Costa Rica and the Panama Canal

February 24 to March 3, 2024

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT WAIVED
Space is limited. Book today!
Costa Rica and the Panama Canal

Travel through one of the greatest engineering marvels of our time and immerse yourself in a natural world of wonder as you journey through virgin rainforests and jungle-fringed beaches from Panama to Costa Rica. This 9-day, 8-night luxury itinerary combines tours of historical and cultural sites with visits to some of the most incredible nature preserves and rainforests in Central America. Cruise through the mighty locks of the Panama Canal to the UNESCO-designated historic district of Panama City and on to the Pacific coast of Costa Rica.

Look for howler monkeys, toucans, three-toed sloths, tree frogs, coatis, iguanas, leatherback turtles, and over 600 species of non-migratory birds, on naturalist-led hikes off the coast of Cébaco Island, the Rio Seco Rainforest, Manuel Antonio National Park, and the Curú National Wildlife Refuge. Conclude your exploration of this extraordinary region with one night on land in historical San José, Costa Rica—completing the cultural melting pot of two nations that includes indigenous, Afro-Caribbean, and Spanish influences.
Dear Club Members,

We invite you to witness one of the greatest feats of the modern age—the Panama Canal, a stunning example of engineering prowess. Unmatched in drama, this nearly 50-mile passage through the narrow Isthmus of Panama continues to astonish even the most veteran traveler. During a specially arranged and narrated daylight transit, experience the mighty locks that raise and lower ocean going vessels 85 feet, employing the force of gravity to achieve in mere hours that once involved a three-week circumnavigation of South America.

This 9-day, 8-night itinerary also showcases Earth’s most pristine ecosystems in the rainforests and islands of Costa Rica and Panama at the best time of year. Cruise aboard the exclusively chartered, 5-star LE DUMONT D’URVILLE, a sophisticated small ship offering only 92 suites and staterooms, each with a private balcony. Dock in small ports of call inaccessible to larger vessels and enjoy a variety of included excursions led by experienced onboard naturalists.

Spend a day anchored off the coast of Cébaco Island to enjoy a guided walk along the beach or snorkeling in its beautiful reefs with fish, turtles, and other spectacular marine life. Visit the Rio Seco Rainforest, an off-the-beaten-path destination accessible only by boat for a day of hiking and discovery. Tour the stunning and biodiverse Manuel Antonio National Park, where guides will lead a trail walk through an ecosystem of rare species, including the scarlet macaw and fiery-billed aracari.

Enhance your journey with the Panama City Pre-Program or the San José Post-Program options. This exclusive, expertly designed itinerary—co-sponsored with several educational organizations including University of Kansas, National Trust Tours, and University of Rhode Island—will fill up fast. Reserve now while space and extended booking savings are available.

Best regards,

Kristina Nemeth
Travel Director
(415) 597-6720

To secure your spot, call Commonwealth Club Travel at 415-597-6720 or email us at travel@commonwealthclub.org
Famed for its easily accessed park system, Costa Rica represents one of the world’s greatest ecotourism destinations. The country’s national motto, “¡Pura Vida!” or “pure life,” is reflected in its unwavering commitment to environmental preservation.

One of the most biodiverse locations on Earth, Costa Rica’s varied habitats and ecosystems preserve a spectacular array of wildlife and unspoiled beauty. More than 25 percent of this captivating country has been designated a national park, wildlife refuge, or protected rainforest.

A nationwide mission to achieve zero net carbon emissions by 2050 has reinforced the connection between Costa Rica’s proud residents and this primal landscape that flourishes with rare and endemic species—proving to the world that it’s possible to thrive without damaging the planet we all share.
Marvel of Human Engineering

Completed in 1914, the Panama Canal is considered one of the Seven Wonders of the Modern World by the American Society of Civil Engineers. France’s failed attempt to build a canal in the 19th century and implicit U.S. backing of Panama’s independence in 1903 created diplomatic conditions favorable to the U.S.-led effort. In 1904, the Hay-Bunau-Varilla Treaty granted exclusive canal rights to the U.S. across the Isthmus of Panama in exchange for $10 million and an annuity of $250,000. Under the watchful eye of U.S. President Theodore Roosevelt, the canal’s realization hinged on the successful conversion of the original French sea-level plan to a lock-controlled canal system and crucial health care advances to prevent malaria and yellow fever outbreaks.

This historic engineering feat opened new channels of international trade and allowed ships to travel between the Atlantic and Pacific oceans in a fraction of the time required to circumnavigate South America. Following a $5.25 billion expansion in 2016, the canal now accommodates more than twice the cargo. It’s also seen more than 900,000 vessels (and counting) pass through its locks, experiencing an engineering miracle that was once thought impossible.

