

Language

CONTENTS

The Languages of Panama	324
Learn Some Lingo!	324
Phrasebooks & Dictionaries	324
Latin American Spanish	325
Pronunciation	325
Gender & Plurals	326
Accommodations	326
Conversation & Essentials	327
Directions	327
Health	328
Emergencies	328
Language Difficulties	328
Numbers	328
Paperwork	329
Shopping & Services	329
Time & Dates	330
Transport	330
Travel with Children	331

THE LANGUAGES OF PANAMA

Spanish is the official, and most widely spoken, language in Panama, but no fewer than 14 other languages can also be heard on the isthmus. Eight languages are spoken by Panama's seven Indian tribes (the Kuna living in the villages of Paya and Pucuro, in southeastern Panama, speak a language that is quite different from that of Kuna residing elsewhere). Two Chinese languages, Arabic, Hebrew, San Miguel Creole French and Western Caribbean Creole English are also spoken in the country.

San Miguel Creole French is spoken by scattered groups whose ancestors came from St Lucia during the mid-19th century as laborers. Western Caribbean Creole English is spoken by an estimated 14% of the population, whose ancestors came from Barbados and Jamaica in the 19th century to work in fruit plantations, and later to build the Panama Railroad and Canal. Creole English is commonly heard in Bocas del Toro Province and in Colón. Other Panamanians have learned English at school or from US soldiers and Panama Canal workers.

Many Chinese also came to Panama to work on the railway and the canal, and their

descendants speak Cantonese or Hakka. During the 20th century, Chinese immigrants arrived as merchants. There is a hearty Chinatown in Panama City and a substantial Chinese community in Colón. Likewise, many Arabs and Jews came to these two cities to conduct business. Today Arabs from several Middle Eastern countries and Jews from Israel and the USA comprise two of the most powerful groups in Panama.

LEARN SOME LINGO!

Just as most Panamanian immigrants have learned to speak Spanish as a second language, any traveler to Panama would be wise to learn at least a little Spanish as a matter of courtesy and convenience. Basic Spanish is easily acquired (perhaps more so for speakers of English and Romance languages), and a month-long language course taken before departure can go a long way toward facilitating communication and comfort on the road. Language courses are available in Panama City (p90) for those interested in the added benefits of learning Spanish while in the country. Even if classes are impractical, you should make the effort to learn a few basic phrases and pleasantries. At the very least your Spanish should cover 'good morning,' 'good afternoon,' 'good evening,' 'goodbye,' 'thank you' and 'glad to meet you.' Don't hesitate to practice your language skills – in general, Latin Americans meet attempts to communicate in the vernacular, however halting, with enthusiasm and appreciation. If you try speaking Spanish in Panama and the person you are talking to speaks English, that person will usually respond in English.

PHRASEBOOKS & DICTIONARIES

Lonely Planet's *Latin American Spanish Phrasebook* will be extremely helpful during your trip. Another very useful resource is the University of Chicago *Spanish-English, English-Spanish Dictionary*. It's small, light and has thorough entries, making it ideal for travel. It also makes a great gift for any newfound friends upon your departure.

SPANISH IN PANAMA

Think you know enough Spanish? Here's a quick rundown on some of the local expressions and colorful colloquialisms you may hear while traveling in Panama:

salve – street slang for propina, or tip
tongo – street slang for cop
hota – street slang for police car
diablo rojo – 'red devil'; refers to public buses
mangajo/a (m/f) – someone who is filthy
buena leche – 'good milk'; means good luck
salado/a (m/f) – 'salty'; refers to someone who is having bad luck
Eso está bien pretty. – refers to something nice
¡Eso está pretty pretty! – refers to something super-nice
¡Entonces laopé! – Hey, dude!
¡Hey, gringo! – Hey, white person! (friendly)
¡Juega vivo! – Be alert, look out for your best interests!
Voy por fuera. – I'm leaving right now.
¡Ayala bestia! – Holy cow!
¡Chuleta! – common expression similar to 'Holy cow!'
pelao or pelaito – common expression for a child
Pa' lante. – Let's go now.
enantes – just now
Eres un comemierda. – refers to someone pretentious
¡Pifioso! – a showoff, or something that looks cool
Tas buena, mami. – You're looking good, mama.
Nos pillamos. – We'll see each other later.
una pinta or una fría – literally, 'one pint' or 'a cold one'; means a beer
Dame una fría. – Give me a cold one (a beer).
guaro – hard liquor

chupata – an all-out drinking party
¡Bien cuidado! – 'Well taken care of!'; often used by a street person when asking a tip for taking care of your car, normally in parking lots at restaurants, cinemas, bars, etc
Me estoy comiendo un cable. – 'I'm eating a cable'; I'm down on my luck.
rabiblanco/a (m/f) – 'white tipped'; pejorative reference to a member of the socioeconomic elite; the term comes from *paloma rabiblanco/a* (white-tipped dove), a bird that walks with its head held out high and its chest thrust out in a seemingly pretentious way
racatata – also *meña*; both terms refer to women who wear lots of gold jewelry and are perceived as low class
chombo/a (m/f) – an acceptable reference to a black person of Antillean descent
ladilla – 'crab louse'; refers to an annoying person
nueve letras – 'nine letters'; refers to Seco Herrerano (the word 'Herrerano' has nine letters)
vuelve loco con vaca – 'makes crazy with cow'; refers to drinking *seco* and milk
vaina – common word that substitutes for 'thing,' as in *Pasame esa vaina.* (Pass me that thing.)
yeve – refers to kids and adults who wear fancy clothes and maybe drive a fancy car and who pretend to be rich but who in reality are living well beyond their means for as long as they can

