

Costa Rica & the Panama Canal A Small-Ship Adventure

SPONSORED BY



MARCH 22-30, 2018



A World Apart

The story of travel involves more than a ticket and a passport. It should weave together discovery, education and humanity, the best elements of any compelling tale. Your personal travel story begins with our commitment to delivering authentic experiences with local people.

The incomparable value of your journey lies in the personalized care you receive from your Travel Director and the knowledge you gain from expert guides and lecturers, who call this area home.

By eliminating logistical worries, your multilingual Travel Director allows you to immerse yourself comfortably in your surroundings. This high-caliber professional makes you feel safe and important by creating a convivial, welcoming atmosphere.

The other important characters in this story are the local guides and lecturers, whose regional expertise shines in their insider perspective and commentary.

With these specialists at your side, experience the brilliant colors, sounds and flavors of Costa Rica and Panama, adding another memorable chapter to the rich story of your life.

Cover: Toucan, Costa Rica | Above: Manuel Antonio National Park

- ► Enjoy the tropical beauty of the Costa Rican and Panamanian coastlines.
- ► Journey by foot and boat through the rich ecosystems of Costa Rica, one of the world's most biodiverse regions.
- ➤ Search for exotic, storybook wildlife sloths, howler monkeys, macaws and whitefaced capuchins.
- Snorkel, paddle, kayak and beachcomb in the tropical ambience of Panama's **Granito** de **Oro islet.**
- ► Savor the glorious hues of a **Pacific sunset** from your ship's bow.
- ► Experience Coiba

 National Park and its

 Special Zone of Marine

 Protection, a UNESCO

 World Heritage site.



Howdy, Ags!

Tap into your sense of adventure during our incredible eight-night journey, including an overnight in Panama City and seven nights aboard the first-class Safari Voyager. From the historic locks of the Panama Canal, navigate the pristine islets and unparalleled beauty of the Panamanian islands. Then set a northerly course toward Costa Rica's rugged Pacific coast and tropical paradise environment. Along the way, experience nature in its purest form. Discover unique environs, centuries-old rainforests and fascinating endemic species with a knowledgeable guide. Wend nature preserves, dripping with lush vegetation, spot scampering iguanas, and listen to the shrill call of howler monkeys. The options are truly endless.

Onboard, savor exquisitely prepared meals and relish the expertise, exclusivity and personalized service on UnCruise's small-ship adventure. We encourage you to make your reservation today, and prepare to enrich your imagination, recharge your spirit, and connect with nature. Hurry: This special corner of the world is waiting for you!

Gig 'em!

Jennifer Bohac

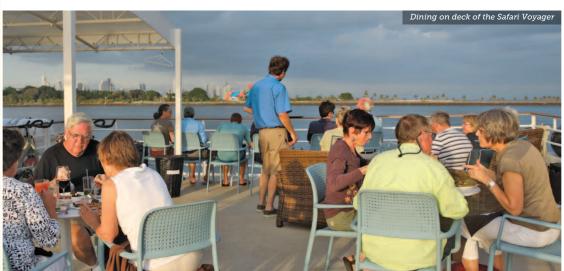
Jennifer Bohac '87, Ph.D.

Director, Travel Programs

The Association of Former Students

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YOUR ONE-OF-A-KIND JOURNEY

From rainforest trails and footprints ashore to humpback whales and curious primates—immerse yourself in Earth's richest ecotreasures. Wake each morning to the melody of the ocean and an exciting menu of quests. You may stroll Eden-like sands, hike jungle trails, kayak hushed mangroves, search for porpoise, or nap on a sun-soaked beach. When evening arrives, sip cocktails on deck as a spectacular sunset blossoms and fades into a canopy of dazzling stars. And transiting the locks of the storied Panama Canal is sure to be a thrill. With this carte of appealing eco-adventures, you're bound to return home with jungle music and nature's scenic wonders teasing your dreams.

Panama Canal | Panama

Embark on a once-in-a-lifetime transit through the Panama Canal, one of the world's greatest engineering feats. Connecting the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans, this marvel provides passage to vessels through Central America, allowing them to avoid traveling several thousand extra miles around the dangerous southern tip of South America's Cape Horn. Enter the canal in the late afternoon or early evening. All three locks are fully illuminated to allow you to see

ACTIVE TRAVEL for CULTURAL EXPLORERS

There will be options available at each anchorage for a variety of ability levels from easy skiff adventures to rigorous hikes. All adventures require wet landings and getting into and off of a skiff. Travelers should be physically fit, able to walk distances of up to three miles, and navigate stairs, hills and uneven terrain.



