

# **“Paradise in Panama and Captivating Costa Rica”**

## **Luxury Windstar AFS Solo's Voyage - Panama Canal & Costa Rica**

**Feb 1-9, 2019**

*This exotic cruise has been on my radar for years. Our past groups loved it but now we will be experiencing it on a 5 star sailing yacht! It's the unparalleled way to visit two tropical countries – traversing through the massive Panama Canal – the Eighth Wonder of the World aboard a stunning sailing yacht!! Even if you've visited Panama and Costa Rica, we bet that you didn't get the full majesty of their pristine interiors. From intense verdant rainforests to cloud forests which few outsiders get to experience.*

*There's a bucket list of sights and activities to make this trip extraordinary with daily amazing adventures! Zodiac boats will whisk you to secluded white sand beaches. There are river floats, sea kayaking, aerial trams, white water rafting, horseback riding in the surf, dolphin watch sailing, nature walks to waterfalls, jungle hikes, craft markets, cooking lessons and even a chocolate farm.*

*Panama is home to countless UNESCO heritage sites and is a shoppers Duty Free Mecca. Swim the world famous beaches: Playa Flamingo, Bahia Herradura and Isla Parida Nature Preserve of 50 islands! We transit the canal in daylight for eye-popping photos and visit the fascinating Mira Flores Locks Visitor Center. Nat Geo says Costa Rica holds the most intense rainforest ecosystem on the planet, providing shelter to an abundance of macaws, toucans, sloths and monkeys and much more. We anchor for boat tours into biodiverse Corovado National Park, Manuel Antonio NP, stunning Golfo Dulce and zip lining over Quepos!*

*Every day is a new adventure and a new location as we explore one tropical paradise after another in this not to be missed offering.*

*Others may present this but not with The AFS Difference– You get \$150 Shipboard credit to spend on whatever you like. (If you have sailed Windstar before and bring a new friend, get another \$100 shipboard credit!)*

*Enjoy our private AFS “Meet the Monkeys” tour by riding thrilling speedboats through the Panama Canal and to fab Lake Gutan whose shores are filled with primates (they prefer donuts over than bananas and may jump into your boat!)*

*We have a \$50 bottle of fine wine waiting in your suite with fresh fruit and flowers to start your journey.*

*Finally – transfers: The air is easy but the pier is far from Panama City and San Jose. We offer airport transfers at half the cost of others.*

*Onboard you'll learn much from our expert naturalist Eddie Roblero. We will enjoy an AFS exclusive cocktail party, a champagne welcome reception, AFS GTL Happy Hour Mix up, access to the Captain's bridge, evening entertainment, A Windstar Signature Beach Party and Barbeque Under the Stars.... and MORE!*

*Our elegant yacht the Wind Surf raises the bar with ocean view suites, trendy gourmet cuisine, luxury amenities and the friendliest crew to make you feel special and pampered. There's no lines with only 296 guests to befriend. 32 will be AFS... including you! At the stern is the award-winning Windstar Water Platform for all of you AFS Water Babies. Complimentary splashy fun with floats, boats, kayaks and snorkel gear to truly experience the wonders of a turquoise sea teeming with marine life. Foodies will be enticed by the stellar creations of the 5-star chefs throughout our voyage.*

*Each night at sunset, the billowing sails unfurl with a crescendo of classical music. Windstar's “Sail Aways” as we leave port each evening bring chills and goosebumps to all. Some things only come around once. This is one so don't miss the boat come dreary February. Come romance the wind with us!!!*

## Our Glorious AFS Itinerary

### **Feb 1- Depart USA - Welcome to Panama City - Colón**

Check in 4 star hotel (Check in 2pm)

**Feb 2** – Our trip officially starts as we meet up and head from Panama City to Colón on the opposite coast of Panama, where our stunning sailing yacht the Wind Star awaits! We set sail at in the evening with the first of many spectacular Sail Away parties and we start our exploration of the Panama Canal.

AFS Meet & Greet tonight when you're settled aboard.

### **Feb 3 – Panama Canal**

AFS Solos thru the Canal

Ocean to ocean, the Panama Canal is nearly 48 miles long. We be able to experience the full magnitude of this man-made marvel and we pass through three sets of locks. The lock are wonders in and of themselves, raising and lowering the vessel 85 feet between the calm Pacific Ocean and the shimmering waters of the Atlantic. Our voyage takes place during the **daylight hours** for optimal viewing of every part of this amazing experience. There are numerous observation vantage points to witness this from the ships exterior, as well as comfortable indoor air-conditioned lounges. Expert onboard commentary enhances your journey as you watch the day to day workings of this engineering marvel. Tour the famous Miraflores Lock & Museum for great photos.

### **Feb 4 – Balboa/Fuerte Amador, Panama**

Balboa/Fuerte Amador is one of the entrances to the Panama Canal and it is also one of the oldest cities in Central America. Founded in 1519, it is a short distance from Panama City. This busy port also holds incredible charm with its colonial homes, the Administration Building, the Goethals Memorial, the Prado, and the local handicraft markets of traditional Panamanian crafts.

Close-up of a capuchin monkey eating a fruit

**We will have our own private AFS exhilarating speed boat excursion to Lake Gatun to go searching for wildlife!!!** These boats will zip us right back through the canal to its heart, traversing right next to mighty container ships and cruise vessels. The excursion is called a "Monkey Watch," but we'll experience so much more! The lake is a labyrinth of jungle covered islands teeming with wildlife such as capuchin monkeys, 3-toed sloths, howler monkeys, various kinds of toucans and other bird life as well as caimans, crocodiles, turtles and a wealth of butterflies. We'll have our own naturalist to help us identify the wildlife and the jungle sounds we will hear.

