



PANAMA
APRIL 15 - 19
2024

CCCF ¹⁷





GENERAL PRESENTATION FROM THE 17TH MEETING

The 17th Session of the Codex Committee on Food Contaminants (CCFH) will be held from April 15 to 19, 2024 in Panama City, Panama, at the Sheraton Grand Panama Hotel. It will be co-hosted with the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

The plenary session will begin on Monday, April 15 at 09:00 in the morning and will end after the approval of the report, on Friday, April 19. On Sunday, April 14, on-site registration will take place between 12:00 and 18:00.

The face-to-face working group meeting will be held on Sunday, April 14, from 14:30 p.m. to 18:00 p.m., in the plenary meeting room. Registration will take place on Saturday, April 13 from 14:00 p.m. to 18:00 p.m.

Name badges will be distributed at the registration desk. Delegates are asked to visibly wear name badges to enter meeting rooms.

Working groups and parallel events are planned before the plenary session in Panama City from April 15 to 19, 2024.

There are two virtual pre-meetings planned, on April 9 and 10, both from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. CEST.

Note: All previous meetings can continue until the next one. There will be working groups on:

- Review of Codex standards on contaminants, agenda item 18 (Canada);
- Follow-up work on the results of the evaluations of the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives and the FAO/WHO expert consultations, agenda item 19 (EU);
- Priority list of contaminants for evaluation by the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives), agenda item 20, (USA)
- Other issues.

Topics will be announced on the website.

These working groups will be held virtually in English.

On Sunday, April 14, physical meetings are scheduled to be held in the plenary room on agenda items or other topics related to the CCCF, from 2:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Topics will be announced on the website.

On Monday, April 15, there will be a reception for all delegates at the Sheraton Grand Panama

On Wednesday, April 17, there will be a reception only for Heads of Delegation

LIVE BROADCAST

Plenary sessions will be broadcast in listening mode only in English, French and Spanish. The retransmission option will not offer the possibility of making interventions to delegations that participate online. Therefore, in order to intervene, Codex members and observers must have at least one delegate physically present on site.

DOCUMENTS

Delegates are asked to bring their own documentation to the meeting. Working documents are available in English, French and Spanish at www.codexalimentarius.org

INTERPRETATION

Simultaneous interpretation will be provided in English, French and Spanish. Interpreters ask delegates to provide all previously formulated comments in advance (in print or by email to info@codexalimentarius.nl).

SEATING

The CCCF secretariats of Panama and the Netherlands reserve the right to limit the number of chairs at the desks to a certain number per delegation. Additional seating will be available at the back of the plenary room.

PROGRAM

SATURDAY April 13th

14:00 – 18:00 Registration

SUNDAY April 14th

12:00 – 18:00 Registration
09:00 – 16:00 Face to face
working group
18:00 – 18:30 Training seminar

MONDAY April 15th

08:00 – 16:00 Registration
09:00 – 10:00 Opening
ceremony
10:00 – 10:30 Break
10:30 – 12:30 Morning plenary
session
12.30pm – 2.30pm Break
14:30 – 16:00 Physical Meetings
16:00pm – 16:30pm Break
16:30 – 18:00 Physical Meetings
19:00 – 21:00 Welcome
reception

TUESDAY April 16th

09:00 – 10:30 First plenary session of
the morning
10.30 – 11.00 Break
11:00 – 12:30 Second plenary session of
the morning
12.30pm – 2.30pm Break
14:30 – 16:00 First plenary session of
the afternoon
4.00pm – 4.30pm Break
16:30 – 18:00 Second plenary session of
the afternoon

WEDNESDAY April 17th

09:00 – 10:30 First plenary session of
the morning
10.30 – 11.00 Break
11:00 – 12:30 Second plenary session of
the morning
12.30pm – 2.30pm Break
14:30 – 16:00 First plenary session of
the afternoon
4.00pm – 4.30pm Break
16:30 – 18:00 Second plenary session of
the afternoon

THURSDAY April 18th

Report preparation day

FRIDAY April 19th

11:00 Report available
13:00 – 16:00 Approval of the report



REGISTRATION SYSTEM CODEX ONLINE

Participants are invited to pre-register by March 15, 2024 using the Online Registration System (ORS). Pre-registration must be done through your Codex Contact Point, who can access this system at: **www.codexalimentarius.org/login**.

