (B,L) (El Valle de Anton)

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 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.

Sun., Feb. 20 – PANAMA CITY (B,L) (Panama Canal Tour)

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 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 offshore view of Panama City's fabulous skyline as we make our way to the Flamenco Resort and Marina in Balboa.

Mon., Feb. 21 – PANAMA CITY (B,L) (Trans-Isthmian Route)

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.

Tues., Feb. 22 – PANAMA CITY / GAMBOA (B,L) (Gatun River & Embera People)

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 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.

Wed., Feb. 23 – GAMBOA (B,HD)

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.

Thurs., Feb.24 – 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!

The Vacation Price Includes:

- ◆ Economy-class air 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 portage charges for one suitcase per person at the hotels.

The Vacation Price Does Not Include:

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

Reservation Application

Please return 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 \$ _____ (\$350 per person), plus \$ _____ to purchase the **optional** Travel Protection.

Yes, I/we would like to purchase the optional Group Deluxe Travel Protection @ \$233 per person. The Travel Protection cost increases to \$290 per person if registering as a single traveler.

Yes, I/we would like to purchase the optional Group Deluxe with CFAR (Cancel For Any Reason) Travel Protection @ \$350 per person. The Travel Protection cost increases to \$435 per person if registering as a single traveler.

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

Mr. Mrs. Ms. _____
(PLEASE PRINT NAME - IDENTICAL TO PASSPORT)

Mr. Mrs. Ms. _____
(PLEASE PRINT NAME - IDENTICAL TO PASSPORT)

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

TELEPHONE (_____) _____ (_____) _____
Area Code (Home) Area Code (Cell)

EMAIL: _____

I will room with (if other than spouse) _____

I desire single room accommodations (subject to availability) at the supplementary charge of \$490.

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

TOUR CONDITIONS

TOUR DEPOSIT AND PAYMENT: Reservations may be made by check or major credit card. Credit cards can be accepted for payment(s); however, the vacation price reflects a 4% cash discount. Please call InterTrav at 630-377-5840 to arrange payment by credit card; 4% 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, November 12, 2021**. Reservation requests received after **Friday, November 12, 2021**, 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 May 1, 2021.

CANCELLATION: If after making your initial deposit you find it necessary to cancel from the tour for any reason, there is a cancellation charge equal to the per person deposit up to 100 days prior to departure. For cancellation between 99 and 65 days prior to departure, there is a cancellation charge equal to 50% of the tour cost. For cancellation within 64 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, or emailed to sdhowk@yahoo.com.

TRAVEL PROTECTION: You have been given the option of purchasing Travel Protection at the time you sign-up for the tour. Plans help protect you and your travel investment and help provide coverage for unexpected circumstances. The plan cost is non-refundable after the 14 day free look period and rates are based on trip cost. Group plans require a minimum participation of 10 travelers. **For a complete description of coverage** and to see all the covered reasons for cancellation, please call 507-359-3111 or e-mail sdhowk@yahoo.com.

PASSPORTS AND VISAS: Your tour requires a passport valid for the duration of your travel. If you do not already have your passport, or it will expire before your return date, we suggest you apply for it immediately. No visas are required for your tour. However, if you are a citizen of a country other than the United States, you must advise us in writing with your Reservation Application, as other travel documents may be required.

RESPONSIBILITY

WENDINGER TRAVEL and/or INTERTRAV CORPORATION, 203 State Avenue, St. Charles, Illinois 60174, and its employees, shareholders, agents, and representatives (InterTrav) uses third party suppliers to arrange tours, transportation, sightseeing, lodging, and all other services related to this tour. InterTrav is an independent contractor and is not an employee, agent, or representative of any of these suppliers. InterTrav does not own, manage, operate, supervise, or control any transportation, vehicle, airplane, hotel or restaurants, or any other entity that supplies services related to your tour. InterTrav is not affiliated with any other tour operator. All suppliers are independent contractors and are not agents or employees or representatives of InterTrav. All tickets, receipts, coupons, and vouchers are issued subject to the terms and conditions specified by each supplier, and by accepting the coupons, vouchers, and tickets, or utilizing the services, all customers agree that neither InterTrav, nor its employees, agents, or representatives are or shall not be responsible or become liable for any delay incurred or change in schedule by any person in connection with any means of transportation; nor for any loss, damage or injury to person or property or otherwise, in connection with any service supplied or not supplied resulting directly or indirectly from any occurrence beyond the control of InterTrav by reason of any event beyond the control of any agency or supplier, or occurring without the fault or negligence of such agency or supplier. InterTrav assumes no responsibility or liability for any loss, injury or damage or loss of any traveler that may result from any act or omission on the part of others; InterTrav assumes no responsibility or liability for personal property; and InterTrav shall be relieved of any obligations under these terms and conditions in the event of any strike, labor dispute, act of God, or of government, fire, war, whether declared or not, terrorism, insurrection, riot, theft, pilferage, epidemic, pandemic, illness, physical injury, quarantine, medical or customs or immigration regulation, delay, or cancellation. InterTrav accepts no responsibility for lost or stolen items. InterTrav reserves the right to refuse any participant or potential participant at its sole discretion. No refund will be made for voluntary absence from the tour unless arrangements are made at the time of booking.

The above tour conditions are provided in addition to the full terms and conditions of travel which can be found here grouptripsandtravel.com/booking-agreement-terms-conditions/. By booking this trip you are agreeing to be bound by the full terms and conditions of travel in addition to the tour conditions above. It is therefore vital that you read the full terms and conditions before making any booking. Making a booking is indicative of your agreement to be bound by all of the terms and conditions.