

Colón

CULTURE AND HISTORY



EMBERA INDIAN CULTURE (Code: CRI01)



Excursion details

A riverine, nomadic people with a wealth of botanical knowledge, the Emberá have a long and deep history in Panama that stretches back centuries. This excursion of about six hours allows you to find out more about this indigenous community first-hand.

The journey starts with a transfer of around 90 minutes to an embarkation point on the Chagres River. From here you'll travel for about 15 minutes in a dugout canoe to the Emberá village. Over the next approximately two and a half hours, immerse yourself in the culture of the Emberá - their crafts, dances, music and knowledge of plants. You can also join the Emberá in one of their traditions by painting your body with a natural dye made from the jagua fruit.

Afterwards, a transfer drive of around one hour and 45 minutes returns to the port, concluding the excursion.

Important Information: Guests must be at least 6 years old to participate.

Minimum number of participants required: 27
 undefined (English, Italian, Français, German, Spanish)

CITY TOUR



TWO OCEAN RAILROAD JOURNEY (Code: CRI02)



Excursion details

Set off on an epic adventure by rail for this excursion of approximately five hours, travelling between oceans on the Panama Canal Railway. You'll begin with a transfer of around 30 minutes, which takes you to the Atlantic Passenger Station in Colón (the city marks the Panama Canal's Atlantic Ocean entrance).

Then begins your approximately 75-minute journey on a historic rail line, running parallel to the Panama Canal and offering a unique view of one of the world's great engineering marvels. During the trip, you'll pass Gatun Lake and travel through thick rainforest, amongst other varied scenery and landscapes. You'll also receive a snack and bottled water while on the train.

When the train terminates in Balboa, near Panama City (located on the Panama Canal's Pacific entrance), you'll have about 15 minutes to disembark before taking an approximately 90-minute tour of Panama City. Enjoy viewing the mix of modern skyscrapers, colonial architecture and bustling waterfronts, before a transfer drive of around 90 minutes returns back to the port at Colón, concluding the excursion.

Important Information: Guests must be at least 4 years old to participate. Guests are advised that there may be delays on the train ride due to cargo trains. Train route may vary. Please book code CRI02A if you wish to be placed inside the Deluxe Dome Car onboard the train.

Minimum number of participants required: 150
 undefined (English, Italian, Français, German, Spanish)



MSC

EXCURSIONS

Discoveries designed for you

CITY TOUR



Two Ocean Railroad Journey in Deluxe Dome Car (code: CRI02A)

Duration 5h

Excursion details

Set off on an epic adventure by rail for this excursion of approximately five hours, travelling between oceans on the Panama Canal Railway. You'll begin with a transfer of around 30 minutes, which takes you to the Atlantic Passenger Station in Colón (the city marks the Panama Canal's Atlantic Ocean entrance).

Then begins your approximately 75-minute journey on a historic rail line, running parallel to the Panama Canal and offering a unique view of one of the world's great engineering marvels. During the trip, you'll pass Gatun Lake and travel through thick rainforest, amongst other varied scenery and landscapes. You'll also receive a snack and bottled water while on the train.

When the train terminates in Balboa, near Panama City (located on the Panama Canal's Pacific entrance), you'll have about 15 minutes to disembark before taking an approximately 90-minute tour of Panama City. Enjoy viewing the mix of modern skyscrapers, colonial architecture and bustling waterfronts, before a transfer drive of around 90 minutes returns back to the port at Colón, concluding the excursion.

Important Information: Guests must be at least 4 years old to participate. Guests are advised that there may be delays on the train ride due to cargo trains. Train route may vary. Please book code CRI02A if you wish to be placed inside the Deluxe Dome Car onboard the train.

Minimum number of participants required: 30
undefined (English)

CULTURE AND HISTORY



PANAMA CANAL CRUISE (Code: CRI03)

Duration 8h

Sail through an insightful day of exploration on the Panama Canal during this excursion, lasting approximately eight hours. You'll view some of the key sights of this famous landmark and there'll be a complimentary buffet aboard your boat to keep you well-fuelled.

Excursion details

Get to know the history and scenery of the world-famous Panama Canal on this excursion of around eight hours. The day begins with a drive of about 90 minutes to an embarkation area (either the Dredging Division at Gamboa or the Cucaracha Pier), where you'll board your ferry and set off on a cruise along the Panama Canal, lasting approximately five hours.

Your journey begins at Culebra Cut (formerly called Galliard Cut), an artificial valley of eight-plus miles that was an extremely challenging section to build, making its completion a huge achievement. During this stretch, you'll see the Centennial Bridge across the canal, which was opened in 2004 to ease congestion on the Bridge of the Americas in Panama City.