If your point of contact needs help with the online registration system, please contact **codex@fao.org**.

Please note that the invitation to the 17th session of CCCF17, issued jointly by FAO and WHO, indicates that delegates must register by March 15, 2024.

All delegates planning to attend CCCF 17 are advised to register early enough to allow for appropriate seating arrangements for the meeting.

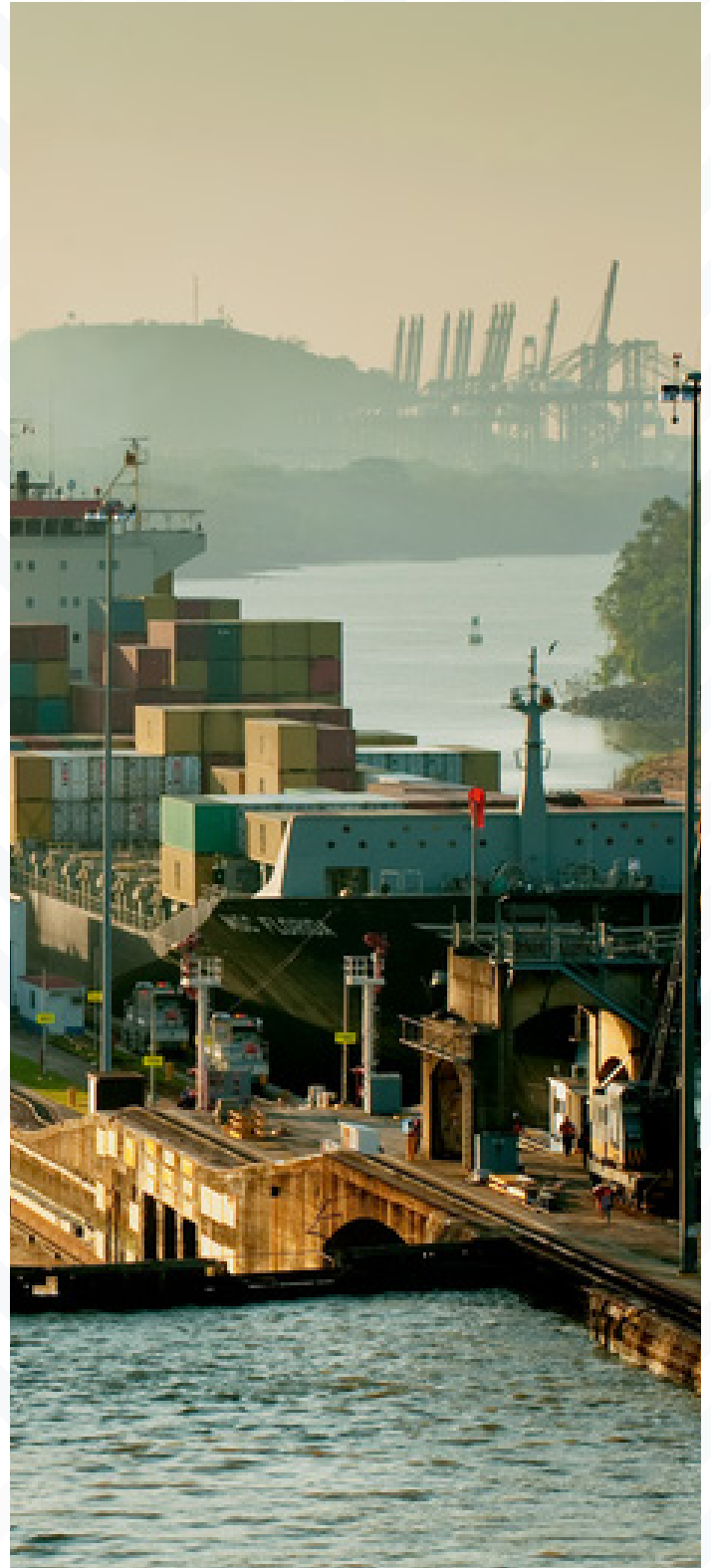
