

# EXPLORE!

## TRIP NOTES



### Norwegian Fjords & Spitsbergen - Expedition (ELN 2018)



TRIP DURATION  
**15**  
DAYS



**Tour Style:** Classic  
**Tour Pace:** Relaxed

**Tour Type:** Small Groups  
**Accommodation**  
**Grade:** Premium

**Trip Code:** ELN

#### Trip Highlights - Norwegian Fjords & Spitsbergen - Expedition

- ✓ Sail into Norway's dramatic fjords, beneath glaciers and mountains
- ✓ Walk through history at UNESCO-protected historical sites
- ✓ Travel to the heart of Spitsbergen to meet the mighty polar bear
- ✓ Get close to the wildlife and scenery with Zodiac excursions to shore

#### Trip Essentials

**Accommodation:** 14 nights Premium Boat  
**Included Meals:** 14 breakfasts, 13 lunches, 14 dinners  
**Start Point:** Join trip: Bergen  
**End Point:** Trip ends: Longyearbyen  
**Transport:** Zodiac, Expedition  
**Countries:** Norway, Spitsbergen

# Norwegian Fjords and Spitsbergen - Expedition

## Cruise Into The Arctic

### Fabulous Norwegian Fjords

Set sail from Bergen - the gateway to Norway's fjords - to the remote shores of Svalbard on this dazzling 15-day odyssey across the Norwegian Sea. Walk across the glaciers that carved the stunning landscapes, explore subarctic islands by Zodiac in search of polar bears, walk through history at UNESCO-protected historical sites, and much more. Don't merely pine for the fjords; find them.

En-route, we will have time to enjoy the picturesque Lofoten Islands. This enchanting collection of islands that form the Lofotens are rightly famous for their azure waters and the colourful fishermen's cabins that dot the coast. We also plan to cruise in to the nearby Trollfjord, one of Norway's shortest and yet most dramatic fjords. Called the 'Gateway to the Arctic', Tromsø is the last major habitation before we head deeper into the Arctic Circle towards the usually ice-bound outpost of the Svalbard archipelago, more commonly known as Spitsbergen. A rugged land of deep fjords, mountains and ice sheets, we spend our time here searching for walrus, seal, reindeer, arctic fox and the mighty polar bear.

## Wildlife

Prolific birdlife including puffins, arctic terns, ivory gulls and guillemots. Seals, walrus and a variety of whales can also be spotted at this time of year such as orcas and humpback whales. Polar bears and arctic foxes can be seen roaming the tundra.

## Ship Description

### Expedition

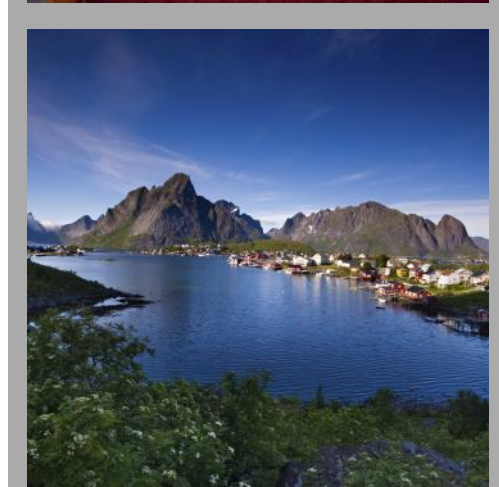
At a nimble 105 metres (345 ft) in length, with a capacity to hold 132 guests, the Expedition is an ideal vessel to ply polar waters. The ship is large enough to provide stability, speed, spacious cabins and ample public space, yet she is small enough to manoeuvre in remote areas and get you close to the action. Ship stabilizers ensure a smooth ride in rough waters, such as the infamous Drake Passage enroute to the Antarctic, allowing you to enjoy more of your time at sea. A fleet of ten zodiacs allows passengers to get out and actively explore the remote shores of our destinations. The Expedition is a speedy vessel. A top speed of 16 knots means you'll spend less time getting from A to B, and more time to explore your surroundings.



## 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.



### Accommodation Grade: Premium

Our comfortable accommodation is hand-picked and chosen for its character, location or local importance. These properties have excellent facilities and a higher level of comfort and service.

### 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: Relaxed

Easy paced tours with plenty of time to relax and absorb the sights and immerse yourself in the local surroundings.

## Your trip 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.

### DAY 1 Bergen

The Expedition will depart in the late afternoon. You will have time to explore Bergen on your own, a delightful city, known as the Gateway to the Norwegian Fjords. Wander through the historical seaport, or make a stop at the museum of Edvard Grieg. The local fish market is also worth a visit.

#### Expedition



**Included Meals:** Dinner

### DAY 2 Flam

Today we will visit Flam. Hop on the Flam Railway, travelling through valleys and mountain passes to reach the scenic fjord of the Flam District. The line is used most often as a tourist train as it passes through picturesque landscape and boasts an incredibly steep gradient, with an elevation difference of 862 m.

