

# PANAMA





# Why Panama?

- World's top offshore haven
- Specific Countries visa—easy, turn-key, possible work permit
- Established expat communities—at the beaches, in the city, and in the mountains



# At A Glance

- **Residency**
  - *Pensionado* (proof of US\$1,000 monthly income); Friendly Nations (requires a real estate investment in Panama property of at least US\$200,000 either in cash or through a mortgage from a local bank).
- **Health Care**
  - Quality care available in major cities
  - Inexpensive prescription drugs
- **Ease of Access**
  - Hub for Latin America flights
  - Direct flights to Europe
  - First Metro System in Central America



# Looking At Panama

- **Panama City**
- **City Beaches**
- **Interior**
- **Western Panama**
- **Cooler Places to Live**



# Country Pros

- Affordability
- Uses U.S. dollar (Balboa)
- Specific Countries visa program
- Best infrastructure in Central America
- Strong economy
- Quality health care

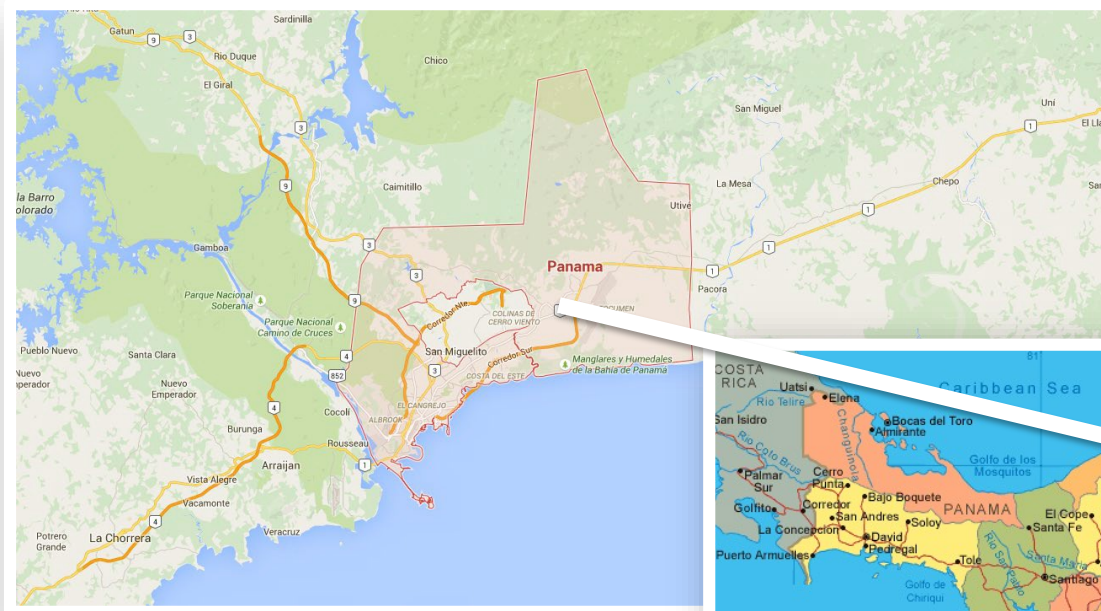


# Country Cons

- Traffic congestion in cities
- Interior roads in disrepair
- Hot and humid in Panama City and on coast
- Power outages
- Poor customer service
- *Mañana* attitude



# Panama City







# Panama City Pros

- Diverse living options available
- Public transportation
- Johns Hopkins affiliated hospital
- Night life
- First world coastal living at a discount



# Panama City Cons

- Traffic, traffic, and traffic
- The 3 T's... Traffic, Trash, and Trip Hazards
- High electricity costs
- City sidewalks not suitable for walking
- Dining options—high end vs low end
- Import shopping expensive



# City Beaches





# City Beaches Pros

- Shopping and dining options
- New hospital
- Large expat community
- Close proximity to city and mountains
- Wide range of living options

