EXPLORE! Tour Notes

PRICE GUARANTEE 100% NO SURCHARGES

Saigon to Bangkok Explorer (FQBK 2014 TEEN)

CULTURAL DISCOVERY

TOUR DURATION **14** DAYS

Tour Style: Simply
Tour Pace: Moderate
Tour Type: Small Groups
Tour Comfort: Simple
Tour Code: FQBK

Tour Highlights - Saigon to Bangkok Explorer

- ✓ Ho Chi Minh City - Learn about the resourcefulness of the Viet Cong at the Cu Chi Tunnels
- ✓ Mekong Delta - Riverside stilt houses and fascinating floating markets
- ✓ Siem Reap - Gateway to the iconic and awe-inspiring Khmer temple complex of Angkor
- ✓ Koh Chang - Golden sand beaches and warm waters of the Gulf of Thailand
- ✓ Bangkok - Explore the glittering Grand Palace complex and the beautiful temple of the Reclining Buddha (Wat Po)

Tour Essentials

Accommodation:	13 nights Standard Hotel
Included Meals:	10 breakfasts, 1 lunch, 0 dinners
Start Point:	Join tour: Ho Chi Minh City
End Point:	Tour ends: Bangkok
Transport:	Boat, Public Bus, Taxi, Minibus
Countries:	Vietnam, Thailand
Minimum Age:	From 11 years

Saigon to Bangkok Explorer

This action-packed journey across Vietnam, Cambodia and Thailand takes us to many of Southeast Asia's great sights: from vibrant cities to dense jungles and tropical beaches. We explore the Cu Chi tunnels from the Vietnam War, discover the impressive temples of ancient Angkor where Tomb Raider and many other films have been shot, and visit the floating markets of the Mekong Delta.

Why Book this tour

This trip is for families that want the maximum coverage from their holidays. With visits to Vietnam, Cambodia and Thailand, you will be able to see the highlights of each country including Angkor Wat, Cu Chi Tunnels, the Killing Fields and the Mekong Delta as well as visiting famous cities such as Bangkok and Ho Chi Minh City, all within 14 days and at a great price as well.

Suitability

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

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

Tour Comfort: Simple

These are often small, family run establishments or campsites which provide a no-frills experience with adequate amenities and service standards. Sleeping arrangements are simple, typically with en suite facilities.

Tour Style: Simply

Light on your pocket but not on adventure, these fun and flexible tours let you choose how much or little you spend on activities, sightseeing and food. Staying in simple accommodation, these tours are great value for money, using mainly public transport to get around; you are assured of a fun and authentic travel experience.

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 tour itinerary

Tour itinerary notes

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

Your Tour Leader

We believe that our Tour Leaders are the key to the success of our tours. Handpicked and expertly trained, they are native to the region and bursting with first-hand local knowledge which they love to share. Their passionate approach will make your tour fun and inspiring, bringing the destination to life whether you're travelling alone or with others. Your tour leader will also take care of all the planning and organisation throughout your journey, enabling you to relax and enjoy the experience fully.

Our multi-country tours often have more than one tour leader, which helps us to really get under the skin of each unique destination. As such, the FQBK tour has one tour leader for Thailand and another for the Vietnam and Cambodia section.

DAY 1 Join tour Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon)

Arrive Ho Chi Minh City and check-in at the hotel. Also referred to as Saigon we start our adventure in Vietnam's largest, and arguably most exciting, city in Vietnam. Saigon is an eclectic mix of the traditional and the new, where pagodas and markets compete alongside the trappings of Vietnam's newly discovered entrepreneurial spirit. Your time is free to settle in.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**

DAY 2 Morning visit to Cu Chi Tunnels; Afternoon cyclo tour of Saigon

After breakfast this morning we head out to visit the infamous Cu Chi tunnels. First constructed by the Vietnamese during their colonial war with the French, the tunnels were later greatly expanded and went on to achieve notoriety during the Vietnam War, when they served as an underground com-mand base for 10,000 Viet Cong troops. Exploring Cu Chi gives some idea as to the conditions that the Vietnamese and their American adversaries had to endure but, be warned, the tunnels are narrow and can be quite claustrophobic. Please note that we will share the transport to and from Cu Chi with other tourists. This afternoon we take a cyclo tour of Saigon, visiting Chinatown and the bustling Binh Tay market.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**

DAY 3 Drive to Cai Be to visit the local villages. Afternoon drive to Can Tho

After breakfast this morning we head for Cai Be and its famous floating market. On arrival we cruise out into the middle of a colourful flotilla of boats laden with goods of every kind, to enjoy the lively hustle and bustle of the market. We then continue by boat along the river, to a local village where we visit a family business producing popcorn and rice pa-per. After lunch at a local village house, and a relaxing sampan ride, we finally disembark at Vinh Long. From here we complete the journey to Can Tho by road.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**

