



Educational Tours



IMMERSIVE MIDDLE SCHOOL TOURS

Panama: From Pirates to the Present

Panama is home to diverse fauna, lush flora, and one of the most impactful engineering feats in the world, the Panama Canal.

On this tour to one of the most diverse countries in the world, have lunch with indigenous people, snorkel along the country's Caribbean coast, and explore bustling Panama City. You'll also discover how, long before the canal was built, Panama's central location attracted pirates like Sir Francis Drake and Henry Morgan.

Help middle school students find their place in the world

Travel fuels curiosity, offers fresh perspectives, and gives students the opportunity to discover life beyond their backyards. Our middle school tours are specially-designed, with hands-on activities in exciting destinations that are popular with students aged 11-15. And with our 50+ years of experience, we know just how to keep students excited to learn more about the world, themselves, and their place in the world.

What to expect on our middle school tours

HANDS-ON ACTIVITIES

Our tours offer the perfect balance of cultural exploration and experiential activities.

AMAZING DESTINATIONS

Take your students just about anywhere. Many middle school teachers especially love traveling to England, Italy, Spain, France, and Panama.

24/7 TOUR DIRECTOR

Your expert Tour Director not only knows the ins and outs of each location you visit, but also how to keep students this age active and engaged. They are with your group 24/7, and are trained to respond to every type of situation.

YOUR EXPERIENCE INCLUDES

Full-time Tour Director; sightseeing tours; entrance fees for Panamá Viejo ruins and museum, Biomuseo, pineapple farm, El Valle de Antón hiking trails, folklore dance show, Metropolitan Natural Park, Gatun Lake boat ride, Miraflores Locks Visitor Center, snorkeling; round-trip flights; 7 overnight stays in hotels; breakfast and dinner daily; lunch on Days 3, 6, and 7

“Middle schoolers achieve more because of these trips. They take what they learn with them and that impacts them the rest of their lives.”

Gene F., Seventh Grade Teacher and Group Leader

Wander the Spanish city of Panamá Viejo, which dates back to 1519.



Day 1: Fly to Panama

Meet your Tour Director at the airport in Panama City, then check into your hotel.

Day 2: Panama City

Visit the Panamá Viejo ruins, remnants of the first Spanish city founded on the Pacific Coast of the Americas. The city was destroyed by pirates in 1671. Take a walking tour of Panama City's colorful historic quarter and UNESCO World Heritage Site, Casco Viejo. Admire the residence of Panama's president before browsing an arts and crafts market. Explore the Biomuseo, a Frank Gehry-designed building. Exhibits here delve into the area's unique biodiversity, caused by tectonic plate movement that pushed Central and South America together. Then split into smaller groups to explore the Amador Causeway and enjoy the Panama City skyline.

Day 3: Panama City | El Valle de Antón

Journey west on the Pan-American Highway. Visit a local pineapple farm, where you'll tour the site with local farmers and sample pineapple snacks. Hike nature trails in El Valle de Antón and admire the pre-Columbian stone carvings at La Piedra Pintada rock wall. Tonight, experience some of the country's local culture at a folklore dance show.

Day 4: Panama City | Gatun Lake

At Metropolitan Natural Park, keep an eye out for toucans, sloths, and other exotic animals as you navigate the wildlife reserve's many trails. Enjoy a boat ride on Gatun Lake, the glistening, man-made heart of the Panama Canal, and around Monkey Island, home to a variety of monkey species.

Day 5: Panama City

Participate in a cultural exchange for a look into the day-to-day lives of local students. Explore the famed Panama Canal, one of the most influential engineering projects ever undertaken and one of the seven wonders of the modern world. Completed by the United States in 1914, the 51-mile canal revolutionized international trade and signaled America's emergence as a global superpower.

Day 6: Panama City

In Rio Chagres National Park, enjoy a canoe ride on the Rio Chagres, the primary source of water for the Panama Canal. Immerse yourself in the culture and customs of the native people during your visit to an Emberá Indigenous Village on the banks of Lake Alajuela.

Day 7: Panama City | Portobelo

Swim alongside colorful sea creatures during a snorkeling adventure in Portobelo, a city on Panama's Caribbean coast. Head back on land to explore the Portobelo Ruins, fortifications where exports of gold and silver passed through centuries ago.

Day 8: Depart for home



Enjoy a guided tour through Panama City's lush Metropolitan Natural Park.



Learn about local customs at the Emberá Indigenous Village.

The world leader in international education

For over 50 years, EF has been working toward one global mission: Opening the World Through Education. Your teacher has partnered with EF because of our unmatched worldwide presence, our focus on affordability, and our commitment to providing experiences that teach critical thinking, problem solving, collaboration, and global competence.

SAFETY

We're committed to your safety. With 500 schools and offices in over 50 countries, EF staff can react quickly and in person wherever you travel.

AFFORDABILITY

We always offer the guaranteed lowest prices so more students have the opportunity to travel and experience the world.

INSIGHT

We believe in experiential learning at the most important sites. Your Tour Director is with you at every step, providing their own perspective and local tips.

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