FIDELITY BANK & TRUST

FIVE STAR CLUB

Get out of the Cold Winter!

SMALL GROUP ADVENTURE

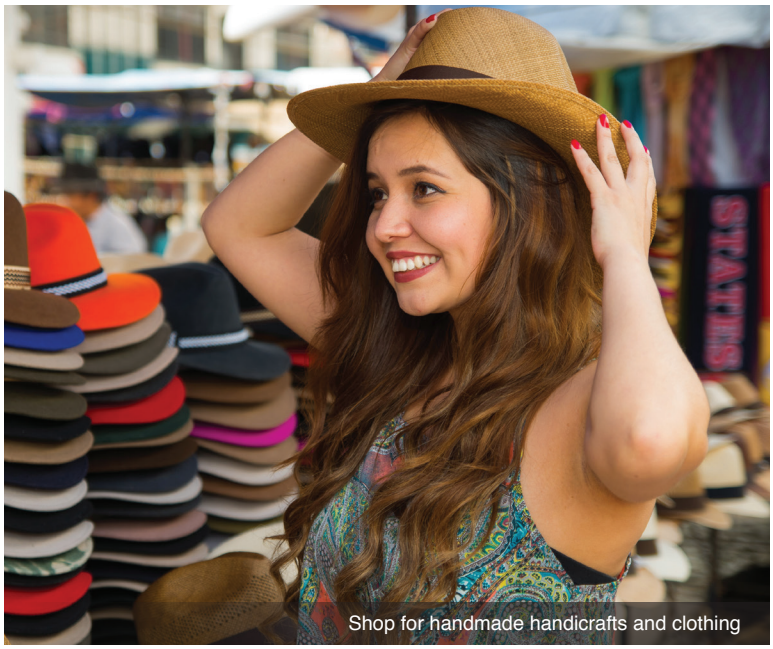
# Essence of Panama

**Tour Dates: March 7-13, 2024**

Mayflower
CRUISES & TOURS
A DIVISION OF THE SCENIC GROUP

# Essence of Panama

Enjoy a partial transit of the Panama Canal


Shop for handmade handicrafts and clothing

**DAY 1** USA / Panama City, Panama: Depart the USA on your flight to Panama City. Upon arrival, you'll be met by a Mayflower Cruises & Tours representative and transferred to your hotel. Flights should arrive by 4:00pm. The afternoon is at leisure to become acquainted with your new surroundings. This evening, join your Tour Manager for an orientation meeting at the hotel.

**DAY 2** Panama City: Depart the hotel with your local guide for a panoramic and walking tour of this historic city. Enjoy a stroll through Casco Antiguo - the oldest section of Panama City and a designated UNESCO World Heritage Site. Notice the architecture – from crumbling façades of days gone by to beautifully restored buildings in the classic style. See the locals as they go about their everyday life from selling crafts on street corners, to shopkeepers running their businesses. This little area is filled with cultural diversity! Continuing on, visit the Miraflores Lock Visitor Center.

View a 3D IMAX movie on the history and construction of the canal and visit the mini-museum, depicting the struggles that were encountered.

From the balcony, you have a chance to see the operation of the lock, as you overlook this amazing architectural masterpiece. After the excursion, return to the hotel with free time until the included dinner at a local restaurant. **Meals: B, D**

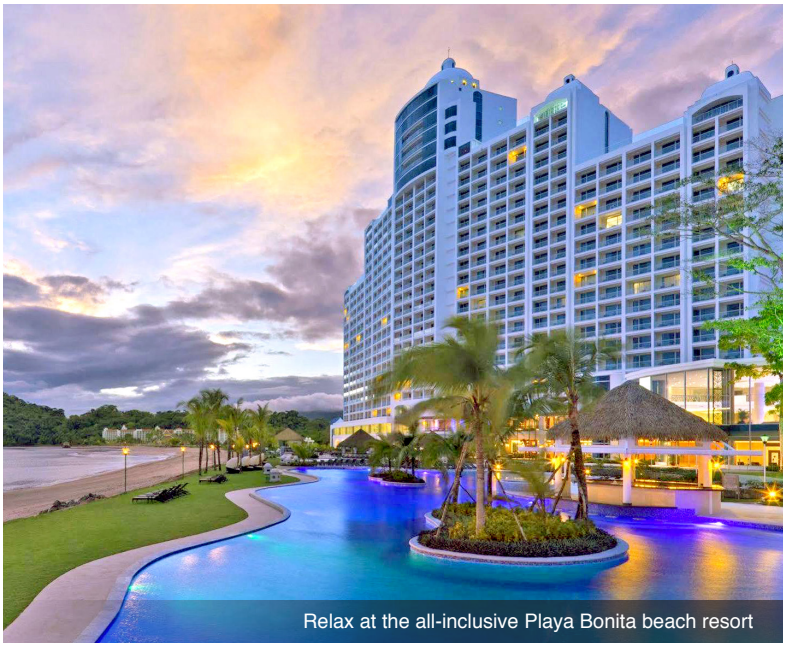
**DAY 3** Panama Canal Cruise: Today may well be a highlight of your trip! Depart for the Gamboa area and embark a ship to begin the partial transit of the Panama Canal, narrated by a local expert. Cruise through the Gaillard Cut, cross under the Centennial Bridge and transit the Pedro Miguel Locks. Enjoy lunch onboard while experiencing the operation of the lock as you descend 30-feet in one step and reach Miraflores Lake. Enter the Miraflores Locks in the Pacific Ocean where you are lowered 60-feet in a two-step process. Sail on the Pacific Ocean, pass under the Bridge of the Americas and disembark at Amador Causeway in the Panama Bay. After an exciting day in the Panama Canal, return to the hotel by coach for an afternoon and evening at leisure. **Meals: B, L**

**DAY 4** Panama City – Azuero Peninsula: Leaving Panama City, journey by coach through Panama's countryside. For the next two days, enjoy the authentic Panamanian countryside, rich in tradition, culture and folklore. Stop for lunch at a local restaurant before a late afternoon arrival at the hotel. **Meals: B, L**

**DAY 5** Country visits: Today is an immersion into local life as you visit the province of Los Santos. Meet a professional designer of 'cutarras' – traditional sandals of Panama, mostly worn by men, handmade by local artisans. At another stop, see how they make the 'Pollera' – typical costume of Panama worn by women.

