

# EXPLORE!

## TRIP NOTES



### Inside North Korea (KO 2017)



TRIPDURATION  
**13**  
DAYS



**Tour Style:** Classic

**Tour Pace:** Full On

**Tour Type:** Small Groups

**Accommodation**

**Grade:** Standard

**Trip Code:** KO

#### Trip Highlights - Inside North Korea

- ✓ Pyongyang - Explore the capital, admire the socialist architecture and visit the Mansudae Monument, a tribute to Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il
- ✓ Wonsan - Discover the beautiful scenery in this little visited region
- ✓ Panmunjom - Stand at the world's most fortified border
- ✓ Beijing - Visit Tiananmen Square and the incredible Forbidden City

#### Trip Essentials

**Accommodation:** 11 nights Standard Hotel

1 night Simple Overnight Train

**Included Meals:** 12 breakfasts, 6 lunches, 7 dinners

**Start Point:** Join trip: Beijing

**End Point:** Trip ends: Beijing

**Transport:** Bus, Train, Flight

**Countries:** China, North Korea

## Inside North Korea

North Korea is one of the most isolated places on earth and one of the last bastions of Communism. We explore the outstanding natural beauty of its Kumgang Mountains, admire the flamboyant architecture of its socialist capital Pyongyang and stand on the border separating South Korea's peninsula during this fantastic trip through North Korea. This exciting adventure tour offers an unusual insight into the country's political and ideological heritage.

### Why Book this trip

An ideal tour for someone who wants to get off the beaten track in one of the least visited countries in the world. As well as having the opportunity to admire the socialist architecture of Pyongyang and the ancient city of Kaesong, we drive out to the far east of the country and have the opportunity to walk in the stunning Kumgang Mountains.

### 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: Full On

These fast paced tours move on quickly from place to place and with lots of early starts and long busy days, they're packed with experiences.

## Your trip itinerary

### Tour itinerary notes

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

### Your Tour Leader

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

### DAY 1 Join tour Beijing

Arrive Beijing, check into hotel.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**  
**Single Room Available**



 **Included Meals:** None

## DAY 2 Cross Tiananmen Square and visit the Forbidden City. Board the overnight train to Pyongyang

This morning we'll explore the Chinese capital, the political and cultural centre of the country. Beijing has mostly been the capital since the days of Kublai Khan, and is a more dominant factor in people's lives today than ever before. All clocks in China are set by Beijing time. Today we visit the Forbidden City, the one-time home of the Ming and the Manchu (Qing) emperors, a treasure trove of eastern wares. The recent history of China is similar to that of North Korea in that the Chinese followed the Communist ideology of a freedom fighter who became the dominant leader. The influence of Mao in China remains strong today, with his imposing portrait located above the southern gate of the Forbidden City, overlooking Tiananmen Square. In the afternoon we'll board the overnight train to Pyongyang.

Overnight: **Simple Overnight Train**

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

## DAY 3 Arrive in Pyongyang and visit the Arch of Triumph

This evening we arrive in to Pyongyang, the unique showpiece of North Korea. We are now in a country where every aspect of life is dominated by the State and the ideology of Kim Il Sung, the Great Leader. To live in Pyongyang is considered an honour to the citizens of North Korea, who require permits to enter, or leave the city. Our exploration of the city starts with a visit to the impressive Arch of Triumph, built to commemorate the triumphant return of President Kim Il Sung. Please note that when in North Korea the order of sightseeing may be changed once in the country. We will try and interact with locals wherever possible, you may wish to bring some photos of your home, hometown or even recent holidays as they are a great way of making a connection with the people we meet during the tour.