REQUIREMENTS FOR THE VISA

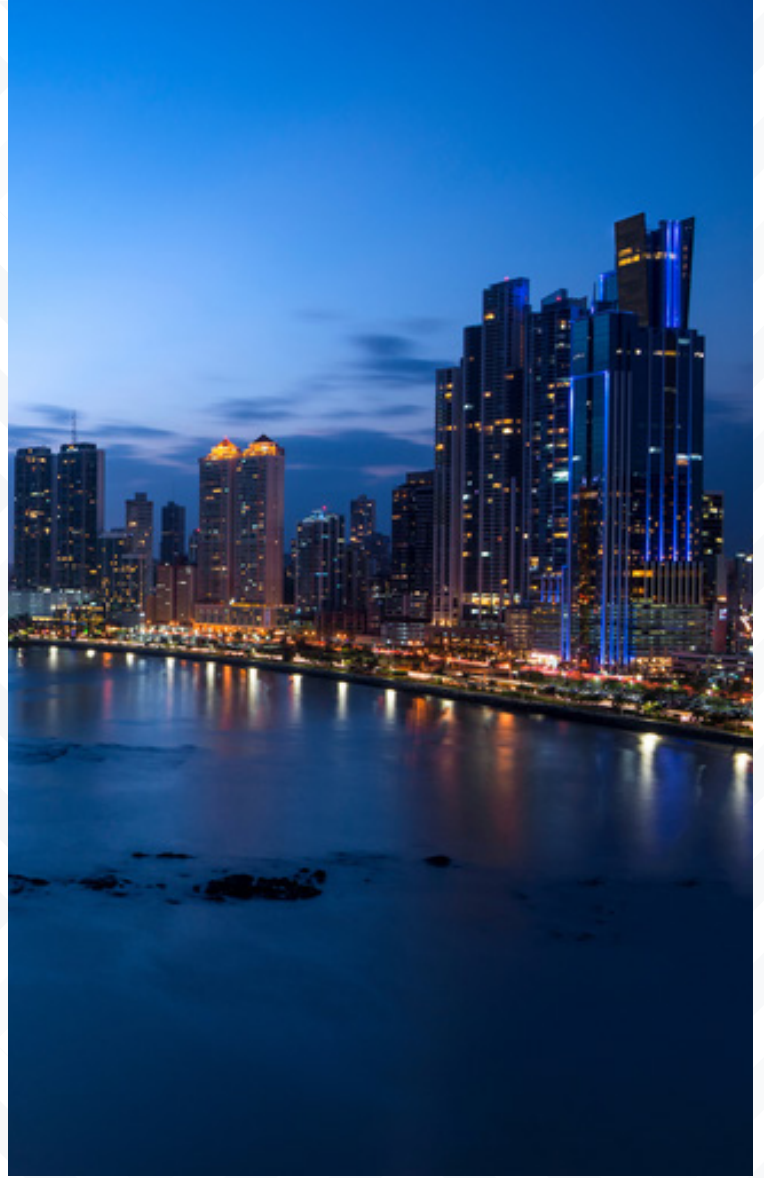
Most delegates will not need a visa and will only need to present a passport with more than three months validity from the date of arrival. Delegates who require a visa to enter Panama must apply for a Stamped Visa or an Authorized Visa. It is highly recommended to those who need to have a visa to enter Panama to begin the application process as soon as possible.