### **Feb 5 – At sea**

We will spend the day at sea, allowing you to take advantage of all the ship has to offer. There's a pool and numerous water sports to enjoy, but the Wind Star also includes a spa, casino and the famous Water Platform to play on! Take a bar tending or

cooking class or simply relax and enjoy the views of the azure waters. Tonight, we enjoy a **private AFS Cocktail Party** with the Captain.

### **Feb 6 – Isla Parida, Panama**

Be prepared to be dazzled by nature as we spend the day at the incomparable **Isla Parida**. Located within a Nature Preserve of 50 islands, and part of **Chiriqui Marine National Park** this lovely island boasts magnificent beaches, one of which is over 1,300 feet long. The crystal clear waters stay at 82 degrees year round and are filled with marine life. There are numerous hardwood trees like teak, mahogany, and eucalyptus, and fruit trees like mango, banana and coconut trees. In the early evening, we migrate to a secluded Pacific beach where we will be treated to **Windstar's Signature Beach Party**. Music and entertainment only add to the ambience which is only made better by the scrumptious food and delectable tropical drinks.

### **Feb 7 – Puerto Jimenez (Golfo Dulce), Costa Rica**

You won't know where to look first as we spend an incredible day in the wild and scenic Golfo Dulce, one of Costa Rica's most biodiverse areas. Here, both the jungle and the sea brim with life. Picture Jurassic foliage growing down steep hillsides all the way to the waterline. Listen for the hoots of monkeys echoing through trees choked by orchids. We'll explore the canals by kayak in search of macaws, sloths, butterflies, and incredible bird life, more than you will find in all of North America.

### **Feb 8- Quepes, Costa Rica**

It's a full day of rainforest adventures, using the former banana-exporting town of Quepos as our basecamp. There's so many things to choose from!!! Zipline over the jungle, walk along trails that weave up to waterfalls, or ride horseback to a beautiful jungle pool. You could also choose to float through a mangrove swamp populated by monkeys, crocodiles, egrets, and herons... or take a nature walk through Manuel Antonio National Park, with its pristine white-sand beaches with coral reefs, easy meandering trails, and abundant animal life

### **Feb 9 – Puerto Caldera, Costa Rica**

We awake in Puerto Caldera, Costa Rica where we bid our ship goodbye and transfer to San Jose and our flights home.

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**Fitness Level Two** – I have no trouble walking and if necessary, can walk for 3+ miles. Uneven surfaces are not a problem. I do not need a cane or walking device.

A **\$500 deposit** secures your reservation. More details in AFS Trip Tips for registrants.

Cruise Cost: Cabin preference assigned on first come basis.

*Cat B* – \$2730 (188 sq ft, outside cabin, forward, aft, deck one)

*Cat BX* – \$1910 (188 sq ft, outside cabin, mid-ship, deck one)

*Cat A* – \$2620 (188 sq ft, outside cabin, forward/aft deck two)

*CAT AX* – \$3180 (188 sq ft, outside cabin, mid-ship, deck two)

Plus \$175 port change (price **includes** \$480 taxes)

Includes: 8-day cruise with all meals, private AFS cocktail party with crew, all meals onboard, AFS private Speedboat Monkey Tour through Canal, \$50 bottle wine with fruit basket and only for our AFS Waterbabies, \$150 shipboard credit (think spa!)

Not included: gratuities paid onboard, shore excursions (good ideas on these to come in AFS Trip Tips.)

AIR: You can book your own air or use

Group Air roundtrip Miami \$TBA

AA 4720 Feb 2 MIA-PTY 1030pm-133pm

AA 1600 Feb 9 SJO-MIA 138pm-550p

| DATE      | PORT                                     | ARRIVE   | DEPART   |
|-----------|--|----------|----------|
| FEB 2 SAT | COLÓN, PANAMA                            |          | 5:00 PM  |
| FEB 3 SUN | PANAMA CANAL, PANAMA                     | 4:00 AM  | 6:00 PM  |
| FEB 3 SUN | BALBOA / FUERTE AMADOR, PANAMA           | 10:00 PM | 11:59 PM |
| FEB 4 MON | BALBOA / FUERTE AMADOR, PANAMA           | 12:01 AM | 5:00 PM  |
| FEB 5 TUE | AT SEA                                   |          |          |
| FEB 6 WED | ISLA PARIDA, PANAMA                      | 8:00 AM  | 6:00 PM  |
| FEB 7 THU | PUERTO JIMENEZ (GOLFO DULCE), COSTA RICA | 8:30 AM  | 5:00 PM  |
| FEB 8 FRI | QUEPOS, COSTA RICA                       | 7:00 AM  | 6:00 PM  |
| FEB 9 SAT | PUERTO CALDERA, COSTA RICA               | 6:00 AM  |          |

Please review AFS Terms and Conditions as well as Heading Abroad with AFS.

Land – Price based on a minimum number of trip participants, as well as local currency exchange rates which can fluctuate. We write our Itineraries a year in advance. Though unlikely, we reserve the right to modify schedules, tours and hotels if necessary. All hotel rooms are “run of house.”

Group air – Airlines may add surcharges to offset fuel inflation or taxes. The total ticket cost is not final until we receive your final payment and the group is ticketed. If doing own air, airport transfer may or may not be included depending on your air schedule. Do not buy air until the group air is set or we advise – though unlikely, airlines, times and dates can change!