



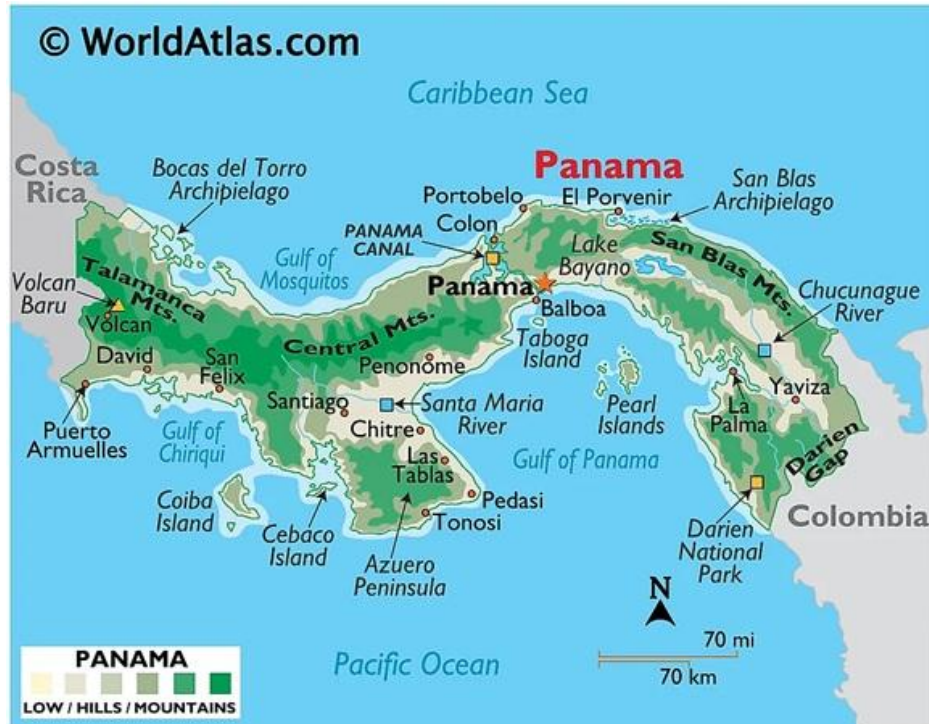
My Drift

Title: Panama City

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Panama City is the capital and largest city of the Republic of Panama. It has a total population of 410,355 in the city proper and 1,086,990 in the Panama District, which includes the outer corregimientos of the city. Corregimiento is a Spanish term used for country subdivisions for royal administrative purposes, ensuring districts were under crown control as opposed to local elites. The metropolitan area has over 2,100,000 people. The city is at the Pacific entrance of the Panama Canal, in the province of Panama. The city is the political and administrative center of the country, as well as a hub for banking and commerce.

History

The city of Panama was founded on 15 August 1519, by Spanish conquistador Pedro Arias Dávila. The city was the starting point for expeditions that conquered the Inca Empire of Peru. It was a stopover point on one of the most important trade routes in the American continent, leading to the trade fairs of Nombre de Dios and Portobelo, through which passed most of the gold and silver that Spain mined from the Americas.

In 1671 Henry Morgan with a band of 1,400 men attacked and looted the city, which was subsequently destroyed by fire. The ruins of the old city still remain and are a popular tourist attraction known as Panamá Viejo (Old Panama). The city was rebuilt in 1673 in a new location approximately 5 miles southwest of the original city. This is now known as the Casco Viejo (Old Quarter) of the city. Panama City is the fourth earliest founded of the modern-day capital cities in the Americas.



The Genoese-Italians and the Spanish encountered coconuts which had arrived from the Philippines before Spanish colonization. In 1520, Genoese merchants controlled the port and the commerce of the region, mainly for the slave trade, thanks to a concession given by the Spaniards, who had the Republic of Genoa as its main banking base.

One year before the start of the California Gold Rush, the Panama Railroad Company was formed, but the railroad did not begin full operation until 1855. Between 1848 and 1869, the year the first transcontinental railroad was completed in the United States, about 375,000 people crossed the isthmus from

the Atlantic to the Pacific, and 225,000 in the opposite direction. This traffic greatly increased the prosperity of the city during that period.

After declaring independence from Colombia on 3 November 1903, Philippe Bunau-Varilla (a French engineer) was named Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary. Bunau-Varilla negotiated the Hay-Bunau-Varilla Treaty of 1903, which provided the United States with a 10-mile-wide strip of land for the canal, a one-time \$10 million payment to Panama, and an annual annuity of \$250,000. The United States also agreed to guarantee the independence of Panama. Completed in 1914, the Panama Canal symbolized U.S. technological prowess and economic power. Although U.S. control of the canal eventually became an irritant to U.S.-Panamanian relations, at the time it was heralded as a major foreign policy achievement.



The Panama Canal

The construction of the Panama Canal was of great benefit to the infrastructure and economy. Of particular note are the improvements in health and sanitation brought about by the American presence in the Canal Zone. William Gorgas, the chief sanitary officer for the canal construction, had a particularly large impact. He hypothesized that diseases were spread by the abundance of mosquitos native to the area and ordered the fumigation of homes and the cleansing of water. This led to yellow fever being eradicated by November 1905, as well malaria rates falling dramatically. However, most of the laborers for the construction of the canal were brought in from the Caribbean, which created unprecedented racial and social tensions in the city.