A highlight of the day may be visiting a designer who takes four years to create the dress worn by the Queen during the four-day carnival celebration. Admire the artistry, skill and dedication demonstrated by these proud craftsmen.

During the included lunch, it's 'hands on' as you assist the chef with the preparation, and dine on your creation! Return to the hotel for some free time before an included dinner and folklore show. **Meals: B, L, D**



Relax at the all-inclusive Playa Bonita beach resort

**DAY 6** Azuero Peninsula – Hacienda San Isidro – Playa Bonita: Today's adventure begins with an excursion to the Hacienda San Isidro where Ron Abuelo Rum and Seco Herrerano (considered the national drink) are made by the Varela Hermanos. Learn how a small sugar cane mill grew into one of the country's leading liquor manufacturers. Almost 100 years later, the traditions continue as the world's most awarded Panamanian rum and Seco Herrerano are produced. Of course the visit wouldn't be complete without a sampling of the famous products!

Following lunch at the hacienda, continue by motorcoach to Playa Bonita where your final two nights are spent at an all-inclusive resort. Upon arrival at the hotel, the remainder of the day is at leisure to relax on the beach or by the pool.
**Meals: B, L, D**

**DAY 7** Playa Bonita: Enjoy a full day at leisure, discovering all the amenities of the resort, or, join an optional excursion to the Embera Indigenous Village. Mix and mingle with these happy people, living in the rainforest, with no 'modern conveniences'. See some of their cultural dances and explore the area's abundant variety of birds and wildlife during a trek through the untouched jungle and past sparkling waterfalls. **Meals: B, L, D**

**DAY 8** Panama City / USA: After breakfast, it's time to say goodbye to Panama as you return to the Tocumen International Airport for your flight home. **Meal: B**

Itinerary subject to change and order of events may vary.

## Tour Highlights

- 16 Meals: 7 breakfasts, 5 lunches and 4 dinners)
- Airport transfers on tour dates when air is provided by Mayflower Cruises & Tours
- Tour the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Casco Antiguo in Panama City
- Discover the operational marvel of the Panama Canal at the Miraflores Lock Visitor Center
- Sail to the Pacific Ocean on a partial transit of the Panama Canal
- Learn how the beautiful Panamanian dresses (polleras) and traditional sandals (cutarras) are made during visits with professional designers in their workshops
- Visit the Ron Abuelo Rum factory and sample the local product
- Relax during the two-night stay at an all-inclusive beach resort

### HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS

**Days 1 through 3 –** InterContinental Miramar, Panama City
**Days 4 and 5 –** Hotel Presidente, Las Tablas
**Days 6 and 7 –** Westin Playa Bonita, Playa Bonita

# Essence of Panama

Miraflores Lock Visitor Center

| Tour Dates | Per Person Twin | Single Room add |
|---|---|---|
| March 7-13, 2024 | $3,969 | $849 |

**Pricing Includes local pickup, round trip ORD air, transfers, land package, 16 meals and Professional tour manager.**

*Air itineraries may not be available until documents are received. Air seats are assigned by the airline for the entire group. Seat changes can only be attempted upon receipt of tickets and documents at which time availability may be limited. If specific seat assignments are vital to your reservation, we recommend individual air reservations rather than booking air with the group.*

**Optional Excursion***

Embera Indigeneous Village: $175 per person

*Note: minimum number of guests required to operate

TOUR ACTIVITY LEVEL

1 2 **3** 4 5

EASY ENERGETIC

PASSPORT REQUIRED

### Travelers Protection Plan (TPP) – $299 Optional

This nonrefundable fee waives all cancellation fees when we are notified of cancellation one day before the tour departs. If you must leave the tour early due to personal illness, illness or death of a member of your immediate family, TPP guarantees full refund for any unused services after the departure of the tour. Other benefits include medical expenses for illness and injury, emergency transportation, 24 hour hot line, and lost or stolen baggage assistance. Return air transportation is included ONLY if your air tickets were provided by Mayflower Cruises & Tours. If you purchase the optional Travelers Protection Plan (TPP), you will be refunded all payments, including deposit amount, less the TPP premium amount.

Cancellation Charges Without Traveler's Protection Plan (TPP)

- 91 days or more — Deposit Amount
- 90 to 45 days prior — 20% of tour cost
- 44 to 15 day prior — 30% of tour cost
- 14 to 1 day prior — 40% of tour cost
- Day 1 of departure or early departure from tour — 100% of tour cost
- No refund on unused portions of the tour

Exclusions: Mayflower Cruises & Tours reserves the right to alter its refund and cancellation policy when a substantial amount of cancellation or postponement of travel is attributable to: conditions resulting from an act of God, natural or man-made disaster, fire, government action, civil disorder, war, hostilities between nations, or unavailability of transportation through no fault of Mayflower Cruises & Tours.

FOR RESERVATIONS OR INFORMATION CONTACT:

FIDELITY BANK & TRUST — FIVE STAR CLUB

**Fidelity Bank 5 Star Club**

**Carolyn Turnis**

**319-465-7010**

cturnis@bankfidelity.com

Revised: 08-03-2022