Kayaking



and appreciate the close-up views and sheer volume of the canal. During transit, toast to your voyage as you sail through Limon Bay and enter the three Gatún Locks. You'll be amazed at the enormity of the chambers and how the simple forces of gravity produce the equalization of the water levels. Then sail across curvy Lake Gatún, transit the Pedro Miguel Locks, and cruise Miraflores Lake. Finally, pass through the Miraflores Locks and sail under the Bridge of the Americas. Congratulations on checking off another box on your list of adventures!

Gulf of Panama Islands | Panama

Discovered by Spanish explorers, the volcanic islands in the Gulf of Panama are remnants of ancient activity along the Pacific Ocean's ring of fire. Today, it's your captain's choice as you cruise among them. Isla Flamenco is nicknamed Deadman's Island due to its large number of old cemeteries. Nearby, Isla Bona buzzes with pelicans, sea gulls and petrels, and little Isla Otoque is home to fewer than 150 people. Isla Tobago, discovered by Vasco Balboa in the 1500s, features Panama's oldest colonial church and infinite sweetsmelling, vivid blossoms—flora captured so



brilliantly by resident artist Paul Gauguin. Finally, Isla Urabá, part of Tobago's wildlife reserve, offers impressive birding, including brown pelicans.

Granito de Oro, Coiba National Park | Panama

Coiba National Park encompasses Granito de Oro islet as well as 38 smaller islands and the surrounding waters in the Gulf of Chiriquí. This UNESCO World Heritage site supports many animals and plants that are endemic to this region. Three-forths of the island is covered in unspoiled, primitive forest, home to rare, indigenous plants and wildlife, including turtles and crested eagles. The pristine islet, one of Panama's most beautiful beaches, is a true aquaphile's playground, and an offshore swim or snorkel will reveal a bounty of marine life.

Golfo Dulce | Costa Rica

Tucked between the Osa Peninsula and the mainland of Costa Rica, Golfo Dulce—or "sweet gulf"—is a large, sheltered bay ringed



Squirrel monkey



Up close with a sloth



by palm-studded beaches and tropical rainforests. Experience its protected waters and rich marine world while kayaking, snorkeling, and enjoying skiff rides. When the conditions are right, Golfo Dulce also features one of the world's longest left-hand breaks, making this a popular destination for surfers.

Osa Conservation Area | Costa Rica

Nature seekers rejoice: Corcovado
National Park's astounding biodiversity
includes an estimated 500 species of trees,
approximately 140 species of mammals and
over 6,000 species of insects. Located on
the isolated Osa Peninsula, Corcovado is
Costa Rica's largest national park and its
dense canopy teems with fascinating wildlife.
You may spot anteaters, tapirs, jaguars,
margays, ocelots, and a variety of winged
brethren and slippery creatures. Overhead,
look for flashes of white, scarlet, maize and
indigo—the brilliant feathers of macaws. Of
course, you may hear their raucous squawks
long before you spy them.

Manuel Antonio National Park | Costa Rica

Parque Nacional Manuel Antonio is the quintessence of Costa Rica. Located on the central western coast, Costa Rica's smallest



national park is separated from its central valley by a mountain range. Though tiny in size, this paradise is one of Earth's most biodiverse parks, boasting an impressive mix of primary and secondary forests, lagoons, and mangrove swamps, plus 109 mammal species and over 180 documented species of birds. Offshore, stingrays glide above vibrant beds of coral, sponges and crustaceans while inland the park's beloved residents generate a flurry of activity: lithe squirrel monkeys zip from tree to tree; three-toed sloths laze on their favorite branch; and parakeets and toucans soar above. Be sure to watch for cheeky monkeys!

Curú National Wildlife Park | Costa Rica

Curú Wildlife Refuge, a privately owned wildlife reserve on Nicoya Peninsula, was once the private home of Federico Schutt de la Croix and Doña Julietta Schutt de Valle. In the 1970s, the two began to focus their efforts on preservation of habitat and today the park is pioneering in its combination of protected wildlife reserve and sustainable, low-impact agriculture. While exploring this spectacular park, which consists of five different habitat types, search for butterflies, collared peccary, coati, coyotes, iguanas and hundreds of species of tropical and migratory birds.



Red-eyed tree frog





This yacht-like ship, designed for expedition cruising, features 32 welcoming cabins and suites, accommodating a maximum of 62 travelers with all the conveniences of a modern ocean-going cruise liner. Enjoy the ship's nautical-themed lounge and sun deck, where wildlife and star-filled skies await, and kayaks, paddle boards, inflatable skiffs, hiking poles, fitness equipment and snorkel gear are available. Each day, dine on regional and international specialities, including fresh, local seafood and meats, and round out your meal with made-from-scratch desserts and a convivial cocktail hour, which features a selection of hors d'oeuvres. Wherever possible, ingredients are sourced locally for freshness and regional authenticity, as well as to support the local communities. The UnCruise team is committed to protecting and preserving our oceans and the environment, and all aspects of the cruise are scrutinized keeping the environment in clear focus.