During World War II, construction of military bases and the presence of larger numbers of U.S. military and civilian personnel brought about unprecedented levels of prosperity to the city. Panamanians had limited access, or no access at all, to many areas in the Canal Zone neighboring the Panama City metropolitan area. Some of these areas were military bases accessible only to United States personnel. Some tensions arose between the people of Panama and the U.S. citizens living in the Panama Canal Zone. This erupted on 9 January 1964, events, known as Martyrs' Day.

The dispute began over the right to fly the Panamanian flag alongside the U.S. flag. After U.S. students at Balboa High School raised only the American flag, Panamanian students marched to the Zone to raise their own banner. When the Panamanian flag was torn in the ensuing scuffle, large-scale protests and rioting erupted. The Canal Zone Police and U.S. troops were deployed, resulting in the deaths of 22 Panamanians and four U.S. soldiers



In the late 1970s through the 1980s the city of Panama became an international banking center, bringing a lot of undesirable attention as an international money-laundering locale. In 1989 after nearly a year of tension between the United States and Panama, President George H. W. Bush ordered the invasion of Panama to depose General Manuel Noriega, the country's de facto dictator. As a result, a portion of the El Chorrillo neighborhood, which consisted mostly of old wood-framed buildings dating back to the 1900s (though still a large slum area), was destroyed by fire. In 1999, the United States officially transferred full control of the Panama Canal to the Republic of Panama, which remains in control today.

The city of Panama is still a banking center, although with very visible controls in the flow of cash. Shipping is handled through port facilities in the area of Balboa operated by the Hutchison Whampoa Company of Hong Kong and through several ports on the Caribbean side of the isthmus. Balboa, which is within the greater Panama metropolitan area, was formerly part of the Panama Canal Zone, and the administration of the former Panama Canal Zone was headquartered there.

Geography

Panamá is between the Pacific Ocean and tropical rain forest in the northern part of Panama. The Metropolitan Nature Park stretches from Panama City along the Panama Canal, has unique bird species and other animals, such as tapir, puma, caimans, and monkeys. At the Pacific entrance of the canal is the Marine Exhibitions Center, a research center for those interested in tropical marine life and ecology, managed by the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute.



Puma (Type of Cougar)



Yellow Green Tyrannulet



Howler Monkey

Panama is home to some of the loudest land animals on the planet: howler monkeys. Known as the "roosters of the rainforest," they can produce roars reaching 140 dB—louder than a lion's 114 dB—by passing air through a uniquely enlarged hyoid bone in their throat



Peacock Bass Fishing

Peacock Bass fishing in Panama is a world-class adventure, primarily centered on Gatun Lake within the Panama Canal. Known locally as "sargento," these aggressive, hard-fighting fish hit topwater lures and live bait aggressively.

Tropical forests around Panama are vital for the functioning of the Panama Canal, providing it with the water required for its operation. Due to the canal's importance to the Panamanian economy, tropical forests around the canal have been kept in an almost pristine state; the canal is thus a rare example of a vast engineering project in the middle of a forest that helped to preserve that forest. Along the western side of the canal is the Parque Nacional Soberanía (Sovereignty National Park), which includes the Summit botanical gardens and a zoo. The best known trail in this national park is Pipeline Road, popular among birdwatchers.

Nearly 500 rivers lace Panama's rugged landscape. Most are unnavigable; many originate as swift highland streams, meander in valleys, and form coastal deltas. However, the Río Chepo and the Río Chagres, both within the boundaries of the city, work as sources of hydroelectric power.

The Río Chagres is one of the longest and most vital of the approximately 150 rivers that flow into the Caribbean. Part of this river was dammed to create Gatun Lake, which forms a major part of the transit route between the locks near each end of the canal. Both Gatun Lake and Madden Lake (also filled with water from the Río Chagres) provide hydroelectricity to the former Canal Zone area. The Río Chepo, another major source of hydroelectric power, is one of the more than 300 rivers emptying into the Pacific.



Rio Chagres River

Climate

Panama City has a tropical savanna climate, a little drier than a tropical monsoon climate. It sees 74.8 inches of precipitation annually. The wet season spans from May through November, and the dry season spans from December through April. Temperatures remain constant throughout the year, averaging around 81 °F. Sunshine is subdued in Panama because it lies in the Intertropical Convergence Zone, where there is a nearly continual cloud formation, even during the dry season.

Cityscape



Architecture

Panama's old quarter (or Casco Viejo, Panama) features many architectural styles, from Spanish colonial buildings to French and Antillean townhouses built during the construction of the Panama Canal. The more modern areas of the city have many high-rise buildings, which together form a very dense skyline. There are more than 110 high-rise projects under construction, with 127 already built. The city holds the 45th place in the world by high-rise buildings count.



