

EXPLORE!

TRIP NOTES



Greek Island Wanderer (GW 2017)



TRIP DURATION
15
DAYS



Tour Style: Classic
Tour Pace: Moderate

Tour Type: Small Groups
Accommodation
Grade: Standard

Trip Code: GW

Trip Highlights - Greek Island Wanderer

- ✓ Athens - Take a walking tour of the Plaka, Athens old quarter
- ✓ Syros - Capital of the Cyclades Islands; opportunity to walk to Stefanos Cave
- ✓ Paros - Chance to walk along an ancient Byzantine road
- ✓ Santorini - Stunning volcanic scenery and pretty villages with white washed houses
- ✓ Naxos - Option to walk up Mount Zeus, the highest peak in the Cyclades
- ✓ Traditional food - Enjoy local food in waterside taverns

Trip Essentials

Accommodation: 14 nights Standard Hotel
Included Meals: 14 breakfasts, 0 lunches, 0 dinners
Start Point: Join trip: Athens
End Point: Trip ends: Athens
Transport: Bus, Taxi, Ferry
Countries: Greece

Greek Island Wanderer

Explore the gleaming waterfront harbours, beautiful coves and long sandy beaches of the Cyclades Islands. Travelling by ferry we visit the islands of Syros, Paros, Santorini and Naxos. Join us for exploratory walks or relax in beachside taverns enjoying the local cuisine. Syros is the capital of the Cyclades and whilst here we walk to the remarkable Church of Agios Stefanos, located in a cave at the sea edge. Santorini is probably the best known of the islands and is one of the most picturesque areas in the Aegean with its whitewashed churches and blue-domed roofs. It's also of particular interest to those keen on the Lost Atlantis legend. Formerly a huge volcano, its centre disappeared in an enormous explosion around 1450 BC and now forms a lagoon.

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: 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

An Explore Leader is an integral part of any Explore trip and your trip will be led by one of our experienced Explore Leaders who have been handpicked and expertly trained. We believe that our Explore Leaders are the key to the success of our trips; they are passionate travellers who are bursting with first-hand local knowledge which they love to share. Your Explore Leader will also take care of all the planning and organisation throughout your journey. Their passionate approach will make this trip fun and inspiring, bringing the destination to life whether you're travelling alone or with others.

DAY 1 Join trip in Athens

Arrive in Athens and check-in to our hotel. Athens has been the capital of Greece for less than 200 years but it has grown rapidly in size. It is part of the Plain of Attica, an area of amazingly varied scenery, from high mountains covered by pine forests to a stunningly beautiful coastline with a myriad of harbours.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**
Single Room Available

Swimming Pool Available 

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 **Included Meals:** None

DAY 2 Walking tour of Athens; chance to visit the Acropolis

This morning we take a walking orientation tour of Plaka with our Explore Leader to soak up the atmosphere of the old town. You may choose to stroll around the shops, try the freshly caught fish and seafood or listen to bouzouki music in an outdoor cafe. You'll notice the contrast between the modern capital and the old one - the well-heeled inhabitants of Kolonaki on the one hand and the vibrant Plaka old quarter on the other. The rest of the day is free for you to discover more of this historical and bustling city at your own pace. You might like to take a tour of the Acropolis and climb the winding path to the top of this sacred rock that has been used since Neolithic times. At the top you'll find the majestic ruins of the Athens of Pericles: the Propylaea (or marble entrance hall), the Parthenon (built by Ictinos 2500 years ago), the Temple of Athena Nike (the Wingless Victory) and - the monument most venerated by the ancient Athenians themselves - the Erechtheion. Tradition relates that the gods Athena and Poseidon quarrelled here. The sea-god struck the rock with his trident, causing salt water to gush out, while Athena hit it with her spear and brought forth an olive tree. As olives were deemed to be more useful, the other gods let her take the city under her protection. Other attractions that you might like to visit this afternoon include the new Acropolis Museum, which is about 5-minutes walk from the main site, the National Archaeological Museum or the Olympic Stadium. For those that love to shop and like trying local food then the central market is a must with a huge variety of fruit, meat, fish and bread on sale amongst other things. You may like to walk up or take the funicular train to Likavitos which affords great views across the city below. As well as exploring on foot you could purchase a 24-hour ticket for the local trams and public transport to help you cover as much ground as possible.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**
Single Room Available

