EXPLORE! Tour Notes

PRICE GUARANTEE 100% NO SURCHARGES

Buenos Aires to Rio (QBR 2015)

INSPIRING LANDSCAPES

TOURDURAT
15
DAYS

Tour Style: Simply
Tour Pace: Busy
Tour Type: Small Groups
Tour Comfort: Standard
tour Code: QBR

Tour Highlights - Buenos Aires to Rio

- ✓ Buenos Aires - Tango capital of the world, elegant and seductive
- ✓ Iguazu Falls - South America's most beautiful waterfalls, view from both the Brazilian and Argentinean sides
- ✓ Paraty - Jewel of Portuguese colonial architecture
- ✓ Ilha Grande - Verdant island with great beaches and opportunities for walks
- ✓ Rio De Janeiro - South America's most stunning and vibrant city including Christ the Redeemer, one of the New Seven Wonders of the World

Tour Essentials

Accommodation:	13 nights Standard Hotel 1 night Simple Bus
Included Meals:	13 breakfasts, 0 lunches, 0 dinners
Start Point:	Join tour: Buenos Aires
End Point:	Tour ends: Rio de Janeiro
Transport:	Public Bus, Ferry
Countries:	Argentina, Brazil

Buenos Aires To Rio

On this exciting overland journey we travel from Argentina's capital Buenos Aires to the vibrant city of Rio de Janeiro in Brazil. Along the way we tour the attractive city of Curitiba, explore the coastal town of Paraty and visit the tropical island of Ilha Grande. A trip highlight is the thundering waters of Iguazu Falls, one of the most spectacular waterfalls in the world.

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: Simply

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

Tour Pace: Busy

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

Your tour itinerary

Tour itinerary notes

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

Your Tour Leader

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

DAY 1 Join tour in Buenos Aires

Join tour in Buenos Aires and check-in at the hotel. Argentina's vibrant capital is located on the southern shores of the Rio de la Plata. Since its founding by Pedro de Mendoza in 1536, the city has thrived on trade and its bustling streets are filled with an eclectic mix of European architectural styles, with Spanish, French and Italian classicism rubbing shoulders with remnants of Victorian grandeur. Gaining independence from its Spanish overlords in 1816 the city grew to rival the great cities of Europe, its wide avenues and elegant squares earning it the title of the Paris of the South.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**
Single Room Available

Included Meals: None

DAY 2 In Buenos Aires; walking tour of the Argentinian capital

Today we plan to explore some of the city on foot with our Tour Leader, especially the major landmarks around the Plaza de Mayo, site of the famous mass demonstrations by supporters of Juan Domingo Peron in 1945, organised by his wife Eva. This afternoon has been left free for more sightseeing. Sunday is also the day of the famous San Telmo Market where local people dance tango on street corners and the stalls laden with their brightly coloured wares line the plaza. You can also visit the elaborate mausoleums of the famous Recoleta Cemetary, the final resting place of some of Argentina's most revered figures, including Eva Peron herself or also take the opportunity to visit Palermo Park. This evening you can enjoy Buenos Aires' dazzling nightlife and soak up the pulsating rhythms of one of South America's most captivating cities, perhaps taking the opportunity to enjoy a tango show (optional).

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**
Single Room Available

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 3 Morning free to explore Buenos Aires, overnight bus to Iguazu

This morning has been left free for you to catch up on any sightseeing you couldn’t do yesterday. Perhaps take a guided tour to other parts of the city including the colourful vibrancy of La Caminito in the La Boca district of the city. Make sure you’re back in time this afternoon though as we board our bus for the overnight journey to Iguazu, arriving after lunch the following day.The buses are modern and as comfortable as bus can get with reclining seats, some snacks and drinks are available and there is a toilet on board also.

Overnight: **Simple Bus**

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 4 Arrive Puerto Iguazu, view Iguazu Falls from the Argentinian side

Waking up this morning, the landscape outside will have changed radically from the flat agricultural plains around Buenos Aires to the lush, tropical forests surrounding Iguacu Falls. We arrive this afternoon in Puerto Iguazu (Argentina) where we will have an included visit to the Argentinean side of the falls before having some free time. Later today we will cross over to Brazil where we will spend the first of two nights at Foz de Iguacu.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**
Single Room Available

Swimming Pool Available

Included Meals: None

DAY 5 At Iguazu Falls; visit the Brazilian side of the falls (optional)

