EXPLORE! Tour Notes

PRICE GUARANTEE 100% NO SURCHARGES

Treasures of Jordan (DJD 2015)

CULTURAL DISCOVERY

TOURDURAT
9
DAYS

Tour Style: Premium
Tour Pace: Busy
Tour Type: Small Groups
Tour Comfort: Comfortable
tour Code: DJD

Tour Highlights - Treasures of Jordan

- ✓ Amman - Tour the ancient city, including Umayyad Palace, King Abdullah Mosque, the Gold Market and the herbal souk
- ✓ Kings Highway - Explore St George's Church in Madaba and see the world's oldest mosaic map
- ✓ Petra - Visit the spectacular 'Rose Red City' of the ancient Nabateans
- ✓ Wadi Rum - Take an optional camel trek or 4WD drive in the impressive desert landscapes
- ✓ Dead Sea - Experience the buoyant saline waters of the lowest place on Earth
- ✓ Jerash - Tour the Greco Roman ruins with a local expert

Tour Essentials

Accommodation:	7 nights Comfortable Hotel 1 night Comfortable Tented Camp
Included Meals:	8 breakfasts, 0 lunches, 1 dinner
Start Point:	Join tour: Amman
End Point:	Tour ends: Amman
Transport:	4WD, Bus
Countries:	Jordan

Treasures Of Jordan

Join us on this journey exploring Jordan's historical sites and far reaching desert landscapes. Following in the footsteps of ancient civilisations we travel along the King's Highway to the Crusader Castle of Kerak. We also visit the 'lost city' of Petra, the Roman ruins at Jerash and the copper coloured sand dunes of Wadi Rum. There's time to unwind too, at Aqaba and on the Dead Sea.

Suitability

We've given each of our tours a comfort rating and a tour pace, walking or cycling grade to give you a general idea about the level of activity on each tour and the standard of accommodation you will be staying in at the end of your day's adventure.

Often you'll stay in different styles of accommodation during your tour; so we make an average rating across the entire tour. For more information on where you'll stay each night, please refer to the day by day tour itinerary.

Tour Comfort: Comfortable

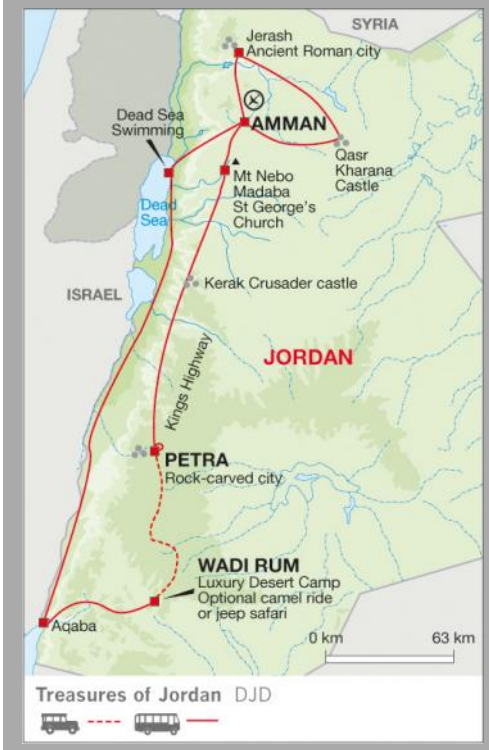
Hand-picked and chosen for their character, location or local importance, these properties have excellent facilities and a higher level of comfort and service. They provide the perfect wind down after an active day.

