

COIBA NATIONAL PARK

PANAMA



Coiba National Park

It's not every day that you might speak of amazing marine life, beautiful birds, and an abandoned prison in the same conversation, unless of course, you're talking about Coiba National Park. So, just where would an avid traveler trek to if they wanted an adventure filled with natural beauty and steeped in history? The park, which can be found off the southwest coast of Panama, offers protection for Coiba Island, along with 38 other islands, and more than 430,000 acres of the Gulf of Chiriqui. It was named a UNESCO World Heritage site in 2005.



Captive to the island...

A penal colony that opened on Coiba Island in 1919 gave a whole new meaning to island time. Opened during the period when dictators Omar Torrijos and Manuel Noriega were in control, the prison accommodated around 3,000 political prisoners. Shutdown of the facility began in 1990 and it was completely closed in 2004. The seclusion of the prison has contributed to the diverse ecosystem the area is known for now.

Where in the world?

The remoteness of Coiba National Park makes it a bit challenging to visit. Boats called pangas take visitors to the island by way of Santa Catalina. These days, the national park draws diving enthusiasts, who are eager to explore its Bahia Damas Reef. Divers can get an up-close look at humpback whales, manta rays, whale sharks, and more. There are also a number of turtles, fish, and dolphins. Marine species are not the only ones seen here. More than 147 species of birds can be found in the park. Bird watchers can appreciate the abundance of scarlet macaw on the island. But not all types of birds are as plentiful to the area. The crested eagles, though not endangered, are considered near threatened.

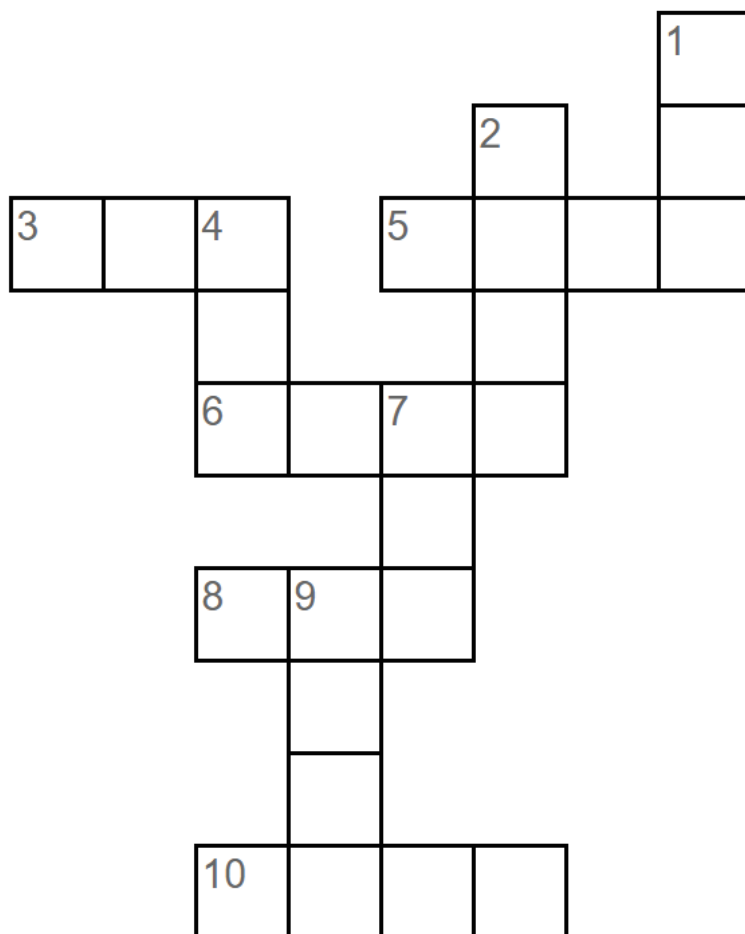
Fun Facts:

- Coiba National Park sees an annual rainfall each year of nearly 11.5 feet.
- The reef surrounding the island provides a safe haven for animals looking for a place to hide from El Niño's weather.
- There are certain species of trees on Coiba Island that no longer grow on the mainland.
- In an effort to safeguard its ecosystem, the park limits overnight guests to 60 at a time.

Word Jumble

Every answer uses only the letters in the word:

National



Across

- 3. Loads
- 5. Story
- 6. Grind
- 8. Bronze
- 10. Rent

Down

- 1. Patrol
- 2. Claw
- 4. Never
- 7. Hotel
- 9. Bass

Word Search

I C C U A J P R P N Q S
S H V Z N B Z A G Q V H
L I K Q I E H M R X V A
A R G V M A S P Y K P R
N I O K A V V C D Y A K
D Q B J L W F C O W N S
S U Y A S H C O G U A G
W I R V R A O I V X M S
R X R B Y L L B U X A M
M I J O R E O A V A I L
O Z M J I S N M A C A W
H M O N K E Y X L T O D

Panama
Coiba
Park
Colony

Animals
Whales
Monkey
Sharks

Macaw
Islands
Chiriqui
Unesco

Solutions

