

Costa Rica / Panama – San José to Panama Canal



Trip Summary

Explore Costa Rica and Panama's coasts and jungle aboard the 174-foot expedition vessel, *Safari Voyager*. Your adventure basecamp, the ship is fully-gearred up with kayaks, paddle boards, inflatable skiffs, hiking poles, and snorkel gear. Your expert guides—many of them are locals—are ready to get you out in the wild and into the action. While there's a set itinerary, the small size of your ship allows captain and crew to deviate from the plan and go where opportunities are greatest—wildlife encounters, paddling and snorkeling, hiking, and other experiences. Paddle or skiff from ship or shore into mangroves and crystal-clear water of a national park. Hike and snorkel in conservation areas and a wildlife refuge watching for monkeys, sloths, iguanas, hummingbirds, toucans, and butterflies. And take in a star-lighted night transit of the Panamá Canal. **This exciting adventure runs from San José to Panama City or in reverse from Panama City to San José depending on the week!** *(Please call your adventure travel consultant for more details).*

Itinerary

Day 1: San José, Costa Rica

Welcome to the land of pura vida (pure life)! • On arrival to San José, you'll be warmly greeted at the airport and transferred to your hotel • Relax and unwind, enjoying the hotel's amenities or nearby attractions • *Overnight at the Doubletree Hotel (No meals)*

Day 2: San José / Embarkation

The morning is yours to enjoy at leisure or set out to explore nearby sites and cafes • In the afternoon, join your fellow adventurers at our hospitality area in the hotel • Travel to the Pacific coast, where you'll board the *Safari Voyager* and meet your enthusiastic crew • *Overnight on the Safari Voyager (B, L, D)*

Day 3: Curú National Wildlife Refuge / Isla Tortuga

At the southeastern tip of Nicoya Peninsula—in the tangled mangroves of Curu—the cycle of life is everywhere. Local "residents" include everything from exotic birds and deer to army ants, frog-eating snakes, and hungry crocodiles • Step carefully as you cross the swinging bridge, you don't want to land on the menu! • Land crabs shift in and out of their burrows with such force it's enough to make the earth move • Although you might not make it on the Killer Trail, a hike on the Finca de Monos trail is prime monkey viewing • They are everywhere • Off shore, the vibrant, turquoise waters near Isla Tortuga offer inviting opportunities to snorkel, kayak, and paddle board • *Overnight on the Safari Voyager (B, L, D)*

Day 4: Osa Conservation Area

Adventure lies around every bend in the isolated, wild Osa Conservation Area, home to the country's largest national park, Corcovado. The area is known for its diverse plant and animal species—a whopping 2.5% of the entire planet's biodiversity is found here—including all four of Costa Rica's monkeys, tree frogs, caimans, anteaters, scarlet macaws, coatis, and 16 different species of hummingbird • Explore this vast area putting feet to trail on an invigorating hike through the jungle • At the end of the day, enjoy the sunset with a tropical beverage in-hand during cocktail hour and retell stories of your day • *Overnight on the Safari Voyager (B, L, D)*



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Day 5: Golfo Dulce

A birder's paradise, explore a tropical preserve exploding with vibrant color • From bromeliads, ginger plants, and heliconias, to toucans, hummingbirds, monkeys, and butterflies—there's a mesmerizing kaleidoscope of sights, sounds, and tastes in every tree and bush you pass on your walking tour • In Golfo Dulce, which separates Oso Peninsula from the mainland, explore the rare flora and fauna of mangroves by kayak and skiff • *Overnight on the Safari Voyager (B, L, D)*

Day 6: Coiba National Park, Panama / Granito de Oro / Isla Coiba

Sail through the islands of Coiba National Park, making a stop at the postcard-perfect Granito de Oro islet • Offering a little bit of everything despite its small size, volcanic outcroppings at either end of this tiny landmass and a dense, mini-jungle in the center connect with a dreamy white sand beach • Named one of the world's top 10 diving sites, your day features snorkeling among abundant marine life, kayaking around rocky outcroppings, and lounging on the warm sand • Hop to the park's main island for a stretch of the legs on a trail in untouched tropical jungle • Mantled howler monkeys, crested eagles, and four turtle species call Isla Coiba home • *Overnight on the Safari Voyager (B, L, D)*

Day 7: Coiba National Park

Start with fresh-brewed coffee and a little limbering up with guided stretches on deck • As always, the hardest part is picking the “what.” • Your guides know the trails and help you spot monkeys, hummingbirds, and towering balsa trees • Or slip into the drink for a kayak or snorkel • Then it's cruising time – settle into a comfy lounge chair and take in the views • *Overnight on the Safari Voyager (B, L, D)*

