

WONDERS OF THE PANAMA CANAL

Panama Canal • Cartagena • Costa Rica • Puerto Vallarta •
Cabo San Lucas • San Diego • Norwegian Pearl

THE PANAMA CANAL



A VALID PASSPORT IS REQUIRED FOR THIS TOUR

- **Miami**, a city with rich history and vibrant neighborhoods.
- **Embark** on a spectacular 14-night cruise to the Caribbean, **Panama Canal** and Pacific Coast aboard the luxurious **Norwegian Pearl**.
- Cruising - relax or enjoy a multitude of activities, while experiencing views of the sparkling **Caribbean**.
- **Cartagena**, Columbia, rich with picturesque Spanish colonial villages and fine cathedrals. Optional excursions include historic Cartagena walking tour, Mangroves and Swamp Ecological Tour, and a Beach and Boating tour.
- The **Panama Canal**, one of the most monumental undertakings by man, and providing dynamic wildlife viewing.
- In **Puntarenas**, Costa Rica, and **Huatulco**, Mexico, see brilliant wildlife and enjoy optional shore excursions to a variety of natural wonders including the Arenal Volcano, Carara National Park, or a Mexican Cooking Demonstration.
- **Cabo San Lucas**, home to famous picturesque beaches and daring cliff divers!
- Travel on Amtrak's Capitol Limited, Silver Meteor and the famous **Southwest Chief**.

Days 1-3	Chicago to Miami	Day 12.....	Puerto Chiapas, Mexico
Days 4-6	Miami / Embarkation / Cruising	Day 13.....	Huatulco, Mexico
Day 7.....	Cartagena, Columbia	Day 14.....	Cruising
Days 8-9	The Panama Canal / Cruising	Day 15.....	Puerto Vallarta
Days 10-11	Puntarenas / Cruising	Days 16-17	Cabo San Lucas / Cruising
		Days 18-20	En Route to Chicago

CB CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST
 B BREAKFAST
 L LUNCH
 D DINNER

TOUR DATE(S):

Thurs., Apr. 12 to Tues., May 1

TOUR PRICE:

\$3,995 - 20 Days

Per person /double occupancy

Upgrade pricing (per person/double occupancy):

- Bedroom on Amtrak + \$925
- Ocean View Stateroom + \$430
- Balcony Stateroom + \$1,260

\$5,850 Single (Inside Stateroom)

- Ocean View Stateroom + \$860
- Balcony Stateroom + \$2,520

YOUR TRIP INCLUDES:

- Round-trip transportation by Amtrak, Norwegian Cruise Lines and connecting motorcoach.
- Private Roomettes on the trains for four nights.
- Inside Stateroom on the Norwegian Pearl cruise ship for fourteen nights.
- First class hotel accommodations for one night.
- Sightseeing is included in Miami and Los Angeles. Shore options can be arranged through the cruise line at all cruise destinations for an additional cost.
- Baggage handling, taxes & tips.
- 50 meals.
- All gratuities are included; rail, cruise (including service charge) and motorcoach.
- Services of a professional America by Rail Tour Director.

AMERICA BY RAIL WILL BE HAPPY TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR YOUR CONNECTING TRANSPORTATION TO CHICAGO AND BACK BY RAIL OR AIR.

Day 1: Depart Chicago

West and Midwest-ern Wonders of the Panama Canal tour members will meet the Tour Director in Chicago's Union Station. Early this evening we'll depart on the Capitol Limited for Washington. Relax in your comfortable, private Roomette. Bedrooms are available at an additional cost. All dining car meals are included. Go to the glass-walled Sightseer Lounge car for spectacular viewing. A full-course dining car dinner will be served upon departure. **D**

