Passage through the Panama Canal and Costa Rica

Eduardo Fernandez-Duque
Yale Professor of Anthropology
Dear Yale Traveler

Few experiences can match one of the world’s most dramatic voyages, a cruise from the Pacific to the Atlantic through the Panama Canal. Having celebrated its centennial anniversary just three years ago and the completion of an expansion doubling its capacity last year, this marvel of engineering and 50-mile passage through the narrow isthmus of Panama continues to astonish even today’s most veteran traveler. During a specially arranged daylight transit, experience firsthand the mighty locks that raise and lower oceangoing vessels 85 feet using no other power than the force of gravity, accomplishing in mere hours what would have taken a three-week circumnavigation of South America in years gone by.

Join us for this voyage of a lifetime featuring a narrated passage through the historic Panama Canal and to the unspoiled rainforests of Costa Rica and Panama. Explore the heart of Panama City’s UNESCO World Heritage-designated Casco Antiguo and tour acclaimed architect Frank Gehry’s only design in Latin America, Panama City’s Biodiversity Museum. Enjoy a specially arranged visit to the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute’s Punta Culebra Nature Center for an up-close look at the terrestrial and marine conditions that sustain the stunning diversity of life here. And visit Panama’s ancient San Blas Islands, where the Guna Indians live much as they did centuries ago.

Cruise aboard the exclusively chartered, five-star, all-suite STAR BREEZE, relaunched in 2015 by an award-winning cruise line after an expansive refurbishment. This sophisticated small ship features only 106 Suites, six with a private furnished veranda and 36 with private French-style balcony. Dock in small ports of call inaccessible to larger vessels and enjoy casually elegant ocean-view accommodations and an exclusive itinerary carefully crafted with enriching excursions led by experienced onboard naturalists.

Space is limited on this exciting journey. We urge you to make your reservation today at www.yaleedtravel.org/panama18. For questions or additional information, contact Yale Educational Travel at 203-432-1952 or edtravel@yale.edu.

www.yaleedtravel.org/panama18
Eduardo Fernandez-Duque

Professor Eduardo Fernandez-Duque was born in Argentina where he obtained his first degree in biology and zoology. When he came to the U.S. in 1990, he centered his studies and research on topics related to animal behavior, primatology, and biological anthropology (Ph.D., UC Davis; Postdoctoral fellowships at Smithsonian Institution, Harvard University, and Zoological Society of San Diego).

Professor Fernandez-Duque’s research questions are focused on why some primates live in monogamous groups and why some male primates are such good fathers. For almost 20 years he has been exploring these questions, focusing on some of the incredible monkeys that Yale Travelers will have a chance to observe together. His field research in Argentina and in Ecuador, past travels through most Latin American countries, and his participation in conservation courses in Namibia and Venezuela have given Eduardo an understanding of the challenges faced by these primate populations. In 1999, he and his colleague and wife, Professor Claudia Valeggia (Anthropology, Yale), established Fundación ECO in Formosa, their small contribution to addressing these important issues.

Additional Study Leaders

Craig Stanford, University of Southern California
Professor of Biology and Anthropology

Barbara Stephenson, World Affairs Council
Former American Ambassador to Panama

THE PANAMA CANAL: Marvel of Human Engineering and More Than a Century of Passage

Experience firsthand the “greatest liberty man has ever taken with nature,” which cuts through the Great Continental Divide, spans 50 miles, and took 33 years to complete at a cost of $400 million. This historic engineering feat changed the world, opening up new channels of international trade and allowing ships to travel between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans in a fraction of the time it took to circumnavigate South America.

After France’s failed attempt to build a sea-level canal here in the 19th century and following the U.S. involvement in Panama’s independence, the project was turned over to the U.S. in 1903, and construction began during the presidency of Theodore Roosevelt. Among the 100,000 workers involved in the construction was French Post-Impressionist artist Paul Gauguin. When completed in 1914, the Panama Canal was considered one of the seven wonders of the modern world. Now, more than a century later, the Panama Canal has undergone a $5.25 billion expansion, adding a wider third lane that accommodates more than twice the cargo of the original lanes, maintaining its status as the “gateway to the world.”
ITINERARY
FEBRUARY 9-17, 2018

WELCOME PHONE CALL
Thursday, January 25, at 4 PM EST
Join the group for a pre-trip welcome call with Professor Eduardo Fernandez-Duque in order to learn more about what to expect and to ask questions.

U.S./SAN JOSÉ, COSTA RICA
Friday, February 9
Depart the U.S. for San José, Costa Rica. Upon arrival, check into the deluxe, hacienda-style COSTA RICA Marriott Hotel San José.

SAN JOSÉ/PUERTO CALDERA
Saturday, February 10
In the heart of the fertile Valle Central, Costa Rica’s vibrant capital city possesses an eclectic mix of museums, landscaped parks, lively cafés, and art galleries, and an interesting fusion of architectural styles including Spanish Colonial, Moorish, and Modernist.

