

# EXPLORE!

## Tour Notes



### Nile Felucca Sailtrek (NF 2015)



TOUR DURATION  
**10**  
DAYS



**Tour Style:** Classic  
**Tour Pace:** Moderate

**Tour Type:** Small Groups  
**Tour Comfort:** Standard

**tour Code:** NF

#### Tour Highlights - Nile Felucca Sailtrek

- ✓ Cairo - Marvel at the majestic Pyramids and Sphinx then tour the Egyptian Museum
- ✓ Luxor - Take a horse drawn 'calesh' to Karnak Temple; explore the Valley of the Kings and Hatshepsut Temple
- ✓ Nile felucca sailtrek - Sail from Aswan to the temples of Edfu and Kom Ombo on board a traditional sailing boat
- ✓ Local markets - Explore Luxor and Aswan's bustling souks and spice market

#### Tour Essentials

**Accommodation:** 1 night Comfortable Hotel  
3 nights Simple Guesthouse  
3 nights Basic Felucca  
2 nights Standard Hotel

**Included Meals:** 9 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 3 dinners

**Start Point:** Join tour: Cairo  
**End Point:** Tour ends: Luxor  
**Transport:** Bus, Boat  
**Countries:** Egypt

## Nile Felucca Saitrek

On this Egyptian adventure we explore the Nile aboard traditional 'felucca' sailing boats. We enjoy local food as we sail down the river and sleep under the stars on the deck. We also visit ancient Egypt's most famous sites including the great Pyramids of Giza, the mysterious Sphinx, Karnak Temple and the Valley of the Kings.

### 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: 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 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 Cairo

Arrive Cairo and check-in at the hotel. Cairo is a vibrant, exhilarating, fascinating and welcoming city. Home to the best Pharaonic, Coptic and Islamic sites in Egypt, this city is where you never know what incredible, half-forgotten monument you might stumble across while wandering around. If you arrive early you may wish to catch your first glimpse of the mighty Nile River, visit the capital's medieval markets at Khan El-Khalili or walk down the Nile promenade. There are also plenty of cinemas, theatres and modern shopping malls.

Overnight: **Comfortable Hotel**  
**Single Room Available**

**Swimming Pool Available** 

 **Included Meals:** None

## DAY 2 In Cairo; visit the Pyramids, Sphinx and Egyptian Museum; fly to Aswan

Cairo is Africa's largest capital city and is known as the city of a thousand minarets. Driving to Giza we see the Pyramids and Sphinx, which are among the most impressive man-made spectacles in the world. The Great Pyramid of Cheops is the largest of the group (originally 145m high with a square base 232m). Second is the Pyramid of Chephren (136m high and 210m wide). The complex includes the Sphinx, a crouching lion with a human head carved from solid rock and the splendid Granite Temple. We also visit the Egyptian Museum, which contains the treasures of Tutankhamun. This evening we fly to Aswan and transfer to our accommodation. We will normally be staying in a guesthouse within a Nubian village on the west bank of the Nile, opposite of the main city of Aswan. There will be scheduled motorboat transfers across the river to the city during your free time. Please note that due to flight availability it may be necessary for you to spend the night of day 2 in Cairo (instead of Aswan) and to then fly to Aswan early in the morning of day 3.

Overnight: **Simple Guesthouse**  
**Single Room Available**

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

## DAY 3 Free time in Aswan for optional excursions

Today is free in Aswan. Aswan is traditionally regarded as the frontier town of Upper Egypt; it stands just below the first Cataract and is the meeting point of Arab culture with Nubia and black Africa. Aswan's bazaar area is filled with craftwork with a strong Sudanese style. You may want to take an excursion to the Aswan High Dam (built in 1971), the granite quarries from where the pharaohs cut many of their huge obelisks and statues and visit the Philae Temple, situated on an island in the Nile.

Overnight: **Simple Guesthouse**  
**Single Room Available**

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

## DAY 4 In Aswan or join an optional excursion to Abu Simbel

Our time in Aswan is free and there are a number of places worth seeing (all of which are optional to give as much flexibility to your time here as possible). Your tour leader can organise an excursion by road (or air) to the temples of Abu Simbel. Cut into the rock face, these huge structures were raised 61m to save them from inundation by the artificial lake created when the Aswan High Dam was constructed. The 29m high statues found here represent Ramses II.


