



FWSA 2012 FALL PANAMA CANAL CRUISE

September 28th to October 12th, 2012

\$1450.00 Inside Room - Category ID

\$1875.00 Outside Obstructed Window Room - Category OK

\$2885.00 Balcony Room - Category BA

Price is per person based on double occupancy

Price Includes: Welcome & Farewell Parties

Taxes and Port Fees which are subject to change

Price does **NOT** include air or ground transportation, tips & shore excursions.

\$25.00 Credit to be deducted from final payment
for outside room with \$500.00 deposit
paid by 12/31/2011

\$50.00 Credit to be deducted from final payment
for balcony room with \$500.00 deposit
paid by 12/31/2011

***All participants paying a \$500.00 deposit prior to May 15th, 2012
will be able to select their room numbers based on availability.***

Room selection will be awarded when the deposit is received.

Final payment is due by July 1, 2012.

*Cabins in other categories and deck levels may be requested based on availability.
Pricing may vary.*

Check out the Far West Ski Association's website at www.fwsa.org for more
detailed information regarding this cruise and other FWSA trips.

Itinerary & cancellation policies for this trip are available on the FWSA website.

This is the only FWSA approved Panama Canal Cruise.



The Ports of Call are:

Los Angeles

At Sea

Cabo San Lucas, Mexico

Puerto Vallarta, Mexico

At Sea

Huatulco, Mexico

Puerto Chiapas, Mexico

At Sea

Puntarenas, Costa Rica

At Sea

Transit Panama Canal

Cartegena, Colombia

At Sea

At Sea

Miami

"The Voice of the Western Skier"



To make your reservation, contact: Gloria Raminha, FWSA VP North American Travel
12707 Windy Ridge Dr, Bakersfield, CA 93312 [661-829-5996](tel:661-829-5996) Phone/fax [661-800-8229](tel:661-800-8229) Cell fwsa.natravel@sbcglobal.net

**Must be a Member of Far West Ski Association affiliated ski club or a FWSA Direct Member
CST #2036983-40**



PANAMA CANAL CRUISE INFORMATION

September 28th to October 12th, 2012

PASSPORT REQUIREMENT

All U. S. Citizens participating in this tour program are required to have a U. S. Passport valid for at least 6 months *beyond* the return date of the tour. Any non U. S. Citizens participating in this tour must check with the appropriate consulate for all countries being visited and transited, to ensure that they have met all entry requirements. It is the participant's responsibility to be sure that all proper entry requirements are met and that they have all the appropriate documents necessary.

RECOMMENDED PAYMENT SCHEDULE:

\$250 - October 15th

\$250 – December 15th

\$250 – March 15th

\$250 – May 15th

Balance – July 1st.

Note: \$25.00 Credit to be deducted from final payment for outside room with \$500.00 deposit paid by 12/31/2011

\$50.00 Credit to be deducted from final payment for balcony room with \$500.00 deposit paid by 12/31/2011

CANCELLATION POLICY:

100% refundable to 12/31/2011

\$25 penalty – January 1st to May 15th

\$400 penalty – July 1st to August 1st

50% penalty – August 2nd to 30th (50% cruise cost, plus port fees)

75% penalty – August 31st to September 14th (75% cruise cost, plus port fees)

No refund after September 14th

Ship docking times at ports are listed below. Norwegian Cruise Lines (NCL) will only ask you for ship ID when you get off the ship. It is recommended that participants also carry a copy of your passport. NCL provides excursion at each "Port of Call". NCL excursions are not included in the cruise price.

FRIDAY, Sept 28th: **Norwegian Cruise Lines departs at 4:00 PM from the Port of Los Angeles.**

Travelers need to be on board two hours prior to departure.

SATURDAY, Sept 29th: **Day at sea.** Familiarize yourself with the ship. Relax and enjoy the cruise. FWSA welcome cocktail party (time and location TBD).

SUNDAY, Sept 30th: **11:00 am to 6:00 pm – Cabo San Lucas, Mexico.** From the ship dock, you can walk through the Marina to a beach called Play Medano which is in front of the famous El Arco (the Arch). Playa Medano Beach has bars and restaurants the along the beach sand. Beach rentals for wave runners or kayaks are available to go in the bay or near the El Arco. You can also walk to the town from the ship dock, as it is above the Marina. Besides many shops, and restaurants they have the famous bars of Cabo Wabo & Giggling Marlin. Giggling Marlin bar, hoists people upside down like a marline to drink tequila shots.

MONDAY, Oct. 1st: **11:00 am to 7:00 pm – Puerto Vallarta, Mexico.** It is a short trip by Taxi to old town where you can stroll the cobblestone streets and see the marketplace. You can visit "Our Lady of Guadalupe Cathedral or you can walk along the Melecon, which is a famous waterfront mile long cement seawall walkway bordering the sea with beautiful statues by the downtown area.

