



Oh, Britannia! No, Britninja

Not everybody is singing the same tune in post-Brexit UK; talk of whether to revive royal yacht Britannia is on the table, while Paul and Ringo, British national symbols of even larger magnitude, are coming back together with doc on beatlemania ■ X3



MOVIES: THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN
BOOKS: HOME BY HARLAN COBEN
MUSIC: BRAVER THAN WE ARE BY MEAT LOAF
WINE: THE BUYER'S CAVEAT
FOOD & BEVERAGE: NEGATIVE ONLINE REVIEWS ARE DOUBLE-EDGE SWORD FOR BUSINESSES



DRIVE IN

Lindsey Bahr, AP Film Writer

‘THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN’ RIDES AGAIN, WITH MORE GUNS

Deciding to remake “The Magnificent Seven” with a fresh batch of movie stars is certainly no sin. John Sturges’ 1960 tome, itself a remake of Akira Kurosawa’s classic “Seven Samurai,” is a fun confection of star power and charismatic bravado, sure, but held in such high esteem probably more because of Elmer Bernstein’s iconic score than anything else. Plus, who doesn’t enjoy a ragtag group of outlaws banding together to defeat a powerful bully? But director Antoine Fuqua doesn’t exactly elevate that now well-trod premise in this dutiful and solid rehashing of the seven gunmen who attempt

to save a terrorized town, even if he does up the shoot-em-up action (and body count). Bernstein’s score is given a few nods throughout the film, but saved in full for the final credits. Thus, it’s left to the actors to carry us through the over two-hour running time. You could do worse than putting it all in the capable hands of Denzel Washington, with some help from Chris Pratt. Washington, as the steely-eyed bounty hunter Sam Chisolm, is the de facto leader, the Yul Brynner of the group. His out-of-use heart starts beating again when the recently widowed Emma Cullen (Haley Bennett) begs him to

return to her small farming town of Rose Creek to save them from the terror of greedy industrialist Bartholomew Bogue, played with delicious, over-the-top menace by Peter Sarsgaard. Bogue is running a mining operation nearby and wants their land, too. He’ll either pay the residents of Rose Creek an unfairly low price for it or force them to leave (already a less compelling idea than taking the food they’ve grown, but this “farming town” does very little farming anyway). Fuqua takes no time easing into the story, starting out with an all-out massacre in the town. For about an hour, things are



Haley Bennett (left), and Chris Pratt appear in a scene from "The Magnificent Seven."



Denzel Washington

fairly fun as Chisolm recruits the other six. Pratt’s Josh Faraday is the first up — a bemused gambler with enemies to spare and a fondness for whiskey who signs up for the mission to try to win back his horse. They find a legendary Civil War vet Goodnight Robicheaux (Ethan Hawke) and his blade-wielding buddy Billy Rocks (Byung-hun Lee) — who gets to put his own spin on the memorable gun vs. knife duel. There’s the bearlike, shell-shocked tracker Jack Horne (Vincent D’Onofrio), the Mexican gunslinger Vasquez (Manuel Garcia-Rulfo) and an exiled Native American, Red Harvest (Martin Sensmeier). It’s a deligh-

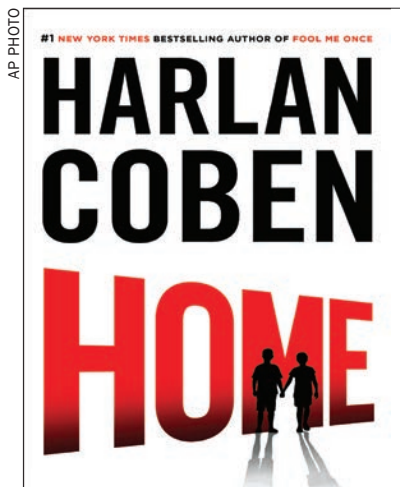
tfully diverse little group, but unfortunately the script, credited to “True Detective” creator Nic Pizzolatto and “The Equalizer” scribe Richard Wenk, doesn’t spend much time getting to know these men. What is there isn’t nearly clever, funny or insightful enough to make up for that. It felt like no one ever quite agreed on what the tone should be. Fun? Nihilistic? Folksy? Irreverent? Sincere? It’s all over the place and it’s not good. The actors do their best, but when even Pratt struggles to sell a joke, you know you’re in trouble. All dialogue, however, gets drowned out eventually as the movie gives way to the extremely long and frustra-

tingly illogical final showdown with a Marvel-sized body count that nonetheless provides some exhilarating moments for Washington, Pratt and a few others. The pieces are there but never quite come together. By the time Bernstein’s score plays and the credits start rolling, it’s a little too late to do anything besides make you even more nostalgic for what came before.

“The Magnificent Seven,” a Sony Pictures release, is rated **PG-13** by the Motion Picture Association of America for “extended and intense sequences of Western violence, and for historical smoking, some language and suggestive material.” Running time: 132 minutes. ★★☆☆

BOOK IT

'HOME' BY HARLAN COBEN IS SUSPENSEFUL & TWISTY TALE



"Home" (Dutton), by Harlan Coben

Fans of Harlan Coben will be thrilled to learn that he brings back his iconic series character Myron Bolitar to tackle a mystery over 10 years old in "Home." Bolitar's best friend, Win, receives a cryptic email that sends him to London where he's led to believe that he will

find Patrick and Rhys, two boys kidnapped 10 years earlier when they were 6 years old. He sees a boy he thinks is Patrick, assuming the age-progression software is accurate, but the teen runs off before he can talk to him. And if it is Patrick, where is Rhys? Win calls the one man he knows he can trust to help him: Myron Bolitar. Myron and Win uncover a vast network run by a ruthless man who promises them both boys for a hefty price. It's worth it to them, since two families they care about have been living with painful memories and no answers for a decade. The ensuing rescue doesn't go as planned, and once the parents learn about what Myron and Win have been doing the true mystery begins. Who was responsible for the kidnapping? Where have the boys been for the past 10 years? Coben knows how to play with readers' expectations, and he's crafted another suspenseful and twisty tale. Fans and newcomers alike will feel as if good friends have come home.