Day 8: Marine Life Search / Panama Canal

The diverse islands and islets in the Gulf of Panamá are all unique, and on your last day, its captain's choice as you cruise among them • Hosting hundreds of avian species, you may enjoy superb bird watching on a skiff exploration, and watch for mobula rays flying across the water • Later, transit from ocean to ocean along the 48-mile Panamá Canal (time varies depending on when the lock authority gives the final go ahead for your evening transit) • Join your shipmates on deck for a toast as the canal lights up and the temperature subsides • Celebrate this unforgettable voyage with a special farewell dinner, and then join your expedition team for a slideshow highlighting the week's adventures • *Overnight on the Safari Voyager (B, L, D)*

Day 9: Panama City / Disembarkation / Departure

After an early breakfast, bid adiós to your crew • Make a stop at the Agua Clara Visitor Center • Take in the views of Lake Gatun and the newly expanded locks • Then your transfer continues, taking you to the airport for your flight home or to begin your optional hotel stay • *No overnight (B)*

**Trip itineraries are guidelines; variations in itinerary and the order of days may occur to maximize your experience. Itineraries are subject to change without notice due to road, weather and other factors outside of our control, for the safety and enjoyment of our guests, as deemed necessary and appropriate by Austin Adventures.*

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Activities

Hiking: Easy to moderate coastal and jungle hikes

Kayaking & Paddle Boarding: Ocean paddling at your leisure and pace. No experience necessary.

Snorkeling: Easy to moderate conditions; no experience necessary.

Discovery:

- One-night pre-cruise hotel stay in San José
- Panama Canal night transit; visit Agua Clara Locks Visitor Center
- Visit a national park, two wildlife refuges, and a conservation area
- Search for untamed wildlife – scarlet macaws, howler monkeys, sloths, white-faced capuchins
- Snorkel and beachcomb at Panama's Granito de Oro
- Stroll a private butterfly-and flower-rich tropical preserve
- Hike, snorkel, kayak, paddleboard and explore by skiff
- Off-the-beaten path exploration

Austin Adventures guides are experienced facilitators and regional experts. They will take the time to explain the details of each activity, answer any questions, and demonstrate the use of all equipment. Each activity has been carefully planned to include options for all ability and experience levels. Most importantly, your guides will help you select the activity that's right for you.

Our Partner – UnCruise Adventures

Austin Adventures is proudly offering this trip in conjunction with UnCruise Adventures. Headquartered at historic Fishermen's Terminal in Seattle, Washington, UnCruise Adventures has been in the small ship adventure cruise business for over 20 years. The small size of UnCruise's ships allows them to access remote areas bigger ships can't get to providing guests with opportunities to experience off-the-map wilderness, up close, hands on, and with boots on the ground. Each day brings opportunity for adventure—kayaking, hiking, skiff explorations, snorkeling, paddle boarding. All activities are included and it's always your choice—do as many or as few as you want. The expert, knowledgeable, and mostly-local crew enthusiastically lead the way. UnCruise Adventures keeps a constant eye on treading lightly; their small ships introduce adventurers to new and breathtaking destinations sure to leave a lasting impression.



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Distinctive Accommodation

Night 1: DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Cariari San Jose - Costa Rica

Enjoy a warm welcome to your hotel with a signature warm chocolate chip cookie. Conveniently located only five minutes from Juan Santamaria International Airport, it is a great place to start exploring the country or to relax before your adventures begin. Surrounded by beautiful lush gardens, the DoubleTree Cariari hotel in San Jose is within walking distance of a golf course and shopping area. This sustainable hotel is typical of San Jose colonial hacienda architecture and offers spacious, comfortable guest rooms and suites with the latest amenities, including complimentary Wi-Fi in public areas and 24-hour room service. To keep in shape, enjoy the onsite 24-hour fitness center.

Nights 2 – 8: Safari Voyager

Discreet, classy, and stealthy, the *Safari Voyager* is comfortable in warm water regions and built to handle humidity and heat. Tropical adventure, wilderness access, and the natural landscape are always at the forefront. A seamless extension of the places she sails, the ship and her mostly-local crew exude pura vida (pure life). Handcrafted artwork throughout the vessel and in each cabin pays homage to the regions of Costa Rica and Panamá. Casual in nature, the *Safari Voyager* is a bit of a show-off, too—take in 270-degree views from the top deck or from the windows of the air-conditioned lounge. Onboard features include 'EZ Dock' kayak launch platform, bow-mounted underwater camera, kayaks, paddle boards, inflatable skiffs, hiking poles, snorkel gear, fitness equipment and yoga mats, and DVD and book library. Cabins feature TV/DVD player, hair dryer, bathrobes, conditioning shampoo, body wash, binoculars, and reusable water bottles.

Meals

The hallmark of an Austin Adventures vacation is our exceptional dining. All meals: breakfasts, lunches, snacks, dinners, refreshments and receptions are included as indicated by itinerary. (B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner). All non-alcoholic and alcoholic beverages are included. Super premium wines and spirits and all related gratuities are not included in the trip price.

