









Costa Rica & Central America  
11° 26' N 90° 52' W

## Costa Rica and the Panama Canal

Exploring Costa Rica and Panama is a singular experience that combines biodiverse jungle wildlife with an in-depth crossing of the Panama Canal, a marvel of engineering. It is the perfect winter escape. Dense, lush rainforest. Pristine deserted beaches. Monkeys galore. Hike deep into the rainforest; kayak and paddleboard along the shore; take a cool swim in a waterfall pool; snorkel over a coral reef. Opportunities abound to see creatures in their natural environs—both on land and in the sea. Expert local naturalists and photo instructors are with you every step of the way, always giving you choices and expanding your knowledge. Aboard, you can always savor panoramic views from the 50-cabin *National Geographic Quest*. Plus, you'll get an exclusive chance to visit to [Latin American Sea Turtles \(LAST\) Association](#) at Playa Blanca on the Osa Peninsula, where you can meet with researchers who are critical in the rescue, rehabilitation, and release of native sea turtles.

From

**\$ 7,173** / per person  
Does not include flights

 <b>DATES</b> Jan, Feb, Mar, Nov and Dec	 <b>DURATION</b> 8 Days
 <b>SHIPS</b> <i>National Geographic Quest</i>	
 <b>STARTS AT</b> San José, Costa Rica	  <b>ENDS AT</b> Panama City, Panama

## Highlights

- ★ Venture into remote wilderness: hike among monkeys, sloths, and tropical birds, and explore far from any inhabited places
- ★ Transit the Panama Canal over two days to see it by day and in the coolness of night—plus an exclusive stop at the Smithsonian Research Institute
- ★ Discover the wild rainforests of Corcovado National Park, which *National Geographic* dubbed “the most biologically intense place on Earth”
- ★ Explore idyllic islands, snorkel over a vibrant coral reef, and take a Zodiac cruise up a wild river





## Day by day

### DAY 1

#### San José, Costa Rica / Puerto Caldera / Embark Ship

After arrival in San José this afternoon, we transfer to the Pacific Coast town of Puerto Caldera. This evening, we embark our ship *National Geographic Quest* and set sail south on our Central American adventure.

Opt to arrive early for a [pre-voyage extension](#) in the rainforests and reserves of Caño Negro. The extension adds five days before the expedition for incredible wildlife exploration through a glamping adventure.

**Arrival Time:** Arrive before 1:00 p.m. local time.

**Arrival City:** San José, Costa Rica

Meals included: dinner

### ◇ DAY 2

#### Corcovado National Park

Anchor off the Osa Peninsula to see some of the most pristine lowland rainforest on the Pacific coast. In the environs of Corcovado National Park, swim in waterfall pools or trek through the rainforest for a chance to see four species of monkeys—howler, spider, squirrel, and capuchin.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner

### ◇ DAYS 3-4

#### Golfo Dulce / Osa Peninsula

Enter the mangrove-fringed Golfo Dulce, along the southwestern edge of Costa Rica, as our nimble expedition ship takes us into the remote upper reaches of this placid bay. Head inland to meet and share with inspiring local families living in remote communities and working with cocoa, hearts of palm, and sugar cane. Hike in mature rainforest,

kayak in peaceful waters, and explore by Zodiac, scanning the jungle treeline for a dazzling array of avifauna, including golden-hooded and Cherrie's tanagers, yellow-throated toucans, fiery-billed aracaris, and crimson-fronted and orange-chinned parakeets. Take in a kaleidoscope of tropical color with bromeliads, heliconias, and orchids set against the verdant green.