Jeff Ayers, AP

tTUNES

MEAT LOAF, STEINMAN REUNITE ON 'BRAVER THAN WE ARE'



Meat Loaf, "Braver Than We Are" (429 Records)

The cover of "Braver Than We Are" bears two names, those of rock belter Meat Loaf and songwriter Jim Steinman. It's a rare writer who gets his name front and center, but Steinman is unique. His blend of hard-rock hooks, high emotion and camp silliness fused

with Meat Loaf's runaway-train vocals to give the world "Bat Out of Hell," a 1970s rock classic and one of the ultimate guilty-pleasure albums. Their likably bombastic new album should please devotees of operatic, over-the-top rock, though it may not make new converts.

It's a surprising word to use about a Meat Loaf record, but "Braver Than We Are" feels underpowered. The 68-year-old is no longer the unrestrained screamer of yore. His voice is gravelly and subdued, at times overwhelmed by Paul Crook's grandiose production. The songs were written over a 50-year period, and include several originally intended for "Bat Out of Hell." Opener "Who Needs the Young" is just odd: shoo-wop backing vocals behind a cabaret-style lament about the depredations of age, written when Steinman was 19. "Going All the Way" is closer to the classic Steinman-Loaf template: a flamboyant, 11-minute epic duet that builds to a rousing crescendo. It features Meat Loaf's longtime collaborators Ellen Foley and Karla DeVito, in fine form. Stacey Michelle brings vocal flair to the gospel-tinged duet "Speaking in Tongues," while "Loving You is a Dirty Job" — a song once recorded by Bonnie Tyler — is a hook-laden ode to passionate, combative love. Other tracks feel disappointingly generic or half-baked. Meat Loaf fans may want this album, may even need it — it's less likely they'll love it. But two out of three ain't bad.

Jill Lawless, AP

NEWS OF THE WORLD

Jill Lawless, AP, London

Proposal to revive royal yacht draws fans, foes in Britain



1997 file photo showing the Royal Yacht Britannia passing the new Hong Kong Convention Center

The U.K. may be sailing into an uncertain future outside the European Union, but if campaigners have their way, Britannia will rule the waves again.

A Conservative lawmaker and the Daily Telegraph newspaper are proposing to recommission the royal yacht Britannia, former berth of Queen Elizabeth II, and send it around the world as a floating trade mission.

The yacht was retired in 1997, and is now a tourist attraction moored in Edinburgh.

Legislator Jake Berry says it should either be brought back into service or a new yacht should be built as “a small floating embassy” for Britain. “I think it would be a huge beacon

of hope for our country,” Berry said yesterday [Macau time].

Berry says the vessel could help bring in “billions of pounds’ worth of trade deals.” Anticipating that some will label his idea a vanity project, he says it should be funded by donations, rather than taxpayers.

Former Foreign Secretary William Hague has backed Berry’s proposal, saying that when he was in government he found that no one, however wealthy or powerful, could resist an invitation onto the royal yacht.

“Leaving the EU means we need to communicate the advantages and attractions of our country more than ever,” Hague wrote in the Telegraph. “That will take a lot more

than a yacht, but we need all the reach and profile that we can get.”

Others, however, said bringing back a symbol of empire and monarchy would send the wrong signals about Britain to the world.

“Britannia was always a wisp of denial because, essentially, she sailed through imperial decline,” wrote columnist Tanya Gold this week in the Guardian newspaper. “Her power was cosmetic. She floated on nostalgia.”

Launched in 1953, Britannia was the last in three centuries of royal yachts, a floating monument to a nation that built an empire on naval power — an empire it was then in the process of losing.

The 412-foot (123-meter) yacht,

Leaving the EU means we need to communicate the advantages and attractions of our country more than ever.

WILLIAM HAGUE
FORMER FOREIGN SECRETARY

with its teak deck and brass fittings, traveled more than 1 million miles (1.6 million kilometers) as transport for royal visits and vacations, a reception venue for dignitaries and the honeymoon vessel for royal couples including Prince Charles and Princess Diana.

Her final voyage was to collect the last British governor from Hong Kong when the former British colony returned to China in 1997.

The government of then-Prime Minister Tony Blair decided the cost of replacing Britannia was too high. The royal family, whose popularity was then at a low after a series of scandals, acquiesced — though the queen wiped away tears at the decommissioning ceremony.

Berry has secured a House of Commons debate on the yacht on Oct. 11, though his plan is unlikely to become a reality without government support.

Conservative Prime Minister Theresa May has not backed the idea, though when asked about it she said she recognized Britain’s “proud heritage” as a trading nation.

Berry — who supported the losing “remain” side in Britain’s EU membership referendum — said his proposal was in tune with May’s calls to make the best of Britain’s EU exit.

“We can’t rerun the referendum,” he said. “People on all sides of the political debate, whatever side they were on in the referendum, have to come forward with innovative ideas to make Brexit a success.”

COME TOGETHER

New film shows how The Beatles helped fight segregation

Music aside, the true power of The Beatles wasn’t the volume of their fans or the popularity of their hairstyles — it was the pull of their politics.

The band’s refusal to play to segregated American audiences in 1964 is one striking example explored in a new documentary about the band’s tireless years on the road in the 1960s before Beatlemania forced them to stop performing live.

Director Ron Howard mined archival footage to reveal the Fab Four’s shock at being asked to perform for a separated crowd for the film “The Beatles: Eight Days A Week — The Touring Years.” The movie is now out in



Paul McCartney (right), and Ringo Starr

theaters in the United States and the U.K.

“We were kind of quite intelligent guys, looking at the political scene and, coming

from Liverpool, we played with black bands and black people in the audience. It didn’t matter to us,” McCartney said.

“We played Jacksonville [Florida] and we heard that the whites and the blacks were going to be segregated and we just went, ‘Whoa, no. No way,’” he said. “And we actually forced them then, which is very early on in the 60’s, to integrate. We actually even put [it] in the contract.”

McCartney and Ringo Starr reflected on their impact and the band’s overwhelming success during an interview this week in Studio Two at Abbey Road Studio, where The Beatles recorded their catalog.

“When we first of all came in that door, as young kids [...] we weren’t even allowed up in the control room,” Mc-

Cartney said. “That was for the grown-ups. So we grew up here.”

“We all thought, ‘Wow, we can make a record,’” Starr said. “That was the biggest deal in life at the time. And we kept coming back and we made some really great music.”

The movie focuses on the years The Beatles played live from June 1962 until August 1966, which saw them performing 815 times in 15 countries.

Eventually the uncontrollable, hysterical crowds of Beatlemania made touring impossible.

“It’s funny to say how it felt because it was so crazy,” McCartney said. “We wan-

ted to be famous. We wanted to do well. We were doing what we really wanted to achieve and it was getting better and better.”

