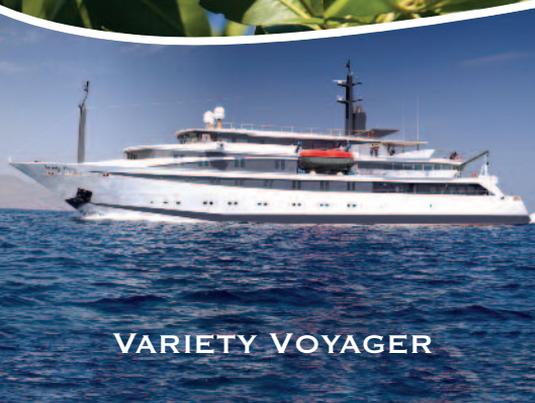


CRUISE

Costa Rica and the Panama Canal



VARIETY VOYAGER



SPONSORED BY



The Association
OF FORMER STUDENTS[®]
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY[®]

Traveling Aggies

JAN. 10-18, 2015

800-633-7514

AggieNetwork.com/Travel



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- **Explore Costa Rica and Panama** aboard the Variety Voyager, a first-class mega yacht that offers a casual yet elegant atmosphere, welcoming staterooms, exceptional cuisine and superlative hospitality.
- Discover the diversity of plant and animal life in some of Costa Rica's best **nature parks and reserves** on optional shore excursions (available at an additional cost).
- Enjoy the tropical beauty of the **Panamanian and Costa Rican coastlines**.
- See the UNESCO World Heritage site of **Isla de Coiba** in Panama, declared by scientists an unparalleled habitat for identifying new species.
- Get an up-close look at the **Panama Canal**, the early 20th-century engineering marvel.
- Enjoy a **small-ship experience** that offers easy access to remote inlets, quiet harbors, magnificent islands and coastal waters.

Behold the incomparable natural beauty of Costa Rica and Panama on an exhilarating seven-night cruise that takes you from Colón on Panama's central Atlantic Coast through the Panama Canal to Costa Rica's northwest Pacific coast. Travel from coast to coast on Variety Voyager, a 223-foot mega motor yacht. The Variety Cruises experience promises ample leisure time in ports, allowing you to linger on shore and admire the incomparable natural beauty of the rain forest. Drop anchor in secluded bays to take a dip in the ultramarine waters, and enjoy exquisitely prepared meals onboard the ship. Begin your cruise with visits to Panama's beautiful San Blas Islands. After crossing through the 51 miles of locks that compose the Panama Canal, discover the natural beauty of Costa Rica. As you travel along the Costa Rican coast, visit Coiba Island, Golfito, Puerto Jiménez and Quepos. As you admire the lush scenery and the abundant wildlife, you will understand how this country earned its name, the Rich Coast.



Above:
*Rain forest,
Panama*

Left:
*Red-eyed tree
frog, Costa Rica*

Above right:
Tortuga Island

UNESCO

Coiba National Park and its Special Zone of Marine Protection is a UNESCO World Heritage site featured on this program.



Howdy, Ags!

Come join us on a once-in-a-lifetime journey to Costa Rica and Panama. This seven-night cruise on mega yacht Variety Voyager will take us to the beautiful San Blas islands and along the colorful Costa Rican coast.

We'll visit Panama's spectacular San Blas islands, a haven for swimmers, divers and sailors. Then we'll explore Costa Rica's famous Nicoya Peninsula, which is home to 2.5% of the world's plant and wildlife diversity — a staggering figure considering the peninsula covers only 700 square miles. Delight in sightings of the many residents of the tropical rain forest, such as vividly colored scarlet macaws and impish spider monkeys. Tailor your cruise with optional shore excursions designed to suit a variety of interests.

A special highlight of this cruise is crossing from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean through the Panama Canal. Enter the canal in the late afternoon, which allows you to observe the workings of the canal in the relative cool of the evening. Even more than a century after the canal was built, it is still a showcase of engineering expertise.

