

Panama Canal Cruise

February 20 - March 11, 2025 (20 Days)

Tentative Tour Itinerary



Welcome aboard this incredible bucketlist vacation experience! Begin with two nights in Miami at the Marriott Hotel Biscayne. We use this comfortable property as our homebase for exploring Miami's thrilling sites. Next we sail south aboard the NCL Bliss with our sights set on the unique trek through the Panama Canal – an experience you will not soon forget. With stops in Colombia, Panama, Guatemala and Mexico, this cruise has it all! Our adventure concludes in Los Angeles where we enjoy two post-cruise nights at the Marina del Rey Hotel located in the Venice neighbourhood. A Los Angeles & Hollywood tour caps off a memorable vacation and another exciting Collins Tours adventure! Please review the following daily tour itinerary and get ready to travel in style!

-Sincerely, Greg Collins President & CEO

Day 1: Thursday, Feb 20 – Flight from Canada to Miami – Marriott Biscayne Hotel

- For those who purchased Collins Tours Inclusive Air & Transfers Package, you will depart the Maritimes on your scheduled flight, en route to Toronto, where you will meet your tour manager. The group will pre-clear US Customs in Toronto before boarding Air Canada flight for Miami. (Airfare + 1st piece of checked luggage included with package).
- Once we have collected our bags in Miami, we board our coach and transfer to our hotel (Transfer fee included).
- The tour manager will check the group into the Miami Marriott Biscayne Hotel, distribute room keys and have bags sent to your room (bag handling fee included).
- **Note: all guests will be in rooms with views of the bay!**
- The remainder of the evening is free for you to create memorable Miami moments...your way!



Day 2: Friday, Feb 21 – Miami (B, Welcome Reception)

- Rise and shine in beautiful Miami, Florida for the first full day of our tour. Enjoy a delicious breakfast at the hotel before we embark on a tour of this fine city and its landmarks.
- Our local professional guide takes us to the private residential islands of Star Island and Fisher Island - home to Gloria Estefan, Diddy, Naomi Campbell and many other well-known faces, to visit South Beach, which has the largest collection of Art Deco buildings in the world. Marvel at the new home of 'The New World Symphony' considered by many to be one of the greatest works of world-famous architect Frank Gehry. Drive along Brickell Ave. in downtown Miami - the second largest financial center in the USA to charming and laid-back Coconut Grove, once the home base of Pan Am.
- This evening join your tour director and fellow travellers for a Welcome Cocktail reception (included). Here you will have an opportunity to meet your fellow travellers and discuss the exciting tour ahead.
- Following our reception, feel free to enjoy the city and dinner at your leisure (not included).

Day 3: Saturday, Feb 22 – Miami – Embarkation aboard the NCL Bliss (B, L, D)

- Enjoy another tasty breakfast at the hotel before we board our private transfer to the pier to board the NCL Bliss! At the cruise pier we begin our embarkation process for your amazing Panama Canal Cruise Tour, onboard the Norwegian Bliss.
- You have already completed your online NCL cruise check-in process prior to today, so relax while your bags are sent to your assigned stateroom (bag handling fees included).
- All of our cabins may not be ready upon boarding, but lunch is! Enjoy your first meal aboard the Bliss at your leisure while waiting for all cabins to be cleaned and ready for your stay. (Included).
- All meals are included during your cruise, with endless options to satisfy any craving!
- Our ship sets sail this afternoon. Make plans to find your way out on the top deck to bid Bon Voyage to Miami as you set sails on an unforgettable experience on one of the newest ship at sea today!

Day 4: Sunday, Feb 23 – At Sea (B, L, Cocktail Reception, Group D)

- Relax during your first day at sea, exploring the Bliss at your leisure.
- Check out the ship's daily program for featured shows and entertainment while cruising.
- This evening, meet your fellow Collins Tours travellers for a Collins Tours Cocktail party at sea, (**included**) for 1 hour of complimentary alcoholic beverages and hot appetizers. Following our cocktail reception, we will have our welcome dinner in one of the ship's dining rooms (**Price included**).