LATIN AMERICAN SPANISH

The Spanish of the Americas comes in a bewildering array of varieties. Depending on the areas in which you travel, consonants may be glossed over, vowels squashed into each other, and syllables and even words dropped entirely. Slang and regional vocabulary, much of it derived from indigenous languages, can further add to your bewilderment.

Throughout Latin America, the Spanish language is referred to as *castellano* more often than *español*. Unlike in Spain, the plural of the familiar *tú* form is *ustedes* rather than *vosotros*; the latter term will sound quaint and archaic in the Americas. Another notable difference is that the letters **c** and **z** are never lisped in Latin America; attempts to do so could well provoke amusement.

PRONUNCIATION

Spanish spelling is phonetically consistent, meaning that there's a clear and consistent relationship between what you see in writing and how it's pronounced. In addition, most Spanish sounds have English equivalents, so English speakers shouldn't have too much trouble being understood.

Vowels

a as in 'father'
e as in 'met'
i as in 'marine'
o as in 'or' (without the 'r' sound)
u as in 'rule'. Note that the 'u' is not pronounced after **q**, or in the letter combinations **gue** and **gui**, unless it's marked with a diaeresis (eg *argüir*), in which case it's pronounced as English 'w'

y at the end of a word or when it stands alone, it's pronounced as the Spanish **i** (eg *ley*); between vowels within a word it's as the 'y' in 'yonder'

Consonants

As a rule, Spanish consonants resemble their English counterparts. The exceptions are listed below.

While the consonants **ch**, **ll** and **ñ** are generally considered distinct letters, **ch** and **ll** are now often listed alphabetically under **c** and **l** respectively. The letter **ñ** is still treated as a separate letter and comes after **n** in dictionaries.

b similar to English 'b,' but softer; referred to as 'b larga'

c as in 'celery' before **e** and **i**; otherwise as English 'k'

ch as in 'church'

d as in 'dog,' but between vowels and after **l** or **n**, the sound is closer to the 'th' in 'this'

g as the 'ch' in the Scottish *loch* before **e** and **i** ('kh' in our guides to pronunciation); elsewhere, as in 'go' invariably silent. If your name begins with this letter, listen carefully if you're waiting for public officials to call you.

j as the 'ch' in the Scottish *loch* (written as 'kh' in our guides to pronunciation)

ll as the 'y' in 'yellow'

ñ as the 'ni' in 'onion'

r a short **r** except at the beginning of a word, and after **l**, **n** or **s**, when it's often rolled

rr very strongly rolled

v similar to English 'b,' but softer; referred to as 'b corta'

x usually pronounced as **j** above; in some indigenous place names **x** is pronounced as the 's' in 'sit'; in other instances, it's as in 'taxi'

z as the 's' in 'sun'

Word Stress

In general, words ending in vowels or the letters **n** or **s** have stress on the next-to-last syllable, while those with other endings have stress on the last syllable. Thus *vaca* (cow) and *caballos* (horses) both carry stress on the next-to-last syllable, while

ciudad (city) and *infeliz* (unhappy) are both stressed on the last syllable.

Written accents will almost always appear in words that don't follow the rules above, eg *sótano* (basement), *América* and *porción* (portion).

GENDER & PLURALS

In Spanish, nouns are either masculine or feminine, and there are rules to help determine gender (there are of course some exceptions). Feminine nouns generally end with **-a** or with the groups **-ción**, **-sión** or **-dad**. Other endings typically signify a masculine noun. Endings for adjectives also change to agree with the gender of the noun they modify (masculine/feminine **-o/-a**). Where both masculine and feminine forms are included in this language guide, they are separated by a slash, with the masculine form first, eg *perdido/a*.

If a noun or adjective ends in a vowel, the plural is formed by adding **s** to the end. If it ends in a consonant, the plural is formed by adding **es** to the end.

ACCOMMODATIONS

I'm looking for ...	<i>Estoy buscando ...</i>	e-stoy boos-kan-do ...
Where is ...?	<i>¿Dónde hay ...?</i>	don-de ai ...
a cabin	<i>una cabina</i>	oo-na ca-bee-na
a camping ground	<i>un camping/campamento</i>	oon kam-ping/kam-pa-men-to
a guesthouse	<i>una casa de huéspedes</i>	oo-na ka-sa de wes-pe-des
a hostel	<i>un hospedaje/una residencia</i>	oon os-pe-da-khe/oon-a re-see-den-sya
a hotel	<i>un hotel</i>	oon o-tel
a youth hostel	<i>un albergue juvenil</i>	oon al-ber-ge khoo-ve-neel

Are there any rooms available?