INCLUDED FEATURES

♦ Transfers and luggage handling abroad if you purchased air through Gohagan & Company and your arrival(s)/departure(s) coincide with the scheduled group transfer(s).
♦ Experienced, English-speaking local guides for included excursions.
♦ Gratuities to local guides and drivers on included excursions and transfers.
♦ Complimentary bottled water in your suite or stateroom and on excursions.
♦ Experienced Gohagan & Company Travel Directors at your service.
♦ Complimentary use of an audio headset during guided excursions.
♦ Automatic $250,000 flight insurance policy for each participant ticketed on flights by Gohagan & Company.
♦ Hospitality desk aboard the ship.
♦ Meals included as noted in the itinerary (B,L,R,D).
Depart Home City/ Panama City, Panama/ Colón/Embark Ship 

Day 1
Depart your home city and arrive in Panama City. Travel with your group to the port in Colón to embark LE DUMONT D’URVILLE. (d)

Colón/Panama Canal
Day 2
Wake up and cruise from the Caribbean Sea to the Pacific Ocean through the historic Panama Canal on a rare daylight transfer. Watch as the mighty locks open and close, ultimating raising and lowering the ship 85 feet—truly an experience to remember. (b,l,r,d)

Panama City
Day 3
Begin your day with a tour of Panama City, the nation’s capital. Later, visit its UNESCO World Heritage designated historic district of Casco Antiguo, a charming neighborhood replete with cobblestone streets and architecturally significant historical edifices, including a 16th century cathedral. (b,l,d)

Cébaco Island
Day 4
Attend a morning lecture before lunch on board the ship. In the afternoon you will arrive in the sparkling Gulf of Montijo to anchor off the coast of seldom-visited Cébaco Island. You may choose to snorkel in these emerald waters, where schools of brilliantly colored fish, giant manta rays, and four different species of turtles swim amid spectacular rock reefs. An alternative option included in your tour is a guided walk along the beach with an expert naturalist. (b,l,d)

Quepos for Manuel Antonio National Park
Day 6
Experience an unparalleled diversity of wildlife on a visit to the lush Manuel Antonio National Park—a captivating combination of rainforest,
beach, and coral reef. It is home to more than 100 species of mammals, almost 200 species of birds, and various reptiles and amphibians. Naturalist guides will lead an exploration of this protected biodiverse paradise, where you may spot colorful toucans, screeching howler monkeys, camouflaged iguanas, arboreal squirrel monkeys, two and three toed sloths, and rambunctious Capuchin monkeys. You will also have the option to just relax on the beach at leisure. (b,l,d)

Curú National Wildlife Refuge/Playa Muertos
Day 7
Begin your day with a guided walk in the Curú National Wildlife Refuge—a unique blend of sustainable agriculture, forest management, and wildlife protection that reestablished species like the scarlet macaw and spider monkey. Encompassing five distinctive habitats, it is the ideal place to see the intricacies of interdependent ecosystems. Morning is the best time of day to observe an abundance of wildlife. Enjoy lunch on board the ship before setting out for Playa Muertos beach. Nestled within remote Ballena Bay near the Pochote River, this serene and untouched beach is famous for its pristine white sands, unique rock lava structures, and tropical rainforest setting. You’ll have opportunities to swim and snorkel in the protected clear waters—home to fascinating marine life such as angelfish and spotted eagle rays. (b,l,r,d)

Puntarenas/Disembark/San José
Day 8
Disembark the ship and journey to the heart of the fertile Valle Central, where Costa Rica’s dynamic capital city of San José possesses an eclectic mix of museums, landscaped parks, lively cafés, art galleries, and an interesting fusion of architectural styles—including Spanish Colonial, Moorish, and Modernist. Discover the city’s unique history and culture on a tour that includes visits to the National Theater, a regal Baroque edifice modeled on Milan’s La Scala, and the National Museum. After lunch at a local restaurant, enjoy a night in the COSTA RICA MARRIOTT HOTEL HACIENDA BELÉN. (b,l)

San José/Return to home city
Day 9
Enjoy breakfast then fly back to your home city. (b)
Le Dumont d’Urville

Join us aboard the exclusively chartered, 5-star Le Dumont d’URVILLE, where distinctive French sophistication meets innovative nautical design for a new standard of cruising. Each of the 92 5-star staterooms and suites (up to 484 square feet) features a private balcony. Grand deluxe suites have a panoramic window and private terrace. Accommodations offer two twin beds or one queen bed, individual climate control, private bathroom with shower, and luxury hotel-style amenities.

