



PANAMA

"Land of Alluring Contrasts"

March 7 – 13, 2010



Soon you and your guest will depart for Panama! On behalf of Florida Airconditioning Distributors, we look forward to assisting you with your travel preparations and hope the enclosed information will give you a brief glimpse into all the fun that awaits you.



Panama is a proud nation that offers astounding wildlife adventures, respects its seven indigenous peoples, and celebrates its Spanish heritage with frequent and colorful festivals. (It was the crossroads of the Spanish empire and the prime target of history's most famous pirates.) Even though Panama is a relatively small country, comprising about 40,000 square miles, it offers some of the finest snorkeling, birding and deep-sea fishing in the world, with almost a third of the country dedicated to protected areas, such as expansive national parks and biological reserves.



Controversial...Revolutionary...Amazing...The Panama Canal has been called "The Eighth Engineering Wonder of the World". It took 250,000 people from all corners of the globe more than 10 years to build. The Canal stretches for over 40 miles and links the Pacific to the Atlantic Ocean. Opening in 1914, an average transit takes eight hours to complete.



Panama City, the country's capital, is also its largest city (pop. 700,000). Casco Viejo, the old section, is designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The most impressive colonial structure still standing is the cathedral, with its unusual mother-of-pearl tower. Nearby, the Church of San Jose has a spectacular golden altar that was one of the few valuable items to escape the clutches of pirate Henry Morgan when he sacked the city. According to legend, the altar was saved by a priest who painted it black.

Panamanian native handicrafts rival Mexico's in their beauty and creativity. Panama's most famous handicraft is a "molas", intricate reverse appliqué embroidery made by the women of the Kuna Indian tribe. Other items include the hand-woven baskets of the Embera Indians (similar to baskets woven by Navajo Indians), and tagua nut sculptures - tiny figures skillfully carved from a tagua nut.

No need to worry about exchanging money. Panama is the only Latin American country to have the US dollar as its currency! Even the voltage is the same as the United States - 110V.

GAMBOA RAINFOREST RESORT & SPA
March 7 – 10, 2010



Our visit begins right in the middle of the Panamanian Rainforest at the magical Gamboa Rainforest Resort and Spa. The modern, elegant, and sophisticated resort sits along the banks of the Panama Canal and the Chagres River, surrounded by Mother Nature in all her glory. The hotel boasts an elegant 3-story lobby, a fabulous outdoor pool area, fitness center, tennis courts, game room, jogging and cycling trails and a marina with fishing boats, kayaks and pedal boats. Discover the secrets of the upper rainforest canopy with a ride on the resort's aerial tram. Onsite dining options include Corotu Restaurant, Chagres RiverView, Los Lagartos, Iguana Cafe, and Las Cascadas Pool Bar. There is also the Monkey Lobby Bar for live music and cocktails, and the Capibara Discoteque.

Deluxe river view guest rooms feature mini-bars, in-room safes, satellite TVs, crystal showers, hairdryers, make-up mirrors, irons, ironing boards, coffeemakers and monogrammed bathrobes. Relax in your comfortable room or enjoy the panoramic views from the hammock on your balcony. The choice is yours!

INTERCONTINENTAL PLAYS BONITA RESORT & SPA
March 10 – 13, 2010



We'll leave the rainforest and head for the beach. Golden sands fringed by an emerald ocean, beautiful sunrises, and the most stunning views of the Pacific Ocean, provide the perfect setting for The InterContinental Playa Bonita Resort. Options for fun include the enchanting pools, a large private beach, a vast array of watersports and boat trips for fishing and whale watching. All rooms have a view of the azure waters of the Pacific Ocean, perfect for enjoying cocktails at sunset.