



# 2017 CENTRAL AMERICA AND MORE... BY VIP PRIVATE JET

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February 2017 • Maximum 15 Travelers

TO LAKANI WORLD TOURS, THERE IS NO  
SUCH PLACE AS A FOREIGN COUNTRY.



*Dear Friends,*

*It is with great excitement that I present to you our 2017 Central America and More... Journey by VIP Private Jet. Departing in February, a maximum of 15 travelers will explore a unique collection of countries bound by shared history and culture, and yet differ in landscapes and character.*

*We'll begin in Mexico City, where we'll discover a juxtaposition of the traditional and contemporary. Then we'll travel to one of the largest archaeological sites of pre-Columbian Mayan civilization in Tikal, Guatemala. Our next flight brings us to Havana, Cuba where we visit with famous Cuban artists in their private studios and attend a cabaret show. From there we head down to the northwest border of South America and touch down in Cartagena for a sumptuous lunch and a look at its UNESCO World Heritage Site before continuing to Bogotá, the capital city of Colombia. We'll travel north to Costa Rica and discover the flora and fauna of the Arenal Volcano National Park. Our adventure ends in Panama City, where we celebrate the culmination of our journey with a private dinner cruise on the Panama Canal.*

*From indigenous tribal beginnings to Spanish Colonization, and biodiversity to mega diversity, we'll roam ancient ruins, colonial city sites, and visit modern museums and attractions, spot wildlife and plants and become amazed at the extraordinary places that are all part of our America. All the while, we'll enjoy the comfort of luxury hotels and our VIP Private Jet custom-fitted with posh interiors and spacious leather club seats. All this and much more...*

*Please join us.*

*Best traveling wishes,*

*Heidi Lakani  
President*



## THE LAKANI PROMISE

The Lakani World Tours logo is intentional in its design. The four directional points represents our experience in travel to the far corners of the world, as well as the four fundamental principles which guide each program we create.



## QUALITY & VALUE

*Every detail matters*

Every Lakani World Tours program includes the best sightseeing and services that the area has to offer. While we recognize that quality does not come cheaply, we provide value through our experience and strong relationships with proven suppliers.



## INTEGRITY

*Worthy of your trust*

The Lakani team provides honest answers, objective advice and strong commitments. We also offer the usual industry assurances and safeguards: we are a registered California Seller of Travel. Naturally, references are available.



## EXPERIENCE & INNOVATION

*Uniquely crafted vacations with  
cultural enrichment*

The Lakani team of seasoned industry veterans draws from their experience and their never ending quest to uncover new and unusual sights, activities and lodging to share with travelers.



## SERVICE

*Your wish is our command*

We believe that attitude is everything. Service begins the first time you call us and continues throughout your entire journey. The Lakani Travel Specialists and its team of expert Tour Managers consistently endeavor to anticipate the desires and expectations of every Lakani traveler.





## 2017 CENTRAL AMERICA AND MORE... BY PRIVATE JET

**February 2017 • 17 Days Journey**

**Cost per person: To Be Determined**

**Membership is limited to maximum 15 travelers**



### LUXURY PRIVATE JET

Your VIP Private Jet, which normally seats up to 40 passengers, has been custom-fitted for only 15 travelers with luxurious leather club seats, providing you with the highest standards of comfort. VIP Private Jets are intimate in scale, with posh interiors typically reserved for heads of state, royalty and, of course, Lakani guests.

Your VIP Private Jet allows access to smaller airports closer to our chosen destinations, allowing more flexibility and creativity in itinerary design. You often fly from private airport terminals where security clearance is faster. Regional jet flights are never too long, the average flight time is 3

hours or less.

These are the advantages that make private jet travel the ultimate in luxury vacations. Your cabin attendants are gracious, enthusiastic and will anticipate all of your in-flight needs. You also have the peace of mind that comes with knowing that the chartered aircraft operates at the highest standards of safety and security. The camaraderie of fellow travelers, professional tour managers, hand-selected flight crew, vintage wines, champagnes and top cuisine combine to make your Lakani Regional VIP Private Jet Tour memorable and rewarding.