Overnight: **Standard Hotel**  
**Single Room Available**

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

## DAY 4 Sightseeing in Pyongyang and drive to Kaesong

Today we will see the Grand People Study House - the huge library that is situated in Kim Il Sung square, the Korean Central Art Gallery and Foreign Book Store. After lunch we depart Pyongyang along the deserted roads to reach the ancient capital at Kaesong. Kaesong was once the most important city on the peninsula being the first unified capital, and remaining so for nearly 400 years. It remained in South Korea at the outbreak of hostilities of the 1950-53 war and therefore was protected from the bombing that destroyed almost every ancient monument in the North. Here we visit the Koryo Museum with its historical buildings, and the twin tombs of King Kongmin and his wife who ruled Korea in the 14th century. Our night is spent at a local style hotel, sleeping in the traditional manner on a mattress on a heated floor.


Overnight: **Standard Hotel**  
**Single Room Available**

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

## DAY 5 Visit the DMZ and return to Pyongyang

We drive south to Panmunjon, which is the last frontier in the Cold War. Lying along the 38th Parallel, this is one of the most tense and fortified borders in the world, where over a million soldiers are on constant guard. Our Military guide shows us around areas where the armistice agreement was signed in 1953 and talks freely of the North Korean perspective of the current situation. This almost serene setting, where soldiers from the North and South stand almost side by side, is an acute reminder of the tragic division of the peninsula. Retracing our footsteps along the near empty road we return to Pyongyang, taking in Mangyongdae - the birth place of Kim Il Sung, which is visited by hundreds of Koreans every day to see where the first thoughts of liberation were founded.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**  
**Single Room Available**

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner


## DAY 6 In Pyongyang

This morning we will ascend the 150m high Juche Tower, a symbol of the country's guiding ideology, Juche. This is based on a self reliance and the principle that each individual is master of their own destiny, and has held the country together for 50 years, outliving many other forms of communism. We also make the obligatory trip to the Mansudae Monument, a huge bronze tribute to Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il where its compulsory to lay flowers as a mark of respect, and we will visit the Kumsusan Memorial Palace of the Sun which is the mausoleum of North Korean Leaders Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il. Later we drive to Moranbong Park where there is the opportunity to take a stroll in the park and the unique chance to mix with the locals enjoying their day off. We also take the Metro,

with its immaculate marble clad stations. Here kitsch chandeliers light enormous mosaics depicting heroic citizens from all walks of life stretching the length of the platforms on both sides.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**

**Single Room Available**


 **Included Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

## DAY 7 Drive across the country to Lake Suijung

Today's drive sees us cross the breadth of the country to the port city of Wonsan. After lunch and a visit to a co-operative farm we continue south to Lake Sijung. We stay in a small motel on the edge of the lake. The mud of Lake Sijung is reputed to have great medicinal properties and there's the opportunity to test this with an optional mud bath and massage.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**

**Single Room Available**


 **Included Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

## DAY 8 Explore the Kumgang Mountains

Leaving our idyllic location, we head into the heart of the Kumgang mountains, to an area only recently opened up to tourism in North Korea. Although geographically in the north, this region was leased from the government by the South Korean Hyundai corporation and was visited by tourists from the south. With the abrupt end of this arrangement, once again this destination is only accessible to tourists from the north. There is the opportunity for some gentle walks in the region before heading back to Wonsan where we spend the night.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**

**Single Room Available**


 **Included Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

## DAY 9 Visit to the Father Liberation War museum

Leaving Wonsan we return to Pyongyang. The Victorious Fatherland Liberation War museum (opened in 1953 and rebuilt in 2013) is not to be missed; its fascinating to hear the DRPK's side of the story. Exhibits include a massive collection of war memorabilia, a chilling reminder of the brutality of the 'forgotten war'. We'll also take a walk in the sculpture park of monuments to the war, which was unveiled in 1993 to mark the 40th anniversary of its end. The main statue is titled 'Victory' and is an impressive sculpture of a Korean soldier and a red flag. We then end our day with a visit to the captured US spy ship Pueblo.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**

