EXPLORE! Tour Notes

PRICE GUARANTEE 100% NO SURCHARGES

Classic Egypt with Nile Cruise (EG 2015)

BOAT JOURNEYS

TOURDURAT
10
DAYS

Tour Style: Classic
Tour Pace: Busy
Tour Type: Small Groups
Tour Comfort: Standard
tour Code: EG

Tour Highlights - Classic Egypt with Nile Cruise

- ✓ Cairo - Marvel at the majestic Pyramids and Sphinx, then tour the Egyptian Museum
- ✓ Luxor - Take a horse drawn 'calesh' to Karnak Temple; explore the Valley of the Kings and Hatshepsut Temple
- ✓ Nile cruise boat - Cruise from Luxor to Aswan via the temples of Edfu and Kom Ombo on board the 5 star MS Mirage
- ✓ Meet the locals - Egyptians are some of the friendliest and welcoming people on the planet. Enjoy a coffee and a chat in one of the many local coffee bars and learn about their interesting history

Tour Essentials

Accommodation:	5 nights Comfortable Hotel 4 nights Standard Boat
Included Meals:	9 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 5 dinners
Start Point:	Join tour: Cairo
End Point:	Tour ends: Luxor
Transport:	Bus, Boat, Flight
Countries:	Egypt

Classic Egypt with Nile Cruise

On this action-packed journey we discover some of the world's most remarkable archaeological sites including the Pyramids and Great Sphinx of Giza. In Luxor we board our Nile cruise boat, visit the Valley of the Kings and Karnak Temple. From here we set sail and explore the temples of Edfu and Kom Ombo on our way to the vibrant Nubian city of Aswan.

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: Standard

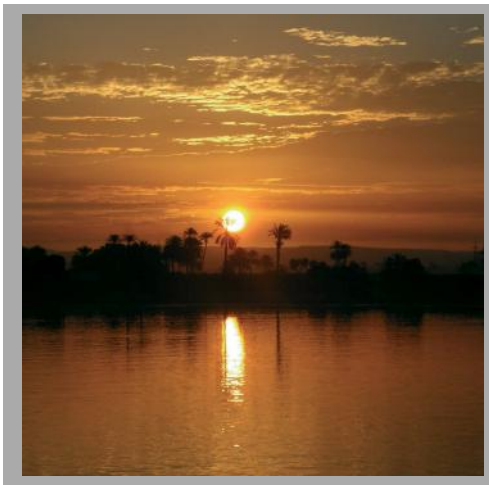
Our mid-range accommodation offers a good level of service often with other amenities such as a restaurant, bar, garden or swimming pool. Generally rooms will be comfortable with en-suite facilities.

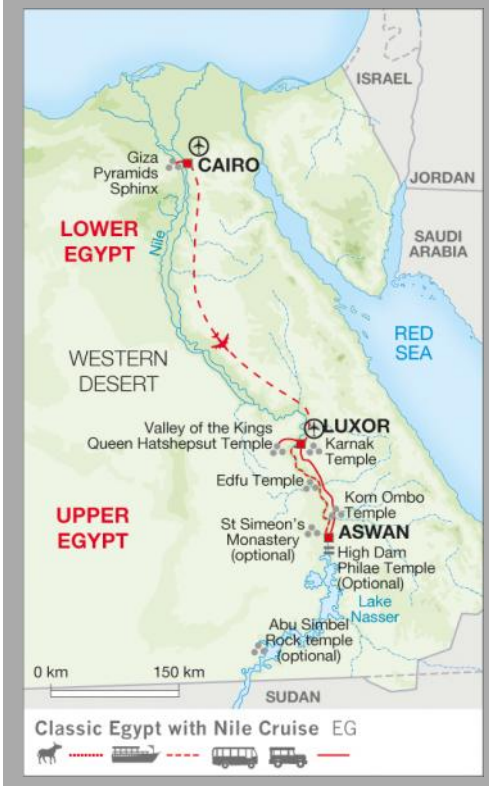
Tour Style: Classic

Packed with adventure, these tours offer inspiring destinations and authentic travel experiences at a reasonable price. Using all kinds of transport and accommodation, we'll take you off the beaten track to discover the true heart of the people and places you visit.

