EXPLORE! Tour Notes

PRICE GUARANTEE 100% NO SURCHARGES

Cycle Saigon to Hanoi (CVIE 2015)

CYCLING

TOURDURAT
14
DAYS

Tour Style: Classic
Tour Comfort: Standard
Tour Type: Small Groups
Cycling Grade: Moderate
tour Code: CVIE

Tour Highlights - Cycle Saigon to Hanoi

- ✓ Saigon - Cycle out to the Cu Chi Tunnels and explore the Mekong Delta
- ✓ Cycle the Central Highlands - Explore Vietnam's lush hill country and cycle over the Hon Giao Pass
- ✓ Beaches of Nha Trang - Take a boat trip out to the tropical islands
- ✓ Halong Bay - Cruise on a traditional junk amongst the bays and islands of one of South East Asia's most beautiful landscapes
- ✓ Hoi An - World Heritage town. Visit My Lai and cross over the Hai Van Pass
- ✓ Hanoi - Visit some of the highlights of the Vietnamese capital, including the city's Old Quarter
- ✓ Hue - Explore Vietnam's old imperial capital by bike

Tour Essentials

Accommodation:	11 nights Standard Hotel 1 night Basic Overnight Train 1 night Standard Boat
Included Meals:	13 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 1 dinner
Start Point:	Join tour: Ho Chi Minh City
End Point:	Tour ends: Hanoi
Included Bike:	18 gear Merida mountain bikes with front suspension
Transport:	Bus, Train, Boat, Bicycle
Countries:	Vietnam

Cycle Saigon to Hanoi

On this adventurous tour we bike along the rural backroads and into the highlands of Vietnam. Along the way we discover the cultural highlights of Saigon, Hoi An, Hue and Hanoi. There is also time to explore the Mekong Delta, the tropical beaches and islands of Nha Trang and the majestic beauty of Halong Bay on an overnight cruise.

Why Book this tour

Unlike many other operators, we include the hire of your bike in the overall cost of the holiday: you don't need to bring your own or pay extra to hire one locally. We also provide a support vehicle, spare parts and take care of day to day bike maintenance. All you need bring is your own helmet.

Cycling Information

On this tour we cycle 500 km over eight days (an average of 63 km per day) with further optional rides available. We mostly follow provincial roads with less car traffic but can have some motorbike traffic (90% tarmac roads, 10% earth/gravel roads). The terrain is generally flat except for the sections around Dalat which are in the hills. A support vehicle accompanies the rides throughout the tour with the exception of part of the Mekong Delta route. We have graded the route as moderate.

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.

Cycling Grade: Moderate

Medium length rides are suitable for cyclists who are used to undulating routes with occasional energetic climbs. You'll be cycling mainly on trails and quiet roads and you should have a reasonable level of fitness.

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 Saigon; afternoon orientation tour

We arrive in Saigon today and, after a chance to freshen up, take an orientation tour of the city this afternoon. The tour includes the prominent sights of the Hotel de Ville (home of the city's People's Committee), Notre Dame Cathedral and the impressive French style architecture of the GPO building. Following the tour we then have some free time, with options available to pay a visit to the Reunification Palace or the emotive War Crimes Museum. Alternatively you might like to explore the bustling stalls of the Binh Tay Market, the largest wholesale market in southern Vietnam.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**
Single Room Available

Included Meals: None

DAY 2 Cycle to Cu Chi Tunnels; late afternoon free in Saigon

Driving to Cu Chi bus station this morning we collect our bikes and ride about 30 km to Ben Duoc, site of the infamous Cu Chi Tunnels on the outskirts of Saigon. Originally started during the French occupation of the country, the tunnels went on to achieve notoriety during the Vietnam War, when they formed an amazing underground command base for 10,000 Viet Cong troops. We'll explore the tunnels with a local guide this morning. Be warned though, the tunnels are low and narrow and can be claustrophobic. After lunch we continue cycling for about 20km towards Ben Nay to further explore the area. Drive back to Saigon and the rest of the afternoon is free. Our total cycling distance today is approximately 45 kilometres, total ascent 140 meters.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**
Single Room Available

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 3 Drive to Mekong Delta then cycle backroads to Cai Be

