



The Panama Canal and Costa Rica

CRUISE FROM COLÓN TO SAN JOSÉ



Accompanied by
Expedition Naturalists

January 16 – 25, 2027

On this unforgettable, varied program, travel through one of the greatest engineering marvels of our time and explore pristine rainforests and jungle-fringed beaches. Cruising for 8 nights aboard the small ship *Wind Star*, begin with a specially arranged daylight transit of the mighty locks of the Panama Canal, considered one of the Seven Wonders of the Modern World. As you go ashore on Isla Parida, look out for dolphins and colorful fish — spend the day hiking in the rainforest or snorkeling in open water. Continue on with a visit to the lush Manuel Antonio National Park — a captivating combination of rainforest, beach and coral reef. Naturalist guides will lead an exploration of this protected biodiverse paradise, where you may spot toucans, iguanas and howler monkeys. Augment your stay with an optional extension in San José, Costa Rica.

Exclusive Highlights

- 8-night cruise from Panama to Costa Rica aboard the first-class small sailing ship *Wind Star*; plus a 1-night hotel stay in San José, Costa Rica.
- Specially arranged daytime transit through the Panama Canal, an incredible feat of engineering.
- UNESCO World Heritage site: Fortifications on the Caribbean Side of Panama: Portobelo-San Lorenzo, Panama (Traveler's Choice option).



Above: Manuel Antonio National Park, Costa Rica
Cover: Keel Billed Toucan; Panama Canal Locks



Dear Texas Ex:

We invite you to witness one of the greatest feats of the modern age — the Panama Canal, a stunning example of engineering prowess. During a specially arranged and narrated daylight transit, experience the mighty locks that raise and lower ocean-going vessels 85 feet, employing the force of gravity to achieve in mere hours what once involved a three-week circumnavigation of South America.

This 10-day, 9-night itinerary also showcases Earth's most pristine ecosystems in the rainforests and islands of Costa Rica and Panama at the best time of year. Cruise aboard the exclusively chartered, first-class *Wind Star*, a sleek, four-masted sailing vessel accommodating only 148 guests. Anchor in secluded areas inaccessible to larger vessels, and enjoy a variety of included excursions led by experienced onboard naturalists.

Tour the stunning and biodiverse Manuel Antonio National Park, where guides will lead a trail walk through an ecosystem of rare species. Snorkel or hike the spectacular Isla Parida with its astounding range of wildlife.

Enhance your journey with the optional Arenal and San José Post-Extension option. This amazing program will fill up fast. Reserve now while space and Special Savings are available!

This outstanding itinerary is brought to you by the Texas Exes travel program, which supports the association's mission of promoting and protecting The University of Texas at Austin and uniting its alumni around the world. While you do not have to be an alumnus of UT to travel with us, we do ask that all Flying Longhorns travelers have an active membership in the Texas Exes. Memberships start at just \$50.

The association is a huge proponent of continuing education and there is no better classroom than our world. Experience rich history and culture in the company of your fellow Longhorns! Are you ready for the adventure of a lifetime? We're standing by to answer all of your questions and take your reservation. Group size is limited on this popular program and likely to sell out quickly. Additional information about all Texas Exes Flying Longhorns trips can be found at travel.texasexes.org.

Hook 'em!

Your Flying Longhorns Travel Team,
Margaret, Janice, and Catherine

**Contact the Flying Longhorns office to secure your spot:
1-800-594-3900 or travel@texasexes.org**

**Day 1 | January 16** **D**

Depart your home city and fly to Panama City, Panama. Transfer to the first-class *Wind Star* and settle in.

Day 2 | January 17 **B-L-R-D**

Colón, Panama

Today, choose one of three included excursions. In a dugout canoe, travel down the Gatun River to the indigenous village of Embera Quera, where you'll meet local villagers. Learn about their customs, lifestyle and relationship with nature, and enjoy a traditional lunch with them. Then visit Agua Clara Locks. Or drive over the Panama Canal to UNESCO-listed San Lorenzo National Park. Or visit Agua Clara Locks and then go on a Gatun Lake expedition boat tour. No matter which excursion you choose, you will also see incredible birds and wildlife!