For more information and to consult the requirements - visa sites by country visit the following link: [https:// www.tocumenpanama.aero/index.php/requisitos-para-la-entrada-a-panama](https://www.tocumenpanama.aero/index.php/requisitos-para-la-entrada-a-panama)

It is the responsibility of the delegates to timely carry out the procedures to request and obtain the visa. If you do not do this early enough, you may not be able to obtain your visa in time to attend the meeting. As the Panama Codex Contact Point facilitates they will provide all possible help for delegates to obtain their visas. The Panama Codex Contact Point has taken the necessary measures to facilitate the visa application process for Codex delegates.

It is important that delegates from all member organizations and countries have the opportunity to participate in Codex meetings. Completing and submitting the visa application without delay will allow the work of Codex to accurately reflect the views and contributions of all its members.





ABOUT THE CITY OF PANAMA, PANAMA

Panama City is located in the Gulf of Panama, on the Pacific coast. Founded in 1519, Panama City was a main stop on one of the most important Spanish trade routes in the Americas. Today, Panama City continues to be a dynamic hub connecting the history of the ancient city with the neighboring modern metropolis offering commerce, culture, nightlife, leisure activities, city tours and tropical getaways.





GET TO PANAMA

PLANE

Panama City's airport is Tocumen International Airport (airport code: PTY).

The airport is the main base of operations for Copa Airlines, which flies to more than 90 cities, mainly in the Caribbean and America, as well as some European and Asian cities.

TRANSPORTATION TO THE SHERATON GRAND PANAMA HOTEL AND ALOFT PANAMA HOTEL

The headquarters hotel is located approximately 18 km. From the airport. Depending on traffic, the journey from the airport to the hotel takes about 18 to 20 minutes.

TAXIS (approximately 30 dollars)

The most common mode of transportation between the airport and Panama City is by taxi. It generally costs \$30 for 1 or 2 people and slightly higher for 3 or 4 people. Most taxi drivers only accept cash payments, so if you plan to take a taxi, you will need to use one of the ATMs at the airport before requesting the service. After removing your luggage from the drop-off area, exit through the doors, head towards the passenger pick-up area and proceed to the taxi rank outside. It is not necessary to tip the taxi driver at the end of the trip.

ATTENTION

- As soon as you leave the airport, you may encounter people asking if you need a taxi or offering to help you with your luggage in exchange for a tip. It is not necessary to accept their services.
- Avoid taking unmarked taxis, as well as the possibility of overpaying, and take an official taxi in line at the taxi rank.

SHARED JOURNEYS UBER AND CABIFY (approximately 15-25 dollars)

It is possible to share a ride from the airport, both through the Uber application and Cabify. To do this you will need to have a data connection.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SHARED JOURNEYS

- We recommend requesting the pick-up service only when you are ready to leave the airport.
- Follow signs to Passenger Pickup or to a designated TNC/Carpooling area. Exit through the arrivals level and cross the street to the parking area. Meet your driver at the parking row you choose through the app, between rows 15 and 18.
- Find your driver. If you can't find him or her, contact him or her through the app.

For more information on how to download the app, additional charges and promotional codes for new users, see:

<https://www.uber.com/airports/pty/>

<https://cabify.com/en/panama/ciudad-de-panama>

PRIVATE TRANSPORTATION TO THE AIRPORT

There are several airport transfer services that can be booked in advance to pick you up on arrival and take you to the flotel. After clearing customs, exit the airport and you will be greeted by a driver holding a sign with your name on it.

To determine which airport transfer is best for you, check out any of the following:

<http://pineappleshuttle.com/>

<http://www.panamayourway.com/panama-transfers/>

<https://www.ambermooncab.com/services>

<https://www.viator.com/Panama-City-tours/Transfers-and-Ground-Transport/d950-g15>

Prices may vary depending on when you make the reservation





HOTEL OF THE 17TH CCCF MEETING **HOTEL SHERATON GRAND PANAMA**

Via Israel and Calle 77, Panama City, Panama

Telephone: +507 305-5100

Check-in to the hotel: 15:00

Check-out of the hotel: 12:00

HOTEL ALOFT PANAMA

Via Israel and Calle 77, Panama City, Panama

Check-in to the hotel: 15:00

Check-out of the hotel: 12:00

EXCLUSIVE PRICE:

Sheraton Grand Hotel – B/. 105.00 + 10% of regular country taxes.