DAY 4 Morning boat cruise to Cai Rang floating market then drive to Chau Doc

One of the most colourful attractions of the Mekong is its floating markets and this morning we visit the biggest in the Delta, at Cai Rang. After spending some time paddling through the market, soaking up the atmosphere and enjoying the friendly attentions of the locals, we then visit the Binh Thuy Ancient House. A beautiful old property, which dates back to the end of the 19th century, the house is filled with a wonderful collection of an-tiques and memorabilia. After our visit we drive to Chau Doc.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**

DAY 5 Morning speed boat to Phnom Penh

Driving to the jetty in Chau Doc this morning, we board an early morning speed boat to Phnom Penh, a four and a half hour river journey that takes us up the Hau Giang River into neighbouring Cambodia.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**

DAY 6 Free in Phnom Penh to visit the Royal Palace, National Museum, or the Killing Fields

Cambodia's historic capital, Phnom Penh sits at the confluence of the Sap, Mekong and Bassac Rivers. A rich testament to the country's ancient and colonial past, the city is filled with reminders of its diverse cultural heritage. A free day offers a chance to explore something of this for yourselves, perhaps taking in the grandeur of the Royal Palace and the National Museum, or visiting the Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum and the Killing Fields of Choeung Ek, gruesome reminders of life under the brutal Khmer Rouge.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**

DAY 7 Public bus to Siem Reap. Afternoon orientation tour

Travelling by public bus, we head next for the jungle temples of Siem Reap, one of the most expansive and famous archaeological sites anywhere in South East Asia. After the 5 hour journey we check in to our hotel and take an orientation tour of the town on foot later this afternoon.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**

DAY 8 Full day visits to Angkor Thom and Angkor Wat

The Angkor temples at Siem Reap span a period of some 600 years, from the 9th to the 15th centuries. Travelling by local tuk tuk, we visit two of the most famous temple sites today, those of Angkor Thom and Angkor Wat. The fortified city of Angkor Thom was originally built at the end of the 12th Century and was a formidable sight in its day; surrounded by eight metres walls, towering gates and a crocodile filled moat. Our second visit is to the beautiful setting of Angkor Wat, without doubt the most renowned and impressive of Siem Reap's jungle temples.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**

DAY 9 Free in Siem Reap with opportunity to visit the Ta Phrom, made famous in the Tomb Raider film

Today has been left free for you to enjoy Siem Reap at your own pace. A great way to explore is by bicycle or rickshaw, travelling around the sites with the freedom to come and go as you please. You can visit the atmospheric ruins at Ta Phrom, made famous in the Tomb Raider film, or take a boat trip along the Roulous River to the floating villages and forests on Tonle Sap (the largest freshwater lake in South East Asia). Another possibility is a visit to the fascinating Landmine Museum, just to the south of Banteay Srei Temple.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**

DAY 10 Morning bus to border. Afternoon bus then ferry to Koh Chang Island

We take another bus this morning, to Poipet on the Thai border. Meeting our Thai guide the other side of border control, we then continue in private minivans towards the Gulf of Thailand and our ferry across to Koh Chang. The journey from the border to the ferry will take us around three and a half hours, with a further hour required to cross from the mainland to the island by public ferry. We aim to arrive at our hotel on Koh Chang early this evening.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**

DAY 11 Free on Koh Chang Island for snorkelling or relax on the beaches

Koh Chang is Thailand's second largest island, set in the midst of a beautiful protected marine reserve lying off the country's southeastern coast. The ideal spot then for some exhilarating land and water based fun. You can take a tour of the island by vehicle, or hike up to the summit of one of the island's forested mountains. The seas around Koh Chang are rich in colourful reefs and marine life, making a full day's snorkelling trip another exciting option. Of course, you may just prefer to relax and make the most of the golden beaches and warm waters.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**

DAY 12 Travel to Bangkok by ferry and bus

Returning to the Thai mainland by ferry this morning, we then continue by road to Bangkok, some 330 kilometres to the east. Taking a public bus from the Trat bus terminus, the five hour journey to the capital should get us into Bangkok sometime late this afternoon.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**

DAY 13 Free in Bangkok to visit the Grand Palace or cruise along the city's Klongs

You may like to use your free time today to pay a visit to two of Bangkok's most impres-sive monuments; the 18th century Grand Palace and the rambling complex of Wat Po, which is older than the city itself and home to the fabulous 46 metre reclining Buddha. Another option is to take a cruise along the city's Klongs in a traditional long-tail boat. This is the ideal way to explore something of Bangkok's network of meandering wa-terways, taking in the Royal Barge Museum and the iconic Wat Arun (the Temple of the Dawn) along the way.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**

DAY 14 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.

