EXPLORE! Tour Notes

PRICE GUARANTEE 100% NO SURCHARGES

Dhaka to Delhi (QDD 2015)

CULTURAL DISCOVERY

TOURDURAT
15
DAYS

Tour Style: Simply
Tour Pace: Busy
Tour Type: Small Groups
Tour Comfort: Simple
tour Code: QDD

Tour Highlights - Dhaka to Delhi

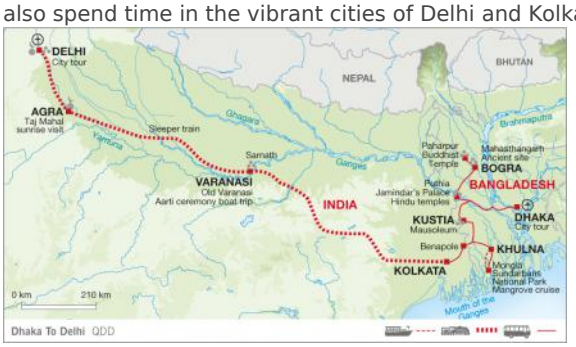
- ✓ Dhaka - Explore the cultural and historic highlights of one of South Asia's most vibrant cities
- ✓ Bogra - Visit the important archaeological ruins of Sompura Maha-vihara and Mahasthangarh
- ✓ The Sundarbans - Take a cruise through the UNESCO World Heritage landscapes of one of the world's largest mangrove forests
- ✓ Agra, Calcutta and Delhi - Discover the rich heritage of India's Moghul and colonial past
- ✓ Varanasi - Explore the ghats and temples of one of the holiest Hindu cities on earth. Visit the birthplace of Buddhism at Sarnath

Tour Essentials

Accommodation:	2 nights Standard Hotel 10 nights Simple Hotel 1 night Simple Boat 1 night Basic Overnight Train
Included Meals:	13 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 1 dinner
Start Point:	Join tour: Dhaka
End Point:	Tour ends: Delhi
Transport:	Bus, Train, Boat
Countries:	Bangladesh, India

Dhaka to Delhi

Take a journey of discovery with us through Bangladesh and India. Along the way we explore ancient citadels, elegant temples and Buddhist monasteries. We take a boat trip through the world's largest mangrove forest in Sundarban National Park. Crossing into India we travel to Varanasi, the spiritual city known as Benares. We also spend time in the vibrant cities of Delhi and Kolkata.



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

If your idea of adventure travel is to experience everyday local life in a country then try one of our Simply Explore tours. These grassroots adventures are flexible, affordable and fun

Tour Pace: Busy

There may be early starts, long journeys and tiring days along the way, but you'll return home feeling you've really experienced as much as you possibly could.

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

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 Dhaka (Bangladesh)

We begin this fascinating adventure in the Bangladesh capital Dhaka, one of the largest and most populous cities on earth. Lying along the banks of the Buriganga River, the city can trace its rich history back to the Buddhist kings of the Pala

Empire and, following the partition of India in 1947, it served for a time as the administrative capital of Eastern Pakistan. A city of mosques and rickshaws, today it is one of the fastest growing cities in southern Asia.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**
Single Room Available

Included Meals: None

DAY 2 Sightseeing in Dhaka

Today we have a chance to explore more of this remarkable city on a sightseeing tour around some of its more famous sights. We'll take in the architectural contrasts of Curzon Hall, the Lalbagh Fort and the city's distinctive National Parliament building. We also pay a visit to the Dhakeswhwari Hindu temple, the pink palace of Ahsan Manjil and the city's Liberation War Museum, home to a collection of rare archival photographs and artefacts from the country's nine month long struggle for independence in 1971.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**
Single Room Available

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 3 Drive to Bogra. Visit Sompura Mahavihara Monastery

This morning we drive to Bogra in northern Bangladesh, one of the oldest towns in the region and one that can trace its history back to the Bengal empire of Emperor Ashoka. On arrival we check in to our hotel and then take an afternoon drive out to Paharpur, to visit the UNESCO World Heritage ruins at Sompura Mahavihara. Site of the remains of a huge an 8th century Buddhist monastery, these remarkable ruins represent one of the most important archaeological sites in the country and one of the most famous Buddhist viharas (monasteries) on the Indian Subcontinent.

