

Central America Jewels & Panama Canal

From **26/02/2027**
to **05/03/2027**

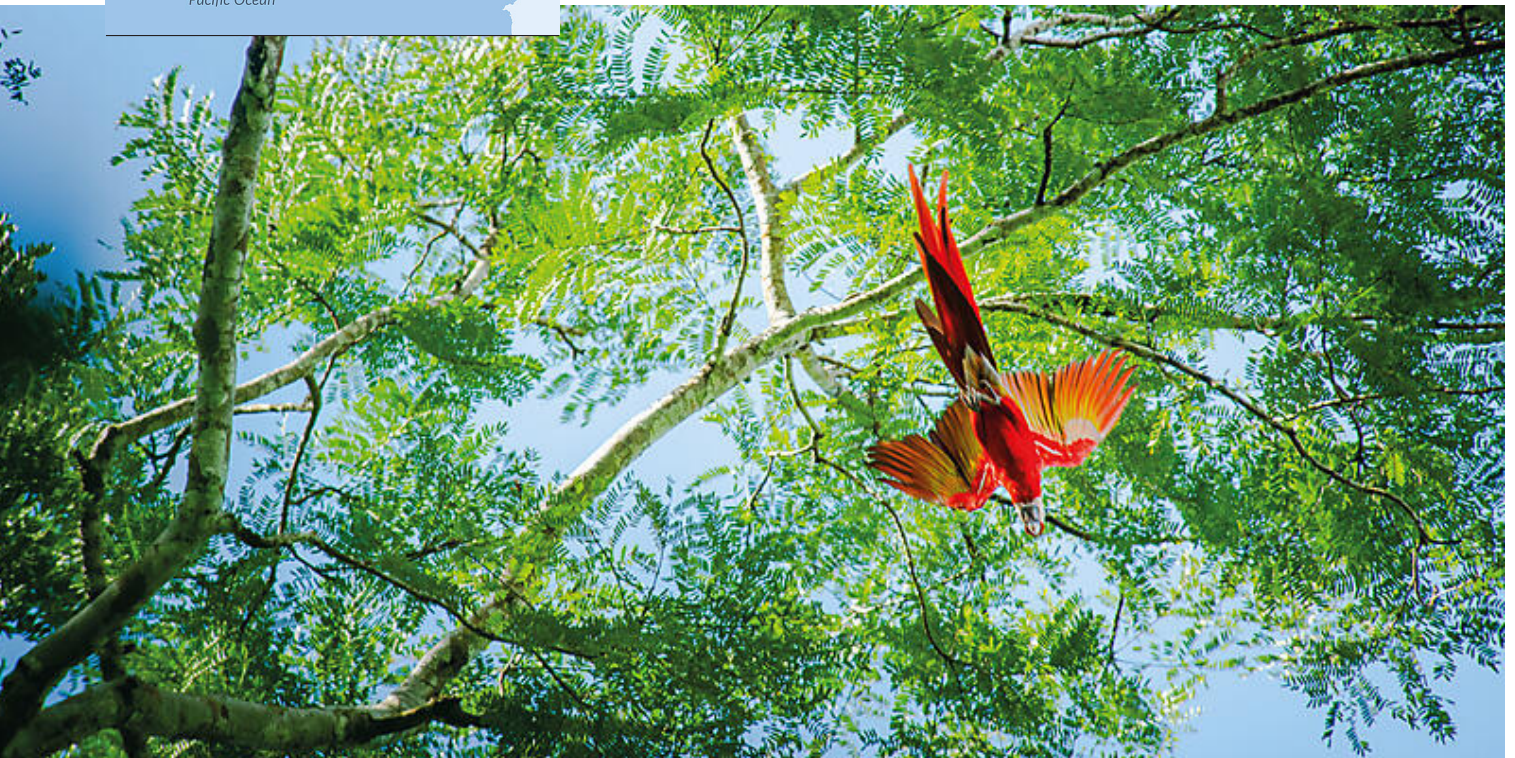
Ship: **Le Lapérouse**

From **Colón**
to **Puntarenas**



Between the magic of Panama's crystal-clear waters and the lush jungles of Costa Rica, fall under the spell of a cruise where each port of call reveals its finest treasures. On this unforgettable journey between Colón and Puntarenas, you will discover wild regions with a biodiversity that is unique in the world, meet indigenous communities carrying on ancient traditions, and be mesmerised by the breathtaking views. Navigate between two worlds and sail one of the most mythical shipping routes across the Isthmus of Panama, from one ocean to the other, between heavenly beaches and primary tropical forests.

The wildlife encounters are possible experiences and cannot be guaranteed.



