



COUNTRY

OVERVIEW

& PACKING

GUIDELINES

Panama: Tropical Ecology, Marine Ecosystems, and
Biodiversity Conservation

Fall 2023

TABLE OF CONTENTS

COUNTRY OVERVIEW.....	3
General Information	3
Climate and Geography	3
Diet	3
Safety, Security, and Health.....	4
Accomodations	5
Transportation.....	5
Communication	5
Phones and E-mail.....	6
Mailings.....	6
Money	6
Visitors and Free Time	7
PACKING GUIDELINES.....	9
Luggage.....	9
Clothing Guidelines	9
Equipment.....	9
Computers and Other Electronics	9
Gifts	10
What You Can and Cannot Obtain in Country ...	10
Alumni Contacts.....	10
PACKING LIST.....	10



COUNTRY OVERVIEW

GENERAL INFORMATION

Panama celebrated 100 years of independence in 2003 and in 2019 commemorated 500 years of the Spanish conquest. However, it looks back on a human history that, according to archaeological evidence, stretches back at least 11,000 years. Colonized by the Spanish in the 16th century, Panama broke with Spain in 1821 and joined a union of Colombia, Venezuela, and Ecuador, named the Republic of Gran Colombia. When the latter dissolved in 1830, Panama remained part of Colombia.

Panama seceded from Colombia in 1903 and signed a treaty with the US allowing for the construction of a trans-isthmian canal and US occupation and control over the area (the future Panama Canal Zone). The Panama Canal was built by an army of laborers, many of whom came from all over the world (from India, China, Greece, the Caribbean, and elsewhere), between 1904 and 1914. Control over the Canal was a source of conflict between Panama and the United States during the last quarter of the 20th Century, until the 1977 Canal Treaty stipulating that the US control of the Canal, as well as US military bases, would be phased out and officially be transferred to Panamanian control on December 31, 1999.



Today Panama is a cultural melting pot with immigrants from many parts of the world, including prominent Afro-descendent, Indian, Chinese, Middle Eastern, Greek, and Spanish communities, as well as a diverse Indigenous population. There is a wide income gap in urban and rural areas. An ambitious

plan to expand the Canal was approved in 2006 and has since doubled the Canal's capacity. Due to the Canal expansion, and other international business presence in the country, economic development is rapidly increasing for those able to get a piece of the pie. These development forces often clash with the expanding recognition of Panama's astounding biodiversity, which is increasingly drawing tourists as well as prospectors intent on exploiting the wealth of natural resources, particularly for energy generation and mining. |

CLIMATE AND GEOGRAPHY

The climate in Panama is tropical and at times tempered by cooling Caribbean trade winds. The average temperature of 92°F varies little throughout the year. The dry season (which coincides with the spring semester) generally lasts from mid-December to mid-May. The wet season coincides with the summer and fall semesters. In the tropics it is not unusual to have rain in the dry season, just in shorter spurts. The amount of rainfall, however, also varies widely from north to south of the country, with the amount of rain increasing as one moves north.

Bordered by Costa Rica to the west and Colombia to the east, Panama is approximately a 4-hour flight from Houston or Miami. The Isthmus of Panama is bisected by the Cordillera Central that runs the length of the country dividing it into the Pacific and the Caribbean regions. The provinces of Coclé, Herrera, Los Santos, and Veraguas are referred to as the "central provinces,". There are about 480 rivers in Panama that drain into the Pacific Ocean and Caribbean Sea, and about 1500 islands off both coasts. |

DIET

SIT Study Abroad provides experiential learning opportunities where students become embedded in their host community. As such, we strive to accommodate serious food allergies where possible but simply cannot ensure that all dietary restrictions or non-medically mandated diets can be accommodated.

Students are encouraged to participate in the local food culture as a central aspect of daily life. By

trying to replicate your diet at home you may miss out on an important part of your host culture. Due to the unique living and learning community central to all SIT programs, we cannot separate food and eating communally (including with your host family) from the program experience. Please consider local diet seriously when selecting your program of choice. Your admissions counselor is a great resource in better understanding the local diet.

