PANAMA & COLOMBIA

EXPLORING THE CARIBBEAN COAST

A UNIQUELY IN-DEPTH CANAL TRANSIT

EXPERIENCE TWO OF THE MOST BIODIVERSE COUNTRIES ON EARTH

REWARDING ENCOUNTERS WITH THE PEOPLE OF PARADISE
DEAR TRAVELER,

Since the inception of Lindblad Expeditions, we’ve sailed our ships through the Panama Canal and along the region’s wild coast. I’ve always yearned to go even further. Now, thanks to our expanding fleet, we’re able to explore more of this rewarding region, and we have the perfect ship—the 50-cabin *National Geographic Quest*.

The first time we sailed *National Geographic Quest* through the Panama Canal, our expedition leader gleefully reported back that the top deck of *National Geographic Quest* turns out to be the perfect height to observe the lock mechanisms at eye level. In fact, the ship gets so close to the locks that we can hear the workers casually chatting back and forth as they lead us through. Compare this to the way most travelers will experience the Canal—enclosed inside a cruise ship, passing binoculars back and forth to get a glimpse of how these historic locks work.

Our transit of the Panama Canal is compelling for other reasons, as well. We make the transit over two days, so you can see the inner workings of the locks by day, and dramatically lit at night—enabling you to stand on deck and experience the canal on a tropical evening. It also leaves us time to experience the wildness of the Canal Zone—a surprise to many travelers. In fact, few people know that it was here that an Audubon-sponsored search turned up over 300 species of birds in a single day, a world record since 1985.

In Colombia, our expedition development team has been hard at work creating a program along the coast and among the islands that offers special access to this extremely biodiverse region, including time to spend with locals, learning about their unique cultures. Early reconnaissance expeditions found incredible cultural sights at the densely populated islet off the coast at Santa Cruz del Islote and in the Arab-influenced architecture at Lorica. Perhaps most surprising, our Manager of Expedition Development, Ted Kenefick, said “It was while looking at satellite images that we first spotted a concentration of green on the coast that sparked our curiosity. We chartered a boat to explore it from the water, and that patch of green turned out to be Bahia Cispatá, a massive mangrove system, one of the healthiest I have ever encountered. Our evening in those back channels, as herons flew ahead of our boats and bats set out, is a memory I’ll always cherish.”

I think you’ll find this expedition to be full of surprises and an absolute joy. And I promise that if you travel with us, our team will do whatever it takes to ensure you uncommon and unforgettable experiences. I hope you’ll join us.

All the best,

Sven-Olof Lindblad
EXPERIENCE THE CANAL’S STAGGERING SCOPE & SURPRISING WILDNESS OVER TWO DAYS

THE PANAMA CANAL CHANGED GLOBAL COMMERCE AND STANDS AS ONE of the greatest feats of engineering in human history. *National Geographic Quest* is the perfect platform to transit it. See the intricate workings of the lock doors at eye level from the top deck of *National Geographic Quest*, and look just over the deck rail as the ship is towed through the lock chambers by electric “mules”—named for the pack animals that pulled ships 100 years ago. *National Geographic Quest* is the only passenger ship permitted to overnight in the Canal Zone allowing a two-day transit to see the Canal by day, and dramatically lit at night. *National Geographic Quest* will call at the Smithsonian Research Station on Barro Colorado Island in the Canal Zone where scientists have been studying since 1932. There’ll be time to Zodiac cruise among tiny “monkey islands,” home to healthy populations of primates that curiously approach our boats. Or, choose to venture to the mouth of the Chagres River and hike the Panama Rainforest Discovery Center trail into the rainforest canopy and along Pipeline Road where up to 400 species of birds can be seen in close proximity. Learn the history of the pirates who sailed up this river and hiked over land now flooded by the Canal to sack Panama City. Get the most in-depth, intimate experience possible on this life-list worthy Canal transit.
EXPLORE COLOMBIA’S RAINFORESTS, AMONG THE MOST BIODIVERSE ON EARTH
WITH ALMOST 1900 SPECIES OF BIRDS AND 45 SPECIES OF MAMMALS, Colombia’s rainforests are alive with clamoring monkeys, languid sloths, rare tapirs, and a vast variety of colorful birds. Endemic species flourish—there are 54 mammals, 91 birds, 168 reptiles, and 383 amphibians found only in Colombia. See conservation-minded development in action on a visit to a cocoa farm near Necoclí, where residents are eager to show you the important steps they’re taking to incorporate sustainable practices in their farming while proudly maintaining their cultural traditions. Venture into the back channels of Bahia Cispatá, into the cacophony of birdcalls emanating from dense, healthy mangroves where colorful bird species including snowy egrets, green kingfishers, and rufous-tailed jacamars thrive.

