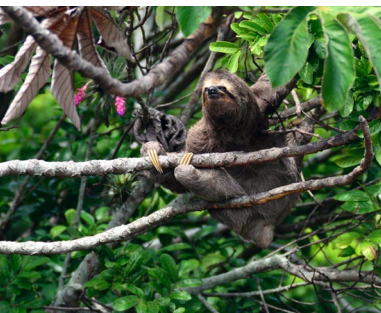




PANAMA

A Taste of Panama: Canal, Conservation, & Culture

November 10 - 17, 2021



Dear Friends,

We invite you to join us in beautiful Panama, the ultimate crossroads of nature, culture, and commerce!

Panama's spirit of exchange permeates the entire experience: learn about its history of international trade on a partial transit of the Panama Canal, discover its indigenous heritage visiting a local Emberá community, explore early Spanish colonial sites, and delve into forests home to myriad tropical wildlife.

You won't want to miss this unforgettable learning adventure. We expect our limited space will fill up quickly. Please make your reservation as soon as possible to guarantee your spot!

Sincerely,

Shannon Burnett
Director of Alumni Programs
Office of Alumni Relations

For further information, please call the Traveling Owls at 713-34-TRIPS (87477) or email travelingowls@rice.edu. You may also contact the tour operator, Holbrook Travel, at 800-451-7111.

RESERVATION FORM: Panama | Canal, Conservation, & Culture

Rice University Traveling Owls | November 10 - 17, 2021

Enclosed is my/our deposit for \$ _____ (\$500 per person) for _____ person/people on the tour listed below. I/we understand the final payment is due at least 95 days prior to departure (August 7, 2021). Payment may be made by American Express, Discover, MasterCard, or VISA or by personal check. Please make check payable to Holbrook Travel, Inc. and mail deposit check to: Holbrook Travel, 3540 NW 13th Street, Gainesville, FL 32609. For more information please contact Holbrook Travel at 800-451-7111 or travel@holbrooktravel.com.

Full Passport Name _____ DOB _____ Gender _____

E-mail _____

Badge Name _____ Class year _____

Full Passport Name _____ DOB _____ Gender _____

E-mail _____

Badge Name _____ Class year _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Home Ph. (_____) _____ Cell Ph. (_____) _____

Please book my/our air from _____. I/we request an air upgrade to _____.

☐ I will share a room with _____.

☐ I request a single room (limited availability).

Note: The undersigned has read the schedule of activities for the above-referenced tour, and agrees that their signature below represents their acceptance of the General Terms and Conditions.

Signature _____ Date _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Method of Payment ☐ Check ☐ American Express ☐ Discover ☐ MasterCard ☐ VISA

Account # _____ Security Code _____ Exp. Date _____

Name of Cardholder _____

Signature _____

Final invoicing will be sent by our tour operator, Holbrook Travel, Inc. The balance of the program price must be paid to Holbrook Travel. Final payment is due 95 days prior to departure (August 7, 2021; check or credit card).

GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS Please read this information carefully, as payment of a deposit represents your acceptance of the following terms and conditions.

Not included in Your Tour Price International airfare from your departure city; costs of passports and visas; personal expenses such as beverages, laundry, room service, and meals not specified; communications charges; and trip cancellation insurance. Additional baggage fees levied directly by the airline(s) may apply and are subject to change at any time. You should confirm directly with your airline(s) prior to departure.

International Air Transportation Holbrook Travel offers group airfare and ticketing. Group transfers between the airport and hotel are included in your program cost. A note about online airfare: Occasionally, you may be able to find airfares online that are listed at a lower cost. In general, individual fares lack the flexibility of group airfare and often require immediate purchase. You will receive your preliminary air schedule approximately 2 1/2 months prior to departure. Please note that seat assignments on your international flight are usually done at airport check-in. Holbrook Travel is unable to guarantee any seat assignments. Due to the nature of tour operator tickets, other restrictions apply, including but not limited to, frequent flyer mileage accrual, stopovers, alternate travel dates, upgrades, and airline taxes and departure fees. If you prefer to make your own travel arrangements, booking the tour "Land Only" is available. We recommend that if you choose to make your own airline reservations, you do not purchase non-refundable tickets or those with high penalties for changes. If you choose to make your own air arrangements, the Association of Rice Alumni (ARA) and Holbrook Travel, Inc. shall not have any liability for any loss resulting from cancellation of this tour or changes in this tour.