## MEXICO CITY, MEXICO DAYS 1 & 2

### Four Seasons Hotel

Just south of our US border, Mexico is one of the most visited countries in the world. Notwithstanding its rich history, ancient ruins, and sunny beaches, it is one of the 17 megadiverse countries of the world, and ranks first in biodiversity for its reptiles and second for its mammals. Upon arrival in Mexico City you may recognize its importance in the financial world, but it is also the oldest capital in the Americas, dating from 1325. Located in the Valley of Mexico, surrounded by mountains and volcanoes, it was the capital of the Aztec empire until the Spanish arrived in 1521, and then it became a major financial and political center for the Spanish colonial empire. After Mexico gained its independence from Spain, the Federal District, as it is known today, was formed. You will see evidence of Mexico City's rich heritage in the Historic Centre and Xochimilco, together recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, one of a record 33 sites in the country.

Mexico City enjoys a rich history of artistic expression stemming from its Aztec origin and Spanish influence. The art scene in the city is vibrant and flourishing with numerous museums showcasing art of all kinds. Music is also an important part of life in Mexico, and Mexico City hosts a dozen professional orchestras.

Mexico's 31 states feature their own regional gastronomic delights, and Mexico City has an array of restaurants featuring the specialties, along with a wide variety of international cuisine. Some of the freshest seafood in Mexico's interior can also be found here. Be sure to include the local wine with your meal; Mexico produces some excellent wines and very little is exported outside of the country.

## TIKAL, GUATEMALA DAYS 3 & 4

### Las Lagunas Boutique Hotel

Officially called the Republic of Guatemala, it is the most populous state in Central America with over 15 million people. Inhabited since at least 12,000 BC and possibly as early as 18,000 BC, it was once the center of the Mayan Civilization. The Spanish arrived in the 16th century and ruled the area until Guatemala became an independent republic in the mid-19th century. Subsequent regimes led ultimately to the Guatemalan Revolution in 1944 and the civil war followed. After years of strife, a peace accord was negotiated by the UN in 1996.

Guatemala is a biodiversity hotspot with 14 ecoregions, ranging from mangrove forests to shorelines on both the Atlantic and Pacific Ocean. Its five different ecosystems support a large number of endemic species of animal and plant life. One of





these ecosystems is found in the Tikal National Park, located in the Petén Basin in northern Guatemala. Amidst the lush vegetation of the park lies Tikal. Inhabited from the 6th century BC to the 10th century AD, it is one of the most impressive archaeological sites of Mayan civilization. Although it was once part of one of the most powerful kingdoms of the ancient Maya, Tikal reached its peak during the Classic Period, from 200 – 900 AD. Among the ruins, you will see the remains of superb temples and palaces lining plazas and causeways. Following the end of the late Classic Period, no new monuments were built at Tikal and there is evidence that elite palaces were burned. Evidently, the population gradually declined and by the end of the 10th century, the site was abandoned. Tikal National Park was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1979 and is listed for both culture and natural criteria due to its archaeological significance and extraordinary biodiversity.

## HAVANA, CUBA

### DAYS 5, 6 & 7

### Saratoga Hotel

An archipelago of islands marks the country of Cuba, less than 100 miles from the Florida coast. Named after its main island and the largest in the Caribbean, Cuba was first inhabited by American Indians before it became part of the Spanish empire in the late 15th century. Following the Spanish-American War it became a protectorate of the US and then gained

independence in 1902. The 20th century was both successful and turbulent. Prior to the revolution of 1959, Cuba was one of the most advanced and wealthiest countries in Latin America. Its capital city, Havana, was thriving with numerous luxury hotels, casinos and nightclubs. Celebrities and tourists flocked there for entertainment and vacations.

Following the revolution, a communist government was established under Fidel Castro, and properties and industries were taken from individuals and run by the government modeled after and backed by the Soviet Union. On the positive side, literacy was promoted and free education was given to all, and sports and music programs were established. But with the US embargo and ultimate collapse of the USSR, Cuba's economy suffered greatly until the 21st century when the government allowed foreign investors to build new hotels and develop the tourism industry.

Cuba has over 250 national monuments, seven Natural Biosphere Reserves, and seven UNESCO World Heritage Sites, including Old Havana. You will realize why Havana is so appealing when you see the city's historic monuments, city walls, and picturesque fortress. Sample the cuisine and you'll find it tasty with Spanish and Caribbean spices. Listen for the music, whose catchy rhythms are often heard playing throughout Old Town. Cuban music is world renowned and includes styles from classical to rap. It is easy to see why Cuba has long been an attractive destination for visitors.





