

Getting Settled In Panama





You're here...

Now what?

What You'll Need To Know

- ▶ How To Get Around
- ▶ Getting Connected
- ▶ Setting Up Utilities (And Paying Your Bills)
- ▶ Furnishing And Maintaining Your Home
- ▶ Meeting People



How To Get Around



- ▶ On Foot
- ▶ Your Own Car
- ▶ Public Transportation
- ▶ Taxis & Uber

On Foot...



Your Own Car

▶ Licenses:

- ▶ Home license good for first 3 months
- ▶ After, apply for a local license
- ▶ Panapass

▶ Buying A Car

- ▶ Panama City will have the best deals

- ▶ Check local classifieds: Encuentra24.com, craigslist.com, ricardoperez.com, dealerships, and lots (avoid OLX)
- ▶ No Kelley Blue Book...
- ▶ Always negotiate
- ▶ Financing

Public Transport

- ▶ The practical...
 - ▶ Metrobus
 - ▶ The Metro
- ▶ The authentic...
 - ▶ Diablos Rojos



Metrobus

25¢ to \$1.25 per ride



Rutas De Conexión al Metro de Panamá



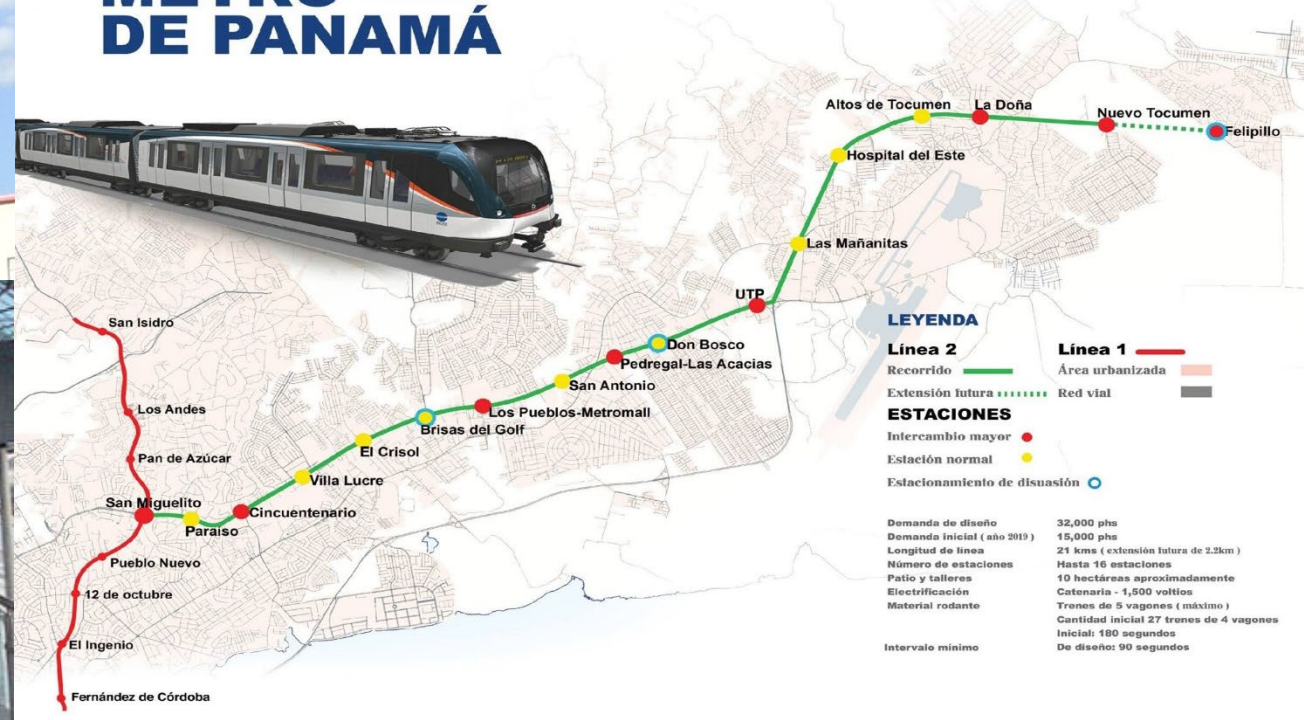
The Metro

35¢ per ride; 24¢ for retirees



LÍNEA 2 METRO DE PANAMÁ

OTRO PASO PARA ESTAR
MÁS CERCA DE TODO



Avoid Peak Hours...