Overnight: **Simple Guesthouse**  
**Single Room Available**

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

## DAY 5 Nile felucca sailtrek from Aswan towards Edfu

This morning you may chose to take an optional excursion of a camel trek through the desert to the abandoned Coptic Monastery of St. Simeon. Later we board our feluccas for our voyage, sailing towards Edfu. The leisurely and informal nature of felucca sailing means that no fixed night stops can be given. These depend to a considerable extent on the elements. As we sail, we see the intensive cultivation of the Nile Valley and at intermittent points there are small villages, which depend upon the river for their livelihood. In general, our evening stops will be by the river bank or at mid-river islands, where we set up a wild camp allowing pleasant early morning swims. We sleep on the deck of the feluccas and the experience of sleeping under the stars more than compensates for the limited facilities. Our crew look after us admirably and are great fun. Our stopping times are extremely variable as we need to take maximum advantage of the northerly winds.


Overnight: **Basic Felucca**

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

## DAY 6 Sailing to Kom Ombo Temple

Today we continue sailing peacefully upstream. In the afternoon we aim to reach Kom Ombo. The Temple of Kom Ombo is unique in that it is dedicated to two gods, Horus and Sobek. Sobek the crocodile god was much needed at this spot as the river here was noted for crocodiles until early this century.

Overnight: **Basic Felucca**

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

## DAY 7 Day sailing by felucca

Today we enjoy another day taking in the scenes of life along the Nile, enjoying a book, chatting with group or crew members and forgetting all about time as we sail down the world's longest river.

Overnight: **Basic Felucca**



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

## DAY 8 Felucca towards Edfu Temple; transfer to Luxor

We sail towards Edfu today, the largest Egyptian temple after Karnak, dating from the time of the Ptolemies (3rd-1st century BC). A falcon-headed god guards the Temple of Horus, which is in almost perfect condition. The temple is unusual in that the roof is still intact. After our road transfer to Luxor we'll take horse drawn carriages (caleshes) from our hotel to visit the stupendous Temple of Amun at Karnak, the labour of numerous pharaohs. Begun in around 2000 BC, the most imposing structures include the 134 pillars of the Hypostyle Hall, carved all over with scenes of the king worshipping Amun. In Luxor we will normally be accommodated on the west bank of the Nile, opposite the main city. There will be a motorboat available to transfer you across the river whenever you require.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**

**Single Room Available**

**Swimming Pool Available** 



**Included Meals:** Breakfast

## DAY 9 In Luxor

This morning we travel by bus to visit the extraordinary Temple of Queen Hatshepsut, Egypt's only female Pharaoh, who usurped the throne from her son, the future Tuthmoses III. The scale of the temple and its magnificent setting are breathtaking, but perhaps even more remarkable are the details - look out for the fine carving of the 'Expedition to the Land of Punt'. We then take a short bus ride to the Valley of the Kings' to explore some of the more important sites made famous in 1922 by the discovery of the tomb of Tutankhamun by Howard Carter. We visit three tombs. This afternoon is free for your own personal exploration, maybe a visit to Luxor Museum, some last minute shopping or even an optional donkey trek on the west bank, where you travel through fields and villages and end your trip watching the sun set over the Nile.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**

**Single Room Available**

**Swimming Pool Available** 



**Included Meals:** Breakfast

## DAY 10 Tour ends Luxor

Tour ends in Luxor after breakfast.



**Included Meals:** Breakfast

## Accommodation and Meals

### Food & Drink

Included meals: 9 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 3 dinners included in the price of this tour. Please be prepared to pay for non-included meals. Please note that costs for drinks and meals can vary depending on location.

## Budgeting for your Tour

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

### 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.

### Egypt

**Lunch £:** 6.00

**Dinner £:** 8.00

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## 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.

## Egypt

**Bottle of Beer £:** 1.70

**Water £:** 0.75

## 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

Luxor - Habu Temple and Workers Tombs USD50.00, villages calesh ride (2-hours) USD17.00, Tutankhamun's Tomb USD16.00, Karnak Sound and Light USD25.00 or donkey ride USD19.00.

Please note we are unable to supply hard hats. If head protection is felt to be necessary for the donkey trek then please bring your own with you as these cannot be purchased locally.

