AMERICA'S TROPICS Florida to Costa Rica Via Panama Canal



With 15 destinations, 17 days and five countries, this rich voyage offers a glimpse of Central America for travelers, not tourists. Two days at sea start you off in relaxed luxury as the Caribbean Sea unveils her secrets, each place more beguiling than the last. If you are searching for untouched nature, fascinating culture, and an opportunity to escape deep into a tropical utopia, this is the voyage of your dreams.





ITINERARY

DAY 1 - OCT 12 - FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA

Embark the *Silver Explorer*. Depart at 5:00 PM. We recommend adding at least one night hotel prior, which we are happy to arrange for you.

DAYS 2-3 - OCT 13- 14 - DAY AT SEA

DAY 4 - OCT 15 - DANGRIGA, BELIZE

At the mouth of the Stann Creek River, some 60 kilometers south of Belize City, Dangriga is Southern Belize's largest town –despite only about 10,000 inhabitants. Considered to be Belize's cultural capital, the Garifuna influence can be felt and there even is a Garifuna museum. Dangriga not only grants access to some of the spectacular cays in the Caribbean or Mayan sites inland, but is also surrounded by several forest reserves. The most important of these is the Cockscomb Basin Wildlife Reserve, the first Jaguar reserve, which permits nature walks, hikes to waterfalls and wildlife viewing. The various habitats in the reserve lead to excellent birding for species restricted to riverine areas, to savanna, pine woodland and forests.

DAY 5 - OCT 16 - SOUTH WATER CAYE, BELIZE

Some 18 km off the coast of Belize, South Water Caye is an inhabited island within Belize's largest marine protected area, the South Water Caye Marine Reserve –one of seven reserves that form the Belize Barrier Reef Reserve System, a UNESCO World Heritage site. While South Water Caye has resorts and beaches, the island is also a good starting point to explore the cayes, important oceanic mangroves systems and extensive seagrass beds within the surrounding conservation zone where no commercial fishing is allowed. Birders can look for Magnificent Frigatebirds from nearby Man 'O' War Caye, as well as pelicans, ospreys, herons and other resident wading and shore birds.

DAY 6 – OCT 17 - GUANAJA CAY & JOSH'S CAY, GRAHAM'S PLACE, HONDURAS

Guanaja is the second largest of Honduras' Bay Islands. Exploring the Caribbean, Columbus was the first European to see and land on the island, which is some 40 km off the mainland's coast. Guanaja is quite hilly and one of the largest concentrations of residents is on a small island off its east coast known as Guanaja Cay. Some 4,000 people –about as many as on Guanaja itself- live on 1.4 square km and houses and shops on Guanaja Cay cover the entire island. This little cay is next to a channel that cuts across the larger Guanaja from east to west, permitting boats to transport divers from one side of the island to the other without having to do a semi-circumnavigation of the island.

Honduras has some larger islands and many small cays. Josh's Cay, aka Graham's Cay, is part of the reef islets that surround Guanaja, the second largest of the Bay Islands. 2 kilometers off the coast of Guanaja, Josh's Cay has an area of only 7 acres and Graham's Place is the private little island's resort. One can enjoy the picture-perfect beach to relax or take advantage of the water activities possible. The flats around Josh's Cay are considered good fishing spots, with bonefish and barracuda quite prominent.

DAY 7 – OCT 18 - ROATAN ISLAND & PIGEON CAYS, HONDURAS

Experience true Caribbean island bliss, during your time on the immaculate paradise of Roatan, which is the largest of the Bay Islands. This slim island is framed by glorious powdery white beaches, and rich ocean beds carpeted with diverse coral reefs - alive with fish and marine life. Curious dolphins roll through the waves just offshore, while beach dwellers soak up the sun, and enjoy coconut cocktails, beside leaning palm trees. The beaches here are nothing short of dreamy with wooden piers teetering out over the water, and thatched roofs providing welcome shade, as you dangle your legs towards the water.