In Panama’s national park in the Canal Zone, a world-record 385 species of birds were once recorded in a single day. The region is carefully conserved by the government, since the freshwater coming out of the rainforest is necessary for the locks to operate. Explore the vibrant undersea along the Panamanian coast, including in the San Blas islands where the Guna Yala people are careful not to overfish their reefs. You’ll find a galaxy of vibrant corals, just below the surface, swarming with tropical sealife.
DISCOVER ANCIENT CUSTOMS ADAPTED TO MODERN LIFE

DISCOVER AN INDIGENOUS PARADISE IN PANAMA’S GUNA YALA. IT IS A constellation of 368 white-sand fringed islets dotted with thatched huts where the Guna people practice their ancestral traditions. Men still fish, hunt, and farm, while women make handicrafts of intricate design called *molas* just as they have for centuries. The *mola* tradition began as bodypainting in the pre-Spanish colonization era. After contact with missionaries, the Guna began to incorporate *mola* designs into appliqué clothing painstakingly stitched together with tiny needles. The process and clothing were such a sacred part of their tradition that when the Panamanian government attempted to modernize the Guna in the early 20th century by banning traditional clothing, the Guna revolted and in 1925, the government granted the islands sovereignty. Today, the decorative *mola* are still worn by women and sometimes sold to travelers. You’ll find the Guna have a natural gender equality in their society that has existed for centuries, and the most important celebrations on the island are held to honor women. Their lives are somewhat adapted to the modern world in that they warmly welcome outsiders curious about their traditions.

In Colombia, venture to the village of Tuchin to meet the indigenous Zenú people. For hundreds of years these artisans have woven the traditional sombrero *vueltiao* from coastal cane that is sun dried and then dyed with black mud. Considered the national symbol of Colombia, these hats are coveted by knowledgeable travelers for their sun-blocking and shape resilience. Learn how the Zenú have begun irrigating cane fields to increase production while fighting against cheap overseas knock-offs passed off as originals in local markets. The hats are in great demand, and you’ll have a chance to purchase an authentic sombrero *vueltiao*—a souvenir and a symbol of sustainable craftsmanship.
NAMED BY CRISTOPHER COLUMBUS IN 1502, PORTOBELO, OR “beautiful port,” was among the most important Spanish trading centers in the New World. Cartagena was another center of trade—and both were capitals of the Spanish Main. Sail between Portobelo and Cartagena on a journey into the lore and legend of the region. Learn about the proxy war between Spain and England waged in these waters and cities. Over a day in Portobelo see the stone batteries and cannons that Spain built long ago to fend off privateer attacks. They failed to stop Henry Morgan who famously sacked Portobelo in 1668 before continuing overland to Panama City. The trail Morgan’s ragtag group of pirates walked was the route Spanish soldiers used to move treasure from Panama City to the Spain-bound treasure fleet anchored in Portobelo. Much of the route was flooded in the creation of the Panama Canal, yet some remains, swathed in jungle, and teeming with hundreds of species of birds—just as Morgan’s men would have experienced it. And if you happen to find your way into a local waterfront bar in the area, you still won’t find any serving Captain Morgan rum.
COLOMBIA’S TINY SANTA CRUZ DEL ISLOTE IS HOME TO 18 FAMILIES LIVING IN 97 houses covering every square inch of this island, the size of two football fields. With at least 600 residents, it is the most densely populated place on Earth—a tight-knit community living in colorfully painted homes and amid bustling docks. Kids learn to swim in the turquoise seas at a very young age and families look out for one another. There is no police force, as everyone who lives on the island knows each other. Set amid a coral paradise, the people earn their living by fishing and taking travelers to the reefs that circle their island. You’ll be welcomed to the island at its sole restaurant, which doubles as the port of entry.