Swimming Pool Available 

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

DAY 3 Ferry to Syros; afternoon free to explore or walk to Stefanos Cave

We transfer from our hotel to Piraeus and board the ferry for Syros. The voyage takes about four hours. We disembark at Syros harbour and transfer to our hotel in Galissas. Syros is the capital of the Cyclades and covers an area of about 35 square miles. The island produces 'loukoumi', the Greek version of Turkish Delight. Ermoupoli, the capital, is situated on the east of the island and its port is a bustling centre for inter-island commerce. This afternoon you may like to join your Explore Leader for a three hour walk to Stefanos Cave. This is a moderate walk with several steep uphill sections and the terrain near to the cave is more challenging. The cave is home to the Roman Catholic Church of Agios Stefanos, which is built into the walls of the cave and located just above the sea waves below. It's a fascinating sight and well worth the walk to get there. If you're not joining the walk then this afternoon is free for you to relax on the long beach near to our hotel with shallow waters ideal for swimming or to explore the village of Galissas. The village is a peaceful spot set around a small and pretty harbour in a scenic agricultural area.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**
Single Room Available

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

DAY 4 Chance to walk along the coast of Syros from Vari to Azolimnos

Today you may like to join an easy to moderate walk with your Explore Leader. You'll take a local bus to Vari and begin our walk for about one to one and half hours to Azolimnos. This will give you an excellent taste of the island's scenery. Once you arrive here you can either return by bus or stay a while to enjoy a swim and relaxation on the beach and lunch in a nearby tavern before then either taking the bus back to Galissas or walking back to Vari and taking the bus back from there. Later this afternoon you may choose to join a bus tour of the island to see more of the fantastic surrounding.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**
Single Room Available

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

DAY 5 Option to enjoy a variety of coastal walks; catch the ferry to Paros

There's the opportunity to join a further coastal walk before we transfer to Ermoupoli this afternoon. You'll have free time to discover the island's capital before we board our ferry this evening to Paros. The journey is approximately one and half hours. On arrival we'll transfer to our hotel in Drios. Paros is one of the most attractive of all the Cycladic Islands, with an area of 64 square miles. Its capital is Paroikia, on the west coast. Dominating the interior is Mount Profitis Ilias (770 m) on the slopes of which are the famous marble quarries.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**
Single Room Available

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

DAY 6 Opportunity to enjoy a walk along the Byzantine road

The island was the birthplace of the poet Archilochos, the inventor of iambic verse. Among the many places of interest are the marble quarries, the picturesque fishing villages and a Venetian Fortress. Especially interesting is the church, Ekatonpilian (Church of 100 Doors), about which a legend says that when the 100th door is discovered the Greeks will take back Constantinople (Istanbul). Today, you may choose to join your Explore Leader for a walk along one of the well preserved Byzantine paths that cross the island. This is an easy walk that takes around one to one half hours. We'll use the public bus to reach the trailhead at the traditional mountain village of Lefkes. This is a very popular walk and the path is lined with wild herbs such as thyme, sage and oregano so it's a sweet scented experience too. We'll finish our walk at Prodomos where there will be the chance to stop at a local cafe to enjoy homemade ice cream and baklava. Here in the side streets you'll usually find the locals playing a game chess or backgammon. From here we'll take the bus back to Drios or there may be the opportunity to stop in Piso Livadi for lunch or a further walk along the coast. Once back in Drios you can relax on the Golden Beach or you may like to join a cooking lesson of traditional Greek cuisine.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**
Single Room Available

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

DAY 7 Free day in Paros to explore or perhaps visit Antiparos

You may choose today to take an excursion by boat to the nearby island of Antiparos. Whilst there, you can head for the southerly end of the island, to an interesting stalactite cavern. There is also the opportunity to explore the marine life of the area with local oceanographers who run diving and snorkelling trips. If you'd before to stay on Paros then there's also the chance to snorkel from the Golden Beach.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**
Single Room Available