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YOUR STOPOVERS :

COLÓN

Embarkation 26/02/2027 from 16:00 to 17:00

Departure 26/02/2027 at 20:00

Colón is the second largest city in **Panama**, at the Caribbean entrance of the **Panama Canal**. Colón is today an important port, and the free trade zone created in 1953 contributed greatly to the development of the city. Colón was founded in 1850 by Americans working on the Panama railroad connecting the Atlantic and Pacific coasts through the isthmus of Panama; the city rapidly overshadowed the older **Caribbean** ports of Panama when the canal opened.

SAN BLAS ISLANDS

Arrival 27/02/2027 late morning

Departure 27/02/2027 late afternoon

Located on the north-east coast of **Panama**, the **San Blas archipelago** is a string of coral islands in the heart of the Caribbean Sea. More than 300 islands and cays cover an area of 300 square kilometres offering travellers a multitude of treasures. Sheltered behind a long coral reef, **the San Blas Islands** are full of enchanting anchorages. The long sandy white beaches bound by crystal-clear waters will allow you to relax and enjoy incredible marine fauna before engaging with **the Kunas Indian community**. Still subsisting on hunting and fishing, they will welcome you in their villages of bamboo houses gathered near the beaches.

CROSSING THE PANAMA CANAL

Arrival 28/02/2027

Departure 28/02/2027

Aboard your ship, experience something unique, that has inspired the imagination of numerous adventurers in the 20th century: **sailing the Panama Canal**. Its construction started in 1880 under the direction of **Ferdinand de Lesseps**. Abandoned then resumed, this marvel of engineering was completed by the United States and opened in 1914. The canal crosses the Isthmus of Panama and links the Atlantic to the Pacific. Including **three levels of locks** and by raising ships to the level of Lake Gatun, almost as if the water was a lift, it allows them to avoid having to round Cape Horn.

FUERTE AMADOR, FLAMENCO ISLAND

Arrival 01/03/2027

Departure 01/03/2027 early evening

An artificial peninsula situated at the Pacific entrance to the Panama Canal, **Fuerte Amador** is the gateway to several noteworthy sites. Further north, in villages nestling amid dense vegetation, lives the Embera tribe, guardian of the forest and of the Chagres River. This proud people have successfully preserved their traditions and their ancestral way of life, which predate the colonisation of the region by the Spanish.

PLAYA MUERTO, DARIEN NATIONAL PARK

Arrival 02/03/2027 early morning

Departure 02/03/2027 midday

The most remote and least developed region of Panama, the province of Darien is an unspoilt land with an extremely rich variety of flora and fauna. Listed by UNESCO as World Heritage, **Darien National Park** offers its extraordinary scenery of rocky coastlines, mountain ranges, mangroves, rivers and creeks. Discover **Playa Muerto**, a tiny coastal village home to the Emberas Amerindian community. You will visit the village, attend traditional songs and dances of the locals, and admire beautiful local craft.

AT SEA

Arrival 03/03/2027

Departure 03/03/2027

During your journey at sea, make the most of the many services and activities on board. Treat yourself to a moment of relaxation in the spa or stay in shape in the fitness centre. Depending on the season, let yourself be tempted by the swimming pool or a spot of sunbathing. This journey without a port of call will also be an opportunity to enjoy the conferences or shows proposed on board, depending on the activities offered, or to do some shopping in the boutique or to meet the PONANT photographers in their dedicated space. As for lovers of the open sea, they will be able to visit the ship's upper deck to admire the spectacle of the waves and perhaps be lucky enough to observe marine species. A truly enchanted interlude, combining comfort, rest and entertainment.

GOLFITO

Arrival 04/03/2027 early morning

Departure 04/03/2027 mid afternoon

The town of **Golfito** lies on the Pacific coast of Costa Rica, in the province of **Puntarenas**, one of the most humid regions in the world. It was occupied by the **indigenous Bruncas** tribe during the Pre-Columbian era. Once specialised in the export of bananas, Golfito has today become the starting point for visitors who want to reach one of the largest primary **tropical rainforests** in Central America. Meanwhile, the beaches of **Golfo Dulce** are some of the most beautiful in Costa Rica, with the lush forest, home to many tropical birds and monkeys as well as a variety of rare species of plants, as their backdrop.

PUNTARENAS

Arrival 05/03/2027 early morning

Disembarkation 05/03/2027 at 08:00

The capital of the eponymous province, **Puntarenas** is sometimes called “the pearl of the Pacific”, for its unique charm. It sits on the Pacific coast of Costa Rica, along the **Gulf of Nicoya**, lined with long expanses of wild natural environments. Further inland, among the countless natural wonders to be found in the generous **rainforest** of the **Costa Rica’s national parks, Poas and Arena volcanoes** towers up in all their majestic glory. In this luxuriant natural setting, **Costa Rica** protects one of the planet’s richest biodiversity: monkeys, sloths, tropical birds, iguanas, crocodiles, waterfalls, canyons, and more than ten thousand species of tropical plants.