Explore too Colombia’s inland town of Santa Cruz de Lorica, a window into the waves of influence from France, Belgium, England, Spain, Syria, and Lebanon. Once a bustling trading town where French speculators set up gold mines, the city opened its doors to Lebanese and Syrian settlers in the 1800s—becoming known as the Pueblo Arabe or Arab Town. See its stunning Spanish-colonial cathedral, visit a French bakery, and walk past colorful buildings built in Arabic styles. The city is a melting pot of cultures and uniquely Colombian.
BURSTING WITH BIODIVERSITY AND COMPRISED OF A MULTITUDE OF CULTURES, COLOMBIA IS AN EXTRAORDINARILY RICH LAND. SAIL THE CARIBBEAN COAST TO SEE THE REGION’s ECOTOURISM EFFORTS, AND LEARN ABOUT THE COUNTRY’s PAST AND NATIVE PEOPLES, INCLUDING THE EMBERA AND ZENU, AS WELL AS THOSE WHO ARRIVED LATER—PIRATES, SPANISH COLONIALS, AND MODERN-DAY IMMIGRANTS. IN PANAMA, TRANSIT THE INCREDIBLE CANAL AND EXPLORE THE PRISTINE GUNA YALA ISLANDS. REFLECTING THE DIVERSITY OF THESE COUNTRIES, OUR EXPEDITION OFFERS JUNGLE HIKES, WALKING TOURS OF HISTORIC TOWNS, AND OPPORTUNITIES TO EXPLORE TURQUOISE WATERS AND COASTAL MANGROVES VIA SNORKEL, KAYAK, ZODIAC, OR STAND-UP PADDLEBOARD.

EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

▶ With over 1,900 species of birds—more than any other country—and an astonishing 450 mammals, Colombia has an overwhelming variety of flora and fauna to see as we explore on naturalist-led jungle hikes.
▶ Transit the Panama Canal over two days—see it by day and dramatically lit at night—plus experience the surprising wilderness of the Canal Zone.
▶ Visit Guna Yala—once known as the San Blas Islands—to experience the archipelago’s Guna culture and uninhabited cays.
▶ Explore idyllic islands, snorkel vibrant coral reefs, and search for wildlife in healthy mangroves.
▶ Get an insider’s look into the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute’s work to uncover the mysteries of tropical ecosystems.

PANAMA & COLOMBIA: EXPLORING THE CARIBBEAN COAST

8 Days/7 Nights—Aboard National Geographic Quest

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPERT
Tropical ecologist, filmmaker, and National Geographic Explorer Peter Houlihan is aboard the Oct. 17, 2020 departure. Peter specializes in coordinating and leading scientific expeditions into some of the planet’s least accessible and most threatened tropical environments for conservation. Over the past 15 years, he has led more than 40 extensive research and media expeditions across four continents, operating in more than 20 countries.

Learn more about staff and guest speakers at expeditions.com/experts.

