



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

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

Built in 2017, National Geographic Quest is a modern expedition vessel purpose-designed for the narrow channels and shallow coves of Pan-American waters. With insights drawn from nearly four decades of exploration in Alaska, Baja California, Costa Rica and beyond, she is perfectly equipped for immersive coastal voyages. Clean-lined and contemporary in design, her expansive glass windows ensure guests are constantly connected to the surrounding landscapes, whether spotting whales in a lagoon or cruising past rainforest-covered shores. Accommodating 100 guests in 50 comfortable cabins across four decks, Quest features twin Zodiac boarding platforms for swift disembarkation, a shallow draught for close-to-shore navigation, and wide-ranging public areas. Guests can enjoy a relaxed dining experience with sustainable, locally inspired cuisine, unwind on the sundeck, or visit the lounge, gym, or Global Gallery. Open access to the Bridge invites a deeper engagement with navigation and wildlife spotting alongside the Captain and crew. Every detail is crafted to maximise discovery, comfort, and a shared sense of adventure.



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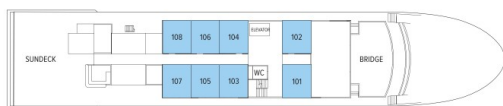
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INSIDE YOUR SHIP

Observation Deck

Category 5



Lounge Deck



Upper Deck

Category 3

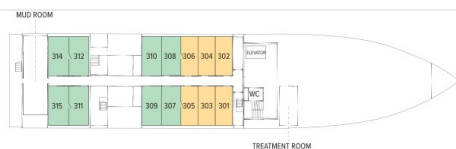
Category 4



Main Deck

Category 1

Category 2



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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