Afterwards, you'll enter the single-step Pedro Miguel locks, before crossing Miraflores Lake, leading to the two-step Miraflores Locks. Once you've navigated these locks, you'll sail the canal's final stretch, which eventually leads into the Pacific Ocean. During this final section, you'll be able to view the Bridge of the Americas, which was completed in 1962 and was the first permanent bridge built over the canal.

Your voyage ends at the canal's Pacific entrance, where you'll disembark your ferry. You'll then be given a certificate marking your Panama Canal transit, before boarding the bus for the approximately 90-minute drive back to the port.

Important Information: Guests must be at least 4 years old to participate. The transit of ships is subject to the local authorities. Transiting time depends on the traffic schedule of each day. In case it is needed, the tour may be operated in a different way by transiting on the Atlantic Side instead of transiting on the Pacific Side. The tour includes an approx. 1.5 hr. bus ride each way.

Minimum number of participants required: 60
undefined (English, Italian, Français, German, Spanish)

CITY TOUR



PANAMA CITY TOUR (Code: CRI04)



Excursion details

Spanning around six and a half hours, this excursion into Panama City begins with a journey of around 90 minutes to Panama Viejo. This archaeological site houses the ruins of the original Panama City, founded in 1519 by Spanish conquistador Pedro Arias de Ávila. It was the first European settlement to be founded on the Pacific side of the American continent, and it flourished for around 150 years until it was sacked in 1671 by Sir Henry Morgan.

You'll have the chance to see this amazing City for around 30 minutes on a panoramic tour through the area. Although much of it was destroyed during the 1671 attack, many structures and remnants still stand. After its destruction, the city was relocated to what is now Casco Viejo or Casco Antiguo, the historic district founded in 1673. This is your next stop, reached after a drive of around 30 minutes. A walking tour of approximately 90 minutes will give you the opportunity to soak up this lively historic area, which is rich in colonial architecture, churches and plazas. Its highlights include the cathedral, the national theatre and the Paseo de Las Bóvedas, with its arches of bougainvillea.

The final stop of the excursion, after a journey of roughly 75 minutes, will be the Agua Clara Locks, part of the Panama Canal expansion project that opened in 2016, in order to accommodate larger ships than the original canal could handle. You'll have around one hour at the site, before a journey of 15 minutes or so back to the port.

Important Information: Please note: Guests must be at least 4 years old to participate. This tour includes a long route by bus. As the transit of ships through the lock is subject to local authority permission and is dependent on daily scheduling, no guarantee can be given that any ships will be passing through the lock at the time of your visit. The order of the visits may vary.

Minimum number of participants required: 10
undefined (English, Italian, Français, German, Spanish)

ACTIVE & ADVENTURE



KAYAKING ON LAKE GATUN (Code: CRI06)



Set off on a kayaking adventure on this excursion, lasting around four hours. You'll be paddling across Gatun Lake, which makes up part of the Panama Canal system.

Excursion details

Completed in 1913, Gatun Lake is a vast and fascinating artificial body of water to explore, as you'll be doing on this approximately four-hour excursion.

A transfer from Colón to the marina lasts around 45 minutes, where you'll then have 15 minutes or so to settle in. Then set off on your guided kayaking trip of around 90 minutes. This is a chance to understand a little more about Panama's biodiversity as you paddle, admiring the array of plant life and wildlife that resides in and around Gatun Lake, including various species of birds - although please note that wildlife sightings cannot be guaranteed.

After enjoying the scenery and staying active in the great outdoors, your kayaking trip comes to an end. You'll then have around 30 minutes to change clothing - if needed - and relax a little, before the return transfer back to the port, lasting approximately one hour.

Important Information: Guests must be at least 8 years of age to participate and are recommended to be physically fit. As you are likely to get wet during the kayaking activity, you are recommended to bring a change of clothes, wear swimwear, sunscreen, a sunhat, sandals and bring a towel. Kayaks used for the tour are 2-person kayaks

Minimum number of participants required: 10
undefined (English, Italian, Français, German, Spanish)

NATURAL WONDERS



MONKEY WATCH AT GAMBOA (Code: CRI08)



Set off on a kayaking adventure on this excursion, lasting around four hours. You'll be paddling across Gatun Lake, which makes up part of the Panama Canal system.

Excursion details

Completed in 1913, Gatun Lake is a vast and fascinating artificial body of water to explore, as you'll be doing on this approximately four-hour excursion.