Day 5: Monday, Feb 24 – At Sea (B, L, D)

- Refer to the ship's itinerary for today's special events.
- It is another day in free-style cruising heaven, so live like the Norwegians... smile bigger, explore further, and relax longer!

Day 6: Tuesday, Feb 25 – Cartagena, Colombia (B, L, D) *****Optional Excursion**

- This morning we dock in Cartagena, Colombia from 7:00 am until 5:00 pm this afternoon.
- Meet your Tour Manager pier side as we explore this fascinating city on this **optional** 3-hour walking tour. Today you will see sights such as Torre del Reloj, Camellón de los Mártires, Mercado de los esclavos, Murallas (Walls), Plaza de Bolívar, Plaza San Diego, Plaza de la Paz and Plaza de la Aduana before returning to the ship for lunch. (**Price TBA**)
- History abounds in Colombia's Caribbean coast, and your day in this beautiful, historic, old-walled city will be one to remember. Perhaps a local leather specialty shop is on your agenda?
- The Bliss sets sail again today at 2:00 pm, so plan your day accordingly.
- Prepare yourself for a thrilling trek through the Panama Canal tomorrow!



Day 7: Wednesday, Feb 26 – Colon, Panama

- Sail into the Caribbean seaport of Colón and grab a good spot on deck so you can take in the spectacular view. Your ship is docked from 9:00 am to 8:00pm today. This is where you will see the Atlantic Ocean entrance to the famous Panama Canal, born from a desire to get to California (and its Gold Rush) as fast as possible, this industrious town was the last stop on the 19th century Panama Railroad. It's now home to Canal Zones, U.S. military bases and of course, beautiful scenery.

Day 8: Thursday, Feb 27 – Transit Panama Canal Day (B, L, Group D)

- Behold the canal itself as we enter on the Atlantic Ocean entrance before transiting the lakes and lock system that make this one of the greatest feats of modern day engineering
- Be sure you are up bright and early today to get the full experience of the 48-mile passage
- Taking “the world’s best shortcut,” you travel from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean in about 10 hours!
- Refer to the ship’s itinerary for today’s other special activities.
- This is where that balcony stateroom is worth every penny and the first cabin selection that sells out on all Panama Canal Cruise Tours!



Day 9: Friday, Feb 28 – At Sea (B, L, Group D)

- Warm breezes welcome you to the Pacific Ocean today!
- Free day to relax and enjoy the Bliss and take advantage of the amenities of your ship: only an elevator ride away!
- Tonight, join your tour manager and fellow passengers for another dinner together in one of the ship’s dining rooms **(included)**.

Day 10: Saturday, Mar 1 – Puntarenas (Puerto Caldera), Costa Rica

- The ship is scheduled to dock in Puntarenas, Costa Rica from 7:00 am to 8:00 pm.
- Just a few miles from Puerto Caldera is Puntarenas, where stunning beaches, an array of wildlife, and streets lined with restaurants, bars and cafés await. Carara National Park is a must for nature lovers and features ancestral trees and secondary forests, perfect for spotting wildlife such as crocodiles and 400-plus species of birds, including colourful scarlet macaws. Or, switch gears and party with the locals at Jaco, about 30 miles south. There, find sun, fun and sand with plenty of bars and places to grab a bite.



Day 11: Sunday, Mar 2 – At Sea (B, L, Group D)

- Enjoy another beautiful day sailing the Pacific Ocean!
- Free day to relax and enjoy the Bliss and enjoy the amenities of your ship.
- Join your tour manager tonight for a delicious meal with your group in one of the ship’s dining rooms. **(Included)**
- Tomorrow we will awake in Puerto Quetzal, Guatemala!

