EXPLORE! Tour Notes

PRICE GUARANTEE 100% NO SURCHARGES

Family Atlas Adventure (FMA 2016 11+ YEARS)

CULTURAL DISCOVERY

TRIPDURATI
9
DAYS

Tour Style: Classic
Tour Pace: Moderate

Tour Type: Small Groups
Accommodation
Grade: Premium

Trip Code: FMA

Trip Highlights - Family Atlas Adventure

- ✓ Marrakech - The snake charmers and acrobats in Djemaa El Fna and the bustling souks of the Red City.
- ✓ The High Atlas - Walk through the foothills of North Africa's greatest mountains.
- ✓ Berber Villages - Meet the friendly local people in remote villages and learn about their life in the mountains.
- ✓ Essaouira - Relax on the beaches of this lively coastal town.

Trip Essentials

Accommodation:	4 nights Hotel 4 nights Standard Hotel
Included Meals:	8 breakfasts, 0 lunches, 0 dinners
Start Point:	Join trip: Marrakech
End Point:	Trip ends: Marrakech
Transport:	Minibus
Countries:	Morocco
Minimum Age:	From 11 years

Family Atlas Adventure

Offering gentle walks, local Berber hospitality and majestic views of dramatic landscapes, the High Atlas mountains provide the perfect location for a family holiday in Morocco. We also relax on the coast at the ancient fishing port of Essaouira and visit the vibrant and beautiful city of Marrakech.

TRIPLE ROOMS
This trip allows the option for triple rooms to be included within the booking on a selected number of night stops within the holiday. If you would like this option, a discount may be applicable on the cost of the trip - please ask our Sales team for further information.

Why Book this trip

The adventure is designed for families who want to explore the highlights of Morocco with the knowledge of staying in comfortable hotel accommodation during the holiday. The itinerary has been designed to travel to the highlights of the area including the Atlas Mountains, Marrakech and the beach resort of Essaouira plus gives the opportunity to walk through the Atlas Mountains and meet local Berber villagers.

Also note, we have priced this trip on a direct flight with BA arriving in the afternoon. There are alternative options including with Air Maroc which flies via Casablanca and arrives late at night.

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: Moderate

These moderately paced tours provide some busy days with plenty of experiences to enjoy, as well as time to relax along the way.

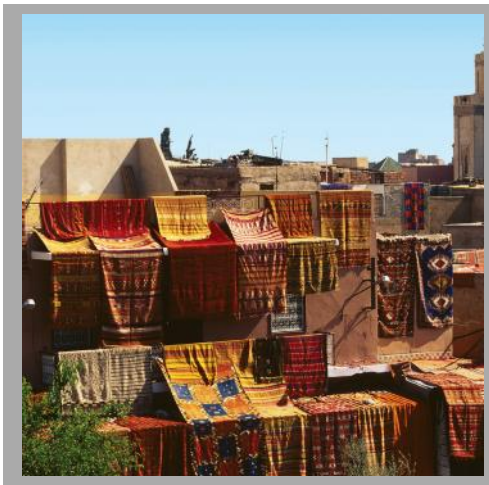
Your trip itinerary

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.

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 Marrakech

Join your tour in the vibrant city of Marrakech. Depending on the schedule of your flights, you may wish to start exploring the Red City independently or you may prefer to relax by the pool, before meeting the group and the Tour Leader at the hotel. The hotel is located in the heart of the new town surrounded by many restaurants with easy access to the main avenue to the old town. The building is modern with the swimming pool on the top terrace and rooms are equipped with satellite TV.

Hotel Almas
Our hotel is a haven of comfort just minutes from the Jamaa El Fna and the Boulevard Mohammed V which is well known for its cafes, restaurants and shops. The hotel also offers views of the city from its panoramic terrace. Facilities include a swimming pool and decking area, restaurant and lobby area. Rooms are well designed and furnished with antique pieces with air-conditioning, TV, mini-bar and wireless internet connection.