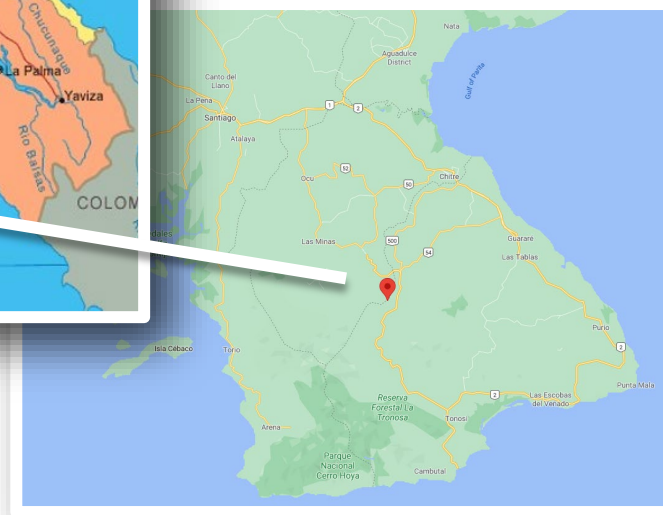


# City Beaches Cons

- Weekend beach traffic
- Loud music/noise
- Limited beach access for non-residents
- Higher price tag



# Azuero Peninsula







# Azuero Peninsula Pros

- Growing expat community
- Unpopulated beaches abound
- Several first world style developments
- Spanish school
- Surfing, scuba and fishing
- Bookends are Divisa & Atalaya
- Great roads

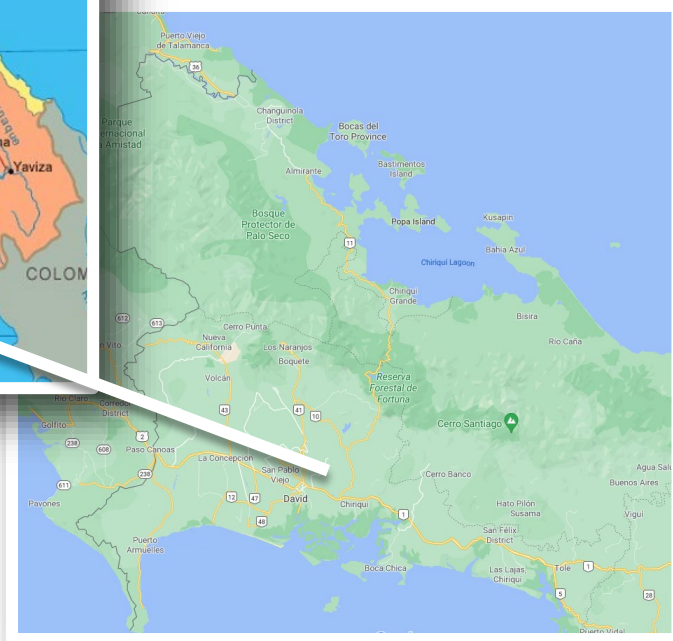


# Azuero Peninsula Cons

- Growing expat community raising prices (Panamanians reconnecting to their culture)
- Shopping an hour away (Chitré or Santiago)
- Limited (gringo type) entertainment
- Need a car



# Chiriquí & Bocas





# Chiriquí Pros

- Agricultural heartland of Panama
- Diversity of living options
  - Beach
  - City
  - Mountains
- Enrique Malek International Airport (DAV)



# Chiriquí Cons

- David is the hottest city in Panama
- Drugs, crime, and gangs
- 1 hr flight or 8 hr drive to PTY
- Everything Bocas is by boat/water taxi

