

Trip to Panama Columbus Academy

Dates: Tuesday March 13-Thursday, March 22, 2012

Chaperones: John Kerr, Joel Davis, Freda Graan

Overview: We will travel to Panama in order to see the Panama Canal and surrounding tropical rainforest and wildlife, to visit with the indigenous tribe of the Embera Indians, and to study and snorkel the coral reefs of the marine sanctuary along the Caribbean coast of Panama. The trip is a great chance to see the natural history of Panama, use your Spanish language skills, and be with friends.

Cost: \$2900.00

Tuesday, March 13, 2012

Day 1: Fly from Columbus to Panama City, Panama. Transfer to the "Schoolhouse" in Gamboa. (The Schoolhouse is run by the Smithsonian Institute and is a dormitory for school groups visiting the Panama Canal and the surrounding jungle).

Wednesday, March 14, 2012

Day 2

Briefing and introductions. Exploration of the rainforest around Gamboa, including a walk along pipeline road where participants can expect see plentiful wildlife, including multiple species of monkeys. Night at the schoolhouse.

Thursday, March 15, 2012

Day 3

Panama Canal Rainforest Boat Adventure. View wildlife along the river and learn about watershed conservation. Night at the Schoolhouse.

Friday, March 16, 2012

Day 4

Travel up the Chagres River to Emberá Village. Embera Villiage is the residence of the Embera Indians, an indigenous culture in Panama. Day of explorations in and around village. Overnight in village.

Saturday, March 17, 2012

Day 5

Return to Panama City. Early afternoon flight to Bocas del Toro, a city on Colon Island, part of a chain of islands on the Caribbean coast of Panama. Afternoon briefing and time to relax. Night at Bocas Inn. The Bocas Inn is a charming lodge located on the water's edge of Colon Island, in the town of Bocas del Toro.

Sunday, March 18, 2012

Day 6

Explore Colon Island rainforest and Boca del Drago Beach. Swim off the beach. Learn about sea turtles and how ANCON is helping to protect them. Night at Bocas Inn.

Monday, March 19, 2012

Day 7

Tour of Bastimentos Marine National Park, one of Panama's great protected natural areas and snorkeling on the coral reef. Night at Bocas Inn.

Tuesday, March 20, 2012

Day 8

Community or fieldwork morning, an opportunity to plant trees or do other important work that contributes to conservation. Night at Bocas Inn

Wednesday, March 21, 2012

Day 9

Morning flight to Panama City. Panama Canal tour. See Miraflores locks. Farewell dinner at Los Toneles. Night at Country Inn Dorado, Panama City.

Thursday, March 22, 2012

Day 10

Depart for Columbus from Panama City.