Go ashore on the western side of the bay in the pristine waters of Playa Blanca on the Osa Peninsula. By special arrangement, visit with the Latin American Sea Turtles (LAST) Association and hear presentations by the staff at LAST including a talk by the dedicated researchers working so hard to positively impact sea turtle conservation. In the evenings, enjoy drinks ashore and a beautiful sunset.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner

### ◇ DAY 5

#### Coiba National Park, Panama

The first stop in Panama this morning is at the remote Isla Coiba, one of the many islands of Coiba National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage site. Once a penal colony, the island has long been protected and accessible by special permit only. Among its many endemic species are the Coiba Island agouti and the mantled howler monkey, as well as four varieties of sea turtle. Discover rich marine life while snorkeling, or simply spend the afternoon exploring or relaxing on the beach.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner

### ◇ DAY 6

#### Gulf of Panama Islets / Panama Canal Transit

Today, explore the tiny islets of the Gulf of Panama

by Zodiac or kayak. Here we might spot frigatebirds, brown pelicans, neotropical cormorants, and brown boobies. Set sail for the Panama Canal this afternoon. Stretching more than 50 miles, the canal was a colossal engineering feat completed in 1914. It is still traversed by some 14,000 ships every year. 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.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner

#### ◇ DAY 7

### 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 the mouth of the Chagres River and hike on the Panama Rainforest Discovery Center trails. This evening, continue through the complex lock system of the canal. By special arrangement, *National Geographic Quest* will anchor in Gatún Lake near the Barro Colorado Nature Monument overnight.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner

#### ■ DAY 8

### Colón / Panama City, Panama / Disembark Ship

After breakfast, disembark in Colón 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 after 2:30 p.m. local time.

**Departure City:** Panama City, Panama

Meals included: breakfast

### Eastbound

San José, Costa Rica → Panama City, Panama

#### 2024 Departure Dates

Aboard *National Geographic Quest*

23 Nov			
07 Dec	21 Dec		

#### 2025 Departure Dates

Aboard *National Geographic Quest*

09 Jan	28 Jan		
16 Feb			
07 Mar			
30 Nov			

#### 2026 Departure Dates

Aboard *National Geographic Quest*

02 Jan			
04 Feb	23 Feb		
14 Mar			

### Alternative Routes

Visit [Expeditions.com](http://Expeditions.com) for more information.

#### 2024 Departure Dates

30 Nov, 14 Dec, 28 Dec

#### 2025 Departure Dates

16 Jan, 04 Feb, 23 Feb, 14 Mar, 21 Dec

#### 2026 Departure Dates

23 Jan, 11 Feb, 02 Mar, 21 Mar



## ***National Geographic Quest***

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<b>Guests</b> 100	<b>Cabins</b> 50
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***National Geographic Quest*, built in 2017, is designed for sailing into fast-moving channels and shallow coves in pan-American waters.**

When she rolled out of Nichols Brothers shipyard and into the bay on Whidbey Island, the 100 guest *National Geographic Quest* became the third ship in the Lindblad fleet built at this storied Pacific Northwest shipyard. In the 1970s, Nichols Brothers built the twin ships *National Geographic Sea Bird* and *National Geographic Sea Lion*, which continue to sail the waters of the west coast of North America and Central America.

*National Geographic Quest* was purpose-built to explore the fast-moving channels and narrow straits of Alaska, along the coast of Costa Rica, and into the gray whale nursery lagoons of Baja, her design and engineering informed by our nearly 40 years of experience in these regions. Her twin boarding platforms, for example, were suggested by a veteran staffer. Enabling our team to load two Zodiacs at once means guests get off the ship quickly to take advantage of wildlife sightings and maximize exploring time.

Larger than her siblings *National Geographic Sea Bird* and *National Geographic Sea Lion*, *National Geographic Quest* has the same shallow draft, allowing her captain to navigate the same inner reaches and provide the same intimate, "insider" experiences in these charismatic regions. Modern, clean-lined, with large expanses of glass to keep you connected to the extraordinary views, *National Geographic Quest* enables you to see, do, and experience the best of her geographies.





# Cabin Categories

## Category 1

Main Deck: #301-306

Cabins feature two single beds that can convert to a Queen, a writing desk, two nightstands and two portholes, full length mirror, and reading lights.



## Category 2

Main Deck: #307-315

Cabins feature two single beds that can convert to a Queen, a writing desk, two nightstands and two portholes, full length mirror, and reading lights.