¿Hay habitaciones libres? *ay a-bee-ta-syon-es lee-bres*

I'd like a ... room.	<i>Quisiera una habitación ...</i>	kee-sye-ra oo-na a-bee-ta-syon ...
double	<i>doble</i>	do-ble
single	<i>individual</i>	een-dee-vee-dwal
twin	<i>con dos camas</i>	kon dos ka-mas

How much is it per ...?	<i>¿Cuánto cuesta por ...?</i>	kwan-to kwes-ta por ...
night	<i>noche</i>	no-che
person	<i>persona</i>	per-so-na
week	<i>semana</i>	se-ma-na

MAKING A RESERVATION

(for phone or written requests)

To ...	<i>A ...</i>
From ...	<i>De ...</i>
Date	<i>Fecha</i>
I'd like to book ...	<i>Quisiera reservar ...</i> (see the list under 'Accommodations' for bed and room options)
in the name of ...	<i>en nombre de ...</i>
for the nights of ...	<i>para las noches del ...</i>
credit card ...	<i>tarjeta de crédito ...</i>
number	<i>número</i>
expiry date	<i>fecha de vencimiento</i>
Please confirm ...	<i>Puede confirmar ...</i>
availability	<i>la disponibilidad</i>
price	<i>el precio</i>

full board	<i>pensión completa</i>	<i>pen-syon kom-ple-ta</i>
private/shared bathroom	<i>baño privado/compartido</i>	<i>ba-nyo pree-va-do/kom-par-tee-do</i>
too expensive	<i>demasiado caro</i>	<i>de-ma-sya-do ka-ro</i>
cheaper	<i>más económico</i>	<i>mas e-ko-no-mee-ko</i>
discount	<i>descuento</i>	<i>des-kwen-to</i>

Does it include breakfast?*¿Incluye el desayuno?* *een-kloo-ye el de-sa-yoo-no***May I see the room?***¿Puedo ver la habitación?* *pwe-do ver la a-bee-ta-syon***I don't like it.***No me gusta.* *no me goos-ta***It's fine. I'll take it.***Está bien. La tomo.* *es-ta byen la to-mo***I'm leaving now.***Me voy ahora.* *me voy a-o-ra***CONVERSATION & ESSENTIALS**

In their public behavior, Latin Americans are very conscious of civilities. You should never approach a stranger for information without extending a greeting, such as *buenos días* or *buenas tardes*.

Central America is generally more formal than many of the South American countries, and the usage of the informal second-person singular *tú* and *vos* differs from country to country. When in doubt, use the more formal *usted*, which is used in all cases in this guide; where options are given, the form is indicated by the abbreviations 'pol' and 'inf.'

You should use only the polite form with the police and public officials.

Hi.	<i>Hola.</i>	<i>o-la (inf)</i>
Good morning.	<i>Buenos días.</i>	<i>bwe-nos dee-as</i>
Good afternoon.	<i>Buenas tardes.</i>	<i>bwe-nas tar-des</i>
Good evening/night.	<i>Buenas noches.</i>	<i>bwe-nas no-ches</i>

The three most common greetings are often abbreviated to simply *buenos* (for *buenos días*) and *buenas* (for *buenas tardes* and *buenas noches*).

Bye/See you soon.	<i>Hasta luego.</i>	<i>as-ta lwe-go</i>
Goodbye.	<i>Adiós.</i>	<i>a-dyos</i>
Yes.	<i>Sí.</i>	<i>see</i>
No.	<i>No.</i>	<i>no</i>
Please.	<i>Por favor.</i>	<i>por fa-vor</i>
Thank you.	<i>Gracias.</i>	<i>gra-syas</i>
Many thanks.	<i>Muchas gracias.</i>	<i>moo-chas gra-syas</i>
You're welcome.	<i>De nada.</i>	<i>de na-da</i>
Apologies.	<i>Perdón.</i>	<i>per-don</i>
May I?	<i>Permiso.</i>	<i>per-mee-so</i>
	(when asking permission)	
Excuse me.	<i>Disculpe.</i>	<i>dees-kool-pe</i>
	(used before a request or when apologizing)	

How are things?*¿Qué tal?* *ke tal***What's your name?***¿Cómo se llama usted?* *ko-mo se ya-ma oo-sted (pol)**¿Cómo te llamas?* *ko-mo te ya-mas (inf)***My name is ...***Me llamo ...* *me ya-mo ...***It's a pleasure to meet you.***Mucho gusto.* *moo-cho goos-to***The pleasure is mine.***El gusto es mío.* *el goos-to es mee-o***Where are you from?***¿De dónde es/eres?* *de don-de es/er-es (pol/inf)***I'm from ...***Soy de ...* *soy de ...***Where are you staying?***¿Dónde está alojado?* *don-de es-ta a-lo-kha-do (pol)**¿Dónde estás alojado?* *don-de es-tas a-lo-kha-do (inf)***May I take a photo?***¿Puedo sacar una foto?* *pwe-do sa-kar oo-na fo-to***DIRECTIONS****How do I get to ...?***¿Cómo llevo a ...?* *ko-mo ye-go a ...***Is it far?***¿Está lejos?* *es-ta le-khos***Go straight ahead.***Siga/Vaya derecho.* *see-ga/va-ya de-re-cho*