“But it got out of hand and the story is that, in the end, it kind of forced us off the road so we had to come back to this studio and make ‘Sgt. Pepper’s Lonely Hearts Club Band,’” he said.

Those who saw The Beatles live probably didn’t hear their sound systems at the time couldn’t outplay screaming fans.

The movie features remastered music so audiences can actually hear the performances. A companion album, “The Beatles: Live At The Hollywood Bowl,” has also been released.

Now, the guys on stage can finally listen to what they were playing.

Hilary Fox, AP

WORLD OF BACCHUS

Jacky I.F. Cheong

The Buyer's Caveat



CHÂTEAU VILLARS
2006

AOC Fronsac, a blend of 84% Merlot, 11% Cabernet Franc and 5% Cabernet Sauvignon, matured in Allier oak barrels – 30% new – for 12 months. Reddish black with cardinal-carmine rim, the lush nose offers crème de cassis, clove, tobacco and forest mushroom. With copious acidity and juicy tannins, the plump palate delivers confit de cassis, vanilla spice, dark chocolate and sous bois. Medium-full bodied at 13.5%, the dense entry continues through a fleshy mid-palate, leading to a smoky finish.



Château Villars
2003

AOC Fronsac, a blend of 79% Merlot, 15% Cabernet Franc and 6% Cabernet Sauvignon, matured in Allier oak barrels – 30% new – for 13 months. Dark garnet with maroon-rosewood rim, the aromatic nose presents dried blackberry, crème de cassis, Christmas spice and forest floor. With generous acidity and supple tannins, the suave palate supplies damson, prune, coffea arabica and camphor. Medium-full bodied at 13.5%, the poised entry continues through a nuanced mid-palate, leading to a lingering finish.

It may sound ludicrous or “let them eat cake” to say that Bordeaux wine is generally inexpensive and that it is for everyday drinking, given how much attention is paid to its most prestigious appellations such as Saint-Estèphe, Pauillac, Saint-Julien and Margaux from the Left Bank; Pomerol and Saint-Émilion from the Right Bank; and Graves, Barsac and Sauternes in the south. It is a peculiar phenomenon that in East Asia, perhaps more than anywhere else, many oenophiles are more familiar with the Grand Cru Classé wines than Bordeaux wine in general. Bordeaux wine has not always been expensive, for its meteoric rise only began in the late 70s and early 80s of the last century, then further propelled by globalisation, and not least parkerisation. Bordeaux wine is not expensive across the board either. A vast wine-producing region, indeed the second largest of France by production, Bordeaux is home to more than 7,000 producers and has just over 60 appellations. The Grand Cru Classé wines are but the tip of the iceberg, albeit the most prominent, and there are many, many gems of good value to be discovered. Seasoned oenophiles would understand that there is a marginal diminishing return with regards to a wine’s price-quality ratio, and the radically shrewd ones might even consider the premium price of many of the Grand Cru Classé wines more related to investment value and social prestige than justifiable qualitative increment, i.e. Veblen goods. When the price of many Grand Cru Classé wines goes through the roof, the wines actually become an untouchable niche. This is not because of greedy châteaux and courtiers and négociants, but due to the market demand we create. True oenophiles see wine as a daily necessity, no

different from staple food that provides carbohydrates. Since the land of Cockaigne does not exist, within the realm of budgetary possibility, sensible ones would want maximum value for minimum cost. As Warren Buffett famously put it, “price is what you pay, value is what you get.” In hunting Bordeaux bargains, there are perhaps three rules of thumb. First, lesser producers often make wines that punch above their weight in good vintages, e.g. 2000, 2005, 2009 and 2010, but due to limited recognition, their prices remain relatively stable regardless of vintages. Second, rather than chasing Grand Cru Classé, try Saint-Émilion’s Grand Cru (NB: unrelated to Grand Cru Classé), or Médoc’s time-honoured Cru Bourgeois and its new Cru Artisan (established in 2012). Third, certain producers from lesser appellations adjacent to illustrious ones often offer comparable quality at a fraction of the price, e.g. Saint-Émilion’s satellites – Montagne-Saint-Émilion, Saint-Georges-Saint-Émilion, Lussac-Saint-Émilion and Puisseguin-Saint-Émilion – as opposed Saint-Émilion proper, or Médoc, Haut-Médoc and Lustrac-Médoc rather than the “Big Four” from the Left Bank. Although not immediately apparent in its name, Fronsac is extremely close to Saint-Émilion and Pomerol, both geographically and stylistically. As is the case with the Right Bank, Fronsac mainly uses Merlot, complemented by Cabernet Franc and Cabernet Sauvignon. Even in ordinary vintages such as 2006 and 2003, a well-made Fronsac can comfortably age for 15 years or so.

Good value Bordeaux wines by petits châteaux are available in various wine shops and supermarkets.

Jacky I.F. Cheong is a legal professional by day and columnist by night. Having spent his formative years in Britain, France, and Germany, he regularly writes about wine, fine arts, classical music, and politics in several languages

RESTAURANTS

CANTONESE



GRAND IMPERIAL COURT
5pm – 12midnight
T: 8802 2539
Level 2, MGM MACAU



IMPERIAL COURT
Monday - Friday
11am - 3pm / 6pm - 11pm
Saturday, Sunday & Public Holidays
10am - 3pm / 3pm - 11pm
T: 8802 2361
VIP Hotel Lobby, MGM MACAU

BEIJING KITCHEN
Level 1, Grand Hyatt Macau
Opening Hours
11:30am – 24:00



KAM LAI HEEN
Grand Lapa, Macau
956-1110 Avenida da Amizade, 2/F
T: 8793 3821
11:00 - 15:00 / 18:00 – 22:00
(Close on Tuesday)

SHANGHAI MIN
Level 1, The Shops at The Boulevard
Opening Hours
11:00 – 15:00; 18:00 - 22:30

SHANGHAI

CATALPA GARDEN
Mon - Sunday
11:00 - 15:00 / 17:30 - 23:00
Hotel Royal, 2-4
Estrada da Vitoria
T: 28552222

FRENCH

實雅座
AUX BEAUX ARTS

AUX BEAUX ARTS
Monday – Friday
6pm – 12midnight
Saturday – Sunday
11am – 12midnight
T: 8802 2319
Grande Praça, MGM MACAU