The Centennial Bridge

The Centennial Bridge that crosses the Panama Canal earned the American Segmental Bridge Institute prize of excellence, along with seven other bridges in the Americas.

Neighborhoods

The city is in Panama District, although its metropolitan area also includes some populated areas on the opposite side of the Panama Canal. As in the rest of the country, the city is divided into corregimientos, in which there are many smaller boroughs. The old quarter, known as the Casco Viejo, is in the corregimiento of San Felipe. San Felipe and twelve other corregimientos form the urban center of the city, including Santa Ana, El Chorrillo, Calidonia, Curundú, Ancón, Bella Vista, Bethania, San Francisco, Juan Diaz, Pueblo Nuevo, Parque Lefevre, and Río Abajo.



Neighborhood Balconies

Economy

As the economic and financial center of the country, Panama City's economy is service based, heavily weighted toward banking, commerce, and tourism. The economy depends significantly on trade and shipping activities associated with the Panama Canal and port facilities in Balboa. Panama's status as a convergence zone for capital from around the world due to the canal helped the city establish itself as a prime location for offshore banking and tax planning. Consequently, the economy has relied on accountants and lawyers who help global corporations navigate the regulatory landscape. The city has benefited from significant economic growth in recent years, mainly due to the ongoing expansion of the Panama Canal, an increase in real estate investment, and a relatively stable banking sector. There are around eighty banks in the city, at least fifteen of which are local.

Sports



Rommel Fernández Soccer Stadium

Throughout the 20th century, Panama City has excelled in boxing, baseball, basketball, and soccer. These sports have produced famous athletes such as Roberto Durán, Rommel Fernández, Rolando Blackman, Julio Dely Valdés, Mariano Rivera, and Rod Carew. Today, these sports have clubs and associations that manage their development in the city. Panama Metro is the city's baseball team. There are boxing training centers in different gyms throughout the city's neighborhoods. There are also many football clubs. The city has four professional teams in the country's second-level league.

There are two main stadiums in Panama City, the National Baseball Stadium (also known as Rod Carew Stadium) and the Rommel Fernández Stadium, with

capacities of 27,000 and 32,000 respectively. Additionally, the Roberto Durán Arena has a capacity of 18,000.

Healthcare

Panama City is home to at least 14 hospitals and an extensive network of public and private clinics, including the Hospital Santo Tomás, Hospital del Niño, Complejo Hospitalario Arnulfo Arias Madrid, Centro Médico Paitilla, Hospital Santa Fé, Hospital Nacional, Clínica Hospital San Fernando, and Hospital Punta Pacífica. About 45% of the country's physicians are based in Panama City.

Transportation

Panama's international airport, Tocumen International Airport is on the eastern outskirts of the city's metropolitan area. Two other airports serve Panama City: Panamá Pacífico, previously the Howard Air Force Base, and Marcos A. Gelabert, previously the Albrook Air Force Base. Pacífico serves Wingo, while Marcos A. Gelabert Airport is the main hub for AirPanama. Most other flights are served by Tocumen.

The Panama Metro is a rapid transit system in Panama City, which links the north and east sides of the metropolitan area to the city center. The Panama Metro currently has two operating lines. There is a third line currently under construction.

There are frequent traffic jams in Panama City due to the high levels of private transport ownership.

The bus terminal in Ancon offers buses in and out of the city. Bus service is one of the most widely used forms of transportation in Panama. The terminal receives thousands of passengers daily from locations such as David, Chiriqui, and the central provinces of Herrera and Los Santos. The terminal also receives international passengers from Central America via the Pan-American Highway.

Panama City offers transportation services through yellow taxis. Taxis do not use a meter to measure fares, instead using a zone system for fares that is published by Panama's transit authority. Taxis used to be red. Taxi drivers that charge more than usual are not uncommon. Many also participate in InDriver and Cabify. Uber has been the subject of controversy, with many taxi drivers demanding its cessation of operations in Panama City.

Fun Facts About Panama

- Panama is the only place in the world where you can see the sun rise on the Pacific and set on the Atlantic.
- The canal generates fully one-third of Panama's entire economy.
- "A man, a plan, a canal; Panama." is a palindrome.
- Panama was the first Latin American country to adopt the U.S. currency as its own.
- The population of Panama in 2016 was estimated by the United Nations at 3,990,000, which placed it as number 132 in population among the 233 nations of the world, and the smallest population in Central America.
- The cargo ship Ancon was the first vessel to transit the Canal on August 15, 1914.
- The City of Panama boasts the oldest, longest, continuously running Municipal Council in the American continent.



Panama Hat

- The lowest toll paid was \$0.36 and was paid by Richard Halliburton who crossed the Canal swimming in 1928.
- Seven out of ten Panamanians haven't heard of the song "Panama" by Van Halen. Ha!
- Senator John McCain was born in Panama, in the Canal Zone that was, at the time considered U.S. Territory.
- The Panama Hat is really made in Ecuador.
- In Panama, you can swim in the Atlantic Ocean and the Pacific Ocean in the same day.
- The oldest continually operating railroad is in Panama. It travels from Panama City to Colon and back.
- Panama City is the only capital city that has a rain forest within the city limits.

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