**Single Room Available**

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

## DAY 10 Train to Dandong

This morning we take the train from Pyongyang through the countryside to the border town of Sinuiju on the banks of the Yalu River. The Yalu River bridge was bombed by the Americans during the Korean war and provides a stark reminder of the turbulent history of the Korean peninsula. We cross the river to the Chinese Town of Dandong where we alight the train.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**

**Single Room Available**

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

## DAY 11 Visit the Great Wall at tiger Mountain and take a boat trip past the Broken Bridge

This morning we will visit Tiger Mountain and the eastern tip of the Great Wall which was constructed during the Ming dynasty. Later we will take a relaxing boat ride on the Yalu river, enjoying lovely scenery and passing the site of the famous Broken Bridge which was bombed by the Americans in 1950. In the evening we fly to Beijing.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**

**Single Room Available**

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

## DAY 12 In Beijing

The final day is left free to explore. You can take advantage of optional excursions to the Summer Palace or the Beijing Opera, or perhaps visit the Hutons and make some last minute purchases in the bustling stores and markets.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**  
**Single Room Available**



**Included Meals:** Breakfast

## DAY 13 Tour ends Beijing

Our tour ends this morning after breakfast.



**Included Meals:** Breakfast

## Accommodation and Meals

### Food & Drink

Included meals: 12 breakfasts, 6 lunches, 7 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.

#### China

**Lunch £:** 5.00

**Dinner £:** 6.00 - 10.00

#### North Korea

**Lunch £:** All meals are included whilst in North Korea.

**Dinner £:** All meals are included whilst in North Korea.

### 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.

#### China

**Bottle of Beer £:** 2.00

**Water £:** 1.50

#### North Korea

**Bottle of Beer £:** .70

**Water £:** 0.30

### 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.



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## Optional Excursions

Beijing - Summer Palace £5.00(plus £12 for private transfer); Acrobat show £24.00; Opera £16.00; Hutong Tour including lunch £20.00, Birds Nest tour £10.00. please note that it may not be possible to do all these optionals.

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## Tipping - Tour Leader

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

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## 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 €40 for tipping. Your tour leader will account to you for any organised tipping.

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

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## Foreign Exchange

### China

**ATM Availability:** All major towns.

**Credit Card Acceptance:** Most major restaurants and stores.

**Travellers Cheques:** Travellers cheques can be changed in Hong Kong and at the Bank of China in all major cities but only during bank opening hours. Please note this is very time consuming and is not recommended.

**Local Currency:** Renminbi/Yuan

**Recommended Currency for Exchange:** Either EUR, USD or GBP.

**Where to Exchange:** In all towns - your Tour Leader will advise you on arrival. When changing money ask for a receipt so you can change Yuan back into your own currency when leaving China.

### North Korea

**ATM Availability:** Not available

**Credit Card Acceptance:** Not accepted

**Travellers Cheques:** Not available

**Local Currency:** DPRK: North Korean Won; China Yuan. However, foreigners need either Euros/US Dollars/Chinese Yuan, not North Korean Won.

**Recommended Currency for Exchange:** Euros or USD are preferred in the DPRK. Please bring cash in small denominations of these currencies, one and two Euro coins are especially useful as this is often the price for postcards, books and drinks. You will not need to convert money into North Korean Won, as Euros or dollars can be used there.

**Where to Exchange:** It is not possible to change money in DPRK.

## 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.

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### 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](http://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>.

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### 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](http://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](http://www.explore.co.uk/travel-safety)

We strongly advise that you register with the FCO to receive updates to the travel advice for your chosen destination. A hard copy of the current FCO Travel Advice for your chosen destination is available by contacting [cr@explore.co.uk](mailto: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

China: A visa is required by all nationalities. A double entry visa should be arranged in advance of travel.

