Day 1 - Sat, June 25

Atlanta to Panama City, Panama

American Airlines

AA516 ATL 8:35a - MIA 10:35a (Layover in Miami, FL (MIA) for 1h 15m)

AA2189 MIA 11:50a - PTY 1:45p

Caravan provides transfers from Panama's Tocumen Airport to the <u>Panama City Courtyard by Marriott</u> (Ph: 011-507-301-0101) for a two night stay. Taxis are ~\$30, if we'd rather. Rooms are available for check in after 4:00 p.m. Join Caravan for an 8:00 p.m. welcome briefing. Dinner is at the hotel. **D**

Day 2 – Sun, June 26 Panama Viejo, Miraflores Locks

Morning visit to the ruins of Panama Viejo (Old Panama), the city founded by the Spanish in 1519, as a gateway for gold from the Inca Empire. Next, drive into Casco Viejo for a photo stop at San Jose Church. See the famous Gold Altar, saved from the pirate, Henry Morgan. Both Panama Viejo and Casco Viejo are UNESCO World Heritage sites. Lunch overlooking the Panama Canal Locks. Visit Miraflores Locks and the Canal Museum. Learn about the Canal construction and operation. From Pre-Columbian times to the present day, Panama had a prominent role as the major transit route between the Pacific and Atlantic oceans. Drive along Panama City's bay front. See the statue of Vasco Balboa, the first European explorer to cross the Isthmus and view the Pacific Ocean. Enjoy dinner. **BLD**

Day 3 – Mon, June 27 P

Panama Canal Cruise - Gatun Lake

This morning cross the Isthmus to Colon, the Caribbean port at the north end of the Panama Canal. The short drive of Colon goes by the Free Trade Zone, the largest in the Americas and the Panama Canal Railway Station. Visit Gatun Locks. Gatun is the Atlantic entrance to the Panama Canal. At the visitor center you will learn about the three adjoining locks which raise ships 87 feet above the Caribbean Sea on to the Panama Canal. Lunch. This afternoon enjoy a boat ride on Gatun Lake, the artificial lake which forms part of the Panama Canal. See the lush jungle watershed region of the Panama Canal. Cruise through jungle canals and by hilltop islands, home to a variety of wildlife. See Monkey Island. Enjoy a relaxing two night stay at Paraiso Radisson Rainforest Summit Hotel & Golf Course (Ph: 011-507-232-3700) located in the rainforest. Enjoy dinner as a group. **BLD**

<u>Day 4 – Tue, June 28</u>

Panama Canal Cruise - Locks Transit

Today an unforgettable adventure as you cruise another portion of the Panama Canal. Cruise by the Bridge of the Americas, pass through Miraflores and Pedro Miguel Locks, cross the Continental Divide. Then wind through the Gaillard Cut to the town of Gamboa. The small passenger vessel allows for close-up views of the opening and closing of the huge six foot thick steel gates of both the Miraflores and Pedro Miguel Locks. See, at eye-level, how transiting vessels are guided by tugboats and pulled by small trains. (Please note: route may be reversed.) Return to rainforest resort. This afternoon enjoy a short hike in the rainforest. **BLD**

Day 5 - Wed, June 29

Embera Indians, Playa Blanca

This morning, cruise on the Chagres River to visit an Embera Indian village. The Embera inhabit the rainforests of Panama. Look for exotic Embera handicrafts, such as tightly woven palm fiber baskets and carvings made form tagua nuts and the cocobolo tree. Next, cross over the Panama Canal on the Centenario Bridge en route to Playa Blanca. Lunch. Then, a relaxing two night stay on the Pacific Coast at Playa Blanca Playa Blanca Resort (Ph: 011-507-993-2910). Enjoy dinner as a group. **BLD**

Day 6 - Thurs, June 30

Playa Blanca, El Valle

Morning visit to picturesque El Valle, a town situated in the crater of an immense dormant volcano. Scenic drive of the village's charming homes. Next, visit a tropical zoo, home to a variety of exotic birds and wildlife. including Panama's golden frog. Then stop at the local artisan marketplace. Return to the beach resort for lunch. Afternoon at leisure, enjoy the resort's sandy beach and swimming pools. Enjoy dinner as a group. **BLD**

Day 7 - Fri, July 1

Handicrafts, Panama City

This morning return to Panama City via the Bridge of the Americas. Drive the spectacular Amador Causeway which connects Perico, Naos and Flamenco Islands. Enjoy views of Casco Viejo and the stunningly modern Panama City skyline. Panama City is a combination of Manhattan, Miami, and Las Vegas blended with Latin American flavor and style. Lunch on the Causeway. This afternoon visit a Kuna Indian marketplace. Shop for colorful Kuna mola embroidery depicting rainforest animals and marine life. Return to the Panama City Courtyard by Marriott (Ph: 011-507-301-0101) for the final night of the tour. Enjoy a farewell dinner. **BLD**

Day 8 - Sat, July 2

Panama City, Panama to Bocas del Toro, Panama

The Caravan tour ends after breakfast this morning at the hotel. Breakfast begins at 7:00 a.m. B

Aeroperlas #154 PAC 6:05a - BOC 7:05a

Day 9 & 10 - Sun, July 3 & Mon, July 4

Bocas del Toro, Panama

Day 11 - Tue, July 5

Bocas del Toro, Panama to Atlanta

AirPanama #681 PAC 8:00a - BOC 9:00a

American Airlines

AA994 PTY 12:55p - MIA 4:55p (Layover in Miami, FL (MIA) for 2h 45m)

AA2574 MIA 7:40p - ATL 9:35p