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 Cairo

Arrive at Cairo and check-in at the hotel. Cairo is a vibrant, exhilarating, exotic, fascinating and welcoming city. Home to the best Pharaonic, Coptic and Islamic sites in Egypt, this city is where you never know what incredible, half-forgotten monument you might stumble across while wandering around. If you arrive early, you may wish to catch your first glimpse of the mighty Nile River, visit the capital's medieval markets at Khan El-Khalili or walk down the Nile promenade. There are also plenty of cinemas, theatres and modern shopping malls.

Overnight: **Comfortable Hotel**
Single Room Available **Swimming Pool Available**

Included Meals: None

DAY 2 In Cairo; visit the Pyramids, Sphinx and Egyptian Museum

Africa's largest capital, Cairo, is situated mainly on the east bank of the Nile. Driving to Giza, we see the Pyramids and Sphinx; among the most impressive man-made spectacles in the world. The Great Pyramid of Cheops is the largest of the group (originally 145m high with a 232m square base). Second is the Pyramid of Chephren (136m high, width 210m). The complex includes the Sphinx, a crouching lion with a human head carved from solid rock and the splendid Granite Temple. After the Pyramids, we head for the Egyptian Museum, via a papyrus institute, where you can learn something of the ancient methods of paper making in the Egypt of the pharaohs. The museum itself is a spectacular repository of some 120,000 items encompassing all aspects of the world of the ancient Egyptians; from ornate jewellery and towering granite statues, to creepy mummified remains and, of course, the remarkable golden treasures of Tutankhamun himself. This evening we enjoy a traditional meal in a local restaurant.

Overnight: **Comfortable Hotel**
Single Room Available **Swimming Pool Available**

Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 3 Free day in Cairo; fly to Luxor

Today is a free day for optional trips to Saqqara, the impressive steppe pyramid/necropolis of Zozer (Djoser) - the earliest of the pyramids of Egypt and the recently opened Red and Bent Pyramids at Dashur. An optional trip to Islamic Cairo to visit the illustrious Citadel, one of Saladin's many strongholds during the Crusades period, is also available. There will also be the opportunity to enter one or more of the medieval mosques of Cairo. Alternatively you could use this free time to revisit the vast Egyptian museum. This evening we will have our flight to Luxor and transfer to the riverboat.

Overnight: **Standard Boat**
Single Room Available

Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 4 Set sail from Luxor towards Aswan

This morning we have free time to explore a little of what Luxor has to offer before returning to the boat and setting sail around late morning. We sail upstream (south), heading towards Kom Ombo and spend the afternoon and evening soaking up the views of the Nile Valley as we sail past the small villages that scatter the river banks. This evening we will enjoy a cooking class on-board to learn how to make traditional Egyptian cuisine.

Overnight: **Standard Boat**
Single Room Available

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 5 Visit the temples of Edfu and Kom Ombo; sail to Aswan

This morning we disembark to visit Edfu, the largest Egyptian temple after Karnak. The falcon-headed god Horus guards the temple dedicated to him which is in almost perfect condition. In fact the temple is unusual in that its roof has survived intact. We re-board our boat and continue upstream to Kom Ombo. Situated on the bank of the river, this temple is particularly unique because it is dedicated to two gods; Haroeris and Sobek, the crocodile god. It is thought that this part of the Nile used to have a large crocodile population, hence the dedication to Sobek. We continue to Aswan, arriving late tonight.

Overnight: **Standard Boat**
Single Room Available

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 6 Enjoy Aswan; optional Abu Simbel tour

Today we disembark our Boat and head for shore amongst the Nubians. Aswan is Egypt's most southerly city, traditionally regarded as the frontier post of Upper Egypt. Sited on the east bank, it stands just below the First Cataract and is the meeting point of Arab culture with Nubia and black Africa. Today we have the chance to travel by bus or air to the fabulous rock-hewn temple of Abu Simbel. Cut into the rock face, this enormous structure was raised 61m to save it from inundation by the artificial lake created by the Aswan High Dam. The 20m high statues represent Ramses II, known as the great builder. Alternatively, wander the streets of this fascinating city, where stalls laden with colourful spices line the streets.

