

Canal & Rainforest to Guanacaste Coast

Panama & Costa Rica Wildlife Walking Adventure



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. Soberania 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

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



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

Tour Dates & Prices

To see the full list of dates and prices for this tour, go to our website by clicking [here](#).

Want to travel with just your group on a date of your choosing? Visit [CLASSICJOURNEYS.COM/PRIVATE](https://www.classicjourneys.com/private) to learn more about Private Journeys.

Trip Essentials

TRIP LENGTH	6 Days, 5 Nights
START	Lobby of Bristol Panama, Panama City, Panama
END	Liberia Airport, Liberia, Costa Rica
TERRAIN	Easy to moderate forest, beach and jungle trails.

What's Included

- 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

1-800-200-3887

Mon-Fri 8:00AM – 5:00PM PST

moreinfo@classicjourneys.com

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!

Samuel Kim
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 Panama & Costa Rica...

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