Ability to swim required

Accommodation and Meals

Accommodation Rating

On this tour we have opted for simple, basic and clean accommodation that provides value for money and a warm welcome. All hotel rooms have air-conditioning and attached bathrooms. Expect rooms to be furnished in a no frills manner and be prepared for both electricity supply and plumbing standards to be somewhat erratic.

Food & Drink

Included meals: 10 breakfasts, 1 lunch,0 dinners included in the price of this tour. Please be prepared to pay for non-included meals. Please note that costs for drinks and meals can vary depending on location.

Budgeting for your Tour

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

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

Bangkok - Long tailed klong boat trip including Royal Barge museum and Wat Arun US$18.00; Grand Palace (entrance fee only) US$17.00; Wat Po (entrance fee only) US$3.00
Siem Reap - One-day Angkor Temples pass US$20; Bicycle/rickshaw hire approximately US$15-20 per day; Land Mines Museum US$5; Tonle Sap boat optional US$14
Phnom Penh - Royal palace US$7; National Museum US$3; Visit to Tuol Sleng & the Killing Fields US$15; Mekong River cruise US$12
Ho Chi Minh City - War Remnants Museum US$2; Reunification Palace US$2
Optional excursions offered in Vietnam are generally run via our agent in the country. Other companies to be found locally may offer similar optionals at a cheaper price. Should you want to use these companies please be aware that a lower price may mean that not all costs are included (entrance fees etc) or services will not operate at the same safety and quality standards.

Tipping - Tour Leader

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

Tipping - Local Crew

Although entirely voluntary, tipping is a recognized part of life in this region of the world. Some local staff will look to members of the group for personal recognition of particular services provided. In order to make things easier for you, the Tour Leaders may organise a group's tips kitty and if this is the case, they will account for it throughout the tour.
Accordingly you should allow approximately £20 for tipping.

Foreign Exchange

Vietnam

ATM Availability: There are ATMs virtually everywhere in Vietnam and in Cambodia, though we also recommend bringing cash.

Credit Card Acceptance: Some shops in Hanoi, and Hoi An. The occasional restaurant.

Travellers Cheques: Travellers cheques can usually be changed in the towns, but only during bank opening hours.

Local Currency: Dong.

Recommended Currency for Exchange: Carry your money in US$ Dollars cash.You can also take GBP but US$ are easier to exchange. (Dollar bills can be used in some hotels and shops; change is often given in local currency).

Where to Exchange: Most towns.

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 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 Tour

Flight Information

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

Booking a land only package with Explore

For passengers making their own travel arrangements, please ensure you join the group as described on day one of the tour itinerary. If you are considering purchasing your own airline tickets, you can book these through any travel agent, directly with an airline or through an online flight consolidator. In all cases, we would be happy to arrange transfers to and from the joining point of your tour if required.

Joining Tour Abroad

Clients booked on **'Land Only'** arrangements should make their own way to the joining point. Please refer to separate **'Joining Instructions'** for time and place of rendezvous with tour leader

Booking a flight inclusive package with Explore

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

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

Important Information

Travel Insurance

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

If you require travel insurance for your tour, Explore Worldwide is an appointed representative of Campbell Irvine Limited, who is authorised and regulated by the Financial Services authority. Our travel insurance policy is specially tailored to the needs of the adventure traveller and will cover you for any included activity on any Explore trip. You can either purchase this at the time of booking or call us on 0844 499 0903 after you have booked.

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.

Cambodia: A single visa is required by UK, New Zealand, Australian, USA & Canadian citizens and can be obtained on arrival. The current cost is 20USD, a passport sized photograph for immigration will also be required. Alternatively, you can arrange your visa in advance in the form of an e-Visa. To make your application, and for more information contact the Cambodian Ministry of Foreign Affair's direct at www.mfaic.gov.kh.

Vietnam: A single entry visa is required by UK, New Zealand, Australian, US and Canadian citizens and must be obtained prior to departure from your embassy of residence. Visas can be obtained through Explore's recommended visa service in the UK. Please contact: Visaswift, at http://www.visaswift.com/explore.aspx.

Other nationalities should consult their local embassy or consular office.

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

Lone Parents

Vietnam

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

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

Vietnam

Nothing compulsory, we recommend protection against malaria, typhoid, tetanus, diphtheria, polio and hepatitis A. Consult your travel clinic for latest advice on different prophylaxis available against malaria. Although not compulsory travellers may also wish to immunise themselves against Japanese encephalitis. 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. Visa and vaccination requirements are subject to change and should be confirmed before departure.