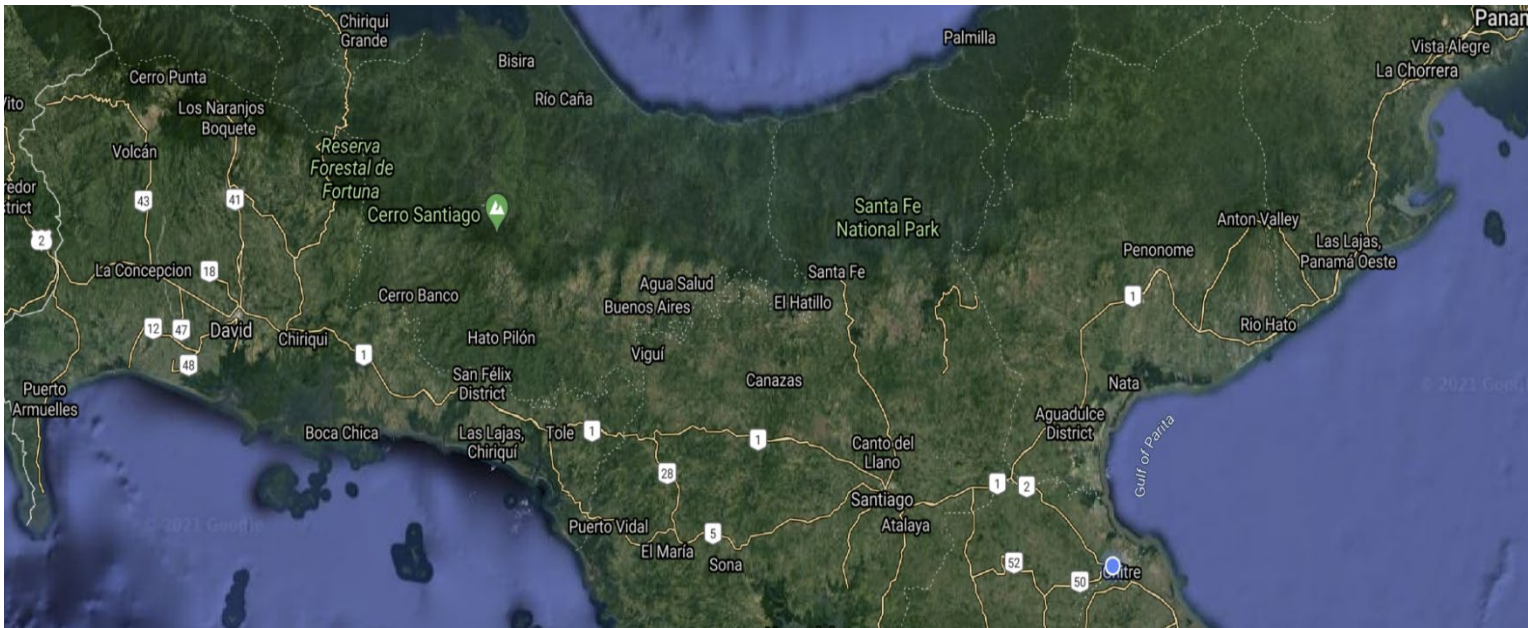


# Cooler Climates





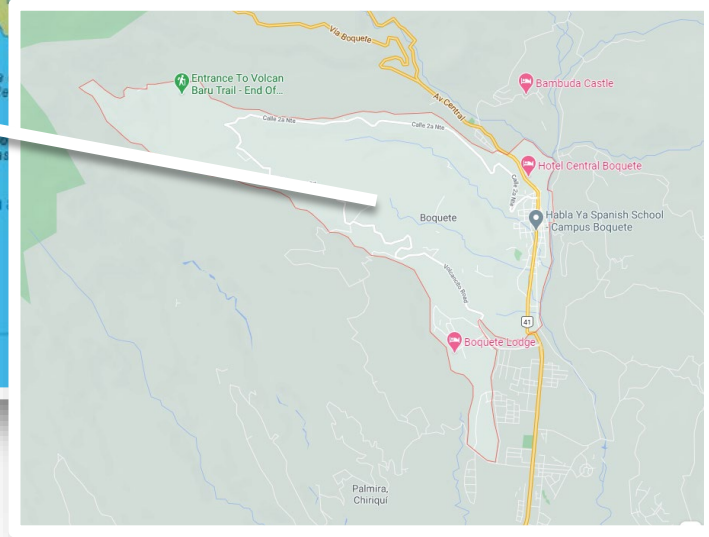
# Cooler Climates



**Boquete – Gualaca District – Santa Fe – El Valle de Antón – Altos de María**



# Boquete





# Boquete Pros

- English is widely spoken
- Large expat community
- Spring-like weather all year
- Fresh produce from the farmers market