Diablos Rojos

25¢ per ride



Taxis

- ▶ Hailing
- ▶ Apps
 - ▶ Tu Chofer
 - ▶ Easy Taxi
 - ▶ Yellow Cab
- ▶ Alternatives: Uber



Getting Connected

- ▶ Get a cell phone...
 - ▶ Plan or prepaid?
- ▶ Carriers:
 - ▶ Tigo
 - ▶ +Movil/Cable & Wireless
 - ▶ Claro
 - ▶ Digicel



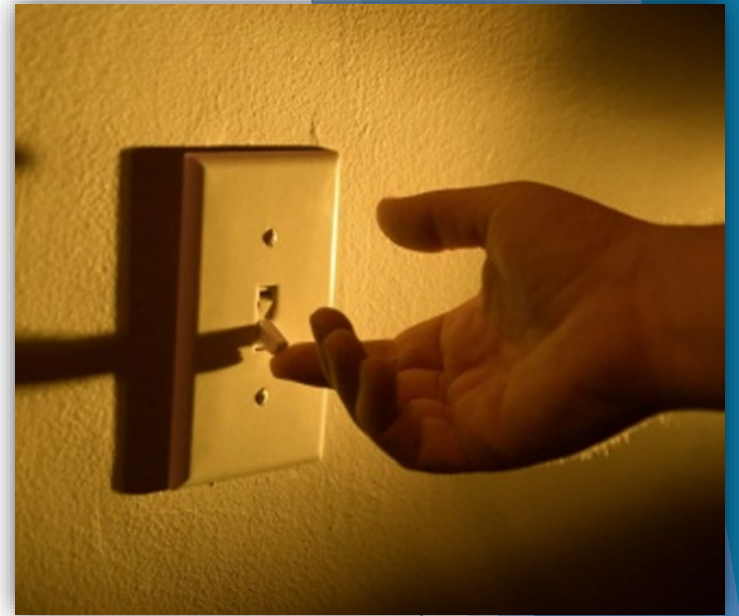
Setting Up Utilities

▶ You will need:

- ▶ Rental contract/deed
- ▶ Passport/power of attorney
- ▶ Deposit
- ▶ Appointment for installation
- ▶ Patience

▶ Paying bills is complicated!

- For electricity: **Union Fenosa, ENSA**
- For gas: **Tropigas and Panagas**
- For water: **IDAAN**
- For internet: **Cable Onda or Cable & Wireless**



Setting Up Your Home



- ▶ Where to furnish your home and shop
 - ▶ Malls in and outside of Panama City
 - ▶ Grocery stores, markets, “chinos” and mini-supers

Malls In The City



Multicentro Mall

- Centrally located
- Lower-end shopping choices
- 30+ restaurants
- Casino, Cinema
- Skywalk to Hard Rock Hotel

Multiplaza Mall

- Centrally located
- High-end
- 200+ vendors
- Five-star hotel
- Food court
- Cinema



Malls In The City



Albright Mall

- Massive—36+ football fields could fit inside
- Lower-end, affordable choices
- Huge variety of goods for sale
- 60+ restaurants
- Hotels and cinema

AltaPlaza Mall

- Newest mall to open near Panama City
- High-end shopping choices
- 30+ restaurants
- 2,000 parking spaces



Malls Outside The City

Westland Mall

- Only outlet mall in Panama
- 20 mins outside Panama Oeste in Vista Alegre/Arraiján
- Home, electronics, perfume, shoes, accessories and more



