Pure Panamá & Costa Rica Cruise
12 NIGHTS | PANAMÁ CITY, PANAMÁ TO SAN JOSÉ, COSTA RICA (or reverse) | APR 8, 20*, 2020

INCLUDED HIGHLIGHTS
- Panamá Canal night transit
- Visit UNESCO World Heritage Sites: Darién Jungle, Coiba National Park, and Fort San Lorenzo
- Indigenous cultures: meet Guna people and visit an Emberá village
- Darién Jungle’s Mogue River by motorized canoe
- Marine life search in the Gulf of Panamá
- Tropical rainforest hikes—watch for howler monkeys, scarlet macaws, white-faced capuchins, and sloths
- Stroll a private butterfly- and flower-rich tropical preserve
- Snorkel, kayak, and paddle board among Las Perlas and Guna Yala islands, and Granito de Oro

DAY 1 Panamá City, Panamá – Embarkation
You’ll be greeted at the airport upon your arrival and swooped off to the hospitality suite. After a stop at Agua Clara Locks, board the Safari Voyager in Cristobal with a warm welcome from your captain and crew. Toast to adventure over dinner as you sail along the Caribbean coast. (D)

DAY 2 Guna Yala
Home to one of the best preserved Native cultures in the Americas, the indigenous province of Guna Yala (formerly the San Blas Islands) encompasses over 360 islands of white sand beaches dotted with palm trees, thatched-roofs, and coconut groves. Discover the remarkable heritage of the indigenous Guna (or Kuna) people—don’t pass on a chance to buy their colorful handcrafted “mola” during your visit. In the Guna culture, an ornate mola with a detailed design is an item displayed with pride. (BLD)

DAY 3 Guna Yala
Another beautiful day of island living. Slow the pace lazily lounging on the beach or taking an easy stroll in the sand at the edge of the postcard-perfect sea. Get into snorkeling gear for one of the best ways to see what lives beneath these crystalline Caribbean waters. You might see schools of Technicolor reef fish, soft and hard corals, sea turtles, and rays skating along the sandy bottom. Or, relish one last paddle board or kayak in the saltwater setting. Tonight, toast to these beautiful islands over a tropical cocktail with your shipmates. (BLD)

DAY 4 Fort San Lorenzo / Panamá Canal
Next up, a little history and a continued “walk on the wild side” among the battlements and canons of Fort San Lorenzo. This UNESCO World Heritage Site was built in the 1500s by the Spanish crown as a military stronghold and sacked multiple times by swashbuckling pirates. Take in the whole of it, as you prepare for one of the most memorable travel experiences—transiting between two seas along the 48-mile marvel, the Panamá Canal. The lock authority gives the final go ahead for your evening transit. Join your shipmates on deck for a toast as the canal lights up and the temperature subsides. A story of engineering and human tenacity, it took over 75,000 workers to build it, and takes you about eight hours to transit. (BLD)

DAY 5 Darién Jungle
The Darién Jungle is about as timeless today as it was 500 years ago. Traveling the Mogue River by motorized canoe, your expedition guide helps you spot wildlife—colorful roseate spoonbills, ibises, osprey, and raccoons fishing from the water’s edge. Delving deeper into this mysterious, almost mythical place, you get to meet the locals. Emberá villagers offer a traditional welcome and share customs, stories, songs, and dance. The tip of the day, buy handicrafts from the villagers. Their highly prized and intricately woven rainforest baskets are keepers. (BLD)
DAY 6 Pearl Islands Archipelago
Discovered by Spanish conquistadors and named for the flood of pearls found, the 90 islands and nearly 130 islets of the Pearl Islands are now almost entirely uninhabited by humans and instead boast a plethora of tropical flora and fauna. Gear is simple today—have your binoculars handy for superb bird watching on a skiff tour of Bartolome Island’s bird sanctuary. Magnificent Frigatebirds, Brown Pelicans, and Yellow Warblers are likely to pop into your field of vision. For more exploration, select your modus operandi—kayak, paddle board, skiff, or snorkel—and set out in a nature lovers’ dreamscape. (BLD)