Overnight: **Standard Boat**
Single Room Available

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 7 In Aswan; optional St Simeon's Monastery and Philae Temple visits

Today we will disembark the boat for the final time and check into our hotel overlooking the Nile. Today we have time to explore more of Aswan and the surrounding area. A popular optional excursion is the camel trek to the deserted coptic monastery of St. Simeon. One of the largest Coptic monasteries in Egypt, St Simeon's was built in the 7th century and finally abandoned in the 13th century. It now sits in splendid isolation at the end of a desert valley. Providing an impressive sight, the monastery appears more like a desert fortress than a place of worship. You may wish to take an excursion to Philae Temple, situated on a picturesque island in the Nile.

Overnight: **Comfortable Hotel**
Single Room Available **Swimming Pool Available**

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 8 Drive to Luxor; visit Karnak Temple

This morning we drive to Luxor and check into the hotel. This afternoon we have included a visit by calesh (horse drawn carriage) to the stupendous Temple of Amun at Karnak, the labour of numerous pharaohs. Begun about 2000 BC, this vast temple was still being added to in Cleopatra's time (1st century BC).There may also be the option in the afternoon to visit Deir-el- Medina and Medinet Habu - relatively little visited sites and for many a real highlight of the tour. You could also enjoy an optional donkey trek on the west bank, through villages and fields, before watching the sun set over the Nile. In Luxor we will normally be accommodated on the west bank of the Nile, opposite the main city. There will be a motorboat available to transfer you across the river whenever you require.

Overnight: **Comfortable Hotel**
Single Room Available **Swimming Pool Available**

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 9 Visit the Temple of Hatshepsut and Valley of the Kings; free time to explore

After breakfast we visit the extraordinary Temple of Queen Hatshepsut, Egypt's only female Pharaoh, who usurped the throne from her son, the future Tuthmoses III. The scale of the temple and its magnificent setting are breathtaking, but perhaps even more remarkable are the details - look out for the fine carving of the 'Expedition to the Land of Punt'. We then take a short bus ride to the Valley of the Kings to explore some of the more important sites made famous in 1922 by the discovery of the tomb of Tutankhamun by Howard Carter. We visit three tombs. The remainder of the day is left free for personal exploration in Luxor, during which you may like to take a calesh tour of local villages or visit the Explore sponsored Sunshine Orphanage.

Overnight: **Comfortable Hotel**
Single Room Available **Swimming Pool Available**

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 10 Tour ends Luxor

Your tour ends in Luxor after breakfast.

Included Meals: Breakfast

Accommodation and Meals

Food & Drink

Included meals: 9 breakfasts, 3 lunches,5 dinners 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.

Egypt

Lunch £: 6.00

Dinner £: 8.00

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.

Egypt

Bottle of Beer £: 1.70

Water £: 0.75

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

Luxor - Habu Temple and Workers Tomb USD50.00, villages calesh ride (2-hours) USD17.00, Tutankhamun's Tomb USD16.00, Karnak Sound and Light USD25.00 or donkey trek (2-hours) USD19.00.
Aswan - Camel trek to St. Simeon's Monastery USD35.00, Philae Temple, obelisque and Aswan High Dam USD45.00, felucca cruise USD23.00, dinner in a Nubian Village USD15.00 or Philae Sound and Light Show USD30.00.
Cairo - Saqqara and Dashur Pyramids USD50.00 or half day Islamic Cairo USD33.00.
Abu Simbel - Excursion from Aswan by bus USD90.00 or by air USD315.00.
Please note that the operation of and price of optional excursions are subject to change.

Tipping - 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

Although entirely voluntary, tipping is a recognized 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 Leaders 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 £15.00 for tipping.

Foreign Exchange

Egypt

ATM Availability: You may also bring an ATM card, as these are available in main towns.