In order to apply for your Chinese visa you will need to submit supporting documents from our local supplier confirming your itinerary and travel arrangements, which we will obtain on your behalf. So that we can provide this for you, and to ensure all local arrangements are in place, we require a copy of your passport no later than 8 weeks before you are due to start your trip. Once we have your passport copy we shall process and pass on the documents you require 6-8 weeks before your trip, please be mindful of this when applying for your visa. If you require the supporting documents earlier than this, please contact Explore so we can arrange this.

Passengers wishing to extend their stay in China should be aware that current visa regulations only allow foreigners to stay in the country for up to 30 days. Please consider this when planning your trip.

North Korea: North Korean visas will be issued at the Embassy in Beijing at the start of your holiday. Your tour leader will co-ordinate this on your behalf.

In order for Explore to arrange the necessary North Korea visas please return the following to us as soon as possible, and no later than 8 weeks before your tour departs the UK.

1. A filled in copy of the personal and passport information form, sent out in your confirmation pack
2. Clear, colour passport copy - this must be a colour copy, black and white copies cannot be accepted
3. Clear, colour passport photos x2

Please also take 2 passport photographs with you, and 50 Euros for your application fee.

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Please note that we are unable to accept bookings from US passport holders at this time. Currently US passport holders are barred from using train services inside and across the borders of North Korea and it is not possible to offer amendments to the itinerary in place of train services.

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

If you do require assistance in obtaining a visa then you may consider applying through Explore's recommended visa service in the UK, Travcour. See [www.travcour.com](http://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**.

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## Vaccinations & Protection

### China

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

### North Korea

You should ensure that you are inoculated against measles, which has broken out in parts of North Korea. We also recommend protection against typhoid, tetanus, diphtheria, infectious hepatitis, polio and Japanese encephalitis. Please consult your GP or travel clinic for the latest advice regarding the need to protect against malaria. 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.

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## Preparing for your Trip

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### Climate

#### China

China has primarily a temperate climate, with a wide spectrum of extremes due to its huge area. Summer months are hot and rainy though in the south the climate is tropical and we can experience rain at any time of the year, often falling in sharp tropical rainstorms which are heavy but short lived. Winter is colder and drier, temperatures in Beijing can be as low as -12c.

#### North Korea

North Korea has a temperate climate with distinct seasonal changes. Early Spring is sunny but chilly so bring a warm coat and under clothes. In late Spring light clothing in the day and warm clothing at night is needed. Summer (June to August) is warm weather day and night but bring light raincoat. Autumn has marked variations between day and night so be prepared. Winter (December to February) has clear skies not much snow but biting cold. Additional information and climate charts can be accessed at <http://www.explore.co.uk/weather>. 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.

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### Clothing

Bring some warmer clothing for cooler evenings, lighter clothing for the day. Please note that smart attire is needed for the visit to Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il's mausoleum. Men are required to wear a shirt and tie. On rare occasions foreigners are allowed to visit the Memorial Palace; for this, shirt and tie for men and dress or skirt for women are required.

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### Equipment

A water bottle, sunscreen and a torch.

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### Footwear

Comfortable walking shoes, and trainers and sandals for relaxing.

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### Luggage: On Tour

One main piece of lockable baggage and a daysac. Remember you are expected to handle your own luggage so don't overload yourself.

Luggage allowance on trip: 20kg

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### Transport

Whilst there is little traffic in North Korea the road conditions can be poor. Pot holes and uneven road surfaces can make for some very bumpy journeys.



# General Information

## Country details

### China

**Population:** 1,339,724,852

**Size of Country:** 9,640,821 sq km

**Major Language:** Mandarin

**Religion:** Mainly Buddhist

**Time Difference to GMT:** +8

### North Korea

**Population:** 24,051,218

**Size of Country:** 120,540 sq km

**Major Language:** Korean

**Religion:** Buddhist, Confucian, Christian

**Time Difference to GMT:** +9

## Electric Supply & Plugs

### China

3 Pin Flat

### North Korea

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](http://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.

These trip notes were printed on 28/05/2017 22:26:10