From the natural wonders of the rain forest to one of the world's top man-made marvels, this program has so much to offer, and it is sure to be popular. Book now to reserve your spot!

Gig 'em!

Jennifer Bohac

Jennifer Bohac '87, Ph.D.
Director, Travel Programs
The Association of Former Students

AggieNetwork.com/Travel

Above: Rain forest,
Costa Rica

Cover (clockwise): Scarlet
macaw; Panama Canal

*We went, we saw, we fell
in love. It was the
experience of a lifetime.*

**Richard '62 &
Marvel Love**

*We've always known Ags
are the best. Traveling Ags
know how to travel in
style. We all felt as though
we were pampered the
entire trip.*

**David '80 &
Dawn Henderson**

*Travel the world and
spread the Spirit of Texas
A&M. Join the fun and
travel with The Associa-
tion of Former Students'
Travel Program.*

**Roger '52 &
Helen Jenswold**

*After many trips, we have
loved every one of them
and have never been dis-
appointed.*

**Robert '62 &
Pat Harris**



INCLUDED FEATURES

- One night in **Panama City** at the InterContinental Miramar Panama Hotel.
- **Seven-night voyage** aboard the first-class **Variety Voyager**. Cruise the Pacific and Caribbean coastlines, and transit the Panama Canal. Embark the ship in Colón. Your ports of call are Carti Island, Gran Perro Island, Portobello, Panama City, Isla de Coiba and Granito de Oro Island, Panama; and Puerto Jiménez, Golfito and Quepos, Costa Rica. Disembark in Los Suenos.
- Exclusive **shipboard credit of \$150** per double cabin can be applied to optional shore excursions.
- **Embarkation transfer** from hotel to ship.
- Savor international cuisine, including local specialties, exquisitely prepared for the **extensive meal plan**: eight breakfasts, six lunches and seven dinners. Coffee, tea and water are available all day.
- Enhance your insight into the region through **informative educational programs** presented by local naturalists.
- Enjoy the use of **fins, masks and snorkels** during swim stops on your cruise.
- Visit the library for books and board games.
- Attend the Captain's **Welcome and Farewell Receptions**.

MANY INCLUDED EXTRAS

- Services of an experienced **Travel Director** throughout your trip.
- Consultation services of a dedicated **Passenger Service Representative** prior to departure.
- Detailed travel and destination information to assist in your planning.
- Complimentary travel wallet.

SAN BLAS ISLANDS | PANAMA

Carti and Gran Perro islands are part of the San Blas Archipelago, a chain of more than 365 tropical islands. Only 50 of these islands are inhabited. The residents are Kuna tribe, who live in thatched-roof bamboo homes. The Kuna oversee this area and run it as an autonomous republic. The Kuna pass on their customs through dance, music and crafts, such as their richly embroidered clothes. Learn about the local Kuna culture before taking advantage of opportunities to enjoy the beach and snorkel in the pristine waters.

PORTOBELLO | PANAMA

Portobello is the site of Spanish colonial defenses, which today are a UNESCO World Heritage site. The fortifications were built because control over Portobello's natural harbor was frequently challenged. The fort and other buildings in this collection of military architecture were rebuilt three times — the last time was in 1761 — after being destroyed in attacks. This afternoon, begin your journey through the Panama Canal. Spend the evening on deck watching the canal, a true mechanical marvel, in action.

PANAMA CITY | PANAMA

Panama City, the capital of Panama, is a thriving city with a mix of modern and traditional architecture. It is located on a 6-mile stretch from the Panama Canal to the



Explore on Shore

There's no better way to experience Costa Rica's pristine rain forests, unspoiled beaches and exceptional reefs than through optional shore excursions (offered at an additional cost). Hop aboard the ship's tender for a ride to shore. Most excursions have wet landings, which require you to get your feet wet as you walk onto the beach. Then join an expert naturalist for strolls, most of them easy walks, through Costa Rica's lush national parks, or admire the rain forest and its wildlife during a float down the Savegre River.

