

EXPLORE!

TRIP NOTES



Family Ancient Jungle and Tropical Beaches (FTTE 2017)



TRIPDURATION
13
DAYS



Tour Style: Classic
Tour Pace: Relaxed

Tour Type: Small Groups
Accommodation
Grade: Standard

Trip Code: FTTE

Trip Highlights - Family Ancient Jungle and Tropical Beaches

- ✓ Bangkok - Take part in a Muay Thai boxing training session and absorb local life on a long-tail boat journey through Bangkok's canal network
- ✓ Khao Sok National Park - Enjoy a canoe trip through this ancient jungle
- ✓ Koh Phangan - Stunning bays, beautiful beaches, waterfalls and forests
- ✓ Ang Thong National Marine Park - Stunning limestone islands home to dolphins, sea otters and monitor lizards
- ✓ Koh Samui - Coconut plantations and perfect palm fringed beaches

Trip Essentials

Accommodation: 2 nights Premium Hotel
2 nights Simple
Overnight Train
2 nights Standard
Lodge
6 nights Standard Hotel

Included Meals: 12 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 0 dinners

Start Point: Join trip: Bangkok
End Point: Trip ends: Bangkok
Transport: Bus, Train, Boat, Ferry
Countries: Thailand
Minimum Age: From 5 years

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Family Ancient Jungle and Tropical Beaches

Southern Thailand is blessed with warm clear waters, tropical islands, ancient jungles and generous hospitality. We try our hand at Thai boxing before visiting one of South East Asia's oldest rainforests to unlock its secrets with a guided walk. In the second week we swap land for sea and travel to Thailand's famous tropical islands and discover pink dolphins in a marine park.

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

This tour is designed for families who want an a relaxing holiday with a few added activities which are varied and sometimes unusual - how about jungle walks, a Thai boxing lesson and a canoe ride in the jungle !. The holiday also provides a number of beach stops and overnight stays with plenty of time to relax and snorkel in the crystal clear waters of the Gulf of Thailand.

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: 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: 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.

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 Bangkok. Optional trip to interactive museum

After arriving in Bangkok, we will check-in to our conveniently located hotel. The rest of the day is free. You may choose to visit the Rattanakosin Exhibition Hall - just a ten-minute walk from our accommodation. This interactive museum is regarded as one of the best in Thailand and helps to bring Bangkok's history and culture to life. Another option is a visit to Wat Saket, known as The Golden Mount. Here, a Buddha relic is housed in a gleaming gold temple, attracting worshippers throughout the year.

Overnight: **Premium Hotel**

Swimming Pool Available 

 **Included Meals:** None

DAY 2 Muay Thai boxing session and long tail boat cruise. Overnight train to Surat Thani

This morning, we visit the Sor Vorapin Gym - the famous Muay Thai training camp, where we will watch Thai Boxing experts in action. Afterwards, we will have the chance to learn training techniques of this traditional martial art ourselves in a training session. This afternoon, we head to Tha Tien Pier, where we will travel on a traditional long tail boat for a cruise along Thonburi's klongs (canals). This is the ideal way to explore Bangkok's network of meandering waterways that continue to serve as an important thoroughfare in the city. Along our route, we watch local life taking place around us - vendors pass by on small wooden boats, filled with vegetables and noodles to be sold to canal-side homes; locals laze on the porches of old teak houses and children throw food to the catfish. We may even see the postman making his deliveries in his engine-powered banana-boat. Returning to our hotel by tuk-tuk, we have some free time to relax before catching the night train to Surat Thani. There will be plenty of time to enjoy dinner at the station before we board our train. Berths are not in compartments, but are arranged open plan either side of a central aisle. During the evening and morning part of the journey, pairs of seats face each other on each side of the aisle. At night, each pair of seats pulls together to form the bottom bunk, and an upper bunk folds out from the wall. The attendant will make up your bunk with a proper mattress and a pillow, bedding and blanket. There's plenty of luggage room. A steward or stewardess from the restaurant car may come round and take your food or drink order, offering you a set menu with several choices, around 180 baht for dinner and 100 baht for breakfast. The meal will be delivered to your seat although you may want to have this in the restaurant car. Toilets and hand wash sinks are located at the end of each carriage.

Overnight: **Simple Overnight Train**

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

DAY 3 Walks in Khao Sok National Park with canoe ride through the park

Arriving in Surat Thani (Punpin) early this morning, there should be time to purchase breakfast at one of the small cafes near the station, before we transfer to our jungle lodge in Khao Sok National Park. Covering an area of some 65000 square kilometres, the park is one of the oldest and most bio-diverse jungles in Southeast Asia. In fact, it boasts lush rainforest that is older than that found in the Amazon or Central Africa. Set against a spectacular backdrop of towering limestone mountains, the park is home to a rich diversity of wildlife, including elephant, tiger and Malaysian sun bear. Some 180 species of birds are also in residence - a delight for both keen birdwatchers and novices alike. This afternoon, we will enjoy a canoe ride through this natural wonderland with the sounds of gibbon calls mingling with the flowing river. Keep your eyes peeled for mischievous monkeys playing in the canopy above and watch out for colourful hornbills and kingfishers as they dart among the trees. The park is also a haven for a wide variety of exotic plants, including bamboo, fig, palms and the carnivorous pitcher plant, which gruesomely consumes its prey in its specially adapted 'bag'. Our jungle lodge will be our base for the next two nights. In this magical setting, we can look forward to the sight of monkeys descending from the surrounding canopy to drink from the river.