Cartagena, Colombia.
DAY 1: U.S./PANAMA CITY, PANAMA/ BALBOA/EMBARK
Upon arrival in Panama City, transfer by land to Balboa and embark National Geographic Quest to transit the Panama Canal. Head up on deck to feel the warm, tropical breeze as you experience the dramatically lit, man-made marvel. (D)

DAY 2: GATÚN LAKE
Anchor overnight in Gatún Lake during our canal transit. Through our long-standing association with Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, we have special access to research facilities on Barro Colorado Island, and will meet with researchers to learn of their numerous tropical ecosystem projects. Or, choose from hikes, Zodiac cruises, or a boat ride to the mouth of the Chagres River for a rainforest hike. In the evening, we’ll continue through the lock system of the canal. (B,L,D)

DAY 3: PORTOBETO
Dubbed the “beautiful port,” we arrive this morning along the Caribbean coast of Panama and step ashore at Portobelo, complete with a dynamic and colorful past. We land our Zodiacs on the very same shores where the ruthless pirate Henry Morgan landed, later to be followed by the British and Spanish colonial rulers. Our exploration today will take us on a journey through the past into Spanish colonial fortifications of the area, designated by UNESCO as World Heritage Sites. Later, we hike into Portobelo’s lush jungles in search of mantled howler monkeys, toucans, and a variety of parrots. In the afternoon, National Geographic Quest repositions down the Panamanian coast and we set out with snorkel, mask, and fins to explore the multi-colored underwater world of the Caribbean. (B,L,D)

DAY 4: GUNA YALA
Wake up amid the archipelago of Guna Yala (also known as the San Blas islands), a constellation of 368 tiny, white-sand isles scattered off the northeast coast of Panama. Get to know the indigenous Guna people, one of the first native groups to achieve political autonomy in Latin America. Spend the morning among the thatched huts of an island village, learning about Guna culture and handicrafts. Marvel at the intricate designs of handmade textiles called molas, which harken back to a female tradition of body painting. In the afternoon, explore the vibrant marine world around the islands by snorkel, kayak, and stand-up paddleboard. (B,L,D)

DAY 5: NECOCLÍ, COLOMBIA
Discover the little-explored coastal community of Necocli and the surrounding region. Our exploration begins with Zodiac excursions into lagoons fringed by mangroves, part of a protected coastal wetlands area. Keep an eye out for wildlife, including a variety of colorful bird species, such as great and snowy egrets and Amazon and green kingfishers. After lunch, visit a local cocoa farm, where residents are striving to incorporate the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals into their agricultural community. (B,L,D)

DAY 6: SANTA CRUZ DEL ISLOTE/ SAN BERNARDO ARCHIPELAGO/SAN ANTERO/TUCHÍN
Santa Cruz del Islote is one of the most densely populated islands on Earth, where some 600 inhabitants live squeezed together in an area the size of two soccer fields, surrounded by turquoise seas and coral reefs. Stroll the island’s motor-free streets, past brightly painted houses and bustling docks; and experience daily life on this unusual island as you chat with local residents. Later, we cruise through the San Bernardo archipelago, calling at San Antero. Our afternoon excursion takes us to Tuchín, an indigenous village celebrated as the birthplace of the sombrero vueltiao, a type of hat considered a national symbol of Colombia. Observe vueltiao makers at work, and then meet with members of the local Zenú community, known for their ingenious irrigation systems. (B,L,D)

DAY 7: SANTA CRUZ DE LORICA/ CISPATÁ BAY
Disembark this morning for our short drive to Santa Cruz de Lorica, a charming riverside town influenced by several waves of immigration from France, Belgium, England, Syria, and Lebanon. Stroll through the central square, overlooked by a stunning Spanish-colonial cathedral and historic buildings in colorful Arabic styles. Enjoy a late afternoon cruise in the rarely-explored Cispatá Bay, timed for optimum wildlife spotting, as native creatures emerge from their mid-day rest. (B,L,D)

DAY 8: CARTAGENA/DISEMBARK/U.S.
After breakfast on board, transfer to the airport for flights home. (B)

EXPEDITION DETAILS
DATES: 2020 Oct. 10, 17*, 24, 31* Nov. 6*, 13, 20* 2021 Oct. 30; Nov. 6*, 13, 20*
*These departures travel in reverse.

PRICING:
National Geographic Quest
Cat. 1 from $5,990; Cat. 5 from $9,340 Rates are per person, double occupancy; solo rates available. Visit expeditions.com for all categories, current rates, and details, or call an Expedition Specialist or your Travel Advisor. For best pricing book early.