A transfer from Colón to the marina lasts around 45 minutes, where you'll then have 15 minutes or so to settle in. Then set off on your guided kayaking trip of around 90 minutes. This is a chance to understand a little more about Panama's biodiversity as you paddle, admiring the array of plant life and wildlife that resides in and around Gatun Lake, including various species of birds - although please note that wildlife sightings cannot be guaranteed.

After enjoying the scenery and staying active in the great outdoors, your kayaking trip comes to an end. You'll then have around 30 minutes to change clothing - if needed - and relax a little, before the return transfer back to the port, lasting approximately one hour.

Important Information: Guests must be at least 8 years of age to participate and are recommended to be physically fit. As you are likely to get wet during the kayaking activity, you are recommended to bring a change of clothes, wear swimwear, sunscreen, a sunhat, sandals and bring a towel. Kayaks used for the tour are 2-person kayaks

Minimum number of participants required: 10
undefined (English, Italian, Français, German, Spanish)

CITY TOUR



PANAMA OLD QUARTER (Code: CRI09)



Get to know Panama City's historic highlights on this excursion of approximately four-and-a-half hours. You'll embark on a guided walking tour to see sights such as ancient churches, former dungeons and a French commemoration monument, before some free time to explore independently.

Excursion details

Completed in 1673 and known as Casco Viejo or Casco Antiguo, Panama City's historic district was designated a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1997. This excursion of around four and a half hours demonstrates why, by taking you to some of its key sights.

A drive of approximately 90 minutes to Casco Viejo starts the excursion, where you'll set off on a guided walking tour lasting approximately one hour. As you stroll, admire the colourful, Spanish colonial architecture that lines the streets. Sights covered on the tour may include some of the area's many historic churches, such as the 17th-century Church of Saint Joseph (Iglesia de San José). Local legend tells of how the church's prized gold altar was temporarily painted black to hide its value when the famous pirate Henry Morgan and his men ransacked the city.

You'll also navigate past Las Bóvedas ('the Vaults') - a long row of arched spaces formerly used as dungeons and jail cells, nowadays transformed into a walkway - and a monument in Plaza de Francia built to honour the tens of thousands of French workers who died while helping to build the Panama Canal.

After the walking tour ends, you'll have approximately 30 minutes of free time to further explore Casco Viejo, which could be used to browse the area's shops or just relax at one of the many cafes or bars. A transfer of around 90 minutes then returns to the port, concluding the excursion.

Minimum number of participants required: 10
undefined (English, Italian, Français, German, Spanish)

CULTURE AND HISTORY


PANAMA CANAL EXPANSION (Code: CR12)

Duration
 3h

Excursion details

In construction for over a decade, the Panama Canal officially opened in 1914 to provide a through route for trade ships travelling between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. Stretching for around 80 kilometres, approximately 13,000-14,000 ships now use the canal annually, aided by an expansion project that took place between 2007-2016.

Find out more about this huge upgrade during an insightful excursion, lasting around three hours. Your first stop is reached after an approximately 30-minute drive, transporting you to an observation platform at the Agua Clara Visitors Center. You'll then tour the venue over approximately one hour, learning about the 'three-step' Agua Clara Locks, which were opened in 2016 near Colón to allow larger ships to travel through the canal.

Afterwards, you'll set off on a second tour - also lasting about one hour - this time exploring the area informally known as the Panama Canal Zone, or sometimes the Old Panama Canal Zone within the Colon area. This 16-kilometre area (eight kilometres on each side of the canal) was run by the United States from 1903-1979, featuring schools, hospitals and homes - all built and operated by the United States - for the many American citizens who lived there.

After this tour, there's an approximately 30-minute transfer drive back to the port, concluding the excursion.

Minimum number of participants required: 35
 undefined (English, Italian, Français, German, Spanish)

NATURAL WONDERS


ECO CRUISE ON GATUN LAKE (Code: CR14)

Duration
 4.5h

Excursion details

Lasting about four and a half hours, this nature-focused excursion is an eye-opening trip into Panama's biodiversity. A drive of around 45 minutes to the marina at the Jungle Eco Reserve venue is the starting point, followed by 15 minutes or so to settle in and board your boat. Then you'll begin your cruise on Gatun Lake, which lasts approximately 90 minutes.

As you sail across this huge artificial lake - created in the early 20th century as part of the Panama Canal and completed in 1913 - your onboard guide will provide insights about the region's plants and animals, also pointing out any wildlife that may be visible on the day, although please note that sightings cannot be guaranteed.