The ship's scheduled swim stops in secluded bays offer excellent opportunities for all to snorkel (gear is provided) and admire the colorful fish, turtles and more living in the coral reefs. Conducted in shallow water with naturalist guides, these snorkeling experiences are like nature walks in the water. Some swim stops also include beach barbecues, a fun way to enjoy your leisure time on shore.

ruins of 16th-century Panama Viejo, Old Panama. You may wish to join an optional excursion visit to the Miraflores Visitors Center, which is next to the Miraflores locks to learn more about the canal.

COIBA AND GRANITO DE ORO ISLANDS | PANAMA

A port call on Coiba Island, the largest island in Central America, gives you the opportunity to experience Coiba National Park. A Panamanian penal colony until 2004, this beautiful island is mostly covered with



Above left: Coral reef and sea life, Costa Rica
Above: Panama City; **Top:** Costa Rica

unspoiled virgin rain forest. Search for rare indigenous plants and a host of wildlife, including scarlet macaws, howler monkeys, crested eagles and turtles. Or you may decide to head for the white-sand beaches at the north end of the island. Coiba National Park encompasses the island as well as 38 smaller islands and the surrounding waters in the Gulf of Chiriquí. It is a UNESCO World Heritage site because the rain forest supports many animals and plants that are endemic to this area. Granito de Oro Island is one of the park's pristine islets. It boasts one of Panama's most scenic beaches and an excellent reef for snorkelers

PUERTO JIMÉNEZ | COSTA RICA

Discover the work of Osa Conservation, a nonprofit organization focused on protecting the immense biodiversity of the peninsula. It is estimated that 2.5% of the world's flora and fauna live in the virgin rain forest that covers nearly all of the peninsula's 700 square miles. This special corner of the world has more scarlet macaws than any other area in Central America and 462 other



VARIETY VOYAGER

Discover the world on Variety Cruises' intimate cruiser, the Variety Voyager. This 223-foot mega yacht delivers freedom and flexibility that large cruise ships simply can't match. This small ship can reach ports of call that are inaccessible to larger ships.

Accommodating only 72 guests, the Variety Voyager has an enviable passenger-to-crew ratio of less than 3:1. The professional crew creates a family-like atmosphere onboard. You'll find that Variety Cruises' informal and personal approach will be a valued part of your experience.

Travelers choose Variety Cruises for its "slow" programs, which allow ample time in each port to see the sights or discover the local culture and history. A varied selection of optional shore excursions (available at an additional cost) allow you to tailor your journey to your interests. Destination experts accompany travelers on each cruise, so travelers can enjoy briefings on the locales featured on each cruise.

As Variety Voyager cruises from port to port, it often pulls into secluded coves for a barbecue on shore or some beach time. The ship has fins, snorkels and masks available for guests' convenience.

Exquisitely prepared meals are served in a single seating in the glass-enclosed dining room, where breathtaking views accompany sumptuous international and local cuisine. The dining room extends into an open deck, where you can enjoy alfresco meals when the mood strikes.

Onboard life is carefree. Spend your days with a good book, a cool drink and a comfortable chair at the Horizons Lounge. Visit the Spa & Fitness Suite for a relaxing massage and a workout. In the evening, listen to the DJ in Horizons Lounge and mingle with your fellow travelers.

bird species. There also are 140 mammal species, including 25 kinds of dolphins and whales. Nearby, Casa Orquídeas is a showcase of 100 species of orchids, bromeliads and other tropical plants.

QUEPOS | COSTA RICA

Set on an inlet surrounded by tropical rain forest, this Costa Rican village was home to the Quepo Indians until the mid-1700s. Today, it is an ecotourism and sport-fishing mecca. Manuel Antonio National Park is the jewel in the crown of Costa Rica's large number of national parks. Its fragile rain forest ecosystem shelters an abundant wildlife, including many easy to spot monkeys and a great variety of tropical birds. There are more than 109 mammal species and 184 bird species here. Watch for monkeys, iguanas, agoutis, sloths and the

rare turquoise cotinga. Manuel Antonio offers well-maintained trails, where you can explore the jungle on your own or join an optional excursion with one of our naturalists. You may wish to see the small shopping area, relax on the white-sand beach or take a swim. Other optional excursions, such as a float down the Savegre River and a zipline tour of the rain forest are offered in Quepos.