Overnight: **Simple Hotel**
Single Room Available

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 4 Visit Mahasthangar and Puthia, Drive to Kustia

Today we pay a visit to the ancient site of Mahasthangarh, home to the oldest archaeological remains yet found in Bangladesh. This was once the capital of Pundravardhana and its origins have been dated back to at least the 3rd century BC. After visiting the ancient citadel we stop at the Hindu ruins of Puthia. The only ones of their kind in the country, these ancient temples span a rich mix of architectural styles and include the largest Shiva temple in Bangladesh and the fading majesty of a grand Govinda Temple dedicated to Lord Krishna. We then continue on to Kustia.

Overnight: **Simple Hotel**
Single Room Available

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 5 Drive to Khulna

Our destination today is the port city of Khulna, the third largest city in Bangladesh and our gateway into the stunning natural landscapes of the Sundarbans. We first stop to visit the mausoleum of Fakir Lalon Shah, a 19th century Bengali philosopher whose poems are considered classics of the Bengali language. We also visit the home of the Nobel prize winning poet Rabinranath Tagore in Shilaidaha, the first non-European to win the Nobel laureate. A long drive finally sees us reaching Khulna late this afternoon.

Overnight: **Simple Hotel**
Single Room Available

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 6 Sundarbans river cruise

After breakfast this morning we take a boat ride through the unique landscapes of the Sundarbans. Translating as the 'beautiful jungle', this UNESCO World Heritage setting is home to one of the largest mangrove forests on the planet. Set amongst a vast delta that is fed by the waters of the Padma, Brahmaputra and Meghna Rivers, the area is a haven for Bengal tigers, crocodiles and a remarkable diversity of birds. We are able to walk through a small section of the forest at Harbaria, where a small nature trail has been created. We hope to spot birds and if lucky tiger pug marks. We overnight on our simple boat, in twin cabins with shared bathrooms. As space on the boat it limited you will need an overnight bag, main luggage will be stored in Khulna.

Overnight: **Simple Boat**

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 7 Cruise back to Mongla, visit 60 domed mosque.

This morning we will cruise back to Mongla and on disembarking we will visit the impressive 15th century 60 Domed Mosque at Bagerhat, the largest historical mosque in Bangladesh.

Overnight: **Simple Hotel**
Single Room Available

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 8 Drive to Calcutta via border crossing at Benapole

We leave Bangladesh behind today and cross the border into neighbouring India. Driving to the border crossing at Benapole this morning we complete the immigration formalities on the Bangladesh side (which can take between 30-40 minutes) then drive to the Indian border. The customs procedures for entering India can then take up to a further hour, so please be patient. Once across the border we then head for Calcutta (Kolkata), the capital of West Bengal and one of India's most populous cities.

Overnight: **Simple Hotel**
Single Room Available

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 9 Free in Calcutta

Once the capital of British India, Kolkata (Calcutta) is a city of striking contrasts. Overwhelming and chaotic, it is a city with a rich heritage and an incredible vibrancy and today we have a chance to explore it on our own. Major sites include the many historic Raj buildings around Dalhousie Square, the Jain and Kali temples and the magnificent marble dome of the Victoria Memorial. Other options for today include visits to the Dakshieswar Kali Temple, the Ramakrishna Mission and the famous orphanage inspired by Mother Theresa, a woman whose very name has become synonymous with the city.

Overnight: **Simple Hotel**
Single Room Available

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 10 Morning train to Varanasi

Today we travel north by train, to the holy city of Varanasi, lying on the banks of the Ganges. Steeped in the lore and traditions of Hinduism, Varanasi has been a principal centre of Shiva worship for some 1,200 years and is believed by many to be the place where the material and spiritual worlds cross. Arriving in the city this evening, we check in to our hotel for a two night stay in this most revered of cities.

Overnight: **Simple Hotel**
Single Room Available

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 11 Visit Sarnath. Optional evening aarti festival by boat

This morning we have the option to make a short journey north, to the sacred site of Sarnath, the cradle of Buddhism. It was here that the Lord Buddha preached his first sermon following the attainment of enlightenment. We visit the main shrine, the Dharmarajka Stupa and the Dhamekh Stupa. We also see the nearby Ashoka Pillar and the monastery, lying at the heart of probably the most expansive collection of Buddhist temples and monasteries on earth. Returning to Varanasi we then have the option to take an evening boat ride along the sacred Ganges itself, to watch the aarti ceremonies being performed beside the riverfront ghats.

Overnight: **Simple Hotel**
Single Room Available

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 12 Full day in old Varanasi. Overnight train to Agra

It is possible this morning to take an optional dawn boat ride along the Ganges to watch the pilgrims performing the puja ceremony to the newly rising sun. We then spend the rest of the day exploring old Varanasi before we head to the train station late this afternoon to catch the overnight train to Agra.

