

# SECRETS OF PANAMA AND COSTA RICA



Discover the secrets of Central America on this Expedition Cruise. Experience its unique biodiversity and meet local communities at the crossroads of the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, including a crossing of the Panama. Connecting two continents, Panama and Costa Rica both possess unique biodiversity and landscapes. During this expedition cruise, tropical forest, impressive mangrove, white sandy beaches and crystal-clear water will make up the decor of an extraordinary experience, between two oceans, thanks to the crossing of the mythical Panama Canal. From historic sites and preserved archipelagos to coral islets and nature reserves, you will explore this region's treasures in the company of naturalist guides, discovering the history of the local communities as well as the incredible wildlife to be found here.



**2026 – NOV 21 | DEC 8\*, 18\*\*, 19\*\***

**2027 – JAN 4\*, 5\*, 14 | MAR 29\***

**DURATION: 11 DAYS - 10 NIGHTS**

**EMBARK: COLON, PANAMA**

**DISEMBARK: PUNTARENAS, COSTA RICA**

*\*Reverse Itinerary*

**SHIPS: LE CHAMPLAIN – LE LAPÉROUSE**

**LE BELLOT**

**FROM: \$8,530**

**All Inclusive – Port Charges, Open Bar, Gratuities to ship crew, Shore Excursions**

**\*\*NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT**

## ITINERARY

### DAY 1 – COLÓN, PANAMA

Colón is the second largest city in Panama, at the Caribbean entrance of the Panama Canal. Colón is today an important port, and the free trade zone created in 1953 contributed greatly to the development of the city. Colón was founded in 1850 by Americans working on the Panama railroad connecting the Atlantic and Pacific coasts through the Isthmus of Panama; the city rapidly overshadowed the older Caribbean ports of Panama when the canal opened.

### DAY 2 – FORT SAN LORENZO (COLÓN)

In the Colón District, Fort San Lorenzo faces the sea, its canons pointing towards the horizon as they used to under the Spanish Crown. This construction is part of a group of buildings exemplifying the military architecture of the 17th and 18th centuries along the Caribbean coast of Panama, hence its status as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Wander along the fort's alleyways accompanied by the melodious singing of the birds that have made the surrounding forest their home. Enjoy an unforgettable port of call combining history and walking in nature

### DAY 3 - SAN BLAS ISLANDS, PANAMA

Located on the north-east coast of Panama, the San Blas archipelago is a string of coral islands in the heart of the Caribbean Sea. More than 300 islands and cays cover an area of 300 square kilometers offering travelers a multitude of treasures. Sheltered behind a long coral reef, the San Blas Islands are full of enchanting anchorages. The long sandy white beaches bound by crystal-clear waters will allow you to relax and enjoy incredible marine fauna before engaging with the Kunas Indian community. Still subsisting on hunting and fishing, they will welcome you in their villages of bamboo houses gathered near the beaches.

### DAY 4 – CROSSING THE PANAMA CANAL

Aboard your ship, experience something unique, that has inspired the imagination of numerous adventurers in the 20th century: sailing the Panama Canal. Its construction started in 1880 under the direction of Ferdinand de Lesseps. Abandoned then resumed, this marvel of engineering was completed by the United States and opened in 1914. The canal crosses the Isthmus of Panama and links the Atlantic to the Pacific. Including three levels of locks and by raising ships to the level of Lake Gatun, almost as if the water was a lift, it allows them to avoid having to round Cape Horn.



### DAY 5 – PEARL ISLANDS – PACHECA ISLAND

The Pearl Islands archipelago, formed by over 220 islands and islets, is named in memory of the pearl oysters present in the Gulf of Panama. In colonial times, the pearls were extracted and used as ornaments or currency. "La Peregrina" was discovered in this archipelago: this pearl is famous for its perfection and for belonging to several royals and, more recently, Elizabeth Taylor. While the pearls have now disappeared from the azure waters of this paradise with its history of adventures and piracy, you can still swim from the sandy white beaches and observe shoals of multi-colored fish performing their gracious ballet.

Isla Pacheca lies in the far north of the maze of more than two hundred islands composing the Pearl Islands. This small piece of uninhabited land is a special place for the numerous bird species that have taken up residence there. Among these is the unusual-looking blue-footed booby, which you might spot wandering along one of the island's beaches. The shore visit in a Zodiac dinghy holds the promise of an unforgettable moment spent in lush nature between white-sand beaches and verdant rain-forest.



## **DAY 6 - PLAYA MUERTO, DARIEN NATIONAL PARK, PANAMA**

The most remote and least developed region of Panama, the province of Darien is an unspoiled land with an extremely rich variety of flora and fauna. Listed by UNESCO as World Heritage, Darien National Park offers its extraordinary scenery of rocky coastlines, mountain ranges, mangroves, rivers and creeks. Discover Playa Muerto, a tiny coastal village home to the Embyras Amerindian community. You will visit the village, attend traditional songs and dances of the locals, and admire beautiful local craft.