***Notes:** Itinerary may change. Shore excursions are optional and offered at an additional cost. Some excursions can be strenuous or involve wet landings. Therefore a reasonable level of fitness is recommended.*

INTERCONTINENTAL MIRAMAR PANAMA HOTEL

The deluxe InterContinental Miramar Panama Hotel overlooks the Pacific Ocean, Panama Bay and Panama City's financial district. The hotel is near the city's historic attractions in the colonial Old Town. Enjoy Panamanian and international cuisine at the hotel's restaurant.



Left:
*Construction,
1913*

In oval:
*Building the
Panama Canal*

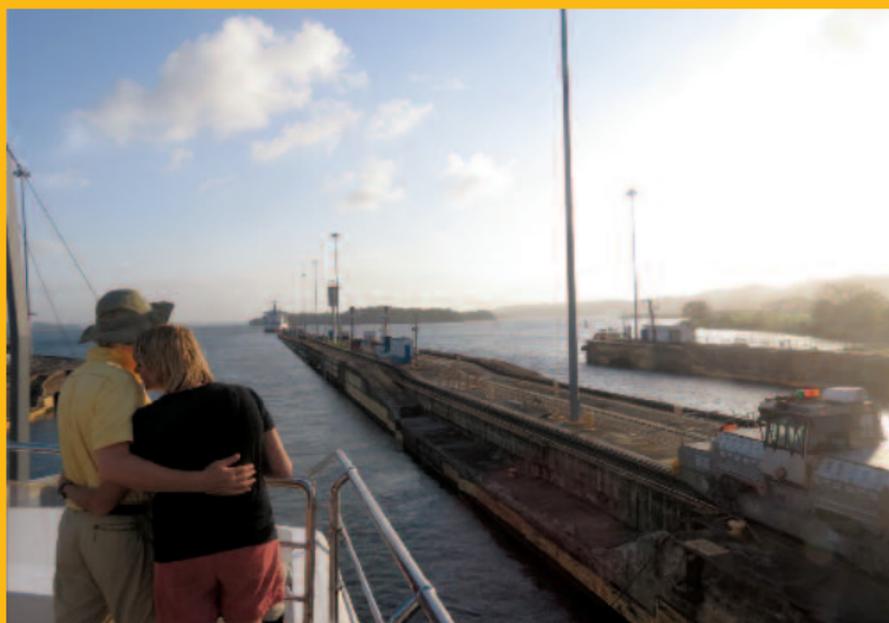


THE BRIDGE BETWEEN THE OCEANS

Soon after 16th-century European explorers discovered the New World, they began to pursue a shortcut from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean, a route that would allow them to avoid the dangerous waters of South America's Cape Horn. Many dreamed of building a canal on the narrow isthmus that separates North and South America.

In the 1880s, an estimated 16,000-20,000 workers died during an unsuccessful venture by a French developer to build a canal. The United States began the next attempt in 1904. Workers built a 50-mile canal with three massive locks while battling sweltering heat and tropical diseases. The U.S. introduced a sanitation campaign that eradicated yellow fever and reduced malaria and bubonic plague outbreaks in the area. The canal opened in 1914. The U.S. controlled it until 1999, when ownership was given to Panama.

To this day, it remains a remarkable engineering feat; at least 5% of the world's shipping traffic passes through the canal each year, including 70% of all cargo to and from the U.S. In 2015, Panama is to open a \$5.25 billion expansion that adds a third shipping lane and double the canal's capacity.



Reserve your Costa Rica & Panama Canal cruise, today!

