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Valden Tours, Inc. 



PANAMA CANAL CRUISE

The New Locks

February 15-25, 2018

Ft. Lauderdale....Princess Cays, Bahamas....

Cartagena, Columbia....Panama Canal....

Colon, Panama....Limon, Costa Rica....

Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands....Ft. Lauderdale



Consider this...the average February temperature in Lincoln NE ranges from a high of 40 degrees to a low of 18...the average February temperature in Panama ranges from a high of 84 degrees to a low of 76. Now, is there any reason not to consider trading the snow and cold for a week of cruising the Caribbean? Toss in the Panama Canal's new locks and a day of cruising Lake Gatun, day stops in the Bahamas, Colombia, Costa Rica and the Cayman Islands and you have a relaxing 11-day "Great Escape."

ITINERARY

Thursday, February 15: Our flight leaves from Omaha at the reasonable hour of 10:55 a.m., so our motorcoach transfer from Lincoln will depart about 8:00 that morning. Our flights will take us to Ft. Lauderdale via Atlanta, arriving at our destination by 5:00 that afternoon. Not totally trusting Nebraska weather in February, we have opted to arrive in Florida the day preceding our cruise departure. Our included lodging will be at the Hilton at Ft.Lauderdale Marina or a similar hotel. Dinner will be on your own that evening, as well as breakfast and lunch the following day.

Friday, February 16: We will transfer to our ship, the **Caribbean Princess** which is of Bermudan registry early in the afternoon. There will be time to find your cabin and explore the ship prior to our 4:00 p.m. sailing. Find a spot on deck to watch our departure. Shortly thereafter will be the mandatory evacuation drill where you will learn how to properly wear your orange life preserver. Following dinner you may wish to check out the evening's entertainment.

Saturday, February 17: At 9:00 this morning we arrive at **Princess Cays, Bahamas**. The day will be spent at the Princess private resort on the island of Eleuthera.. For those interested, it features a wonderful white sand beach. Water and beach activities are available, along with a beach barbeque. Travel from the ship to the beach and return is by a tender. Our ship departs at 5:00 in the afternoon.



Sunday, February 18 & Monday, February 19: Both days we are sailing south toward Colombia and the Canal. Plenty of time to check out the ship's amenities and relax in the soothing Caribbean breezes.



Tuesday, February 20: Our ship arrives at **Cartagena, Colombia** by 7:00 this morning. We will be in port until 3:00 this afternoon. You may wish to check out some of the excursions offered through the ship's tour desk, or simply stroll the streets of Cartagena. The city was founded in 1533, so some of the colonial parts of the city will be interesting to explore. Today, the population is just under 1 million. You might consider a horse and carriage tour of the old city and marvel at the architecture. For bird enthusiasts, Colombia has the greatest diversity of birds in the world and its national aviary is impressive.



Wednesday, February 21: Early this morning (about 6:00) our ship will approach the **Panama Canal**. You may wish to arise early and find a spot on deck to observe the passage through the new locks. We will then spend the day cruising on **Lake Gatun**. About 3:30 that afternoon we will exit through the same locks and travel to **Colon, Panama**, arriving by 5:00 p.m. This will be a short visit since the ship will depart at 8:00 p.m.



Thursday, February 22: We will dock at the port of **Limon, Costa Rica**, by 7:00 this morning. Since we will be in port until 6:00 this evening, there will be plenty of time to explore this small country. Costa Rica's Limon Province boasts pristine beaches, sprawling banana plantations and a dense rainforest. These Caribbean lowlands are still sparsely populated--nearly a third of the province's population lives around Puerto Limon--and conservation efforts have led to growing ecotourism. Limon Province offers other charms as well. Afro-Caribbean influences abound, from the lilting speech and reggae rhythms brought by Jamaican settlers to the colorful bungalows lining small fishing villages. Limon is a zesty little slice of heaven. You might wish to schedule a rain forest or banana plantation tour.