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Arrival & Departures

Please plan on arriving early on the day prior to your sailing. Day one of your itinerary starts at DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Cariari San Jose - Costa Rica. Your trip ends with a drop-off at either the Panama City International Airport or your Panama City hotel.

Trip Price

From \$4,595

Trip Length

9 days/8 nights

2019 Dates

Departing weekly November – April

Host City

Arrival: San José, Costa Rica (SJO)
Departure: Panama City, Panama (PTY)

Reservations & Availability

1-800-575-1540

Get wild with the abundant flora and fauna of these jungle nations via the comforts of an expedition cruise!



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Trip Reservations

Reservations, Deposits and Balances Due

To make a reservation, contact Austin Adventures with your choice of trip and dates. A \$750 per person deposit is required to confirm your reservation. **Some Custom and International programs may require additional deposits.** Full payment is required at the time of booking if your trip departs within 90 days. Choose one of the following contact methods:

Toll free: 800-575-1540

Phone: 406-655-4591

Online: austinadventures.com

Email: reservations@austinadventures.com

Mail: Austin Adventures, P.O. Box 81025, Billings, MT 59108

* You may also book your Austin Adventure with your preferred travel professional.

** We accept most major credit cards and personal checks (U.S. funds made payable to Austin Adventures). Please do not send cash.

Included in the Trip Price

- All meals aboard ship: Breakfasts, lunches, snacks, dinners, refreshments and receptions.
- Double occupancy cabins with private baths.
- Fully trained, first-aid certified professional guides and knowledgeable local partners.
- All “from-the-boat” adventure activities and equipment.
- Wellness amenities: Fitness equipment, yoga mats and a complimentary massage.
- Spirits, wine, beer; non-alcoholic beverages.
- Round-trip transfers and baggage handling between airport/vessel on embark/disembark day.
- Austin Adventures T-shirt and luggage tags.
- Pre-departure and packing information.
- Entry fees to national parks / preserves.

Not Included in the Trip Price

- Gratuities to UnCruise Adventures captain and crew.
- Port taxes and fees (\$385 per person).
- Airport transfer if not arriving/departing on Day 1 / Day 9.
- Super premium wines and spirits.
- Snorkel gear / wetsuits.
- Pre-and post-trip accommodations and associated expenses.
- Air and land transportation to/from host cities.
- All types of personal insurance.
- Personal expenses.

Pre-departure Information

After receiving your reservation and deposit, we'll send you a pre-trip planner with general information about the area you'll be visiting, a packing list, exercise guidelines, a guest information questionnaire and a liability release agreement for you to sign and return within 10 days.

The toughest part is going home.SM

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Private Custom Trips

Maybe your vacation schedule doesn't fit our list of trips and dates. Or perhaps you'd prefer a slightly different itinerary or level of luxury and activity. A Custom Adventure is the perfect answer. You pick the date and destination and brief us on the size of your group, what activities you want, your "must haves" and just how you like to relax and unwind. No detail is too small, no idea too outrageous. Our staff of experts will help create a tailor-made vacation that's just right for you and your group. In short, if you can dream it, we can make it happen.

Room Occupancy, Single Supplements, and Shared Room Assignments

All trip prices are based on double occupancy. Single rooms are available for an additional charge, referred to as a "single supplement." If you're traveling alone and wish to share a room, make the request at the time of booking. Austin Adventures will attempt to find a suitable roommate for you.

Child Age and Pricing on Family Adventures

Family Adventures are suitable for children seven years old and up (five years and older for our Costa Rica and Yellowstone Family Adventures). Children who share a room with one or more adults receive reduced rates. The minimum age on our non-family designated adult and teen adventures is sixteen years old.

Cancellations and Refunds

The following cancellation policies and cancellation fees are in effect:

***As with deposits on some international and custom programs, refund schedule may vary, speak with your Adventure Consultant for details.

Cancellation 91 days or more before trip departure – Full trip payment refunded less a \$300 per person administration fee

Cancellation 61-90 days before trip departure – Full trip payment less 25% per person is refunded

Cancellation 46-60 days before trip departure – 50% of the trip payment is refunded

Cancellation 31-45 days before trip departure – 75% of the trip payment is refunded

Cancellation 0-30 days before trip departure – No refund is given

Our Guarantee

Exceeding your expectations is our number one priority. In the unlikely event that you are dissatisfied with something during your trip, immediately notify your guide(s). If he or she is unable to resolve the issue, call our main office and give us the details of the problem, and a chance to correct it. We will do our best to find a resolution. If we are unable to do so during your trip, we will work with you upon your return home to arrive at a fair and equitable solution, including up to a full refund.