Day 2: En Route

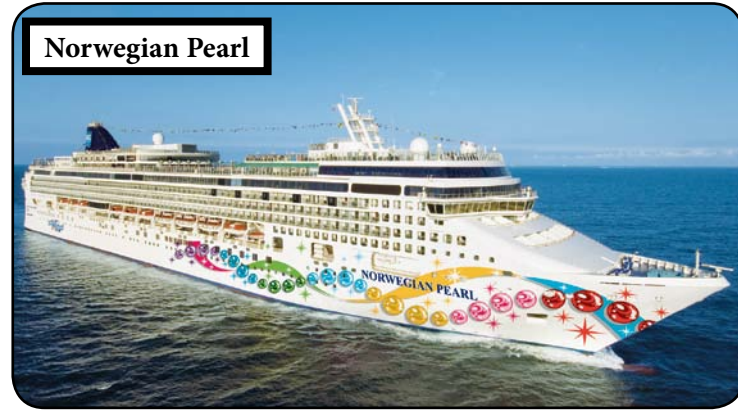
West and Midwest tour members will enjoy spectacular scenery as they follow the white water Youghiogheny River and climb over Sand Patch, the highest point of rail service in the Northeast. Arrive into Washington early afternoon and enjoy an "on-your-own" lunch in the expansive Union Station food court. You'll have time to explore the nearby area. This evening we'll depart on the Silver Meteor for Miami. **B & D**

Day 3: En Route / Miami

We'll be rolling across northern Florida this morning. You'll be amazed at the large cattle ranches, citrus groves and other scenic attractions our train will pass by. Early this evening we're scheduled to arrive in Miami. Our home for tonight is the Courtyard MarriottCoral Gables. **B & L**

Day 4: Miami / Embark

This morning we'll set off on a sightseeing tour of this historic, vibrant city. Our tour will end at the Miami cruise terminal where we'll board the beautiful Norwegian Pearl®. This ship is a jewel on the high seas, filled with innovative features and luxurious amenities. Swim in one of the sparkling pools or shop the boutiques or get a massage in the Barong Spa & Salon. Dine in one of the dining rooms or specialty restaurants. Following a luncheon buffet, you can relax or explore your beautiful home for the next eight days. Sailing is scheduled for 4:00 p.m. **L & D**



Day 5: Cruising

Do as little or as much as you care to. Pamper yourself with a massage at the Barong Spa & Salon. Shop the Trade Routes Boutique for duty-free liquor, designer clothing and gifts. Head to the internet café or library. Tee up at the driving range. There is a jogging track and fitness center for those looking to work off some of the fantastic cuisine. Catch up on your favorite team at the Sports Bar. Grab a latte at the Java Café. Try your luck at the Pearl Club Casino featuring a variety of table games, slots (including nickel slots for the not-so-high roller), video poker, etc. Watch first run movies on the Crystal Atrium's gigantic LED screen. Bowl in the Bliss Ultra Lounge. Other activities include bingo, crafts, art auctions, pool games, trivia, wine and cocktail tasting, and that traditional cruise favorite, shuffleboard! Of course you can always just relax as the Atlantic Ocean drifts by.

The Norwegian Pearl features 12 fine restaurants including a Steak House, Italian, Pacific Rim and other specialties plus a 24-hour comfort food menu at the Blue Lagoon. During the day giant Weber charcoal grills provide sumptuous burgers, hot dogs, and chicken on the pool deck. Of course there is always the excellent Garden Café, perhaps the finest buffet at sea!

This evening don't miss the Broadway-style reviews and improv comedy by Chicago's Second City troupe. You'll find a variety of live music and comedy throughout the ship as well as audience-participation games put on by the cruise director's staff and some late-night comedy, magic, and game shows. **B, L & D**

Day 6: Cruising B, L & D**Day 7: Cartagena, Colombia**

Founded in 1533, Cartagena is the picture-perfect Spanish-colonial village. A fortress wall surrounds the historic village's pastel-colored architecture, quaint streets, and fine cathedrals, containing them like jewels. Stroll through the walled old town (Ciudad Murallada), shop the boutiques housed in what used to be dungeons, and otherwise enjoy the rich history.

Today's optional shore excursions include Exploring Magnificent Cartagena, City Views With Carriage Ride, Sailing A Spanish Galleon, Best Of Rosario Islands, and Folkloric Show & Old Cartagena.
B, L & D

Day 8: The Panama Canal

The Panama Canal isn't just the quickest link between the Atlantic and the Pacific, it's also the most beautiful! "The land of the divided, the world united": It's hard to imagine a more fitting motto for what irrevocably changed the world forever. For 50 miles the canal transects the exotic emerald jungles of Panama and gives one an appreciation of what a Herculean task it was to build this waterway before the advent of computers and giant earth movers.