#### Expedition



**Included Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

### DAY 3 Sail from Flam to Olden

We cross the famous North Sea, towards Olden. Depending on time, we may stop in Olden for a short bus ride to the Briksdal area and a walk to the beautiful glacier found here. For those who don't want to walk the full distance 'Trollcars', a buggy-style vehicle, are available to take you up to the glacier.

#### Expedition



**Included Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

### DAY 4 Olden and Geirangerfjord

Sail deep into one of Norway's most beautiful fjords, into the mainland. The fjord is one of Norway's most visited tourist sites and has been listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The fjord is 15 km long, surrounded by spectacular mountains, lush green trees, waterfalls and several farms. Ensure that you have your camera to hand for some spectacular photo opportunities.

#### Expedition



**Included Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

### DAY 5 Trondheim

We continue on to Trondheim, a modern city surrounded by beautiful forests and mountains and is home to the remarkable Nidaros Cathedral. Built over the burial site of Saint Olav, the king of Norway in the 11th century, Nidaros Cathedral is the traditional location for the consecration of the king of Norway. Choose between taking an afternoon hike to the Sverresborg Folk Museum, or enjoy a city tour including the Folk Museum and the elaborate Cathedral, built between 1070 and 1300.

#### Expedition

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 **Included Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

## DAY 6 Torghatten and Vega Island

The rugged coastline of central Norway features some of the world's most beautiful scenery. The captain will liaise with local Norwegian pilots to determine our best landing options. Our aim is to visit Torghatten, one of the most bizarre rock formations in Norway and a significant local landmark. We will also try to cruise by ship and Zodiac, through the Treana archipelago, comprising of over a thousand tiny islands. Our on-board photography expert will be on hand to ensure that you make the most of the photographic opportunities found in this area. In the afternoon, we will head to the quaint and picturesque Vega Island, a listed UNESCO site. You will have time to wander through the picturesque fishing villages and appreciate the slow pace of life found here. This region is also renowned for its eider down harvesting.


### Expedition

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

## DAY 7 Svartisen and Vikingen

Today we visit Svartisen and Vikingen, where we will enjoy beautiful glaciers and a globe sculpture which marks Vikingen as a point directly on the Arctic Circle. Svartisen is Norway's second largest glacier and water collected here is used for hydropower. Here, we hope to enjoy a scenic walk up to a glacier before continuing onto Vikingen. Our last stop of the day will be Sanna, a remote island that offers great walking opportunities and a chance to see some sea eagles.


### Expedition

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

## DAY 8 The Lofoten archipelago

The Lofoten archipelago is an enchanting area of picturesque villages, backed with jagged peaks which are perched by the sea. Go ashore via coach on the island of Å, where cod fishing is still a major part of the economy. There will be a chance to visit the Torrfiskmuseum (Stockfish museum) before a bus tour across the Lofoten Islands to Svolvær. We will stop here for photos and other interest points along the way, including the Viking Museum at Bostad. In the evening, stay on deck as you cruise into one of Norway's most famous fjords, the short yet dramatic Trollfjord. Search the cliffs on your continuing quest to spot trolls.


### Expedition

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

## DAY 9 Lofoten Islands

Continue exploring the beautiful Lofoten Islands, spending time on Andenes Island - a spectacular location for spotting marine wildlife.


### Expedition

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

## DAY 10 Explore Tromsø

Today we arrive in Tromsø. Explore this northern haven and be sure to visit the Arctic Cathedral, whose unique architecture is evocative of snow and icebergs and its stained glass windows are among the largest in Europe. Tromsø, the capital of northern Norway, is known as the 'Gateway to the Arctic' since so many Arctic expeditions originated from here. Choose between hiking on the mountain top overlooking Tromsø, or wandering the city's streets before taking a cable car to the mountain top. Enjoy a delicious lunch of traditional open-faced sandwiches while gazing over the city. Everyone will have the chance to visit some of the major sites, including the Polar and Tromsø Museums and weather permitting, enjoy a stunning view from a cable car.

### Expedition

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner


## DAY 11 Tromsø to Hornsund

Sail past Bear Island. Even from afar, Bear island offers spectacular views, with thousands of bird species such as fulmars, kittiwakes, guillemots and gulls. Weather permitting, there may be an opportunity to explore mist-shrouded Bjørnøya by Zodiac - a birdwatcher's paradise. The weather is temperamental, so the option of a landing is not guaranteed.

### Expedition

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 **Included Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

## DAY 12 Hornsund

Explore the natural beauty of Hornsund and take advantage of the spectacular photo opportunities, as we explore by Zodiac. This scenic archipelago is made up of deep fjords, mountains and massive ice sheets. Keep your eyes peeled for walruses, seals, reindeer, Arctic foxes and of course, polar bears.