Pigeon Cay, a tiny patch of land, sits on the reef that nearly encircles Roatan and Isla Barbareta, and is found less than 2 nautical miles off the southeastern shore of Barbareta. Despite the fact that the name contains a specific bird family, the White-crowned Pigeon is likely to be found on nearby and larger Barbareta and its national park. The cay, which is barely 150 meters long and less than 50 meters wide, has a pristine white sand beach on its western side, while the eastern side has more shrubs and a handful of palm trees. The waters around Pigeon Cay are a snorkeler's paradise. The barrel sponges, colorful gorgonians, and brain coral formations, as well as the different reef fishes and a 30m visibility should guarantee an enjoyable underwater experience. The shallow water next to the cay and the areas where slopes go down into deeper waters show a stunning assortment of blue hues.

DAY 8 - OCT 19 - DAY AT SEA

DAY 9 – OCT 20 - PROVIDENCIA ISLAND, COLOMBIA

The stunning Colombian Caribbean island of Providencia is a beautiful island paradise that has retained much of its traditional, laid-back charm due to its isolated location 90 km(56 miles) north of San Andrés Island and the lack of a direct flight connection with the Colombian mainland. This remote paradise island is only accessible by water.

Day 10 - OCT 21 - DAY AT SEA

DAY 11 - OCT 22 - CARTAGENA, COLOMBIA

Cartagena's magnificent city walls and fortresses, now a UNESCO World Heritage Site, enclose a well-restored historic center (the Cuidad Amurallada, or walled city) with plazas, churches, museums, and shops that have made it a lively coastal vacation spot for South Americans and others. New hotels and restaurants make the walled city a desirable place to stay, and the formerly down-at-the-heels Getsemaní neighborhood attracts those seeking a bohemian buzz. The historic center is a small section of Cartagena; many hotels are in the Bocagrande district, an elongated peninsula where high-rise hotels overlook a long, gray-sand beach. When it was founded in 1533 by Spanish conquistador Pedro de Heredia, Cartagena was the only port on the South American mainland. Gold and silver looted from indigenous peoples passed through here en route to Spain and attracted pirates, including Sir Francis Drake, who in 1586 torched 200 buildings.

DAY 12 - OCT 23 - SAN BLAS ISLANDS, PANAMA

The San Blas archipelago is located off the Caribbean coast, east of Colon, and is made up of 365 islands that range in size from tiny ones with a few coconut palms to islands on which hundreds of Kuna Indians live. Only about fifty are inhabited. The Kuna rule the San Blas Territory with internal autonomy, and have tightly preserved their language and cultural traditions over the centuries despite influences from European colonies. In addition to their own language, Spanish is widely spoken and many men work on the mainland, but live on the islands. Women wear costumes with unique designs based on local themes, geometric patterns, and stylized fauna and flora. The island of El Porvenir is one of the main seats of government for the Kuna Indians. Many Kunas from the other islands came to settle on El Porvenir, bringing with them their traditional arts and crafts, including the famous molas.

DAY 13 - OCT 24 - PANAMA CANAL

The Panama Canal bisects the country just to the west of Panama City, which enjoys excellent views of the monumental waterway. Between the canal and the rain forest that covers its islands, banks, and adjacent national parks, there is enough to see and do to fill several days. Central Panama stretches out from the canal across three provinces and into two oceans to comprise everything from the mountains of the Cordillera Central to the west, to the Caribbean coral reefs and colonial fortresses in the north, to the beaches of the Pearl Islands in the Bahía de Panamá (Bay of Panama) in the south. Most of this region can be visited on day trips from Panama City, but the hotels in gorgeous natural settings outside the city will make you want to spend some overnights.