Thailand

Nothing compulsory, we recommend protection against malaria, typhoid, tetanus, diphtheria, polio and infectious hepatitis. Consult your travel clinic for latest advice on different prophylaxis available against malaria. Although not compulsory, travellers may also wish to immunise themselves against Japanese encephalitis. 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 Tour

Climate

Vietnam

As Vietnam is a long, narrow country from north to south climate conditions vary considerably. The climate can be divided into three distinct patterns between the north, central and south regions. The climate in the north is generally humid and subtropical, although the winter months from November to March can be colder with temperatures from 10 - 15 degrees. Summer months, May to September can be quite hot with temperatures from 30 - 35 degrees. Meanwhile south Vietnam enjoys a tropical climate all year round, with little variation throughout the year (around 27 - 32 degrees), however May to November is the rainy season when short, heavy downpours are quite frequent. Central Vietnam lies somewhere in between. The coastal strip is usually dry and hotter from April to October while November to March is wetter and cooler. A light rain jacket and small umbrella are recommended year round.

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 at any time of the year, but especially between May and October. Casual clothes are the most practical (something with long sleeves, and long trousers for evenings) bear in mind that very short shorts are generally unacceptable and a sunhat
is essential. Shorts, vests, revealing or casual clothes and open backed sandals are not permitted in the Grand Palace in Bangkok.

Equipment

A torch, water bottle, insect repellent and high factor suncream are all essential, as are good quality sunglasses and a lip salve with sun protection. Don't forget your swim wear.

Footwear

Comfortable shoes and sandals/trainers for relaxing.

Luggage: On Tour

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

Luggage allowance on tour: 20kg

General Information

Food

The prices for meals and 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. 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.

Vietnam

Lunch £: 4.00

Dinner £: 9.00

Thailand

Lunch £: 2.50

Dinner £: 4.00

Drink

Vietnam

Bottle of Beer £: 1.50

Water £: 0.50

Thailand

Bottle of Beer £: 1.50

Water £: 0.50

Country details

Vietnam

Population: 90,549,390

Size of Country: 331,698 sq km

Major Language: Vietnamese

Religion: Mahayana Buddhism, Taoism and Confucianism

Time Difference to GMT: +7

Thailand

Population: 67,000,000

Size of Country: 514,000 sq km

Major Language: Thai, English

Religion: Buddhist

Time Difference to GMT: +7

Electric Supply & Plugs

Vietnam

2 Pin Round

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 & tailormade holidays.
- Award winning tour leaders who you can trust.
- Responsible travel is and always has been one the driving principles of Explore.

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

Our commitment to the environment

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

When you travel with Explore, you are directly contributing to local economies and helping empower the people you meet. We currently support a range of charities and good causes, including: The Sunshine Orphanage (which cares for abandoned children in Luxor, Egypt), Education for All (sponsoring children through their secondary education in Morocco), The Hope Foundation (helping an Indian Village to recover from the 2004 Tsunami) and the Mufindi Orphanage, which support AIDS orphans in Tanzania.

We also care passionately about the world's wildlife. We are patrons of the Born Free Organisation, Travel Operators for Tigers (helping save the Bengal Tiger from extinction) and Friends for Conservation. We have also adopted a beautiful Sri Lankan Elephant called 'Serendip'.

We are delighted to have received a Five Star sustainable tourism status from the Association of Independent Tour Operators in recognition of our on-going commitment to sustainable tourism.

Cool Earth

Explore are delighted to support Cool Earth to reduce carbon emissions through preventing the illegal deforestation of the South America rainforest. One of the top sources of global carbon emissions, rainforest deforestation equivalent to the USA's annual emissions, it also destroys flora and fauna, sometimes to the point of extinction. It also degrades the lives and communities of the 350 million residents of the rainforest.

Cool Earth prevents the deforestation through its support of local communities as forest guardians and by focussing on areas in immediate danger of deforestation. It has so far protected over 350,000 acres of rainforest, with each acre saving an emission of 260 tons of CO2, as well as protecting rare animals and plants. When you travel on an Explore holiday we make a donation to Cool Earth that exceeds the impact of our customers flights each year. In addition to mitigating emissions, when you travel with Explore, you are helping to protect the source of 20% of the world's fresh water and oxygen, as well as the livelihoods of the 1.6 billion people who are reliant on the rainforest. www.coolearth.org

Earth Matters

- The Travel Foundation

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

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

Know before you go

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

Booking Your Holiday

Peace of mind - book with confidence

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

The air holiday packages (Tours including flights) that we advertise are ATOL protected, since we hold an Air Travel Organiser's 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.

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 2013 and 31st December 2014.

Tour Itinerary Versions

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

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

Please note: 2014 itinerary versions are applicable to tours departing in 2014. 2015/16 itinerary versions are applicable to tours departing from 1st January to 31st December 2015.

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