Turn left.*Voltée a la izquierda.* vol-te-e a la ees-kyer-da**Turn right.***Voltée a la derecha.* vol-te-e a la de-re-cha**Can you show me (on the map)?***¿Me lo podría señalar (en el mapa)?* me lo po-dree-a se-nya-lar (en el ma-pa)**SIGNS**

Entrada	Entrance
Salida	Exit
Información	Information
Abierto	Open
Cerrado	Closed
Prohibido	Prohibited
Comisaria	Police Station
Servicios/Baños	Toilets
Hombres/Varones	Men
Mujeres/Damas	Women

north	<i>norte</i>	<i>nor-te</i>
south	<i>sur</i>	<i>soor</i>
east	<i>este</i>	<i>es-te</i>
west	<i>oeste</i>	<i>o-es-te</i>
here	<i>aquí</i>	<i>a-kee</i>
there	<i>ahí</i>	<i>a-ee</i>
avenue	<i>avenida</i>	<i>a-ve-nee-da</i>
block	<i>cuadra</i>	<i>kwa-dra</i>
street	<i>calle/paseo</i>	<i>ka-lye/pa-se-o</i>

HEALTH**I'm sick.***Estoy enfermo/a.* es-toy en-fer-mo/a**I need a doctor.***Necesito un médico.* ne-se-see-to oon me-dee-ko**Where's the hospital?***¿Dónde está el hospital?* don-de es-ta el os-pee-tal**I'm pregnant.***Estoy embarazada.* es-toy em-ba-ra-sa-da**I've been vaccinated.***Estoy vacunado/a.* es-toy va-koo-na-do/a

I'm allergic to ...	<i>Soy alérgico/a a ...</i>	<i>soy a-ler-khee-ko/a a ...</i>
antibiotics	<i>los antibióticos</i>	<i>los an-tee-byo-tee-kos</i>
peanuts	<i>los maníes/cacahuates</i>	<i>los ma-nee-es/ka-ka-wa-tes</i>
penicillin	<i>la penicilina</i>	<i>la pe-nee-see-lee-na</i>

I'm ...	<i>Soy ...</i>	<i>soy ...</i>
asthmatic	<i>asmático/a</i>	<i>as-ma-tee-ko/a</i>
diabetic	<i>diabético/a</i>	<i>dya-be-tee-ko/a</i>
epileptic	<i>epiléptico/a</i>	<i>e-pee-lep-tee-ko/a</i>

EMERGENCIAS

Help!	<i>¡Socorro!</i>	<i>so-ko-ro</i>
Fire!	<i>¡Fuego!</i>	<i>fwe-go</i>
Go away!	<i>¡Déjeme!</i>	<i>de-khe-me</i>
Get lost!	<i>¡Váyase!</i>	<i>va-ya-se</i>
Call ...!	<i>¡Llame a ...!</i>	<i>ya-me a</i>
the police	<i>la policía</i>	<i>la po-lee-see-a</i>
a doctor	<i>un médico</i>	<i>oon me-dee-ko</i>
an ambulance	<i>una ambulancia</i>	<i>oo-na am-boo-lan-sya</i>

It's an emergency.*Es una emergencia.* es oo-na e-mer-khen-sya**Could you help me, please?***¿Me puede ayudar, por favor?* me pwe-de a-yoo-dar por fa-vor**I'm lost.***Estoy perdido/a.* es-toy per-dee-do/a**Where are the toilets?***¿Dónde están los baños?* don-de es-tan los ba-nyos

I have ...	<i>Tengo ...</i>	<i>ten-go ...</i>
a cough	<i>tos</i>	<i>tos</i>
diarrhea	<i>diarrea</i>	<i>dya-re-a</i>
a headache	<i>un dolor de cabeza</i>	<i>oon do-lor de ka-be-sa</i>
nausea	<i>náusea</i>	<i>now-se-a</i>

LANGUAGE DIFFICULTIES**Do you speak English?***¿Habla/Hablas inglés?* a-bla/a-blas een-gles (pol/inf)**Does anyone here speak English?***¿Hay alguien que hable inglés?* ai al-gyen ke a-ble een-gles**I (don't) understand.***(No) Entiendo.* (no) en-tyen-do**How do you say ...?***¿Cómo se dice ...?* ko-mo se dee-se ...**What does ... mean?***¿Qué significa ...?* ke seeg-nee-fee-ka ...