Aloft Panamá Hotel – B/. 85.00 + 10% of regular country taxes.

Double or single room and includes breakfast.

CODEX 2024 PROMO

Start date: **Wednesday, April 10, 2024**

End date: **Monday, April 22, 2024**

<https://www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?id=1707168763164&key=GRP&app=resvlink>

SHERATON GRAND PANAMA HOTEL

Transform your business trip into a leisure getaway with a stay at Sheraton Grand Panama. Our rooms and suites will provide the space and comfort expected for a pleasant stay, as well as a view of the spectacular coasts of the Bay of Panama. Our modern hotel offers easy access to the most prominent places throughout Panama City, such as Tocumen International Airport, Panama Viejo, the Atlapa Convention Center and the most popular shopping centers among Panamanians.

After enjoying a day discovering everything Panama City has to offer, relax in the comfortable rooms and suites with free Wi-Fi access. In addition, it has floor-to-ceiling windows to enjoy views of the city and other amenities to make your stay unforgettable. To satisfy the palate, this hotel has a diverse gastronomic proposal that includes the Crostini grill, open for lunch and dinner, while Cafe Bahia Restaurante and the Las Hadas cafeteria, open all day, offer a varied menu for everyone. The likes. With our outdoor pool and 24-hour fitness center with weights and cardio equipment, you won't have to miss out on your workout routine while you're away from home.



If your trip is for business, our hotel has 23 event rooms to hold impactful meetings and conferences. To celebrate a wedding, our team of planning and catering professionals will take care of all the details of your big day. Whatever the reason for your trip, our Sheraton Grand Panama staff is ready to welcome you and ensure that your stay is impeccable.

HOTEL ALOFT PANAMA

Oversized lobby with over 280 square meters of public space with areas to work, play, eat or relax. Boring meetings are a thing of the past thanks to our 4 meeting rooms and 5,000 square feet of inspiring, modern event space for events, meetings and conferences. We have equipped our Tactic rooms with the best in audiovisual systems. This includes a 50 inch flat screen plasma TV with laptop connection and DVD player.

PowerPoint presentations and training videos have never looked so good. Plus, free wireless Internet access allows everyone to continue multitasking during the meeting. 303 dynamic rooms and public spaces with elegant design and superior quality finishes. Experience the highest class in our suites in Panama. Celebrities have enjoyed a luxurious stay in these exclusive rooms. Enjoy various culinary options at our WXYZ bar, our 'RED' fusion cuisine restaurant.



HOTEL RESERVATIONS

You can stay at the hotel hosting the event, **Sheraton Grand Panama** and its ally, the **Aloft Panama Hotel**, which have included discounted rates for delegates who decide to do so, in double or single occupancy.

An option to make them feel comfortable and close to the event. However, in the area you can find other hotels such as:

- **JW Marriott Hotel**, located a few minutes from the Headquarters Hotel, <https://www.marriott.com/es/hotels/ptymj-jw-marriott-panama/overview/>

- **The Courtyard by Marriott Panama Multiplaza Mall Hotel** is also located <https://www.marriott.com/es/hotels/ptycy-courtyard-panama-multiplaza-mall/overview/>

For your lunch time you can enjoy nearby restaurant areas, as well as a complete Shopping Center with a food area, located in **MultiPlaza Pacific**. <https://www.multiplaza.com/>

You will not feel bored, as you will find areas to clear your head after plenary meetings. Restaurant with music included.

We hope to see you very soon in Panama.