EXPLORE ON LAND AND SEA

Throughout your journey there will be options available at each port for a variety of ability levels from easy skiff adventures to rigorous hikes. Each evening prior, select the journey that interests you most! Then hop aboard the ship's tender for a ride to shore. Most excursions have wet landings, which require you to get your feet wet as you walk onto the beach. Once onshore, join an expert naturalist for walks through lush rainforests and national parks where outstanding scenery and wildlife abound. Or you may wish to explore the beach, where you'll have plenty of time to search for hidden coves and seashells.

Prime anchorages in secluded bays offer excellent opportunities for swimming, and you're always welcome to enjoy the colorful fish, turtles and coral reefs from below the water with a mask or from above in a kayak, paddleboard or skiff (gear is provided).







Right top: Enjoying coffee on deck

Right center: Master cabin

Right: Wet landing

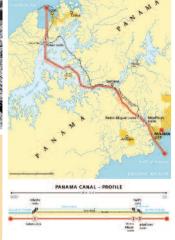


THE PANAMA CANAL - A Bridge Between The Oceans





Sixteenth-century Spanish explorers hoped to find a shortcut between the Atlantic and Pacific oceans via a canal at the Isthmus of Panama. Balboa conceived the possibility in 1513, but the daunting prospect was eventually forgotten. Finally, 350 years later, Ferdinand de Lesseps unsuccessfully attempted to build a canal as he had done at Suez. Disease, scandal, rain,



corruption and the jungle took their toll, and an estimated 16,000-20,000 workers died.

In 1900, the United States took over the huge task, and Theodore Roosevelt began construction in 1902, testing the strength and intelligence of more than 35,000 men. Working conditions were devastating; tropical diseases threatened lives and temperatures often rose to 130°F.

The work continued and the world's largest artificial lake at that time, Gatún, was created. A winding, eight-mile channel called the "Gaillard Cut" was hewed through the Continental Divide. Six locks were built to raise and lower ships to a height of 85 feet.

In the 1970s, the United States and Panama agreed that the canal ownership would revert to Panama on December 31, 1999.

Traversing the canal—feeling the ship rise and descend as the locks are opened and shut—is an unforgettable experience!

PRE-CRUISE ACCOMMODATIONS

Bristol Hotel Panama | Panama City, Panama

Celebrate Panama's ambience, art and architecture at the Bristol Hotel Panama. Located in the heart of Panama City's financial district, the property is near many popular restaurants and exciting nightlife venues.

Experience gracious Latin American hospitality and sophisticated, well-appointed accommodations. Rooms feature luxurious comforts, such as glass-enclosed showers, deep-soaking tubs, plush duvets, Egyptian cotton Fretted bed linens, and Italian marble amenities. At the day's end, the hotel's outdoor pool and solarium provide relaxation, and the Salsipuedes Bar is the perfect locale for enjoying Panamanian cuisine and cocktails.

Wi-Fi is complimentary.

Reserve your Costa Rica cruise today!	NOT INCLUDED-Fees for passports and, if applicable, visas,
Trip #:4-23799W	entry/departure fees; personal gratuities; laundry and dry clean- ing; excursions, wines, liquors, mineral waters and meals not
Send to: The Association of Former Students Attn: Traveling Aggies 505 George Bush Drive College Station, TX 77840-2918 Phone: 979-845-7514 Toll Free: 800-633-7514	mentioned in this brochure under included features; travel insurance; all items of a strictly personal nature. MOBILITY AND FITNESS TO TRAVE. The right is retained to decline to accept or to retain any person as a member of this trip who, in the opinion of AHI Travel is unfit for travel or whose physical or mental condition may constitute a danger to themselves or to others on the trip, subject only to the requirement that the portion of the total amount paid which corresponds to the unused services and accommodations be refunded.
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Reservations are subject to availability and are processed on a first-come, first-served basis. Reservations are to be paid in full by December 12, 2017 (100 days prior to departure). Reservations received after this date must be accompanied by payment in full. Final payment may be made by personal check, MasterCard, Visa, Discover or Amex. Make checks payable to AHI Travel.	condition of disability that would create a hazard for himself/herself or other passengers and accepts the terms of this contract set out herein and in more specific pre-departure passenger information. The airlines and other transportation companies concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission, or event, during the time passengers are not on board their conveyances. The passage contract in use, when
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SPECIAL CRUISE-ONLY FARES

March 22-30, 2018

Category	Deck	Full Price	Special Savings	Special Price*
E - Master	Main	\$4,945	\$250	\$4,695*

Queen or twin beds, desk and chair, small view window, private bath with large shower and cabin entrance from interior hallway.

