



The Small Cruise
Ship Collection

www.small-cruise-ships.com

small-cruise-ships.com

info@small-cruise-ships.com

THE PANAMA CANAL, PEARL ISLANDS AND DARIEN JUNGLE SMALL SHIP CRUISE

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

Arrive in Panama City, the capital of Panama this afternoon and transfer to Port Balboa to embark the National Geographic Quest this evening. You may opt for a culturally-immersive pre-voyage extension in Panama City and San Lorenzo, a UNESCO-designated World Heritage Site. Later on, you'll enter the Panama Canal at the Gatun Locks.

****Arrival Time:**** Arrive by 12:00 p.m.

****Arrival City:**** Panama City, Panama

The Small Cruise
Ship Collection

www.small-cruise-ships.com

01432 507 280 (within UK)

info@small-cruise-ships.com | small-cruise-ships.com



The Small Cruise Ship Collection

www.small-cruise-ships.com

small-cruise-ships.com

info@small-cruise-ships.com

Day 2 Portobelo / Panama Canal Transit

This morning, arrive along the coast of the Darien Province. Punta Patiño Nature Reserve is Panama's largest private nature reserve and boasts a rich tapestry of habitats that foster biodiversity. Today you will reach the local beaches by Zodiac. Overhead, search for a variety of birds including mangrove hawks, laughing falcons and roseate spoonbills, or, by land, look for crab-eating raccoons and crocodiles. Additional opportunities may be available to walk the beach, kayak in the shallow bay or continue to explore by Zodiac.

Day 3 Gatún Lake / Panama Canal Transit

Playa Muerto village is located in Darien National Park, the largest protected area in Central America and a UNESCO World Heritage site. The park 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. You'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, which is one of the world's most powerful eagles.

Day 4-5 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. Later on, set sail for the Panama Canal. As cargo ships tend to pass through the canal during the day, you'll most likely begin your crossing at night, when the canal is dramatically lit. By special arrangement, *National Geographic Quest* will anchor in Gatun Lake near Barro Colorado Nature Monument overnight.

Day 6 Playa Muerto, Darién National Park

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.

Day 7 Punta Patiño Nature Reserve

This morning, explore the area on kayaks, stand-up paddleboards, Zodiac cruises upriver or go for a snorkel. In the early afternoon, you'll be greeted in town by Congo music and a traditional dance performance. Portobelo is known for its Spanish colonial military architecture, which collectively is designated 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. During your visit, enjoy a Congo dance presentation, deeply rooted in the traditions of the Afro-Panamanian community, holding great historical significance. The ship will remain anchored into the evening, allowing you to enjoy the sunset in the bay of Portobelo as you recap the highlights of your expedition.



The Small Cruise Ship Collection

www.small-cruise-ships.com

01432 507 280 (within UK)

info@small-cruise-ships.com | small-cruise-ships.com



The Small Cruise
Ship Collection

www.small-cruise-ships.com



small-cruise-ships.com

info@small-cruise-ships.com

Day 8 Balboa / Disembark Ship / Panama City, Panama

After breakfast, disembark in Colon and transfer to the airport in Panama City for your flight home. Ask your expedition specialist about enjoying a culturally-immersive post-voyage extension in Panama City and San Lorenzo, a UNESCO-designated World Heritage Site.

****Departure Time:**** Depart anytime after 2:30 p.m.

****Departure City:**** Panama City, Panama

Please note:

Itineraries are subject to change.

The Small Cruise
Ship Collection

www.small-cruise-ships.com

01432 507 280 (within UK)

info@small-cruise-ships.com | small-cruise-ships.com



The Small Cruise Ship Collection

www.small-cruise-ships.com



small-cruise-ships.com

info@small-cruise-ships.com

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.



The Small Cruise Ship Collection

www.small-cruise-ships.com

01432 507 280 (within UK)

info@small-cruise-ships.com | small-cruise-ships.com



The Small Cruise Ship Collection

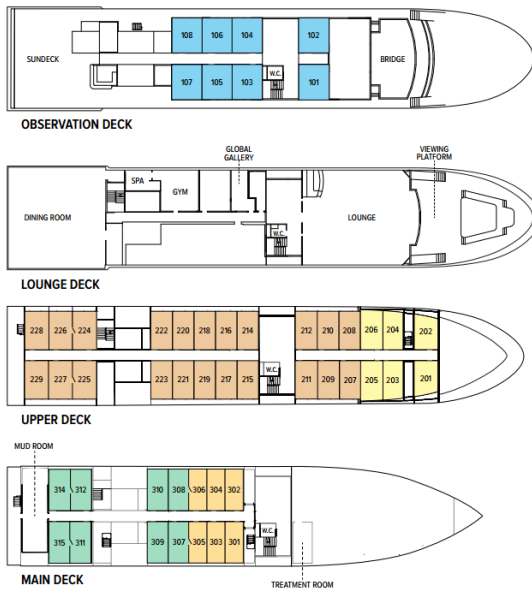
www.small-cruise-ships.com



small-cruise-ships.com

info@small-cruise-ships.com

INSIDE YOUR SHIP



Category 01



Category 02



Category 03



Category 04





The Small Cruise Ship Collection

www.small-cruise-ships.com



small-cruise-ships.com

info@small-cruise-ships.com

PRICING

06-Dec-2026 to 13-Dec-2026

Category 05	£8139 GBP pp
Category 04	£7395 GBP pp
Category 03	£6162 GBP pp
Category 02	£5759 GBP pp
Category 01	£5382 GBP pp

29-Jan-2028 to 05-Feb-2028

Category 05	£7099 GBP pp
Category 04	£6450 GBP pp
Category 03	£5374 GBP pp
Category 02	£5023 GBP pp
Category 01	£4695 GBP pp

13-Dec-2026 to 20-Dec-2026

Category 05	£7099 GBP pp
Category 03	£5374 GBP pp
Category 02	£5023 GBP pp
Category 04	£6450 GBP pp
Category 01	£4695 GBP pp

09-Mar-2028 to 16-Mar-2028

Category 05	£7099 GBP pp
Category 04	£6450 GBP pp
Category 03	£5374 GBP pp
Category 02	£5023 GBP pp
Category 01	£4695 GBP pp

29-Jan-2027 to 05-Feb-2027

Category 05	£9635 GBP pp
Category 04	£8718 GBP pp
Category 03	£7749 GBP pp
Category 02	£7176 GBP pp
Category 01	£6469 GBP pp

16-Mar-2028 to 23-Mar-2028

Category 05	£7099 GBP pp
Category 04	£6450 GBP pp
Category 03	£5374 GBP pp
Category 02	£5023 GBP pp
Category 01	£4695 GBP pp

05-Nov-2027 to 12-Nov-2027

Category 05	£7099 GBP pp
Category 04	£6450 GBP pp
Category 03	£5374 GBP pp
Category 02	£5023 GBP pp
Category 01	£4695 GBP pp