Day 3 | January 18 **B-L-D**

Isla Aroma, San Blas Island
The San Blas Islands are part of an archipelago comprising some 378 islands and cays, of which 49 are inhabited, some by the Kuna people. Visit idyllic Isla Aroma, which boasts white-sand beaches fringed by palm trees. The coral reef barriers and warm, clear water create the ideal spot for snorkeling; the water is home to a colorful kaleidoscope of marine life. Spend the morning relaxing on the beach and snorkeling in the water. Encounter the local Kuna people, who will

welcome you with music and dance. The Kuna are known for their matriarchal society, distinct culture and colorful textile art.

Day 4 | January 19 **B-L-D**

Canal Crossing

Enjoy the once-in-a-lifetime experience of traveling from the Caribbean Sea to the Pacific Ocean through the Panama Canal. A total of 40 miles long, this waterway connecting the Atlantic and Pacific oceans was first constructed in the early 1900s. Watch as the mighty locks open and close, ultimately raising and



National Museum, San José, Costa Rica



San Blas Islands, Panama

lowering the ship 85 feet in this unique and memorable experience. Enjoy a delicious lunch and time to relax onboard the ship.

Day 5 | January 20 **B-L-D**

Day at Sea

Spend the day relaxing and gazing at the Pacific Ocean. Enjoy lectures, the ship's amenities and delicious meals on board today.

Day 6 | January 21 **B-L-D**

Isla Parida

Enjoy a BBQ lunch on the shore of this beautiful island. Kayaks and snorkeling gear



Three-toed sloth

will be available and you may opt to spend the day on the beach. Or you can choose an active hiking or open-water snorkeling excursion.

Day 7 | January 22 **B-L-D**

Puerto Jimenez, Costa Rica | Osa Peninsula

The Osa Peninsula boasts incredible biodiversity, including two native species of sloths, a variety of birds, monkeys, reptiles and more. Today, enjoy two excursions. Meet sloths in their natural habitat, in a preserve established and maintained by a local family. And

explore an organic farm growing vanilla, pineapple, banana and cacao crops. Then learn the history of chocolate production (by the ancient Mayans!), observe modern chocolate making, and taste the delicious results!

Day 8 | January 23 **B-L-R-D**

Quepos | Manuel Antonio National Park

Experience an unparalleled diversity of wildlife on a visit to the lush Manuel Antonio National Park — a captivating combination



Harvesting coffee beans

Gliding tree frog, Costa Rica



Miraflores Locks, Panama Canal

of rainforest, beach and coral reef. See hundreds of mammal and bird species that call this park home, along with countless amphibians and reptiles. Naturalist guides will lead an exploration of this protected paradise, where you may spot vibrant toucans, camouflaged iguanas, howler monkeys, tree-dwelling squirrel monkeys, sloths and Capuchin monkeys.

Day 9 | January 24

B-L

Puerto Caldera | Disembark | San José

After disembarkation, set off on a tour of Costa Rica's capital city. Founded in 1736, San José has blossomed into a vibrant metropolis, filled with fascinating museums, lively markets, tempting restaurants and more.

The cityscape boasts a mix of historic and modern

architectural styles.

Enjoy an included restaurant lunch. This afternoon, check in to the *Costa Rica Marriott Hotel Hacienda Belén*.

Day 10 | January 25

B

San José |

Return To Home City

Transfer to the airport for your return flight home.

Note: This itinerary is subject to change due to local conditions.

Expedition Naturalists

Your multi-talented Expedition Team will lead onboard discussions and presentations, and accompany you on zodiac rides and guided nature walks during your shore excursions. This seasoned team of naturalists has traveled and worked extensively in Central America and around the world. Their areas of expertise span marine biology, ornithology, ecology, geology, conservation and environmental education, history and photography. These collective experiences and a specialized interest in the world's ecosystems make them exceptionally well-suited to lead your expedition. They will be by your side throughout your journey to answer questions and share their knowledge about this part of the world.





Lock master, Panama canal



Embera village, Panama

POST-TOUR EXTENSION



Arenal and San José

January 24 to 28 (Program Ends: January 28)

Explore Costa Rica's diverse biospheres, from steamy hot springs to misty cloud forests. In view of towering Arenal Volcano, walk in the lush rainforest along a series of suspended and fixed bridges. Visit an organic chocolate workshop, an award-winning coffee estate and a traditional artisan town known for hand-painted woodcrafts. Includes accommodations for four nights at deluxe hotels.

Price per person, based on double occupancy: \$2,495

Price per person, based on single occupancy: \$3,295

Further details will be provided with your reservation confirmation.