Panamanian food reflects its geography and climate, with an abundance of seafood and tropical fruits. There is also a lot of meat, as well as a lot of fried food. As in other Central American countries, rice and beans is a staple dish. You will also find *tortillas*, which are somewhat thicker than elsewhere in Central America and are usually fried.

Empanadas, chicken or beef *tamales*, eggs, and plantains are other staples. The national dish of Panama is called *sancocho* and is a somewhat spicy chicken-and-vegetable stew that can vary greatly according to region. Other dishes include *hojaldras* (fried flour dough), *arroz con pollo* (rice with chicken), *patacones* (fried flattened green plantains), and *chichas* (fruit juices). You may also encounter dishes such as lobster, sea turtle and turtle's eggs, iguana, and shark, which are all endangered in and around Panama due to overfishing and loss of habitat (so please avoid them!). Food purchased on the street may be of questionable sanitation, so it is wise to avoid it.

Due to local conditions, the program cannot support students with vegan diets. Vegetarians will be able to maintain a healthy diet, though depending on flexibility about meat products (broth,



etc.) they may have to maintain a high level of vigilance in order to ensure true meatlessness. Also,

“vegetarian” in Latin America is often taken to mean avoidance of *red* meat, so you may be served chicken and fish unless you specify. Stricter dietary practices such as keeping kosher will be extremely difficult to maintain healthfully in Panama. If you choose a meatless or gluten-free diet, please bring supplements with you.

Note: if you have special dietary needs, including allergies, please inform our office prior to the start of your program. We will advise you on realistic expectations about avoiding or incorporating certain foods within the program context.

SAFETY, SECURITY, AND HEALTH

Maintaining good health is critical to having a successful semester. To help you do that, we have provided [Health Guidelines and Requirements](#) for your program.

It is very important that you read the Health Guidelines and Requirements document as early as possible and examine it with your medical provider. The guidelines include recommended immunizations; a suggested calendar for immunizations and other prophylaxes; and valuable information on how to avoid exposure to common carriers of disease.

Based on evolving conditions of the pandemic including higher vaccination rates, increased protection with many individuals from previous infections, lower rates of serious illness associated with positive cases, and the removal of vaccine mandates in most SIT locations, SIT no longer requires vaccination to participate on programs except for locations where host country governments require it.

However, we strongly encourage students to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 per CDC recommendations. SIT continues to closely monitor COVID-19 conditions in each program location and will advise students on any location-specific COVID-19 requirements and regulations prior to and during their program. Students are thoroughly briefed on safety considerations during in-country orientation and are updated throughout the semester if and when circumstances change. For information regarding safety and security, emergency communications,

SIT policies, health and personal property insurance, and general program tips, please read the [Safety, Security, and Health](#) document and [Student Handbook](#).

Panama is a relatively safe country with the same basic big-city petty crime concerns as any country in the world, including the US. You will be expected to take care and responsibility for yourself and the group, and refrain from engaging in behavior that is unsafe and/or culturally inappropriate.

Especially while in Panama City, you should be aware of your surroundings and belongings, and take care not to “flash” expensive items such as electronics, cell phones, or jewelry. Keep in mind that the belongings you bring for a semester are often more than an entire rural family might own, so using them in an obvious way makes an economic and cultural statement, even if this is not your intention.

Before departure, make three photocopies of all important documents and credit cards; leave one copy at home (and tell someone where it is!) and bring two along with you, carried separately from the originals, and stored in two different places. Bring a money belt or some other safe means to carry your valuables. For this program, you will also need to bring your passport on excursions, as there are often immigration checkpoints en route.

Excellent healthcare facilities and pharmacies are available in Panama City, and there are also private clinics in many smaller cities and towns. The program staff has information available about healthcare resources for almost any need, including dental, vision, and psychological care. There will be a few times during excursion periods when the group does not have immediate access to care, particularly specialized care. Please be as prepared for this as possible. Preparation might mean bringing an extra pair of glasses/contact lenses or reviewing your coping strategies for an issue affecting your mental health. You should bring enough of any prescription medication to last you through the semester and any post-program travel. It is also important to bring a small first-aid kit and copies of any prescriptions.