Could you please ...?	<i>¿Puede ..., por favor?</i>	<i>pwe-de ... por fa-vor</i>
repeat that	<i>repetirlo</i>	<i>re-pe-teer-lo</i>
speak more	<i>hablar más</i>	<i>a-blar mas</i>
slowly	<i>despacio</i>	<i>des-pa-syo</i>
write it down	<i>escribirlo</i>	<i>es-kree-beer-lo</i>

NUMBERS

1	<i>uno</i>	<i>oo-no</i>
2	<i>dos</i>	<i>dos</i>
3	<i>tres</i>	<i>tres</i>

4	<i>cuatro</i>	<i>kwa-tro</i>
5	<i>cinco</i>	<i>seen-ko</i>
6	<i>seis</i>	<i>says</i>
7	<i>siete</i>	<i>sye-te</i>
8	<i>ocho</i>	<i>o-cho</i>
9	<i>nueve</i>	<i>nwe-ve</i>
10	<i>diez</i>	<i>dyes</i>
11	<i>once</i>	<i>on-se</i>
12	<i>doce</i>	<i>do-se</i>
13	<i>trece</i>	<i>tre-se</i>
14	<i>catorce</i>	<i>ka-tor-se</i>
15	<i>quince</i>	<i>keen-se</i>
16	<i>dieciséis</i>	<i>dye-see-says</i>
17	<i>diecisiete</i>	<i>dye-see-sye-te</i>
18	<i>dieciocho</i>	<i>dye-see-o-cho</i>
19	<i>diecinueve</i>	<i>dye-see-nwe-ve</i>
20	<i>veinte</i>	<i>vayn-te</i>
21	<i>veintiuno</i>	<i>vayn-tee-oo-no</i>
30	<i>treinta</i>	<i>trayn-ta</i>
31	<i>treinta y uno</i>	<i>trayn-ta ee oo-no</i>
40	<i>cuarenta</i>	<i>kwa-ren-ta</i>
50	<i>cinquenta</i>	<i>seen-kwen-ta</i>
60	<i>sesenta</i>	<i>se-sen-ta</i>
70	<i>setenta</i>	<i>se-ten-ta</i>
80	<i>ochenta</i>	<i>o-chen-ta</i>
90	<i>noventa</i>	<i>no-ven-ta</i>
100	<i> cien</i>	<i>syen</i>
101	<i>ciento uno</i>	<i>syen-to oo-no</i>
200	<i>doscientos</i>	<i>do-syen-tos</i>
1000	<i> mil</i>	<i>meel</i>
5000	<i> cinco mil</i>	<i>seen-ko meel</i>

PAPERWORK

birth certificate	<i>certificado de nacimiento</i>
border (frontier)	<i>la frontera</i>
car-owner's title	<i>título de propiedad</i>
car registration	<i>registración</i>
customs	<i>aduana</i>
driver's license	<i>licencia de manejar</i>
identification	<i>identificación</i>
immigration	<i>migración</i>
insurance	<i>seguro</i>
passport	<i>pasaporte</i>
temporary vehicle import permit	<i>permiso de importación temporal de vehículo</i>
tourist card	<i>tarjeta de turista</i>
visa	<i>visado</i>

SHOPPING & SERVICES

I'd like to buy ...	<i>Quisiera comprar ...</i>	<i>kee-sye-ra kom-prar ...</i>
I'm just looking.	<i>Sólo estoy mirando.</i>	<i>so-lo es-toy mee-ran-do</i>
May I look at it?	<i>¿Puedo verlo/a?</i>	<i>pwe-do ver-lo/a</i>

How much is it?

¿Cuánto cuesta? *kwan-to kwes-ta*

That's too expensive for me.

Es demasiado caro para mí. *es de-ma-sya-do ka-ro pa-ra mee*

Could you lower the price?

¿Podría bajar un poco el precio? *po-dree-a ba-khar oon po-ko el pre-syo*

I don't like it.

No me gusta. *no me goos-ta*

I'll take it.

Lo llevo. *lo ye-vo*

Do you accept ...?

¿Aceptan ...? *a-sep-tan ...*

American dollars	<i>dólares</i>	<i>do-la-res</i>
credit cards	<i>americanos</i>	<i>a-me-ree-ka-nos</i>
traveler's checks	<i>tarjetas de crédito</i>	<i>tar-khe-tas de kre-dee-to</i>
	<i>cheques de viajero</i>	<i>che-kes de vya-khe-ro</i>

more	<i>más</i>	<i>mas</i>
less	<i>menos</i>	<i>me-nos</i>
small	<i>pequeño/a</i>	<i>pe-ke-nyo/a</i>
large	<i>grande</i>	<i>gran-de</i>

I'm looking for the ...

Estoy buscando ... *es-toy boos-kan-do*

ATM	<i>el cajero automático</i>	<i>el ka-khe-ro ow-to-ma-tee-ko</i>
bank	<i>el banco</i>	<i>el ban-ko</i>
bookstore	<i>la librería</i>	<i>la lee-bre-ree-a</i>
exchange house	<i>la casa de cambio</i>	<i>la ka-sa de kam-byo</i>
general store	<i>la tienda</i>	<i>la tyen-da</i>
laundry	<i>la lavandería</i>	<i>la la-van-de-ree-a</i>
market	<i>el mercado</i>	<i>el mer-ka-do</i>
pharmacy/chemist	<i>la farmacia</i>	<i>la far-ma-sya</i>
post office	<i>la oficina de correos</i>	<i>la o-fee-see-na de ko-re-os</i>
supermarket	<i>el supermercado</i>	<i>el soo-per-mer-ka-do</i>
tourist office	<i>la oficina de turismo</i>	<i>la o-fee-see-na de too-rees-mo</i>

What time does it open/close?