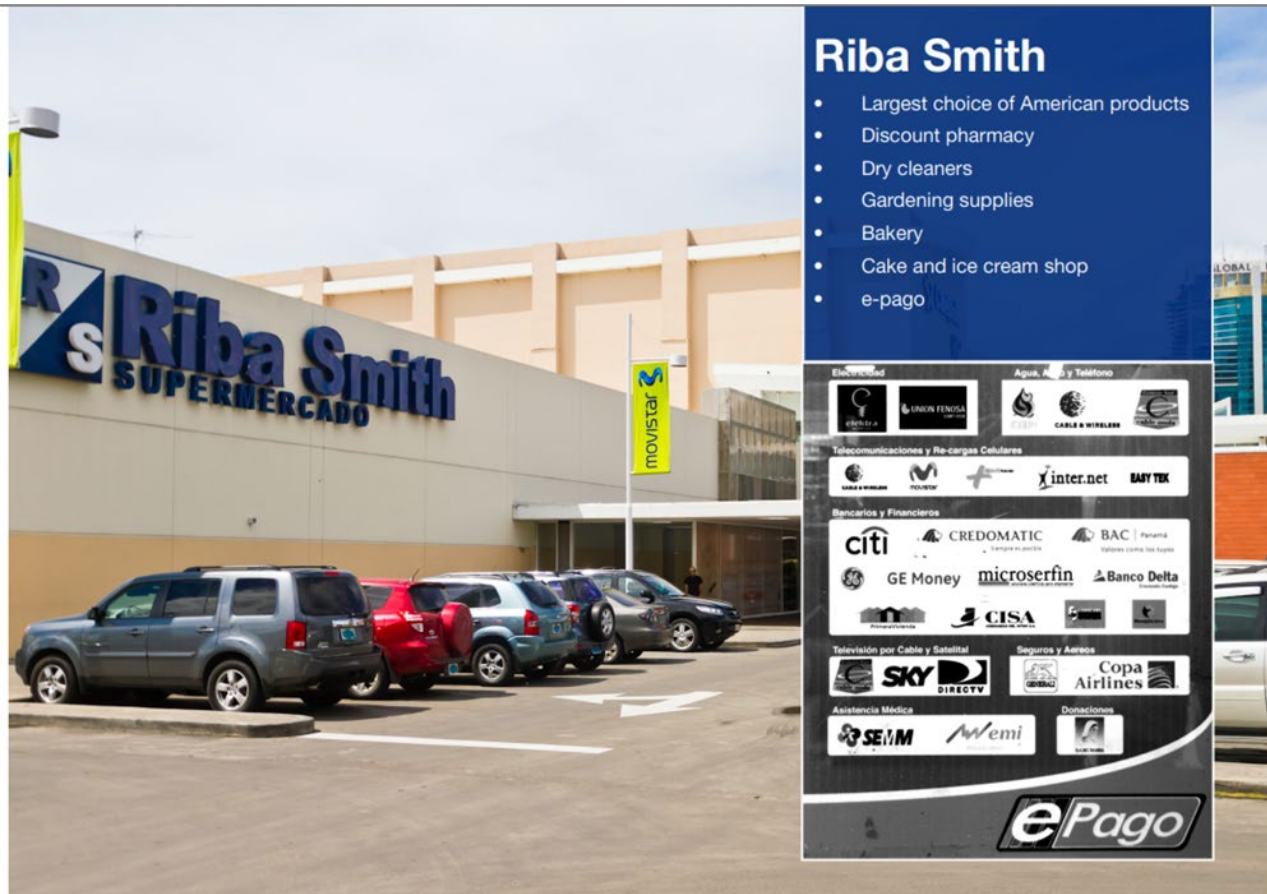
Santiago Mall

- Located in Veraguas
- Largest mall in Panama's interior—alternative to the City for shopping
- Stores, banks, cinema, food court, etc.

Some Shopping Specifics...

- ▶ **Machetazo:** Panama's Walmart
- ▶ **Conway:** high-end Target
- ▶ **Do It Center, Novey, Discovery Center:** like Home Depot
- ▶ **Melo:** gardening and pet supplies
- ▶ ***Linea blanca:*** (fridges, washer and dryers, etc.)
- ▶ **Titan, El Costo, Aliss:** cheap department stores
- ▶ **Luz Décor, Lumicentro, Ilumitec:** lighting
- ▶ **Online classifieds:**
 - ▶ encuentra24.com
 - ▶ craigslist.com
 - ▶ Facebook Groups—Garage Sale PTY