GLOBAL

HARD ROCK CAFE
Level 2, Hard Rock Hotel
Opening Hours
Monday to Sunday : 11:00 - 02:00
Sunday : 10:00 - 02:00

CAFÉ BELA VISTA
Grand Lapa, Macau
956-1110 Avenida da Amizade, 2/F
T: 87933871
Mon - Thurs
06:30 – 15:00 / 6:00 – 22:00
Fri – Sunday
06:30 – 22:00

MEZZA9 MACAU
Level 3, Grand Hyatt Macau
Opening Hours
Dinner: 5:30 – 11:00



VIDA RICA (RESTAURANT)
2/F, Avenida Dr Sun Yat Sen, NAPE
T: 8805 8918
Mon - Sunday
6:30 – 14:30 / 18:00 – 23:00



MORTON'S OF CHICAGO
The Venetian(r) Macao-Resort-Hotel
Taipa, Macau
T:853 8117 5000
mortons.com
• Bar
Open daily at 3pm
• Dining Room
Monday - Saturday: 13:00 - 23:00
Sunday: 17:00 - 22:00

ABA BAR

ABA BAR
5pm – 12midnight
T: 8802 2319
Grande Praça, MGM MACAU



PASTRY BAR
10am – 8pm
T: 8802 2324
Level 1, MGM MACAU



ROSSIO
7am – 11pm
T: 8802 2372
Grande Praça, MGM MACAU



SQUARE EIGHT
24 hours
T: 8802 2389
Level 1, MGM MACAU

ITALIAN

LA GONDOLA
Mon - Sunday
11:00am – 11:00pm
Praia de Cheoc Van, Coloane,
next to swimming pool
T: 2888 0156



PORTOFINO
Casino Level1, Shop 1039,
The Venetian Macao
TEL: +853 8118 9950



AFRIKANA
Monday to Sunday
6:00pm – 3:00am
Location : AfriKana, Macau Fisherman's Wharf
Telephone Number : (853) 8299 3678

JAPANESE

SHINJI BY KANESAKA
Level 1, Crown Towers
Lunch 12:00 - 15:00
Dinner 18:00 - 23:00
Closed on
Tuesday (Lunch and Dinner)
Wednesday (Lunch)

ASIAN PACIFIC

ASIA KITCHEN
Level 2, SOHO at City of Dreams
Opening Hours
11:00 – 23:00

GOLDEN PAVILION
Level 1, Casino at City of Dreams
Opening Hours
24 Hours



GOLDEN PEACOCK
Casino Level1, Shop 1037,
The Venetian Macao
TEL: +853 8118 9696
Monday - Sunday:
11:00 - 23:00

PORTUGUESE

CLUBE MILITAR
975 Avenida da Praia Grande
T: 2871 4000
12:30 – 15:00 / 19:00 – 23:00

FERNANDO'S
9 Praia de Hac Sa, Coloane
T: 2888 2264
12:00 – 21:30

WESTERN

FOGO SAMBA
Shop 2412 (ST. Mark's Square)
The Venetian Macao
TEL: +853 2882 8499

THAI



NAAM
Grand Lapa, Macau
956-1110 Avenida da Amizade, The Resort
T: 8793 4818
12:00 – 14:30 / 18:30 – 22:30
(Close on Mondays)

BARS & PUBS



38 LOUNGE
Altrira Macau,
Avenida de Kwong Tung, 38/F Taipa
Sun-Thu: 13:00 – 02:00
Fri, Sat and Eve of public holiday:
15:00 – 03:00

R BAR
Level 1, Hard Rock Hotel
Opening Hours
Sun to Thu:
11:00 – 23:00
Fri & Sat:
11:00 – 24:00



BELLINI LOUNGE
Casino Level 1, Shop 1041,
The Venetian Macao
CONTACT US:
Tel: +853 8118 9940
Daily: 16:00 - 04:00



D2
Macao Fisherman's Wharf
Edf. New Orleans III
Macao

VIDA RICA BAR
2/F, Avenida Dr. Sun Yat Sen, NAPE
T: 8805 8928
Monday to Thursday: 12:00 – 00:00
Friday: 12:00 – 01:00
Saturday: 14:00 – 01:00
Sunday: 14:00 – 00:00

VASCO
Grand Lapa, Macau
956-1110 Avenida da Amizade, 2/F
T: 8793 3831
Monday to Thursday: 18:30 – 12:00
Friday to Saturday: 18:00 – 02:00
Sunday: 18:00 – 24:00

FOOD & BEVERAGE

Joyce M. Rosenberg, AP, New York

**ANY NEWS IS GOOD NEWS...
NEGATIVE ONLINE REVIEWS ARE DOUBLE-EDGE
SWORD FOR BUSINESSES**

AP PHOTO



Jeff Gates, who co-owns eight restaurants in the Boston area, poses at his Gaslight restaurant in the South End neighborhood

It is a double-edged cyber-sword: a negative review of a restaurant or other business, posted for the world to see. Anyone who peruses Yelp!, TripAdvisor, Google and companies' own websites can see complaints about bad food, surly sales associates, late deliveries or defective merchandise. But some business owners, even when they are chagrined or embarrassed, regard a bad review as valuable information that will help them improve. Jeff Gates, who co-owns eight restaurants in the Boston area, says online reviews give him a steady flow of feedback and likens them to the comment cards few diners fill out. He reads and responds to every post, and consults with staffers to understand what worked and what didn't. "If multiple people are picking up on the same issue, that's something we really want to focus on," says Gates, whose restaurants include Aquitaine and Gaslight Brasserie. Some negative reviews may be inevitable, especially with a business that has hundreds of customer interactions each day. Miscommunications can lead to mistakes, restaurants can be short-staffed and businesses do fall down on the job. Gates also looks at who's leaving the reviews. If there's a pattern of skewering restaurants, it could be a customer who can't be satisfied. Jim Turner,

who owns Turner's Seafood restaurants in Melrose and Salem, Massachusetts, says he knows customers who have too much to drink and are asked to lower the volume will post complaints about how they were treated. "You have to accept that everybody is going to have that, everybody is going to have those customers," says Turner, who responds to each review privately. Negative reviews can be irritating, Turner says, but because they point out issues like poor service, they spur him to address any problems, which in

turn lifts the restaurants' ratings. Owners who contact reviewers are sometimes able to get a bad review updated and improved. But even businesses that take a constructive attitude can find it difficult or even impossible to get a review removed. They can appeal to site operators, but most reviews stand. Some angry businesses owners have sued people who wrote the reviews, but unless they can prove they were libeled because of false information, they're not likely to win. Some businesses have also sued sites like Yelp!, but also unsuc-

cessfully. Last week, a federal appeals court ruled against an owner who contended that Yelp! should be held responsible for a negative review. Lawmakers are taking steps to protect reviewers and review sites. The House has passed a bill that would prevent businesses from requiring customers to sign agreements that they won't post negative reviews. A similar Senate version passed last year, so the two will have to be reconciled before the measure goes to the president. A law outlawing such agreements took effect in California last year.