The canal is also a sanctuary. Caymans prowl its waters, while sloths move slowly through the trees. Harpy eagles glide on thermals while searching for prey and ocelots hunt along the rainforest floor. There are a thousand details awaiting observant wildlife enthusiasts, including vibrantly colored toucans. **B, L & D**

Day 9: Cruising B, L & D**Day 10: Puntarenas, Costa Rica**

Located along the Pacific coast of Costa Rica, Puntarenas is a great place to see native wildlife ranging from scarlet macaws to the alpha predator of Central America, the jaguar. Surfers from around the world regard this region of Costa Rica as prime surfing waters. As one of the country's leading fishing ports, Puntarenas is the perfect place to enjoy fresh seafood, including ceviche de corvine - bits of fresh fish marinated in lime juice with onions, peppers, and spices.

Today's optional shore excursions include Costa Rica In Essence, Corobici River Float, A Real Coffee Experience, Scarlet

Macaw Sanctuary & Mangroves, Hot Springs Relaxing Experience, Carara Tropical Rainforest, Jungle Crocodile Safari, and Pura Vida Gardens. **B, L & D**

Day 11: Cruising B, L & D**Day 12: Puerto Chiapas, Mexico**

Ancient Mayan ruins and lush tropical rainforest are home to the Chiapas region. Situated on the Pacific Coast in Southwestern Mexico, Puerto Chiapas serves as a small fishing and agricultural center. The archaeological museum in nearby Tapachula exhibits artifacts excavated from the region.

Today's optional shore excursions include Izapa Ruins & Chocolate Discovery, Chiapas Through the Ages: Izapa Ruins & Tapachula City Tour, Argovia Estate & Flower Plantation, Mayan Tree of Life & Chocolate Discovery. **B, L & D**

Day 13: Huatulco, Mexico

Described as a place where recreation and ecology are in perfect harmony and located at the foot of the Sierra del Sur Mountains, Huatulco is actually made up of nine distinct bays. The turquoise waters are home to an abundance of sea life and provide a delightful aquatic playground for visitors. Shopping and dining establishments are outnumbered only by the number of beaches in the area: 30 to be exact.

Today's optional shore excursions include Huatulco Towns & Traditions, Deep Sea Fishing, Bird Watching Eco Tour, Ocean Discovery Snorkel, Copalita River Scenic Rafting, and Dance & Colors Guelaguetza Show. **B, L & D**

Day 14: Cruising B, L & D**Day 15: Puerto Vallarta**

Blessed with 25 miles of golden beaches within spectacular Banderas Bay, Vallarta presents limitless possibilities for enjoying the Pacific.

Viejo Vallarta, the quaint Old Town, offers a mix of red-tiled buildings, cobble streets, chic shops, and bustling open markets. It's like taking a step back to a much simpler time. Many of the crafts are made by local Indians who have used the same methods for hundreds of years.

Optional shore excursions include: A Taste of Mexico & Puerto Vallarta Sights; Countryside on Horseback; Dolphin Encounter; Eco-Safari Off-Road Adventure;

Golf at Flamingos Golf Course; Hidden Beaches by Sea & Horseback; Town, Country & Tequila and Catamaran, Beach & Snorkel. **B, L & D**

Day 16: Cabo San Lucas

The jewel of the Baja Peninsula, Cabo San Lucas has something for everyone. Like to golf? Several world-class courses will provide fun, challenge and breathtaking scenery for the novice duffer or the scratch golfer alike. Cabo San Lucas is famous for its marlin fishing. Anglers of all skill levels will find some of the greatest fishing in the world, with everything from private charters to huge party boats. Beachcombers can build a sand castle, parasail, swim or just relax and catch some warm Baja rays. The sports enthusiasts can enjoy scuba diving, snorkeling, rock climbing, and many other activities.

Today's optional shore excursions include Land's End Boat Tour, Nikki Beach Bash, Arch Visit & Beach Club, Sea Trek Helmet Dive, Pacific Beach Horseback Ride and Cabo San Lucas Sport fishing.

Tonight we'll enjoy another great evening of dining and entertainment. **B, L & D**

Day 17: Cruising B, L & D**Day 18: Los Angeles / En Route**

Upon arrival in Los Angeles, we'll board our deluxe motorcoach and embark on a sightseeing tour of Los Angeles. We will conclude our tour at the Amtrak Station. Olivera Street, with its famous Mexican Market, is across from Union Terminal. Enjoy an "on-your-own" lunch.