Overnight: **Basic Overnight Train**

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 13 Arrive Agra. Afternoon optional tour of Agra Fort and It-mud-ullah

Arriving in Agra early this morning we have some time to relax before the opportunity of joining an optional tour of the city's magnificent fort. Built by the Mughal emperors, Agra Fort was once a great city, with palaces, mosques and halls, all lying within the protective embrace of 20 metre high walls. Today it is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the most iconic buildings in the city. The tour also visits the exquisite It-mud-ullah, a 17th century tomb that mirrors the marble majesty of the more famous Taj Mahal.

Overnight: **Simple Hotel**
Single Room Available

Included Meals: None

DAY 14 Sunrise visit to the Taj Mahal, then morning train to Delhi.

This morning we watch the sunrise over the Taj Mahal, one of the most universally recognised buildings on earth, before catching the morning train on to Delhi. This afternoon we are free to explore the historic heart of the Indian capital. Essentially a city divided in two, Delhi is a magnificent monument to the grandiose designs of the Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan and the British Raj of the 1930s. Filled with mosque, memorials, minarets and markets, Delhi is the very essence of an Indian city, and a fitting place to end this remarkable journey.

Overnight: **Simple Hotel**
Single Room Available

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 15 Tour ends in Delhi

Our tour ends this morning after breakfast.

Included Meals: Breakfast

Accommodation and Meals

Accommodation Rating

Accommodation in India is as varied as the country itself. On our tours we stay in a mix of hotels, heritage properties, camp sites and homestays. Standards do not equate to standards in the UK and it's best to approach each type of accommodation with an open mind. Service can be slow in places especially when travelling with a group. For the most part hotels do not have heating so in the winter months it can be chilly and if you feel the cold you may wish to ask for extra blankets. Hot water is not always available 24 hours a day in some of the smaller properties, and with a group staying you might find if you are showering last you may miss out on the hottest water.

Food & Drink

Included meals: 13 breakfasts, 2 lunches,1 dinner 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.

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.

Bangladesh

Lunch £: 1.70

Dinner £: 2.30

India

Lunch £: 6.00

Dinner £: 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.

Bangladesh

Bottle of Beer £: Bangladesh is a Muslim country and availability of alcohol is limited.

Water £: 0.30

India

Bottle of Beer £: 1.40

Water £: .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

Varanassi- Aarti Ceremony- £7 per person (including transport there by rickshaw). Sarnath Temple - £8 per person. (including transport there by rickshaw).
Agra- Agra Fort- £7.50 (including transport there by rickshaw). Itmud Ullah- £6 (including transport there by rickshaw)
Delhi - Metro tickets are approximately 40 INR for a single ticket. An auto rickshaw from our hotel to Chadni Chowk costs approximately 300 INR.

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 approx. £30 for gratuities for local staff.

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

Bangladesh

ATM Availability: Limited

Credit Card Acceptance: Very rarely, only in the larger outlets.

Travellers Cheques: Opportunities to exchange are limited.

Local Currency: Taka

Recommended Currency for Exchange: GBP/US$ are the best currency to change into local currency. Take small denominations of US$.

Where to Exchange: you can change cash US$ at the airport and hotel in Dhaka.

India

ATM Availability: ATMs are available in most large cities in India but they are very limited elsewhere so please do not rely on this.

Credit Card Acceptance: Very rarely, only in the larger outlets.

Travellers Cheques: Opportunities to exchange are limited.

Local Currency: Indian Rupee

Recommended Currency for Exchange: GBP/US$ are the best currency to change into local currency.

Where to Exchange: The Indian rupee is a restricted currency and it is best not to obtain in the UK as rates are very poor. You can either change money at the airport on arrival or in major towns during the tour. Your Tour Leader will advise you on the best places in each town.

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

Customers who have chosen to book on the ‘Land Only’ arrangements of our tour, please ensure that you have checked your tour specific ‘Joining Instructions’ prior to booking your own travel arrangements. Your joining instructions can be found on our website at www.explore.co.uk, in the tour specific dates and prices section.

You may also be eligible for the Free Explore Transfer. For more information please refer to https://www.explore.co.uk/transfers.

Joining Tour Abroad

Customers booked on the ‘Land Only’ arrangements will now receive a Free Transfer, provided you arrive and depart on the tour only itinerary start and end dates. The transfers will be from the Explore designated airport or train station to the joining point of your tour, and then back from the ending point to the designated airport or train station. The exception to this rule is customers who are booked on a tour where the joining and ending point is at the designated airport or train station.

