

SPECIAL EDITION

# PANAMA & COSTA RICA

Canal & Rainforest to Guanacaste Coast



*Classic*  
JOURNEYS



“Classic Journeys provides unbeatable access to experiences around the globe.”

— *Travel + Leisure*

## Two Versions of Paradise

Monkeys? Check. Pirates? Check. Whitewater rafting? Check. Zipline? Oh, yeah, this trip has it all! Your trip of a lifetime begins in Panama City. You'll get to float through the Panama Canal, go treasure hunting for a glimpse of a Resplendent Quetzal, and visit an authentic village of a native tribe. Just when you think you have seen it all, we will hop on a short flight across the border to experience the coastal region of Guanacaste. Every day offers something new from whitewater rafting to zip line glides and boat rides. Wildlife is everywhere, and you'll have the chance to spot keel-billed toucans, jaguars, orchids, howler monkeys, river otters, and on and on. Best of all, every activity you read about in this itinerary is included at no extra cost. There are no surcharges or equipment rental fees.

## DAY 1

## PANAMA CANAL

- Sail across Gatun Lake to see gigantic cargo and passenger ships pass through the Panama Canal
- Spot myriad bird species on an afternoon jungle walk in Soberania National Park

After breakfast, you'll cruise across Gatun Lake, weaving among gigantic cargo and passenger ships. This lake is the part of the passage that crosses the Continental Divide from Gatun on the Atlantic to the Miraflores Locks on the Pacific side. During this day, you'll also catch another glimpse of Panama's wildlife such as green iguanas, crocodiles, white-faced capuchin monkeys and osprey on the hunt for peacock bass.

Every schoolchild learns about birds migrating south for the winter. What you probably never knew is that portions of four major North American flyways all converge in Panama. The predictable result is one of the great bird watching opportunities you'll find anywhere. Sobernia National Park is the site of the Audubon Society's annual Christmas count because so many species fly through. Your morning jungle cruise turns into an exciting game as you all compete to see who can spot the most species – not to mention other wildlife like howler monkeys and sloths (who spend a good bit of their lives hanging upside down from branches).

This afternoon, visit one of man's greatest engineering feats. The Panama Canal is actually a series of lakes, locks and channels – and you may be surprised to learn that it runs north and south! Here our guide leads you on a visit to the canal museum where you can also see ships being raised or lowered in the locks.

**OVERNIGHT: PANAMA CITY**  
**MEALS: B, L, D**

## DAY 2

## EMBERA VILLAGE

- Ride a dugout canoe up a rainforest river
- Visit a native Tribal village to meet local families
- Explore a rich habitat for jaguars, harpy eagles and blue-headed parrots

This morning, we'll make our way out of the vibrant metropolis and climb into traditional piraguas (dugout canoes) for an incredible ride up the Chagres River. It's quiet and almost prehistoric the way the rainforest crowds the river like a tall wall of green on each bank.

Ashore, meet up with the families of the Embera tribe, one of country's seven remaining indigenous tribes. Our visit is fun...eye-opening...and a real cultural lesson. Their village sits right on the river where they'll greet us and welcome us into thatched huts that stand on stilts (equally important protection from rainy season floods and jaguars). We'll have lunch with them, get to see how they live and play, and learn about their traditions.

The day also offers a real-life look at the environmental issues that the kids and you hear so much about. The Embera and the wildlife with which they share their land are all threatened by deforestation and development. As you'll see, Chagres National Park remains a rich habitat that contains jaguars, anteaters and mantled howler monkeys as

well as bird sanctuary with more than 560 species. Conservation groups are fighting to extend it as well to preserve the biodiversity.

**OVERNIGHT: PANAMA CITY**  
**MEALS: B, L, D**

## DAY 3

## PANAMA CITY - GUANACASTE

- Flight to Guanacaste
- Zipline through treetops
- Settle into your beachfront accommodations

After our morning flight, we arrive in beautiful Guanacaste. It's home to volcanic formations and tropical forests. This region has more wildlife than you can imagine from white-collared peccaries and coatis to orange-fronted parakeets and tanagers. This day could be full of chances to see many of them.