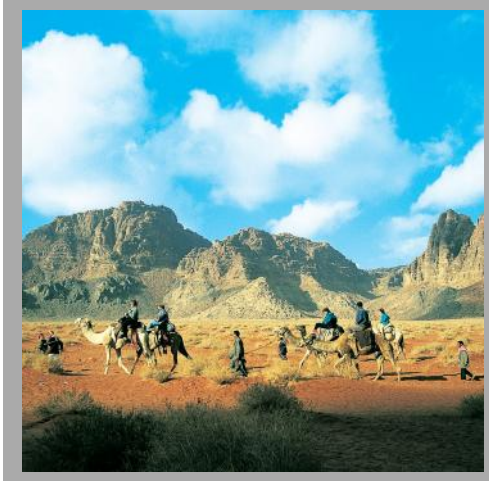
Tour Style: Premium

These tours are perfect if you want to combine an original, off-beat classic adventure with the added comfort of hand-picked accommodation chosen for its character, location or local importance. Revel in adventurous days followed by relaxing nights.

Tour Pace: Busy

There may be early starts, long journeys and tiring days along the way, but you'll return home feeling you've really experienced as much as you possibly could.





Your tour itinerary

Tour itinerary notes

While our intention is to adhere to the day-by-day itinerary as printed below, a degree of flexibility is built in. Overnight stops may vary from those suggested.

Your Tour Leader

A Tour Leader is an integral part of any Explore tour and your tour will be led by one of our experienced Tour Leaders who have been handpicked and expertly trained. We believe that our Tour Leaders are the key to the success of our tours; they are passionate travellers who are bursting with first-hand local knowledge which they love to share. Your Tour Leader will also take care of all the planning and organisation throughout your journey. Their passionate approach will make this tour fun and inspiring, bringing the destination to life whether you're travelling alone or with others.

DAY 1 Join tour Amman

Join the tour today in Amman, the capital of Jordan.

Grand Palace Hotel
The Grand Palace Hotel is a 4-star hotel located near to the Royal Culture Centre in Amman's Shmeisani district. The hotel is a short walk to the main shopping areas and facilities include a health club, spa, indoor swimming pool, restaurant and bar. The comfortable rooms are en suite with air conditioning, minibar, safe, WiFi, telephone and TV.

Single Room Available

Included Meals: None

DAY 2 Visit Qasr Al Kharana and Roman Jerash

Today we dive straight in to exploring the ancient history of this area. This morning we will visit Qasr Al Kharana; a castle that is believed to have been built 1200 years ago and is said to be one of the first examples of Islamic Architecture in the region. We then head off to Jerash, another Middle Eastern treasure. Located in the Gilead Hills, it is considered to be the best preserved city of the Decapolis, a confederation of ten Roman cities. We roam the ruins and will walk through the iconic triple arch gateway that gives way to colonnaded streets, theatres, temples and baths. From here we return to Amman for our overnight stay.

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Single Room Available

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 3 Amman city tour; visit Mount Nebo and Madaba

This morning we take a guided tour of Jordan's capital city. The origins of this remarkable city have been traced back some 9,000 years, but it was the arrival of the Ammonites in 1200BC that saw the city begin its rise to prominence as the great city of Rabbath Ammon. The intervening centuries saw it fall under the influences of the Israelites, Assyrians, Babylonians, Ptolomids, Seleucids and the Romans, under whose auspices it thrived as one of the 10 cities of the Decapolis. Our tour this morning will take in some of the highlights of ancient Amman (Philadelphia), including the Temple of Hercules and the 8th century Ummayad Palace. We'll also take in the sumptuous grandeur of the King Abdullah Mosque, one of the city's major landmarks, before paying a visit to the gold and herb markets in the city's downtown district. This afternoon we visit Madaba, a small Christian town with its collection of extraordinary mosaics, including the Great Map of Palestine (6th century). Discovered in 1896, and only fragmentary, it contains a good picture of Jerusalem. Moving on, we investigate Jebel Neba (808m). Better known as Mount Nebo, it is a pilgrimage centre for Christians principally because Moses is said to have seen the Promised Land from this summit. We return to our hotel in Amman.