Overnight: **Standard Lodge**

Swimming Pool Available 

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

DAY 4 Included guided jungle walk with time to relax and swim in the river

Our second day in the jungle sees us enjoying a guided walk through the dense jungle keeping our eyes peeled for mischievous monkeys playing in the canopy above and watching out for colourful hornbills and kingfishers as they dart amongst the trees. The rest of the day is then free to indulge, explore or relax as you see fit. Our lodge is set close to the river, so a swim in this idyllic and unique setting is a welcome possibility. It is also possible to hire a canoe to explore a bit further afield. This evening, there is the option to go on a walking jungle safari, to witness the jungle bursting with life at night.

Overnight: **Standard Lodge**

Swimming Pool Available 

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

DAY 5 Ferry to Koh Phangan, where we transfer to Salad Beach for a free afternoon

Transferring back to Surat Thani this morning, we board a ferry for the short crossing to Koh Phangan Island, nestled like a jewel among the warm turquoise waters of the Gulf. On arrival, we will be met by songthaews (distinctive Thai minibuses, converted from trucks), which will take us to Salad Beach on the north-western side of the island. This afternoon is free to enjoy the peace and beauty

of this bay. Salad Beach is a perfect spot to base ourselves for the next few days. Renowned as one of the best swimming beaches on the island, it is a 'protected' bay, with no loud music permitted. With white beaches, warm seas and an abundance of marine life, it is an ideal location for a tropical family adventure.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**

Swimming Pool Available 

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

DAY **6** On Koh Phangan with included boat trip around the island

We have two full days here to enjoy this tropical paradise. Our first day includes a boat trip around the island, stopping at a few of its secluded bays and waterfalls, most of which are only possible to reach by boat.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**

Swimming Pool Available 

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch

DAY **7** On Koh Phangan with optional snorkelling

Our second day in this island paradise has been left completely free. You may choose to spend your time exploring the area with mask and snorkel. The clear waters of this region, combined with the coral reefs that ring the island make for fabulous snorkelling. All manner of colourful reef fish, rays, turtles and small reef sharks call these rich waters their home. Your Tour Leader can also arrange taxis to visit fisherman's villages, waterfalls, markets and Had Rin Beach - home to the famous full moon beach parties.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**

Swimming Pool Available 

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

DAY **8** Ferry to Koh Samui with its white sandy beaches and coral reefs

Today, we take a fast ferry to Koh Samui, arriving late in the morning. This is the largest and most developed of the islands in the Sumai Archipelago, with a distinctive mix of quiet palm-fringed beaches, backpacker resorts and coconut plantations. The rest of the day is free for you to relax and explore at your own pace. You may choose to take to the waters with mask and snorkel again, or simply wander the palm-fringed beaches and trails around the island. Koh Samui has a slightly different feel to many of the other islands in southern Thailand, owing in some part to the influence of the Hainan islanders who first settled the island 150 years ago. The Chinese influence is still visible in some of the building in Na Thon, and some descendants of the original settlers still live in the area.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**

Swimming Pool Available 

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

DAY **9** Visit Ang Thong National Marine Park by boat

Today we have the opportunity to visit the beautiful chain of islands that make up the Ang Thong National Marine Park. Once renowned as a haven for pirates, this stunning archipelago's reputation now centres on its pristine beaches, remote bays and virginal rainforest. These limestone islands are home to sea otters, monitor lizards, dolphins and wild pigs, and offer the perfect setting for some aquatic exploration.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**

Swimming Pool Available 

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch

DAY **10** Free day to snorkel or relax on the beach with optional cookery course

Today has been left free to spend as you wish. You may choose to relax on the beach, or enjoy a snorkelling trip around the island. Another option is to take part in a Thai cooking lesson, where an expert cook will teach you the fundamentals of Thai cookery, so that you can recreate this fabulous cuisine back home. There are five basic flavours to Thai cuisine - sweet, sour, salty, creamy and spicy and the lesson will show you the best way to combine the rich tastes with the freshest ingredients, to conjure up a feast.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**

Swimming Pool Available 

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

DAY **11** Boat trip to see Pink Dolphins and overnight train back to Bangkok

Today's boat tour takes us to Khanom, where we hope to spot the famous and rare pink dolphin. Travelling by long tail boat, we will pass through the spectacular South Sea Island National Park, with its 11 islands. Known officially as Indo-Pacific humpback dolphins, the dolphins are born grey, turning pinker as they get older. The species is incredibly endangered, but it is thought that around 60

of them can be found in Taled Bay, where our tour takes us. En route, we are likely to see Khanom fishermen going about their daily work. We then drive to Ban Tha Sathon hot spring where we can relax and enjoy the surroundings and get a chance to meet Thai children who use the springs to bathe. Continuing onto the station, we catch our overnight train back to Bangkok.