That's especially true as we head for the forest canopy this afternoon. The soaring forest and ocean views in these parts is much different than the ones we saw at the beginning of the week. On the swanky Papagayo Peninsula, harnessed safely onto a series of ziplines, you'll have the thrill of zooming through the treetops. It's a classic Costa Rican experience you won't want to miss as you take in nature from a completely different perspective.

After, we'll head to our beachfront home for the next three nights. You'll have views of the Pacific surf from your room. That stretch of sand out front is Hermosa Beach, renowned for its outstanding marine fauna.

**OVERNIGHT: GUANACASTE**  
**MEALS: B, D**

## DAY 4

## GUANACASTE

- Raft the white waters of the Tenorio River

Early this morning, head inland for a full day of whitewater rafting. Please note the drive time is approximately 2 to 2.5 hours one way.

River experts will outfit the rafters for a wild, wet and safe tumble on the Tenorio River. The rapids are rated Class III-IV to provide plenty of thrills as you ride the current and whizz past the surrounding forest. You'll float down this incredible river for four hours, passing through sections which are dominated by white water. Hold on tightly to your paddle as you plunge through the cataracts and are sprayed with water! During the smoother sections, take a look around at the lush, forested scenery and try to spot tropical birds perched high in the trees. The rafting trip includes a memorable riverside lunch along the way.

After, we'll drive back to the resort where you'll have the evening at leisure

**OVERNIGHT: GUANACASTE**  
**MEALS: B, L**

## DAILY ITINERARY

PANAMA & COSTA RICA | CANAL & RAINFOREST TO GUANACASTE COAST | SPECIAL EDITION

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### DAY 5

#### GUANACASTE

- Go snorkeling from your private boat

Tucked into the northwest corner of Costa Rica, Guanacaste is full of contrasts between ocean and drier terrain. Today you get a taste of both.

It's a pure Pacific morning with plenty of options. We've arranged for you to join a private boat that lets you skim across the waves as we head along the coast. You'll stop for some terrific snorkeling—the waters here are as rich as the forests. Or you can sunbathe at a nearby beach. You'll cruise along Costa Rica's Gold Coast while passing some of Guanacaste's exotic bays, white sand beaches and tropical jungles. Gaze off the bow to scan for dolphins, sea turtles, flying fish or even a breaching whale (depending on the season). Stop in a tranquil bay, drop anchor and frolic in the blue Pacific. Snorkel in the bay or walk down the deserted white sand beach while your guide prepares a snack.

The remainder of the afternoon is yours for taking advantage of everything the resort has to offer. You may want to head to the beach for a dip or stretch with a glass

of something cold by the pool. Tonight we will join together for our memorable farewell dinner at one of our favorite local restaurants.

**OVERNIGHT: GUANACASTE**  
**MEALS: B, L, D**

### DAY 6

#### GUANACASTE/LIBERIA

- Private transfer to Liberia Airport

Morning to night, the Costa Rican climate is just about perfect. So take time this morning for a final beach stroll on your own or sleep in. Later, part company at nearby Liberia Airport for our homeward flights.

**OVERNIGHT: NONE**  
**MEALS: B**

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## DAILY ITINERARY

PANAMA & COSTA RICA | CANAL & RAINFOREST TO GUANACASTE COAST | SPECIAL EDITION

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### Tour Hotels



#### **Bristol Panama**

Named one of the 'Top 10 Hotels in Latin America' by Condé Nast Traveler, this 5-star luxury hotel in Panama City's Financial District. The rooms are sophisticated and elegant, and the property also offers a spa and outdoor pool.

**OVERNIGHT: PANAMÁ CITY | NIGHTS: 2**



#### **Bosque Del Mar Playa Hermosa**

A unique beachfront property in Hermosa Bay, Guanacaste, with a high-end boutique eco-concept, relaxed all-suite rooms, and steps from the beach with clear ocean waters and beautiful soft sand. Come relax and enjoy tranquility while watching monkeys play.

**OVERNIGHT: GUANACASTE | NIGHTS: 3**

## DAILY ITINERARY

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### Tour Dates & Prices

Tour Dates	Price per Person	Price per Person
	Double Occupancy	Single Occupancy
Dec 27, 2020-Jan 1, 2021	\$4,095	\$4,890
Dec 27, 2021-Jan 1, 2022	\$4,195	\$4,990

Want a different date? Or your own date? Visit [CLASSICJOURNEYS.COM/PRIVATE](https://www.classicjourneys.com/private) to learn more about private journeys.