Brandon Gerson, who oversees marketing for Hudson Allergy, a medical practice in New York, actually considers reviews part of that strategy. Patients are given tablet computers and encouraged to write reviews before they leave the office. If they're unhappy with any aspect of the practice, they get a response.

Shirley George Frazier says she's posted five negative assessments among about 50 reviews of restaurants, hotels and other businesses. She says reading customer reviews help her make informed decisions, and hopes negative reviews will motivate business managers to correct the situation.

"I expect good service and a good environment and when that goes downhill in whatever way it does, the room or front desk or room service, I am absolutely disappointed," says Frazier, who lives in Paterson, New Jersey.

An owner who gets a nasty or unreasonable review may want to make a snarky response, but that will only invite more vitriol, says Darnell Holloway, Yelp!'s director of business outreach. People who see a contentious exchange may give that business a pass.

A long and angry Google post that complained about the food and service at BBQ'd Productions in Third Lake, Illinois, and made personal comments about the staff "felt like a punch in the gut," owner Kris Schoenberger says. He resisted responding in kind but posted a reply offering to speak with the reviewer.

"You have to take the high road and you have to be bigger and better," says Schoenberger, whose company has a 4.6 rating on Google.

Some owners try to limit the number of jabs people can take. Opera Bracelets owner Cindy Battisti allows only those who have bought her jewelry inspired by opera stories to post reviews on her site — not "people who haven't had a bracelet in their hand."

If people make disparaging comments on Battisti's Facebook ads, she responds with more information about the bracelets and a link to her website.

"It's easy to take it personally, because my business is me, but you've got to be professional," says Battisti, who lives in Rochester, New York.

Eighty percent of the reviews on Yelp! are three stars or higher, says Holloway. And while businesses want high ratings overall, many owners believe a perfect score looks dishonest. "There's something sort of suspicious about a business that has an immaculate record," Gerson says. "You can't please everyone."

AP PHOTO



WHAT'S ON



TODAY (SEP 23) "ENTHRALLING SOUNDS" TRADITIONAL CANTONESE MUSIC CONCERT

Guangdong music, Cantonese opera and the painting of Lingnan School are hailed as Lingnan's three major artistic gems. The concert will display and familiarise residents and tourists alike with the profound and diverse embodiment of Guangdong music.

TIME: 8pm
VENUE: Dom Pedro V Theatre Lobby
ADMISSION: MOP40
ENQUIRIES: (853) 8399 6699
ORGANIZER: Macau Chinese Orchestra
<http://www.icm.gov.mo/ochm>



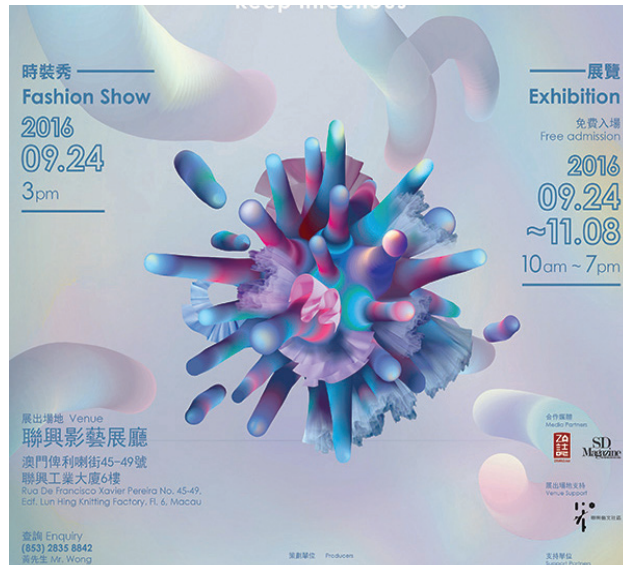
TOMORROW (SEP 24) 28TH MACAU INTERNATIONAL FIREWORKS DISPLAY CONTEST

In an exciting departure from previous years, the themes of this year's pyrotechnic spectacular are 'Pyro Fantasia', 'Tribute to Bond', 'Mid-Autumn Harmony', 'Stars from Afar' and 'Celebration in the Sky', with Thailand, Portugal, the United Kingdom, Switzerland, Japan, Korea, Italy, Canada, Romania and China duelling for the red-hot honours. Contestants are requested to choreograph their displays to both music and laser light projections to present a light and sound spectacular, while the five-day Fireworks Carnival returns to fill the event with fun and colorful dimensions. This year, residents and visitors can also enjoy the fireworks at Anim'Arte Nam Van, a new landmark for leisure, culture and creativity on the Praia Grande whilst relishing gourmet delights served at the cafe. Various artistic performances with unique colour and a craft market alongside cultural and creative shops to stroll around make for a sparkling evening!

28TH MACAU INTERNATIONAL FIREWORKS
DISPLAY CONTEST
TIME: Approx. 9pm and 9:40 pm
DATE: September 24 & October 1, 2016
VENUE: Seafront of Macau Tower
ADMISSION: Free
TOURISM HOTLINE: (853) 2833 3000
ORGANIZER: Macau Government Tourism Office
<http://fireworks.Macaotourism.gov.mo>

FIREWORKS CARNIVAL
TIME: 5pm-11pm

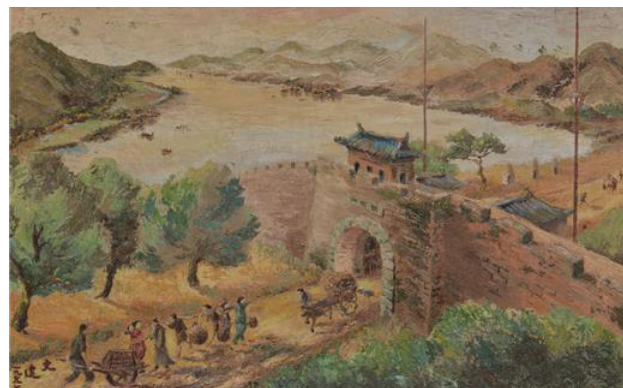
VENUE: Adjacent to Macau Tower
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2833 3614
ORGANIZERS: Macau Government Tourism Office,
the General Union of Neighbours Association of
Macau



SUNDAY (SEP 25) CHIC-AHOLIC IN THE VISUAL LAND

Lun Hing Art Community is a potpourri of fashion design and graphics design, with different art and cultural activities being held aperiodically. Orchestrated by four local fashion brands in a wide creative sweep, Chic-aholic in the Visual Land 2016 themed around 'playful', 'trendy', 'creative' and 'addictive'. The six-week exhibition is supported by a multimedia and theme installation, enabling browsers to be more fully immersed in genuinely original Macau design.

