

CAMINO DE CRUCES

This road was used during the Colonial period of Panama to transport gold and other treasures, therefore it became the favorite target of pirates. It is located on the Chagres River in the Atlantic Ocean. The ships docked in Chagres Port, then they continued their trip by canoe along the river. Once getting this road, the journey went through on horses and mules, during six days, until arriving at Panama City.



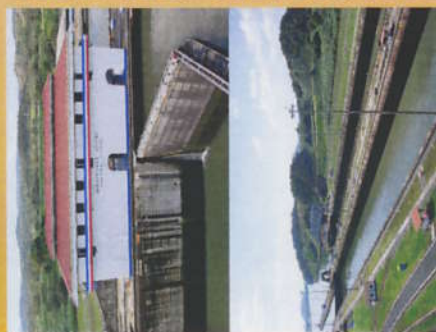
INTEROCEANIC RAILWAY

Railway construction began in 1850 after the sign of the Stephens-Paredes Treaty. In 1855, the first train crossed the 75 Km.-rails along the Isthmus and became the seventh railroad in the world. The main users were the gold hunters from California. This historic railroad has been reconstructed by Canal Railway Company. The railway flanks the Panama Canal route, crossing the locks through Gaillard Cut, between rainforests and the path that crosses the beautiful Gatun Lake. The passengers' freight cars are original and now elegantly restored, they recall the golden years of the railway transportation.



PANAMA CANAL

After the French failure to build the Panama Canal, USA continued with the construction project in 1903, inaugurated it finally in August 15, 1914. It is important to mention that Akira Aoyama, a Japanese Engineer, participated during Panama Canal construction (1904-1911). Later on, due to the enlargement of the Gaillard Cut, 33-meter-beam ships called Panamax became able to navigate in two ways simultaneously. Currently, another enlargement project is being examined, and it includes a new design of locks Post Panamax, so 55-meter-beam ships can transit through Panama Canal. Japan is the third more important user of the Panama Canal.



At Miraflores locks, there is a Visitors Center that exhibits a topographical model of the Panama Canal, and has an observatory, so you can appreciate ships transits. Also, an international kitchen gourmet restaurant is available. Moreover, visitors can make a total or partial transit through the Panama Canal.



LITTLE VILLAGES

In the center of the capital, at the foot of Ancon Hill, tourists can appreciate replicas of a Colonial, Afro-Antillean and Indigenous Villages.



Colonial Village. It is the replica of a countryside town that reflects our cultural inheritance through colonial designs as shown at edifications such as a church, post office, plaza, stores, a house with its living-room, studio, and kitchen. Also, traditional costume and folk objects are exhibited, while music and dances are performed, so foreigners become familiar to Panamanian traditions and customs.



Indigenous Village: It was built in honor of the contribution made by the first settlers of Panama. Here you can find replicas of indigenous housing as well as samples of Ngobe Bugle, Emberá, Wounan and Kuna' customs. In order to keep its authenticity, natural material was used to build this village.



Afro-Antillean Village: It shows the most outstanding aspects of the Afro-Antillean culture. Here you can appreciate the rich culture of this ethnic group that joined other groups such as Panamanians, Chinese, Europeans and Americans in the construction of the Panama Canal. Afro-Antilleans are native of Barbados, Antigua, Trinidad and Tobago, Dominican Republic, so forth. It was built according to typical Afro-Antillean building structures during the Panama Canal construction period.



"The Interamerican Development Bank supports the protection of Panamanian Cultural World Heritage"

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PANAMA

HISTORICAL SITES AND WORLD HERITAGE



Come and see around the historic witnesses that formed our identity of sovereign and free nation. Enjoy the present of warm people that builds its future on the foundations of the past.

Dr. Alfredo Martiz
Ambassador of Panama to Japan