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

DAY 8 Ferry to Santorini; you may choose to partake in a wine tasting

This morning we transfer to Parikia to catch the ferry to the island of Santorini. The trip takes approximately three hours. On arrival we transfer to our hotel in the traditional village of Megalochori. Santorini (or Thira, as the island is also known) lies some 128 nautical miles southeast of Piraeus, is the most southerly of the Cycladic Islands. It's one of the most picturesque areas in the Aegean and the familiar images of whitewashed churches with blue-domed roofs adorn this beautiful landscape. It's also an area of particular interest to those keen on the Lost Atlantis legend. Formerly a huge volcano, its centre disappeared in an enormous explosion around 1450 BC and now forms a lagoon. The eruption overwhelmed the Minoan settlements at Akrotiri as well as those on Crete. This evening you can choose to join a local wine tasting at Gavalas Winery in Megalochori. The island is best known for its delicious white wines.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**
Single Room Available

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

DAY 9 Option to walk up an active volcano and cruise to Thirassia

Today is free for you to enjoy relaxing or exploring this beautiful island or you may like to join a cruise to an active volcano. For those who wish, there is the opportunity to take the dramatic path to the peak of the volcano and to stand in the centre of the Caldera. The climb takes around 2 hours and the ascent is steep in places. There'll also be the chance to enjoy a swim in the sea to warm springs. The last stop on the cruise is the tiny island of Thirassia. You'll have a couple of hours to relax in the bay here with views of the volcano out to sea. There's time for lunch here or to climb up through the hillside village and walk around the surrounding vineyards.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**
Single Room Available

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

DAY 10 Chance to walk from Fira to Oia

This morning you have the opportunity to join our Explore Leader for a coastal walk from Fira to Oia. This is a moderate walk and takes approximately four hours. It offers some great views along the way out to sea and of the surrounding countryside. This afternoon you may choose to visit the Museum of Ancient Thira, head for the Red Beach to swim and relax by the sea or visit the ancient Minoan site at Akrotiri.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**
Single Room Available

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

DAY **11** Opportunity to walk to the ruins of ancient Thira; ferry to Naxos

There will be an opportunity to walk to the ruins of the former capital of Thira from Perissa today. This interesting site dates back to 6th century BC. You can see the temple ruins here and also take in the spectacular sea views. The walk to Thira is moderate to challenging as it's quite a steep climb over an uneven path; it takes around one hour each way. Following our visit we'll walk back to the black sand beach at Perissa where you have the chance to swim and enjoy lunch before taking the public bus back to Megalochori. Later this afternoon we'll transfer to the port and take the ferry to Naxos. The crossing takes around two hours and we disembark at Naxos harbour and walk to our hotel in Naxos town. The island of Naxos is the largest and some would argue the most beautiful of the Cyclades. The god Dionysus is believed to have lived on the island and taught the inhabitants to cultivate wine. Indeed, Naxos white wine today has a very good reputation.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**
Single Room Available

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

DAY **12** Free day in Naxos with the option to visit Delos and Mykonos

Over the years, Naxos Island has been subjugated by many nations including the Ottoman corsair, Heyreddin Barbarossa, in 1537. The interior is divided by fertile and well-watered valleys. There are many places of interest on the island, linked by a good road network. Naxos town is not architecturally recommended, but the Kastro, just above and behind the town, encloses an area of picturesque though decaying houses, Venetian in style and marked with coats of arms. Besides wine, the island also exports olive oil, corn, fruits of many kinds and marble which is comparable in quality to that of Paros. Today you may like to join our excursion to Delos and Mykonos. We depart by ferry to Delos, which takes approximately one and half hours. Delos is an entire island covered with ancient ruins and amongst the highlights are the Temple of Apollo, Terrace of Lions, 3rd century BC theatre, ancient town and Mount Kynthos (113 m). Following time here to explore we take the ferry on to Mykonos (takes around 30 minutes). This island is frequented by the rich and famous. Whilst here you can explore its winding streets with its boutique and exclusive shops and another highlight are the windmills. We then return to Naxos by ferry (takes around one and a half hours).