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Single Room Available

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 4 Visit Kerak Castle before taking a guided tour of Petra

This morning we leave Amman and travel to the Crusader Castle of Kerak, imposingly sited on a hilltop. Kerak became famous in the time of the Crusades as one of a chain of fortresses in the Holy War against Islam. The castle was built in 1132 by Baldwin of Jerusalem, a Crusader King. After visiting this magnificent castle we continue on to Petra for a 3 night stay. Abandoned centuries ago, Petra was the rock cut stronghold of the Nabateans, a fortress city built to protect the lucrative levies its citizens imposed on the rich caravans heading north. Surrounded by imposing mountains and approached through a deep, narrow cleft in the rocks, known as the Siq, it is a unique and unforgettable place and, enhanced by the play of light and shadow, an altogether overwhelming experience. We enter the Siq on foot, following its towering sandstone walls towards the site of the captivating and iconic splendour of the beautiful Khazneh (the famous Treasury). A guided orientation tour will take us to some of the key parts of this remarkable and ancient site. We'll take in the Colonnaded Street, the Royal Tombs and marvel at the amazing theatre, with its 8,000 seats carved from the solid rock, before a free afternoon to continue exploring at your leisure.

Petra Marriott Hotel
The Petra Marriott is a 5 star hotel overlooking the dramatic and picturesque Petra Valley. It is located just 10 minutes from the entrance of the historic Petra site. Rooms are en suite with air conditioning, TV, minibar and safe. The hotel has a swimming pool, restaurant and bar.

Single Room Available

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 5 Free day to discover the treasures of the 'Lost City' of Petra

Today you have a full free day at Petra. Returning to the city, you can climb steep paths to the sacrificial 'High Places' (altars) for stunning views over Wadi Araba and the Negev Desert. You might also take the high road up to the Monastery, which is the largest of Petra's monuments and certainly worth the climb up to it. Towering to a height of 40m its doorway alone measures 8m in height. We also recommend a trip to El Beidha (or 'Little Petra' as it is known) or to the excavated Stone Age village where you can see the

remains of houses, fireplaces and workshops dating from around 6000BC. After a full day's sightseeing, what better way to relax than with a traditional Ottoman Bath (optional). This evening there may be a possibility of enjoying an enchanting tour of the city by night (optional).

Petra Marriott Hotel
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Single Room Available

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 6 To Wadi Rum; take an optional camel trek or jeep excursion and camp in luxury under the stars

Today we transfer to the Wadi Rum Desert. Wadi Rum occupies a region of 74,000 acres and as described by T.E. Lawrence, is "vast, echoing and God-like...". Monolithic outcrops of granite rock and sandstone rise out of the desert with a drifting blanket of sand between them. It is at its most impressive at the beginning and end of the day when the soft light and blue sky create a coppery effect on the sand. The Bedouins learnt to live in this hostile environment 3000 years ago, choosing the partnership with the camel for their survival. They understood the importance of keeping on the move and interpreting the elements, in order to find food and water. This afternoon we have the chance to experience a camel ride (optional) through the dramatic Siq el Barra and learn about this precious alliance between the dromedary and the nomads or take an exhilarating 4WD excursion (optional). After sunset, we enjoy the Bedouin hospitality around the campfire under a blanket of stars; a great setting to share stories while sipping mint and sage tea. A traditional zarb, which consists of a chicken or a goat meal cooked under the desert sand, is served as well as a delicious selection of mezze. We use a comfortable camp with great views over the desert. Each private tent retains the traditional Bedouin design but is luxuriously furnished with comfortable beds, sofa, lamps and the finest bed linen. All the furniture is hand made and electricity is provided via solar power.

Wadi Rum Private Camp

Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 7 Drive to Aqaba. Enjoy time at leisure in the Red Sea

Leaving Wadi Rum this morning we drive to Aqaba on the Red Sea coast for a chance to relax and take in the sea views. Along the way we make a stop at Wadi Musa. On arrival in Aqaba your tour leader will be on hand to arrange an optional snorkelling trip.