We'll board the famous Southwest Chief early this evening. Enjoy the same amenities as on your trip to Miami. **B & D**

Day 19: En Route

You'll want to take advantage of the fascinating scenery of Arizona and New Mexico our train will pass through during the day. You'll have time for a train side walk in Albuquerque at noon. Native American vendors often have attractive jewelry for sale. **B, L & D**

Day 20: En Route to Chicago

The Southwest Chief will roll across Northeast Missouri, a corner of Iowa, and all of Illinois. Some tour members will change to trains bound for Midwest, Eastern, and Southern home cities. Others will stay in Chicago and fly home tomorrow. **B & L**

GENERAL INFORMATION

MEALS

REGISTRATION AND DEPOSIT:

A deposit of \$200 per person (\$500 for cruise), of which \$100 per person is non-refundable, is required to finalize registration. The balance is due 75 days prior to departure (90 days for cruise). If payments are not received by the due date(s) specified, reservations may be cancelled without notice.

Cruises: If reservation is made after final payment due date, prevailing rates and availability apply.

TOUR CANCELLATIONS:

If cancellation is received by America by Rail more than 75 days prior to departure (90 days for cruise), \$100 of your deposit will be retained. For cancellations received within 75 days of departure, the following per person cancellation fees apply (90 days for cruise):

- 76-90 days prior to departure: (cruise only)
20% of total tour cost.
- 46-75 days prior to departure:
25% of total tour cost.
- 15-45 days prior to departure:
50% of total tour cost.
- 14 days or less prior to departure through duration of the tour: 100% of total tour cost.

The total tour cost includes tour price, add-ons and upgrades.

Refunds will be made approximately 30 days after the conclusion of the tour.

Payment / cancellation exceptions are noted on tours.

TOUR PRICE INCLUDES:

TRANSPORTATION

Rail transportation over the tour route and motorcoach, van, or other modes of transportation where specified in the tour description.

TRAIN ACCOMMODATIONS

All tours except those categorized as Coach Class include private Roomette on Amtrak overnight trains and Bedrooms (double occupancy) or Roomettes (single occupancy) on VIA Rail Canada overnight trains. Bedrooms on Amtrak are available at an additional cost. Reclining coach seats are included on U.S. and Canadian trains used only during the daytime except for those categorized as Coach Class. Coach Class tours include reclining coach seats with leg rests on Amtrak trains. Meals on the trains are included for those traveling Coach Class on the North American tours as indicated in the itinerary.

CRUISE ACCOMMODATIONS

Cruise tours include inside staterooms (double occupancy) on cruise ships. Upgraded staterooms may be available at an additional cost.

HOTELS

Accommodations are based on two persons sharing a room with bath. Two-bedded rooms are provided in most instances. However, sometimes their availability is limited. If a two-bedded room is required, please notify America by Rail at time of registration.

America by Rail reserves the right to substitute hotels for those named in any tour description, when necessary. Every effort is made to have hotel rooms available for occupancy upon arrival. There may be instances when rooms are not available until later.

SINGLE ROOMS

Single rooms at hotels and Amtrak Roomettes on a single basis are available at a supplemental cost.

SIGHTSEEING/ADMISSIONS

Sightseeing, as outlined in the itineraries, will be provided by motorcoaches in most instances. Admission fees are included as specified. Sightseeing tour arrangements may be altered if required.

All included meals are listed in the tour itinerary. Persons requiring a special diet must inform America by Rail at the time of registration. Not all restaurants/trains will be able to honor special requests. Due to events beyond our control, trains are sometimes delayed and supplies may become limited. If you have special dietary requirements, please make sure you have a sufficient supply of nourishment to meet your dietary needs.

In the itineraries, the meals are listed at the end of each day using CB for Continental breakfast, B for breakfast, L for lunch, and D for dinner.

BAGGAGE

For your convenience and to expedite movement, baggage handling is limited to one suitcase per person. Transfer and portage of one suitcase per person is included at overnight stopovers. On most tours the one suitcase per person is handled by America by Rail and is checked through to the next destination. Carry-on luggage is used while en route. America by Rail is not responsible for loss or damage to your baggage or for any lost, stolen or destroyed item. Specified transfers between rail stations and hotels are included.

