



Country Profile: Panama

Panama has a developing economy. Outside the Panama City area, which has many first-class hotels and restaurants, tourist facilities vary in quality. The U.S. dollar is the paper currency of Panama, and is also referred to as the Panama balboa. Panama mints its own coinage. Read the Department of State Background Note on Panama for additional information.

COUNTRY OVERVIEW



Country Name:	Panama
Continent:	Central America
Capital City:	Panama City
Boundary Countries:	Colombia, Costa Rica
Recommended Hospitals in Capital:	Hospital Chiriqui (Chiriqui), Centro Medico Paitilla (Panama City), Hospital Nacional (Panama City), Hospital Punta Pacifica (Panama City) Colon: Hospital Amador Guerrero Panama City: Centro Medico Bella Vista, Centro Medico Bernadette, Centro Medico Nacional, Centro Medico San Luis, CHEMSA, Clinica Boyd, Clinica Hospital America, Clinica Hospital San Fernando, Clinica Metropolis, Hospital del Niño, Hospital Integrado San Miguel Arcangel, Hospital San Judas Tadeo, Hospital Santa Fe- Panama City, Hospital Santo Tomas, Policlinica General y Especializada de Rio Abajo, San Fernando Pediatric Hospital
Main Cities:	Panama, David, La Palma, Colón, Cristóbal, Coco Solo, Balboa, Vacamonte, Yaviza, El Porvenir, Chitré, Santiago, Bocas del Toro
Country Size:	78,200 sq km
Population:	3,242,173

COUNTRY GENERAL INFORMATION

Language:	Spanish (official), English 14%; note - many Panamanians bilingual
Currency:	balboa (PAB); US dollar (USD)
Predominant Religions:	Roman Catholic 85%, Protestant 15%
National Holidays:	Independence Day, 3 November (1903)
Economic Status:	Panama's dollarized economy rests primarily on a well-developed services sector that accounts for three-fourths of GDP. Not a CAFTA signatory, Panama in December 2006 independently negotiated a free trade agreement with the US, which, when implemented, will help promote the country's economic growth.
Security:	An amendment to the Constitution abolished the armed forces, but there are security forces (Panamanian Public Forces or PPF includes the Panamanian National Police, National Maritime Service, and National Air Service).

US Presence:	U.S. Embassy in Panama City Building 783, Demetrio Basilio Lakas Avenue Clayton, Panama Tel: (507) 317-5000
Major Airports:	Airports: 116, Airports w/paved runways: 54 Panama City – Tocumen Airport (PTY/MPTO) Panama City, Tocumen, Panama, PO Box 0838, Zone 12, Panama, 02408, PANAMA Tel: +507 (0)238-2600, +507 (0)238-2700 Fax: +507 (0)238-4725 E-mail: informacion@tocumenpanama.aero Website: www.tocumenpanama.aero Customs, hours: 24 hours Tel: +507 (0)238-4110 Fax: +507 (0)238-4110

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