Double Tree by Hilton Aqaba
The DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel overlooks the Red Sea Gulf of Aqaba. Located within the city centre and conveniently situated in the heart of the business district, it is a short walk to the sea shore and all the major shopping areas. All rooms have LCD TVs and modern facilities with a Red Sea view plus WiFi access. The hotel has four restaurants, two bars and a pool.

Single Room Available

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 8 Free morning in Aqaba; afternoon float in the Dead Sea

After a relaxing morning we continue with our journey and head towards the saline waters of the Dead Sea. At nearly 400m below sea level this is the lowest point on earth. Surrounded by barren hills, this unparalleled body of water has an amazingly high salt content (33%) meaning no animal life can survive and it is almost impossible to sink! We will have time to enjoy the strange delights of floating and bathing in the skin-soothing properties of the mud as well as visiting the Panoramic Complex and Visitors Centre, before returning to the capital for our final night.

Grand Palace Hotel
The Grand Palace Hotel is a 4-star hotel located near to the Royal Culture Centre in Amman's Shmeisani district. The hotel is a short walk to the main shopping areas and facilities include a health club, spa, indoor swimming pool, restaurant and bar. The comfortable rooms are en suite with air conditioning, minibar, safe, WiFi, telephone and TV.

Single Room Available

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 9 Tour ends Amman

Your tour ends in Amman after breakfast.

Included Meals: Breakfast

Accommodation and Meals

Food & Drink

Included meals: 8 breakfasts, 0 lunches,1 dinner included in the price of this tour. Please be prepared to pay for non-included meals. Please note that costs for drinks and meals can vary depending on location.

Budgeting for your Tour

You will need some extra money to cover meals and drinks not included in the tour price, any optional sightseeing, souvenirs and items of a personal nature such as laundry.

Food

The costs for meals may vary depending upon location, type of restaurant and number of courses eaten and so the prices given are an average guide.Local restaurants located off the beaten track may be less expensive, whereas an upmarket restaurant located in the centre of a major city may charge more.

Jordan

Lunch £: 10.00

Dinner £: 15.00

Drink

The prices for drinks can vary greatly depending upon location and the prices detailed below are an average guide. In general you would expect that drinks purchased in a supermarket or local bar to be less expensive, whilst drinks in an upmarket bar or restaurant may be more expensive.

Jordan

Bottle of Beer £: 3.45

Water £: 1.50

International Departure Taxes

The Jordanian government levies on all travellers a departure tax of JD8.00 per person. For travellers departing by air this is usually included in the taxes on the airline ticket and thus nothing will be collected from you at the point of departure. For those travellers departing by land, this will be collected by the immigration authorities at the port of departure from Jordan.

Other Sightseeing & Activities

The following excursions and/or activities are usually available and may be arranged locally. Estimated costs are provided below for guidance only, are on a per person basis unless shown otherwise, and may depend on the number of participants. Prices quoted are correct as of the date these tour notes were originally issued but may change at any time due to currency fluctuations.

Please note: These activities are booked and paid for direct with the supplier and do not form part of your Explore holiday contract.

Optional Excursions

Petra - Petra by night, candle lit walk through this impressive site £17.00 or Ottoman bath £24.00
Wadi Rum - Optional camel ride (£28.00)
4WD excursion . Prices for this excursion are dependent on the group size.

Tipping - Tour Leader

Tour Leader: At your discretion you might also consider tipping your Tour Leader in appreciation of the efficiency and service you receive.

Tipping - Local Crew

Local Crew: Although entirely voluntary, tipping is a recognised part of life in this region of the world. Some local staff will look to members of the group for personal recognition of particular services provided. In order to make things easier for you, the Tour Leader may organise a group's tips kitty and if this is the case, they will account for it throughout the tour.

Accordingly you should allow approximately £25.00 for gratuities for local staff.

Foreign Exchange

Jordan

ATM Availability: ATMs are widely available, but do not always work.

Credit Card Acceptance: In hotels and some larger shops/restaurants.