## Category 3

Upper Deck: #201-206

Cabins feature two single beds that can convert to a Queen, a writing desk, two nightstands, a large view window, full-length mirror, and reading lights.



## Category 4

Upper Deck: #207-229

Cabins feature two single beds that can convert to a Queen, a writing desk, closet, two nightstands, full-length mirror, reading lights, sliding glass door, and a small, private balcony.



**Note:** Solo occupancy cabins are available in Categories 1 and 2 only. Third person rates are available in Category 5 cabins at one half the double occupancy rate.

**Connecting Cabins via internal doorway access:**

Main Deck: #312-314, #311-315, #306-307;  
Upper Deck: #224-226, #225-227

## Category 5

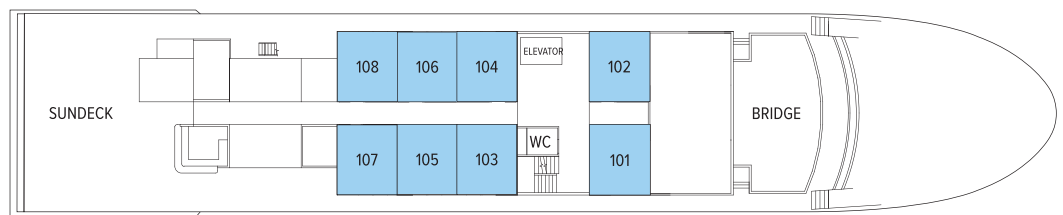
### Observation Deck: #101-108 (SUITE)

Cabins feature two single beds that can convert to a Queen, large view windows, closet, two nightstands, full-length mirror, reading lights, a suite-sized expanded bathroom, writing desk, ample storage space, and a convertible sofa bed to accommodate a third person.