Today you will have a free day with the opportunity to visit the Brazilian side of the falls (optional) which gives a panoramic view of these mighty cataracts. Four times wider than Niagara, the falls hurtle over high cliffs into a marvellous curved amphitheatre several miles wide - a breathtaking sight. The noise is tremendous and huge clouds of mist are churned up by the cascade. The surrounding spray-soaked forest is alive with brightly plumaged toucans, parrots, hummingbirds and colourful butterflies. This afternoon there are a number of optional trips, for a more spectacular view of the falls you may like to take a 10 minute helicopter flight. Or you could always visit the Tropicana Bird Park lying in the rainforest near the entrance gate - this is a must for ornithologists and anyone interested in local wildlife. Another option this afternoon is an excursion to the 65 stories high Itaipu Dam, the largest hydroelectric plant in the world, with an 8km long dam and a reservoir that covers 1400 square kilometres. The output from the plant, supplies some 80% of Paraguay's electricity and 25% of Brazil's.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**
Single Room Available

Swimming Pool Available

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 6 Public bus to Curitiba

Transferring to the bus station this morning we take a public, but comfortable long distance bus, heading due east on a full day's drive to the modern city of Curitiba, capital of Parana state. Once a gold mining centre, this pleasant town is very much an immigrants' city, with its modern streets now playing host to the descendants of the 19th and 20th century settlers who flocked here from Western Europe, Poland, the Ukraine, even Japan and the Middle East. We arrive late at our hotel to prepare for our day sightseeing tomorrow.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**
Single Room Available

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 7 In Curitiba; optional train to Serra do Mar

We have the day to wander the streets of this attractive city, explore its historic quarter, or visit some of its numerous parks and museums, including the art museum Museu Oscar Niemeyer which has a very distinctive shape and was named in a Lonely Planet list as one of the top ten buildings in the world . The city has a distinctly European feel to it and many of its preserved buildings are very reminiscent of its colonial past. But there is also the option today to take the train, to the forested tranquillity of the Serra do Mar mountains, along Brazil's most spectacular railway journey. Descending from 1000m to almost sea level the train traverses a landscape of high cliffs, plunging waterfalls and dense Atlantic rainforest to reach the subtropical plains. This masterpiece of railway construction was built between 1880 and 1885 by Belgian engineers and European immigrants and still transports many export crops like soya beans and coffee to the harbour of Paranagua. A visit to the pleasant colonial village of Morretes completes this optional tour.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**
Single Room Available

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 8 Drive to Paraty; discover this pretty town

Another day's drive by long distance public bus, stopping only on the outskirts of the 16 million metropolis of Sao Paulo to change bus, brings us to the coastal town of Paraty and one of the most important examples of Portuguese colonial architecture anywhere. We have a full day to explore at leisure this most delightful of towns. Once an important port of trade during the height of the Brazilian gold rush, the town today is a visual treat, its cobbled streets hiding a collection of majestic whitewashed buildings along the Rua do Comercio and no fewer than four stunning colonial churches, including the dominant Nossa Senhora dos Remedios.

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

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 9 Free time in Paraty, optional boat trip or snorkelling

This is a free day to explore Paraty. You can take a boat trip out to some of the outlying islands and tropical beaches in the bay, with the chance to stop off and swim and snorkel in the clear, lukewarm Atlantic waters. Another option is to take a trip back in time and explore the trail through the mountains once used by the miners to bring their gold.

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

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 10 Drive and ferry to Ilha Grande

This morning we take a public bus down the Atlantic coast to Angra dos Reis. This will be our gateway out to Ilha Grande, a beautiful island preserve of spectacular scenery, unspoilt beaches and atmospheric ruins. We take a boat from Angra dos Reis later this afternoon, travelling the short distance to the colonial port of Vila Do Abraão (about 1.5 hours), a picturesque coastal town lying beneath the shadow of towering mountains. On arrival we will transfer to our hotel.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**
Single Room Available

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 11 Free day on Ilha Grande Island; optional walks or relax on the beach

Enjoy a free day on this lush island paradise affords us some opportunities to explore in more depth this remarkable landscape. The island covers nearly 200 square kilometres and a number of trails lead off into the rich interior of the island, offering some quite spectacular walking. The jungle canopies are alive with the sights and sounds of squawking parrots, colourful butterflies and playful monkeys, making for an idyllic setting in which to spend your day. A more adventurous trek will take you to the mountainous summit of Bico do Papagaio (the Parrot’s Beak), whilst closer to home are the ruins of the Antigo Presídio, a once infamous prison for political detainees. Alternatively you may prefer simply to relax on the unspoilt beaches, taking a boat trip out to enjoy some snorkelling in the Atlantic waters off the coast. Your Tour Leader will be able to offer advice and help with any optional trips you wish to try.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**
Single Room Available

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 12 Travel to Rio de Janeiro, free afternoon to explore

The spectacular setting of Rio de Janeiro brings us to the end of our journey today. Leaving Ilha Grande by ferry this morning we then travel by public bus from Angra to Rio, one of the world's most beautiful cities. Named from the Portuguese for River and the month of January, it is a hard location to beat. With 193 kilometers of marvellous beaches, and a mountain backdrop to die for, it is a city that lives up to its name - Cidade Marvihosa. On arrival the afternoon there should be some time free to relax and enjoy the amazing spectacle that is Rio.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**
Single Room Available