¿A qué hora abre/cierra?
a ke o-ra a-bre/sye-ra

I want to change some money/traveler's checks.

Quisiera cambiar dinero/cheques de viajero.
kee-sye-ra kam-byar dee-ne-ro/che-kes de vya-khe-ro

What is the exchange rate?

¿Cuál es el tipo de cambio?
kwal es el tee-po de kam-byo

I want to call ...

Quisiera llamar a ...
kee-sye-ra lya-mar a ...

airmail	<i>correo aéreo</i>	ko-re-o a-e-re-o
letter	<i>carta</i>	kar-ta
registered (mail)	<i>certificado</i>	ser-tee-fee-ka-do
stamps	<i>timbres</i>	teem-bres

TIME & DATES

What time is it?	<i>¿Qué hora es?</i>	ke o-ra es
It's one o'clock.	<i>Es la una.</i>	es la oo-na
It's seven o'clock.	<i>Son las siete.</i>	son las sye-te
Half past two.	<i>Dos y media.</i>	dos ee me-dya
midnight	<i>medianoche</i>	me-dya-no-che
noon	<i>mediodía</i>	me-dyo-dee-a

now	<i>ahora</i>	a-o-ra
today	<i>hoy</i>	oy
tonight	<i>esta noche</i>	es-ta no-che
tomorrow	<i>mañana</i>	ma-nya-na
yesterday	<i>ayer</i>	a-yer

Monday	<i>lunes</i>	loo-nes
Tuesday	<i>martes</i>	mar-tes
Wednesday	<i>miércoles</i>	myer-ko-les
Thursday	<i>jueves</i>	khwe-ves
Friday	<i>viernes</i>	vyer-nes
Saturday	<i>sábado</i>	sa-ba-do
Sunday	<i>domingo</i>	do-meen-go

January	<i>enero</i>	e-ne-ro
February	<i>febrero</i>	fe-bre-ro
March	<i>marzo</i>	mar-so
April	<i>abril</i>	a-breel
May	<i>mayo</i>	ma-yo
June	<i>junio</i>	khoo-nyo
July	<i>julio</i>	khoo-lyo
August	<i>agosto</i>	a-gos-to
September	<i>septiembre</i>	sep-tyem-bre
October	<i>octubre</i>	ok-too-bre
November	<i>noviembre</i>	no-vyem-bre
December	<i>diciembre</i>	dee-syem-bre

TRANSPORT**Public Transport**

What time does ... leave/arrive?	<i>¿A qué hora ... sale/llega?</i>	a ke o-ra ... sa-le/ye-ga
the bus	<i>el bus/autobús</i>	el bus/ow-to-boos
the ferry	<i>el barco</i>	el bar-ko
the minibus	<i>el colectivo/ la buseta/ el microbus</i>	el ko-lek-tee-vo/ la boo-se-ta/ el mee-kro-boos
the plane	<i>el avión</i>	el a-vyon
the train	<i>el tren</i>	el tren

the airport	<i>el aeropuerto</i>	el a-e-ro-pwer-to
the bus station	<i>la estación de autobuses</i>	la es-ta-syon de ow-to-boo-ses
the bus stop	<i>la parada de autobuses</i>	la pa-ra-da de ow-to-boo-ses
the train station	<i>la estación de ferrocarril</i>	la es-ta-syon de fe-ro-ka-reel
the luggage locker	<i>la consigna para el equipaje</i>	la kon-see-nya para el e-kee-pa-khe
the ticket office	<i>la boletería/ticketería</i>	la bo-le-te-ree-ya/ tee-ke-te-ree-ya

A ticket to ..., please.

Un boleto a ..., por favor.
oon bo-le-to a ... por fa-vor

What's the fare to ...?

¿Cuánto cuesta hasta ...?
kwan-to kwes-ta a-sta ...

student's	<i>de estudiante</i>	de es-too-dyan-te
1st class	<i>primera clase</i>	pree-me-ra kla-se
2nd class	<i>segunda clase</i>	se-goona kla-se
single/one-way	<i>de ida</i>	de ee-da
return/round trip	<i>de ida y vuelta</i>	de ee-da e vvwel-ta
taxi	<i>taxi</i>	tak-see

Private Transport

I'd like to hire a ...	<i>Quisiera alquilar ...</i>	kee-sye-ra al-kee-lar ...
4WD	<i>un todo terreno</i>	oon to-do te-re-no
car	<i>un auto/carro</i>	oon ow-to/ka-ro
motorcycle	<i>una motocicleta</i>	oo-na mo-to-see- kle-ta
bicycle	<i>una bicicleta</i>	oo-na bee-see- kle-ta

pickup (truck)	<i>camioneta</i>	ka-myo-ne-ta
truck	<i>camión</i>	ka-myon
hitchhike	<i>hacer dedo</i>	a-ser de-do

Where's a gas (petrol) station?