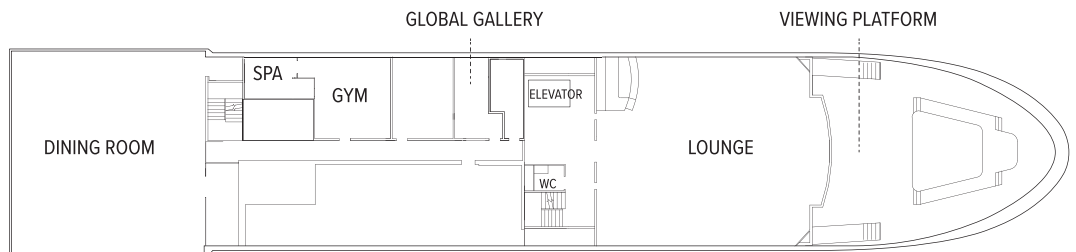


## Observation Deck

Category 5



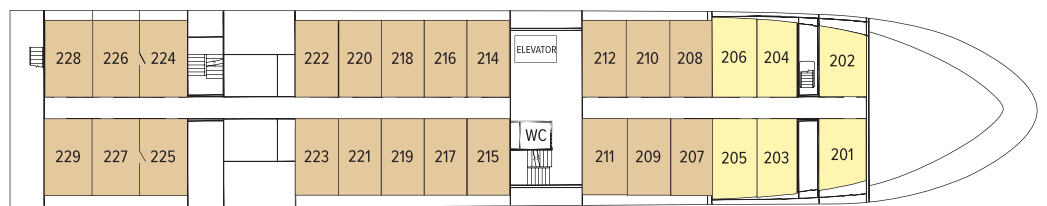
## Lounge Deck



## Upper Deck

Category 3

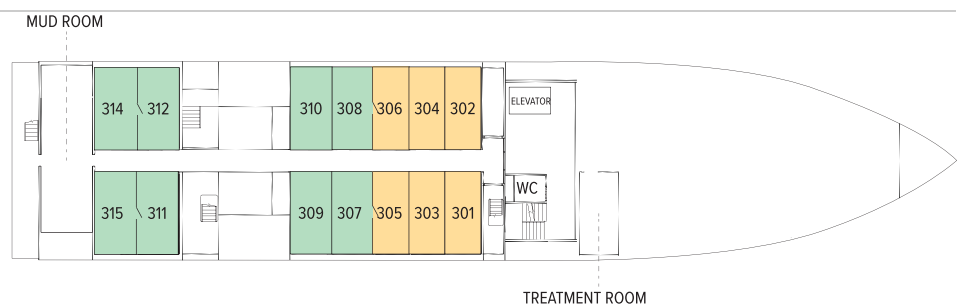
Category 4



## Main Deck

Category 1

Category 2



# Ship amenities

## Public Areas

Reception; main dining area; global gallery; fitness center; lounge with full-service bar and state-of-the-art presentation facilities; observation deck; mudroom with lockers for expedition gear; partially-covered furnished sundeck; plus open access to the Bridge, the Captain, officers and on-duty wildlife spotters.

## Meals

Meals are served in the dining room at a single seating with unassigned tables for an informal atmosphere and easy mingling. Menus feature sustainable choices, local where possible.

## Cabins

50 outside cabins. All cabins face outside with windows, private bathroom, and climate controls. Cabins are equipped with Wi-Fi, phone, multiple electrical and USB outlets, and phones. Luxury linens and pillows. Botanically inspired shampoo, conditioner, shower gel, and lotion are all available in cabin bathrooms, as well as an Expedition Essential Kit. Hair dryers, complimentary insulated water bottles and a National Geographic Atlas are also available in each cabin.

## Expedition Equipment

A fleet of 8 Zodiacs, 24 kayaks, paddleboards; an ROV, hydrophone, splash-cam, underwater video camera, video microscope; snorkeling gear and wet suits for all guests (where applicable).

## Special Features

Lindblad-National Geographic certified photo instructor, undersea specialist and video chronicler. Internet access. Elevator. The design of the outside decks—with the perfect wildlife viewing platform. And the way the proximity of the Lounge to the deck gives you instant access to spontaneous sightings. Have your camera ready!

## Wellness

A fitness center with elliptical, treadmill, weights, resistance bands; LEXspa treatment room, staffed by wellness specialists.



## Self-Disinfecting Ships

ACT Clean Coat™ is a light-activated, self-disinfecting cleaning process that continuously breaks down viruses, bacteria, mold, and airborne allergens across all ship surfaces. Not only does this create a cleaner, healthier shipboard environment for guests and crew alike, but this non-toxic, chemical-free system also saves more than one million gallons of water each year in our cleaning procedures, and reduces our carbon footprint as well as the amount of plastic and waste in our supply chain.

## Special Offers

### NATIONAL WILDLIFE DAY: 25% SAVINGS

Book between August 27th–September 19th, 2024, and save 25% on the cabin fare when booking any Category 1, Category 2, or Category 3 cabins, including solo cabins, and Category SU on *National Geographic Islander II* and *National Geographic Delfin II*, and Category 4 cabins on *National Geographic Delfina*, when you pay in full at time of booking on select departures in 2024 and 2025. To qualify for the discount, non-refundable payment in full is due at the time of booking and standard cancellation terms will not apply. Valid for new bookings only, based on availability at time of booking, cannot be combined with other offers, and is not applicable on airfare or extensions.

### 2026-2027 EARLY BOOKING OFFERS

#### 2026-2027 EARLY BOOKING OFFERS

Booking and deposit must be made by Nov. 1, 2024. Valid for new bookings only on departures from Jan. 1, 2026 through Mar. 31, 2027, subject to availability, may not be combinable with other offers, and not applicable on airfare or extensions.

#### Book Early to Lock in Current Rates on All

**2026-2027 Departures:** Pricing will increase on Nov. 2, 2024. Not applicable on airfare or extensions.

#### Bringing the Kids - Save \$1,000 Per Child Up To 22:

We believe sharing an expedition with children is a life-enhancing experience. Take \$1,000 off for each child under the age of 23 on any departure.