There is no risk of malaria in Panama City and the scheduled destinations of the program. If you plan to travel elsewhere after the program ends, consult

your doctor as to specific precautions for the area concerned. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention suggest that Chloroquine protects against malaria in areas west of the Canal Zone and Atovaquone-Proguanil (Malarone), Doxycycline, or Mefloquine (listed alphabetically) are protective in areas east of the Panama Canal (Darien, mainland Guna Yala, and eastern portions of Colon and Panama provinces). The selection should be discussed with your physician. The program doesn't travel anywhere where malaria has been recorded in the last thirty years.

ACCOMODATIONS

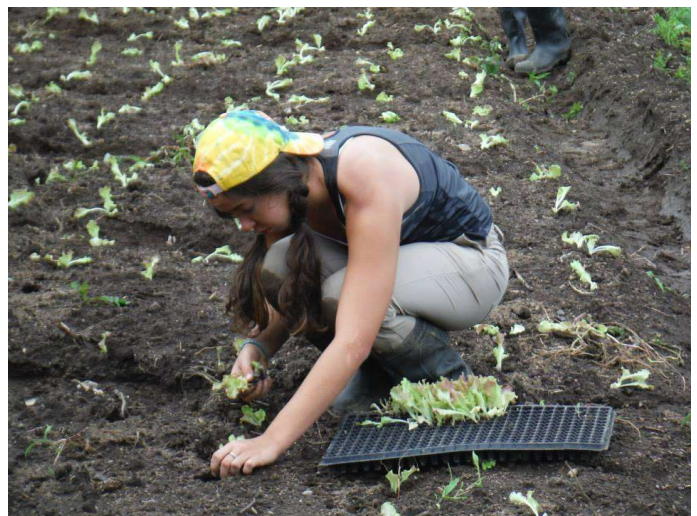
You will be housed in homestays, small hostels, lodges, and field sites for the majority of the program.

There will still be opportunities to practice your language skills and build relationships with our community partners.

Housing options during your Independent Study Project will be worked on together with program staff and must be approved by your academic director.

TRANSPORTATION

The group will use public and private buses for group travel within Panama City, and for longer excursions you will use the private buses and marine transport. During the ISP period you may take buses or boats for travel, in addition to walking a fair amount.



COMMUNICATION

While you may want to be in regular communication with friends and family from home during the term

abroad, please bear in mind that different time zones, unreliable phone lines, and changing program activities can complicate communication.

It's important to be clear with family and friends about your availability during the term. **Keep in mind that you will be without Wi-Fi access part of the time while you are in Panama and you should let your friends and family know this.** Many students recommend making an appointment to call home or to receive a call. You should also consider the impact of constant communication with friends and family at home on your cultural immersion.

PHONES AND E-MAIL

Students are required to have a working cell phone capable of making and receiving both local and international calls throughout the duration of the program. For that reason, **students are required to bring an OPEN smart phone from the U.S that enables you to insert a local SIM card into your U.S. phone upon arrival or to bring along a dual SIM card smartphone.** Your local SIT Panama staff will assist you during orientation to purchase an appropriate local SIM card and required minimum minutes for calls and texting. SIT Study Abroad requires that each student has a local number for communication with program staff.

With an open smartphone, students can purchase a \$3 SIM card with a local number. Data and phone minutes can be purchased as "pay-as-you-go." No local phone plan is necessary. Smartphones enable students to use Uber easily in the city and communicate with one another and the U.S. via WhatsApp. In Panama, phone communications are fairly reliable in the capital, and you should be able to communicate with your loved ones using your local SIM card, except when the group is in very remote areas.

Wifi access is available often in Panama City at local cafés and homestays but is often not available while the group is on excursion.

MAILINGS

Receiving a package at your program site is usually **expensive** and **problematic**. Customs agents must inspect all packages and you, as the recipient, are responsible for duty and storage fees. In addition, there are cases of items being lost in the mail or

taking so long to reach the recipient that the recipient is nearly back in the US by the time the items are received. For these reasons, sending packages should be done only for emergency situations. Additionally, sending valuables is highly discouraged.