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**
Single Room Available

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

DAY **13** Opportunity to walk to the summit of Mount Zeus

Today there's the option to walk to the summit of Mount Zeus (1001 m), the highest peak on the Cyclades. Taking a taxi inland we shall walk for about one to two hours to reach the peak, which offers excellent views back over the island. This is a moderate to challenging walk and the path taken is good but gets rocky towards the summit, so walking boots or shoes with good ankle support are recommended. There's the chance of spotting griffon vultures along the way. After walking back down the mountain there is the option to continue walking to Filoti to have lunch here before returning to Naxos by public bus or to return to the hotel straightaway by taxi. If you aren't going on the Mount Zeus excursion then there are regular buses and taxis available for exploring nearby on your own steam. Good nearby beaches include Saint George, Saint Prokopios and Saint Anna.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**
Single Room Available

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

DAY **14** Ferry back to Athens; evening at leisure

This morning we take the ferry via Paros back to Athens on the mainland. The journey takes approximately five and a half hours and takes us through the Cyclades Islands to Piraeus Harbour. On arrival we'll transfer to our hotel to enjoy our last evening in Greece's bustling capital.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**
Single Room Available

Swimming Pool Available 

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

DAY **15** Trip ends in Athens

Our trip ends this morning after breakfast at our hotel in Athens.

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

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Accommodation and Meals

Food & Drink

Included meals: 14 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.

Greece

Lunch £: 8.00 - 12.00

Dinner £: 12.00 - 16.00

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.

Greece

Bottle of Beer £: 3.50

Water £: 0.90

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

Athens - Acropolis entrance fee €20.00. Acropolis Museum entrance fee €5.00. Combination ticket €30.00

Syros - Island tour €22.00

Paros - Antiparos cave by local bus/ferry €16.00; all day caique/BBQ boat trip of Ainti Paros €45.00

Santorini - Excursion to Therassia and the volcano €40.00

Naxos - Full day boat trip to Delos and Mykonos €50.00; full day bus tour of the island €35.00

Local buses and taxis - For island walks please allow €25.00 to €30.00

Tipping - Tour Leader

At your discretion you might also consider tipping your Explore 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. Please allow €10.00 per person for tipping.

In order to make things easier for you, the Explore Leader may organise a group's tips kitty and if this is the case, they will account for it throughout the tour.

Foreign Exchange

Greece

ATM Availability: Cash can be drawn from ATMs from all types of cards in most areas in Greece, including the islands.

Credit Card Acceptance: In major restaurants.

Travellers Cheques: Banking hours may make exchanging Travellers Cheques more difficult.

Local Currency: Euro

Recommended Currency for Exchange: GBP Sterling or US Dollars, cash.

Where to Exchange: We recommend that you change any currency into Euros prior to arrival. Bureau de Change are generally only found in major cities and large airports

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

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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

Greece: Visas are not required by UK, Australian, New Zealand, US and Canadian citizens. Other nationalities should consult their local embassy or consular office.

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.

Vaccinations & Protection

Greece

Nothing compulsory but we recommend protection against tetanus and polio. 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.

Preparing for your Trip

Climate

Greece

Greece has predominantly hot, dry summers, May - October with temperatures reaching into the mid thirties in July and August. May and October themselves can be less predictable and may have some rain and cooler evenings. Wild flowers bloom in April and May adding much colour to the trails. At the beginning and end of the season the villages tend to be very quiet. Seasonal weather patterns can be unpredictable. Up to date information on the weather worldwide can be found by following the BBC weather link on this page.

Clothing

July and August are the hottest months though the islands are freshened by cooling sea breezes. Early and late in the season, bring a light plastic raincoat and a thick warm sweater to help fend off the unexpected chilling wind that races across the open deck of a ferryboat between the islands.

Equipment

We recommend taking a water bottle, sunhat, torch, suncream and insect repellent with you. In Greece sink plugs aren't always provided in hotel rooms, so we would suggest bringing your own.

Footwear

Lightweight walking boots (especially for volcanoes as flip flops melt) or stout shoes with good ankle support for island walks and sandals/trainers for relaxing.

Luggage: On Tour

One main piece of luggage and a daypack. You will have to carry your own luggage on and off ferries. Not many hotels have lifts, and porters are not always available so don't overload yourself.

Luggage allowance on trip: 20kg

General Information

Country details

Greece

Population: 11,305,118

Size of Country: 131,990 sq km

Major Language: Greek

Religion: Orthodox

Time Difference to GMT: +2

Electric Supply & Plugs

Greece

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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