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 13 In Rio: walking tour of the city, optional Sugar Loaf Mountain visit

This morning we head out with our Tour Leader on foot to explore downtown Rio. The next couple of days have been left free for you to choose from a number of optional trips. Highly recommended is a guided tour of the city, travelling by bus, metro and tram to visit, among other parts, the historical city centre and the picturesque barrio of Santa Teresa taking in real life in Rio. Alternatively take a trip out to Sugar Loaf Mountain, the giant rock at the entrance of Guanabara Bay where you can take a cable car up to the breathtaking views of Rio.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**
Single Room Available

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 14 Free day in Rio; optional Corcovado trip

Today is a free day to explore more of Rio. Your Tour Leader can also organise a visit to the towering summit of Corcovado (712m) topped by the immense statue of Christ the Redeemer, or if it is possible you may prefer to watch a local football match in the giant 95,000 seat Maracana Stadium. England may be the home of 'soccer', but Brazil is still very much its temple and to experience a game is a memorable event. A visit to the old bohemian district of Lapa, where every night the authentic samba still can be enjoyed and is an ideal location for our final night on the town before saying our final goodbyes.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**
Single Room Available

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 15 Tour ends Rio

The tour ends in Rio this morning after breakfast.

Included Meals: Breakfast

Accommodation and Meals

Food & Drink

Included meals: 13 breakfasts, 0 lunches,0 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.

Argentina

Lunch £: 10.00

Dinner £: 17.00

Brazil

Lunch £: 10.00

Dinner £: 17.00

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.

Argentina

Bottle of Beer £: 2.0

Water £: 1.30

Brazil

Bottle of Beer £: 2.10

Water £: 1.00

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

Buenos Aires - City tour US$ 15; Tango show without dinner US$ 95, US$ 120 (with dinner)
Iguazu Falls - Helicopter flight US$ 120; Bird Park US$ 15
Curitiba - Train to Serra do Mar US$ 60; Museu Oscar Niemeyer US$3
Paraty - Boat trip/Snorkelling US$ 20; Bike hire US$ 25; Gold route US$ 25
Ilha Grande - Boat trip and snorkelling US$ 31; Guide to Pico Papagaio US$ 40
Rio De Janeiro - City tour US$ 35; Sugar Loaf Mountain US$ 25; Christ the Redeemer US$ 45; Football Match US$ 55, city tour and Christ the Redeemer Full day tour US$85; Favela tour US$36

Tipping - Local Crew

Although entirely voluntary, tipping is a recognised part of life in this region of the world. Some local staff will look to members of the group for personal recognition of particular services provided. Accordingly, you should allow US$ 60 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.

Foreign Exchange

Argentina

ATM Availability: Available in Major towns. Always have some cash as back-up as they are not always reliable

Credit Card Acceptance: Credit cards are useful and can be used in some places, but may be subject to a 10% service charge

Travellers Cheques: Travellers Cheques can be awkward or expensive to change

Local Currency: Peso

Recommended Currency for Exchange: Carry all your funds in US cash NOT Sterling or Travellers Cheques which are more difficult to exchange. We recommend to take a minimum of US$400-$500 of your total spending money in cash, in mixed denominations. Notes should be in good condition otherwise they might be difficult to exchange.

Where to Exchange: Your Tour Leader will advise you on arrival.

Brazil

ATM Availability: Available in Major towns. Always have some cash as back-up as they are not always reliable

Credit Card Acceptance: Credit cards are useful and can be used in many places, but may be subject to a 10% service charge

Travellers Cheques: Travellers Cheques can be awkward or expensive to change

Local Currency: Real.

Recommended Currency for Exchange: Carry all your funds in US cash NOT Sterling or Travellers Cheques which are more difficult to exchange. We recommend to take a minimum of US$400-$500 of your total spending money in cash, in mixed denominations. Notes should be in good condition otherwise they might be difficult to exchange.

Where to Exchange: 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.

Booking a land only package with Explore

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

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

Joining Tour Abroad

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

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

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

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

Booking a flight inclusive package with Explore

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

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

Important Information

Travel Insurance

It is a condition of joining any of our tours that you must have valid travel insurance. It must indicate that you have cover for (at least) medical expenses and emergency repatriation in the event of illness or injury. Medical and repatriation insurance cover is not mandatory for UK residents who are travelling in England and Scotland. We also strongly recommend your policy includes curtailment, personal effects and cancellation protection as all deposits paid are non-refundable. You will also need to ensure your travel policy covers you for all activities you intend to do whilst on tour.

