



# Wild Earth Travel

*Small Ships, Big Adventures*

**wildearth-travel.com**

**info@wildearth-travel.com**

## THE PANAMA CANAL, PEARL ISLANDS, AND DARIEN 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.

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## 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 / Pedasi

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

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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.



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## YOUR SHIP: NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC QUEST

<b>YOUR SHIP:</b>	<b>National Geographic Quest</b>
<b>VESSEL TYPE:</b>	<b>Expedition Ship</b>
<b>LENGTH:</b>	<b>72 metres</b>
<b>PASSENGER CAPACITY:</b>	<b>100 guests (in 50 cabins)</b>
<b>BUILT/REFURBISHED:</b>	<b>2017</b>

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.

**PUBLIC AREAS:** Global gallery; fitness centre; LEXspa; lounge with full service bar and facilities for films and presentations; observation deck; mudroom with lockers for expedition gear, and a partially covered sundeck with chairs and tables. Our 'open bridge' provides guests an opportunity to meet our officers and captain and learn about navigation.

**MEALS:** Served in single seatings with unassigned tables for an informal atmosphere and easy mingling. Breakfast is a wide selection buffet and dinner is served family-style. Menu emphasises local fare.

**CABINS:** All cabins face outside with windows or portholes, private facilities and climate controls. Some cabins have balconies.

**EXPEDITION EQUIPMENT:** Expedition landing craft, a fleet of 24 kayaks, Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV), hydrophone, splashcam, underwater video camera, video microscope, snorkelling gear for all guests (where applicable).

**SPECIAL FEATURES:** Guest internet access, elevator, National Geographic certified photo instructor, a video chronicler and undersea specialist.

**WELLNESS:** The vessel is staffed by a Wellness Specialist and features a gym with an elliptical machine, treadmill, exercycles, handweights and resistance bands. Treatments in the LEXspa are available by appointment.



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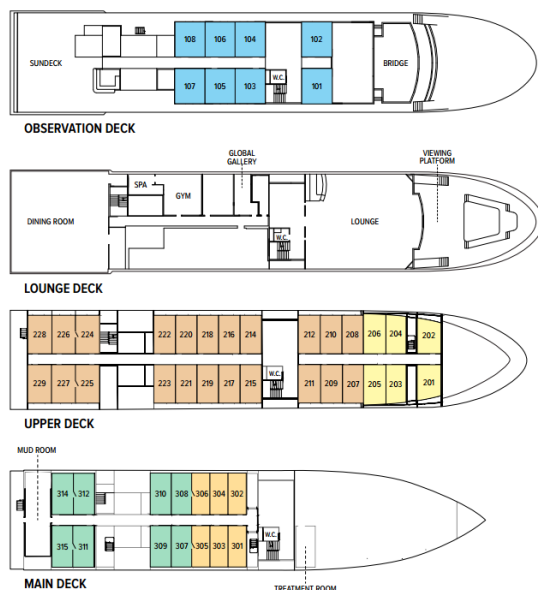
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## INSIDE YOUR SHIP



Category 1. From



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## PRICING

### 07-Dec-2025 to 14-Dec-2025

Category 1. From	10556 AUD pp
More Cabin Categories & Prices Available	0 pp

### 14-Dec-2025 to 21-Dec-2025

Category 1. From	10556 AUD pp
More Cabin Categories & Prices Available	0 pp

### 09-Jan-2026 to 16-Jan-2026

Category 1. From	10984 AUD pp
More Cabin Categories & Prices Available	0 pp

### 16-Jan-2026 to 23-Jan-2026

Category 1. From	10984 AUD pp
More Cabin Categories & Prices Available	0 pp

### 06-Dec-2026 to 13-Dec-2026

Category 1. From	10760 AUD pp
More Cabin Categories & Prices Available	0 pp

### 13-Dec-2026 to 20-Dec-2026

Category 1. From	10760 AUD pp
More Cabin Categories & Prices Available	0 pp

### 29-Jan-2027 to 05-Feb-2027

Category 1. From	11087 AUD pp
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More Cabin Categories & Prices Available	0 pp
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### Optional extras & upgrades

Optional excursions available. Please get in touch for more information.

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