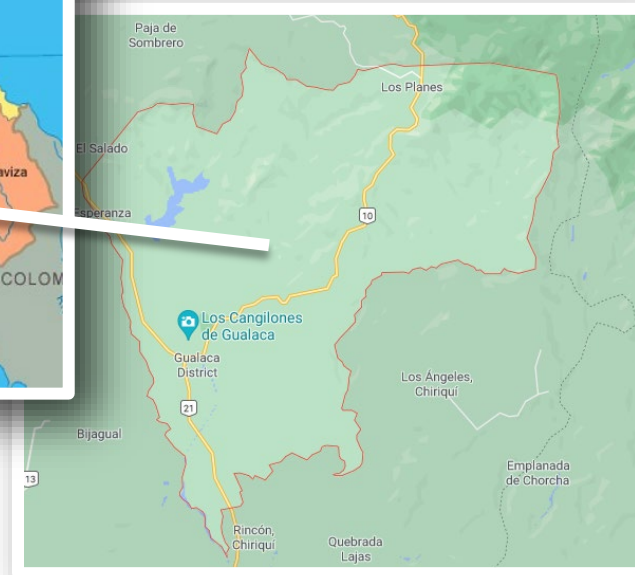


# Boquete Cons

- No hospitals
- Back up electricity generator needed
- Rely on satellite internet services



# Gualaca





# Gualaca Pros

- Beautiful Mountain Scenery
- Clean air
- Cool climate
- Country living in all it's glory



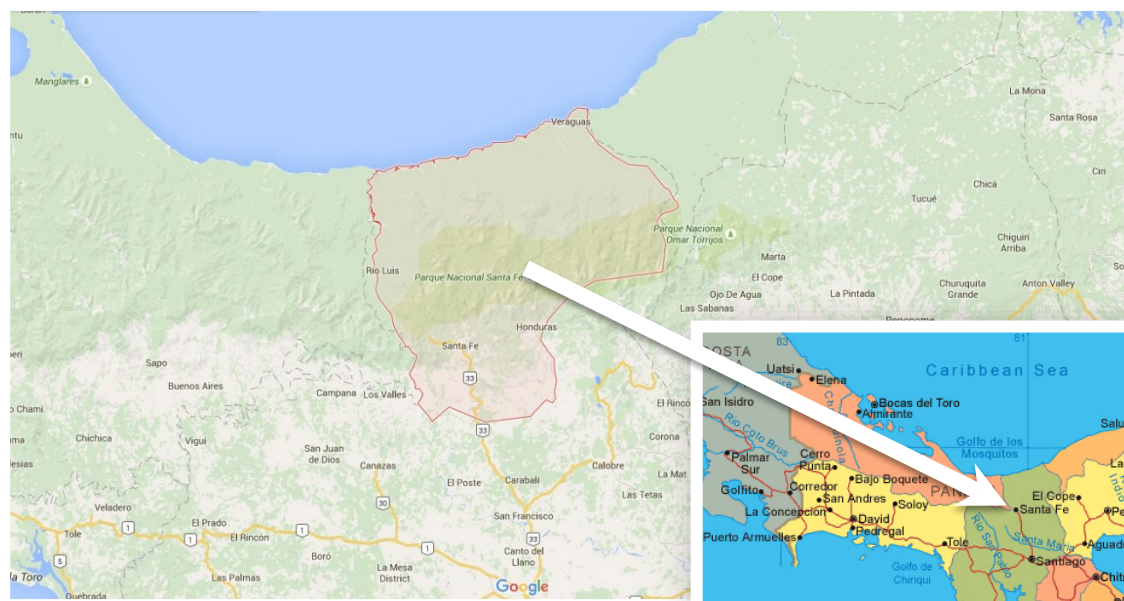


# Gualaca Cons

- Vehicle required
- Far from everything
- No expat communities



# Santa Fe





# Santa Fe Pros

- Cooler climate
- Perfect for the outdoorsman
- Affordable
- Indigenous outreach opportunities