Trip #:1-22115W

Send to: The Association of Former Students
Attn: Traveling Aggies
505 George Bush Drive
College Station, TX 77840-2918
Phone: **979-845-7514** Fax: **979-845-9263**
Toll Free: **800-633-7514**

Full Legal Name (exactly as it appears on passport)

Guest 1: _____
Title First Middle Last Date of Birth

Email: _____

Guest 2: _____
Title First Middle Last Date of Birth

Email: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ ZIP: _____

Home: (_____) _____ Cell: (_____) _____

Sharing room with _____ (Form sent separately.)

Name(s) you would like on your name badge(s):

(1) _____ (2) _____
Class Year Class Year

I/we authorize you to make my/our reservations as follows:

Cruise and AHI FlexAir

I/we reserve the Land Program and request AHI FlexAir to Panama City, Panama, with a return from San Jose, Costa Rica, to depart from:

_____ Departure City

Please contact me regarding air flight options.

Cruise Only Program

I/we will make my/our own air arrangements and transfers.

Cabin Category Desired: 1st choice _____ 2nd choice _____

I prefer single accommodations at an additional cost (limited availability).

I request assistance in securing a roommate but will accept a single, if one is available at this time, and pay the single supplement. Should a roommate be found, I understand the supplement will no longer apply.

Reservations are subject to availability and are processed on a first come, first served basis. Reservations are to be paid in full by Oct. 12, 2014 (90 days prior to departure). Reservations received after this date must be accompanied by payment in full. Final payment may be made by personal check, MasterCard, Visa or Discover. Make checks payable to AHI International. AHI Travel has assumed all costs for the printing and distribution of this promotion. This program is exclusively arranged by AHI Travel, 8550 W. Bryn Mawr Ave., Suite 600, Chicago, IL 60631. No funds donated to The Association of Former Students or to Texas A&M University have been used in the production or mailing of this travel brochure; all such costs are covered by the tour supplier.

Enclosed is a deposit of _____ (\$600 per person required) to reserve _____ place(s).

Accept my check made payable to **AHI International**.

Charge my: MasterCard Visa Discover Expires _____/_____/_____

Card # _____

(Signature as it appears on credit card)

Please note: Any payment to AHI International constitutes your acceptance of the terms and conditions set out herein, including but not limited to the cancellation terms.

CRUISE PROGRAM

Jan. 10-18, 2015

Category/Deck	Full Price	Special Savings	Special Price
S Owner's Suite, Upper Deck (Horizons) <i>290 sq. ft. Forward, double windows, finished with marble throughout the bathroom, luxurious fabrics, special amenities, a seating area, sofa bed and twin or double beds.</i>	\$6,640	\$250	\$6,390
P Upper Deck (Horizons) <i>248 sq. ft. Forward, double windows, finished with marble throughout the bathroom, luxurious fabrics, special amenities and twin or double beds.</i>	\$5,440	\$250	\$5,190
A Main Deck (Riviera) <i>165 sq. ft. Mid ship, double windows, bathroom with marble floors as well as glass and Corian showers, twin or double beds.</i>	\$4,440	\$250	\$4,190
B Main Deck (Riviera)/Lower Deck (Marina) <i>Riviera:145 sq. ft. Forward, double windows, bathroom with marble floors as well as glass and Corian showers, twin or double beds. Main: 167 sq. ft. Mid ship, oversized port holes, bathroom with marble floors as well as glass and Corian showers, twin or double beds.</i>	\$3,940	\$250	\$3,690
C Lower Deck (Marina) <i>130 sq. ft. Forward, oversized port holes, bathrooms with marble floors as well as glass and Corian showers, twin or double beds.</i>	\$3,440	\$250	\$3,190

*All cabins have, individually controlled A/C, TV with DVD player, mini fridge, safe-deposit box, deluxe toiletries and bathrobes. Wi-Fi is available at a charge. All prices quoted are in USD, per person, based on double occupancy and do not include AHI FlexAir. Single prices available upon request. Port charges are an additional \$450 per person. *Special Price valid if booked by the date found on the address panel.*

NOT INCLUDED-Fees for passports and, if applicable, visas, entry/departure fees; personal gratuities; laundry and dry cleaning; excursions, wines, liquors, mineral waters and meals not mentioned in this brochure under included features; travel insurance; all items of a strictly personal nature.

