



Darién Province

POP 47,000 / ELEV SEA LEVEL TO 3478M / AREA 8653 SQ KM

Includes ➔

Metetí	240
Yaviza.....	241
La Palma.....	242
Reserva Natural Punta Patiño.....	243
Mogué.....	243
Río Sambú.....	244
Sambú	244
Parque Nacional Darién	245
El Real	245
Rancho Frío	246

Best Off-the Beaten Path Spots

- ➔ Parque Nacional Darién (p245)
- ➔ Sambú (p244)
- ➔ Pacific Coast (p245)
- ➔ Río Sambú (p244)

Best Places to Stay

- ➔ Filo de Tallo (p240)
- ➔ Sambu House (p245)
- ➔ Punta Patiño Lodge (p243)
- ➔ Tropic Star Lodge (p245)

Why Go?

One of world's richest biomes is the 5760-sq-km Parque Nacional Darién, where the primeval meets the present with scenery nearly unaltered from one million years ago. Even today in the Darién, the Emberá and Wounaan people maintain many of their traditional practices and retain generations-old knowledge of the rainforest. In a stroke of irony, the Darién has remained so pristine because of its volatile reputation.

But while the southern Darién is home to Panama's most spectacular rainforests, the north is home to scenes of habitat destruction. Safety is a real concern here, yet the region's issues are complex and require careful consideration. It is not for everyone, but with careful planning and the right destinations, the Darién offers spectacular opportunities for intrepid travelers yearning for something truly wild.

When to Go

- ➔ Travelers to the Darién should always check on current security issues before going.
- ➔ **Dec–April** Less precipitation makes dry season the best time to hit trails that will turn muddy and unstable during rainy season. Travel connections are also more reliable.
- ➔ **May, Oct–Nov** With rivers running high and heavy rainfall, these months are generally the most difficult time to visit the region.
- ➔ **Year-round** Multiday sailboat charters and backpacker boat shuttles between San Blas and Colombia touch down in Puerto Obaldia for border crossing.