TIME: 10am-7pm (closed on Mondays and public holidays)
UNTIL: November 8, 2016
VENUE: Lun Hing Art Community Macau, Rua de Francisco Xavier Pereira 45-49 Edifício Industrial Luen Heng Floor 6
ADMISSION: free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2825 9897
ORGANIZER: Cultural Industry Promotional Association of Macau
<http://www.mci.org.mo>



MONDAY (SEP 26) 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF MACAU ARTISTS SOCIETY

The collective art exhibition A Sexagenary Revision - Masters of the Macau Artists Society features a selection of 60 works created by 36 late artists that had lived in Macau in celebration of the 60th anniversary of the Society. Dedicated to celebrating the most prominent artists of their generation, the exhibition showcases a selection of their finest calligraphy, oil paintings, watercolours and traditional Chinese ink. One highlight is a series of rare collaborative paintings created exclusively for the National Day of the People's Republic of China.

TIME: 10am-7pm (closed on Mondays, open on public holidays, no admission after 6:30 pm)
UNTIL: October 4, 2016
VENUE: Handover Gifts Museum of Macau, Av. Xian Xing Hai Macau

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814
ORGANIZERS: Cultural Affairs Bureau, Macau Museum of Art, Macau Artists Society
<http://www.mam.gov.mo>



TUESDAY (SEP 27) CHINESE BONSAI AND AUTUMN FLOWERS

Themed 'Mountain - Water Gallery', this exhibition features a scenic wall and porch in classical Chinese architectural style, accompanied by all kinds of bonsai, surrounded by Autumn flowers. In addition to the plants, flowers and graphics of the exhibition visitors can enjoy a guided tour, steep themselves in an illuminating and educational seminar about bonsai pruning, check out the mini wire bonsai workshops and accessories workshops.

For more details, please refer to the organizer
TIME: 7am-10pm
UNTIL: October 16, 2016
VENUE: Taipa Houses-Museum
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2833 7676
ORGANIZER: Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau
<http://www.iacm.gov.mo>



WEDNESDAY (SEP 28) EXHIBITION "INNOVATIVE INSPIRATION - PAINTING OF MAK KUONG WENG"

The exhibition featuring 39 works by Mak Kuong Weng who has won the Best Creation Special Prize of the "Collective Exhibition of Macau Artists" on four occasions. His upcoming solo exhibition comprises two series, namely the "China landscape" and the "Ink kingdom", showcasing ink painting in a unique style. The "China landscape" series underline the rhythm and stereoscopic perception of Chinese landscape painting while incorporating modern expression of art. On the other hand, the "Ink kingdom", inspired by the rhythm of traditional Chinese calligraphy, runs after the spiritual imagery of arts via abstract techniques.

TIME: 9am-7pm
UNTIL: October 16, 2016
VENUE: Chun Chou Tong Pavilion of Lou Lim Ioc Garden, located at No. 10, Estrada de Adolfo Loureiro
ENQUIRIES: (853) 8988 4100
Organizer: Cultural Affairs Bureau
www.icm.gov.mo



AFTERNOON TEA

Macau has an abundance of valuable cultural heritage related to tea. The Tea Culture House - abutting the enchanting Lou Lim Ioc Garden - is a place to find everything you need to know about tea, whilst acquainting yourself with one of Macau's lesser frequented districts, stages a variety of exhibitions to introduce the tea culture of Macau, Mainland China and the West. Enjoy free tea tasting on weekends and public holidays from 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm!

MACAU TEA CULTURE HOUSE

TIME: 9am to 7:00 pm daily except Mondays (open on public holidays)

ADDRESS: Lou Lim Ioc Garden, Avenida do Conselheiro Ferreira de Almeida

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2882 7103 / (853) 2858 6250

ADMISSION: free

ORGANIZER: Cultural Affairs Bureau

<http://www4.icm.gov.mo/teamuseum>



THURSDAY (SEP 29)

LOCAL MUSICIANS CONCERT SERIES – BRAVO MACAU

To encourage and foster local music stars, this year's Macau International Music Festival continues to host Bravo Macau for local musicians to showcase their talents.

Poon Ho Suet graduated from the University of Cincinnati College - Conservatory of Music in 2014 with a Master's Degree in Piano Performance. She is now an instructor in the Macao Conservatory School of Music.

Poon Ho Tung is now seeking a Master's Degree in Piano Performance at Indiana University Jacobs School of Music, and received several honours and scholarships during her studies in the U.S.

Leong Ngok Meng completed a Master's Degree in Trumpet Performance at the Mannes School of Music in New York, and had studied under trumpeters David Burkhart and Vincent Penzarella

TIME: 8pm

VENUE: Dom Pedro V Theatre

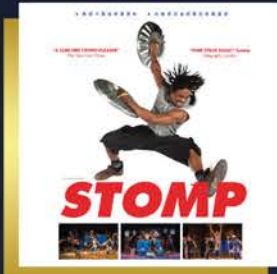
ADMISSION: MOP120, MOP150

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8399 6699

ORGANIZER: Macau Cultural Affairs Bureau

<http://www.icm.gov.mo/fimm/30>

Sands WEEKEND



STOMP

23 September - 9 October 2016

Venetian Theatre

Originally from the UK, STOMP is a show that combines percussion, dance, theatre and comedy with an exhilarating soundtrack inspired by the commotion of everyday objects such as lighters, bin lids, plastic bags and even kitchen sinks, to hammer out an explosive rhythm. Their passion and enthusiasm are so contagious that the show has won over audiences worldwide of all ages. Two shows daily on weekends, no show on Mondays.