As your boat trip ends, there's around 30 minutes for disembarking and a short break, before you head out into the wild again. Your hike through rainforest trails surrounding Gatun Lake lasts approximately 45 minutes, featuring more insightful information from your guide, who will again show you any wildlife that may be viewable in the forest at the time of your walk. Enjoy the tropical scenery as you stroll, ending back at Jungle Eco Reserve, where you'll take the return transfer to the port, lasting around 45 minutes.

Important Information: Guests must be at least 6 years old to participate. Guests are recommended to wear light, comfortable clothing and comfortable walking shoes.

Minimum number of participants required: 10
 undefined (English, Italian, Français, German, Spanish)



MSC

EXCURSIONS

Discoveries designed for you

SOMETHING SPECIAL



PROTECTOURS: THE NEW LOCKS & SAN LORENZO, A UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE (Code: CR118)

Duration 6.5h

Excursion details

This tour of approximately four and a half hours combines some of Panama's most significant historic and modern sights. Your excursion begins with a journey of around 45 minutes through thick forest to Fort San Lorenzo. Built by the Spanish in the late 16th century, the fort was designed to protect the entrance to the Chagres River - an important inland waterway used during the colonial era to transport goods from the Caribbean Coast to Panama City on the Pacific side.

You'll have around 90 minutes to explore the site, which played a key role in protecting Spanish gold and silver shipments from pirates - until Sir Henry Morgan attacked and sacked the fort in 1671 as part of his campaign, which eventually led to the destruction of Panama City.

After stepping back in history, move forward in time to a feat of modern engineering via an approximately 30-minute drive, which brings you to the Agua Clara Locks, near the city of Colón. Opened in 2016 as part of the Panama Canal expansion project, these state-of-the-art locks were built to accommodate much larger ships than the original canal allowed.

You'll have about 75 minutes to observe the locks in action and learn about the engineering behind them before a transfer of around 30 minutes returns to the port.

Important Information: It is not guaranteed that a ship will be passing through the lock at the time of the visit. There is uneven terrain at Fort San Lorenzo. It is recommended that guests wear light clothing and closed-toe shoes.

Minimum number of participants required: 12
undefined (English, Spanish)

Key to symbols

- Best rated
- Best seller
- Shopping
- Multilanguage tour
- Possibility of swimming
- Tasting included
- Lunch or dinner included
- Drink included
- Snack included
- Limited seats
- English Only Tour
- No guide available

- Shooting videos and/or taking pictures is not allowed or subject to fee
- Wheelchair and disabled friendly tour

Wheelchair guests must be accompanied by their own helper to get on/off the coach. Wheelchairs must be foldable as coaches do not have ramps or lifts. Once on board, please contact the MSC Excursions desk staff promptly so they can help make arrangements.

DIFFICULTY LEVEL

- Easy**
May involve a limited quantity of steps, uneven surfaces and/or periods of standing.
- Moderate**
May involve inclines, steps, uneven surfaces and/or extended periods of standing.
- Strenuous**
Active excursions recommended only for guests in good physical health.

Please check your ticket for meeting time and location. There will be no announcements to remind you of departure times or meeting points.

OUR EXCURSION CATEGORIES

ACTIVE & ADVENTURE	Thrill seekers can find adventures for sports and fun. Trekking, snorkeling kayak tours and 4x4 vehicles.
CITY TOUR	The easiest way to explore the city center and local scenery. A guided tour with a comfortable coach ride.
CULTURE AND HISTORY	Learn the destinations history and culture with visits to must-see locations and guided tours.
NATURAL WONDERS	Immerse yourself in spectacular scenery and discover the fascinating flora and fauna of your destination.



MSC

EXCURSIONS

Discoveries designed for you

SCENIC ROUTE	Take in the destinations best views and main points of interest in total comfort, with a scenic coach tour.
SEA & SUN	Treat yourself to pure relaxation, on a beautiful beach or enjoying the stunning views on a scenic boat ride.
SOMETHING SPECIAL	Unique experiences from gastronomic tours and guided shopping trips to religious visits. Explore your passion.
FAMILY FUN	Take your children on a journey of discovery designed for families and kids.
PROTECTOURS	Experience the world in a sustainable way to preserve its beauty for generations to come.
MSC BIKE ADVENTURES	Explore from the unique vantage point of an MSC Bicycle. A truly immersive guided tour of the destination.

Some excursions are very popular and therefore availability cannot always be guaranteed. We recommend booking in advance the tours you are interested in.

The availability of language guides (ENG-ITA-GER-FRE-SPA-POR) varies depending on the destination. At the time of booking, you will be able to select your preferred language from the available options. The language in which each excursion will be conducted will be confirmed on board during the cruise.