Grocery Stores



Grocery Stores

Super 99

- Basic products
- Sometimes poor service



El Rey

- American products
- Pharmacy
- Environmentally responsible company



Markets

Mercado de Mariscos

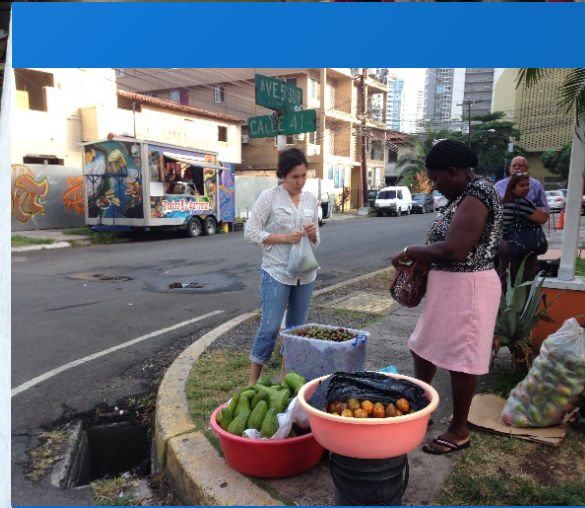
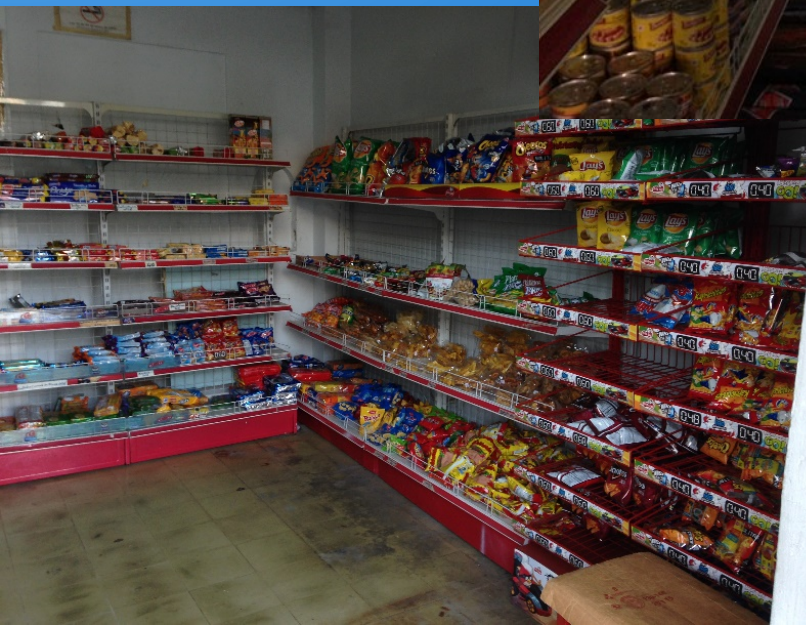


Vegetable market



Fruits... Vegetables

“Chinos” And Mini Supers



Maintaining Your Home



- ▶ Finding a maid
- ▶ Finding repairmen, plumbers, handymen, mechanics, etc.

Get Some Help

- ▶ Your best resources are those who have gone before you... The local and expat communities



- ▶ Other Resources:

- ▶ Panama Circle
- ▶ Subscribe to *Panama Letter* or sign up for *In Focus: Panama*
- ▶ Facebook Groups
- ▶ Yahoo Groups—Town-specific
- ▶ Newspapers—The Visitor
- ▶ Blogs:
 - ▶ PTYlife.com
 - ▶ PermanentlyPanama.com

Meeting People

- ▶ Expats In Panama
- ▶ Spanish Conversation Group
- ▶ The American Society Of Panama
- ▶ Panama Mamas
- ▶ Young Expats In Panama
- ▶ Panama City Bridge Club
- ▶ St. Andrew's Society Scot



Meeting People



- ▶ Tropical Cowboys & Cowgirls
- ▶ Panama Hash House Harriers
- ▶ Expats Give Back
- ▶ Latte Macchiato
- ▶ Boquete's Sunday Flea Market
- ▶ Playa Community Coronado
- ▶ Or... Take up a new hobby?





**¡Que
Disfruten!**