¿Dónde hay una gasolinera/bomba?
don-de ai oo-na ga-so-lee-ne-ra/bom-ba

How much is a liter of gasoline?

¿Cuánto cuesta el litro de gasolina?
kwan-to kwes-ta el lee-tro de ga-so-lee-na

Please fill it up.

Lleno, por favor.
ye-no por fa-vor

I'd like ... worth of gas (petrol).

Quiero ... en gasolina.
kye-ro ... en ga-so-lee-na

diesel	<i>diesel</i>	dee-sel
leaded (regular)	<i>gasolina con plomo</i>	ga-so-lee-na kon plo-mo

ROAD SIGNS

Acceso	Entrance
Acceso Prohibido	No Entry
Acceso Permanente	24-Hour Access
Construcción de Carreteras	Roadworks
Ceda el Paso	Give Way
Curva Peligrosa	Dangerous Curve
Despacio	Slow
Desvío/Desviación	Detour
Mantenga Su Derecha	Keep to the Right
No Adelantar	No Passing
No Hay Paso	Road Closed
No Pase	No Overtaking
Pare/Stop	Stop
Peligro	Danger
Prohibido Estacionar	No Parking
Prohibido el Paso	No Entry
Salida (de Autopista)	Exit (Freeway)

petrol (gas)	<i>gasolina</i>	ga-so-lee-na
unleaded	<i>gasolina sin plomo</i>	ga-so-lee-na seen plo-mo
oil	<i>aceite</i>	a-say-te
tire	<i>llanta</i>	yan-ta
puncture	<i>agujero</i>	a-goo-khe-ro

Is this the road to ...?*¿Por aquí se va a ...?*

por a-kee se va a ...

(How long) Can I park here?*¿(Por cuánto tiempo) Puedo estacionar aquí?*

(por kwan-to tyem-po) pwe-do ess-ta-syo-nar a-kee

Where do I pay?*¿Dónde se paga?*

don-de se pa-ga

I need a mechanic/tow truck.*Necesito un mecánico/remolque.*

ne-se-see-to oon me-ka-nee-ko/re-mol-ke

Is there a garage near here?*¿Hay un garaje cerca de aquí?*

ai oon ga-ra-khe ser-ka de a-kee

The car has broken down in ...*El carro se ha averiado en ...*

el ka-ro se a-a-ve-rya-do en ...

The motorbike won't start.*La moto no arranca.*

la mo-to no a-ran-ka

I have a flat tire.*Tengo una llanta desinflada.*

ten-go oo-na yan-ta des-eeen-fla-da

I've run out of petrol.*Me quedé sin gasolina.*

me ke-de seen ga-so-lee-na

I've had an accident.*Tuve un accidente.*

too-ve oon ak-see-den-te

TRAVEL WITH CHILDREN**I need .../Do you have ...?***Necesito .../¿Hay ...?*

ne-se-see-to .../ai ...

a car baby seat*un asiento de seguridad para bebés*

oon a-syen-to de se-goo-ree-da pa-ra be-bes

a child-minding service*oon club para niños*

oon kloob pa-ra nee-nyos

a creche*una guardería*

oo-na gwar-de-ree-a

(disposable) diapers/nappies*pañales (de usar y tirar)*

pa-nya-les (de oo-sar ee tee-rar)

an (English-speaking) babysitter*una niñera (que habla inglesa)*

oo-na nee-nye-ra (ke a-bla een-gle-sa)

formula (milk)*leche en polvo*

le-che en pol-vo

a highchair*una silla para bebé*

oo-na see-ya pa-ra be-be

a potty*una bacinica*

oo-na ba-see-nee-ka

a stroller*una carreola*

oona ka-re-o-la

Are children allowed?*¿Se admiten niños?*

se ad-mee-ten nee-nyos



Also available from Lonely Planet:
Latin American Spanish Phrasebook

Glossary

For terms for food, drinks and other culinary vocabulary, see p63. For additional terms and information about the Spanish language, see the Language chapter on p324. This glossary contains some words of the language of the Kuna tribe (K).

ANAM – Autoridad Nacional de Ambiente; Panama's national environmental agency

ANCON – Asociación Nacional para la Conservación de la Naturaleza; National Association for the Conservation of Nature, Panama's leading private environmental organization

apartado – post office box

árbol – tree

artesanía – handicrafts

bahía – bay

balboa – the basic unit of Panamanian currency

baño(s) – restroom(s)

biblioteca – library

bohío – see *rancho*

boleto – ticket; for bus, museum etc

boroquera – blowgun once used by the *Emberá* and *Wounaan* Indians

bote – motorized canoe

buceo – diving

caballero(s) – gentleman (gentlemen)

cabaña – cabin

cacique – *Kuna* tribal leader

calle – street

campesino/a – rural resident; peasant

carretera – highway

casa de cambio – money-exchange house

cascada – see *chorro*

catedral – cathedral

cayuco – dugout canoe

centavos – cent(s); 100 *centavos* equal one US dollar (or one Panamanian *balboa*)