Day 12: Monday, Mar 3 – Puerto Quetzal, Guatemala (B, L, D)

- The ship is scheduled to dock in Puerto Quetzal, Guatemala from 7:00 am until 5:00 pm today.
- This port city was constructed in 1984 to help connect nearby cities. Here you can venture out to Antigua, a 90-minute trek to where 17th-century Spanish Baroque facades beckon and Guatemala’s history, charm and colours comes alive. Surrounded by nutrient-rich volcanic soil, Antigua lays claim to some of the best coffee grown anywhere in the world. Walk the streets and shop in the bustling market of this quaint but busy Guatemalan hill town. Don’t forget to snap a photo of the world-famous Volcan de Agua framed by the Santa Catalina Arch.



Day 13: Tuesday, Mar 4 – At Sea (B, L, Group D)

- Enjoy another beautiful day sailing the Pacific Ocean.
- Join your tour manager and fellow passengers for another dinner together in one of the ship's dining rooms.

Day 14: Wednesday, Mar 5 – Manzanillo, Mexico (B, L, D)

- Today our ship arrives in Manzanillo, Mexico at 12:45 pm until 8:00pm.
- Picturesque fishing port-turned-tourist resort with spectacular snowcapped volcanoes offer sights rarely seen. The waters and beautiful lagoons of Manzanillo are ideal for water sports.
- Manzanillo is known as the "Sailfish Capital of the World" thanks to the excellent sport fishing here.
- Beachside vendors sell everything from dresses to jewelry. The biggest mall in the city features numerous shops and a large department store. Enjoy great seafood and Mexican cuisine as well as French, Italian, Argentinean and American fare. Dine near the beach and enjoy the view.
- Tonight, we sail for Puerto Vallarta, Mexico.

Day 15: Wednesday, Mar 6 – Puerto Vallarta, Mexico (B, L, D) ***Optional Excursion

- Today our ship arrives in Puerto Vallarta – a stunning resort city situated in the shadows of a beautiful mountain range. The Bliss remains in port from 7:00 am until 3:00 pm.
- Smaller and more subdued than Acapulco, Puerto Vallarta has retained a good deal of its small village charm along with 26 miles of spectacular beaches along the Banderas. Today, join your Tour Manager and fellow travellers for an **optional** 4-hour guided tour of beautiful Puerto Vallarta where you will see why this Mexican town is home to many Canadian and American expats. We will walk the *malecón* (boardwalk) along the ocean as we make our way to visit the Church of Our Lady of Guadalupe, built in the early 1900's, and its charming plaza. After some shopping time at Isla Cuale, we will continue to Old Town, the Romantic Zone, and Los Muertos Beach. **(Price TBA)**
- Tonight, we sail for Cabo San Lucas, Mexico.



Day 16: Friday, Mar 7 – Cabo San Lucas, Mexico (B, L, D)

- Today we visit our final port-of-call in beautiful Cabo San Lucas – vacationland for many of Hollywood's rich and famous! The Bliss is in port today from 7:00 am until 3:00 pm.
- Cabo's signature landmark is El Arco ("The Arch"), a rock formation at the tip of "Land's End." The jewel of the Baja Peninsula is famous for its world-class sportfishing, as well as its high-end resorts and exclusive gated communities that line an area simply called "the Corridor."
- The Bliss sets sail at 3:00 pm as we head north to California and our disembarkation port, Los Angeles.

Day 17: Saturday, Mar 8 – At Sea (B, L, Group D)

- Enjoy a relaxing day at sea aboard the NCL Bliss.
- Tonight, join your tour manager for another group dinner in one of the ship's dining rooms **(Price included)**. Dine together and swap stories of your cruising adventure!

Day 18: Sunday, Mar 9 – Los Angeles, US (Disembark) -> Marina Del Rey Hotel (B)

- Rise 'n shine in the city of angels – Los Angeles, USA!
- The Bliss docks at the Port in San Pedro, Los Angeles this morning where we disembark for the final stage of our memorable tour.
- After clearing Customs & Immigration, board our coach for a 3.5-hour professionally guided sightseeing tour of Los Angeles, including Hollywood, Rodeo Drive and more **(included)**.
- We will check into the beautiful Hotel Marina Del Rey late this afternoon allowing you the remainder of the evening to explore this amazing city at your leisure.



