

# EXPLORE!

## TRIP NOTES



### Azores Island Hopping (AZ 2017)



TRIPDURATION  
**14**  
DAYS



**Tour Style:** Classic  
**Accommodation**  
**Grade:** Standard

**Tour Type:** Small Groups  
**Trek Grade:** Easy to Moderate

**Trip Code:** AZ

#### Trip Highlights - Azores Island Hopping

- ✓ Sete Cidades - Crater walk to Vista do Rei for stunning lake views
- ✓ Furnas Valley - Thermal springs, natural ovens and bubbling mud pools
- ✓ Angra do Heroismo - Lovely UNESCO World Heritage Site, a town with a colourful history
- ✓ Sao Jorge - Walks through an unusual and varied landscape of cliffs, valleys and gorges
- ✓ Pico - Coastal walk to the small whaling village of Lajes with the opportunity to go whale watching

#### Trip Essentials

**Accommodation:** 13 nights Standard Hotel

**Included Meals:** 13 breakfasts, 1 lunch, 0 dinners

**Start Point:** Join trip: Ponta Delgada

**End Point:** Trip ends: Horta

**Transport:** Bus, Flight, Public Bus, Taxi, Ferry

**Countries:** Portugal, Azores

# Azores Island Hopping

Bathed in the warm waters of the Gulf Stream, these nine volcanic islands rise up from the mid-Atlantic ridge. On a series of easy walks we explore five of these unspoilt islands: San Miguel, Terceira, Sao Jorge, Pico and Faial. We discover crater lakes, thermal springs, deep gorges and craggy coastlines. There are also opportunities to take boat trips in search of whales, and to spend time in picturesque fishing villages.

## Wildlife

Although not included as part of this trip, there is the option to go whale watching or swimming with dolphins.

The Azores are famed as being one of the best places in the world for whale and dolphin watching. There is no ideal time of year to go as there are some species that reside here all year round, as well as those which pass through on migratory routes to feeding grounds in the Northern Atlantic. Common, bottlenose and Risso's dolphins along with sperm whales are present all year round. During the spring months, baleen whales such as fin whales and sei whales can be seen. We could also be lucky enough to spot the giant blue whale. Summer months are prime viewing months for the Atlantic spotted dolphin, striped dolphin and pilot whales. Whatever time of year you go there is a good chance of seeing these graceful aquatic creatures.



## 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.

### Trek Grade: Easy to Moderate

This grade is ideal if you want to enjoy both easy and moderate level walks on the same tour. You'll be walking mainly on good paths and at low altitude, with occasional more demanding ascents or descents.

# 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 at Ponta Delgada, on the island of Sao Miguel

Arrive Ponta Delgada and check-in at hotel. Located on the harbour of Sao Miguel, the Azores largest island, Ponta Delgada is a charming historic city with narrow cobbled streets and some interesting buildings worth a visit, such as the Municipal city hall with its reflecting pool in the city centre of Baixa.

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

 **Included Meals:** None

### DAY 2 Walk around Sete Cidades, see the colourful crater lakes

Basing ourselves at Ponta Delgada, the island's capital, we spend our first 3 days exploring Sao Miguel - the largest of the islands we visit. We use a mixture of local and private buses to transfer us to and from our walks. For our first day walking we drive to Sete Cidades. From here we walk within and around some of the crater to Vista do Rei to view the splendid blue and green lakes before returning to Ponta Delgada by bus later that afternoon. Today's 8km walk is expected to take around 2.5 hours with a descent of 270m.

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

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

### DAY 3 Enjoy lakeside walk and lunch amongst volcanic scenery

Our second days walking begins by driving to the north side of the Lagoa das Furnas where we take a short walk of approximately forty-five minutes on the shores of the lake, stopping to see the natural ovens (cavities in the rock). Here in the huge hollow of Furnas Valley, diverse volcanic activity has also created thermal springs and boiling mud pools. Today we have an included lunch - a traditional Cozido cooked in the volcanic fumaroles. We also have time to visit the botanical gardens of Terra Nostra, planted over 200 years ago, with an outdoor thermal pool where we can bathe (optional). Back on the bus we continue to a viewpoint to Lagoa de Fogo, the island's highest crater lake, where we will stop to take photos before continuing back to Ponta Delgada.

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

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch

### DAY 4 Free day; optional boat trip to look for whales

Today is left free to explore more of the island on and off shore. You may wish to do one of the many walks around the island however another option is to take a whale searching trip or to swim with the dolphins.

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

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

### DAY 5 Fly to Terceira Island, explore Angra do Heroismo town

An inter-island flight brings us to the island of Terceira. During our stay here, our base will be the small harbour settlement of Praia da Vitoria. After transferring to our hotel, we cross the island by local transport to the largest settlement on Terceira, the old town of Angra do Heroismo. An afternoon here gives us time to explore the town, with its distinctive architecture, its cathedrals and churches. Angra was the first settlement in the Azores to receive city status, in 1534, and remains one of the finest examples of Renaissance town planning. It was the Azores' seat of government until the early 19th century and its palaces and churches are the legacy of its supremacy. A walk up to the fort gives good views over the harbour and the narrow streets of the old town are well worth exploring at your own pace. You may also want to visit the Algar do Carvao caves, the only volcanic pit you can visit in the world, before returning to Praia.