Friday, February 23: Our ship will dock at **Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands**, by 7:00 this morning. We will be in port until 4:00 this afternoon. When Columbus made his landfall in the Caymans in 1503, he found tortoises and sea turtles in such profusion that he promptly named the islands Las Tortugas. But the name that stuck for the islands was the Carib word "Caimanas." Fitting, since the caiman is a New World crocodilian and the islands were long the lair of pirates, buccaneers, and assorted freebooters. Despite their past, the Caymans are a Caribbean demi-paradise of white-sand beaches, coral gardens, and offshore waters harboring spectacular shipwrecks. Grand Cayman, Cayman Brac and Little Cayman also boast the highest standard of living in the entire Caribbean. This union of natural beauty and cosmopolitan style makes Grand Cayman a spectacular port of call for today's adventurers. Note: Grand Cayman is an anchorage port. Passengers transfer to shore via ship's tender. In certain sea conditions, an alternate pier is used to transfer passengers ashore. This may cause tour durations to vary. You might wish to consider a tortoise or stingray encounter during your time in port.



Saturday, February 24: Enjoy our last day at sea. Enjoy the various amenities offered onboard, purchase those photos that you "must" have that were taken throughout the cruise, and stop by the front desk to take care of your onboard and excursion expenses you booked through the ship. Enjoy your last night on board with the farewell and champagne fountain which is usually standard for cruises.

Sunday, February 25: Our ship will dock at **Ft. Lauderdale** by 7:00 a.m. There will be time for breakfast onboard. You will be assigned a ship departure time based on our flight schedule. A transfer to the airport will be arranged. We depart Ft. Lauderdale at 12:55 p.m. on a Delta airline flight with a transfer in Atlanta. We arrive in Omaha at 5:15 p.m. and our motorcoach will transfer us to Lincoln.

See pricing information on page 4

PANAMA CANAL FEE SCHEDULE

The fee schedule for participation in this cruise will depend on the type of cabin selected.

		<u>Deposit</u>
Interior cabin, shared occupancy, per person	\$2,848	\$700
Interior cabin, single occupancy	\$4,226	\$1,000
Ocean view cabin, shared occupancy, per person	\$3,098	\$750
Ocean view cabin, single occupancy	\$4,628	\$1,050
Balcony cabin, shared occupancy, per person	\$3,598	\$850
Balcony cabin, single occupancy	\$5,726	\$1,275

Pricing for each category includes roundtrip airfare between Omaha and Ft. Lauderdale, roundtrip motorcoach transportation between Lincoln and the Omaha airport, February 15 overnight hotel accommodations in Ft. Lauderdale, the ship cabin in the price category selected including meals provided by the ship, ship taxes and fees, Ft. Lauderdale transfers between the airport and hotel and ship to airport, the OLLI fee, and Valden Tours overhead.

Pricing does NOT include Ft. Lauderdale overnight meals, shipboard drinks, any cruise excursions, or any shipboard gratuities.

All passengers will require a U.S. passport which is valid for six months beyond the ending cruise date.

Individuals requesting assistance under the American Disabilities Act (ADA) should contact Valden Tours at the time a reservation is made.

The final reservation date is November 15, 2017. This is also the final date for cancellation without penalty.

NOTE: Per group booking policy by the cruiseline, a block of cabins have been reserved for our group. They also hold the option to withdraw cabin space not utilized by our group if, at their discretion, a sufficient number of cabins have not been reserved. Our group's first possible space withdrawal date is August 15. Therefore, individuals interested in this cruise are encouraged to make their reservations with Valden Tours as soon as possible, and certainly not close to the November 15 deadline. **PRICES MAY VARY A LITTLE FROM THE ABOVE RATES AT THE TIME OF BOOKING. IN THESE INSTANCES YOU WILL BE INFORMED OF ANY PRICE INCREASE PRIOR TO LOCKING IN YOUR RESERVATION.** Once our group allotment of space in each category is exhausted, it may be possible to secure a cabin, but the price may be higher than our quoted group rates.

All deposits are due at the time of reservation, and final payment will be due **November 15, 2017**. Please pay by check to Valden Tours, Inc. and mail to Valden Tours at 2101 South 66th Street, Lincoln, NE 68506.

Please contact Lee Rockwell at Valden Tours with any questions about this cruise. Contact him at 402-486-0900 or by email lrockwell@windstream.net