Day 19: Monday, Mar 10 – Los Angeles, US (B, Farewell D)

- Enjoy another buffet breakfast (included) this morning before exploring this beautiful area the way you please during your free day in L.A. Maybe you want to head down to the Santa Monica Pier for lunch, maybe another Hollywood Mansions tour? Enjoy this beautiful city!
- Join us this evening for our fabulous "farewell dinner" complete with a glass of wine or beer, just another signature service of Collins Tours. Enjoy a delicious dinner while reflecting on our adventure together and amazing memories shared.
- **Please Note:** For those who purchased Collins Tours Inclusive Airfare, your tour manager will have your pre-checked in for your flights tomorrow allowing for a seamless airport experience.

Day 20: Tuesday, Mar 11 – Los Angeles – Flights Home (B) *Same Day Arrival

- Enjoy breakfast before check-out. Your tour manager will handle group check-out.
- For those who purchased Collins Tours Inclusive Air or whoever added in the transfers to their package we will board our private motorcoach for the drive to LAX.
- Please refer to our flight letter for more details regarding procedures returning back into Canada

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

***Tour itineraries are a **guideline and may need to be adjusted** by CTC or your tour manager. All times, events, or overall tour itineraries may/are impacted by unforeseen factors, such as weather, traffic, changes to event times, modifications to the cruise itinerary, Acts of God, or other states of emergencies not mentioned above, having similar outcomes. **Collins Tours is not responsible for any refunds, reimbursements, credits, or liable due to any potential changes in itineraries, modifications, lost time in any one particular area, or the loss of any days of scheduled itinerary due to any of the circumstances as described above.**

Hotel Information

- Miami - Marriott Biscayne Bay, 1633 N Bayshore Dr, Miami, FL 33132. PH: 1-305-374-3900
- Los Angeles – Marina Del Rey DoubleTree by Hilton, 13480 Maxella Ave, Marina Del Rey, CA 90292. PH: 1-310-822-8555

- Norwegian Cruise Lines requires **everyone to have a Valid Passport**. It is the traveler's responsibility to ensure all information/ documentation is in good order prior to leaving your destination.
- All prescription medication will need to be labeled in prescribed containers.
- Collins Tours & Consulting Ltd is **not responsible or liable** for any country denying entry. Passengers denied entry is responsible for their return expenses or any portion of unused travel.

- Duty Free rules: You are allowed to claim \$800 per person for travel outside the country for more than 7 days.
- Collins Tours & Consulting Ltd is not responsible for any flight delays, schedule changes, flight gate changes, acts of God, mechanical issues, any emergencies, or any missed connections due from any such events described above or unforeseen circumstances arising not described above, yet may cause similar outcomes or delays. Collins Tours & Consulting Ltd is not responsible for providing additional transportations costs, if necessary, reimbursements or and king for these additional expenses, loss of use, or loss of hotel nights, meals, transportation arrangements, or any portion of your planned vacation you have that may or may not be missed. These costs, if any, will be paid directly by the traveler and submitted through the appropriate persons travel insurance for reimbursement of expenses. Please contact our office if you need assistance with all-inclusive medical insurance, trip cancellation and interruption coverage, or quarantine insurance. Collins Tours & Consulting Ltd does not anticipate any such concerns or events and only wishes for everyone to ensure proper travel insurance has been purchase in advance.

REMEMBER: Your tour manager handles: hotel check in/check-out procedures, overall group management (e.g. timely transitions, itinerary planning), and group representation at events, hotels, Customs and Immigration, and overall operation of each tour. We work hard to ensure that everyone enjoys his or her experience to the fullest.

- Gratuities for your tour manager and driver are not included in your tour price.
- Tour director tipping guidelines suggest \$7.00 - \$9.00 per person per day,
- Bus Driver tipping guidelines suggest \$2.00 - \$3.00 per person for
- Local step on guides tipping guidelines suggest \$2.00 - \$3.00 per person.



Thank you for traveling with Collins Tours!
We look forward to serving you your future travel plans!