Travellers Cheques: Travellers Cheques, although still the safest way of carrying money, are difficult to cash in Jordan. There are high commission charges on Travellers Cheques on a per cheque basis so if using them we suggest you take high denomination cheques. Proof of purchase may be necessary for encashment of Travellers Cheques.

Local Currency: Jordanian Dinar

Recommended Currency for Exchange: Sterling and US$ are widely accepted though exchange rates tend to favour the US$. It is worth taking some money in cash. You may be able to order Dinars from your bank although the rate will usually be lower than purchasing currency in country.

Where to Exchange: Banks or 'Forex' offices in main towns/cities.

Joining your Tour

Flight Information

You are able to book this tour on a 'land only' basis or as a ‘flight inclusive’ package. Your flight inclusive package will be fully protected by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) ATOL protection scheme.

Booking a land only package with Explore

Customers who have chosen to book on the ‘Land Only’ arrangements of our tour, please ensure that you have checked your tour specific ‘Joining Instructions’ prior to booking your own travel arrangements. Your joining instructions can be found on our website at www.explore.co.uk, in the tour specific dates and prices section.

You may also be eligible for the Free Explore Transfer. For more information please refer to https://www.explore.co.uk/transfers.

Joining Tour Abroad

Customers booked on the ‘Land Only’ arrangements will now receive a Free Transfer, provided you arrive and depart on the tour only itinerary start and end dates. The transfers will be from the Explore designated airport or train station to the joining point of your tour, and then back from the ending point to the designated airport or train station. The exception to this rule is customers who are booked on a tour where the joining and ending point is at the designated airport or train station.

If you are not eligible for the Free Transfer then you will need to make your own way through to the joining and ending point. On a majority of our tours Explore will be able to provide a private transfer at an additional cost. Please ask for a quote at the time of booking.

For more information regarding the Explore Free Transfer please refer to https://www.explore.co.uk/transfers.

Free transfers are not available for Self-Guided, Tailormade or Tours for Churches customers.

Booking a flight inclusive package with Explore

We have a good selection of flights not only from London but from many regional airports around the UK allowing us to compare fares between scheduled carriers as well as low cost and charter airlines. Our dedicated flights team will match the best flight options to your arrival and departure airport.

On our website we display a UK flight inclusive package guide price which is generally based on a London departure. To avoid paying supplements or to secure your preferred flight option, we recommend booking as early as possible, especially for peak travel dates.

Important Information

Travel Insurance

It is a condition of joining any of our tours that you must have valid travel insurance. It must indicate that you have cover for (at least) medical expenses and emergency repatriation in the event of illness or injury. Medical and repatriation insurance cover is not mandatory for UK residents who are travelling in England and Scotland. We also strongly recommend your policy includes curtailment, personal effects and cancellation protection as all deposits paid are non-refundable. You will also need to ensure your travel policy covers you for all activities you intend to do whilst on tour.

We are delighted to include FREE travel insurance **for all qualifying customers** who book an Explore trip from 01 January 2015.

For more information about Travel insurance and to check whether you are eligible to receive free cover, please visit www.explore.co.uk/insurance. Explore Worldwide Ltd are an Appointed Representative of Campbell Irvine Limited. who are authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. The registration number can be checked by visiting the the FCA's website www.fca.gov.uk or by contacting them on 0800 111 6768.

Visa Information

The following information relates to EU passport holders and those who are travelling on flights arranged by Explore:
Subject to a minimum of five people travelling on the same arriving AND departing flights, free visas can be arranged on arrival - if Explore receives your passport details a minimum of 10 days before arrival. Unfortunately we will not know until the commencement of your tour whether the minimum number is attained, therefore we recommend that you allow JD40.00 (approximately £40.00) in case an individual visa will need to be purchased on arrival. Please note that those qualifying for a group visa will be met by a representative to take you through the immigration process. Due to the new security procedures in the airport the representative may not be able to meet the group immediately, so please wait for the representative to come through and assist you with the group visa.