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

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

## DAY 6 Coastal walk to Biscoitos

Using local transport, we head for the northern regions of the island, which we will explore on foot. From Quatro Ribeiras an easy walk follows the contours of the coast with marvellous views out to sea. We arrive at Biscoitos, where there is the chance to swim in the lava rock pools. In the late afternoon we return to Praia da Vitoria by local bus. Today's 12.5km walk is expected to take around 3.5hrs with total ascent of 314m and total descent of 465m.

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

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

## DAY 7 Fly to Sao Jorge Island, free time to explore Velas town

There may be some free time in Praia da Vitoria, depending on the flight time, before we take the short flight to Sao Jorge. This curiously elongated island is some 56 km long, but only 8 km wide, having been created by a series of linear volcanic eruptions. The island remained almost isolated for many centuries, due to the lack of shelter offered to ships. After transferring to our hotel, we are free to wander the streets of the small maritime community of Velas, where we are based. Alternatively we can take an optional walk to the old whale watching tower which is positioned on a volcanic crater from where we can enjoy views down on to Velas town (2hrs).

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

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

## DAY 8 Walk through Caldeira de Cima gorge down to the coast

We can spend two full days walking on Sao Jorge, a place of precipitous cliffs, narrow valleys and tiny coves. On our first day, using local taxis we'll head from Velas to the north side of the island. A stunning walk starting from the 700m high ridge of Sao Jorge leads us through the beautiful gorge of the Caldeira de Cima and down to the coast. From here we follow the rocky coastline and walk to Faja do Cubres. Fajas are the small plains at the foot of the steep coastal cliffs which are dotted with traditional hamlets and fertile orchards. Today's 12km walk is expected to take around 4hrs total descent of 595m.

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

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

## DAY 9 Free day; choice of optional walks

Our second day is left free for optional walks, and your tour leader will advise on the various possibilities. Views of the surrounding islands are excellent from Pico da Esperanca ridge walk (1053m) in the centre of the island, while a walk along the fajas on the south coast of the island offers a contrast in scenery from the north.

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

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

## DAY 10 Ferry to Pico Island, free time to explore local area

This morning we take a boat to Pico and transfer to our accommodation at Madalena. The rest of the day is free to explore this small fishing port, or perhaps take a walk through the coastal vineyards or visit the Grota do Torres Lava Tunnel.

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

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

## DAY 11 Coastal walk to Lajes, optional boat trip

Pico is dominated by its volcano, Pico Alto, reaching up to 2350m. The island covers some 42 km by 16 km. For those interested in the history of the island, there are many small fishing ports, several with reminders of the old whaling industry once so vital to the island. Today's walk is along the south coast of Pico. We walk to the village of Lajes, which has a small whaling museum. There is the

opportunity to take a whale-watching trip (optional) from Lajes to spot sperm whales as well as several species of dolphins. Today's 6.5km walk is expected to take around 2hrs total descent of 450m

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**

**Single Room Available**

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

## DAY 12 Free morning for optional walks, take the ferry to Faial Island

The morning is free to do another walk or for an ascent of Pico, a very strenuous 6-7 hour climb. Those interested in walking can take taxis part way up Pico Alto, from where there are fine views across the straits to Faial, while behind the peak of the volcano rises into the clouds. There are dozens of small volcanic cones on the slopes of Pico Alto and some caves created by past lava flows to explore for example, Furnas Frei Mateus (optional, approx 3 hours walk 1020m ascent and descent). There are magnificent and unforgettable vistas of neighbouring islands. In the afternoon, we cross by boat to the charming island of Faial, where the harbour is often full of yachts, half way through their transatlantic crossing.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**

**Single Room Available**

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

## DAY 13 Free day; optional tour of island or boat trip

Today is free to explore the Ilha Azul. You can go whale watching again (optional). You could take the opportunity to do some more walking (optional), alternatively take a taxi tour of the island (optional). We can head for the stunning Caldeira often shrouded in cloud, where we view the lush green-carpeted crater. The views over the island are particularly impressive in summer, when the wild blue hydrangeas that form many of the hedges are in flower. We then continue to the western end of the island to visit the Capelinhos volcano, now extinct, then we can swim on the volcanic sandy beaches at Porto Pim. Later we return to Horta, an attractive little town with some good restaurants.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**

**Single Room Available**

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

## DAY 14 Tour ends in Horta, Faial Island

Tour ends after breakfast.

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

## Accommodation and Meals

### Food & Drink

Included meals: 13 breakfasts, 1 lunch, 0 dinners included in the price of this trip. Please be prepared to pay for non-included meals. Please note that costs for drinks and meals can vary depending on location.

## Budgeting for your Trip

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

### Food

The costs for meals may vary depending upon location, type of restaurant and number of courses eaten and so the prices given are an average guide. Local restaurants located off the beaten track may be less expensive, whereas an upmarket restaurant located in the centre of a major city may charge more.