HOTEL SERVICES AND FACILITIES

- Close to shopping centers and leisure areas
- 18 km/11 miles from the International Airport Tocumen (PYT)
- Conference center
- Free WiFi in the flotel
- Travelife Sustainability GOLD Certification System
- Several bars and restaurants
- Room and takeaway services 24 hours a day
- Outdoor pool
- Spa & Wellness Center, fully equipped gym

BEDROOMS

Standard rooms have:

- One King Size bed or two double beds
- Sofa in the living room area
- Free WiFi
- Satellite TV
- Air-conditioning
- Minibar
- Coffee maker

CLIMATE

- The average temperature in April ranges between 24° and 30°C, and there may be days with maximum temperatures between 34°C and 39°C. So you can appreciate the summer of Panama.
- Travelers who wish to walk around the city are recommended to remember to bring appropriate clothing for summer. It is a good idea to wear several layers of clothing so that you can remove or put on items as needed for comfort when entering and exiting air- conditioned environments.

ELECTRIC CURRENT

- Electrical appliances operate at 110 volts (60Hz).
- Power outlets accept two- and three-prong plugs.

CURRENCY

- The Panamanian currency is the balboa (B/.). It has parity with the US dollar, a currency that is also legal tender.
- There are ATMs and currency exchange offices at the airport upon arrival at PTY.
- Credit cards are generally accepted in cities, although smaller shops, restaurants and taxis generally only accept cash. The most widely accepted credit cards are Visa and MasterCard, although other cards can often be used in luxury establishments.
- You can use your bank or credit card as long as it has a four-digit password or a cflip.

TIPS AND TAXES

• Taxes

- A 10% tourist tax is added to the price of flotel flights, as indicated above.
- A 5% sales tax is added to all non-food products.
- There is a \$40 airport departure tax, although it is usually included in the price of the flight.

• Tips

- In most restaurants it is customary to leave a 10% tip. Tips are also usually left to those who perform different services (trunk porters, private drivers), although the amount may vary. The flabitual is an amount between 0.25 and 1 dollar. It is also suggested to tip guides in more rural areas.
- Taxi drivers do not expect to receive a tip.



LOCAL ATTRACTIONS

Panama City has an infinite number of corners to discover, from the most historical to the most current. In Ciudad Nueva you can appreciate the large skyscrapers, enjoy the famous Amador Causeway or visit the Metropolitan Natural Park, where you will enjoy spectacular views of the city, the bay and, of course, the famous Canal. If you want to discover the history of the place, in Panama Viejo you will find colonial buildings and emblematic monuments such as the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Assumption, the Casa de Alarcón, the Presidential Palace or the Church of San José.

At the Sheraton Grand Panama Flotel there is a travel desk to help guests book a variety of sightseeing tours, excursions and activities.





MAIN ATTRACTIONS

THE PANAMA CANAL

Since its completion in 1914, the Panama Canal remains one of the most important engineering works in human history. It links the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans through an 80 km (50 mi) canal that divides the country in two. Its realization allowed us to open new and agile trade routes. The canal is made up of three sets of double locks that allow passage for more than 14,000 ships a year.

THE BIOMUSEUM

Surprising for its original shapes and bright colors, this modern structure is the only work in Latin America designed by the famous architect Frank Gehry. His astonishing permanent exhibit shows how the Isthmus of Panama emerged 22 million years ago, uniting two continents and allowing the migration of numerous animal species.

PANAMÁ VIEJO

Founded in 1519 by the Spanish conquistador Pedro Arias de Ávila, Panama was the first European settlement built on the Pacific coast. It flourished as a transit point for Spanish exports of Peruvian gold and silver to Europe. In 1671, the city was sacked and destroyed by the famous pirate Henry Morgan. The historic ruins of cobbled streets, buildings, convents and churches were declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO.

EL CASCO ANTIGUO

The Casco Antiguo or Casco Viejo, marks the place where the new Panama City was founded in 1673, after the destruction of the original city in 1671. Currently, the beautiful colonial architecture of the city has been the subject of a major renovation and UNESCO declared it a World Heritage Site in 2003. Today it is a lively destination where visitors can enjoy fun activities, magnificent views, restaurants, live shows, music and other recreational alternatives.