For this program, if you have an emergency and need to receive a package urgently, packages sent via DHL courier can be received. However, **packages sent via the US Postal service do not arrive. DHL services are available in country.** Despite cheaper prices, reliance on the US Postal Service is not advised due to delays and unreliability. When given the option, it's always a good idea to send packages certified and with a tracking number that allows the sender to track the package. Keep in mind that you will frequently be traveling and will not be able to receive packages throughout most of the program.

There is no residential mail delivery in Panama. If a package must be sent, please have it sent via DHL (most reliable service) and consult the local program staff for instructions on how to do so.

MONEY

In addition to tuition, SIT Study Abroad program fees cover room and board throughout the program. When room and/or board are not taken with the group, students will be given a stipend to cover related expenses. SIT will cover daily commuting costs, if any, and excursions that are part of the normal program itinerary. During the ISP period, students will receive a stipend for basic room and board only, based on the cost of living at the program base. **Any domestic travel, interpretation services, or supplies necessary for the ISP are the students' responsibility.** Please plan accordingly.

Panama uses the US dollar as its official currency, so you will not need to convert money. You will notice that some locally-minted Panamanian coins circulate alongside US coins, but all banknotes will be US dollar bills. Panamanian currency is officially called the "Balboa." The term *balboa* is often used interchangeably with the word *dólar* to refer to the currency.

Most students access funds from their US bank accounts using their VISA or MasterCard debit cards. Any debit card that is linked to the PLUS or CIRRUS networks should also work at ATMs in

country. Credit cards (VISA and MasterCard) will work in certain locations in the capital, but very rarely work in the interior of the country where you will be traveling. Access to a credit card is very useful in emergencies, medical and otherwise. ATMs are accessible throughout urban Panama; however, will not be accessible at program and independent field sites. Travelers' checks are not accepted in Panama.

If using a debit and/or credit card, you should contact your bank and/or credit card companies regarding your travel plans. If you don't inform these companies that you will be away, they will often assume the card has been lost or stolen and will put an immediate hold on the card. You should also check on costs of withdrawal, as these costs vary and can sometimes be very expensive. Renewing and receiving reissued credit and debit cards while on the program will be an expensive and highly inconvenient process. Before you leave for your program, please check the expiration dates on your cards to ensure that they will not expire while you are abroad. It is also very important that you make photocopies of all your debit/credit card information and leave them with someone you trust in case your card(s) is/are lost or stolen.



Following are suggestions for spending money during the program, including estimates for textbooks, ISP-related expenses, medical expenses, personal spending, and gifts. Figures are based on recent student evaluations, though individual spending habits vary widely and **these costs are averages**.

A suggested total amount of money to budget ranges from **US\$850 to \$1,550**. To determine where you might fall in this range, please examine your spending habits during a typical semester at your home school and consider any exceptional expenditures you may have on the program,

including travel costs for your planned ISP or a specific personal expense.

Check current exchange rates:
<http://www.oanda.com/currency/converter/>

Please budget approximately:

Personal spending (from past student suggestions):	\$300-\$400
Books, printing, supplies:	\$50
Up-front medical costs:	\$200
COVID-19 Test(s) <small>(may be required for entry; subject to change and costs may vary)</small>	\$100-250
Typical Internet Café usage:	\$1/hour
Cell phone costs	\$100
Potential ISP travel expenses:	\$100-\$250
Gifts for family/friends in the US	\$50-\$200
Estimated total:	\$850-\$1,550

VISITORS AND FREE TIME

SIT strongly discourages and will not provide support for any visitors to students during the term, due to the rigorous nature of the program and the disruption that such visits cause in program flow and group dynamics. Students should be sure that relatives and friends are aware of this policy and that visits are scheduled for dates after the formal conclusion of the program. Students will not be excused from program components to attend to visitors. See the Attendance and Participation section of the [Student Handbook](#).

Please note that any visitors during the course of the program must plan their own independent accommodations.