### Portugal

**Lunch £:** 10.00 - 12.00

**Dinner £:** 15.00

## Azores

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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.

### Portugal

**Bottle of Beer £:** 2.00 - 3.00 depending on your location, well touristed areas are usually slightly more expensive.

**Water £:** 1.40

## Azores

### 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

Sao Miguel - Half day whale watch €55pp

Terceira - Algar do Cárvaos Caves €6pp and shared taxi €15pp; Tourada Festival shared taxi €10-15pp

Sao Jorge - Rosais shared taxi €10pp; Ridge Walk Pico de Esperanza €15pp shared taxi; Coastal walk and dinner shared taxi €10pp (plus dinner)

Pico - UNESCO vineyards with wine and cheese plus lava caves €20pp; Whale-watching boat trip €65pp (July and August) €54pp (mid season), €49pp (low season) (subject to weather conditions); Dolphin Experience boat trip with swimming €75pp (subject to weather conditions); Furnas da Frei Matias walk (shared taxi) €8pp; Pico ascent including guide and taxi (based on 4 people: €55pp, 3 people: €73.50pp, 2 people €110pp)

Faial - Half day island excursion €20-25pp shared taxi, with Capelinhos Exhibit €10pp; Capelinhos walk shared taxi €20pp; Capelinhos Exhibit €10pp.

All taxi costs are based on a minimum of 4 people sharing.

Please note that the Tourada Festival is dependent on the local farmers schedules.

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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 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 €10 for tipping.

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### Foreign Exchange

#### Portugal

**ATM Availability:** Cash-point machines are available in all major towns. Bankcards with the Cirrus logo are accepted.

**Credit Card Acceptance:** Visa and Mastercard are generally accepted in larger restaurants and some shops.

**Travellers Cheques:** Travellers cheques can be exchanged in all major towns but are not recommended due to the high rate of commission.

**Local Currency:** Euro.

**Recommended Currency for Exchange:** Take the majority of your spending money in Euros cash.

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

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## Azores

## 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>.

## 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

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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

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## 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

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

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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**.

## Vaccinations & Protection

### Portugal

Nothing compulsory but Tetanus is usually recommended as a precaution. 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. Vaccination requirements are subject to change and should be confirmed before departure.

### Azores

## Preparing for your Trip

### DAILY DISTANCES

Day 2	8km	2.5hrs
Day 3		
Day 4	4.5km	2.5hrs
Day 5	7.5km	2.5hrs
Day 6	12.7km	3.5hrs
Day 7		
Day 8	12km	4hrs
Day 9	17km	6hrs
Day 10	5km	2hrs
Day 11	6.5km	2hrs
Day 12	8km	7hrs
Day 13	5.5km	2.5hrs

Optional Walks

## Trekking Details

This is a flexible trip with included walks on 4 days. Walks are between 2 to 4 hours and the terrain is generally undulating. There are also additional optional walks including climbing Pico Alto, an ascent of 2350m. We have graded this trip as easy to moderate.

## Walking Boots

Walking boots with ankle support are essential.

## Climate

### Portugal

Overall, spring, early summer and autumn are ideal times for a trip to Portugal - though the weather varies enormously from region to region. The northern high plains has both extremes, stiflingly hot in summer, bitterly cold and swept by freezing winds in winter. The Atlantic coast, in contrast, has a tendency to damp and mist, and a relatively brief, humid summer. The Mediterranean south is warm virtually all year round. The islands have very different weather patterns due to their positioning and can have sudden rain falls throughout the year so waterproofs are recommended even in the summer.

### Azores

## Clothing

July and August are the warmest months, though the islands are freshened by cooling sea breezes. Waterproofs are essential, as is a fleece, gloves and a hat if climbing Pico.



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## Equipment

We recommend a waterbottle, sunhat, towel, sunscreen, repellent and sunglasses. A torch and/or head torch is required if taking the Pico climb and visiting caves. You may find walking poles useful. If you would like to snorkel, please bring your own equipment.

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## Footwear

Please bring comfortable trainers or sandals for relaxing. Plastic sandals are useful if swimming off laval rocks.

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## Luggage: On Tour

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

Luggage allowance on trip: 20kg

# General Information

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## Country details

### Portugal

**Population:** 10,647,763

**Size of Country:** 92,090 sq km

**Major Language:** Portuguese

**Religion:** Roman Catholic

### Azores

## Electric Supply & Plugs

### Portugal

2 Pin Round

### Azores

# 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.

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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 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

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.

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## 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 2016 and 31st December 2017.

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### Trip Itinerary Versions

Itinerary details may vary depending on departure date and alternative itineraries for this tour may exist. Please refer to the dates and prices page on our website to check which itinerary operates on each departure date.

Please ensure that you have an up-to-date copy of these tour notes immediately before you travel, as from time to time our itineraries may be amended, either for operational reasons or in response to feedback from customers. You will be informed of any major changes to your tour but small changes may just be added to these tour notes.

Please note: 2017 itinerary versions are applicable to tours departing in 2017. 2018/19 itinerary versions are applicable to tours departing from 1st January to 31st December 2018.

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