#### INTERNAL AIRFARE

Internal air of \$395.00 subject to change based on available rates

Please note: Baggage restriction on this tour is limited to 30 lbs per person due to the internal airline's weight restriction.

### Trip Essentials

**TRIP LENGTH:** 6 Days, 5 Nights

**START:** 9:00 AM Lobby of Hotel Bristol, Panama City, Panama

**END:** 1:00 PM Liberia Airport, Liberia, Costa Rica Guests will be transferred by plane from Liberia to San Jose International Airport

**TERRAIN:** Easy to moderate forest, beach and jungle trails.

### What's Included

- Memorable accommodations for 5 nights
- All breakfasts, 4 lunches, 4 dinners
- Full-time experienced guide(s) who are with you throughout the trip and handle behind-the-scenes logistics
- Admissions to tastings, historic sites and other scheduled events as noted in the detailed daily itinerary
- Gratuities for hotels, meals, and baggage
- All land transportation during the trip

### Above & Beyond Benefits

- **Privileged Access Events**
- **Invisible Check-In**

**READY TO BOOK?**  
CLICK TO MAKE A RESERVATION

### Or give us a call

**1-833-387-1210**

Mon-Fri 8:00AM – 5:00PM PST

[moreinfo@classicjourneys.com](mailto:moreinfo@classicjourneys.com)



#### TRAVEL WORRY-FREE!

It's easy with insurance from Travel Guard. Your policy can cover trip cancellation, travel delays, lost luggage, medical emergencies, and more. If you are traveling with kids, add them to your policy at no extra cost. [Click here](#) or call 800-826-4919 for details.

#### AMBASSADOR CLUB

As a Classic Journeys guest, you are invited to join the Ambassador Club after your first Classic Journeys tour. As a member, you'll have access to [a whole suite of Ambassador benefits](#) you can use immediately and as often as you like.

#### ENJOY THE UNEXPECTED

When you travel with Classic Journeys, you can expect handcrafted surprises built into every trip, but some things just can't be anticipated. Unusual weather, a once-a-year festival or an unscheduled site closing will inspire us and your local guide to improvise and modify this itinerary. Likewise, the hotels named here are used on the majority of our trips, but occasionally one of them can't accommodate us. If that happens, you can count on us to let you know before departure and make sure you're in a hotel of equal or better quality. It's our goal to make your trip exceptional!

\*\*Any discount offered cannot be combined with other offers, and only applies to published (regularly scheduled public) departure dates in our catalogs or on our website.

# THE Classic Journeys Difference

## HANDCRAFTING TRIPS OF A LIFETIME.



At the end of the day, we fundamentally believe that every guest on every departure of every trip should have a trip of a lifetime. We're fortunate to play the role of well-connected friend, linking our guests with amazing guides, artisans, winemakers, hoteliers, restaurateurs, naturalists, and too many others to list here.

That's what motivates me and our team — in our La Jolla HQ and around the world — every day. Join Us!

President & Founder



## You can expect the highest standards:



### Luxurious Lodgings:

Ours include coveted properties that appear in "World's Best" and "Gold List" rankings.



### Included Activities:

You'll never be surprised with add-on fees on your activities that include snorkeling to cooking lessons.



### Local Guides:

Your guides are locals who are always at your side like well-connected friends.



### Small Group Travel:

With an average of just 10-12 guests, it's a small footprint that guarantees you access that's off-limits to larger groups.



### Amazing Cuisine:

From Michelin-starred restaurants to lunch in a farmhouse kitchen, you'll have a seat for the region's signature dishes.



### Unmatched Value:

"Excellent value" and "unbeatable access" are two of the reasons that Travel + Leisure has consistently voted us a World's Best Tour Operator.

## You'll enjoy these handcrafted travel experiences in Costa Rica—Coast to Coast...

- Canoeing to the rain forest village of the Embera Tribe and wispy waterfalls
- Spotting white-faced Capuchin monkeys, macaws and more
- Zooming past treetops on a zipline at Witch's Rock
- Rafting on the Tenorio River past surrounding forests
- Watching the giant ships levitate in the canal locks

*"Classic Journeys excels in providing exceptional guides familiar with the local area."*  
—Bert and Jo Ann E.