During the program, students follow an intense schedule of classes and field-based learning assignments, even during the ISP. Free time for pursuing an independent interest or hobby during the program will be limited. Your admissions counselor can advise you about particular interests you may have. For example, if you must keep in shape for your next athletic season, or if you play a musical instrument and want to know whether to bring it, we can help you to understand your

schedule and any concerns or limitations that may exist. Please note that you will not have a long break during the program, such as Thanksgiving or Spring Break.

Given the intense schedule of this program, independent travel is rarely approved. Therefore, making any type of independent travel plans is strongly discouraged. If a student wishes to travel independently, they must submit a request that will

be reviewed by the Academic Director and the Student Health, Safety & Wellbeing Regional Manager. SIT reserves the right to deny independent travel requests. Further details regarding the current independent travel protocols can be found here:

<https://studyabroad.sit.edu/health-safety-and-well-being/risk-management/covid-19-risk-management-protocols/>

PACKING GUIDELINES

LUGGAGE

Please pack lightly and include only necessary items. You should be able to carry all your luggage significant distances on your own. Try to minimize both the number of bags and weight of your bag(s) since you will likely be acquiring more belongings while abroad. **Due to the nature of this program, please do not bring a traditional suitcase. Bring an internal frame backpack.** We also recommend a small daypack, which will be useful for short excursions when on the program. |

If carrying prescription medications, you should carry a letter from your doctor to prevent any concerns at customs or in transit. (Please see the “General Health Tips” section in the [Safety, Security, and Health](#) pre-departure document.)

Please check the current requirements of the Transportation Security Administration (<http://www.tsa.gov>) as well as those of the airline on which you are flying for domestic and international baggage restrictions.

CLOTHING GUIDELINES

Please be aware that dress and appearance in Panama is given far more importance than in the US. The way you dress and your general appearance can greatly enhance your acceptance into society, demonstrate respect toward your host culture, and manifest your desire to observe Panamanian customs to the best of your abilities. At the same time, poor grooming and dress can offend people, send a message of disregard, cause you to feel out of place, and/or put you at a disadvantage in certain situations. Therefore, it is important that you bring and use appropriate clothing to avoid such circumstances. You will be asked to change your clothing if you choose not to dress appropriately. You need to bring another type of shoe (formal) aside from Tevas or Chacos, such as nice sandals, or close-toed shoes.

During the beginning of the semester, you will spend about two weeks taking Spanish classes and visiting different places in Panama City. During this period,

you will need to dress appropriately. This includes nice jeans or pants, a nice shirt, summer dress, skirt, nice sandals, button-down shirt, or similar (no shorts, no t-shirts, nothing revealing, no flip-flops, no Tevas, no tank tops, no faded or ripped jeans, no cropped shirts).

During the rest of the semester, most of the time is spent in the field. For the field, water-repellent clothing with quick-dry type fabric is preferable. A good pair of water-resistant, lightweight hiking boots is important. Remember, the sun in the tropics is very strong; Panama is quite close to the equator (9 degrees). Therefore, protective headwear and sunblock are crucial. **You need a good hat;** sunstroke is real.

Again, you will have to carry all of your belongings. Please keep in mind that the group will hike and travel in buses, dugout canoes, and other interesting modes of transportation. Also, please be prepared for rain and walking through mud in the fall, and drier weather with high temperatures in the spring. |

EQUIPMENT

You may wish to bring equipment that will assist you in your fieldwork, such as binoculars, a digital voice recorder for interviews, special books, or any field equipment in your particular area of interest. In many cases specialty equipment and supplies are unavailable in Panama.

You will need to bring an individual mosquito net, mask and snorkel, swimming fins/flippers, as well as [water booties](#).

It is mandatory to bring a self-filtering water bottle with sufficient replacement materials for four months as well as a fork, knife, and plate set to reduce your footprint. See packing list below for further information. Students should not spend a lot of money on this, but this is a way to decrease our footprint. |

COMPUTERS AND OTHER ELECTRONICS

It is required that you bring a laptop computer. If you bring a laptop, the computer will be your personal property and responsibility. SIT is not responsible

for any duty tax you may have to pay when you enter the country, theft, or loss. Students should be aware of their environment and their belongings throughout the program and take care to protect against theft whenever possible. SIT Study Abroad encourages students to purchase personal property insurance independently to cover any valuables such as computers and other electronic devices in the event of loss or theft.

