

EXPLORE!

TRIP NOTES



Highlights of Romania (TD 2017)



TRIPDURATION
11
DAYS



Tour Style: Classic
Tour Pace: Moderate

Tour Type: Small Groups
Accommodation
Grade: Standard

Trip Code: TD

Trip Highlights - Highlights of Romania

- ✓ Bucharest - Explore the city including the Village Museum
- ✓ Transylvania - Visit Bran Castle and walk in the Transylvanian Alps
- ✓ Brasov - Explore Medieval Old Brasov on foot
- ✓ Maramures - Remote area with traditional villages, exploring on foot and by bus
- ✓ Bucovina - Visit the monasteries of Moldovita, Sucevita and Putna
- ✓ Borsa - Historic train journey and walk through the forested Vaser Valley
- ✓ Danube Delta - 2-night cruise in this famous birdwatchers' paradise - explore the wildlife sanctuary by boat and on foot

Trip Essentials

Accommodation: 7 nights Standard Hotel
1 night Standard Guesthouse
2 nights Simple Boat

Included Meals: 10 breakfasts, 5 lunches, 5 dinners

Start Point: Join trip: Bucharest
End Point: Trip ends: Bucharest
Transport: Bus, Train, Boat
Countries: Romania

Best of Romania and the Danube Delta

Enter a land of remote villages, ancient customs and beautiful scenery on this Romanian adventure. We visit painted monasteries in the Bukovina hills, take a historic steam train journey through the remote Vaser Valley and walk in the forested Carpathian Mountains. We also unravel the myths of Dracula's legendary Transylvania and cruise along the backwaters of the Danube Delta - a bird watcher's paradise.

Wildlife

The Danube Delta is a bird-lovers paradise. The diverse habitats in and around the wetlands of the delta attract a huge and diverse selection of birds. During our spring and autumn trips, thousands of migrating birds make a stop here on their long journeys. Breeding season is generally in May, so there are higher numbers of birds in and around the delta at this time of year.

The species of birds that we could see will vary depending on the time of year, but the white pelican is seen on most trips. We may also spot the pigmy cormorant; 80% of the world population make the delta their home. Egrets, herons, grebes, red footed falcons and white tail eagles are also possible to see.

The delta is home to a number of mammals, such as wild boar, deer, wild cats and jackal, although spotting these four-legged creatures is harder and sightings are rare.

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

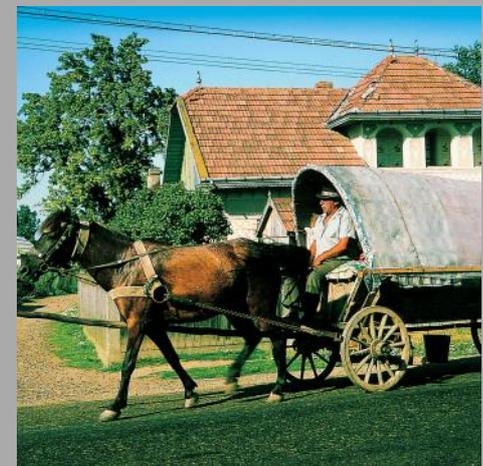
Our mid-range accommodation offers a good level of service often with other amenities such as a restaurant, bar, garden or swimming pool. Generally rooms will be comfortable with en-suite facilities.

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.

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 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

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

DAY 1 Join trip in Bucharest

Arrive in Bucharest and meet the group. Bucharest is Romania's largest city and became the capital in 1832. In the past Bucharest has been thought of as somewhat drab and dull, but thanks to a period of urban renewal and modernisation, it's now a bustling city at the centre of Romanian culture, art and media. On all our trips to Romania we use minibuses to get around. Many of the roads in the Romanian countryside are twisty and narrow and the road surfaces can be poor in places, so by using these smaller buses it means that we're able to access areas that the larger coaches can't get into. The minibuses usually have around 20 seats with two next to one another and then a single seat on the opposite side of the aisle and four along the back row. The seats are comfortable and equipped with armrests and seat belts. There's normally a rack for day bags and coats above the seats and the main luggage is stored in the rear boot. Leg room is however less plentiful than on a full size coach. There are a few photographs of the type of minibuses used within the image gallery tab for this trip.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**
Single Room Available