If you are not eligible for the Free Transfer then you will need to make your own way through to the joining and ending point. On a majority of our tours Explore will be able to provide a private transfer at an additional cost. Please ask for a quote at the time of booking.

For more information regarding the Explore Free Transfer please refer to https://www.explore.co.uk/transfers.

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

Booking a flight inclusive package with Explore

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

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

Important Information

Travel Insurance

It is a condition of 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. You will also need to ensure your travel policy covers you for all activities you intend to do whilst on tour.

We are delighted to include FREE travel insurance **for all qualifying customers** who book an Explore trip between 01 January 2015 and 31 August 2015.

For more information about Travel insurance and to check whether you are eligible to receive free cover, please visit www.explore.co.uk/insurance. Explore Worldwide Ltd are an Introducer Appointed Representative of Campbell Irvine Limited. who are authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. The registration number can be checked by visiting the the FCA's website www.fca.gov.uk or by contacting them on 0800 111 6768.

Visa Information

Bangladesh: A single entry visa is required by UK, New Zealand, Australian, US and Canadian citizens. Visas can be obtained through Explore's recommended visa service in the UK. at http://www.visaswift.com/explore.aspx You will need an accommodation letter from Explore when arranging your visa, this letter is provided within your confirmation pack. Alternatively, you can get a 1 month visa on arrival for the purpose of tourism. Please contact us if you would like to get visa on arrival and we can provide you with the appropriate documents. Please carry 3 passport size photographs with you for the purpose.

India: A single entry visa is required by British travellers to India and must be obtained prior to departure. Please note, from the 14th March 2015, all British Indian-visa applicants must be present at an Indian Visa & Consular Service Centre on the day of application. It is advised you register prior to visiting your chosen visa application centre to book your appointment otherwise you may experience long delays.

It is not possible to obtain an Indian visa directly from the Embassy. Therefore, Indian visas should be applied for through VFS global and further details of the new visa process and location of the application centres can be found here http://in.vfsglobal.co.uk/visa_types.html. Our recommended visa service; Visaswift, can also offer assistance, including setting an appointment, lodging the application and collecting the visa on your behalf - http://www.visaswift.com/explore.aspx . Other nationalities should consult their local embassy or consular office.

All visa information is subject to change. There is a high probability that the process will change to include the collection of biometric data but a date for this is not yet confirmed. You should confirm all visa related questions with the relevant Embassy prior to departure.

Sikkim: Please do not apply for a Sikkim permit, this will be organised locally for you by our local agent.

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

Vaccinations & Protection

Bangladesh

Nothing compulsory, but we recommend protection against Tetanus, Infectious Hepatitis, Typhoid and Polio. Consult your travel clinic for latest advice on different prophylaxis available against malaria (eg. Paludrine, Chloroquine, Mefloquine etc.). 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.

India

Nothing compulsory, but we recommend protection against Tetanus, Infectious Hepatitis, Typhoid and Polio. Consult your travel clinic for latest advice on different prophylaxis available against malaria (eg. Paludrine, Chloroquine, Mefloquine etc.). 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

Bangladesh

Bangladesh has a tropical monsoon-type climate, with a hot and rainy summer and a pronounced dry season in the cooler months. January is the coolest month of the year and April the warmest month. Most rain falls during the monsoon (June-September) and little during the dry season (November-February).

India

There is considerable variation between the different regions of India but, in general, the climate is tropical. Summer temperatures on the plains are very hot, but cooled by the South-West Monsoon, which lasts from June- September. During these months it can be very wet and therefore very humid. At altitude, temperatures can become quite cool at night even in the summer and may drop below freezing between December and February so warm clothing is necessary. In the winter, northern and mid India can be very cool, with cold evenings, so warm clothing, including plenty of layers, are essential. The south of India remains warm and sunny during the winter months.

Clothing

In general only lightweight clothing is needed during the day, but bring a warm sweater for early mornings and during winter evenings Nov/mid March (esp. Dec/Jan, when a windproof jacket, warm layers, gloves and hat are also recommended). Hotel heating arrangements are not on a par with UK standards and from December to February thermals are also recommended. Casual clothes are the most practical: tight fitting garments, brief shorts and skirts should be avoided, since they attract unwelcome attention.Waterproofs and or and umbrella may be useful for early season.