DAY 7 Gulf of Panamá / Marine Life Search
Cruise through the diverse isles and atolls in the Gulf of Panamá hosting hundreds of avian and marine mammal species. Mid-summer through early-fall, the archipelago is frequented by dolphins and humpbacks—so keep your eyes peeled for acrobatic spinning and telltale blow spouts. Local guides give presentations and your captain determines the best locations and activities based on what nature delivers. And be on the lookout for a silvery gill streaking across the water—it could be mobula rays taking flight. This evening, as you sail farther from civilization, you can almost chart your course by the stars. (BLD)

DAY 8 Granito de Oro, Colba National Park
Sail through the islands of Colba National Park, making a stop at Granito de Oro islet. Offering a little bit of everything despite its small size, volcanic outcroppings at either end of this tiny landmass and a dense, mini-jungle in the center connect with a dreamy white sand beach. Named one of the world’s top 10 diving sites, your day of play features snorkeling among abundant marine life, kayaking around rocky outcroppings, and lounging on the warm sand for a casual beach party with the local hermit crabs. Hop to the park’s main island for a stretch of the legs on a trail through this tropical jungle. Mantled howler monkeys, crested eagles, scarlet macaws, and two turtle species call Isla Colba home. (BLD)

DAY 9 Captain’s Choice
Wake up in paradise. Start with fresh-brewed coffee and a little limbering up with guided stretches on deck. As always, the hardest part is picking the “what.” Your guides know the trails and help you spot monkeys, hummingbirds, and towering balsa trees. Slip into the drink for a kayak or snorkel. Or, just kick back in a hammock under swaying palms. Then it’s cruising time. Settle into a comfy lounge chair and take in the views. (BLD)

DAY 10 Golfo Dulce
A birder’s haven, explore a botanical reserve exploding with vibrant color. From bromeliads, ginger plants, and heliconias, to toucans, hummingbirds, mischievous monkeys, and fluttering butterflies—there’s a kaleidoscope of sights, sounds, and tastes in every tree and bush you pass on your walking tour. In Golfo Dulce, the “sweet gulf” which separates Osa Peninsula from the mainland and one of only four tropical fjords on the planet, explore the rare flora and fauna of mangroves by kayak and skiff. Bottlenose, spotted, and spinner dolphins also swim in the waters of this tucked away wilderness. (BLD)

DAY 11 Osa Conservation Area
Adventure lies around every bend in the isolated, wild Osa Conservation Area, home to the country’s largest national park, Corcovado. Drake Bay, named after its discoverer Sir Francis Drake and falsely housed the explorer’s hidden treasures, is also known for hundreds of distinct species of plants and trees and its diverse plant and animal species. A whopping 2.5% of the entire planet’s biodiversity is found here—including all four of Costa Rica’s monkeys, tree frogs, caimans, anteaters, scarlet macaws, coatis, and 16 different species of hummingbird. Explore this vast area putting feet to trail on an invigorating hike through the jungle. At the end of the day, enjoy the sunset and retell stories of the day with your travel-mates. (BLD)

DAY 12 Curú National Wildlife Refuge
It’s your last day, and it’s a big one. At the southeastern tip of Nicoya Peninsula—in the tangled mangroves of Curú—the cycle of life is everywhere. Local “residents” include everything from exotic birds and deer to leafcutter ants, snake-eating frogs, and hungry crocodiles. Step carefully as you cross the swinging bridge; you don’t want to land on the menu! Land crabs shift in and out of their burrows with such force it’s enough to make the earth move. Trails offer prime howler and spider monkey viewing, and a chance to glimpse the immense blue morpho butterfly. An afternoon beach party offers up your final chance to swim and stroll along shore. Cap off your week with a celebratory Farewell Dinner, and then join your expedition team for a slideshow highlighting your adventures. (BLD)

DAY 13 San José, Costa Rica - Disembarkation
Enjoy an early breakfast aboard and say adios to your crew. Upon arrival at the port, you’ll be transferred to San José to connect with your flight home or begin your UnCruise hotel stay or land tour. (B)

B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner

Itineraries are guidelines; variations in itinerary and the order of days may occur to maximize your experience.
Passport required on this itinerary.

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