 **Included Meals:** None

DAY 2 City tour of Bucharest before travelling to Moieciu

This morning we make a tour of Romania's capital, a remarkable blend of turn of the century elegance and communist excess. Situated on the Danube plain and set amid a series of lakes and spacious gardens, remnants of more gracious days still exist to charm the visitor. We visit many of the older parts of the city to see some of the buildings that have earned it the reputation as the 'Paris of Eastern Europe'. We also make a visit to the fascinating Village Museum, which has assembled wooden churches, windmills and peasant dwellings from different regions of the country. After the city tour we drive to Moieciu. Time allowing, we will visit Pelisor Palace (optional), a fine exhibition of an Art Deco and Art Nouveau interior and after the visit we continue to nearby Moieciu village where time permitting we can do a short walk in the Bucegi mountains whose forests are now protected as a nature reserve.

Overnight: **Standard Guesthouse**
Single Room Available

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

DAY 3 Visit to famous Bran Castle and Brasov before arriving in Bistrita

Today we start our day with a short drive to the castle at Bran. The truth behind 'Dracula's Castle' is even more fascinating than its myths! Earlier this century it was the home of the remarkable British born Queen Marie of Romania, grand daughter of Queen Victoria. Vlad the Impaler, the heroic 15th century ruler of Wallachia never lived here and there is no connection with the excellent novel by Bram Stoker - who never came near Transylvania. Perched on a crag in a valley between two high mountain ranges, it controlled an international trade route, but is now a rural back-water. We continue to the medieval city of Brasov. The old town still has its medieval walls, town hall and several churches dating from the 14th- 18th centuries. There are also the ruins of an old citadel. Brasov is one of the most historic cities of Transylvania. The town is a gem of old buildings, cobbled streets and local atmosphere, all clustered within the medieval fortifications and overlooked by a magnificent 15th century Gothic cathedral. We have an option to visit the Black Church here. We then continue our journey to Bistrita with a short stop en route at a medieval town on hill top, Sighisoara, an UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**
Single Room Available

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

DAY 4 See Sapanta and the UNESCO listed Merry Cemetery en route to Borsa

Leaving Bistrita this morning, we make our way through high forested hills and fertile valleys dotted with orchards and meadows. We visit the village of Sapanta, to see the 'Merry Cemetery', another UNESCO World Heritage Site, where each grave has a humorous caricature and short poem about the deceased. Later we visit the Monastery of Barsana then continue our drive to Borsa, a small winter ski resort in the Rodna mountains.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**
Single Room Available

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

DAY 5 Train through the Vaser Valley and scenic alpine hike to Moisei

There are few settlements in Europe that remain so untouched that bears still roam freely in the forests. Today we enter such a region, as we take the narrow gauge railway from Viseu de Sus up the Vaser Valley to Novat. We chug slowly through the valley passing huge expanses of beech and spruce forest, that echo with the sound of mountain rivers rushing through them. We then walk up a forested valley along lonely trails, enjoying the stillness and freshness of the forest. After a stiff climb of over 600 m, we reach a ridge where

there are spectacular views across the Viseu Valley. We descend through hay meadows and scattered copses to Moisei, where we meet our bus (5 to 6 hours walk). (Please note that if the railway is closed we will take an alternative route to walk in this beautiful area.)

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**

Single Room Available

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

DAY 6 Hike in the Rodna Mountains; drive to Sucevita via Moldovita Monastery

Leaving Borsa by chairlift, we walk (initially steeply up onto the mountain ridge) along the top of a ridge, if possible we will stop at a shepherd's hut where we may be invited to sample some fresh sheep's cheese, washed down with tuica, the fiery local plum brandy. After a couple of hours of walking we meet our bus and drive east across the Carpathians to Moldavia and the northern region of Bucovina. Here we discover the remarkable medieval monasteries, founded during the reign of Prince Stephen the Great (1457-1504) and his successors. Whilst most Romanian churches have frescoes inside, what makes these so astonishing are the fantastic frescoes on the exterior walls. These vivid Biblical images were used to educate the medieval population in an exciting graphic fashion. Painted during the 16th century, the frescoes are a fusion of formal Byzantine style, with colourful folk art. The monasteries are now UNESCO World Heritage sites, but also house thriving religious communities of nuns and monks. We stop at Moldovita, which nestles beneath the forests of the Obcina Mare ridge. Among the most interesting scenes pictured here are the 'Siege of Constantinople' and the 'Last Judgement'. We drive up to the Ciumirna Pass, and continue through the forest to our accommodation near Sucevita.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**

Single Room Available

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 7 Walk to Sucevita and Putna monasteries before driving to Bacau

We include a visit to Sucevita monastery, the largest of the monasteries in the Bucovina region, with massive towers and stone walls protecting the inner buildings, which are decorated with portraits of historical legends and biblical scenes. There is an excellent small museum showing some of the treasures of the monastery, the most valuable items being 17th century embroideries, icons and gold work. We then hike through the romantic countryside along paths and old cart tracks, in the lovely valley north of Sucevita. First we take a trail through the beech woods to emerge in a grassy valley dotted with the houses that form the rambling village of Putna, close to the Ukrainian border. The walk is moderately easy and we have plenty of time to complete it (5 to 6 hours walk). Putna monastery (founded in 1466) is the oldest in Moldavia, and inside is the tomb of Stephen the Great. We meet our vehicle and drive to Bacau where we spend the night.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**

Single Room Available

Swimming Pool Available 

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 8 Drive to and cruise in the Danube Delta on a pontoon boat

This morning we drive to the ancient port of Tulcea, the so-called 'Gateway to the Delta'. From here we board our pontoon - a barge style vessel resembling a large house boat - that will serve as both our transport and our floating accommodation while in the delta. Though simple, it has a sun-deck and twin berth cabins on the lower deck and provides an innovative and flexible way of seeing the abundant birdlife of the delta. From this base we can reach the smaller waterways and reedy channels and visit the tranquil and beautiful lakes hidden in the backwaters.

Overnight: **Simple Boat**

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 9 Exploring and bird watching on our cruise in the Danube Delta

The Danube Delta - over 4,000 square kilometres in all - is one of the great glories of Europe. It is a premier wildlife sanctuary and paradise for birdwatchers and photographers alike. We spend the day aboard the pontoon, with the opportunity of closer views of the many species which inhabit the delta. Apart from its rich wildlife, the Delta is simply a beautiful place to relax aboard our vessel. We make our way through a maze of channels fringed by vast reed beds and ancient willow trees. Whilst different birds are seen depending on the month of visiting, most people will see the spectacular White Pelican. Vast quantities of birds congregate here, including grebes, falcons, egrets, swans and cormorants. The marshy conditions make life difficult for the birds' terrestrial predators, making the delta an even more attractive haven and breeding ground. Much of this can be enjoyed from the deck of our pontoon. We will also take time to visit a village in the Delta. These are some of the most remote settlements in Europe, far away from any roads.

Overnight: **Simple Boat**

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

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DAY 10 Our cruise ends and we drive back to Bucharest

We spend the morning sailing back to Tulcea, and after lunch drive back to Bucharest, arriving late in the afternoon.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**
Single Room Available

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 11 Trip ends in Bucharest

Today our trip ends at Bucharest.