Cancellations, Changes and Refunds If you must cancel your tour, the effective date of cancellation will be upon our receipt of your notification. All cancellations need to be submitted in writing. Refunds for cancellations are subject to the following per person charges: **Cancel 95 days or more before departure: \$200 charge; Cancel 95-0 days before departure: no refund.** Please note that we will not refund the cost of any unused portion of your tour package. We will not charge a fee for any changes made to your reservation outside of 95 days before departure. From 94 to 30 days before departure, if you make any changes to your reservation, a \$100 per person administrative fee will apply, in addition to any fees or penalties imposed by airlines, hotels or other third parties. Changes are subject to availability and cannot be guaranteed. If your reservation changes from double occupancy to single occupancy for any reason, you will be charged the single supplement. No changes to your reservation can be made within 30 days of departure. If due to unforeseen circumstances Holbrook Travel cancels your tour, you will receive a complete refund of all payments you have made to us.

Health and Medical Issues We welcome all travelers, but request that you be in good health to participate on a Holbrook Travel tour. All of our tours involve a reasonable amount of walking (typically two to three miles per day). You must be able to get on and off motorcoaches on your own. We regret that we cannot provide individual assistance; in such cases you must be accompanied by a companion who will assist you. Please note that our itineraries cannot accommodate wheelchairs.

We reserve the right to remove anyone whose physical condition or behavior, in our opinion, compromises the operation of the tour or detracts from the enjoyment or safety of the other tour members. In that event, ARA and Holbrook Travel assume no financial responsibility for any unused portion of the tour. For the convenience of the majority of our travelers, Holbrook Travel has a no smoking policy on all tour buses. We will arrange sufficient rest stops so those who wish to smoke may do so.

Required Information Upon reservation, you must provide your full name as it appears on your passport, date of birth, and gender (for details, please visit [tax.gov](#)). In the event an airline ticket is issued with incorrect information you have provided, or if you use a different passport than originally cited, you will be responsible for charges associated with the ticket's reissue. **A passport valid for at least six months after the completion of your tour is required for U.S. citizens on this tour.**

Responsibility The liability of ARA as sponsor and Holbrook Travel Inc., as tour operator, is strictly limited. ARA and Holbrook Travel, Inc. purchase transportation, hotel accommodations, restaurant and other services from independent suppliers not under our control. We serve only as agents for these suppliers in securing tour arrangements, and therefore will not accept responsibility for wrongful, negligent, or arbitrary acts or omissions of these independent contractors, their employees, agents, servants or representatives. ARA and Holbrook Travel, Inc. are not liable for injury, damage, loss, accident, or delay that may be caused by events not within our control, including without limitation, acts of terrorism, war, strikes, the defect of any vehicle, or the negligence or default of any third party. All coupons, receipts, and tickets issued are subject to the terms and conditions specified by the air carriers, cruise line, and other independent suppliers. We will make every effort to operate our tours as planned, but we reserve the right to make itinerary changes as necessary. If unforeseen circumstances require us to change a hotel, we will select alternative accommodations of the same or better quality and may change due to factors such as government regulations, water levels, or weather conditions. The services of any ARA and AIC carrier may be used in connection with these tours. The participant understands that if he/she books special low cost airfares with penalties, and cancels the reservation, he/she is responsible for any penalties incurred from the airline.



Rice Alumni Traveling Owls
Office of Alumni Relations-MS520
P.O. Box 1892
Houston, TX 77251-1892



PANAMA CANAL

WHY PANAMA? Connecting continents and oceans, Panama is shaped by exchange: as birds and other animals traverse the isthmus on migratory routes, so does international trade along its famous canal. Panama's strategic geography offers a wealth of history, culture, and biodiversity to discover.

Journey to the “Crossroads of the World” to discover Panama's fascinating history, culture, and natural beauty.

Explore the Pacific and Caribbean sides of the country as you learn about the history and construction of the Panama Canal, and embark on a partial transit. Delve deeper into the country's cultural identity, spending time with an indigenous community and reflecting on the effects of Spanish colonization in the capital's historical districts. Across cities, villages, waterways, and rainforests, examine how the region's geography has played a vital role in shaping the Americas. Join us in Panama for an unforgettable experience with the Traveling Owls!