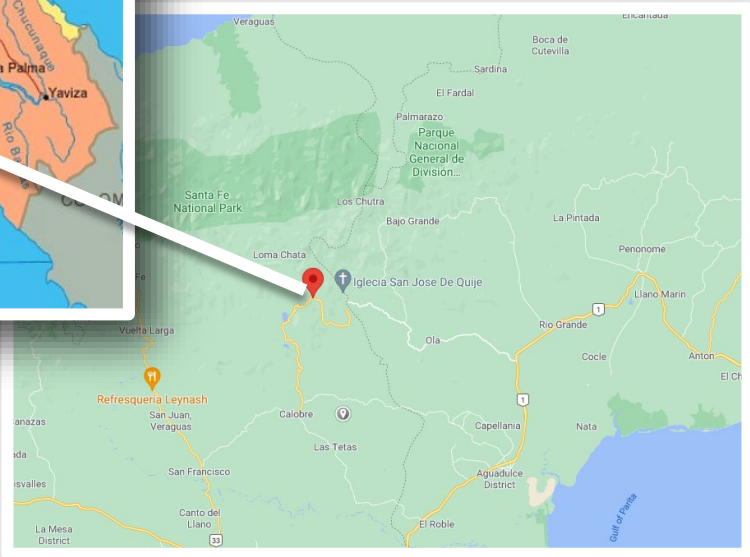


# Santa Fe Cons

- Off grid living – no bank or gas station
- Major shopping an hour away
- Need to speak Spanish
- Limited entertainment options



# San José (Veraguas)





# San José Pros

- Unrestricted beauty
- New - with a population of 2,555 as of 2010. It was created by Law 18 of January 24, 2003.
- Perfect for the outdoors person



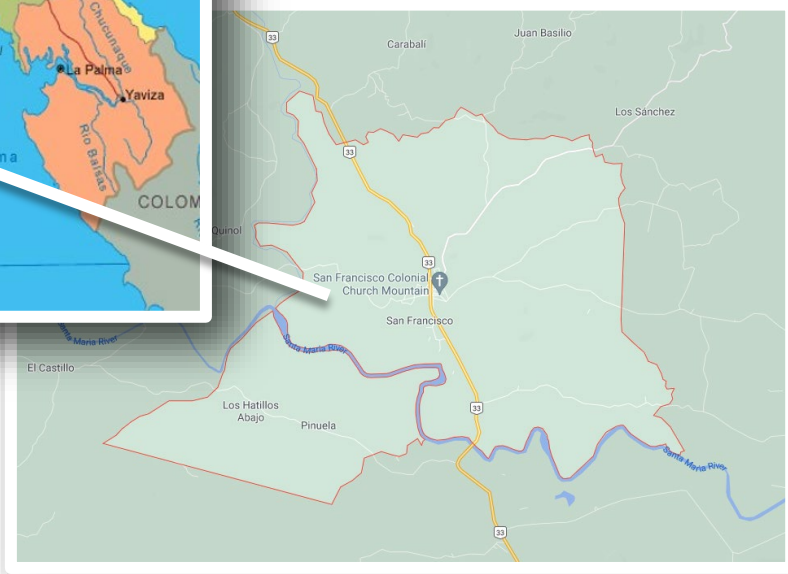


# San José Cons

- Where?
- 4WD vehicle
- Spanish only



# San Francisco





# San Francisco Pros

- Country living close to a city
- Perfect climate
- History

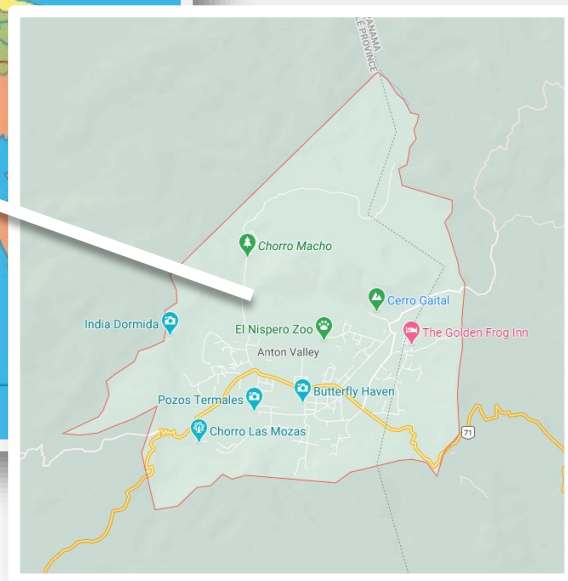


# San Francisco Cons

- Expats are not a community
- Spanish
- Country living



# El Valle de Antón





# El Valle de Antón Pros

- Growing expat community
- Don't need a car to get around town
- Fresh fruits and vegetables available
- Varied cuisine options for dining out
- Many places/people speak some English