Aswan - Camel trek to St. Simeon's Monastery USD35.00, Philae Temple, Aswan High Dam and Obelisk USD45.00, dinner in Nubian village USD15.00 or Philae Temple Sound and Light Show USD30.00.

Abu Simbel - Excursion from Aswan by bus USD90.00 or by air USD315.00.

Please note that the operation of and price of optional excursions are subject to change.

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## Tipping - Tour Leader

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

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 £15.00 for tipping.

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

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## Foreign Exchange

### Egypt

**ATM Availability:** You may also bring an ATM card, as these are available in main towns.

**Credit Card Acceptance:** Credit cards are rarely accepted.

**Travellers Cheques:** You may find it useful to bring some Travellers Cheques as a back up.

**Local Currency:** Egyptian Pound

**Recommended Currency for Exchange:** We recommend that you bring your money in cash, £GBP, US\$ or Euros which are readily changeable.

**Where to Exchange:** Most major towns - your tour leader will advise you on arrival.

## Joining your Tour

### Flight Information

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

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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.

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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.

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## 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 from 01 January 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](http://www.explore.co.uk/insurance). Explore Worldwide Ltd are an 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](http://www.fca.gov.uk) or by contacting them on 0800 111 6768.

### Visa Information

Egypt: An entry visa is required by all nationalities. UK citizens can obtain a visa on arrival at the airport for the current cost of 25USD. Please note, you must purchase a visa stamp at one of the nearby banks before proceeding to the immigration desk.

Visas can also be obtained prior to departure through Explore's recommended visa service in the UK; Visaswift, at <http://www.visaswift.com/explore.aspx>. Other nationalities should consult their local embassy or consular office.

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

Embassy prior to departure.

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## Vaccinations & Protection

### Egypt

Nothing compulsory but we recommend protection against typhoid, tetanus, infectious hepatitis and polio. Though malaria does exist in Egypt it is not normally found in the areas in which we travel. For the most up to date advice please consult your travel clinic.

## Preparing for your Tour

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### Climate

#### Egypt

Egypt's climate is hot and dry, typical of a desert environment. In summer it can be very hot and remain hot overnight whereas winter days are milder by comparison and temperatures can drop considerably at night. The mildest area is along the Mediterranean coast with temperatures ranging from 23-31°C in summer and 10-17°C in winter. In the desert region temperatures fluctuate in summer reaching as low as 7°C at night and 40°C during the day and in winter it can vary from 0°C at night to 18°C in the day. Aswan is one of the hottest cities with Cairo and Alexandria generally being slightly cooler. Egypt receives very little rainfall annually and rainfall in summer is very rare.

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### Clothing

Egypt is a Muslim country and it is important to dress with respect for local customs. Brief shorts/skirts should be avoided in towns and you should cover your head and shoulders when entering a mosque. In more traditional towns and market areas we advise women to wear long loose fitting trousers or skirts and have shoulders covered to avoid unwanted attention. Men should also be aware that shorts are not generally worn by Egyptians.

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## Equipment

For use on the felucca sailtrek a 2 season (temperature 0°C to 5°C) sleeping bag is necessary between April and October, 4 season (temperature -10°C to 0°C) for colder nights between December and February, and a 3 season (temperature -5°C to 0°C) for November and March. Please note that it is possible to hire a sleeping bag locally for the nights on the felucca at a cost of approximately £10.00.

It is also advisable to bring a water bottle, towel, insect repellent and a small torch. Sleeping mats are provided, but you may wish to bring your own for additional comfort/insulation. You may want to bring wet wipes and water free hand sanitiser.

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## Footwear

Walking shoes and sandals

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## Luggage: On Tour

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

Luggage allowance on tour: 20kg

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## General Information

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### Country details

#### Egypt

**Population:** 81,015,887

**Size of Country:** 1,002,450 sq km

**Major Language:** Arabic

**Religion:** Islamic, Christian

**Time Difference to GMT:** +2

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### Electric Supply & Plugs

#### Egypt

2 Pin Round

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## Why Choose Explore

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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, 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.

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### 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 traditions, 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.

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### 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

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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.

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## 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](http://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](http://www.tourismconcern.org.uk)

- For further information on responsible travel go to <http://www.explore.co.uk/ResponsibleTourism/>

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## Know before you go

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

## Booking Your Holiday

### Peace of mind - book with confidence

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

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

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### 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

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### 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.

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### 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.

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