Visit the Baroque-style National Theater, modeled on Milan’s La Scala, with marble staircases, gilded statues, and red velvet cabinets.

In the National Museum, see fascinating exhibits feature pre-Columbian Central American artifacts, stonework, gold jewelry, and statuettes.

Transfer to Puerto Caldera to embark Star Breeze. (B/L/D)

MANUEL ANTONIO NATIONAL PARK
Sunday, February 11
Experience an unparalleled diversity of wildlife in this lush tropical paradise, a captivating combination of rainforest, beaches and coral reefs, home to more than 100 species of mammals, almost 200 species of birds and various reptiles and amphibians.

During a guided morning walk through this “Living Eden,” expert naturalists will help you spot colorful toucans, screeching howler monkeys, camouflaged iguanas, squirrel monkeys, two- and three-toed sloths, and rare and endangered species such as the scarlet macaw. (B/L/R/D)

CURÚ NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE
Monday, February 12
Unlike traditional nature reserves, Curú Wildlife Refuge, a hidden gem of the tropics, is a unique blend of sustainable agriculture, forest management, and wildlife protection, encompassing five distinctive untouched habitats—including mangrove swamps and both dry and moist forests—making it the ideal place to see the intricacies of co-dependent ecosystems.

Enjoy a guided walk in the morning, the best time of day to observe an abundance of wildlife including white-tail deer, iguanas; spider, howler and capuchin monkeys; and more than 230 species of birds, including the scarlet macaw. (B/L/D)

ISLA CÉBACO, PANAMA
Tuesday, February 13
A winding coastline of pristine sandy beaches and towering palm trees front the dense rainforests that dominate the rarely visited gem of Isla Cébaco in the sparkling Gulf of Montijo. Snorkel in its emerald waters, where schools of vibrantly colored fish, giant manta rays and four different species of turtles swim amidst spectacular coral reefs. (B/L/D)

PANAMA CITY
Wednesday, February 14
Central America’s most attractive capital city was founded in 1519 by Spanish explorers and rebuilt in the late 17th century. In the UNESCO World Heritage-designated “old quarter” of Casco Antiguo, discover a charming neighborhood with cobblestone streets, a stunning 16th-century cathedral, and historical architectural edifices.

At the end of the scenic Amador Causeway, the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute’s Punta Culebra Nature Center is an open-air museum focused on marine science and conservation.

See marine science and conservation efforts in action during a specially arranged tour of the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute’s Punta Culebra Nature Center.
Enjoy an informative tour with Director Matthew Larsen. Nearby, the Biodiversity Museum, designed by architect Frank Gehry of Guggenheim fame, showcases the ecological significance of Panama’s exotic flora and fauna. (B/L/D)

PANAMA CANAL TRANSIT
Thursday, February 15
Experience a daylight passage across the Great Continental Divide through the “gateway of the world,” the historic Panama Canal, accompanied by a specially arranged narration on its history. (B/L/D)

Transit times through the canal are controlled by the Panama Canal Authority and subject to traffic conditions.

SAN BLAS ISLANDS
Friday, February 16
Located on the Caribbean side of Panama, the San Blas Islands are a testament to Panama’s commitment to the indigenous Guna Indians, also known as the Kuna, and their centuries-old language, customs, and culture. Villagers live in typical thatched-roof huts, barter, or trade in fish and agricultural products and paddle dugout canoes, their main mode of transportation. Guna women continue to hand stitch traditional molas (reverse appliqué panels) and wear winis, long strings of tiny beads wrapped around their forearms and legs.

The pristine turquoise waters of Golfo de San Blas—populated with vibrant, untouched coral reefs and rich marine life—offer splendid opportunities for swimming and snorkeling. (B/L/R/D)

COLÓN/PANAMA CITY/U.S.
Saturday, February 17
Disembark the ship in Colón. Continue on the Dynamic Panama Post-Program Option or transfer to the airport, with a stop at the Panama Canal’s Agua Clara Visitor Center en route, for your return flight to the U.S. (B)
(Agua Clara visit is departure flight time permitting.)

Included meals indicated each day as B/L/R/D = Breakfast/Lunch/Reception/Dinner.

COSTA RICA’S CLOUD FORESTS AND VOLCANOES
Pre-Program Option
February 6–10
$1,130 per person, double occupancy
$1,595 per person, single occupancy
Experience a medley of Costa Rica’s diverse biospheres, where a 9,000-foot-tall volcano cradles an emerald green lagoon and cloud forests shelter an array of flora and fauna. Explore the lush Arenal rainforest along a series of suspended and fixed bridges. Tour the historic heart of San José. Accommodations for two nights are in the Hotel Royal Corin and two nights in the Costa Rica Marriott Hotel San José.