The program does not provide computers or internet service for students.

Bring packets of silica gel to help with the humidity for your electronics. If you can't find where to buy them, you can usually find them in shoe boxes, luggage, etc.

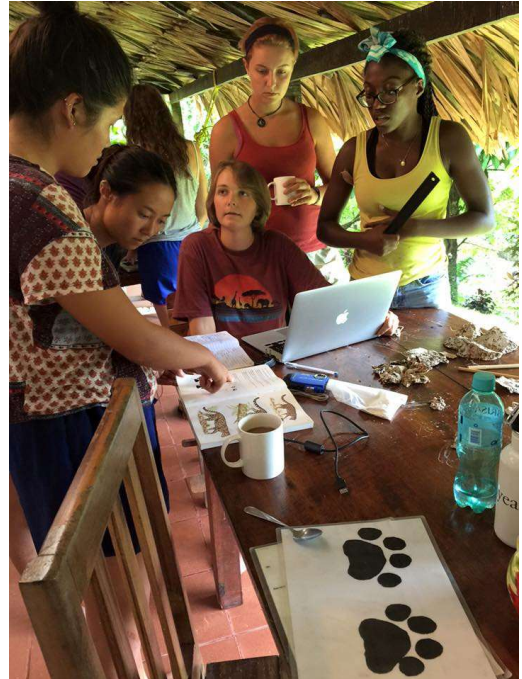
Be sure to back-up your hard drive before traveling.

Please see the following website for information about electricity, voltage and electrical adapters. <http://www.worldstandards.eu/electricity/>. Electricity in Panama is 110V (same as in the US). If you plan to bring electrical equipment, bring 3-prong to 2-prong plug adapters, widely available in the US at hardware stores.

GIFTS

You may want to consider bringing small gifts of gratitude for people with whom you develop a special connection to thank them for their hospitality and to share a part of your culture with them. Try to choose gifts that represent you or the part of the country and/or community you live in. Think about what your city, state, or local artisans produce. Draw upon your personal interests or hobbies for ideas. Once you are on the program and learn more about the local culture, you will discover other ways to thank the community. Remember to bring pictures of your friends and family to share.

Former students have recommended calendars, picture books, postcards, music, or gifts from your hometown or college bookstore. Please do not bring



WHAT YOU CAN AND CANNOT OBTAIN IN COUNTRY

Most basic supplies you find in the United States are available in Panama City, though they may be a little more expensive. School supplies such as notebooks, pens, etc., are easily obtainable. If you are particularly loyal to a brand, particularly of personal care items, you should bring enough with you to last the semester. Definitely plan on purchasing outdoor gear (such as the self-filtering water bottle and replacement filters) in the US before you come; such items are hard to get in Panama.

ALUMNI CONTACTS

If you have further questions, please contact your admissions counselor and/or ask an alumni contact: <https://studyabroad.sit.edu/admissions-aid/application-process/contact-a-former-student/>.

Don't miss the Packing List on the next page!

These packing guidelines are based on suggestions from past students and your academic director.