## CARTAGENA, & BOGOTA, COLOMBIA DAYS 8, 9 & 10

### **Four Seasons Hotel**

Located in the northwest of South America, Colombia was at the crossroads of early human migration from Central America to the Andes and Amazon. Some of its archaeological sites date from over 10,000 years ago. The first inhabitants were roaming hunter-gatherer tribes who gradually settled and established agrarian societies, which in turn led to structured political systems, farming and commerce. The Spanish arrived in the early 16th century and the coastal city of Cartagena was founded in 1533 and five years later, Santa Fe de Bogotá was established as capital of the region. Colombia became a nation in 1903 and centrally located Bogotá is its capital.

Colombia is rich in natural resources and exports many products, including emeralds and flowers. It is considered a megadiverse country and has a record number of bird species. A remarkable 10% of the Earth's species live in Colombia in over 300 types of ecosystems, and it has the most endemic species of any other country in the world.

With a population descending from native inhabitants, Spanish colonists, Africans, and immigrants from Europe and the Middle East, Colombia possesses a rich cultural heritage. This is evident in its art and music. Colombian art, in the form of ornate golden figures and jewelry, has been uncovered in

archeological sites dating back thousands of years. In recent years, Colombian artists, such as Fernando Botero, have received international acclaim and many of their works may be found in the Botero Museum in Bogotá. Cumbia is one of the most recognized music genres of Colombia. It is a combination of Spanish, Native Colombian, and African music and is testament to the diverse influences. There are six UNESCO World Heritage Sites in Colombia, including the Port, Fortresses and Group of Monuments in Cartagena that you'll have an opportunity to see when you stop for lunch.

## ARENAL VOLCANO NATIONAL PARK, COSTA RICA DAYS 11, 12 & 13

### **Nayara Hotel Spa & Gardens**

Literally meaning "Rich Coast", the Republic of Costa Rica is known for its sustainability and prolific fauna and flora. It was lightly inhabited by indigenous people before the Spanish arrived in the 16th century. It was actually considered to be a poor Spanish colony due to its lack of gold and silver, and a shortage of population which was needed to work the land. Interestingly, since its independence in the 19th century, Costa Rica has been one of the most stable and wealthiest countries in Latin America.

A quarter of the country's land is in protected national parks and conservation areas, the largest percentage of protected





areas than any other country. Arenal Volcano National Park is located in the central part of the country, and includes the Arenal Volcano, which was thought to be dormant until a major eruption took place in 1968. There is also a second volcano, Cerro Chato, which has been inactive for 3500 years, whose crater contains an emerald lagoon. Immerse yourself in beautiful surroundings and take in the amazing birds and wildlife. See if you can spot the endangered resplendent quetzal, or white-faced capuchin monkeys. They are just two of the many species that live in the park.

## PANAMA CITY, PANAMA DAYS 14, 15 & 16

### Trump Hotel

The Isthmus of Panama, the narrow strip of land that lies between the Caribbean Sea and the Pacific Ocean, appeared millions of years ago. The geological event separated the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans and resulted in the creation of the Gulf Stream. Panama was inhabited by indigenous tribes before the Spanish colonized the region. Panama broke from Spain in 1821 and joined New Granada, Ecuador, and Venezuela in the creation of the Republic of Gran Colombia, which only lasted for ten years. Panama and New Granada remained together and formed the Republic of Colombia. With the help of the USA, Panama separated from Colombia in 1903, and the Panama Canal was built by the U.S. Army

Corps of Engineers. The canal continues to provide revenue to Panama; coupled with the success of commerce, banking and tourism, Panama has the second largest economy in Central America.

Panama City was founded in 1519 by Spanish conquistador Pedro Arias Davila. Due to its strategic location, it was an important point along the historic trade routes of the Americas. After a fire destroyed the city in 1671, the new city was built five miles away from the original site. Old Panama is a UNESCO World Heritage Site for its historical importance as the first European settlement on the Pacific coast of the Americas. The historic district of Panama City, known as Casco Viejo, is also a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and shows the cultural diversity in its display of architecture and monuments. The city is located at the Pacific entrance of the Panama Canal and is surrounded by tropical rain forest. It is not only the political and administrative center of the country, but is a hub for international banking and commerce. Enjoy this fascinating city on the final stop of your remarkable journey.

## Your Journey Ends

### DAY 17 DEPART PANAMA CITY

You will be escorted to the airport to board your independent flight home or on to your next destination.



## LAKANI WORLD TOURS

Andrew Harper members enjoy a complimentary pre or post tour overnight stay. For reservations contact the Andrew Harper Travel Office at **800.375.4685** or **[Reservations@AndrewHarper.com](mailto:Reservations@AndrewHarper.com)**