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS:

- Uncover Panama's role as an international trade center and cultural melting pot in the historical district of Casco Viejo.
- Make a partial canal transit, cruising under the Bridge of the Americas and Centenario Bridge and viewing the elaborate lock system in action.
- Learn about the geological origins, natural history, and ecological effects of the Panamanian isthmus at the Frank Gehry-designed BioMuseo.
- Meet members of the indigenous Emberá tribe and learn about their history, traditions, and culture.
- Observe tropical flora and fauna during a hike and aerial tram ride through Soberanía National Park.



GEOFFROY'S TAMARIN



CHAGRES RIVER



MIRAFLORES LOCKS

ACTIVITY LEVEL: EASY TO MODERATE

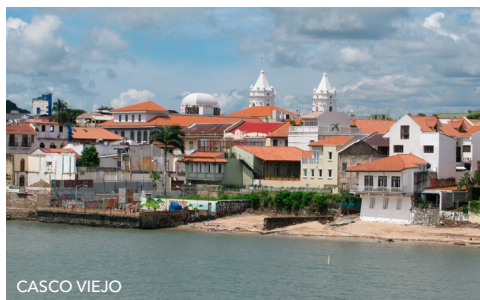
Participants should be able to walk at least 2-3 hours over some uneven and potential slippery surfaces without difficulty and should be able to ascend or descend 50 stairs consecutively. Physical activities typically last for at least 2-3 hours at a time.

NOVEMBER 10 - PANAMA CITY

Upon arrival at Tocumen International Airport in Panama City, meet your driver and transfer approximately 45 minutes to the hotel, which is situated along the Amador Causeway. Check-in begins at 3 pm. This is an international arrival day with most flights arriving in the evening; therefore, no activities are planned today. *Overnight at Radisson Panama Canal or similar.*

NOVEMBER 11 - PANAMA CITY

This morning meet for a welcome breakfast and orientation before heading out to explore Panama Viejo (Old Panama). Founded in 1519 by the Spanish, Panama Viejo was the first European settlement established on the Pacific coast of the Americas, and a key port for Spain's conquest of Peru. Together with the historical district of Panama, it forms a UNESCO World Cultural Heritage Site. Today the city is an archaeological site due to its abandonment in 1671, when the English privateer Henry Morgan sacked the settlement. Next, head to the Miraflores Locks Visitor Center at the Panama Canal to view the locks at work and enjoy the museum's interactive displays. Have lunch while watching ships passing through the canal. Return to the hotel in the afternoon. Before heading out for dinner at a local restaurant on the Amador Causeway, listen to a lecture given by a local expert, "The Panama Canal: Past, Present, and Future." *Overnight at Radisson Panama Canal or similar. (BLD)*



NOVEMBER 12 - PANAMA CITY

Today after breakfast, visit to the historical district of Casco Viejo, or Casco Antiguo, built in 1671 after the destruction of Panama Viejo. Casco Viejo's parks and narrow streets are lined with colorful buildings representative of Spanish, French, and early American architecture. This eclectic collection of styles reflects the city's role as an international trade center and cultural melting pot long before the building of the canal. Explore the Metropolitan Cathedral, Municipal Palace, National Theater, French Embassy, and France Plaza, with views of Panama's modern

skyline and the Bay of Panama. Have lunch at a local restaurant, then visit the Biomuseo, Panama City's Biodiversity Museum. The modern and colorful building was designed by world-renowned architect Frank Gehry. Inside, eight permanent exhibits depict the geologic and natural history of the Isthmus of Panama, a strip of land that united two continents, changed the world's biodiversity, and would one day connect the Atlantic and Pacific oceans. *Overnight at Radisson Panama Canal or similar. (BLD)*



