



Daylong Trip to Barro Colorado

The tour starts very early in the morning bound for Gamboa's dock, about thirty-five minutes away from Panama City. From that point, the journey is done by boat in Gatún Lake for approximately forty-five minutes until reaching Barro Colorado Island. The lake was created from the construction of Chagres River's dams, waters of which were necessary for elevating the water level and allowing the operation of the canal's locks. Thus, great part of the existing forest was covered and Barro Colorado, its largest island, rose in the middle of the artificial basin. It is a biological reserve since 1923 and it has been administrated by the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute since 1946. It works as a biological research center on tropical ecosystems. Every year, approximately 200 scientists visit the area in order to study the ecology, the evolution and behavior of plants and animals. When you reach the island, you will meet the reserve's guide and you will have a walk of approximately two hours and a half (around two kilometers) through trails going through the tropical forest formed by big focuses, palm trees and ceiba trees, a habitat of 122 species of mammals, among them, there are seventy-two species of bats, five species of monkeys, guinea pigs, tapirs, coatis, sloths and peccaries. The visit includes the entrance to the Visitor Center where the natural history of Barro Colorado is explained and there is a two-option vegetarian buffet lunch at the coffee shop.

DURATION: approximately 8 hours.

TIME: departure between 6:00 a.m. and 7:00 a.m. and return between 3:30 p.m. and 4:00 p.m.

GUIDE: a Spanish/English speaker guide of the park.

INCLUSIVE: transfer from/to the hotel, entrances to the park and to the Visitor Center and lunch. Takeaway breakfast upon prior request.

NOTES: it is a collective visit along with other visitors, from different countries. Limited places. It is recommended to book it in advance and bring your passport. It is not offered on Mondays, Thursdays and some holidays.

RECOMMENDED OUTFIT: long pants, long sleeve shirt, hat, comfortable shoes for the walk, sunscreen, repellent, hydration and a raincoat, especially between April and December.