



PANAMA Q&A TIPS FOR YOUR PANAMA CANAL SHORE EXCURSION

All of our tour departures and return timings are under the control of the Panama Canal authority and delays are a regular occurrence. This can result in even short tours turning into a longer day, with some waiting, so please keep this in mind.

We suggest that you have a substantial meal prior to leaving the ship as the majority of tours offer no food or just a light snack. With this in mind, it is advisable to bring cash with you to purchase snacks or lunch once we return to Cristobal. (Please note that food may not be available for purchase on tours NC2-110, NC2-350, NC2-605, NC2-610)

Panama is an extremely hot and humid rainforest destination, so please remember to take bottled water, sunscreen and a hat with you, as well as some wet weather gear. With all of these points considered please pack your sense of adventure, Panama is a world renowned destination and seeing it in the detail is a rare and unique opportunity which may offset some of the inconveniences that arise.

What happens in Panama?

Your Princess ship enters the Panama Canal in the early morning, shortly after sunrise. It takes several hours to transit the new Aqua Clara 3-step locks. Our Destination Lecturer provides commentary from the bridge and can be heard on the open decks, World Fresh Market and broadcast on your stateroom television. Once clear of the locks, we drop anchor in Gatun Lake, where guests on Princess Shore Excursions are taken ashore by water shuttle. By early afternoon, your Princess ship returns through the Aqua Clara Locks and proceeds to Port Cristobal to collect guests returning from tours. Estimated times are determined by the Panama Canal Authority on the day prior to arrival.

Will I miss the locks if I take a tour?

No, taking a tour enhances your Panama experience with the chance to see more than just the locks. Your Princess ship only transits the first set of three locks (just under two miles of the fifty mile canal) before returning via the identical route. Attractions such as the original Historic locks, Bridge of the Americas, Centennial Bridge, Panama City, native villages, Fort San Lorenzo, Aerial Tram, Panama Canal Railway, Frank Gehry Museum, and the Pacific Ocean can only be seen, and/or explored, on tour.

What does the "Group" number on my ticket mean?

With the majority of guests on shore excursions, meeting times are planned in intervals. It takes more approximately one hour to disembark approximately 1300 tour guests in the ship's water shuttles. To avoid excessive wait times, announcements will be made calling tour guest to meet by group order.

SAMPLE TOUR TICKET (Group Number & Meeting Locations)

Shore Excursions

PANAMA CANAL ** GROUP 3 ** NC2-100A

SCENIC DRIVE & WALKING TOUR OF 'OLD PANAMA CITY'

PLEASE READ PANAMA Q & A INFO SHEET

MEETING/TIME PLACE IS ANNOUNCED

(ON OPEN DECK/IN PUBLIC AREAS/LIVE TV-BRIDGE CAM)

Where and how do I rejoin the ship after my tour?

All tours include return transportation to Cristobal where there is a small pier with limited facilities. Unfortunately, there is no air-conditioning, no seating, and no vending machines. Nearby, there is an open-air shopping center with restaurants that offer seating for paying patrons only. There may be a considerable wait time for the ship's arrival that is expected at approximately 5pm (especially for those on our briefest tours: NC2-120, NC2-350 & NC2-605). Please plan to bring cash for food, beverages or souvenir purchases.

What is in Port Cristobal and why is the ship there such a short time?

Our stop in Port Cristobal is simply a service stop to collect returning tour guests. There are no notable attractions in Cristobal and no tours are offered upon arrival.

Can I book a tour after our arrival in Panama?

Please purchase your tickets in advance as many tours fill up quickly & completely.

Can I take a tour if I have mobility limitations?

Tour guests are taken ashore by water shuttle, and there are six steps to negotiate ashore. Guests confined to wheelchairs and motorized scooters will not be able to use the water shuttle service for safety reasons. Guests with the ability to walk, independently of their wheelchair, may use the water shuttle service. Please choose tours suitable to your activity level.

Can I go ashore in Panama without booking a tour?

Only guest booked on Princess Shore Excursions will be water shuttled ashore in Gatun Lake. Guests not on tour may only disembark once Emerald Princess has returned through the Aqua Clara Locks and arrives in Port Cristobal in late afternoon.

Why are there no meeting times or locations on my ticket?

Tours normally depart mid-morning (anywhere from 9:00am to 11am), however, the actual time of our passage through the Aqua Clara Locks is dependent upon the Panama Canal Authority and is subject to many variables. At 9:00am in Panama, an initial announcement will be made in public areas & on Live TV of your Ocean stateroom television, providing an update on when we expect to clear the final lock and when tours will begin meeting. Further announcements will follow. There will be plenty of time to meet your tour following our exit of the Locks.

Thank you for choosing a Princess Shore Excursion in Panama. We hope you enjoy all this incredible destination has to offer.