INCLUDED FEATURES

- 8 nights aboard the exclusively chartered, first-class *Wind Star*.
- 1 night in San José, Costa Rica at the first-class *Costa Rica Marriott Hotel Hacienda Belén*.
- Welcome and Farewell Receptions.
- Included Meals | 9 breakfasts, 8 lunches and 8 dinners.
- Complimentary non-premium liquor, house wine, beer, nonalcoholic beverages and minibar service throughout the cruise; complimentary house wine and beer at lunch and dinner and nonalcoholic beverages at all meals during the land program.
- Experienced Gohagan & Company Travel Director accompanies you throughout the program (1 for every 40 guests).
- Expert lecturers and local guides enrich your experience with their knowledge and insight.
- Gratuities are included for all shipboard personnel and local guides/drivers on included excursions and transfers.
- Complimentary water is available in your cabin and on excursions.
- Our extensive pre-departure materials better prepare you for your travel experience.
- Complimentary travel mementos.



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Advantages of booking your air with Gohagan include:

- Our experts know the best flight itineraries that work with your travel program's start and end times, and they will work to find the best rates comparable to those available to the public.
- Free group transfers and luggage handling for arrivals and departures during the designated transfer window.
- 24-hour emergency support throughout the program to handle any schedule changes and unexpected delays.
- Flexibility to change or cancel reservations up to 60 days prior to departure with minimal penalties on applicable tickets.

The Gohagan Difference – An Inclusive Luxury Experience

For your comfort and convenience, our fares are comprehensive. We offer incredible inclusions not typical of all providers.

Included in your Rate:

- Shore Excursions
- Wi-Fi/Internet
- Beverage Package
- Port Charges & Gratuities
- Travel Director(s)
- Expedition Naturalists

A VALUE
of up to
\$2,565
per person

2027 DEPARTURE DATE | January 16 to 25 | Program Begins: January 16

Category	Description	Standard Rate	Special Savings Rate*
OS	Suite with ocean view via four portholes; fixed queen bed; sitting/dining area; shower. 220 sq ft Deck 1, aft.	\$12,695	\$11,695
A Mid	Stateroom with ocean view via two side-by-side portholes; shower. 188 sq ft Deck 2, mid.	\$10,195	\$9,195
A Aft	Stateroom with ocean view via two side-by-side portholes; shower. 188 sq ft Deck 2, aft.	\$9,595	\$8,595
B Mid	Stateroom with ocean view via two side-by-side portholes; shower. 188 sq ft Deck 1, mid.	\$9,095	\$8,095
B Aft	Stateroom with ocean view via two side-by-side portholes; shower. Some rooms have fixed queen beds. 188 sq ft Deck 1, aft.	\$8,495	\$7,495



All suites and staterooms are ocean-view and feature: two twin beds or one queen bed (a few have a fixed queen bed, see above); elegant granite-finished private bathroom with L'occitane products and a magnifying mirror; flat-screen TV; robes and slippers; luxurious linens; private climate control; personal safe and hair dryer.

All rates are in U.S. dollars, per person, based on double occupancy, including taxes (unless otherwise stated).

***The Special Savings Rate is valid if booked by 5/28/26 and paid in full at booking. These Special Savings consist of \$500 Early Booking and \$500 Pay-in-Full Savings.**

- Single supplements apply in select categories at 160% of the per person cabin fare, plus taxes, with limited availability. Single rates for all other categories are at 200%. Special Savings still apply. (Cabin fare is the standard rate less taxes.)
- A surcharge of 3% will be applied to all bookings paid by credit card to cover payment processing costs. This fee is non-refundable and will be added to the total booking amount at checkout.
- Deposit amount is \$2,000 per person. Final Payment is on September 18, 2026.
- Full ship information and deck plans are available on our website at gohagantravel.com.
- Gohagan & Company reserves the right to correct errors or omissions and to change any and all fares, fees, promotions and surcharges at any time. Terms & Conditions are available at gohagantravel.com/terms/

**To secure your spot, Contact the Flying Longhorns office:
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**SPECIAL SAVINGS* AVAILABLE
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WINDSTAR

Wind Star guests can connect to the wonder, authenticity and majesty of a world discovered by small ship. Slip past the crowds to experience smaller ports and get to know the local culture on more intimate excursions. Wind Star's small ships bring you closer to each destination and every port, so you can see the world from new perspectives.