Triple Room Available **Swimming Pool Available**

Included Meals: None

DAY 2 In Marrakech; walking tour. Drive to Ouirgane

Like many North African towns, Marrakech is divided into two distinct parts, the Gueliz (the modern French-built city) and the Medina (the Old City). For generations it has been a meeting place for the mountain Berbers and the desert peoples of the south, who come to trade and barter amongst the colourful souks, turning the centre of the old city into a rich cacophony of noise and colour. We journey out into this vibrant city this morning, to enjoy a tour of some of its most enthralling sites with a local guide. You can wander past vendors selling doughnuts and fried grasshoppers, meander through native markets where Muslim women, their hands and feet dyed with henna, call out to sell their wares, and enjoy the sounds and the smells of the exotic. After our tour there will be the option to stay in town and make your own way back to the hotel, taking time to enjoy more of the remarkable Medina, perhaps haggling for a bargain or two, or simply sitting at one of the local cafés and watching the street tableaux unfold before you. The city's beating heart is the spectacular Djemma-el-Fna, a site not to be missed and a scene straight out of the pages of the Arabian Nights. You will find the square alive with storytellers and musicians, jugglers and acrobats, snake charmers and clowns. Marrakech is a city like no other and a walk through its bustling streets will fill the senses and fire the imagination. The city boasts a staggering array of spectacular architecture and wonderful facades. Leaving the city behind this afternoon, we drive south towards the craggy peaks and plunging valleys of the Toubkal Massif.Crossing the Haouz Plain we pass through the tiny town of Asni, from where our road begins to climb towards the foothills of the Massif. Below us the valley of the Oued Rhirhaia stretches out into the distance and small villages cling to the sides of the steep hills as we meander our way towards the village of Ouirgane. The towering peaks of the High Atlas are North Africa's greatest range of mountains, a wild region, culturally removed from the rest of Morocco, and a barrier between the northern plains and the pre-Sahara. This is the land of the fiercely independent Berbers, the Lords of the Atlas, whose traditions and ways still hold sway up here in their mountain strongholds far away from the cities below. The Berbers present us with a unique view of a way of life lost to the rest of North Africa, where music and dance, even language and religion, are far removed from their Arab neighbours. Built in the middle of olive groves, the hotel presents a great place for relaxation with its big swimming pool surrounded by nice gardens. It's isolated location gives the opportunities for many walking options.

Kasbah Shama
Our hotel overlooks the mountains and is decorated throughout with traditional Moroccan designs. The hotel is near the gateway to the National Toubkal Park which allows spectacular views of the snow capped mountains. All rooms are designed in traditional Berber design with an adobe wall, decorated with Moroccan fabrics and crafts and have a private terrace and air-conditioning, Facilities include; a restaurant which serves food grown in the hotels garden, bar, tennis courts, terrace with panoramic views and outdoor pool.

Triple Room Available **Swimming Pool Available**

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 3 Walks in the area and visit a local Berber family for lunch

We walk in the Ouirgane area which presents the perfect spot to enjoy the magnificent scenery of this superb part of North Africa (mules are provided for the younger children). We visit a Berber village and meet a local family for lunch (the cost of this is paid for locally) and learn something more of the unique lifestyles of these most remarkable and hospitable of people. We walk back to our hotel on a different route with panoramic views of the artificial lake of Ouirgane. The rest of afternoon is at leisure by the pool. The walk will last around four hours in total and can be adapted based upon the groups fitness, their interest and local weather conditions.

Kasbah Shama
Our hotel overlooks the mountains and is decorated throughout with traditional Moroccan designs. The hotel is near the gateway to the National Toubkal Park which allows spectacular views of the snow capped mountains. All rooms are designed in traditional Berber design with an adobe wall, decorated with Moroccan fabrics and crafts and have a private terrace and air-conditioning, Facilities include; a restaurant which serves food grown in the hotels garden, bar, tennis courts, terrace with panoramic views and outdoor pool.

Triple Room Available **Swimming Pool Available**

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 4 Drive to Taroudant via Tizi n' Test

Heading south today, we first visit the Tin Mal Mosque. Built in 1156, it is one of the only mosques open to non-Muslims and was once considered the centre of the reign of the powerful Almohades dynasty. After our visit, we take a dramatic drive through the spectacular Tizi n' Test pass and down into the region of the High Atlas. At 2092 m, the scenes from the pass can be quite spectacular, with views back across to the Toubkal Massif and down into the Souss Valley presenting us with some magnificent photo opportunities. Our descent is something of an exhilarating ride, dropping 1600 meters in just 30 km. The views, as you can imagine, are incredible, with mountain peaks and tiny villages nestling amongst the valley slopes laid out before us. We drive along the orange groves to Taroudant, the old capital of the Souss region and arrive with plenty of time to enjoy the surroundings.

Palais Salam
This former palace, now a large hotel, decorated in a modern Moroccan style, is situated in a large park of citrus trees and palms. The two restaurants provide international and Moroccan cuisine and there is also a bar.

