

THE PANAMA CANAL, PEARL ISLANDS, AND DARIÉN JUNGLE: TROPICAL WONDERS AND VIBRANT CULTURES

Embark on our only Central American expedition that travels solely through Panama, connecting you more deeply with the region's wildlife, culture, and famed modern engineering marvel. Aboard the National Geographic Quest, transit the historic Panama Canal by day and by night. Learn about the country's indigenous and colonial history while visiting local communities and two UNESCO World Heritage sites. Encounter monkeys, iguanas, tropical birds, and more as you venture into lush rainforests, a wildlife refuge, and an important national park. In the surrounding turquoise waters, snorkel pristine coral reefs which shelter an array of colorful marine life.





ITINERARY

DAY 1 Panama City, Panama / Colón / Embark Ship

Upon arrival in Panama City this afternoon, transfer by land to Colon and embark the National Geographic Quest. Meet your expedition staff and enjoy a traditional Congo music and dance performance. Marvel at the coastline ahead as we sail to the historic port of Portobelo.

Arrival Time: Arrive by 12:00 p.m.
Arrival City: Panama City, Panama

Meals Included: Dinner

DAY 2 Portobelo / Panama Canal Transit

This morning, explore the area on kayaks, stand-up paddleboards, Zodiac cruises upriver, or go for a snorkel. Portobelo is known for its Spanish colonial military architecture, which is designated collectively as a UNESCO World Heritage site. Visit several of the fortifications as well as the old Customs House, and hear the tales of Portobelo's rich pirate history. Later on, set sail for the Panama Canal. As cargo ships tend to pass through the canal during the day, we'll most likely begin our crossing at night, when the canal is dramatically lit. By special arrangement, National Geographic Quest will anchor in Gatun Lake near the Barro Colorado Nature Monument overnight.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 3 Gatún Lake / Panama Canal Transit

Today, choose hikes and Zodiac cruises at the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute facility on Barro Colorado Island, or take a boat ride to Gamboa, where the Chagres River meets the Panama Canal, and hike on the Panama Rainforest Discovery Center trails. This evening, continue through the complex lock system of the Canal and venture into the Gulf of Panama.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 4 Isla Iguana Wildlife Refuge / Pedasí

This morning, we arrive at Isla Iguana Wildlife Refuge. Once a US Army bombing range, this protected area is home to black and green iguanas, sea turtles, and several species of birds and tropical fish. There is time to enjoy the beach and snorkel. In the afternoon, visit the mainland for a Spanish heritage cultural



experience in the town of Pedasi on the scenic Azuero Peninsula.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 5 Playa Muerto, Darién National Park

Playa Muerto village is located in Darien National Park, the largest protected area in Central America and a UNESCO World Heritage site which contains an exceptional array of habitats, from sandy beaches and mangroves to dense tropical forests teeming with wildlife. It is also home to the indigenous Embera and Wounaan tribes. We'll be greeted by village leaders from the Embera who will share their customs, traditions, and stories about their deep respect for their natural surroundings. Later on, enjoy short nature walks, go birding, or choose to join a longer hike into the rainforest in search of the elusive harpy eagle, one of the world's most powerful eagles.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAYS 6-7 Pearl Islands

Approximately 200 islands make up the idyllic Pearl Islands. Explore several of the islands in the archipelago, including Isla del Rey and Isla Pacheca, as you learn about the history of the native populations and eventually the Spaniards and African slaves who arrived for the pearl trade. Deep rainforests, lush rivers, white sandy beaches, and shallow reefs provide great opportunities for hiking, sea kayaking, stand-up paddleboarding, Zodiac river cruises, beach activities, and snorkeling.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 8 Balboa / Disembark Ship / Panama City, Panama

After breakfast, disembark in Balboa and transfer to the airport in Panama City for your flight home.

Departure Time: Depart anytime after 2:30 p.m.
Departure City: Panama City, Panama

Meals Included: Breakfast

Please note:
Itineraries are subject to change.



YOUR SHIP: NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC QUEST

YOUR SHIP: National Geographic Quest

VESSEL TYPE:

LENGTH:

PASSENGER CAPACITY:

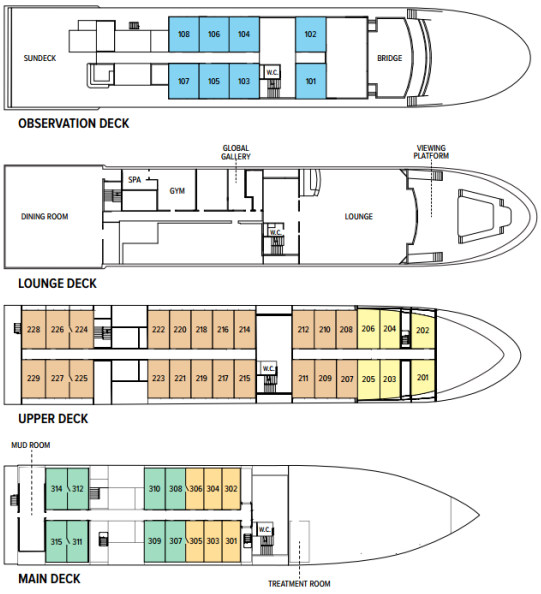
BUILT/REFURBISHED:



National Geographic Quest is a state-of-the-art, purpose-built expedition vessel made for exploring coastal waters, shallow coves, and fast-moving channels where wildlife congregate while sailing with the luxury of supreme comfort. Spacious cabins, open decks for wildlife viewing, and specialty tools for exploration make it the ideal platform for sailing in the remote areas of Alaska, the Pacific Northwest, Costa Rica, Panama, and Belize. Designed with decades of expedition experience in the region, _National Geographic Quest_ more than comfortably accommodates 100 guests in 50 cabins. Her twin expedition craft landing platform allow us to rapidly get on and off the ship to take advantage of wildlife sightings and to ensure we maximize our time off the ship exploring. Created with a shallow draft, _Quest_ draws only nine feet of water allowing her to sail into places where much larger ships cannot go.



INSIDE YOUR SHIP



Category 1. From





PRICING

06-Dec-2026 to 13-Dec-2026

Category 1. From	£5380 GBP pp

13-Dec-2026 to 20-Dec-2026

Category 1. From	£5380 GBP pp

29-Jan-2027 to 05-Feb-2027

Category 1. From	£5544 GBP pp

05-Nov-2027 to 12-Nov-2027

Category 1. From	£4590 GBP pp

29-Jan-2028 to 05-Feb-2028

Category 1. From	£4590 GBP pp

09-Mar-2028 to 16-Mar-2028

Category 1. From	£4590 GBP pp

16-Mar-2028 to 23-Mar-2028

Category 1. From	£4590 GBP pp