Equipment

A torch, water bottle, good quality sunglasses, insect repellent, mosquito net and high factor sunscreen are all essential.

Footwear

Comfortable shoes or trainers & sandals.

Luggage: On Tour

One main piece of baggage and a daypack. We recommend a holdall or rucksack for ease of getting on and off trains and buses and please remember, you are expected to carry your own luggage so don't overload yourself.

Luggage allowance on tour: 20kg

Transport

In order to make reservations on Indian trains we require your full passport details. It is important that we receive these details as soon as possible so we are ready to make the arrangements as soon as train tickets are available to buy.

General Information

Country details

Bangladesh

Population: 142,319,000

Size of Country: 147,570 sq km

Major Language: Bangla

Religion: Islam

Time Difference to GMT: +6

India

Population: 1,210,193,422

Size of Country: 3,287,263 sq km

Major Language: Hindi and English.

Religion: Catholicism, Hindu, Muslim and Sikhism

Time Difference to GMT: +5

Electric Supply & Plugs

Bangladesh

3 Pin Round

India

3 Pin Round

Why Choose Explore

We've been creating award-winning pioneering adventure holidays for over 30 years, earning the trust of thousands of delighted customers, who feel safe in our hands. Our tour leaders have expert local knowledge and our tours are designed to take you off the beaten track to see the most exotic, inspiring and dramatic places in the world.

- With over 30 years' experience, we are passionate about what we do.
- Pioneering small group adventures, self-guided, private journeys & tailormade holidays.
- Award winning tour leaders who you can trust.
- Responsible travel is and always has been one the driving principles of Explore.

Our adventure holidays are full of exciting things to see and do, exploring in small groups travelling by bus, boat, plane, rickshaw, camel, 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: Toilet Twinning (helping to flush away poverty), Lone Buffalo Foundation (a community project based in Laos providing creative skills for young people), Dekamer (a turtle rescue centre in Turkey) and Kids Saving the Rainforest (a wildlife rescue centre in Costa Rica supported through the LATA foundation). We also care passionately about the world's wildlife. We are patrons of the Born Free Organisation and Friends of Conservation.

Cool Earth

Explore are proud to support Cool Earth in their effort to reduce global carbon dioxide levels through the prevention of deforestation in the South America rainforest. Cool Earth focus on areas in immediate danger of deforestation, supporting local communities to be forest guardians. To date 350,000 acres of rainforest has been protected. Saving rainforest also protects rare animals and plants, allows local forest communities to maintain their way of life, and protects a major source of oxygen and fresh water. When you travel on an Explore holiday we make a donation to Cool Earth that exceeds the impact of our customers flights each year.

Earth Matters

- The Travel Foundation

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

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

Know before you go

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

Booking Your Holiday

Peace of mind - book with confidence

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

The air holiday packages (Tours including flights) that we advertise are ATOL protected, since we hold an Air Travel Organiser's LicenceÂ granted by the Civil Aviation Authority.Â Our ATOL number is ATOL 2595. In addition, As a member of the Association of Bonded Travel Organisers Trust Limited (ABTOT), Explore has provided a bond to meet the requirements of the Package Travel, Package Holidays and Package Tours Regulations 1992. Please note that packages booked outside the UK are only protected when purchased directly with Explore.

Reserving your place

To reserve your place on this tour you will need to check availability on the Explore website or through our dedicated call centre based in the UK where you can. Our tours can fill up quickly so you are advised to book as early as possible. If your chosen date is ‘Available’ or ‘Guaranteed’ we will be able to provisionally hold you a space for up to 48 hours.

For Self-Guided holidays and Private Journeys simply choose your date of travel and let us know so we can confirm all ground services.

The easiest way to confirm your booking is through our website. When you are ready to book, we normally require a 10% non-refundable deposit, but for some holidays this may be more to cover such items as permit fees, internal flights or other non-refundable services. If your travel starts within 60 days of booking, full payment will be required at the time of booking

100% No Surcharge Guarantee

The price paid for our holidays is no longer subject to change. Once booked and confirmed we will guarantee the price you pay will not increase, whatever the circumstances. You will not be approached to pay fuel surcharges unlike the vast majority of other adventure tour operators. The price guarantee applies to all new bookings departing between 1st January 2014 and 31st December 2015.

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: 2015 itinerary versions are applicable to tours departing in 2015. 2016/17 itinerary versions are applicable to tours departing from 1st January to 31st December 2016.

These tour notes were printed on 29/07/2015 22:21:11