Triple Room Available

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 5 Drive to Tiout for walks and visit a local family to learn how to cook a tagine

Today we drive to the oasis town of Tiout, which is on the edge of the Anti Atlas. We meet a local family and learn how to cook a tagine which is a local dish of meat, poultry or fish mixed together with vegetables and is named after the earthenware pot in which it is cooked. A walk around the area allows us to visit an oasis and its traditional irrigation system with panoramic views of the village from an old Kasbah (mules can be hired for the younger children). We walk back to a local Berbers house for lunch (the cost of this is paid for locally) giving the opportunity to experience further the Berber culture. Driving back to Taroudant, the afternoon allows for more time to discover this small and beautiful market town which is surrounded by red-mud walls. The souks are well worth a closer look and you may be able to find a souvenir or two.

Palais Salam
This former palace, now a large hotel, decorated in a modern Moroccan style, is situated in a large park of citrus trees and palms. The two restaurants provide international and Moroccan cuisine and there is also a bar.

Triple Room Available

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 6 Travel to Essaouira via a Argan oil cooperative

Today we dive to the high way towards Marrakech viewing a varied landscape as we cross the high Atlas and passing by almonds forests. Once in Chichaoua, we join the new road to Essaouira stopping off at an a Argan oil women cooperative to learn about the traditional process. The women from different villages work together and produce the precious oil by pressing the nuts by hand until their contents are extracted. We learn about this traditional skill and its economic benefit on the community. After arriving in Essaouira, we meet a local guide and walk around the Medina including the Kasbah, the 15th century Portuguese fortifications and the towns souks. The resort town of Essaouira is a mecca for water sports enthusiasts from all over the region and the town has a lively yet relaxed feel to it, where whitewashed houses and traditional fishing boats present a perfect backdrop for our stay. The town has a rich and somewhat colourful history and its importance as a trading port during the 18th and 19th centuries saw it prosper, attracting British, French, Arab and Jewish merchants and sailors to its shores. These influences are still reflected in the architecture and layout of the town. An interesting footnote is that much of Orson Welles's version of Othello was filmed here, its ramparts and coastline providing a rich and original setting for Shakespeare's Moorish tragedy.

Hotel des Isles

Triple Room Available **Swimming Pool Available**

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 7 Morning camel ride with free afternoon to enjoy the beach

A morning camel ride along the beach gives the opportunity to experience this seaside town from a different angle and we have some free time in the afternoon to indulge as you wish. We suggest a stroll around the old town or visit the Medina again to snap up some of the locally made rustic leather belts and gleaming gold jewellery. The town abounds with galleries and workshops, cafes and souks, making it a pleasurable way to pass the day. For the more active amongst you, you may prefer to take to the beaches for some opportunities to enjoy some walks along the beach. Swimming is possible but please take local advice before entering the water as the surf off these beaches can prove to be too much for less able swimmers.

Hotel des Isles

Triple Room Available **Swimming Pool Available**

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 8 Drive back to Marrakech with free time in the afternoon

With some extra free time this morning to enjoy the last of Essaouira's laid back ambience, or perhaps grab a last minute bargain, we then head back with a stop on the way in one of the famous Argan cooperatives. The women from different villages work together and produce the precious oil by pressing the nuts by hand until their contents are extracted. We will learn about this traditional skill and its economic benefit on the community. On arrival at the 'Red City' of Marrakech, there should be some time this afternoon to explore something more of this wholly captivating city before our final evening. Marrakech is a city like no other and a walk through its bustling streets will fill the senses and fire the imagination. The city boasts a staggering array of spectacular architecture and wonderful facades, but do remember that many of the mosques will be forbidden to non-Muslims and be careful of photographing women, however photogenic they look, as the Moroccans are very sensitive about such things. If you are unsure, it is always best to ask.

Hotel Almas
Our hotel is a haven of comfort just minutes from the Jamaa El Fna and the Boulevard Mohammed V which is well known for its cafes, restaurants and shops. The hotel also offers views of the city from its panoramic terrace. Facilities include a swimming pool and decking area, restaurant and lobby area. Rooms are well designed and furnished with antique pieces with air-conditioning, TV, mini-bar and wireless internet connection.

Triple Room Available **Swimming Pool Available**

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 9 Tour ends Marrakech

Your tour ends today in Marrakech. Depending on the schedule of your flights, you may be able to spend some additional time wandering through the souks of Marrakech and buying your last souvenirs.