D - Commander Cabin \$5,545 \$250 \$5,295*

Queen or twin beds, desk and chair, large view window, private bath with large shower and cabin entrance from interior hallway.

C - Captain Bridge \$5,945 \$250 \$5,695*

Fixed twin beds, desk and chair, small view window, private bath with large shower and cabin entrance from exterior walkway.

B - Admiral Bridge \$6,645 \$250 \$6,395*

Queen or twin beds, refrigerator, desk and chair, small view window, private bath with large shower and cabin entrance from exterior walkway.

A - Jr. Commodore Suite Cabin \$7,345 \$250 \$7,095*

Queen or twin beds, sofa bed, refrigerator, desk and chair, large view window, private bath with large shower and cabin entrance from interior hallway.

*Special Price valid if booked by the date found on the address panel.

Tax and Gratuities are included. All prices quoted are per person, based on double occupancy (unless otherwise stated). Single prices available upon request.



Let us arrange your flights!

March 22-30, 2018

- ★AHI FlexAir | Our experts are ready to assist you in booking flights. Our personalized air program offers the following advantages:
- ▶ a **price guarantee** to protect you from fuel surcharge increases after ticket purchase
- arrival and departure transfers on most flights
- ► assistance in the event of schedule changes or delays
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ITINERARY

- Day 1 Depart gateway city[★] |
 Arrive in Panama City
- Day 2 Panama City | Embark **Safari** Voyager | Transit Panama Canal
- Day 3 Gulf of Panama
- Day 4 Granito de Oro, Coiba National Park
- Day 5 Golfo Dulce, Costa Rica
- Day 6 Osa Conservation Area
- Day 7 Manuel Antonio National Park
- Day 8 Curú National Wildlife Refuge
- Day 9 Caldera | Disembark ship | Transfer to San José and depart for gateway city*

†Flights provided for AHI FlexAir participants. Complimentary transfers are available for all passengers.

ACCOMMODATIONS

(With baggage handling.)

- One night in Panama City, Panama, at the deluxe Bristol Hotel Panama.
- Seven nights aboard the first-class Safari Voyager.

TRANSFERS

 Arrival and departure transfers and baggage handling for flights within the arrival and departure windows.

EXTENSIVE MEAL PROGRAM

- Eight breakfasts, six lunches and eight dinners, including Welcome and Farewell Dinners.
- Open bar service onboard the Safari Voyager, including premium spirits, beer and wine; sodas, bottled water and juices; and coffee and tea.



YOUR ONE-OF-A-KIND JOURNEY

- Expert-led Enrichment programs and interpretive presentations enhance your insight into the region.
- All **Discovery excursions** that highlight the local culture, biodiversity, heritage and history are included.
- Free time to pursue your own interests.
- Welcome and Farewell Receptions to mingle with fellow travelers.
- A small-ship experience offers easy access to remote locations.
- Tipping of guides, drivers and ship staff.
- Complimentary travel mementoes.



AHI TRAVEL EXPERTISE

From your reservation to your return home, we are here to ensure you have the adventure of a lifetime.

Before you go:

- ▶ Travel Consultants | These experts stand ready to answer your questions about activities, meals, accommodations and more as they guide you through the reservation process.
- ➤ Passenger Service Representative | Once you have reserved your spot, enjoy personalized assistance from this specialist, your one point of contact who will help you with everything from arranging flights to booking elective activities to fulfilling special requests.
- ➤ **Travel Information** | Receive extensive destination information and travel tips compiled by our travel-savvy team to prepare you fully for your journey.

Once you arrive:

On the ground, three layers of top-quality professionals offer their insiders' perspective. From suggesting the best café or pub to sharing a laugh over the stories of the day, our dedicated team takes your adventure to the next level.

- ➤ Travel Director | Throughout your journey, you will be in the care of a seasoned AHI travel professional who will manage all the logistics, allowing you to relax and simply soak up the ambience. Resourceful, knowledgeable and attentive, your Travel Director helps to ensure you enjoy an unforgettable travel experience.
- ▶ Expert Guides | Who better to show you around than the people who live there? We've specially selected informed and enthusiastic local professional guides who understand the needs of our educated and curious travelers. Warm and genuine, they're ready to share their passion for their country with you.
- ▶ Lecturers | Coming from all walks of life, our entertaining local lecturers open your eyes to history and current events. The breadth of their knowledge deepens your appreciation for the region and its heritage.

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