Tickets: From MOP/HKD180, call reservations +853 2882 8818

Show times: (Tuesdays - Fridays) 8pm, (Saturday) 2pm/8pm, (Sunday) 1pm/6pm
cotaiticketing.com



THRILLER LIVE

30 September-13 November

The Parisian Theatre

THRILLER LIVE is a stunning 90-minute theatrical concert to commemorate arguably the world's greatest ever entertainer, Michael Jackson. This high-energy explosion of pop, rock, soul and disco takes the audience on a magical audio-visual journey through Jackson's astonishing 45-year musical legacy. We challenge you to stay in your seat! Thriller is the debut show of The Parisian Theatre.

Tickets: From MOP/HKD180, call reservations +853 2882 8818

cotaiticketing.com



SHOP YOUR WAY TO A HOTEL STAY

Sands Shoppes, with over 800 luxury duty-free shops after the opening of Shoppes at Parisian, is your ultimate shopping destination in Macao. Shop at Shoppes at Four Seasons, Shoppes at Parisian, Shoppes at Venetian and Shoppes at Cotai Central (except dining outlets) to earn hotel offers, including exclusive hotel and dining offers at The Parisian Macao, opening in mid of September.

Shop & Stay Voucher redemption date and time : Until 16 October 2016

Monday - Sunday 10:00am - 11:00pm

Redemption Locations : Information Counters throughout Sands Shoppes

Please refer to the Terms & Conditions for further details.



PO'S KUNG FU FEAST, CHARACTER BREAKFAST WITH THE DREAMWORKS ALL-STARS

Until 30 September 2017

Urumqi Ballroom, Level 4, Sands® Cotai Central

Live your dreams like Po from "Kung Fu Panda" and experience the ultimate breakfast feast with your favourite DreamWorks All-Stars. Get your camera ready to capture the memorable moments with your beloved DreamWorks heroes and enjoy the exclusive stage performances. Book now to experience the coolest themed breakfast!

Adult: MOP238+ Child: MOP138+

Family Package (4 Family Persons + 1 Child): MOP 688+

Saturday - Monday: 10am - 11:30am | Tuesday - Friday: 9am - 10:30am

Reservations: +853 8113 7915 / 8113 7916



澳門金沙度假區

Sands
RESORTS
COTAI STRIP, MACAO





The **jaguar** is the largest cat in the Americas.

What's in a name?

Panama is officially called the **Republic of Panama**. Spanish is the official language, and for about 93 percent of the population, Spanish is their first language. Many professional people also speak English. Several native languages are also spoken throughout the country.

The landscape

Panama is home to mountains in the west, rolling hills in the interior, a low range on the east coast and extensive forests in the fertile Caribbean region.

Panama is one of the most bio-diverse places on Earth, and about 30 percent of the country is protected parks and reserves. It is home to about 218 mammal species, 226 species of reptiles, 164 amphibian species and 940 bird species.

Renowned as one of the world's best birding sites, Panama is home to quetzals, macaws, parrots and toucans. Many migratory species also stop here.

Big cats, such as jaguars, pumas and ocelots, are found in the jungles of Panama.

The forests are also home to squirrel monkeys, spider monkeys and howler monkeys.

Just the facts

Total area	28,640 sq. mi. (74,177 sq. km)
Population	3,929,141
Capital city	Panama City
Highest elevation	Volcán Barú 11,401 ft. (3,475 m)
Lowest elevation	Sea level
Agriculture	Bananas, rice, corn, coffee, sugarcane, vegetables, livestock, shrimp
Industries	Construction, brewing, cement and other construction materials, sugar milling
Natural resources	Copper, mahogany forests, shrimp, hydropower

SOURCES: World Book Encyclopedia, World Book Inc.;
<https://www.lonelyplanet.com/panama>;
CIA World Factbook

WORLD OF WONDER

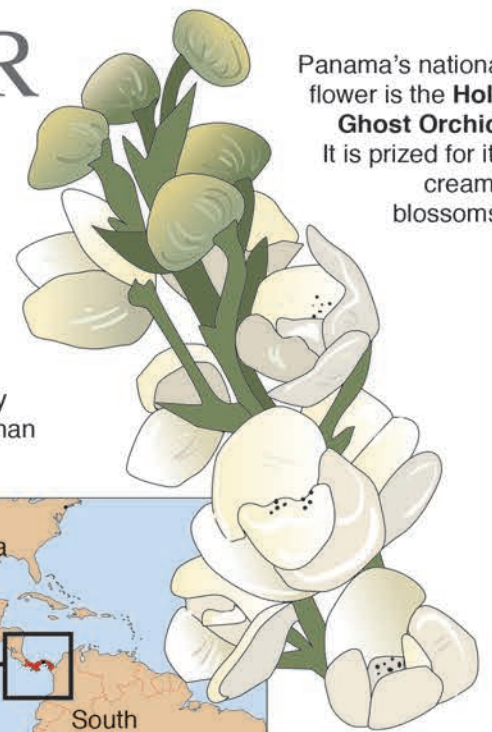
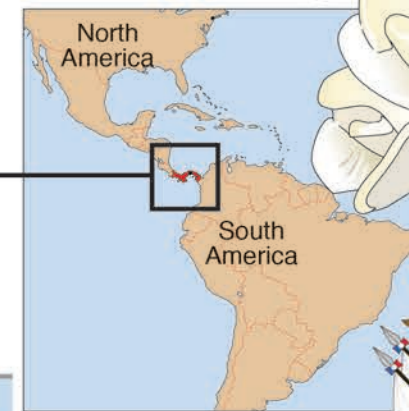
Exploring the realms of history, science, nature and technology