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

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

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

Argentina: Visas are not required for UK, US, Canadian, Australian and New Zealand citizens. However US, Canadian and Australian citizens will need make a payment called the 'reciprocity fee' in advance of travel to enter Argentina. This currently costs 100USD for Australian citizens, 70USD for Canadian citizens and 131USD for US citizens. This payment needs to be made online at http://www.migraciones.gov.ar/accesibleingles The receipt generated at the time of online payment must be printed and given to local immigration authorities together with your passport.

Brazil: Visas are not required for UK citizens. They are, however, required for Canadian, Australian, New Zealand and US citizens. If you require a visa for Brazil you should also check if you need a visa for Argentina, this is necessary if you wish to visit the Argentinean side of the Iguazu falls.

Other nationalities should consult the relevant consulate.

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

USA (If flights transit): According to US law, passengers will have to disembark, collect luggage and clear immigration before re-boarding for the onward flight.

Citizens of the UK, New Zealand, Australia, Canada and passport holders from several EU countries can enter the United States without a visa under the Visa Waiver Program (VWP). This applies if you enter the country by sea or by air on a carrier participating in the visa waiver scheme, holding a return/ onward ticket. The passport requirements are that it must be machine readable, and must contain a digital photograph of the holder and also an integrated circuit chip that stores biographic information.

All passengers travelling to the USA under the Visa Waiver Programme must provide their details online no later than 72 hours prior to travel. British travellers who have not registered before their trip are likely to be detained and sent home.

When completing an application for transit you should enter the words 'In Transit' with your final destination location in the address line. Anyone applying for an Electronic Travel Authorisation (ESTA) to travel under the Visa Waiver system will be charged a fee of 14USD (9GBP).

For more information, and to apply online, please visit the following website at https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov. Once obtained, the application will be valid for a period of two years, or for the validity of your passport (whichever is shorter).

For more information about who is eligible for the VWP, or any other questions you may have regarding your eligibility, or machine readable passports, please contact your local consular office, or visit www.usembassy.org.uk

Vaccinations & Protection

Argentina

Nothing compulsory, we recommend protection against malaria, typhoid, tetanus, polio and hepatitis A. Consult your travel clinic for latest advice on different prophylaxis available against malaria. We recommend protection against yellow fever. There have been very few cases reported, but local authorities do recommend travellers get immunised against yellow fever. 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.

Brazil

Nothing compulsory, we recommend protection against malaria, typhoid, tetanus, polio and hepatitis A. Consult your travel clinic for latest advice on different prophylaxis available against malaria. We recommend protection against yellow fever. There have been very few cases reported, but local authorities do recommend travellers get immunised against yellow fever. The above is not an exhaustive list. Further information regarding vaccinations and travel health advice can be found by following the NHS and NaTHNaC links at http://www.explore.co.uk/Travelhealth/ and from your local healthcare provider.

Preparing for your Tour

Climate

Argentina

Argentina has a climate that ranges from subtropical in the north to cold in the temperate south. The Andes has erratic rainfall and flash floods from December to May. From June to September spring like sunny days temper the cold nights.

Brazil

As befits such a large landmass, there are several distinct regional variations. Rio's and Paraty's average maximum is 25°C May-October, the rains falling December to March. On this tour, rain should be expected at some time - and if travelling in July and August, temperatures will be cool at night in the area around Iguaçu and Curitiba.

Clothing

Bear in mind that several different climatic zones will be experienced - from June to September it can be quite cool in Buenos Aires and at night at Iguazu Falls. Generally speaking however, lightweight clothing is necessary for mostly warm and humid daytime conditions, though evenings can be cooler at certain places. Lightweight raingear is essential.

Equipment

A torch, water bottle, insect repellent, high factor sunscreen, waterproof bag for camera. Binoculars will be useful for bird watching.

Footwear

Comfortable walking boots or shoes and trainers or sandals.

Luggage: On Tour

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

Luggage allowance on tour: 20kg

General Information

Country details

Argentina

Population: 40,117,096

Size of Country: 2,766,890 sq km

Major Language: Spanish is the main language throughout this region, along with a number of indigenous dialects, of which Quechua, Aymara, Quichua and Guarani are the most popular

Religion: Predominantly Roman Catholic.

Time Difference to GMT: -3

Brazil

Population: 190,732,694

Size of Country: 8,514,877 sq km

Major Language: Spanish is the main language throughout this region, along with a number of indigenous dialects, of which Quechua, Aymara, Quichua and Guarani are the most popular. In Brazil Portuguese is the main language, with Spanish, English and French also being spoken.

Religion: Predominantly Roman Catholic.

Time Difference to GMT: -3

Electric Supply & Plugs

Argentina

3 Pin Flat

Brazil

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 www.explore.co.uk/ResponsibleTourism/

Know before you go

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

Booking Your Holiday

Peace of mind - book with confidence

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

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

Reserving your place

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

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

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

100% No Surcharge Guarantee

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

Tour Itinerary Versions

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

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

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

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