SPECIAL OFFER:
Book by Jul. 31, 2020 to receive a $450 air credit on all 2020 departures. See page 17.
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC QUEST

CAPACITY: 50 cabins accommodating 100 guests
REGISTRY: United States. OVERALL LENGTH: 238 feet.

Sister ships National Geographic Quest and National Geographic Venture (launched 2019) are the latest additions to our fleet. Designed with over 50 years of expedition heritage and built in the U.S.A., both ships set a new standard in exploration and comfort.

PUBLIC AREAS: Global gallery; fitness center; 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 and lunch are wide-selection buffets with chef-action stations, while dinners are primarily served plated. Menu emphasizes local fare.

CABINS: All cabins face outside with windows or port-holes, private facilities, and climate controls. Category 4 cabins have step-out balconies.

EXPEDITION EQUIPMENT: A fleet of 8 Zodiacs and 24 kayaks, Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV), hydrophone, splash-cam, underwater video camera, video microscope, and paddleboards.

SPECIAL FEATURES: Guest internet access, elevator, Lindblad-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.
CATEGORIES:

**CATEGORY 1:** Main Deck #301-306 Cabins feature two lower single beds that can convert to a Queen, a writing desk, and two portholes.

**CATEGORY 2:** Main Deck #307-315 Cabins feature two lower single beds that can convert to a Queen, a writing desk, and two portholes.

**CATEGORY 3:** Upper Deck #201-206 Cabins feature two lower single beds that can convert to a Queen, a writing desk, and two large view windows.

**CATEGORY 4:** Upper Deck #207-229 Cabins feature two lower single beds that can convert to a Queen, a writing desk, sliding glass door, and small, private balcony.

**CATEGORY 5 (SUITE):** Observation Deck #101-108 Cabins feature two lower single beds that can convert to a Queen, large view windows, an expanded bathroom, writing desk, ample storage space, and a convertible sofa bed to accommodate a third person.

**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, #306-308, #305-307;
Upper Deck: #224-226, #225-227

**Prices quoted in this brochure are valid as of the time of printing, are subject to modification, and are not guaranteed until booking and required deposit are made. For current rates and details visit expeditions.com, call an Expedition Specialist, or your Travel Advisor. For best pricing book early.**
COLOMBIA’S CARIBBEAN CITIES: CARTAGENA, BARRANQUILLA & SANTA MARTA

Add an inland exploration of the wildness and enchanting culture of Colombia to your coastal expedition to go deeper into this vivid country. Explore colorful Cartagena and vibrant Barranquilla, as well as historical Santa Marta before journeying to the tropical forests and beaches of the Tayrona area, and finally, the deserts of La Guajira peninsula.

7-DAY/6-NIGHT POST-VOYAGE EXTENSION
CALL FOR PRICING

ITINERARY AT A GLANCE
Day 1: Cartagena, Colombia/Disembark/La Popa & Bazruto
Day 2: Cartagena
Day 3: Palenque/Galapa/Barranquilla
Day 4: Barranquilla/Salamanca National Park/Santa Marta/Tayrona
Day 5: Tayrona/Tayronaka/Don Diego River
Day 6: La Guajira
Day 7: Cartagena/U.S.

CARTAGENA & PALENQUE

Enhance your experience of Colombia as we explore the culture of colorful Cartagena and fascinating Palenque.

3-DAY/2-NIGHT POST-VOYAGE EXTENSION
CALL FOR PRICING

ITINERARY AT A GLANCE
Day 1: Cartagena, Colombia/Disembark/Palenque
Day 2: Cartagena
Day 3: Cartagena/U.S.

Visit expeditions.com/CARTAGENA for a day-by-day itinerary. Or call to speak with an Expedition Specialist.
SPECIAL OFFERS

$450 AIR CREDIT: Book by Jul. 31, 2020 to receive a $450 air credit per person on all 2020 departures. New bookings only. Subject to availability. May not be combined with other offers or extensions. Call for details.

