



Educational Tours



EF STEM

Waterways & Wetlands in Panama

Panama is where man-made marvels and natural phenomena intersect. Known as the Bridge of the Americas, Panama's narrow isthmus connects North and South America and acts as a conduit for biodiversity in this hemisphere. Thanks to this continental crossroads, the country is home to the most diverse flora and fauna in Central America.

From working alongside practicing scientists on a wetland conservation project to visiting a local research station on the Caribbean coast, learn about how the incredible engineering feat of the Panama Canal impacted the surrounding ecosystems of this Central American oasis.

Explore a world built on STEM

Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math shape communities across the globe. Our STEM-focused tours showcase the value of diverse ways of thinking and building, while also highlighting the powerful universality of STEM subjects. At EF, we've spent over 50 years witnessing the power of educational travel, and we know how it can transform STEM learners. Each STEM tour challenges travelers to think critically, and helps students develop innovative solutions to global problems.

What to expect on a STEM tour

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

Apply STEM principles by participating in project-based learning that goes well beyond theory.

INNOVATIVE LOCATIONS

Tour exciting international destinations that host some of the world's most advanced laboratories, universities, and companies, or are simply perfect global "classrooms" to study analytical issues of the day in real life.

INDUSTRY EXPERTS

Collaborate and learn with scientists, engineers, researchers, and other STEM practitioners in the field.

YOUR EXPERIENCE INCLUDES

Full-time Tour Director; sightseeing tours; entrance fees for Panamá Viejo, Biomuseo, wetlands course and fieldwork, Metropolitan Natural Park, evening walk with a biologist, Galeta Research Institute, snorkeling, boat ride around the Panama Canal, Miraflores Vistor Center; round-trip flights; 7 overnight stays in hotels; breakfast and dinner daily; lunch on Days 3, 4, and 6

The Spanish city of Panamá Viejo dates back to 1519.



“I believe that when a student sees how the classroom is used in the outside world it powerfully impacts them. The ‘that looks cool, I want to do that’ reaction will guide them into STEM fields.”

Micah F., Earth Space and AP Environmental Sciences Teacher



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Help scientists spot endangered birds during wetlands conservation fieldwork.



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The facade of the Biomuseo, designed by Frank Gehry, is as captivating as the exhibits on biodiversity.

Day 1: Fly to Panama

Meet your Tour Director at the airport in Panama City, a bustling capital nestled between the Pacific Ocean and a rainforest.

Day 2: Panama City

Visit the Panamá Viejo ruins, remnants of the first Spanish city founded on the Pacific Coast of the Americas. Take a walking tour of Panama City's colorful historic quarter and UNESCO World Heritage Site, Casco Viejo. 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.

Days 3–4: Panama City

Over these two days, you will learn about the importance of wetlands, why they are endangered, and how to preserve them. Start with an interactive workshop before your field work with scientists, which may include removing invasive plant species, mangrove reforestation, or inventorying endangered shore birds. You'll even receive an official wetlands ambassador certificate for your efforts.

Day 5: Panama City

Enjoy an expert-led hike in Metropolitan Natural Park, and be sure to keep an eye out for toucans, sloths, and other exotic animals as you navigate this urban green space. You'll head deeper into the rainforest to get a glimpse of nocturnal creatures during an evening walk with a biologist.

Day 6: Galeta Point | Panama City

Join scientists at a tropical research station on the Caribbean coast to learn about their work with coastal ecosystems. Use scientific methods to collect data and make observations in a mangrove forest. Later, get an up-close look at marine life while snorkeling in warm, shallow waters.

Day 7: Gamboa | Panama City

Observe wildlife during a biologist-led boat ride on the Panama Canal near Gamboa. Visit the Miraflores Visitor Center for an in-depth look at the canal, one of the seven wonders of the modern world. Tonight, enjoy some of Panama's culture during a folklore show.

Day 8: Depart for home

Return with global perspectives and a new appreciation for wetlands conservation.

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.

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.

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.

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