

PANAMA

THE CANAL & ISLANDS



Transit the full length of the Panama Canal when you visit colonial Panama on a Blount ship. Get closer as we drop our glass-bottom boat into the water so you can view the marine wonders of the Pearl and San Blas Islands. Stroll through this country's fascinating history when taking an incredible walking tour through the old Spanish forts at Portobello. Search out the pelican colony on Taboga and watch herons nesting along the jungle rivers. Swim and snorkel, in crystal clear waters where colorful coral and a variety of reef fish can be observed.



DATES: 2019 - FEB 01-12;

*FEB 15-26; *MAR 01 -12

DURATION: 12 Days/11 Nights

EMBARK: PANAMA CITY

DISEMBARK: PANAMA CITY

SHIP: Grande Mariner

FROM - \$5,549 (Double)
Port charges are included.

* Feb 15 & Mar 1 departures offer
optional Early Arrival Package - \$150

Sail for Panama and its incredible islands on the journey of a lifetime.

Like its famed canal, Panama itself is a fascinating mosaic of colors, textures and humanity's invincible will to co-exist with the environment. We take special pride in showing travelers Panama through the intimate perspective of a small vessel. With their profusion of coconut palms, white sand beaches, unexplored coral reefs, and luxuriant jungle spreading to the water's edge, the San Blas islands are just one example of the special moments that await on this unique small ship cruise.

Panama has been a popular cruising destination for years due to the awe-inspiring Panama Canal and its designation as one of the most diverse, natural ecotourism destinations in the world. With Blount, you will visit the "Whole Panama," transiting the full length of the canal and experiencing both the Caribbean and Pacific sides of this remarkable country. In this area of the world, time seems to stand still as we introduce our guests personally to native cultures that most will only read about. A jungle river leads us in hand-carved 'cayuga' canoes to the home of the Choco Indians where we are greeted with warm hospitality by people still living in harmony with nature as in the days of Christopher Columbus. This spectacular trip is like visiting old friends, and is one of the most exotic experiences.

ITINERARY

(Feb 01 Departure - Other dates sail from Panama City - with slight variations - Feb 15 includes two canal transits.)

DAY 1 – Panama City

Your journey begins at the Bristol Panama hotel. A complimentary shuttle will pick you up at the airport and drop you off at the hotel where you will be greeted by Blount staff.



DAY 2 - Colon, Panama

This morning you will board a motor coach with Blount crew and fellow passengers, enjoying a scenic ride to the vessel in Colon, Panama. You'll be greeted by a hearty lunch buffet. While the city named for Christopher Columbus has seen its hardships, today it's a lovely vacation destination for those interested in cultural shops, restaurants and extensive history.

DAY 3 - Carti Village, San Blas Islands

Spend the night in Carti Village, a thriving central village located on one of the 49 major islands of the San Blas. Meet the local Kuna people and support the locals by perusing their for-purchase crafts. Explore the village and witness the inner workings of this fascinating tribal society.

DAY 4 - Lemon Cay, San Blas Islands

Lemon Cay is part of the stunning San Blas Islands. This island oasis is the perfect destination for swimming and snorkeling. Wake up and enjoy your morning on the top deck of our vessel where you may sip coffee or sunbathe.

DAY 5 - Waisaladup Cay, San Blas Islands

Bear witness to our patented bow ramp at work. At Waisaladup Cay, walk from ship to shore where you can relax on the beach as you look out over the San Blas Islands. Spend the night here before cruising to explore more of Panama.

DAY 6 - Chichime Cay, San Blas Islands

White sand beaches and unexplored coral reefs await. Watch for falling coconuts as you mosey around the unspoiled land. Today, you'll enjoy an authentic beach barbecue with your fellow passengers.

DAY 7 - Portobelo, Panama

Explore Portobelo, an UNESCO World Heritage Site that works to preserve Panama's unique culture. One of the great treasure ports of the Spanish Main, Portobelo is known for its quiet charm and deep natural harbor. This is a popular sailing destination along the Isthmus of Panama and your last stop before transiting the famed Panama Canal.

DAY 8 - PANAMA CANAL

Open since 1914, experience one of the most important waterways in the world. This 48-mile waterway connects two of the world's great oceans, the Pacific and the Atlantic. In 2016 a second Panama Canal was opened to accommodate the unprecedented amount of traffic needing to travel the canal each year. Experience the "Whole Panama" first hand as you transit aboard the Grande Mariner through this engineering marvel.

*Daytime Panama Canal transit is not guaranteed.



DAY 9 – Isla Taboga

On the other side of the Panama Canal, Isla Taboga anticipates your arrival. Nestled in the warm, tropical waters of the Bay of Panama, stroll along the flower-lined paths, for which the island was named. This humble town boasts pristine nature trails and a variety of

DAY 10 - Isla Mogo Mogo

Part of the Pearl Islands Archipelago, this uninhabited island is perfect for swimming and snorkeling. View the colorful marine life and coral reefs with our onboard naturalist or relax in the sun along the shores of this secluded island.



DAY 11 - Punta Garachine & the Darien Jungle

Unspoiled Panama at its finest, this undeveloped jungle is known as the Darien Gap. Take a skiff ride up the Rio Sambu River into the abundant forest. Make a stop along the river bank and take a short hike on a jungle trail to meet the indigenous Embera people at one of their village gathering places.

Isla Contadora

The gem of the Pearl Islands Archipelago, this island destination is replete with pristine beaches and turquoise waters. The island interior is made up of a lush rain forest that lends itself to the diverse wildlife that lives there.

DAY 12 - Panama City, Panama

Panama's commercial center since 1671, when gold and silver were transmitted to Spain through the Isthmus of Panama. You will have the opportunity to tour this famed city before disembarking.





2019 RATES

CABIN CATEGORY	PER PERSON
CAT 1	\$ 5,549
CAT 2	\$ 6,549
CAT 3	\$ 7,429
CAT 4	\$ 7,979
SINGLE-CAT 3	\$ 9,049

Rates include port charges (\$550),

Life Aboard Our Small Ships -

Our guests appreciate the casual atmosphere, absence of crowds and ability to access unique ports. Local historians, culinary experts, and naturalists join us on select trips to provide entertainment and information about the region. With no more than 84 guests, these sessions are intimate and educational. A casual onboard experience becomes a hassle-free one in port without crowds. Move freely, and without much of a footprint, onto the streets, beaches and inlets.

Accommodations -

Four categories of smoke-free cabins all include individual climate-controlled air conditioning systems, continuously feeding in fresh air. Each cabin has a private bath and plenty of storage.

BYOB Welcomed!

Go ahead - bring your own bottle! Unlike most cruise lines, we encourage it. Enjoy the beverages you like most, as you would if you were cruising on a friend's yacht. You'll never have to worry about mixers, storage and barware- we provide all that and more, free of any charges.

GRANDE MARINER DECK PLAN



NOTE: Optional sighting tours are at an additional cost.

All itineraries including ports, activities and routes are subject to change based on availability, weather, river, water levels and sea conditions.



SMALL SHIP CRUISES AND TOURS

Reservations & Information

1-855-EXPLOR1 (397-5671)

Email - info@explorcruises.com

www.explorcruises.com