



THE BUENAVENTURA  
GOLF & BEACH RESORT • PANAMA

AUTOGRAPH COLLECTION®  
HOTELS

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## PANAMA'S CULTURAL EXPERIENCE FOR GROUPS LAUNCHES AT THE BUENAVENTURA GOLF & BEACH RESORT

*Local tribes inject the culture of Panama into team building activities and workshops*

**Rio Hato, Panama – (April 3, 2018)** – [The Buena Ventura Golf & Beach Resort](#), a true destination resort located outside of Panama City, enhances the groups and meetings experience with the launch of new team building workshops led by local tribe artisans, providing guests with the opportunity to unearth Panama's history. At The Buena Ventura, meetings and events are inspired by Panama's cultural history and biodiversity, offering groups a one-of-a-kind experience.

With a promise of making memorable experiences for guests, The Buena Ventura offers culturally driven workshops that are hands-on and immersive without having to leave the resort's grounds. Located within the resort is the Mua Mua Foundation, the first Cultural Rescue Center in the country showing the ancient traditions that have been passed down from generation to generation. Not only can guests find crafts made by local tribes, but they are able to learn how they were made and replicate it through the workshops. The purpose of the foundation and its workshops is to share the tradition that makes up Panama's artistic personality.

"At The Buena Ventura, we are passionate about our Panamanian culture and that is why these workshops were developed for our guests to take a little piece of Panama back home and foster a connection," said Irishell Lorenzo, activities coordinator.

Found within the Caribbean areas in Panama, the African culture from centuries ago is preserved through the Portobelo Movement created by the artist, Yaneca. Paint is used to express the colorful and varied characters of the area. The **Congo Art Course** provides guests with the opportunity to immerse in the tradition by creating a small painting incorporating color, shapes and the methodology of brushstrokes inspired by the Congo culture. Another course incorporating the Congo culture is the **Congo Charm Making Course** where groups can create charms using a variety of colored beads, seeds, wood and other elements that are transformed into necklaces, pendants or protectors for women.

The cultural traditions of Panama are displayed throughout the resort with brightly-colored baskets and woven birds within the lobby and other main areas. These "chunga" baskets are the work of the Embera-Wounaan indigenous communities in Panama during pre-Columbian times. Offered for groups is a **Chunga Basketwork Course** where an Embera member shows participants how to work with Chunga and Narguala fibers to weave their own object while showing them the ancestral ways to dye them. Similar to chungu basketwork, a widely used technique of basketwork in Panama's Central region dates back to many centuries ago where men and women used acorn fibers to construct items. The **Acorn Basketwork Course** teaches how to use these ancestral techniques to attach an acorn fiber and manufacture an everyday item such as the Panama hat and baskets.

Lastly, the Kuna community is represented through the traditional dress of the women where a variety of colors are used. The **Kuna Bracelet Course** provides groups the opportunity to transform small beads into bracelets with each color and pattern representing an expression of a tradition that the women of this tribe proudly display.

Also available for groups are nearby excursions including kayaking on the beach, a Jet Ski tour to Farallon Island or Playa Blanca, snorkeling to Farallon Island, bird watching at El Valle de Anton, rainforest canopy tours, El Cano and Sitio Conte archeological sites, or a Ron Abuelo rum tasting and pairing at Hacienda San Isidro. Additionally, the resort's expansive grounds provides various on-site activities including tennis, volleyball, biking, horseback riding or golf tournaments, all of which can be arranged by the group's activities coordinator.

The Buenaventura Golf & Beach Resort recently added two new meeting spaces for a total of 2,056 square feet of functional space. Created as an extension of the meetings facilities, the new rooms feature floor to ceiling windows to bring the outside in and can accommodate a maximum of 150 people. The resort is the ideal place to host groups and corporate meetings with 11 event rooms and 9,607 sq. ft. of total event space to choose from.

For more information visit <http://www.thebuenaventurahotel.com/>.

#### **About Buenaventura Golf & Beach Resort**

Located in the heart of Panama in Rio Hato, Buenaventura Golf & Beach Resort is surrounded by tropical gardens and lagoons and just walking distance from Buenaventura Beach. The family-friendly resort is just 80 minutes from Panama City by car, but provides a sense of exclusivity beyond the walls of its main entrance. Within the community of Buenaventura, guests can enjoy on-site water sports such as kayaking, sailing, snorkeling, Jet skiing and boating as well as land sports like tennis, volleyball, biking, jogging on the fitness trail, and horseback riding throughout the property's nature trails. The 118-key resort provides guests with nine restaurants and bars, the Corotu Spa, seven swimming pools and two Jacuzzis, four plunge pools, a kids and teen club, 11 event spaces, the Wildlife Center, and a Nicklaus Design, 18-hole championship golf course.

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