This normally takes up to 30 minutes, but could be longer depending on the number of tour groups coming through, so please be patient. If you proceed through without the representative, you may affect whether the group can still use their group visa and you will all then have to pay for your own individual visas, so please wait until the representative has been let through to assist you.

The following information relates to non-EU passport holders and those who are travelling Land Only:
If you have not bought your flights through Explore, you are not on the group flights or hold a non-EU passport then you will be required to purchase an individual visa on arrival. Visas can be bought on arrival at Amman's Queen Alia Airport or any border crossing point (current cost JD40.00, approximately £40.00).

All nationalities should consult the relevant consulate. All visa information is subject to change. You should confirm all visa related issues with the relevant Embassy prior to departure.

Vaccinations & Protection

Jordan

Nothing compulsory, but we recommend protection against malaria, typhoid, tetanus infectious hepatitis and polio. Consult your travel clinic for latest advice on different prophylaxis available against malaria.

Preparing for your Tour

Climate

Jordan

During April to November days are generally sunny and hot without rain with temperatures around 32°C. In spring and autumn evenings can be cool and night temperatures can drop suddenly especially in the desert. Expect cold nights in winter (December to February) when temperatures can drop to around 0 degrees. Some rain should also be expected at this time of year.

Clothing

Lightweight clothing is essential in mid- summer, with a sun-hat and neck protection, though a sweater and light jacket are advisable for Wadi Rum. Early mornings throughout the year can be very cold in the desert and winters (Nov-Mar) in Jordan can be cold, so please bring suitable warm clothing. We recommend a waterproof and windproof jacket, fleece, hat and gloves for winter.

Women are advised not to wear shorts or dresses that are too revealing as this can attract unwelcome attention in the streets of Muslim towns - loose fitting trousers or slacks are ideal. Women should also cover their head and shoulders when entering a mosque and men should wear long trousers.

Equipment

A high factor suncream and good quality sunglasses are essential. Walking poles may be useful for steps and the walks around Petra. A personal water bottle and small torch are useful.

Footwear

We recommend lightweight walking/hiking boots with good ankle support, plus trainers or sandals for relaxing and travelling in.

Luggage: On Tour

One main piece and a daypack. Remember, you are expected to carry your own luggage - so don't overload yourself.

Luggage allowance on tour: 20kg

General Information

Country details

Jordan

Population: 6,407,085

Size of Country: 92,300 sq km

Major Language: Arabic

Religion: Muslim

Time Difference to GMT: +2

Electric Supply & Plugs

Jordan

2 Pin Round

Why Choose Explore

We've been creating award-winning pioneering adventure holidays for over 30 years, earning the trust of thousands of delighted customers, who feel safe in our hands. Our tour leaders have expert local knowledge and our tours are designed to take you off the beaten track to see the most exotic, inspiring and dramatic places in the world.

- With over 30 years' experience, we are passionate about what we do.
- Pioneering small group adventures, self-guided, private journeys & tailormade holidays.
- Award winning tour leaders who you can trust.
- Responsible travel is and always has been one the driving principles of Explore.

Our adventure holidays are full of exciting things to see and do, exploring in small groups travelling by bus, boat, plane, rickshaw, camel, elephant, or any number of unusual forms of transport . Often you will stay in family run hotels and village houses and enjoy authentic local cuisine. In this way, it's easy to discover the true heart of the people and the place you travel to – and make some new friends along the way. Each tour is uniquely different, so please feel free to browse through our tours to see what may whet your appetite.

Our commitment to the environment

We are passionate about sustainable travel and work hard to create tours where your holiday delivers real benefits to the local communities. We minimise our impact by travelling in small groups, respecting local cultures and traditional, reducing waste and offsetting 100% of the CO2 from our flights.