Today gives us an opportunity to journey down into the Mekong Delta, to explore the fertile hinterland between the South China Sea and the Gulf of Thailand. Leaving Saigon, we drive first to Binh Duc (My Tho), from where we begin cycling through a rich landscape of bustling markets, orchards and riverside villages. Here we can watch rice paper and coconut sweets being made as they have been for generations. After lunch we visit a beautifully restored traditional house in Ut Kiet, before ending at Cai Be's famous market. From here we drive back to Saigon. Our total cycling distance today is approximately 60 kilometres, flat cycling.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**
Single Room Available

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 4 Exploring Vietnam’s Central Highlands

Departing Saigon this morning we drive into the southern Central Highlands towards the mountain town of Dalat (1500 metres). We commence today's cycling from Trang Bom with a 30km ride through the hills of the Langbiang Plateau, negotiating our way along quiet back roads towards the town of Gia Kiem. From here we board our bus again and drive over the mountains towards Dalat. Our total cycling distance today is approximately 30 kilometres, total ascent 1,500 meters.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**
Single Room Available

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 5 Cycle over Hon Giao Pass then drive to Nha Trang

Driving out of Dalat City this morning we then begin cycling up to the Hon Giao Pass (1,700m), a challenging ride that takes us up through forests of pine and across a landscape of dramatic mountain scenery. After a chance to rest at the top and take in the views, we then descend towards the town of Khanh Vinh, where we meet our bus and finish the rest of the journey to Nha Trang by road. Our total cycling distance today is approximately 80 kilometres, total ascent 2,400 meters.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**
Single Room Available

Swimming Pool Available

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 6 Boat trip to tropical islands

Long considered one of the most beautiful bays in South East Asia, Nha Trang is re-nowned for its golden beaches and turquoise waters. Weather permitting, this morning we take a cruise out to explore some of the surrounding islands. We aim to include Mien, Tam

and Mut Islands, affording plenty of opportunities for swimming and snorkelling. There will also be an option to enjoy a seafood lunch on board (at your own expense). Returning to Nha Trang late this afternoon the rest of the day is free to enjoy the sights andsounds of this lovely coastal town. No cycling today - rest day.

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

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 7 Cycle and drive from Nha Trang to Quy Nhon

Using a combination of bus and bicycle this morning we continue along the coast to the city of Quy Nhon. We commence our ride from the hotel in Nha Trang and head out along the Pham Van Dong road and continue on to Ninh An toll fee station (a journey of some 50 kilometres). From here we then take the bus to Dai Lanh, where we have a chance to swim and relax, before continuing by bus over Ca Pass to Bai Tien Song Cau. From here we resume our journey by bus to Quy Nhon and our hotel for the night. Our total cycling distance today is approximately 50 kilometres, total ascent 600 meters.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**
Single Room Available

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 8 Pedal over the Thi Nai sea bridge; drive to Hoi An

Departing Quy Nhon this morning we cycle out across Thi Nai Bridge, the longest sea bridge in Vietnam, which connects the city with the Phuong Mai Peninsula. Once across, we continue by bike along the Quy Nyon lagoon towards Phu My some 50 kilometres away. From Phu My we then travel by bus to Quang Ngai, the scene of the My Lai massacre - one of the most infamous episodes of the Vietnam War. We complete the final leg of our journey to Hoi An by bus. Our total cycling distance today is approximately 50 kilometres, flat ride.

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

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 9 Morning walking tour of Hoi An; free afternoon

First colonised by the Portuguese in the 16th century, Hoi An went on to become one of the busiest trading outposts in South East Asia. This morning we take a walk through the historic heart of this World Heritage Site, taking in the city's famous Japanese Bridge and its museum, before wandering amongst its traditional wooden houses and Chinese temples. This afternoon is then free to perhaps take a gentle river cruise or pay a visit to one of Hoi An's renowned tailors' shops, or maybe explore further afield by bike. No cycling today - rest day.