MOBILITY AND FITNESS TO TRAVEL-The right is retained to decline to accept or to retain any person as a member of this trip who, in the opinion of AHI Travel is unfit for travel or whose physical or mental condition may constitute a danger to themselves or to others on the trip, subject only to the requirement that the portion of the total amount paid which corresponds to the unused services and accommodations be refunded. Passengers requiring special assistance, including without limitation those who permanently or periodically use a wheelchair, must be accompanied by someone who is fit and able to assist them, and who will be totally responsible for providing all required assistance.

AIR TRANSPORTATION-The price of air transportation offered by AHI Travel is based on Advance Purchase Excursion fares. After tickets are issued, penalties up to 100% of the ticket price may be levied. If connecting flights are requested, special promotional fares may be used, in which case penalties of as much as 100% may be assessed by the airlines if reservations are changed or canceled after ticketing. After departure, if the reservations are changed, you will be charged the higher, all year Economy class fare. VARIATIONS TO THE GROUP ITINERARY MUST BE REQUESTED NO LATER THAN 60 DAYS PRIOR TO DEPARTURE. Passengers who choose to make their own airline reservations independently will be wholly responsible for any airline fees or penalties incurred as a result of program cancellation and/or change in travel dates, or airline schedule(s).

BAGGAGE-Baggage restrictions vary according to the airline policy and the class of service flown. Details will be provided with your pre-departure information. Baggage allowances are subject to change by the carrier without notice. Excess baggage charges for additional or oversized/overweight pieces are expensive and not included in your trip price; plan your wardrobe accordingly. Transport of baggage and personal effects is at the owner's risk throughout the travel program.

AUTHORITY TO USE IMAGES AND AUDIO RECORDINGS - On occasion, AHI Travel obtains, from its staff, or from trip participants, photographic or video images of passengers and trip activities. By participating in this travel program, you authorize AHI Travel, without providing compensation to you, or obtaining additional approvals from you, to include photographic and video recordings of you, as well as voice recordings included with any videos, in AHI Travel's sales, marketing, advertising, publicity and/or training activities.

RESPONSIBILITY-AHI Travel and the Sponsoring Association do not own or operate any entity which provides goods or services for this program, and act only as agents for the independent suppliers of travel conveyance, transport, accommodations or other services. All such persons or entities are independent contractors. As a result, AHI Travel and the Sponsoring Association are not liable for any negligence or willful act of any such person or entity or any third person. In addition and without limitation, AHI Travel and the Sponsoring Association are not responsible for any delays, delayed departure or arrival, misse carrier connections, loss, death, damage or injury to person or property or accident, mechanical defect, failure or negligence of any nature howsoever caused in connection with any accommodations, transportation or other services or for any substitution of hotels or of common carrier equipment, with or without notice, or for any additional expenses occasioned thereby. Dates, Program Details and Tour costs, although given in good faith and based on tariffs, exchange rates and other information current at the time of printing, are subject to change at or before the time of departure. No revisions of the printed itinerary or its included features are anticipated; however, the right is reserved to make any changes, with or without notice, that might become necessary, with the mutual understanding that any additional expenses will be paid by the individual passenger. Baggage and personal effects are the sole responsibility of the owners at all times. If the entire program is canceled for any reason, participants shall have no claim other than for a full refund. By forwarding the deposit, the passenger certifies that he/she has no physical, mental or other condition of disability that would create a hazard for himself/herself or other passengers and accepts the terms of this contract set out herein and in more specific pre-departure passenger information. The airlines and other transportation companies concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission, or event, during the time passengers are not on board their conveyances. The passage contract in use, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the company(ies) and the passenger and/or purchaser of this trip.