## **DAY 7 – COIBA ISLAND**

Coiba Island once housed a prison with a sinister reputation that has since been abandoned. Today the island is a National Park and a UNESCO World Heritage Site and offers many activities. Experience the emotion of the first explorers by heading deep into the virgin rainforest, untouched by human hand, and carve a path for yourself through the creepers, under the watchful gaze of the multitudes of birds. You may be lucky enough to see the Howler Monkey, only visible here. To conclude this unique adventure, take a dip in the turquoise waters of the unspoiled beaches on the island, among the sea turtles and the tropical fish swimming elegantly through the coral reefs.

## **DAY 8 - RIO ESQUINAS**

The beauty of Costa Rica and the richness of its biodiversity reveal themselves at this port of call in the heart of the mangrove. In the meanders of Rio Esquinas, a tropical corner of paradise, you will discover an incredibly dense ecosystem. Aboard your Zodiac dinghy, you will brush past the tangled arms formed by the roots of the mangrove trees. This green and lush gallery forest and its inhabitants welcome you. Watch closely: common squirrel monkeys, white ibis, Eurasian whimbrels, ospreys, toucans, snowy egrets and great blue herons can be found hiding here.

## **DAY 9 – DRAKE BAY**

Located on Costa Rica's remote Osa Peninsula, Corcovado National Park covers 164 square miles, making it the country's largest national park, the largest primary forest on the American Pacific coast, and one of the few remaining large areas of lowland tropical rain forests in the world.

## **DAY 10 - CURÚ WILDLIFE REFUGE**

On the southern part of the Nicoya Peninsula, the small Curú Wildlife Refuge is the oldest protected park in Costa Rica. This refuge is an exemplary site in terms of ecotourism as well as a research centre for scientists from all over the world. It has been at the heart of an original conservation and sustainable development project since the 1930s. After a short zodiac trip, you will discover, via the paths that criss-cross the tropical forest and lead to magnificent beaches, the most emblematic species of Costa Rica: monkeys, iguanas and over 200 bird species. Since their recent reintroduction, the scarlet macaw and the spider monkey have thrived in this preserved environment.



## **DAY 11 - PUNTARENAS, COSTA RICA**

### **Disembarkation at 8:00 AM**

The capital of the eponymous province, Puntarenas is sometimes called "the pearl of the Pacific", for its unique charm. It sits on the Pacific coast of Costa Rica, along the Gulf of Nicoya, lined with long expanses of wild natural environments. Further inland, among the countless natural wonders to be found in the generous rainforest of the Costa Rica's national parks, Poas and Arena volcanoes towers up in all their majestic glory. In this luxuriant natural setting, Costa Rica protects one of the planet's richest biodiversity: monkeys, sloths, tropical birds, iguanas, crocodiles, waterfalls, canyons, and more than ten thousand species of tropical plants.



**Le Champlain - Le Lapérouse –  
Le Bellot**

**GUESTS: 184**

**RATES – 2026-27** (Rates subject to change without notice – **Book early for best rates.**)

**All inclusive** – Gratuities to crew; all beverages throughout ship– open bar; Shore excursions; Port Charges; Room Service; WI-FI and Internet



**Reservations & Information**

**1-855-EXPLOR1 (397-5671)**

Email - [info@explorcruises.com](mailto:info@explorcruises.com)

[www.explorcrises.com](http://www.explorcrises.com)

**DECK 6**

**DECK PLAN**



- Prestige Suite (Prestige Suites consist of two combined Prestige Staterooms) Not available in 2018
- Prestige Stateroom
- Deluxe Suite
- Privilege Suite
- Grand Deluxe Suite
- Owner's Suite

**DECK 5**



- Prestige Suite (Prestige Suites consist of two combined Prestige Staterooms) Not available in 2018
- Prestige Stateroom
- Deluxe Suite
- Privilege Suite
- Grand Deluxe Suite
- Owner's Suite

**DECK 4**



- Prestige Stateroom
- Deluxe Suite

**DECK 3**



- Deluxe Stateroom
- Deluxe Suite

RATES – 2026-27	2026		2027		
	NOV 21 DEC 18*	DEC 8, 19*	JAN 4, 5	JAN 14	MAR 29
Deluxe – Deck 3	\$9,010	\$8,530	\$9,010	\$9,980	\$10,000
Prestige – Deck 4-6	\$10,000	\$9,460	\$10,000	\$11,080	\$11,080
Deluxe – Suite - 3, 4, 5, 6	\$15,340	\$14,480	\$15,340	\$17,050	\$17,050
Prestige Ste – Deck 5 & 6	\$20,680	\$19,510	\$20,680	\$23,020	\$23,020
Privilege – Deck 5 & 6	\$22,820	\$21,520	\$22,820	\$25,410	\$25,420
Grand Deluxe – Deck 5, 6	\$25,060	\$23,630	\$25,060	\$27,920	\$27,920
Owners Suite	\$30,830	\$30,830	\$30,830	\$30,830	\$30,840

**\* NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT**