EXPLORE! Tour Notes

PRICE GUARANTEE 100% NO SURCHARGES

Rocky Mountains and Pacific Coast (RK 2014)

INSPIRING LANDSCAPES

TOUR DURATION **15** DAYS

Tour Style: Classic
Tour Pace: Moderate
Tour Type: Small Groups
Tour Comfort: Standard
Tour Code: RK

Tour Highlights - Rocky Mountains and Pacific Coast

- ✓ Calgary - Alberta's glittering gem in the heart of the Rockies
- ✓ Banff National Park - Canada's most beautiful National Park including the picture postcard Lake Louise
- ✓ Jasper National Park - Visit the stunning landscapes of Columbia Icefields and Athabasca Glacier and search for wildlife including moose and elk
- ✓ Clearwater National Park - Hiking and outdoor activities in Wells Gray Provincial Park
- ✓ Whistler - Canada's premier mountain resort
- ✓ Pacific Rim National Park - Diverse landscapes and a chance for whale watching
- ✓ Vancouver - Beautiful and dynamic city on Canada's majestic Pacific coast

Tour Essentials

Accommodation:	12 nights Standard Hotel 2 nights Standard Ranch
Included Meals:	0 breakfasts, 0 lunches, 0 dinners
Start Point:	Join tour: Calgary
End Point:	Tour ends: Vancouver
Transport:	Ferry, Maxiwagon
Countries:	Canada

Rocky Mountains & Pacific Coast

This trip combines the remarkable scenery of the rugged Rocky Mountains with the beautiful Vancouver Island. We admire unspoilt views of jagged mountain peaks and explore magnificent national parks, glaciers and waterfalls. We also visit the cosmopolitan city of Vancouver, known as 'the jewel of North America', located by the beaches of the Pacific Ocean and surrounded by a dramatic mountain landscape.

Suitability

We've given each of our tours a comfort rating and a tour pace, walking or cycling grade to give you a general idea about the level of activity on each tour and the standard of accommodation you will be staying in at the end of your day's adventure.

Often you'll stay in different styles of accommodation during your tour; so we make an average rating across the entire tour. For more information on where you'll stay each night, please refer to the day by day tour itinerary.

Tour Comfort: Standard

Our mid-range accommodation offers a good level of service often with other amenities such as a restaurant, bar, garden or swimming pool. Generally rooms will be comfortable with en-suite facilities.

Tour Style: Classic

Packed with adventure, these tours offer inspiring destinations and authentic travel experiences at a reasonable price. Using all kinds of transport and accommodation, we'll take you off the beaten track to discover the true heart of the people and places you visit.

Tour Pace: Moderate

These moderately paced tours provide some busy days with plenty of experiences to enjoy, as well as time to relax along the way.

Your tour itinerary

Tour itinerary notes

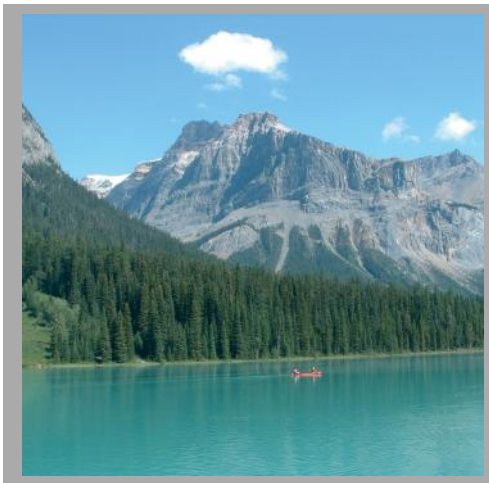
While our intention is to adhere to the day-by-day itinerary as printed below, a degree of flexibility is built in. Overnight stops may vary from those suggested.

Your Tour Leader

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

DAY 1 Join tour Calgary

Arrive Calgary and check-in at hotel. Home to the world renowned Calgary Stampede, this most dynamic of cities is a rich fusion of modern architecture and



traditional heritage, where the pioneering history of the canadian west is woven into everyday life. You may have some free time today to explore the city and soak up the friendly ambience of this spectacularly located community. Filled with museums, shops and cafes, the centre of the city is a great place to just wander and take in its majestic setting against the backdrop of those ever present mountains.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**
Single Rooms Available

DAY 2 Visit Calgary, drive to Canmore, explore Kananaskis country

This morning we will take some time to explore the glittering city of Calgary. The centre of town is a great place to wander around, marvel at the impressive architecture and absorb the friendly atmosphere - all set against a backdrop of the Rockies that rear like a distant tidal wave. These rugged mountains, interspersed with moments of sublime serenity in the form of turquoise lakes and cascading falls, beg for further exploration and before lunch we waste no time and head west up into the hills. Our base for the next three nights is the small town of Canmore situated in the picturesque Bow Valley. Described as the gateway to the Rockies, it is the perfect place from which to make our forays in to the nearby Kananaskis country and Banff National Park. This afternoon we explore Kananaskis country and the valleys of this region on foot.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**
Single Rooms Available

DAY 3 In Canmore, walks in Banff National Park including Lake Louise

Over the next two days we will explore the splendour of nearby Banff National Park. We will follow well-marked trails to discover beautiful lakes, stunning vistas and perfumed pine forests. We highly recommend taking an optional excursion by aerial tram to the top of Sulphur Mountain - if the weather is clear, the views across the Rockies are simply breathtaking. You may also want to spend time in the town of Banff itself. A bustling and lively place, it is easy to get infused with the energy that surrounds you. Banff is also famous for its hot springs, in fact, it was the discovery of the hot springs in 1883 that lead to the building of the settlement in this location. Relaxing in these geothermal waters is a wonderful way to while away a few hours one afternoon. For the more active among us, there are numerous optional trips such as mountain biking or horse riding that can organised locally.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**
Single Rooms Available

DAY 4 Exploring Banff National Park including Lake Louise

Today is left free to explore more of Banff National Park including making a visit to the picture postcard Lake Louise and Morraine Lake. Tom Wilson, the first white Canadian to see Lake Louise, when he was led there by a local native in 1882, wrote 'I never, in all my explorations of these five chains of mountains throughout western Canada, saw such a matchless scene...I felt puny in body, but glorified in spirit and soul.' Despite the increasing number of visitors to the lake it is still possible to experience the same feelings of awe that Tom Wilson had the first time he saw it.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**
Single Rooms Available

DAY 5 Drive to Jasper National Park

We take the drive along one of the world's top scenic highways today. We leave Canmore, travelling along the Icefields Parkway which cuts its way through a mountain wilderness filled with rivers and stunning glacial lakes. Every kilometre of the Parkway is witness to spectacular scenery and we're likely to encounter wildlife along the road itself. We continue northwards and pass alongside the Columbia icefields where we have the chance to stop at the Athabasca Glacier and falls. At Athabasca Glacier there is the option of taking a guided glacier hike or a snowcoach tour onto ancient glacial ice. Jasper, in the shadow of Mt. Edith Cavell, lies at the end of today's journey. Our accommodation tonight is just outside Jasper.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**
Single Rooms Available

DAY 6 Explore Jasper National Park

We can start today by visiting Mount Edith Cavell for a spectacular view. We have the full day ahead of us to explore the various highlights of the area around the townsite of Jasper. Keep your eyes peeled for the wildlife that roam freely here - wapiti, elk, moose and bears. You may want to take the Jasper Tramway to the high alpine terrain of Whistlers Mountain (named for the whistling sounds of the marmots that live there), hike the Maligne Canyon, try one of the many great mountain biking trails in the area, or go horse riding (optional).

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**
Single Rooms Available

DAY 7 Drive to Clearwater

This morning we head northwest along highway 16 through Mount Robson Provincial Park. We also see Mount Robson itself, the highest peak in the Canadian Rockies (12,972 feet). It is tall enough to create its own weather patterns and if we're lucky we'll be able to view this photogenic monolith from top to bottom. From here we enjoy a hike to the base of Mount Robson up to Kinney Lake before leaving Mount Robson behind, we continue onto Clearwater. This afternoon we head the short distance to Spahats Creek Provincial Park from where we can take an easy walk to the 61m high Spahats Falls. These impressive falls cascade down through layers of pinky-red volcanic rock, and from the observation point we should also have a great view down the Clearwater Valley.

Overnight: **Standard Ranch**
Single Rooms Available

DAY 8 In Clearwater

This morning we head out to the nearby Wells Gray Provincial Park, home to Helmcken Falls at 127m, higher than Niagra Falls. There are unexpectedly spectacular views from all along the park entrance road and great opportunities for wildlife spotting. We are then free for the rest of the day. The park offers an array of outdoor activities, including hiking and canoeing on amazingly clear lakes (all optional). You can hire a canoe here and feel as if you really are paddling off into the wilderness. Please note: Participation in canoeing or kayaking, or rafting requires that you are able to swim 25 metres unaided. The slower pace of life in these parts is infectious so you may also choose to return to our ranch and relax.

Overnight: **Standard Ranch**
Single Rooms Available

DAY 9 Drive to Whistler

Today we journey south west to Whistler, pausing en route at various places to soak up the wonderful views. We will travel through the mountains of interior British Colombia, through different environments and climate that change the landscape, stopping at several viewpoints including Joffre Lake, where we can do some short walks. This evening in Whistler we can enjoy a meal in one of the many excellent restaurants and, for those that wish, follow it up with a night out on the town.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**
Single Rooms Available

DAY 10 In Whistler

Today we have a free day in Whistler to enjoy the variety of activities on offer here, including a cable car ride up one of the nearby peaks, mountain biking and hiking. There will also be the chance to walk on different trails around Whistler where we can walk on a trail either on the mountain or around its peaceful shores.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**
Single Rooms Available

DAY 11 Ferry to Nanaimo, drive to Pacific Rim National Park

This morning we will follow route 99, more famously known as the Sea to Sky Highway because of its dramatic journey through the Coastal mountain range to the coast of Vancouver. We will continue to Horseshoe Bay from where we will catch the early ferry across to Nanaimo on Vancouver Island. Although the island stretches almost 500km from north to south, it only has a population of 500,000 and with its numerous provincial parks it is easy to escape into the wilderness. En route to Pacific Rim National Park we will stop in McMillan Provincial Park where we will take a short walk to the famous Cathedral Grove, a striking group of huge Douglas Firs. Some of these incredible trees reach up to 70m in height are 2m thick and are estimated to be up to 1000 years old. We then continue on to the Pacific Rim National Park which will undoubtedly be the highlight of our time on the island. The park stretches intermittently for 130km and the mountains, coastal rainforest, wild beaches and unkempt marine landscapes are as diverse as they are beautiful. Please note our hotel is located in Ucluelet near Tofino.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**
Single Rooms Available

DAY 12 Free day for optional whale watching or sea kayaking

Today we are free to choose from a variety of different activities. The two most popular excursions are both out to sea. The more energetic may wish to take to kayaks and explore this wild coastline of hidden coves and rocky inlets. Alternatively, there is the chance to go whale watching from one of the coastal villages in the park. Our Tour Leader will be on hand to organise these tours and to take those not wishing to do either of the above trips on optional walks along one of the park's many trails.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**
Single Rooms Available

DAY 13 Drive to Victoria

We head south today, away from the wilderness of the Pacific Rim National Park and towards the much gentler scenery of Victoria. On the way we will make stops to view the totem poles carved by the First Nations of the North West Coast. In 1884 the Federal Government outlawed 'pot latching' and this unique art form nearly died out. Fortunately, in recent times, there has been a revived interest in this proud tradition and the totems that can be found along this stretch of coast are strong reminders of the island's native people. This afternoon we have free to time to explore Victoria. We highly recommend visiting the Royal British Columbia Museum or alternatively sit at one of the pavement cafes watching the world pass by.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**
Single Rooms Available

DAY 14 Ferry to Vancouver

Vancouver, known as the Jewel of North America and easily one of the most cosmopolitan cities in Canada, beckons us today in contrast to the wilderness we've been experiencing over the past days. However, this city's setting on the beaches of the Pacific Ocean, surrounded by Mount Seymour, Cypress and Grouse Mountain will remind you that nature looms nearby. During the afternoon, we provide a brief orientation tour, as well as the opportunity to rollerblade or hire a bike in Stanley Park (both optional). There is also the opportunity to do a bear viewing trip by zodiac, where you travel along the fjord inlets on Vancouver Island to observe the black bears coming out of the forest to feed on crabs, clams and barnacles. This evening we recommend a visit to Gastown, an attractive area offering many restaurants, bars and pub.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**
Single Rooms Available

DAY 15 Tour ends Vancouver

The tour ends this morning in Vancouver.

Accommodation and Meals

Accommodation Rating

Accommodation and service levels in Canada are, as would be expected, high. We generally steer clear of the larger hotel chains, although this is not always possible. We use a mixture of hotels and motels, which provide a comfortable base for a night or two but on the whole do not boast additional facilities such as restaurants, pools etc. Meals are normally eaten out at local restaurants and diners.
All of the hotels/motels we use on this tour have private bathrooms. We are in 2 to 3 star hotels, with the exception of Jasper where we use twin or double shared cabins. In Wells Gray we stay at a ranch. Depending on time of year we might stay in cabins, twin/double shared or in the ranch itself. In Wells Gray Ranch, singles stay in the Ranch, not the cabins and will have to share bathroom facilities. Hotels/motels are normally located in centre of village or town, but in some exceptions we might be out of the centre. In Victoria and Vancouver we stay in town, but not directly in the centre. We use simple yet comfortable motels in Canmore, Whistler and Ucluelet.

Food & Drink

Included meals: 0 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.

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

There are a number of exciting optional excursions you can do on tour. These activities are booked and paid for direct with the supplier and do not form part of your Explore holiday contract.

Banff - Gondola CAN$ 35; Hot Springs CAN$ 7.30; Horse riding (2 hours) CAN$ 85
Jasper - Whistlers Mountain Tramway CAN$ 31; Horse riding CAN$ 45/130; Maligne boat tour CAN$ 55; Rafting CAN$ 70-90
Athabasca Glacier - Snowcoach CAN$ 55; Ice walk CAN$ 70; Helicopter CAN$ 180-550

Wells Gray - Canoeing CAN$ 110 (including lunch)
Whistler - Tree Trek - CAN$ 41; Rafting CAN$ 95 ($ 65 for 6-16yr olds) Zip line CAN$ 109; Gondola CAN$ 50
Vancouver Island - Whale Watching (3 hours) CAN$ 99 (6 hours) CAN$ 126; Sea Kayaking CAN$ 90 (4 hours); Bear Viewing CAN$103

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 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.

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. Please allow CAN$ 35 for tipping. Please note in Canada meals have a local tax of 5%(AB)-12%(BC) and tipping is expected at 15%.

Foreign Exchange

Canada

ATM Availability: There are ATMs in the towns.

Credit Card Acceptance: Widely accepted just about everywhere.

Travellers Cheques: Canadian Travellers Cheques are the most convenient.

Local Currency: Canadian Dollars.

Recommended Currency for Exchange: Bring your money in Canadian Dollars or US Dollars cash or Travellers Cheques which can be used almost everywhere, although local stores are not keen to change anything over $50.

Where to Exchange: Banks or ‘Forex’ offices in main towns/cities. 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

For passengers making their own travel arrangements, please ensure you join the group as described on day one of the tour itinerary. If you are considering purchasing your own airline tickets, you can book these through any travel agent, directly with an airline or through an online flight consolidator. In all cases, we would be happy to arrange transfers to and from the joining point of your tour if required.

Joining Tour Abroad

Clients booked on **'Land Only'** arrangements should make their own way to the joining point. Please refer to separate **'Joining Instructions'** for time and place of rendezvous with tour leader

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.

If you require travel insurance for your tour, Explore Worldwide is an appointed representative of Campbell Irvine Limited, who is authorised and regulated by the Financial Services authority. Our travel insurance policy is specially tailored to the needs of the adventure traveller and will cover you for any included activity on any Explore trip. You can either purchase this at the time of booking or call us on 0844 499 0903 after you have booked.

Visa Information

Canada Visas are not required for UK, US, New Zealand and Australian citizens.

All visa information is subject to change. You should confirm all visa related questions 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

Canada

Nothing compulsory, but we recommend protection against tetanus, typhoid, infectious hepatitis and polio. 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

Climate

Canada

May-Sep is the best time to visit, when the weather is usually warm, dry and pleasant. Temperatures can be a little cooler on the coast and in the mountains; rain can be expected at any time. Early in the season, there can be snow in some areas which may limit walking possibilities.

Clothing

Include some long-sleeved shirts; warm clothing for chilly nights in the mountains is essential as is a good waterproof jacket. Also bring swimwear, sunglasses and a sun hat.

Equipment

Bring a water bottle, torch, sunblock and insect repellent. Binoculars might also be useful.

Footwear

Lightweight walking boots with ankle support and sandals or trainers for relaxing. Some footwear that you don’t mind getting wet is essential for whitewater rafting or canoeing.

Luggage: On Tour

One main bag - don't overload yourself. You will also need a daypack for walking and personal items as your main luggage cannot be accessed during the day.

Luggage allowance on tour: 14Kg

General Information

Food

The prices for meals and 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. 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.

Canada

Lunch £: 13.00

Dinner £: 20.00

Drink

Canada

Bottle of Beer £: 3.00

Water £: 1.10

Country details

Canada

Population: 33,000,000

Size of Country: 9,984,670

Major Language: English and French

Religion: Roman Catholic, Protestant

Time Difference to GMT: -7

Electric Supply & Plugs

Canada

2 Pin Flat

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 & 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: The Sunshine Orphanage (which cares for abandoned children in Luxor, Egypt), Education for All (sponsoring children through their secondary education in Morocco), The Hope Foundation (helping an Indian Village to recover from the 2004 Tsunami) and the Mufindi Orphanage, which support AIDS orphans in Tanzania.

We also care passionately about the world's wildlife. We are patrons of the Born Free Organisation, Travel Operators for Tigers (helping save the Bengal Tiger from extinction) and Friends for Conservation. We have also adopted a beautiful Sri Lankan Elephant called 'Serendip'.

We are delighted to have received a Five Star sustainable tourism status from the Association of Independent Tour Operators in recognition of our on-going commitment to sustainable tourism.

Cool Earth

Explore are delighted to support Cool Earth to reduce carbon emissions through preventing the illegal deforestation of the South America rainforest. One of the top sources of global carbon emissions, rainforest deforestation equivalent to the USA's annual emissions, it also destroys flora and fauna, sometimes to the point of extinction. It also degrades the lives and communities of the 350 million residents of the rainforest.

Cool Earth prevents the deforestation through its support of local communities as forest guardians and by focussing on areas in immediate danger of deforestation. It has so far protected over 350,000 acres of rainforest, with each acre saving an emission of 260 tons of CO2, as well as protecting rare animals and plants. When you travel on an Explore holiday we make a donation to Cool Earth that exceeds the impact of our customers flights each year. In addition to mitigating emissions, when you travel with Explore, you are helping to protect the source of 20% of the world's fresh water and oxygen, as well as the livelihoods of the 1.6 billion people who are reliant on the rainforest. www.coolearth.org

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 and security, entry requirements, health, local laws and customs. For UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office Advice follow the link at http://www.explore.co.uk/essential-travel-information/travel-resources/travel-safety

Booking Your Holiday

Peace of mind - book with confidence

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

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

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.

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 2013 and 31st December 2014.

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: 2014 itinerary versions are applicable to tours departing in 2014. 2015/16 itinerary versions are applicable to tours departing from 1st January to 31st December 2015.

These tour notes were printed on 10/03/2014 14:26:11