

Colón, Colón Province, Panama

Panama's Atlantic port punches above its weight: the Gatun Locks are minutes away, howler monkeys roam Gatun Lake, and centuries-old Spanish forts dot the coast. Stay in the terminal or book a tour — the rewards are extraordinary.

Docked (Colón 2000 or Cristobal Pier)

Typical call: 7-9 hrs

USD (official currency)

Spanish

MY DAY IN PORT

Ship/Date: _____ Arrive: _____ All aboard: _____

Excursion: _____ Notes: _____

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Colón 2000 Cruise Terminal or Cristobal Pier (Pier 6) — no tendering

Best For: Panama Canal locks, rainforest wildlife, colonial history

Walk to center: Colón 2000 has shops/restaurants on-site; downtown Colón not recommended on foot

Don't Miss: Watching a Panamax ship transit the Gatun Locks

Getting around: Taxi ✓ \$40–\$50 · Rideshare ✓ Uber

TOP THINGS TO DO

- Gatun Locks & Canal Visitor Center** — Watch ocean-going ships lift through the original Gatun Locks, the three-step flight of locks that has raised vessels to Gatun Lake since 1914.
- Agua Clara Locks — Expanded Canal** — See the newer Agua Clara Locks built in 2016 to accommodate Neo-Panamax ships.
- Monkey Island & Gatun Lake Boat Tour** — Cruise Gatun Lake — an artificial lake formed during canal construction — to islands teeming with howler monkeys, white-faced capuchins, sloths...
- Portobelo UNESCO Ruins** — The ruins of the Spanish colonial forts at Portobelo, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, tell the story of Spain's silver trade and Sir Francis Drake's...
- Embera Indigenous Village** — Dugout canoe into Chagres National Park to visit an Embera village.

BEST WALKS

- Colón 2000 Terminal & Duty-Free Zone** Easy · 30-60 min · On-pier — Browse duty-free shops for Panamanian coffee, rum, electronics, and jewelry.
- Cristobal Artisan Market** Easy · 20-30 min · Adjacent to Pier 6 — If docked at Cristobal Pier, a small artisan market just outside the gate sells local crafts, molas (Kuna textiles), and souvenirs.

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)

	Mon	High	Low	Rain
Apr	84°	77°	22d	
Jun	84°	76°	30d	
Aug	83°	76°	30d	
Sep	84°	76°	30d	
Oct	84°	76°	29d	

DAYLIGHT & MONEY

Apr 6:09AM–6:29PM · Jun 6:00AM–6:40PM · Aug 6:11AM–6:36PM · Sep 6:09AM–6:19PM · Oct 6:07AM–6:02PM

USD (official currency)

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Don't walk into Colón city. The area outside the terminals has significant safety risks. All travel beyond the pier should be by organized tour or terminal-arranged taxi.
- Cash is rarely needed. Panama uses the US dollar. The Colón 2000 mall and most tour operators accept credit cards, but carry \$20-40 USD in small bills for tips and taxis.
- Pack a rain jacket year-round. Colón is one of the wettest cities in the Americas — afternoon rain showers are common even in the dry season (Dec-Apr).
- Book canal tours early. Watching a ship transit Gatun Locks is one of the world's great travel experiences — ship-sponsored excursions sell out fast. Independent taxis to Gatun Locks run about \$25-35 round-trip.
- Duty-free is genuinely cheap here. Colón is a Free Trade Zone — electronics, perfumes, and liquor are priced well below typical tourist ports.
- Gatun Lake wildlife is outstanding. Even a short boat tour almost guarantees monkey, crocodile, and bird sightings. Worth prioritizing if you've already seen the canal locks before.

Colón, Colón Province, Panama — Port Map

cruiseports.org

Red = walkable sights · Amber = excursions farther out · P = cruise terminal. Numbers match the order you'd typically visit.



1 Agua Clara Locks Visitor Center

Watch ships transit the Panama Canal locks up close.

3 Playa Sherman

Relax on this scenic Caribbean beach near the city.

2 Inmaculada Concepción Cathedral

Visit Colón's main Catholic cathedral, a beautiful historic church.

P Cruise port / terminal