TO SEE WHAT TO DO IN PANAMA, CLICK ON:

<http://www.visitpanama.com>

TOURIST ATTRACTIONS IN PANAMA

- Panama Canal from the Visitor Center Miraflores <https://visitcanaldepanama.com/centro-de-visitantes-de-miraflores/> (12 km/8 miles)
- Mercado Artesanías de 5 de mayo (5 km/6 miles)
- Attend a soccer game at the Rommel Stadium
- Fernández Gutiérrez (10 km/7 miles)
- Panamá Viejo <http://panamaviejo.org/> (7 km/4 miles)
- Casco Viejo <http://cascoviejo.org/> (5 km/3 miles)
- Panama sign (5 km/3 miles)
- Seafood market (5 km/3 miles)
- Taboga Island <https://tabogaexpress.com/>
- Cinta Costera <https://www.panamaequity.com/blog/cinta-costera-best-place-get-active-panama-city/> (3.5km/2miles)
- Visit to Monkey Island and the indigenous village <https://www.barefootpanama.com/panama-tours/day-tours/indian-village-monkey-island/> (6 km/3,5 miles)
- Avenida Central (5 km/3 miles)
- Biomuseo <http://www.biomuseopanama.org/> (10 km/7 miles)
- Panaviera <http://oceansuncasino.com/panaviera-rest.pfip> (2,5 km/1,5 miles)
- Metropolitan park <http://www.parquemetroolitano.org/> (6 km/3,5 miles)
- Pedro Mandinga <http://pedromandinga.com/es/inicio/> (6 km/3,5 miles)



PANAMANIAN CULTURE

Panamanian identity is a mix of cultures from different stages of its rich history with influences, among others, Spanish, Amerindian and African.

Today's Panama was colonized by Spain in 1510 and was part of the Spanish empire for more than 300 years. Hispanic heritage figures prominently in the Azuero and Coclé regions, where the national costume, the pollera, is a cherished tradition. This delicate garment is made by hand and can take up to a year to make. The Panamanian pollera is used for various dances, festivals and celebrations.

African influence came to Panama in several waves throughout its history: from West Africa during Spanish colonization, and from the Caribbean and the Antilles during the construction of the Panama Canal, the railroad, and general infrastructure as Panama It became a flourishing commercial port. The African legacy is passed down from generation to generation through the multicolored Congo dance of Panama, a tradition rooted in the province of Colón, where the native population keeps their roots alive with traditional dances accompanied by artisanal instruments.

Today, national pride is a deeply rooted feeling in Panamanians, always ready to express why they love their country. This feeling is well summarized in the Panamanian saying, “bridge of the world, heart of the universe.”



PANAMANIAN CUISINE

Panamanian cuisine is a reflection of the country's enormous cultural and historical wealth. With a coastline of more than 2,000 km (1,243 miles), fish, seafood, and Caribbean flavors predominate in many Panamanian dishes. Spanish and other parts of Europe influences arrived when the Spanish first set foot on the Caribbean coast. Shortly after, it was brought to Africans, who adapted its recipes to local food. Over time, with the construction of the Panama Canal, workers from India, China and the Middle East also added their influence to gastronomy.

Among the most popular breakfast dishes are hojaldras (a fried dough), fried tortillas with eggs, cheese and beans, and empanadas. Some of the favorite main dishes are sancocho, which is a national chicken stew, carimañola made with fried yucca stuffed with ground meat, and lechona or suckling pig. For dessert, flan and tropical fruits or delicacies such as the drunk soup, which is a spongy cake with raisins and liquor, the masamorra (a corn soup cooked with milk and sugar) and the rosquietas or Panamanian doughnuts.



WE HOPE TO SEE YOU IN PANAMA!

CCCF Netherlands Secretariat or Codex Panama Secretariat

If you would like more information or have any questions about the upcoming meeting of the Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods, please contact the Secretariat in Panama for questions regarding visas and organizational matters codexpanama@mici.gob.pa and contact the Secretariat at the Netherlands if you have questions about the content of the meeting info@codexalimentarius.nl