TRAVELING AS A GROUP: Book a group of eight or more on any departure and save 5%. Take advantage of this great savings, while enjoying traveling with your friends and family. This savings is applicable to voyage fares only, and is not valid on extensions or airfare. Deposit, final payments, and cancellation policies for group travel vary from our regular policies.

BRINGING THE KIDS: We believe sharing an expedition with your kids or grandkids is a life-enhancing experience. So, take $500 off for each child under the age of 18.

COMBINING OFFERS: Certain offers may be combinable, up to two savings opportunities except where noted otherwise. For example, travel with a group of eight or more, including kids under 18, and take advantage of both savings!

RESERVATION INFORMATION

Terms & Conditions: For complete terms and conditions please visit expeditions.com/terms

Pricing: For best pricing book early. Prices quoted in this brochure are valid as of the time of printing, are subject to modification, and are not guaranteed until booking and required deposit is made. Under normal conditions, the total expedition price is guaranteed at the time of booking. However, our expedition pricing is determined far in advance of initial departure on the basis of then-existing projections of fuel and other costs. In the event of increases in those costs including, but not limited to, increases in the price of fuel, currency fluctuations, increases in government taxes or levies, or increased security costs, we reserve the right to adjust the price of your expedition or add a surcharge to cover such unexpected increases. We will always provide an explanation of the reason for increase in price. Visit expeditions.com or call for the most up-to-date pricing.

Pricing Includes: All accommodations aboard ship or in hotels per itinerary or similar; all meals and nonalcoholic beverages aboard ship; meals on land as indicated, accompanied by nonalcoholic beverages; air transportation where indicated as included; shore excursions; sightseeing and entrance fees; special access permits; transfers to and from group flights; use of snorkeling equipment and wetsuits (where applicable); use of kayaks and/or stand-up paddleboards (where available); use of cross-country skis or snowshoes (where available); tips (except to ship’s crew); taxes and service charges; services of a ship physician and services of our expedition staff. Unused services or items included in our programs are non-refundable.

Not Included: Air transportation (except where specified as included), extensions, passport, visa, immigration fees, meals not indicated, travel protection plan, items of a personal nature, such as internet access, voyage chronicle, and laundry.

Airfare: For all programs, airfare is an additional cost unless otherwise indicated. We will gladly assist in making your air arrangements for a $50 per person service fee.

Reservations: To reserve your place, an advance payment is required at the time of reservation. Receipt of advance payment indicates your acceptance of the terms and conditions. Visit expeditions.com/terms for complete details.

Final Payment: For expeditions aboard all ships final payment is due in full 90 days prior to departure. Payment schedules may vary for certain longer voyages due to high demand for these voyages. We reserve the right to cancel your reservation if payment has not been received by final payment due date.

Travel Protection Plan: We strongly recommend that you 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, medical assistance, and damaged or lost baggage, and provides 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. If you are not satisfied for any reason, you may return your plan within 10 days after purchase. Your premium will be refunded if canceled within 10 days, provided you have not already departed on the trip or filed a claim. When so returned, the coverage under the plan is void from the original date of purchase.

Responsibility and Other Terms & Conditions: Certain provisions concerning, among other things, limitations of Lindblad Expeditions’ and the National Geographic Expeditions’ (a division of National Geographic Partners, LLC) liability for loss of property, injury, illness, or death during the voyage will be provided to all guests on the ship’s ticket sent prior to departure, and are also available on our website at expeditions.com/terms, or upon request. By registering for a trip, the guest agrees to all such terms and conditions.

Note: Itineraries and prices listed in this brochure are as of publication date and are subject to change.

Smoking and Vaping Policy: Smoking and vaping are allowed only in designated outdoor areas.

Cancellation Policy: Cancellation penalties may apply after payment is received. Please visit expeditions.com/terms for complete cancellation policies. Unused services or items included in our programs are non-refundable.

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For Reservations:
Contact your travel advisor
$450 AIR CREDIT ON 2020 DEPARTURES