

The Jaguar Challenge Tour



Visit the cloud forest & enjoy the Pacific Islands of Panama

Traveling with us will be much more than taking only pictures and leaving only footprints; it's an opportunity for you to make a difference and a lasting impact on communities, support wildlife conservation, and gain awareness about the threatened cloud forest.



Kaminando in Panama

A biodiversity hot spot!

“Panama...one of the most complex ecosystems on earth.”

The Republic of Panama, uniquely situated as a land bridge between the coasts of North and South America, has inherited one of the most complex ecosystems on this earth. Panama is a beautiful and ecologically diverse country, with rainforest and cloud forests, cool mountain retreats, pristine beaches, and islands. In an effort to protect its natural resources, Panama has set aside a huge amount of land allocated for the establishment and maintenance of

national parks. As a result, Panama has a total of 17 national parks, forest reserves and wildlife refuges.

An Opportunity to Visit Our Jaguar Project

[Why not make a memorable journey to the rainforest and visit our jaguar project?](#)

We welcome you to spend time in the lap of nature the way few people do. Hike off the beaten path, on trails where jaguars and other felines have left their footprints. During this unique opportunity, you will help us check camera-traps and discover what species of wild cats have been roaming the trails. You will not return home unaffected by a visit to the rainforest!

Archipelago de San Blas!

The San Blas islands are located in the North-East of Panama, facing the azure blue Caribbean Sea.



There are 378 islands, most of them have no inhabitants, but on the larger ones you will have the native people known as the Kunas's. San Blas is home to the Kunas, an autonomous indigenous group in Panama.

The first settlements of the Kuna were built on the islands around the year 1800. The Kuna had plenty of food and trade roots with different families, pirates and explorers, which benefited the growing of the community..

*"Imagine a turquoise archipelago with one island for every day of the year. With white sand and waving palms, these Caribbean islands cheat no one's version of Paradise."
."Lonely Planet.*





Mamoní Itinerary

Modern cabins and community integration



Day 1: **Arrival**

Upon arrival into the Tocuman International Airport (PTY) you will be met by our driver and transferred to the Mamoní Valley Preserve (MVP) to prepare for your adventure. From the airport to MVP the drive is about 1:45 minutes, depending on weather (30 minutes paved road and 1:15 minutes 4x4).

That night we will have a welcome and orientation meeting followed by a delicious Panamanian style dinner. We will answer questions and discuss the plans for the first excursion, early the next morning. If time and energy allow, we will provide a short presentation about the ecology of the cloud forest you are about to experience.

Meals: Dinner

Lodging: Cabaña

Day 2: **Mamoní Valley Preserve**

We have a full day to explore the forest and check camera-traps along the way. We will hike on one of the most interesting trails, which takes you through secondary and lush primary cloud forest. Keep your eyes open for signs of puma, jaguar or ocelot tracks below your feet, and possibly a glimpse of the moon-walking manakin.

After 1:40 minutes we will reach the Madroñito River to refresh ourselves and look for the rare harlequin frog crawling up in the slippery rocks. This frog is a unique and endangered species to the area. It has survived to the global amphibian pandemic caused by the fungus *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis* (*Bd*).

From the river, we will head to the property of Polo Acosta; an indigenous Embera who assists us with deploying the camera-traps used for our jaguar research.

From the river, we will walk 40-50 minutes to reach the ridge of the mountain. After venturing through the cloud forest and a tree plantation, an astounding view of the Mamoní Valley will be waiting for you to admire. Polo's property has orange, lemon and palm trees with coconuts waiting to be eaten.

We at Kaminando practice responsible tourism

Ecotourism is a tool that delivers opportunities - a financially viable tool that provides sustainable solutions to economic challenges of local people and improves conservation needs.



Activities here are plentiful: Meditation, reading, bird-watching, listening for howler monkeys call in the distance or just gaze at the mountains and the mist passing by.

We will spend the night in an open-air cabin, typical for the region. After a traditional dinner, you will retire to a hammock to sleep under the stars to the music of the forest.

Meals: Breakfast, lunch, dinner

Lodging: Cabaña

Day 3: Mamoni Valley Preserve

When you wake, a delicious breakfast will be served to energize you for the return to Centro Mamoni. Watchful eyes may find beautiful blue morph butterflies, frogs, orchids, monkeys and/or colorful birds.

Meals: Breakfast, lunch, dinner

Lodging: Cabaña



Upon our return to Centro Mamoni there will be time to relax, take a dip in the pool or lounge in a hammock, nap, etc.

Night lecture: Kaminando's initiatives /Guna Yala Indigenous/The Jaguar Project.

Day 4: Return to Panama City

Visitors will have time to visit modern Panama and Casco Viejo, the historic old town. Enjoy your free time and get ready to enjoy the San Blas Islands! We will spend this evening in Panama City.

Lodging: Best Western



Day 5,6 and 7: **San Blas Islands – Kuna Territory**

The San Blas tour begins with transportation from Panama City to Lilano Carti in one of the Kuna operated, 4×4 shared people carriers. This is the only transport available into the San Blas for Kaminando experience. The pick up in Panama City is between 5.15am and 5.45am. The journey to Carti on the San Blas island mainland is around 2.5-3 hours through Panama's spectacular jungle highland. In Carti you will be collected by one of the Kuna day tour operators we work with.

Upon arrival [Kuanidup/Narasgandup island], lunch will be waiting for us. We will have our first opportunity to snorkel and discover some tropical fish, possibly even sea turtles. During your San Blas tour you will spend two nights in a humble beach huts. We will visit two or tree islands including Isla Perro and the ship weck where there are ample opportunities to snorkel the wreck and surrounding reefs or just relax in the shallows. You will have plenty of time to relax, read, and enjoy the sun and the water at your pleasure. The San Blas experience will finish the third day by noon, when you will be transported back to Carti on the mainland to meet with the 4×4 transport back to Panama City. Be aware that the itinerary may vary slightly from the one given.

Dinners, breakfast and lunches will be prepared for us by the Gunas!

Day 7: **Panama City**

We arrive back to Panama City around 5pm, where you will be transferred to your hotel.

Meals: Breakfast, lunch

Lodging: Best Western

Day 8: **OPTIONAL –Departure or stay for extra day/s. We will help you find more activities!**

PRICES:

Single person \$ 2200 USA

Inclusive of food, beverages, accommodations, ground transportation, entrance fees, services of guides and drivers.

*International airfare, gratuities, alcoholic beverages other than local beer with meals, laundry, souvenirs, items of a personal nature and travel insurance are NOT included.

IMPORTANT NOTE:

Kaminando thanks you for your valuable support to preserve the tropical mountain cloud forest and the jaguars in Panama. We are pleased to inform you that 15% of the total cost of the trip can be claimed as a donation. Kaminando will provide a receipt for you to claim your tax deduction.

If the dates to experience our jaguar tour are not convenient for you; Kaminando is happy to arrange tours at any time, and for as long as you'd like. You can also join us for part of the tour; just cloud forest or just the Islands-you choose!

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