DAY 14- OCT 25 - FUERTE AMADOR (PANAMA CITY), PANAMA

Expect incredible morning views as you arrive into the port for Panama City. Tinged with a silver pre-dawn light, the city will metamorphosize into a golden glow as the sun rises above it. And from then on expect one stunning view after another. Very interesting in its own right, Fuerte Amador is obviously overshadowed by its proximity to Panama City. So should the Miraflores museum of the Canal, which offers a comprehensive and immersive tour of the Canal including a 3-D experience, four exhibition halls, an observation deck, and a surprisingly good restaurant not interest you then there is always the option of lovely Casco Viejo – literally the old quartier of Panama. The grand old colonial houses, cobbled streets, independent boutiques and buzzing street scene make this a must stop on your itinerary.



DAY 15 - OCT 26 - DARIEN JUNGLE, PANAMA

The remote Darien Jungle has one of the most biodiverse ecosystems in the world. It is also one of the world's top ten birding sites, with the colorful Crimson-collared Tanager, Chestnut-fronted Macaws, and Snow-bellied Hummingbirds found here. Mammals include tapirs and Black-headed Spider Monkeys. In this roadless stretch of forest, rivers provide the best access. Visitors to the Darien Jungle are rare with fewer than 1,000 tourists visiting each year. The Embera are one of several indigenous groups that live here in relative isolation offering ornate handcrafted baskets and carvings for sale in their traditional villages.

DAY 16 - OCT 27 - DAY AT SEA

DAY 17 – OCT 28 – QUEPOS – MANUEL ANTONIO NATIONAL PARK, COSTA RICA

Quepos allows tourists to experience a once in a lifetime nature experience in Manuel Antonio National Park without leaving any of the familiar amenities behind. The close proximity of the park, located just 4.3 miles (7 km) to the south, and a wide array of services makes Quepos the perfect place to visit for those who wish to explore this enchanting area. The amenities available include everything from banks, restaurants, hotels, gift shops, bakeries, bars, a hospital, supermarket and even a post office. The area was once dependent on banana plantations which used to line the surrounding area. After disease infiltrated the harvest, interest transferred to African Palms as the prominent crop. Now, tourism has deemed itself the major economic factor, contributing to just about everything in the area. Quepos lures in many tourists for its fantastic sport fishing.

DAY 18 – OCT 28 – PUTA ARENAS, COSTA RICA

Disembark and head to the San Jose airport, or begin further exploration of Costa Rica, exploring the many natural attracrions, or relaxing at one of the many beautiful resorts.



SILVER EXPLORER - Deck Plans



DECK 3

Reception Desk Medical Centre Changing Room Expedition Office





DECK 5 The Bridge Boutique Connoisseur's Corner

Panorama Lounge



DECK 6 Tor's Observation Library Explorer Lounge Zagara Spa The Grill



DECK 7

Viewing Deck

SUITE CATEGORIES

Owner's Suite							. 0
Grand Suite							. 6
Silver Suite							. •
Medallion Suite			,	,	,		.0
Veranda Suite						-	. 0
Vista Suite			•				. 6
View Suite							. 0
Explorer Suite .							.0
Adventurer Suite							. 6

SPECIFICATIONS

I loyd's register
Ice-class rating
Crew
Officers International
Guests
Tonnage 6,072
Length
Width
Speed 14 Knots
Passenger Decks 5
3rd Guest Capacity
Queen beds
Connecting suites
Refurbished
Registry Bahamas
Suite diagrams shown are for Illustration purposes only and may vary from actual square footage. Please

2019 RATES: PER PERSON - DOUBLE - ALL INCLUSIVE*

DECK 4

Beauty Salon Launderette Fitness Centre The Restaurant

SUITE	Per Person
Adventure – Deck 3	\$8,460
Explorer – Deck 4	\$8,820
View – Deck 3	\$9,540
Vista – Deck 4	\$9,990
Veranda – Deck 5	\$13,860
Medallion – Deck 7	\$16,380
Silver – Deck 5	\$17,460
Grand – Deck 7	\$19,260
Owner's – Deck 7	\$21,240



Reservations & Information 1-855-EXPLOR1 (397-5671) Email - info@explorcruises.com

www.explorcruises.com

*INCLUDES – Port charges, shore excursions, all beverages, gratuities to ship staff, internet.