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

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 10 Cycle and drive to Hue via the Hai Van pass

Leaving Hoi An after breakfast, we start with a morning cycle ride to Xuan Thieu alongside the beaches of Danang and across Thuan Phuoc Bridge (a ride of about 45 km). From Xuan Thieu we drive up to the lofty heights of the Hai Van (Sea Cloud) Pass. There is the option to cycle the pass if you wish. This stunningly scenic region once marked the boundary between Vietnam and the Champa Kingdom to the south and, as we reach the summit of the pass, the panoramas before us are simply spectacular. Descending by bus we head next for Lang Co where we will stop for lunch. We drive on to Tu Hien Bridge before cycling along scenic back roads as we wind our way along the Cau Hai Lagoon to Thuan An (a ride of approximately 30 km). Meeting our bus in Thuan An, we then drive on to Hué on the shores of the Perfume River. Our total cycling distance today is approximately 78 kilometres, total ascent 110 meters.

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

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 11 Cycling around Hue then overnight train to Hanoi

Once the capital of Vietnam and an inspiration for poets and artists alike for centuries, Hué's tranquil villages and picturesque countryside make it an ideal place to explore by bike. Today we spend some time cycling through bamboo groves and rural villages to the historic tile-roofed bridge at Thanh Toan. We also visit the 19th century Nguyen Tomb of Tu Duc and the Old Citadel that still

dominates the left bank of the river. Returning to the hotel to freshen up we then drive to the railway station to catch the overnight train to Ha-noi. Our total cycling distance today is approximately 35 kilometres, total ascent 100 meters.

Overnight: **Basic Overnight Train**

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 12 Arrive in Hanoi; Drive to Halong bay for overnight cruise

Arriving in the Vietnamese capital early this morning we drive to the hotel in time for breakfast. Later this morning we then drive to the Gulf of Tonkin and the breathtaking scenery of Ha Long Bay, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the most visually impressive landscapes in South East Asia. Boarding the boat in time for lunch we set sail and visit Sung Sot Cave, spending this evening aboard the junk in twin-share, en suite cabins. Be aware the boat is not exclusive to Explore and we may be sharing with other tourists. No cycling, rest day.

Overnight: **Standard Boat**
Single Room Available

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 13 Morning cruise then drive to Hanoi then city tour

This morning we continue cruising through this wonderfully scenic landscape, enjoying the serenity of its limestone islands and visiting some of the caves (the optional cave visits can involve climbing some slippery steps). Returning to the shore we then drive back to Hanoi, a four hour journey that gets us into the capital in time to enjoy a short tour of the city. Our afternoon tour includes a visit to the Ba Dinh Square and the Temple of Literature, as well as a chance to explore a little something of the city's fascinating Old Quarter. No cycling, rest day.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**
Single Room Available

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 14 Tour ends Hanoi

The tour ends in Hanoi this morning after breakfast.

Included Meals: Breakfast

Accommodation and Meals

Accommodation Rating

Basic - Our basic accommodation can offer the most rewarding and memorable places to stay. These are usually communal or camping style with shared facilities. Running hot and cold water may be unreliable and overall comfort levels are basic.
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.

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.

Vietnam

Lunch £: 4.00

Dinner £: 9.00

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.

Vietnam

Bottle of Beer £: 1.50

Water £: 0.50

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

Hanoi - Water Puppets from US$8. Cyclo ride around Old quarter $6
Hue - Perfume River half day boat trip from US$6; Trip to countryside from US$12.
Hoi An - Cookery class from US$25, Vegetable Village visit $3

Tipping - Tour Leader

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

Tipping - Local Crew

Although entirely voluntary, tipping is a recognized part of life in this region of the world. Some local staff will look to members of the group for personal recognition of particular services provided. In order to make things easier for you, the Tour Leaders may organise a group's tips kitty and if this is the case, they will account for it throughout the tour. Accordingly you should allow approximately US$40 for gratuities for local staff.

Foreign Exchange

Vietnam

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

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

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

Local Currency: Dong.

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

Where to Exchange: Most towns.

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 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. 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 or by contacting them on 0800 111 6768.

Visa Information

Vietnam: British passport holders can visit Vietnam for up to 15 days without a visa. A visa is required for longer stays or if you wish to re-enter within 30 days of your departure. Visas can be obtained through Explore's recommended visa service in the UK, Visaswift, at http://www.visaswift.com/explore.aspx. To visit Vietnam, with or without a visa, your passport should be valid for a minimum of 6 months from the date of entry. Other nationalities should consult their local embassy or consular office.