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

Accommodation and Meals

Accommodation Notes

On days 8 and 9 of our trip we will be staying aboard a pontoon, which is a barge style vessel resembling a large house boat. It will serve as both our transport and our floating accommodation while in the Danube Delta. Though simple, it has a sun deck, dining room and twin berth en suite cabins on the lower deck. There is no Wi-Fi access or bar on board. The plug sockets within the cabins are only available to use when the boat's generator is on (usually daily between 06.00-10.00, 12.00-15.00 and 18.00-23.00). Our meals on board will be a set menu with drinks included and vegetarians can be catered for as long as we know in advance. It provides an innovative and flexible way of seeing the abundant birdlife of the delta, and allows us to reach the smaller waterways, reedy channels and tranquil lakes hidden in the backwaters.

All the accommodation used on this trip (except in Bucharest) are on multiple levels with narrow staircases and no lifts, so we recommend packing as light as possible, as you will need to carry your own bags up and down the stairs.

Food & Drink

Included meals: 10 breakfasts, 5 lunches, 5 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.

Romania

Lunch £: 8.00

Dinner £: 10.00

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.

Romania

Bottle of Beer £: 1.00

Water £: 0.70

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

Bucharest: Palace of Parliament €10.00.

Sinaia: Pelisor Palace €8.00.

Brasov: Black Church €4.00

Tipping - Tour Leader

At your discretion you might also consider tipping your Explore 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. Accordingly, you should allow £15.00 for tipping of the driver and the boat crew.

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

Foreign Exchange

Romania

ATM Availability: In most towns, your tour leader will advise you.

Credit Card Acceptance: Major stores and restaurants only.

Travellers Cheques: It is not possible to exchange Travellers Cheques on the tour.

Local Currency: Romanian Leu.

Recommended Currency for Exchange: Sterling Pounds, US Dollars and Euros cash can all be exchanged for local currency. Old style £10 and £20 notes are not accepted.

Where to Exchange: Please note that the exchange rates at the airport on arrival are particularly low.

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.

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.

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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DIRECT TRAVEL INSURANCE



Travel Insurance is essential. If you have not already arranged cover, please contact our recommended Travel Insurance providers 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

Explore Worldwide is an Introducer Appointed Representative of Campbell Irvine Ltd who are authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.

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

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 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

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

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 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

Romania

Nothing compulsory, although we recommend vaccination against tetanus, hepatitis A, typhoid and polio. Tick-borne encephalitis is recommended by some medical sources if travelling in certain areas of Eastern Europe, at specific times of the year. The Foreign Office currently recommend considerations of vaccination against rabies if travelling in rural areas of Romania. Check latest requirements with your travel clinic or doctor prior to departure. 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 Trip

Trekking Details

We walk on four days of this 11 day trip for an average of three hours per day. Walks are graded as easy with some moderate sections.

Climate

Romania

Romania's climate is continental, temperatures being strongly influenced by the physical features of the Carpathians. Temperatures will fall from highs of 18°C (by day) to lows of 6°C (at night) in October; by January they will hover around freezing during the day and go down to -10°C at night. They will then rise to reach October temperatures again by April. Temperatures will generally be lower in the mountains than in Bucharest. Snowfall may occur at any time.

Clothing

Pack summer clothing, although medium weights are needed for autumn and spring when it can be cold. Temperatures are cooler in the mountains so a fleece is essential plus a windproof/waterproof jacket.

Equipment

Bring a water bottle, insect repellent, sunscreen, a sunhat and a torch. Binoculars are useful for the Delta. Only small face towels are provided in the hotels, so if you prefer a larger bath towel it is advised that you take your own. Walking poles may be useful. We recommend also taking a personal first aid kit.

Footwear

Comfortable walking boots are essential. Trainers/sandals for general travel.

Luggage: On Tour

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

Luggage allowance on trip: 20kg

General Information

Country details

Romania

Population: 21,904,551

Size of Country: 238,391 sq km

Major Language: Romanian

Religion: Eastern Orthodox

Time Difference to GMT: +2

Electric Supply & Plugs

Romania

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 & 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.

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

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) 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.

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.

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 2016 and 31st December 2017.

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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