Included Meals: Breakfast

Ability to swim required

Whether in swimming pools, rivers, lakes, the sea or the ocean, participation requires that you are able to swim unaided for your safe enjoyment

Accommodation and Meals

Accommodation Rating

The hotel in Marrakech is located in the heart of the new town and surrounded by many restaurants and local shops with a swimming pool, terrace area and rooms that are equipped with satellite TV and air conditioning. Moving on to Ouirgane, the hotel is built in the middle of olive groves in an isolated location which adds to the relaxing atmosphere. The accommodation also has a swimming pool surrounded by pleasant gardens. Our accommodation in Ouled Berhil is a riad - this old residence is in the middle of a beautiful farm of orange trees and a multitude of flowers surrounding the swimming pool - a great place to soak up the atmosphere of this rural area and its tranquillity. The hotel in Imouzar is located outside the village and overlooks the valley with a swimming pool, gardens and a tennis court. Our hotel in the beach resort of Essaouira is a family run residence with a swimming pool and easy access to the beaches and old town.

Food & Drink

Included meals: 8 breakfasts, 0 lunches,0 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.

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.

Morocco

Lunch £: 3.00 - 5.00

Dinner £: 5.00 - 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.

Morocco

Bottle of Beer £: 2.50

Water £: 0.60

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

Ouirgane - Mule hire between 100 to 150 Moroccan Dirham
Ijoukak - Tin Mal Mosque 60 Moroccan Dirham for the group

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 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 approximately 10 Pounds per person for tipping crew and local guides used.

Foreign Exchange

Morocco

Major Language: Arabic, Berber, French.

ATM Availability: ATMs are available in main towns/cities, though can be unreliable.

Credit Card Acceptance: Not all places.

Travellers Cheques: Travellers cheques are difficult to exchange and are not recommended.

Local Currency: Moroccan Dirham (MAD).

Recommended Currency for Exchange: US Dollars, Sterling and Euros are readily exchangeable. We recommend you take a mixture of cash and credit cards. Scottish bank notes and Australian dollar travellers cheques and cash are NOT normally accepted in Morocco.

Where to Exchange: Most major towns - your Tour Leader will advise you.

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, 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

Morocco: Visas are not required by UK, Australian, New Zealand, US and Canadian citizens. 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.

Lone Parents

Morocco

Single parents or other adults travelling alone with children should be aware that some countries require documentation confirming that the individual has authority to travel with the minor. It is crucial that you contact the Morocco embassy for further information on exactly what may be required.

Vaccinations & Protection

Morocco

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

Preparing for your Trip

Climate

Morocco

The climate is both Mediterranean and Atlantic. The dry, hot season is from May to October when summer temperatures can reach 38°C and above (if sight seeing is included we will do our best to avoid the heat of the day during this period). Temperatures may drop significantly at times during the night as the day's heat rapidly diminishes. From December to January snow can be expected on mountain passes and it can be wet. In winter, day temperatures will probably be around 18-25°C, dropping to perhaps 0-5°C.

Clothing

Morocco is a Muslim country and it is important to dress with respect for local customs. People may be offended by shorts or revealing dresses, which can attract unwelcome attention. We advise that in general both men and women should cover shoulders, upper arms and knees. Transparent, plunging necklines and tightfitting clothes should be avoided. Women and older girls should also cover their heads when entering a sanctuary, though in general, mosques are forbidden to non-Muslims. While cycling it is no problem for you to wear your regular cycling gear, tight fitting or not.

Summer: Clothing should be lightweight. However, a warm jumper is also advisable, as the desert can sometimes get cold at nights, even in the summer.

Winter: Warm days but much thicker clothing is essential for cold nights (between November and March). It is advisable to take warm clothing (eg. track suit or thermal underwear) to sleep in, as the quality of heating in Moroccan hotel rooms can be variable. A waterproof jacket, jumper trousers and fleece are recommended between December and March.

Equipment

We recommend a sunhat, high factor sunscreen, a torch, insect repellent and a water bottle.

Footwear

Lightweight trail boots or robust trainers with good traction soles and sandals.

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

Country details

Morocco

Population: 32,000,000

Size of Country: 446,550 sq km

Major Language: Arabic, Berber, French.

ATM Availability: ATMs are available in main towns/cities, though can be unreliable.

Religion: Muslim

Electric Supply & Plugs

Morocco

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, 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, 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 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: 2016 itinerary versions are applicable to tours departing in 2016. 2017/18 itinerary versions are applicable to tours departing from 1st January to 31st December 2017.

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