NOVEMBER 13 - COLÓN

After an early breakfast, transfer to Flamenco Marina and board a boat to make a partial canal transit, beginning in the Pacific Ocean and heading north through two of the Canal's three lock systems. One of the first observations you'll pass is the Bridge of the Americas, which was built by the United States in 1962 to connect the land that was divided during the Panama Canal construction. The bridge is also part of the Pan-American Highway, a 30,000 mile network of roads that stretches from Alaska to Argentina. As you continue your cruise, arrive at the first set of locks, the Miraflores Locks. Miraflores are the tallest of the canal's locks system, a necessity due to the extreme tidal variation of the Pacific Ocean. Vessels are raised 54 feet across two lock chambers. During lunch, reach Pedro Miguel Locks, where the boat is raised 30 feet. Continue cruising through Gatún Lake (85 feet above sea level) before approaching the Gaillard Cut, the narrowest section of the Panama Canal, where the majestic Centenario Bridge comes into view. The journey culminates at the confluence of Gatún Lake and the Chagres River. The Chagres River is the main source of water used in the canal's operation. Continue to the town of Gamboa for disembarkation, then journey to Colón and have the remainder of the day at leisure. *Overnight at Meliá Panama Canal. (BLD)*

NOVEMBER 14 - COLÓN

After breakfast, visit Fort San Lorenzo, which was constructed in the 1500s to fortify Spain's Atlantic port—and protect the transfer of Peru's riches from attack by pirates. But like

the original Panama City settlement, it was sacked by Henry Morgan, and today exists as ruins. In addition to Fort San Lorenzo, the San Lorenzo National Park contains Fort Sherman, a United States army base erected in 1911. The park covers approximately 24,000 acres on Panama’s Atlantic coast, along the western banks of the Panama Canal. On the way back to the hotel, stop at the Agua Clara Locks Visitor Center to view the new set of locks on the Caribbean side of the Canal, completed in 2016. Gain insights into the updated lock design and the work that made the canal expansion a reality. After lunch at the hotel, venture on a boat tour of Lake Gatún. *Overnight at Meliá Panama Canal. (BLD)*



NOVEMBER 15 - GAMBOA

After breakfast, transfer toward Lake Alajuela, with discussions en route about indigenous cultures and their history in Panama. Upon arrival at the Chagres River, board dugout canoes for the journey through the dense jungle. Upriver, step out of the dugout canoes and experience a short hike (which could be a bit muddy) to a beautiful waterfall in the midst of the rainforest. Those who want to cool off can take a swim in the refreshing pool just beneath the waterfall. Continue to the village of the Emberá, one of six indigenous tribes in Panama, for a visit with community members and opportunities to learn about their daily life. The village chief will provide a brief explanation on the history of the tribe, its traditions, cultures, beliefs, and handicrafts. After a typical lunch of fish and plantains prepared by the Emberá women, experience a traditional dance and have the opportunity to shop for handicrafts. The sale of local products directly benefits the village and helps fund schooling for the children. There is also the opportunity to get “inked” with a temporary Emberá tattoo painting. Later this afternoon, return by boat to the dock and transfer by bus to Gamboa Rainforest Resort. Settle in and have dinner at the hotel. *Overnight at Gamboa Rainforest Resort. (BLD)*



NOVEMBER 16 - GAMBOA

After breakfast, visit Soberanía National Park. Established in 1980, it stands as one of Panama’s natural jewels and is one of the country’s most accessible tropical rainforests. Next, visit Summit Botanical Gardens, which hosts a research center for development of tropical biology and horticulture. The botanical garden showcases a representation of plant species from tropical and subtropical countries around the world and from the native species of Panama. Afterwards, return to the resort for lunch. This afternoon venture almost 2,000 feet above the rainforest floor on Gamboa’s Aerial Tram for a gondola ride through the forest canopy. The tram ends at an observation tower 100 feet high with expansive 360-degree views of Soberanía National Park and Gatún Lake. In the evening, return to the hotel and have a farewell dinner. *Overnight at Gamboa Rainforest Resort. (BLD)*

NOVEMBER 17 - DEPART

Early morning transfer to the international airport for the flight to the United States. (B)

PRICING: \$3,645 per person

Based on 10 participants. Single supplement is \$480.

Price includes:

- 7 nights’ accommodations
- 19 meals – 7 breakfasts, 6 lunches, 6 dinners
- Non-alcoholic beverages with meals
- Sightseeing and activities as described, including entrance fees
- Full-time guide for duration of the program
- Private vehicle transportation
- Luggage handling, one bag per person
- All tips and gratuities
- Departure tax

Price does not include: international airfare, trip cancellation insurance, gratuities for hotel housekeeping staff, drinks purchased on own, items of a personal nature.

Holbrook Travel can assist with making your flight arrangements upon request. Trip cancellation insurance is strongly recommended (offered through the Association of Rice Alumni).