### Expedition

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

## DAY 13 Hornsund and Bellsund, Svalbard

Soak up the sights and sounds of Svalbard. Our focus is searching for wildlife, with a variety of sea and land mammals, as well as birdlife, calling this region home. Our flexible itinerary and experience allows us to take the best advantage of ice and weather conditions. Each season we attempt to discover new landing sites to explore, thus enhancing your expedition experience. Shore walks and Zodiac adventures bring us up close to mystical landscapes, icebergs, and of course the magical wildlife.


### Expedition

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

## DAY 14 Bellsund to Longyearbyen

Today, we will have a full day to enjoy this glacial wilderness. We will cruise by Zodiac amongst the ice floes, where we may encounter some lounging walruses with their young. If we're lucky, we may catch a glimpse of an Arctic fox roaming the tundra, whilst we head out on a shore landing. At all times, we will of course keep our eyes peeled for the King of the Arctic, the mighty polar bear !

### Expedition

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

## DAY 15 Longyearbyen

Disembarkation will take place early morning, after breakfast. Depending on your flight times, a transfer will either take you to the airport or into the center of the town, where you are free to explore on your own. Longyearbyen boasts an outstanding Arctic museum, an art gallery and a number of other cultural attractions for you to enjoy.

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

## Accommodation and Meals

### Food & Drink

Included meals: 14 breakfasts, 13 lunches, 14 dinners included in the price of this trip. Please be prepared to pay for non-included meals. Please note that costs for drinks and meals can vary depending on location.

### Cabins

Prices are based on the use of outward facing, category one cabins on the lower deck. Category one cabins are triple or quad share. They are comfortable with a private toilet and shower, and porthole. The Expedition has a number of different cabin categories, all outside facing and with two beds (apart from suites which have queen size beds). Some have larger windows. We can also offer single occupancy, subject to availability. Call us for details on the cabin choice to fit your requirements.

## Budgeting for your Trip

You will need some extra money to cover meals and drinks not included in the trip 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.

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## Norway

**Lunch £:** 12.00 - 16.00

**Dinner £:** 35.00 - 40.00

## Spitsbergen

**Lunch £:** 12.00-16.00

**Dinner £:** 35.00-40.00

## 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.

## Norway

**Bottle of Beer £:** 6.00 - 8.00

**Water £:** 2.00 - 3.00

## Spitsbergen

**Bottle of Beer £:** 6.00-8.00

**Water £:** 2.00-3.00

## Tipping - Local Crew

Tipping is of considerable significance to the people who will take care of you during your travels. It is an expression of satisfaction. The suggested amount is USD \$10 - 15 per person per day spent on board. Of course, tipping is a personal choice and the suggested amount is set only as a guideline. The money is collected by the Hotel Manager at the end of the voyage and distributed among the crew and Expedition Staff. The Officers choose not to participate in the tipping pool.

## Foreign Exchange

### Norway

**ATM Availability:** ATMs are available in Myre and at Oslo and Evenes Airports.

**Credit Card Acceptance:** Credit cards are generally accepted at many hotels and optional excursions may be paid for by credit card.

**Travellers Cheques:** Not recommended.

**Local Currency:** Norwegian Krona

**Recommended Currency for Exchange:** Take Norwegian Krona with you

**Where to Exchange:** Recommend you buy some Norwegian Krona before departing the UK (or whilst in transit in Oslo).

### Spitsbergen

## Joining your Trip

### 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](http://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.

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

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>.

## 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.

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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](http://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 Introducing Appointed Representative of Campbell Irvine Ltd who are authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.

### Travel Aware

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](http://www.explore.co.uk/travel-safety)

We strongly advise that you register with the FCO to receive updates to the travel advice for your chosen destination. A hard copy of the current FCO Travel Advice for your chosen destination is available by contacting [cr@explore.co.uk](mailto:cr@explore.co.uk) or 01252 379438.

### 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

All visa information is subject to change. You should confirm all visa related issues with the relevant Embassy prior to departure. For Norway entry visas are not required for UK, AUS, NZ, CAN, USA citizens. Other nationalities should consult the relevant consulate.

If you do require assistance in obtaining a visa then you may consider applying through Explore's recommended visa service in the UK, Travcour. See [www.travcour.com](http://www.travcour.com) to download the relevant visa application for your trip, if applicable (UK citizens only), along with details of how to apply for your visa through Travcour. The Team at Travcour will be happy to answer specific questions relating to visa applications, please call them directly on 0208 5431846.

### Vaccinations & Protection

#### Norway

The above is not an exhaustive list. Further information regarding vaccinations and travel health advice can be found by following the NHS and NaTHNaC links at <http://www.explore.co.uk/Travelhealth/> and from your local healthcare provider.