Let's Go!

TO RESERVE: 833.493.5038 | CLASSICJOURNEYS.COM/RESERVATIONS

You might also enjoy...



## Amalfi Coast

Capri, Sorrento & Positano

Special Edition

### PICTURE YOURSELF...

- Walking seaside trails past magnificent villas
- Enjoying incredible hotels in Positano and Capri
- Wandering the ruins of legendary Pompeii

For more information, visit <https://www.classicjourneys.com/amalfi-coast-new-years/>.



## Czech Republic, Austria & Hungary

Christmas Markets of Prague, Vienna & Budapest

Special Edition

### PICTURE YOURSELF...

- Strolling through the imperial capitals of Prague, Vienna and Budapest
- Watching the Danube flow by from the comfort of your cozy room
- Enjoying a packet of roasted chestnuts as you roam the holiday markets

For more information, visit <https://www.classicjourneys.com/christmas-markets-prague-vienna-budapest-tour/>.



## Morocco

Marrakesh, Coast & Desert

Multisport

### PICTURE YOURSELF...

- Exploring the colorful Medina
- Wine tasting in Val d'Argan
- Overnighting in a luxury desert encampment

For more information, visit <https://www.classicjourneys.com/morocco-luxury-tour-package/>.



# HANGING AROUND COSTA RICA...

TAKE THE LIGHT AND EASY  
APPROACH TO A CAREFREE  
COSTA RICA VACATION.

**You've barely stepped away from the luggage carousel in San Jose, when you find yourself standing in a swirl of 4,000 or so butterflies.**

"This," you say to the Silver Emperor that lands on your nose, "is why I came to Costa Rica." The hyper-abundant biodiversity of Central America's premier paradise never disappoints.

Wait. Let me qualify the word "never." Because this land with more than 500,000 species of one kind or another, where the howler monkeys and toucans roam, can easily overwhelm. In a country that's roughly the size of West Virginia, there are more hotels than you can ever vet on Trip Advisor, and "naturalist" guides offering their services are thicker on the ground than Starbucks stores back home. Google "Costa Rica vacation," and you get 62,800,000 hits. At some point, rich diversity turns into hyper-distraction. You can lose yourself in the logistics and spend your whole trip second-guessing yourself.

Instead, go with your instincts and let Classic Journeys handle everything. We've flitted the length and breadth of Costa Rica for two decades, comparing cloud forests, splash-testing whitewater outfitters, tracking capybaras, and curating itineraries that deliver exactly what you came for and more.

Instead of white-knuckling it in a rental car on a windy mountain road, you'll be off walking on a platform suspended in the rainforest canopy or weaving through lava fields on the slopes of Arenal Volcano. While the do-it-yourselfers compete for the last ticket on a wildlife cruise, you're already in your kayak gliding through a mangrove estuary, spotting anteaters and egrets. While a crowd huddles around a sign in Tortuguero National Park to read about endangered sea turtles, you're off with your own local guide-naturalist who explains it all for you. (And takes you to the secret place where the turtles lay their eggs.)

In fact, our expert team of local guides makes up one of the rarest species in Costa Rica. They are native Ticos, so they can give you a homier, insider sense of their country.





You'll be blown away by their encyclopedic knowledge about everything from sloths to scarlet macaw mating habits to stand up paddle boarding techniques.

The best part is that your full-time guide happily shoulders all of the when, where and how of your vacation. Almost like magic, they produce all of the gear you need for snorkeling on a Pacific reef or a zooming along a zip line — and you never pay an extra penny for any of it. And at the end of the day, when you are relaxing in a geothermal spa or sitting on your balcony overlooking the ocean, you never feel resort-envy because the hotel you booked online doesn't live up to its photos. We're also old friends with the best luxury boutique properties in the country. When you're with Classic Journeys, there is always room at perfectly sited in-spots with an abundance of comfort and amenities.

Our approach works so well because every inch of the way, you're in the moment — ready to make a cowabunga leap from your private catamaran, to absorb the sunset (and a margarita) from the deck of your lodge perched in the most spectacular jungle setting, or to freeze mid-step as a Violet Sabrewing hummingbird hovers a tongue-flick away. If you really want to spread your wings in Costa Rica, visit with Classic Journeys and float free through an amazing week crowded only with nature, fun and luxury.