



**Panama, host country**

Panama is home to a cultural multiplicity that makes it unique in the region. The origin of this singular cultural mix is without a doubt, the crossroads characteristic that the country has always had, together with its intense connection with the sea, which makes it very similar to an island of the Caribbean.

This small strip of land is considered a true crossroad and gathering point for peoples from all cultures. With almost 3 and a half million inhabitants, its population is made up of 67% of mestizos and mulatos, 14% blacks, 10% whites, 6% amerindian (indigenous) and a 3% varied ethnic origins. This mixture is particularly rich, because although it comes from cultural origins and very diverse traditions, the mixture has been stimulated by the atmosphere of tolerance and harmony that always has reigned in the territory.

**General Information**

<b>Climate</b>	The climate in Panama is tropical. The temperatures are relatively high and vary during the year. In Panama City, temperatures typically range from 24 °C (75.2 °F) to 29 °C (84.2 °F). On the Pacific Ocean side of the country, the temperatures are usually lower than on the Atlantic side. Nevertheless, the country has a tropical climate all year round. In the highlands and mountainous regions such as Boquete or El Valle, temperatures are usually lower. For example, in the Highlands of Chiriqui, the eastern most province of Panama, the temperatures are very low and may sometimes go as low as 50 degrees Fahrenheit.
<b>Electricity</b>	Panama uses 110 volts outlets. Electrical equipment uses the Japanese plug (two parallel bars). You can purchase adapters for plugs at any hardware store, and even small transformers for electrical appliances that do not allow voltage of 110.
<b>Language</b>	Spanish is the official language. English has a strong presence (14%), encouraged by the American influence and the importance of the Panama Canal in the national economy. In addition, indigenous groups maintain their own dialects.
<b>Taxes</b>	According to Act 8 of March 15, 2010, which amended the Fiscal Code, the air, sea and land transportation companies, as well as passengers, shall pay ITBMS tax. In Panama, 7% of ITBMS is charged on public entertainment, events, seminars, conferences, lectures and artistic, professional and sport presentations in general that are not free and whose annual incomes are over \$36,000. The importation and sale of alcoholic beverages, as well as hotel or lodging services, jewelry and weapons will pay 10 percent of ITBMS. Tobacco derivatives (such as cigarettes, cigars, and snuff) will pay 15% of ITBMS. Cable TV, microwave, satellite and mobile phones will pay 5% of ITMBS. The waiters at the best restaurants in Panama City and in resort cities will expect to receive a 10% tip. Tipping is not required in small cafes and more

	casual places, though it is always appreciated. The bell hoppers are tipped a minimum of 50 cents per suitcase.
<b>Currency</b>	Panama's currency is called the Balboa (PAB). One Balboa is the equivalent of 100 cents. There are no paper bills in Panama; all local currency is in coins, in denominations of PAB1 and 10, and in 1, 5, 10, 25, and 50 cents. American dollars were first accepted as currency in 1904 and are still used today, along with the local currency of Balboas.

## Event Information

The Second Conference on Tourism Security in the Americas is projected to be the most important meeting in the hemisphere this year addressing the topic of tourism.

More than 15 international speakers will lecture on the main challenges for tourist security on the continent. Over 500 specialists and businessmen from across the region will gather to discuss public policies and work on programs to protect visitors, destinations and tourism businesses.

### Event Venue

Convention Center ATLAPA (Teatro La Huaca), Panama City

### Dates

May 13 to 17, 2013 **(within the Framework of the International Security Fair)**

### Schedule

08:00 a 17:00

## Lodging

For your convenience, special rates have been negotiated with different hotels near the Convention Center. Below the details of the negotiated rates:

Hotel	Phone	SGL	DBL
<b>Continental Hotel &amp; Casino</b>	263-9999	120.00	160.00
<b>Hotel Riande Granada</b>	264-4900	115.00 + 10%	115.00 + 10%
<b>Hotel Marbella</b>	263-2220	55.00	71.50
<b>Hotel Miramar Intercontinental (c)</b>	214-1000	155.00	175.00
<b>Hotel Riande Aeropuerto &amp; Resort (c)</b>	291-9000	110.00 + 10%	110.00 + 10%
<b>Hotel Country Inn Suites© Dorado</b>	236-6444	85.00 + 10%	95.00 + 10%
<b>Hotel Crowne Plaza Panamá</b>	206-5500	115.00	135.00

<b>Hotel Country Inn Suites (Amador )</b>	211-4500	95.00 + 10%	105.00 + 10%
<b>Hotel Radisson Decapolis</b>	215-5700	135.00	135.00
<b>Veneto Hotel &amp; Casino</b>	302-8888	93.50	104.50
<b>Holiday Inn Panama Canal</b>	317-4000	110.00	130.00
<b>Hotel Avila</b>	394-1155	56.00	61.00
<b>Hotel Le Meridien</b>	297-3200	155.00	175.00
<b>Hotel Sevilla Suites</b>	213-0016	88.00	134.20
<b>Hotel Westin Panamá</b>	282-3500	165.00	185.00
<b>Hotel Coral Suites</b>	269-2727	130.00	150.00

**\*\*Rates in US\$ dollars. Breakfast included**

**\*\*\*Hotel tax (10%) not included in negotiated rates**

To book your rooms, you should contact the hotel of your choice and report your participation at the **Second Conference on Tourism Security of the Americas** in order to benefit from these special rates.

### Contact Information

For more information and registration to the Second Conference on Tourism Security of the Americas, please contact:

Néstor Ríos [nrios@atp.gob.pa](mailto:nrios@atp.gob.pa)