#### Spitsbergen

Further information regarding vaccinations and travel health advice can be found by following the NHS and NaTHNaC links at <http://www.explore.co.uk/Travelhealth/> and from your local healthcare provider

# Preparing for your Trip

## Climate

### Norway

Seasonal Climate Despite the northern latitudes the climate in Norway is not extreme, due to the affects of the North Atlantic Drift. Between May and September is the best time to visit this region, with summer temperatures reaching the high teens and rain a regular feature year round along the coast. North of the Arctic Circle the sun does not set between the middle of May and the end of July, so you can expect to encounter the midnight sun during this period.

### Spitsbergen

Between May and September is the best time to visit this region, with summer temperatures reaching a maximum of 5 degrees centigrade. North of the Arctic Circle, the sun does not set between the middle of May and the end of July, so you can expect to encounter the midnight sun during this period.

## Clothing

**Parkas**  
These will be provided by the ship operator. Please register your size with us before travel and we will arrange for your parka to be available in your cabin on arrival.

**Gloves**  
Keeping your hands warm and dry can be a challenge. Thin polypropylene gloves can be worn underneath warm outergloves. This allows you some protection from the cold when removing your gloves to operate your camera etc. We strongly recommend that you bring more than one pair of gloves, in case one gets wet (or lost).

**Hat/Cap**  
Warm, woollen hat/cap to protect your ears, as well as a scarf, neck gaiter or other face protection, such as a balaclava.

**Trousers**  
Water-resistant trousers of coated nylon or, even better, Gore-Tex® are essential for your comfort. They can be worn over your regular clothes to keep you warm and dry. We suggest that you purchase trousers a few sizes larger than you normally wear as you will be wearing them over other clothing. Gore-Tex® or similar fabrics are excellent for keeping out wind and water without trapping excess heat. Rain gear and Gore-Tex® products can be found in any outdoor sport clothing store. In addition to your waterproof trousers, warm ski pants are suggested if you have them. Warm trousers such as jeans, corduroys etc are also good.

**Socks**  
Warm wool socks worn over a thin pair of silk, polypropylene socks should provide enough warmth and insulation for your feet. Bring several pairs of socks, since you will inevitably get your feet wet.

**Outer Clothing** Woollen, knit or cotton sweaters/tops, polar fleece tops (medium weight), several cotton turtlenecks and T-shirts for layering on and off the ship.

**Underclothing**  
Thermal underwear is highly recommended as it will keep you warm without adding bulk. Most polar travellers prefer a lightweight version.

## Equipment

- Sunglasses and sun cream
- Personal toiletries
- A refillable water bottle
- Books/reading material
- Camera and memory cards (and something to protect the camera when out in the elements)
- Seasickness remedy
- Walking poles
- Personal First Aid

## Footwear

Complimentary, used waterproof boots will be supplied onboard. However, guests might want to bring their own if they are the following sizes due to the limited quantities onboard:

- men's UK size 12 & 13 1/2
- women's UK size below three & seven and above

Guests must bring their own if they are:

- men's UK size six 1/2 or smaller
- men's UK size 13 1/2 or larger
- women's UK size two or smaller
- women's UK size nine 1/2 or larger

These are rubber, waterproof boots that are just below your knees with a strong, ridged non-skid sole.

You usually have to step from the Zodiac into icy water up to 30 cm high on most landings. Do not bring heavy, cumbersome boots that make it difficult to walk or boots with metal cleats as they cannot be used for landings. For maximum warmth, wear loose-fitting boots and two pairs of socks. Try out your boots before the voyage.

## 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 trip: 20kg

## General Information

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### Country details

#### Norway

**Population:** 5,000,000

**Size of Country:** 385,252 sq km

**Major Language:** Norwegian

**Religion:** Lutheranism

**Time Difference to GMT:** +1

#### Spitsbergen

**Time Difference to GMT:** +1

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### Electric Supply & Plugs

#### Norway

2 Pin Round

#### Spitsbergen

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 & tailor-made holidays.
- Award winning tour leaders who you can trust.
- Responsible travel is and always has been one of 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, 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.

### 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

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, 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) and have recently supported women's cooperatives in Borneo and Morocco. We are a member of Tourism Concern's Ethical Tour Operator Group ([www.tourismconcern.org.uk](http://www.tourismconcern.org.uk)) and support their campaign for fair and ethical tourism. We also care passionately about the world's wildlife and actively support and promote the Born Free Organisation and Mahouts Elephant Foundation.

## 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 Licence granted by the Civil Aviation Authority. 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 2016 and 31st December 2017.

### Trip 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: 2018 itinerary versions are applicable to tours departing in 2018. 2019/20 itinerary versions are applicable to tours departing from 1st January to 31st December 2019.

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