CANCELLATION-In addition to airline cancellation penalties, all cancellations for any reason whatsoever will be subject to a \$250 per person administrative fee. [Please note that you may choose, at the time of cancellation, to apply the withheld administrative fee to a future AHI Travel Program that will operate in the current calendar year or year following.] Cancellation from 120 days to 60 days prior to departure, will result in forfeiture of 25% of the trip cost per person; 59 - 30 days prior to departure, 50% of the entire cost of the trip per person; 29 days up to the time of departure will result in 100% forfeiture of the entire cost of the trip per person. TRIP CANCELLATION INSURANCE IS AVAILABLE. AN APPLICATION WILL BE SENT AFTER YOU RESERVE. All cancellations must be submitted in writing to AHI International Corporation.

AHI FLEXAIR

Jan. 10-18, 2015

Our personalized air program allows you to select your flights, routing, class of service and dates of travel in consultation with one of our experienced Passenger Service Representatives. Airfares will vary, depending on airline, routing and class of service. In most cases, transfers between the airport and hotel/cruise ship will be included on arrival and departure days. Your Passenger Service Representative will provide you with all of the details you need to guarantee your transfer. Book your air with us to ensure assistance in the case of schedule changes or delays that may impact your air travel plans.

ITINERARY

- Day 1** Depart gateway city⁺ | Arrive in Panama City, Panama | Transfer⁺ to Intercontinental Miramar Panama
- Day 2** Transfer to Colón | Embark the Variety Voyager
- Day 3** Carti Island/Gran Perro Island
- Day 4** Portobello
- Day 5** Panama City
- Day 6** Coiba Island | Granito de Oro Island
- Day 7** Puerto Jiménez, Costa Rica
- Day 8** Quepos
- Day 9** Los Sueños | Disembark the ship | Transfer⁺ to San José | Return to gateway city⁺

⁺Provided for AHI FlexAir participants

Note: Program Itinerary is subject to change due to local conditions.

CST Registration No. 2028271-20. Fla. Seller of Travel Reg. No. SF-33300 Iowa Seller of Travel No. 520 Ohio Seller of Travel Reg. No. 8889139.

Washington State Seller of Travel Reg. No. 601-820-731. PARTICIPATING AIRLINES-all IATA and ARC Member Carriers ©2014 AHI Travel Printed in the USA.

800-633-7514

AggieNetwork.com/Travel



Top to bottom:

Panama City

Kuna girl

Flower, Rain forest,
Costa Rica

White-faced monkey,
Manuel Antonio National
Park



Presorted Std.
U.S. Postage
Paid
AHI Travel

The Association of Former Students
Attn: Traveling Aggies
505 George Bush Drive
College Station, TX 77840-2918
COSTAPAN15 37

A word about your Tour Operator

AHI Travel is the premier operator of deluxe travel programs sponsored by alumni associations. Their experienced, professional staff has offered the highest level of service in **innovative travel programs since 1962.**

In AHI Travel's care, you can rely on:

- **An exceptional travel value.** It would be impossible for an independent traveler to arrange all these unique experiences, inclusions and services at a comparable price.
- **Unique access to local sites.** Take advantage of more than 50 years of travel experience to gain preferred entrance to popular sites and to uncover the region's hidden treasures.
- **Experienced Travel Directors** who attend to every detail of your journey.
- **Expertise of local guides** who possess authoritative knowledge of the region and offer personal insight into local culture.
- **Flexibility and customization.** Free time during the trip allows you to pursue your own interests. They will also help you tailor your dream trip with add-ons and extensions.
- **Safety and security.** In a country where you might not know the language or culture, their professional staff is on hand to ease your way and get you any help you need.



Like us at facebook.com/ahitravel



Follow us at twitter.com/ahitravel



View our webinars at youtube.com/ahitravel

**Please call or refer to our
website for the most current
program information,
discounts and pricing.**