**2024 DEPARTURE DATE:** February 24 to March 3 (Embarkation: February 24 at 2:30 pm)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>LAND/Cruise Rates</th>
<th>Extended Booking Savings through Jan. 25, 2024</th>
<th>Rate after Jan. 25, 2024</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Deluxe stateroom with a picture window, single door onto private, partial-wall balcony. Deck 3. (limited availability)</td>
<td>$4,945</td>
<td>$5,495</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Prestige stateroom with a picture window, single door onto private, partial-wall balcony. Deck 4.</td>
<td>$5,395</td>
<td>$5,995</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Prestige stateroom with expansive sliding glass door, <em>private balcony</em>. Deck 5.</td>
<td>$6,115</td>
<td>$6,795</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Prestige stateroom with expansive sliding glass door, <em>private balcony</em>. Deck 6.</td>
<td>$6,835</td>
<td>$7,595</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Deluxe suite with expansive sliding glass door, <em>private balcony</em>. Deck 3. (limited availability)</td>
<td>$7,555</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Deluxe suite with expansive sliding glass door, <em>private balcony</em>. Deck 4, midship. (limited availability)</td>
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<td>Deluxe suite with expansive sliding glass door, <em>private balcony</em>. Deck 5.</td>
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<td>Deluxe suite with expansive sliding glass door, <em>private balcony</em>. Deck 6.</td>
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**Prestige Suite II**
Two-room suite, expansive sliding glass door, larger *private balcony*, two bathrooms, two closets, large sitting area with sofa. Deck 5. (limited availability)

**Prestige Suite I**
Two-room suite, expansive sliding glass door, larger *private balcony*, two bathrooms, two closets, large sitting area with sofa. Deck 6. (limited availability)

**Privilege Suite**
Large suite with expansive sliding glass door, larger *private balcony*, sitting area with sofa. Decks 5 and 6. (limited availability)

**Grand Deluxe Suite**
Extra-large, one-bedroom suite and separate sitting room with sofa, expansive sliding glass door, *spacious private terrace*, full bathroom with tub and separate shower, additional half bath. Decks 5. (limited availability)

**Owner’s Suite**
Extra-large, one-bedroom suite and separate sitting room with sofa, expansive sliding glass door, *spacious private terrace* with outdoor Jacuzzi, full bathroom with tub and separate shower, additional half bath. Deck 5. (limited availability)

Port taxes are an additional $505 per person. Customers will be notified of any fuel surcharge fee prior to final payment. This fee will then be charged and collected by the vessel operating company while on board. Deck plans available upon request.

To secure your spot, call Commonwealth Club Travel at 415-597-6720 or email us at travel@commonwealthclub.org

Gohagan & Company reserves the right to correct errors or omissions and to change any and all taxes, fees, promotions, and surcharges at any time.

Terms & Conditions are available at gohagantravel.com/terms/

REGISTRATION: Commonwealth Club CST#: 2096889-40; Gohagan CST#: 2031868-40, WST#: 601 767 666, OST#: TA 0905.

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**PRE-PROGRAM OPTION**

**Panama City**  
**February 22 to 24, 2024 (Tour Begins: February 22)**

Begin your journey by exploring Panama City’s rich indigenous culture, compelling colonial history and contemporary élan. Visit the UNESCO World Heritage-designated Panama La Vieja—founded in 1519 and later destroyed by privateer Henry Morgan—to see the ruins of the oldest European settlement on the Pacific-American coast. Visit the fascinating Agua Clara Visitor Center for panoramic views of the Panama Canal expansion and cruise the Gatún River to meet indigenous Emberá people. Spend two nights in the ideally located, deluxe BRISTOL PANAMA HOTEL.

*Price per person, based on double occupancy:* $765  
*Price per person, based on single occupancy:* $1,040

**POST-PROGRAM OPTION**

**Arenal and San José**  
**March 2 to 6, 2024 (Tour Ends: March 6)**

Explore Costa Rica’s diverse biospheres, from steamy hot springs to misty cloud forests. In view of towering Arenal Volcano, walk in the lush rainforest along a series of suspended and fixed bridges. Visit an organic chocolate workshop, an award-winning coffee estate, and a traditional artisan town known for intricately hand-painted woodcrafts. Accommodations are for two nights in the deluxe COSTA RICA MARRIOTT HOTEL HACIENDA BELÉN and two nights in the 5-star TABACON THERMAL RESORT & SPA.

*Price per person, based on double occupancy:* $1,425  
*Price per person, based on single occupancy:* $2,030

Further details will be provided with your reservation confirmation.
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