Credit Card Acceptance: Credit cards are rarely accepted.

Travellers Cheques: You may find it useful to bring some Travellers Cheques as a back up.

Local Currency: Egyptian Pound

Recommended Currency for Exchange: We recommend that you bring your money in cash, £GBP, US$ or Euros which are readily changeable.

Where to Exchange: Most major towns - your tour leader will advise you on arrival.

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 booking with Explore that you have adequate valid travel insurance. It is your responsibility to arrange appropriate travel insurance and ensure you have read and understood the full terms and conditions of your travel insurance policy to ensure that you are covered for all activities you intend to undertake whilst on the tour, including all optional activities. Your Insurance Policy must fully cover you for medical expenses and emergency repatriation to your home country. Please ensure your policy includes medical emergency helicopter evacuation in the event of illness or injury and covers the entire duration of your holiday. If you are trekking at altitude please ensure that there is no upper altitude limit which may limit or exclude cover for your trip. Medical and repatriation insurance cover is not mandatory for UK residents who are travelling on trips within the United Kingdom.

EXPLORE!
The Adventure Travel Experts

CAMPBELL IRVINE
DIRECT TRAVEL INSURANCE

Travel Insurance is essential. If you have not already arranged cover, please contact our recommended Travel Insurance providers www.campbellirvinedirect.com/Explore who offer Travel Insurance specifically designed to cover travel with Explore or call **Campbell Irvine Direct** on Tel: 020 7938 1734

Explore Worldwide is an Introducer Appointed Representative of Campbell Irvine Ltd who are authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.

Under 18 immigration guidance

Please note that some countries require proof of parental consent when travelling overseas with under 18s. Please check requirements with the relevant embassy or consular office well in advance of travel if this applies to your party.

Visa Information

Egypt: An entry visa is required by all nationalities. UK citizens can obtain a visa on arrival at the airport for the current cost of 25USD. Please note, you must purchase a visa stamp at one of the nearby banks before proceeding to the immigration desk.

Visas can also be obtained prior to departure through Explore's recommended visa service in the UK; Visaswift, at http://www.visaswift.com/explore.aspx. Other nationalities should consult their local embassy or consular office.

All visa information is subject to change. You should confirm all visa related questions with the relevant Embassy prior to departure.

Vaccinations & Protection

Egypt

Nothing compulsory but we recommend protection against typhoid, tetanus, infectious hepatitis and polio. Though malaria does exist in Egypt it is not normally found in the areas in which we travel. For the most up to date advice please consult your travel clinic.

Preparing for your Tour

Climate

Egypt

Egypt's climate is hot and dry, typical of a desert environment. In summer it can be very hot and remains hot overnight whereas winter days are milder by comparison and temperatures can drop considerably at night. The mildest area is along the Mediterranean coast with temperatures ranging from 23-31°C in summer and 10-17°C in winter. In the desert region temperatures fluctuate in summer dropping as low as 7°C at night and up to 40°C during the day and in winter it can vary from 0°C at night to 18°C in the day. Aswan is one of the hottest cities with Cairo and Alexandria generally slightly cooler. Egypt receives very little rainfall annually and rainfall in summer is very rare.

Clothing

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

Bring a water bottle, insect repellent, sunglasses and a small torch for examining wall carvings. Please note that on the optional donkey trek we cannot supply hard hats - if head protection is felt to be necessary please bring your own with you to Egypt, as hard hats are not available to buy locally. You may want to bring wet-wipes and water-free hand sanitiser will be an invaluable addition to your daypack.

Footwear

Comfortable shoes and sandals are recommended.

Luggage: On Tour

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

Luggage allowance on tour: 20kg

General Information

Country details

Egypt

Population: 81,015,887

Size of Country: 1,002,450 sq km

Major Language: Arabic

Religion: Islamic, Christian

Time Difference to GMT: +2

Electric Supply & Plugs

Egypt

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 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 and security, entry requirements, health, local laws and customs. For UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office Advice follow the link at www.explore.co.uk/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.

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