DYNAMIC PANAMA—THE RENAISSANCE OF A CITY
Post-Program Option
February 17–19
$545 per person, double occupancy
$765 per person, single occupancy
The perfect complement to “the crossroads of the Americas” is an exploration of old and new Panama. Visit the UNESCO World Heritage-designated Panama Viejo and enjoy an architectural tour featuring modern Panama City. Encounter Panama’s indigenous Embera people and visit the fascinating Agua Clara Visitor Center for panoramic views of the Panama Canal expansion. Accommodations for two nights are in the ideally located, deluxe Bristol Panama Hotel.

Details will be provided with your reservation confirmation.

www.yaleedtravel.org/panama18
FIVE-STAR, ALL-SUITE MV STAR BREEZE

What is Included:
• Program of lectures and discussions with Professor Eduardo Fernandez-Duque.
• Accommodation on twin sharing basis as per the itinerary.
• All entrance fees as per the itinerary.
• Services of Travel Director during the tour as per the itinerary.
• Complimentary alcoholic and nonalcoholic beverages available throughout the cruise.
• Welcome and Farewell Receptions.
• For a better touring experience, gratuities to ship and hotel personnel, local guides, naturalists, and drivers on included excursions and transfers.
• Transfers and luggage handling abroad for participants whose arrival(s)/departure(s) coincide with scheduled group transfer(s).
• Port taxes.
• Complimentary bottled water aboard ship and on excursions.

What is Not Included:
• Emergency medical evacuation services through UHC Global Assistance.

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What is Not Included:

Expenses of a personal nature like laundry, telephone/fax calls, Internet, alcoholic beverages, camera/video camera fee at monuments, medical expenses, airport departure tax, etc.

Any insurance other than specified above.

Any meals or beverages that are not specified in the above inclusions.

International airfares.

Expenses caused by factors beyond our control like rail and air plane delays, roadblocks, vehicle malfunctions, political disturbances, taxes, lost luggage, etc.

Any other services not mentioned in the inclusions.

Reserve Your Trip To Panama and Costa Rica Today

Book online : www.yaleedtravel.org/panama18

Book Corner

The Path Between the Seas
by David McCullough
A great story told in vivid, page-turning detail, revealing the full scope of the Panama Canal, its character, technical difficulties, and Byzantine politics.

Costa Rica, A Journey Through Nature
by BBC Wildlife Photographer of the Year Adrian Hepworth's color photographs showcase the diversity of wildlife and landscapes in Costa Rica.
To reserve, return the above form with credit card authorization or check payable to “Thomas P. Gohagan & Company” to Yale Educational Travel, Association of Yale Alumni, P.O. Box 209010, New Haven, CT 06520-9010. Phone: (203) 432-1952. Fax: (203) 432-0587.

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- I wish to have a single (limited availability – please call)
- I will share accommodations with:

Travel Options
Costa Rica’s Cloud Forests Pre-Program Option (per person)
- double $1,130
- single $1,595
Dynamic Panama Post-Program Option (per person)
- double $545
- single $765
- I/We confirm that I/We have carefully read the Terms and Conditions and Responsibility section of this brochure and agree to their terms on behalf of myself and the members of my party named above.

Contact Information
- address
- city/state/zip
- primary phone
- secondary phone
- e-mail

Signature(s)
Date

To register, return this form with your deposit of $1,000 per person to Yale Educational Travel. Final payment is due November 10, 2017.

1) name as on passport
   date of birth
   passport origin

2) name as on passport
   date of birth
   passport origin

Terms and Conditions

MOBILITY AND FITNESS TO TRAVEL
The right is retained to decline to accept, or to retain any person as a member of this trip who, in the opinion of Yale Educational Travel (“YET”), is unfit for travel or whose physical or mental condition may constitute a danger to themselves or to others on the trip without refund. Passengers requiring special assistance, including without limitation those who permanently or periodically use a wheelchair, must be accompanied by someone who is fit and able to assist them, and who will be totally responsible for providing all required assistance.

CANCELLATION
In addition to airline cancellation penalties, all cancellations for any reason whatsoever will be subject to a $500 per person cancellation fee through 91 days prior to departure. Cancellation from 90 days up to the time of departure will result in 100% forfeiture of the entire cost of the trip. All cancellations must be submitted in writing to YET.

PAYMENT SCHEDULE
A deposit of $1,000 per person, payable to Thomas P. Gohagan & Company, of which $500 is nonrefundable for administrative fees, is required with the reservation application. Final payment must be received 90 days prior to departure. Mail to: The Association of Yale Alumni, Yale Educational Travel, Box 209010, New Haven, CT 06520-9010. Or call: 203-432-1952.

Complete Terms and Conditions will be sent after registration and are available at: www.yaleedtravel.org/faqs

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February 9 - 17, 2018

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Experience a daylight passage through the Panama Canal, the “greatest liberty man has ever taken with nature.”

Look for howler monkeys and other rare and endemic species in Costa Rica, where protected parks and wildlife refuges comprise more than a quarter of the country.