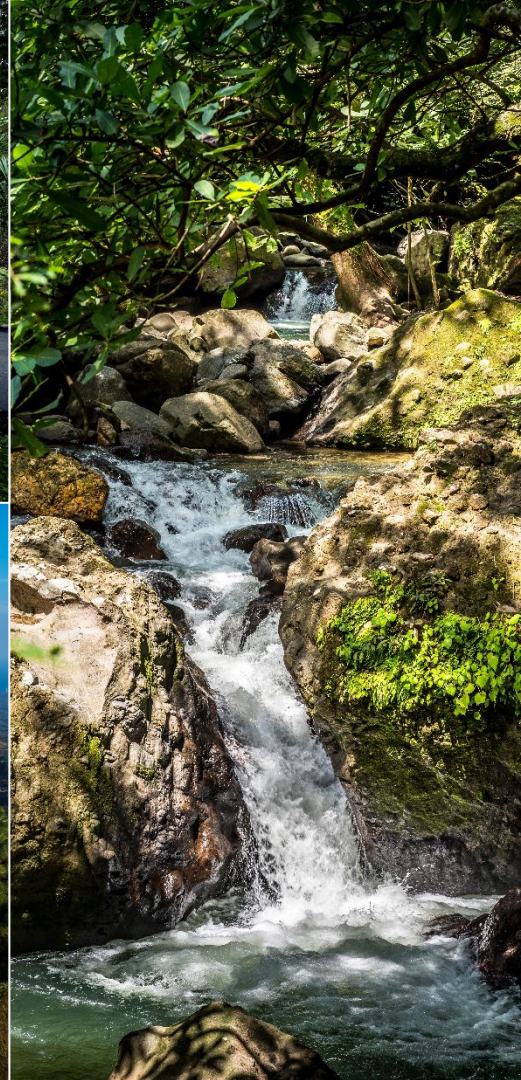
# El Valle de Antón Cons

- Very few locals speak English
- No specialized medical care
- Access from the Pan-American Hwy
- About 2 hours away from the nearest larger city (Coronado)



# Altos del María





# Altos del María Pros

- Close to Panama City/Coronado
- Small expat community
- Quality homes



# Altos del María Cons

- Need 4 WD vehicle
- Rough roads
- Travel to shop



# Noteworthy

- Fastest growing economy in Latin America
- Second largest duty-free zone
- Green season from April thru December
- 33% land reserved for Natural Parks
- *Puente del mundo; Corazon del universo*

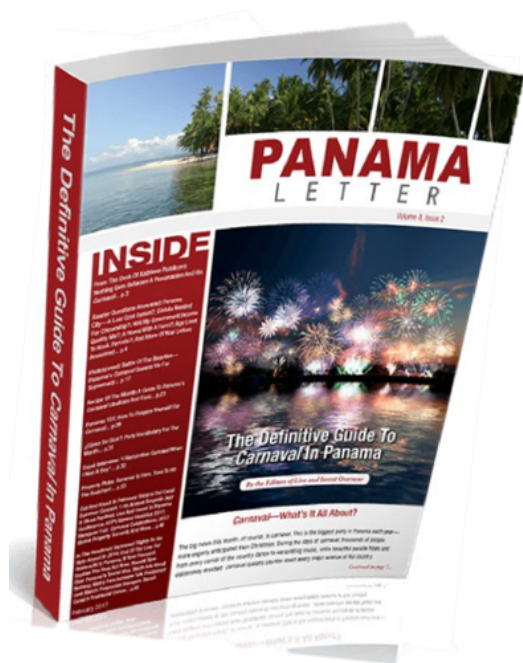


# Grading Panama

- English Spoken – B
- Health Care – A-
- Climate – C
- Infrastructure – A-
- Accessibility – A
- Safety – A-
- Culture – C
- Recreation – A-
- Taxes – A
- Schools – A-



# Recommended Resources



## Panama Letter

This monthly subscription brings you the real Panama. This is your chance to discover **warts and all** what it is really like to live in this country, without the sugar coating.

This is the good, the bad, and the ugly, brought to you by a team of insiders, with, among them, decades of firsthand experience living, investing, and doing business in Panama.

Want to know more? Connect with us through the Networking Chat tab!





# Recommended Resources



## Panama Circle

Our Panama **VIP Service**.

This is paradise made easy. Your ultimate overseas retirement fully figured out and turnkey.

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