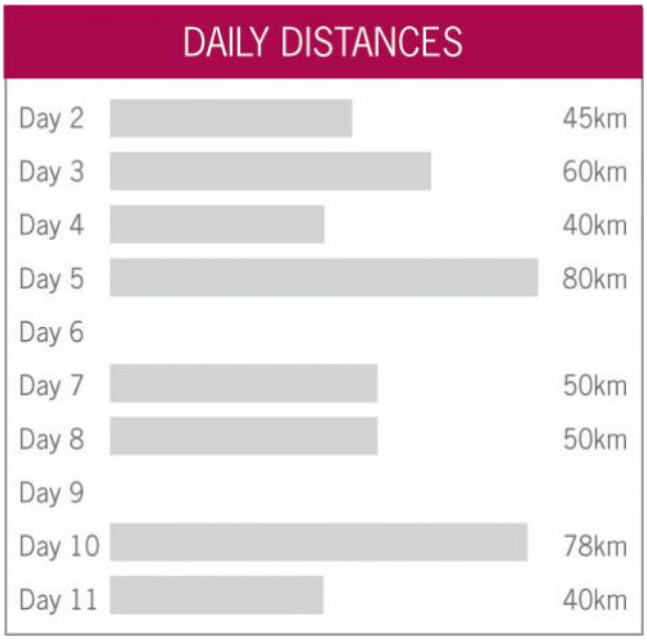
All visa information is subject to change. You should confirm all visa related questions with the relevant Embassy prior to departure.

Vaccinations & Protection

Vietnam

Nothing compulsory, we recommend protection against malaria, typhoid, tetanus, diphtheria, polio and hepatitis A. Consult your travel clinic for latest advice on different prophylaxis available against malaria. Although not compulsory travellers may also wish to immunise themselves against Japanese encephalitis. The above is not an exhaustive list. Further information regarding vaccinations and travel health advice can be found by following the NHS and NaTHNaC links at http://www.explore.co.uk/Travelhealth/ and from your local healthcare provider. Visa and vaccination requirements are subject to change and should be confirmed before departure.

Preparing for your Tour



Bike Details

Your included bike is an 18 gear Merida mountian bike and will be the correct frame size for your height. A handlebar bag or pannier and water bottle holder are included as well as the facility to fit your own pedals or saddle if you wish to bring them. A support vehicle accompanies the rides throughout the tour. We provide spare parts and take care of the day to day maintenance. All you need to bring is your own helmet.

Climate

Vietnam

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

Clothing

Bring cycle shorts, quick drying cycle tops and gloves. From December through to February warmer clothing is needed for the North and the highlands. Days are hot and humid. Lightweight rainwear essential at all times.The northern region and highlands are cold at night during the winter.

Equipment

Take a cycle helmet, cycle water bottle, sunglasses, sunhat, sunscreen, insect repellent. You may wish to bring a gel seat cover for your saddle and ear plugs often come in handy. Please consider carrying all or some of your cycling equipment, e.g. helmet, as part of your hand luggage. You may wish to bring a small torch for the night on the train. Even though clean bed linen is provided on the train journey, you may want to bring a cotton sleeping sheet (it can be purchased in Hanoi) and a small travel towel.

Footwear

Comfortable walking shoes/sandals for sightseeing, trainers for cycling.

Luggage: On Tour

We recommend you bring a daypack and one main piece of luggage (total allowance: 44lb/20kg) which will be transported between hotels while you cycle. Check the bike details section to see if a pannier or handlebar bag is provided on the bike.

Luggage allowance on tour: 20kg

General Information

Country details

Vietnam

Population: 90,549,390

Size of Country: 331,698 sq km

Major Language: Vietnamese

Religion: Mahayana Buddhism, Taoism and Confucianism

Time Difference to GMT: +7

Electric Supply & Plugs

Vietnam

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 & 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 http://www.explore.co.uk/ResponsibleTourism/

Know before you go

We strongly recommend that you check your government's travel advisory for up-to-date information and advice about your destination: safety andÂ security, entry requirements, health, local laws and customs. ForÂ UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office Advice follow the link atÂ 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 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 08/07/2015 08:25:16