By Laurie Triefeldt

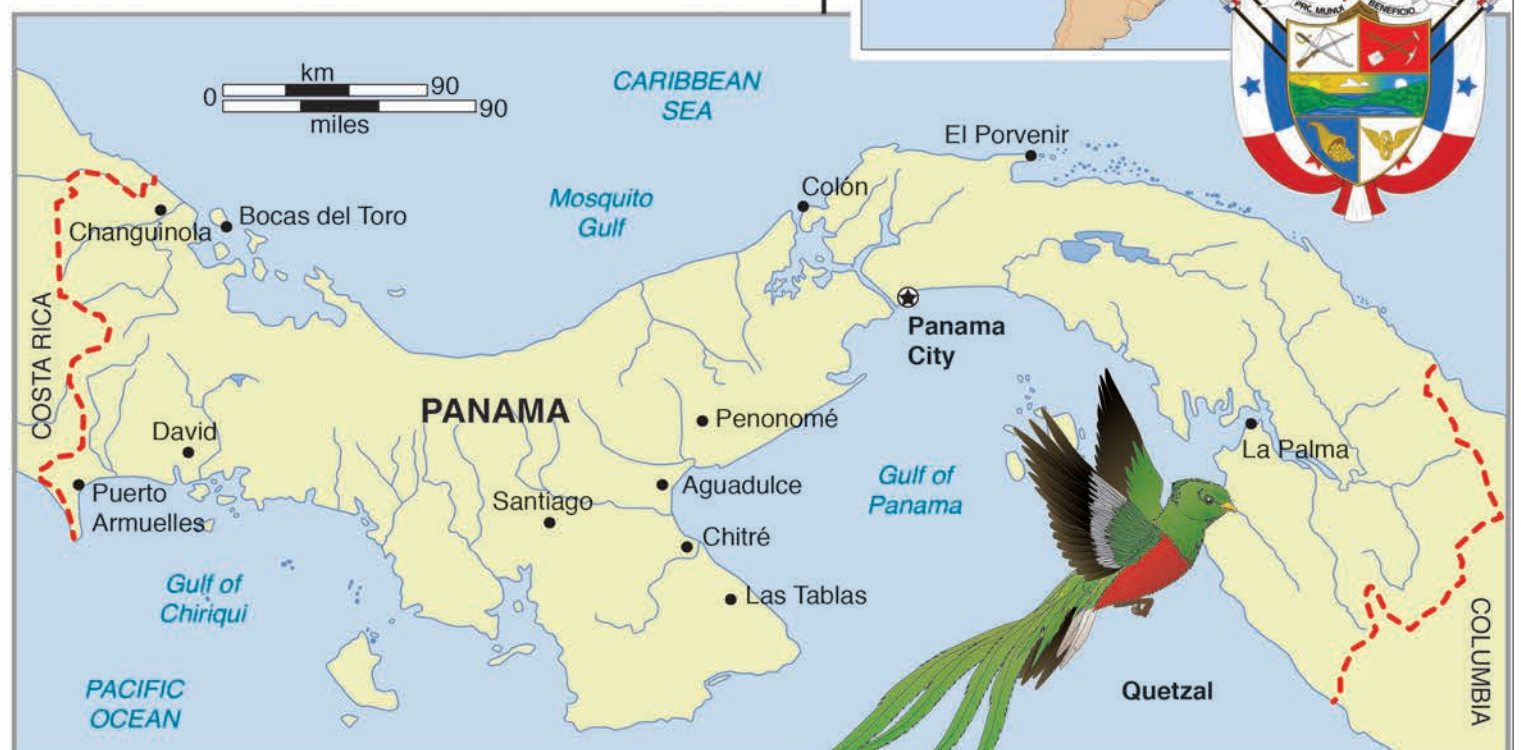
PANAMA

Sandwiched between Costa Rica and Colombia, Panama serves as a land bridge connecting North and South America. The Panama Canal crosses the isthmus at its narrowest and lowest point, connecting the Caribbean Sea with the Pacific Ocean. With its tropical forests, coastal beach towns and vital cities, this country is popular among adventurers and tourists.

The country has more than 500 rivers.



Panama's national flower is the **Holy Ghost Orchid**. It is prized for its creamy blossoms.

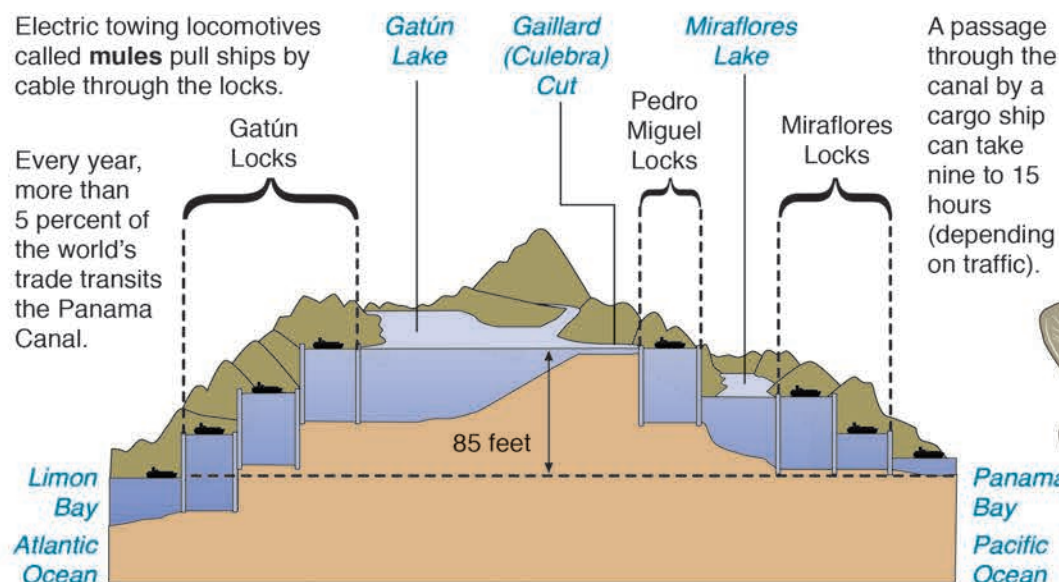


Cross section of the Panama Canal

There are six massive pairs of locks, each 1,000 feet (305 m) long and 110 feet (33.5 m) wide. Each may be filled or emptied in about 10 minutes. Ships passing through the canal from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean actually move from the northwest to the southeast, due to the east-west orientation of the Isthmus of Panama.

Electric towing locomotives called **mules** pull ships by cable through the locks.

Every year, more than 5 percent of the world's trade transits the Panama Canal.



A passage through the canal by a cargo ship can take nine to 15 hours (depending on traffic).

Did you know?

Panama is the only place in the world where you can see the sun rise on the Pacific and set on the Atlantic.

Panamanian balboas and U.S. dollars are the accepted currencies.

Until Lake Mead was formed by the building of the Hoover Dam, **Gatún Lake** was the world's largest artificial body of water.

The classic **Panama hat** is actually made in Ecuador.



The **harpy eagle** has a wingspan of about 7 feet (213 cm). These eagles hunt over a territory of up to 20 square miles (32 sq. km).

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