TOUR DIRECTORS

Services of a qualified America by Rail Tour Director are included for all matters pertaining to the tour. Tour Directors will meet all tour members at the origination city.

TIPS AND TAXES

All gratuities to hotel staff (except to chambermaids), sight-seeing guides and drivers are included. Gratuities for sleeping car attendants and meals aboard the train are included. Gratuities for meals specified in the tour itinerary are included on escorted portions of the tour. Gratuities for cruise ship stateroom stewards and dining waitstaff are included.

TOUR PRICE DOES NOT INCLUDE:

Transportation and tips between your home city and the official origination city; charges for excess baggage; health, accident or baggage insurance; tips to chambermaids and for personal services; items of a personal nature such as laundry; meals, except those specified as included; gratuities for special services; charges for room service, and alcoholic beverages with included meals.

Gratuities to your America by Rail Tour Directors are an industry expectation. They should be extended on an individual basis, not as a group.

RAIL SCHEDULES:

The routing and features described in tour descriptions may be altered to adjust to rail schedules in effect at the time of the tour. America by Rail reserves the right to substitute motorcoach or air travel for unavailable rail schedules, misconnections, delays or other causes.

TRAVEL DOCUMENTS :

A valid passport will be required for any trip crossing international borders. i.e. into or out of the United States. At time of reservation we will need your date of birth; gender, passport number, passport expiration date and issuing country.

HEALTH, MOBILITY AND FITNESS TO TRAVEL:

Any type of disability requiring special treatment must be reported to America by Rail at the time of registration. Passengers requiring special assistance, including without limitations those who permanently or periodically use a wheelchair, must be accompanied by someone who is fit and able to assist them, who will be totally responsible for providing all required assistance. Participants will be asked to submit a confidential medical form for each tour.

SMOKING:

Smoking is not permitted on America by Rail motorcoaches. Those who smoke may do so at any of the frequent

stops we make. All Amtrak and VIA Rail trains are entirely smoke-free. If time is available at station stops, it will be announced by the conductor. Cruise ships policies vary from line to line, but all have designated areas to accommodate smokers.

PLEASE NOTE:

America by Rail reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to accept or retain any individuals as members of the tour. The acceptance of any service provided as part of an America by Rail tour, or any ticket or voucher, shall be deemed to be acceptance of and consent by the tour member to these conditions.

All rates published herein are in U.S. dollars and based on tariffs and exchange rates in effect on the printing date of the tour brochure. Prices and arrangements are subject to change without notice.

No persons, other than a representative of America by Rail, authorized by a document in writing, may vary, add or waive any term or condition set forth in the preceding provisions.

A \$50 per person fee will be assessed for each itinerary alteration requested after final arrangements are confirmed.

It is our company policy to issue a tour roster to all tour participants containing all tour participants' names and addresses. If you do not want your address included, you must let us know at time of reservation.

Times, schedules, entertainment and activities are subject to change without notice.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING FUEL SUPPLEMENT:

Please be advised America by Rail reserves the right to apply a fuel supplement for all guests should the price of oil warrant it.

RESPONSIBILITY CLAUSE:

America by Rail acts only in the capacity as an agent for the owners and contractors providing means of transportation, hotel or other services. All tour services, tickets and vouchers are subject to any and all terms and conditions under which such means of transportation, hotel or other services are offered or provided. America by Rail shall not be or become liable or responsible in any way whatsoever, for any loss, injury or damage from acts of God, sickness, theft, weather, strikes, war, or quarantine however caused or arising.

America by Rail reserves the right to cancel a tour in the event tour participation does not meet minimum requirements.

America by Rail shall not be obligated to honor any booking resulting from, nor shall be responsible or liable whatsoever in connection with, misprints or errors of any kind, whether in brochures, advertisements, on the Internet, during the booking process or otherwise, that result in traveler being undercharged for the tour. America by Rail reserves the right, prior to departure, to collect the correct fare or cancel the booking and refund any payment made by traveler.

AMTRAK STATEMENT:

The National Railroad Passenger Corporation (Amtrak) is not to be held responsible for any act, omissions, or event during the time passengers are not on board their trains or conveyance. The passenger contract in use of the National Railroad Passenger Corporation (Amtrak) when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the National Railroad Passenger Corporation (Amtrak) and purchaser of these tours and/or passenger. All conditions are subject to the laws of the District of Columbia, U.S.A.

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