

Safest place to live in Panama City

Written by T. Rob Brown (aka Roberto Chocolate)

Thursday, 13 May 2010 13:50 - Last Updated Thursday, 13 May 2010 14:26

Here a reader asked where the safest place to live in Panama City would be. They want to be near China Town. Roberto

I think you should check out Casco Viejo (Old Town). There are no single family houses there - but some charming 2 - 3 story old 1700's - 1800's building, gorgeous colonial architecture, with some restored areas, lots of bars and restaurants, things to see and do - like New Orleans French Quarter before it was fixed up - the area is just under renovation, and it is near ChinaTown.

Safest areas Punta Patilia (high rises, Jewish area) Obarrio, El Carmen, Buena Vista (expensive), Marbella - (older, nice - could be an option), the Banking Districts, and San Francisco - I am thinking San Francisco may be the place for you to start looking. They have single family houses there. If you send me a list of hotels I can help advise which ones are best - but a taxi anywhere in Panama costs \$1.50 - \$3.00 - and Panama is NOT a walking city - sidewalks are too broken up, the cab and bus drivers are too aggressive, diesel cars belching smoke - not a great strolling city.

Roberto

Here is the list of Hotels she sent:

Ok, I will go through the ones I know:

- Marriott - good area, but not late at night as the Royal Casino is right next door. It is NOT 1 mile north of airport - it is downtown, in the banking district - \$30 cab ride, 25 - 30 km - Decapolis - just off the Main Drag (Balboa) downtown, near Punta Patillia, nice hotel,
- Le Meridian - right on the Main Drag - across from one of the only walking areas in Panama - the Cinta Costera - oceanfront walkway - again - not 0.2 km from airport - 30 km

You have picked 5 star = VERY expensive hotels - there are many less expensive, nice hotels. Buy some guide books from Chapters or Indigo. Roberto

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