TUESDAY, Oct 2nd: **Day at sea.**

WEDNESDAY, Oct 3rd: **8:00 am to 4:00 pm - Huatulco, Mexico.** Known for its nine most beautiful bays of the world with 36 beaches and breathtaking landscape. At the Bay of Tangolunda, a luxury resort area is nearby with beach rentals.

The main town is La Crucecita. The Virgin of Guadalupe has the largest painting in the world on its ceiling of the Virgin. There are several stores with handicrafts & shops about a 30 minute drive from the ship which overlook two of the bay by the river estuary.

Las Brisas Resort was the 2nd world's largest Club Med at one time. It now has been remodeled and you can get a day pass to use the pool, beach and property facilities with all kinds of rentals from the beach.

There are many tours offered by boat to sightsee all the bays or swim & snorkel.

If you want to fit it all in, there is a combo tour of the town, then to a catamaran afterwards to see some of their beautiful bays and beaches.

THURSDAY, Oct 4th: **8:00 am to 5:00 pm – Puerto Chiapas, Mexico.** This is a small fishing village that has Mayan ruins around it. You can visit a coffee or banana plantation or take a boat to explore beautiful mangroves with streams & lagoons.

Tapachula is the large town a short ride away. You can visit its town square or archaeological museum for Mayan artifacts. Colorful streets have many shops with leather, ceramics & local crafts.

Izapa is an ancient Mayan ruin site. This is a 45 minute ride.

FRIDAY, Oct 5th: **Day at Sea**

SATURDAY, Oct 6th: **8:00 am to 5:00 pm – Puntarenas, Costa Rica.** This is a seaport town with multi colored cottages. Carara Tropical rainforest is nearby with exotic flora & fauna. Some of the tour options offered are: Visit the most picturesque town in the central region called Esparza. You will see people in local costumes and handmade souvenir exhibits. The beautiful scenic drive to Esparza has views of the Pacific Ocean and plantations.

The aerial tram is an open air tram that takes six people per tram going over the rain forests, waterfalls and views of wildlife below.

The forest sky walk is a one and a half hour walk downhill on bridges and trails with a view of wildlife and the rain forest.

The Jungle Crocodile Safari is in the area of the world's largest crocodile population. You can view the crocodiles from a catamaran style boat.

Poas Volcano sits 8,500 feet above sea level as an active crater 984 feet deep and 1 mile wide.

Pacific Train, Bus & Boat: Ride the historical train through a rural countryside and then bus afterward to the Tarcoles River to board a boat to see 300 species of many birds, crocodile and iguanas. There will be local crafts to purchase in the area.

There are also coffee plantations to visit and canopy tours.

SUNDAY, Oct 7th: **Day at Sea**

MONDAY, Oct 8th: **Transit the Panama Canal.** The canal connects North & South America. Unless there are ships ahead of us, normal time is 8 hours to travel through the canal. The Panama Commission will provide the ship with a pilot and commentator who will give a running account (over the ships address system) of the vessel's passage through the canal and the history of the canal. The ship will go through 2 locks, then next to Gaillard Cut. This is a "V" shaped narrow channel cut from granite and volcanic rock which is the narrowest stretch of the channel. We will travel through Gatun Lake 24 miles across, then go through 3 more locks at the end of the lake at Colon. Colon is Panamas 2nd largest town where we will exit the lake at the Port of Cristobel in Limon Bay.

TUESDAY, Oct 9th: **10:00 am to 7:00 pm – Cartagena, Columbia.** This is Columbia’s main Caribbean port. The old city has 7 miles of walls 40 feet high around it. Inside the walls are narrow lanes with whitewashed houses and flower filled balconies. In one place, the old dungeons have been converted into craft shops with regional crafts. You can visit the San Pedro Claver Church built in the 17th century. The “Old City” is about a 5 block walk.

Outside the old city is La Popa, the monastery of Santa Cruz that monks still live in and has a great view of Cartagena and the Caribbean. Beyond the Monastery is For San Felipe, which is a sixteenth century fort that stands guard over the old city.

Bocagrande is the resort area with many deluxe hotels, fashionable shops and water sports. Pierino Gallo is the large shopping mall at Bocagrande. Columbia is noted for its famous gem, the emerald.

WEDNESDAY, Oct. 10th: Day at Sea

THURSDAY, Oct. 11th: Day at Sea –FWSA Farewell Cocktail Party (Time and location TBD)

FRIDAY, Oct. 12th: **8:00 am – Arrive at Miami.** If interested in staying in Miami, discounted lodging will be offered at the Four Points Sheraton Beach Hotel.