PACKING LIST

GENERAL

- 1 dressy outfit, suitable for an important meeting (business casual)
- 3–4 “in the field” outfits (quick-drying pants and shirts) that are water-resistant materials; pants that zip off into shorts are convenient
- 2-3 pairs casual pants/jeans/maxi-skirt (linen or lightweight fabric)
- 5 shirts (for classroom setting such as short-sleeved blouses or polo shirts). No crop tops.
- 1-2 pairs of nice shorts (knee length)
- 3-4 pairs athletic shorts
- Pajamas
- 1 pair lightweight *waterproof* hiking boots
- 1 pair durable, field rubber boots for working in the mud (not rain boots) such as [Tingley brand rubber boots](#)
- 3-4 pairs tall socks (soccer type) for working in the field
- Underwear/bras and socks (2 week supply)
- 1 pair of [water booties](#) (required) ; significant time will be spent in wet environments
- Sandals (such as Teva or Chacos)
- 1 pair nice shoes can be sandals or sneakers
- 1 lightweight fleece
- Waterproof raincoat or rain poncho
- 2 swimsuits
- Long sleeve sunshield/SPF swim shirt for extended sun exposure during marine classes (this is **required, you will not be allowed to participate in the marine courses if you don't use a swim shirt**)
- Swim long pants (**Use of swimming pants are required during the marine modules. The requirement is aimed at reducing student use of sunblock and consequent contamination of the coral reefs as well as discomfort from fire coral.**)

TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

- Passport
- Yellow WHO Card/International Certificate of Vaccination or Prophylaxis (see [Safety, Security, and Health](#) for more information)
- Proof of Covid19 vaccine and/or booster encouraged 2 color photocopies of your passport, stored separately from your actual passport
- Paper airline ticket or copy of electronic itinerary. Immigration authorities will ask to see

proof of your return ticket when you enter the country.

- Student ID

HEALTH/TOILETRIES

- Self-filtering water bottle and replacement filters or batteries sufficient for to your preferred water intake. ***This is mandatory. Order these items early to make sure you have them before your departure and ensure you have sufficient replacement materials.*** We have had good experiences with the Lifestraw brand (<http://lifestraw.com/>). You can also use a Camelbak all clear water bottle. ***We cannot permit your participation on excursions if you do not have a self-filtering water bottle on-hand.***
- Sunscreen (at least SPF 30) and aloe vera for sunburns (Please do not bring aerosol sunblock.)
- 1 towel (thin, quick-drying)
- Sunglasses
- Hat/cap (this is crucial; sunstroke is real)
- Insect repellent (Please do not bring aerosol repellent.)
- Adequate supply of any medications you use regularly, including contraceptives
- Any vitamins you are taking
- Small first aid kit with band-aids, hydrogen peroxide, moist towelettes, and over-the-counter drugs for minor pain, cold and flu, diarrhea, anti-itching/bug bites, and motion sickness, as approved by your doctor
- Extra eye glasses or contacts
- To prevent the contraction and spread of COVID-19 you should come prepared with an appropriate number of face masks. Some individual venues may still require masks for entrance. The CDC recommends a close-fitting and protective mask that is comfortable for daily use.
- Hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol for use when soap and water is not readily available
- Anti-bacterial wipes or solution to wipe down high-touch surfaces, especially while traveling from the US
- Small bottle of liquid soap

OTHER REQUIRED ITEMS

- An open, unlocked smart phone (see Phones section for more details)
- Compact mosquito net
- Plate, fork, and knife set such as <https://www.campmor.com/c/sea-to-summit-delta-bowl-83987--1> & <https://www.campmor.com/c/gsi-outdoors-stainless-3-piece-ring-cutlery-set-82088>.
- Mask and snorkel for marine modules
- Swimming Fins/Flippers (you cannot find sizes larger than 9 in Panama)
- Backpack rain cover (fall semester only)
- Biodegradable multi-purpose soap
- Mid-size day pack
- Travel alarm clock
- Headlamp
- Spanish/English dictionary (the Langenscheidt dictionary is usually very good)
- Zip-top storage bags, various sizes
- Dry bag large enough for your laptop
- Laundry bag

- Flash drive (essential to submit homework when wifi is not available)

OPTIONAL

- Computer sleeve (helpful in keeping humidity away from laptops)
- Silica gel packets – we highly recommend purchasing inexpensive silica gel packets to use when storing and carrying your computer in your backpack. You and your computer will often be in very humid conditions. Storing your computer with silica gel packets will help keep it dry and avoid problems due to moisture and humidity common in the tropics.
- Surge protector for laptop
- 3-prong to 2-prong electrical adapter
- Solar charger (such as Waka Waka Power)
- Binoculars
- Camera (waterproof recommended)
- Field equipment for your particular area of interest