When you travel with Explore, you are directly contributing to local economies and helping empower the people you meet. We currently support a range of charities and good causes, including: Toilet Twinning (helping to flush away poverty), Lone Buffalo Foundation (a community project based in Laos providing creative skills for young people), Dekamer (a turtle rescue centre in Turkey) and Kids Saving the Rainforest (a wildlife rescue centre in Costa Rica supported through the LATA foundation). We also care passionately about the world's wildlife. We are patrons of the Born Free Organisation and Friends of Conservation.

Cool Earth

Explore are proud to support Cool Earth in their effort to reduce global carbon dioxide levels through the prevention of deforestation in the South America rainforest. Cool Earth focus on areas in immediate danger of deforestation, supporting local communities to be forest guardians. To date 350,000 acres of rainforest has been protected. Saving rainforest also protects rare animals and plants, allows local forest communities to maintain their way of life, and protects a major source of oxygen and fresh water. When you travel on an Explore holiday we make a donation to Cool Earth that exceeds the impact of our customers flights each year.

Earth Matters

- The Travel Foundation

  Explore are active members and supporters of the Travel Foundation which has established a variety of sustainable tourism projects in destinations and works with industry to improve practice. Visit their website www.thetravelfoundation.org.uk
- Tourism Concern

  Explore support the work of Tourism Concern who campaign for fairly and ethically traded tourism, and are part of its Ethical Tour Operator Group www.tourismconcern.org.uk
- For further information on responsible travel go to http://www.explore.co.uk/ResponsibleTourism/

Know before you go

We strongly recommend that you check your government's travel advisory for up-to-date information and advice about your destination: safety andÂ security, entry requirements, health, local laws and customs. ForÂ UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office Advice follow the link atÂ http://www.explore.co.uk/essential-travel-information/travel-resources/travel-safety

Booking Your Holiday

Peace of mind - book with confidence

You can book your Explore holiday with confidence, as all monies paid to us for your trip are fully protected. Explore is a fully bonded tour operator licensed by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) and by ABTOT.

The air holiday packages (Tours including flights) that we advertise are ATOL protected, since we hold an Air Travel Organiser's LicenceÂ granted by the Civil Aviation Authority.Â Our ATOL number is ATOL 2595. In addition, As a member of the Association of Bonded Travel Organisers Trust Limited (ABTOT), Explore has provided a bond to meet the requirements of the Package Travel, Package Holidays and Package Tours Regulations 1992. Please note that packages booked outside the UK are only protected when purchased directly with Explore.

Reserving your place

To reserve your place on this tour you will need to check availability on the Explore website or through our dedicated call centre based in the UK where you can. Our tours can fill up quickly so you are advised to book as early as possible. If your chosen date is 'Available' or 'Guaranteed' we will be able to provisionally hold you a space for up to 48 hours.

For Self-Guided holidays and Private Journeys simply choose your date of travel and let us know so we can confirm all ground services.

The easiest way to confirm your booking is through our website. When you are ready to book, we normally require a 10% non-refundable deposit, but for some holidays this may be more to cover such items as permit fees, internal flights or other non-refundable services. If your travel starts within 60 days of booking, full payment will be required at the time of booking

100% No Surcharge Guarantee

The price paid for our holidays is no longer subject to change. Once booked and confirmed we will guarantee the price you pay will not increase, whatever the circumstances. You will not be approached to pay fuel surcharges unlike the vast majority of other adventure tour operators. The price guarantee applies to all new bookings departing between 1st January 2014 and 31st December 2015.

Tour Itinerary Versions

Itinerary details may vary depending on departure date and alternative itineraries for this tour may exist. Please refer to the dates and prices page on our website to check which itinerary operates on each departure date.

Please ensure that you have an up-to-date copy of these tour notes immediately before you travel, as from time to time our itineraries may be amended, either for operational reasons or in response to feedback from customers. You will be informed of any major changes to your tour but small changes may just be added to these tour notes.

Please note: 2015 itinerary versions are applicable to tours departing in 2015. 2016/17 itinerary versions are applicable to tours departing from 1st January to 31st December 2016.

These tour notes were printed on 22/05/2015 16:58:55