cerro – hill

certificación de vuelo – certification of entry date into Panama

cerveza – beer

chévere – cool (slang)

chitra – sand fly

chiva – a rural bus, often a 28-seat Toyota coaster bus

chocosano (K) – storm that comes from the east

chorro – waterfall

cielo – the sky; the heavens

cigarro – cigarette

cine – cinema

ciudad – city

cocina – kitchen

cocobolo – a handsome tropical hardwood; used for carving life-size images of snakes, parrots, toucans and other jungle wildlife

comarca – district

conejo pintado – raccoon-like animal abundant in Parque Nacional Volcán Barú

cordillera – mountain range

corredor de aduana – customs broker

cuatro por cuatro – 4WD vehicle

cuidado – caution

Cuna – See *Kuna*

dama(s) – lady (ladies)

día feriado (días feriados) – national holiday(s)

edificio – building

Emberá – indigenous group living in Darién Province

feria – festival

fiesta – party

finca – farm

floresta – forest

frontera – border

fuerte – fort

Gali-Gali – the distinct Creole language of Bocas del Toro Province; it combines English, Spanish and Guaymí

galón (galones) – gallon(s); fluid measure of 3.79L

gringo/a – tourist; especially a North American tourist

gruta – cave

guacamayo – macaw

habano – Havana cigar

haras – stable (for horses)

herida – injury

hombre – man

hormiga – ant

hospedaje – guesthouse

huaca(s) – golden object(s); made on the Panamanian isthmus in the pre-Columbian era and buried with Indians

huevo(s) – egg(s)

iglesia – church

INAC – Instituto Nacional de Cultura; Panama's National Institute of Culture

Interamericana – the Pan-American Hwy; the nearly continuous highway running from Alaska to Chile (it breaks at the Darién Gap)

invierno – winter

IPAT – Instituto Panameño de Turismo; the national tourism agency

isla – island

kilometraje – mileage

Kuna – the 70,000-strong indigenous tribe living in the Comarca de Kuna Yala

ladrón – thief

lago – lake

lancha – motorboat

lavamático/lavandería – laundromat

librería – bookstore

llanta – tire

llantería – tire repair shop

lleno – full

lluvia – rain

loro – parrot

manglar – mangrove

mariposa – butterfly

mercado – market

Merki (K) – American

mestizo/a – person of mixed indigenous and Spanish ancestry

metate – flat stone platform; used by Panama's pre-Columbian Indians to grind corn

migración – immigration

Migración y Naturalización – Immigration and Naturalization office

mirador – lookout point

molas (K) – colorful hand-stitched appliqué textiles made by Kuna women

mono – monkey

montaña – mountain

montuno – fine embroidered shirt; typically worn during festivals on the Península de Azuero

muelle – pier

mujer(es) – woman (women)

museo – museum

nadar – to swim

Naso – an indigenous group scattered throughout the Bocas del Toro Province; also called the Teribe

Ngöbe Buglé – an indigenous tribe located largely in Chiriquí Province

ola(s) – wave(s)

pájaro – bird

palapa – thatched, palm leaf-roofed shelter with open sides

panadería – bakery

parada (de autobús) – bus stop

Patois – a local dialect on the islands of Boca del Toro; a blend of English, Spanish and Gali-Gali

PDF – the Panama Defense Forces; the national army under Manuel Noriega

penca – palm tree leaves

permiso de salida – exit permit

pescador – fisherman

pescar – to fish

piragua – canoe carved from a tree trunk

playa – beach

polleras – the intricate, lacy, Spanish-influenced dresses of the Península de Azuero; the national dress of Panama for festive occasions

pozo(s) – spring(s)

preservativo(s) – condom(s)

prohibido – prohibited; forbidden

prórroga de turista – a permit that resembles a driver's license, complete with photo; it allows you to stay in Panama for longer than the 90 days permitted for tourists

propina – tip; gratuity

protector solar – sunscreen lotion

punte – bridge

puerto – port

punta – point

puro – cigar

quebrada – stream

rana – frog

rana dorada – golden frog

rancho – a thatched-roof hut

regalo – gift; present

río – river

seco – an 80- to 100-proof alcohol distilled from sugarcane

selva – jungle

Semana Santa – Holy Week; preceding Easter

sendero – trail

serpiente – snake

serranía – mountain range

sol – sun

supermercado – supermarket

tabla – surfboard

tagua – an ivory-colored nut that is carved into tiny figurines

taller – workshop

tarjeta(s) – plastic phonecard(s)

tarjeta de circulación – vehicle control certificate

taxi marino – water taxi

tigre – jaguar

típico – typical; traditional Panamanian folk music

tortuga – sea turtle

334 GLOSSARY

traje de baño – swimsuit

trucha – trout

urbano – local (as in buses)

valle – valley

verano – summer

viajero – traveler

viento – wind

volcán – volcano

waga (K) – tourist

Wounaan – indigenous group living in Darién Province