**Save Up To 20% on Back-to-Back Voyages:** Save up to 20% on voyage fares on consecutive back-to-back departures. Applicable on select departures only.

**Book Two or More Voyages and Save 10%:** Save 10% on the lowest priced departure when you book two or more expeditions.

**Bring a Friend and Save 5%:** Save 5% when you book two or more cabins on the same departure. Valid on voyage fares only. Deposit, final payments, and cancellation policies for group travel vary from our regular policies when you book 8 or more guests.

### \$700 EXPEDITION CREDIT

\$700 Expedition Credit: Book between June 18 and September 30, 2024. Receive a per person credit of \$700 deducted from cabin fare prior to any additional applicable savings. Valid for new bookings only on select departures, subject to availability, and may not be combined with other offers. Call for details.

### WAIVE THE SOLO PREMIUM

Book between June 18 and September 30, 2024. Waive the solo premium on solo cabins. Valid for new bookings only on select departures, subject to availability, and may not be combined with the offers. Combinable with the \$700 Expedition Credit offer. Not applicable on airfare or extensions. Call for details.

### SUITE EXCLUSIVES

Spacious living areas and incredible views immerse you in the beauty of your marine surroundings. Our new Suite Exclusives package helps make your voyage all the more memorable. [Learn more](#)

### SAVE 5% TRAVELING AS A GROUP

Save 5% when traveling as a group of eight or more people. Valid on voyage fares only and not applicable on extensions or airfare. Deposit, final payments, and

cancellation policies for group travel vary from our regular policies. Valid for new bookings only, subject to availability, and may not be combined with other offers. Call for details.

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## **COMBINING OFFERS**

Certain offers may be combinable, up to two savings opportunities, except where noted otherwise. For example, travel with a group of 8 or more on back-to-back expeditions, and take advantage of both savings.

## Included in price

All accommodations aboard ship or in hotels per itinerary; all meals as indicated in the itinerary, both aboard and onshore; beer and wine on all 2023 departures (starting in 2024, spirits and cocktails are also included, with super premium wines and liquors available for purchase); hors d'oeuvres, 24-hour access to snacks, premium coffees and teas, non-alcoholic beverages, and filtered water; excursions and airport transfers to and from recommended flights, as indicated in the itinerary; exploration tools curated to destination, such as Zodiacs, stand-up paddleboards, kayaks, snorkeling equipment (including wetsuits, masks, and fins); guidance and company of our leading expedition staff; assistance by the Lindblad Expeditions-National Geographic certified photo instructor; access to the OM System Photo Gear Locker; presentations by expedition staff and expert guest speakers; complimentary reusable water bottle; services of a physician, physician's assistant, nurse practitioner, or paramedic; morning stretch classes and 24-hour access to exercise equipment; 24-hour access to lounges, observation decks, library, and other shared spaces; park and site entrance fees, special access permits, and port taxes. Unused services or items included in our programs are non-refundable.

## Not included in price

Airfare (except flights when indicated as included); pre- and post-expedition extensions; additional hotel nights (except when indicated as included); crew gratuities; private transfers; laundry, spa treatments, Wi-Fi, and phone services (except when indicated as included); travel protection plans; and passport, visa, and immigration fees.

## Travel protection plan

We strongly recommend our guests to take advantage of our Travel Protection Plan. This plan offers comprehensive coverage to protect you from cancellation fees, costs incurred due to trip delays/interruption, damage or loss of baggage, medical assistance, and evacuation during your travels. Our Travel Protection Plan is available for U.S. residents only, and may be purchased any time prior to final payment due date, Travel Protection premiums are non-refundable once plan is purchased. Learn more about our Travel Protection "Plus" Plan: <https://www.expeditions.com/terms-conditions/travel-protection-plan/>

[terms-conditions/travel-protection-plan/](https://www.expeditions.com/terms-conditions/travel-protection-plan/)

## Cancellation policy

Review our cancellation policy: <https://www.expeditions.com/cancellation-policy/>