Overnight: **Simple Overnight Train**

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

DAY **12** Free in Bangkok. Optional Tuk Tuk ride to the Grand Palace, Emerald Buddha and Wat Po

After arriving in Bangkok try a traditional Thai breakfast of Jok Moo (rice porridge), Khanom Kluk (coconut pancake) or Khao Neow Moo Ping (grilled pork and sticky rice) or similar before transferring to our hotel, the rest of the day is free to use as you wish. One option is to join a sightseeing tour. Travelling by tuk-tuk, you will head for the magnificent Grand Palace, where a local guide will show you around. Regarded as the most impressive site in the city and dating from the 18th century, this huge edifice represents the re-emergence of the Thai nation, after years of Burmese oppression. Its unrivalled collection of palaces, golden stupas, Wats (temples) and ornately decorative statues are definitely worth exploring. The tour continues by foot to the rambling complex of Wat Po. Older than the city itself, this is home to the fabulous reclining Buddha - a 46-metre golden plated statue, depicting Lord Buddha as he enters Nirvana. Those who choose to join this tour will return to the hotel by tuk-tuk and have the rest of the day to spend as they wish.

Overnight: **Premium Hotel**

Swimming Pool Available 

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

DAY **13** Tour ends Bangkok

Tour ends after breakfast. If you have time you may wish to wander through Chinatown for a different flavour of the city.

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

Ability to swim required

An ability to swim is essential for your safe enjoyment of the water based activities on this trip. If you wish to participate in these activities then we insist that you are able to swim.

Accommodation and Meals

Food & Drink

Included meals: 12 breakfasts, 2 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.

Thailand

Lunch £: 3.00 - 5.00

Dinner £: 4.00 - 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.

Thailand

Bottle of Beer £: 1.50

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Water £: 0.50

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

Khao Sok NP - Night Safari US\$ 25

Koh Samui - Thai cookery course £40 (3hrs)

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 recognised part of life in this region of the world. Some local staff will look to members of the group for personal recognition of particular services provided. Accordingly, you should allow £20 (per family member) for tipping.

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.

Foreign Exchange

Thailand

ATM Availability: ATMs are available in Bangkok but are limited on the islands.

Credit Card Acceptance: Major stores and restaurants.

Travellers Cheques: Can be exchanged at banks and exchange offices throughout the tour although rates may not be as favourable.

Local Currency: Thai Baht

Recommended Currency for Exchange: We recommend that you bring your money in GBP or US\$.

Where to Exchange: Most major towns and on the islands - your Tour Leader will advise you on arrival.

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.

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 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.

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

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 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

Thailand: Visas are not required by UK, Australian, New Zealand, US and Canadian citizens for a stay of less than 30 days. All passports must have at least 6 months validity remaining on entry to Thailand. Other nationalities should consult their local embassy or consular office.

You should confirm all visa related questions with the relevant Embassy prior to departure.

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 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**.

Lone Parents

Thailand

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 Thailand embassy for further information on exactly what may be required.

Vaccinations & Protection

Thailand

Nothing compulsory, we recommend protection against malaria, typhoid, tetanus, diphtheria, polio and infectious hepatitis. Although not compulsory, travellers may also wish to immunise themselves against Japanese encephalitis. Consult your travel clinic for latest advice on Malaria and Zika Virus. Please take preventative measures to avoid mosquito bites - these include mosquito repellent as well as long trousers and long sleeve shirts to cover up when necessary. 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.

Preparing for your Trip

Climate

Thailand

Generally hot with high humidity. There is some rainfall from April to September with most days being hot (around 33 Degrees) and a light breeze on the islands. If it does rain, it will be more of a heavy tropical downpour that lasts a few hours. Additional information and climate charts can be accessed at <http://www.explore.co.uk/weather>.

Clothing

Pack essentially for hot weather. Bear in mind that the region is tropical (humid) and that days can be very hot. Lightweight rainwear or an umbrella is advisable all year. Casual clothes are the most practical (something with long sleeves, and long trousers for evenings), and tight fitting garments should be avoided. Laundry facilities are available on the islands. A swimming costume is a must. When visiting temples men and women will need to cover their shoulders (shawls over clothing are not accepted) and shorts are also not appropriate for either sex.

Equipment

A small torch, insect repellent and water bottle. Bring a beach towel and high factor sunscreen. If you intend to do much snorkelling we recommend you bring your own mask and snorkel, as local equipment is not always top quality. A disposable waterproof camera can be useful whilst snorkelling. Any qualified divers should remember to bring logbooks and certification with them if intending to dive.

Footwear

Comfortable shoes and sandals. Flipflops are useful when hopping on and off boats.

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

Thailand

Population: 67,000,000

Size of Country: 514,000 sq km

Major Language: Thai

Religion: Buddhism

Time Difference to GMT: +7

Electric Supply & Plugs

Thailand

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) 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: 2017 itinerary versions are applicable to tours departing in 2017. 2018/19 itinerary versions are applicable to tours departing from 1st January to 31st December 2018.

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