

EXPLORE!

TRIP NOTES



Tropical Island Hopping (TI 2017)



TRIPDURATION
13
DAYS



Tour Style: Classic
Tour Pace: Relaxed

Tour Type: Small Groups
Accommodation
Grade: Standard

Trip Code: TI

Trip Highlights - Tropical Island Hopping

- ✓ Mahé Island - Join a tour which explores the lush rainforest, a tea plantation, beautiful beaches ending with a stunning coastal drive.
- ✓ Praslin Island - Discover the UNESCO World Heritage Site Vallee de Mai and take an optional catamaran trip. Enjoy incredible marine life in the crystal clear waters.
- ✓ La Digue Island - a characterful island with laid back charm and where two wheels is the way to get around.
- ✓ Walking - Take beautiful island walks and encounter giant tortoises, tropical birds and superb Indian Ocean views.
- ✓ Victoria - Explore the world's smallest capital city with its replica of Big Ben and tranquil Botanical Gardens.

Trip Essentials

Accommodation: 4 nights Standard Hotel
8 nights Standard Guesthouse
Included Meals: 12 breakfasts, 0 lunches, 0 dinners
Start Point: Join trip: Mahe
End Point: Trip ends: Victoria
Transport: Boat, Minibus
Countries: Seychelles

Tropical Island Hopping

Unwind with us in the beautiful islands of the Seychelles. We explore the palm-lined beaches of Praslin and visit the forest of Vallée de Mai, home to the famous Coco de Mer Palm. In Morne Seychellois National Park we hike along forest trails to Trois Frères peak to enjoy spectacular views over the island and its beach fringed shores.

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: Relaxed

Easy paced tours with plenty of time to relax and absorb the sights and immerse yourself in the local surroundings.

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.

DAY 1 Join Trip on Mahe Island, Explore Victoria

Arrive at our hotel & check in. We spend our first afternoon exploring Mahe's capital, Victoria on foot. Whilst it may be more of a capital town than a capital city, Victoria (population 25,000) is definitely worth a visit. Independence Avenue, the modern shopping area, is as charming and full of life as the old colonial quarter. The heart of the city is around the cathedral and famous clock tower, which is a perfect (smaller) replica of London's Big Ben. We include a visit to the market with its abundance of colourful fruit, vegetables and freshly caught fish before continuing on to the tranquil Botanical Gardens. Here we see the famous Coco de Mer nut, giant tortoises and a collection of rare exotic plants. Colonies of fruit bats roost overhead and regularly take flight across the giant palms. We return to our hotel which is located directly on Beau Vallon Beach, and where there are several restaurant choices for dinner within a short stroll.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**
Single Room Available

Swimming Pool Available 



 **Included Meals:** None

DAY 2 Take a Full Day Tour of Mahe Island

Mahe is the Seychelles largest island and is the political and economic centre. Some 27km long and 8km wide, it has beautiful beaches with powder white sand, graceful palms and clear turquoise waters. The incredible diversity of the islands' scenery and vegetation is due in part to its' mountainous interior which reaches a height of 905m. Roads on Mahe are well maintained and provide good access to the many hidden coves and villages. Today you have the opportunity to take an optional tour of Mahe which will provide an overall familiarisation of the whole island. Travelling by bus and on foot you will follow the short Glacis Trois Freres Trail, passing through lush rainforest and a tea plantation, ending at the factory where you may take a short guided tour or simply sit with a brew and take in the magnificent Indian Ocean views. We will also visit the Mission, a place of historic importance after the slave trade. Arriving at Baie Ternay Beach around lunch time there will be opportunities for swimming and snorkelling before taking a stunning coastal drive right around the island, stopping to take photographs and admiring the incredible scenery and vivid island colours.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**
Single Room Available

Swimming Pool Available 

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

DAY 3 Optional Full Day Boat Trip to the St. Anne Marine National Park

An optional full day boat trip is available today for those who want to take to the water and explore other islands and the wonderful marine life. Our boat is glass bottomed and sails from Victoria to the St Anne Marine National Park, a cluster of islands off the north east coast. The calm crystal waters are perfect for snorkelling and sightings of turtles within the coral are very common. We land on one of the protected reserves and say hello to the giant tortoises who reside here. We enjoy a barbecue lunch before taking to the waters once more, swimming as we anchor alongside a beautiful beach. For those who do not participate in this activity our hotel has a lovely pool and access straight on to the beach. On many of the Seychelles beaches it is possible to wade out and snorkel straight from the shore line, this in part is due to the enormous granite boulders which dramatically rise out of the sea and appear to book mark the ends of each beach. These imposing rocks shelter the waters, and are what differentiate the Seychelles beaches from those found elsewhere in the Indian Ocean. Tonight the Beau Vallon Beach hosts its weekly night market. A short walk from our hotel it provides a great opportunity to sample creole street food, mingle with the locals, buy handmade crafts and enjoy a magnificent sunset.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**
Single Room Available

Swimming Pool Available 

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

DAY 4 Walk to Anse Royal Beach

Today our Tour Leader will take you on a walk and beach excursion. Travelling by public bus to Anse Royal Beach we swim and snorkel and enjoy a relaxing day. You could also of course choose to simply find your own place in paradise and soak up the laid back island life or cool off in the inviting waters of a hidden cove. The Seychelles beaches are incredibly clean and free from litter, they are also all open to the public so there are no beaches off limits - you can lay your towel wherever you choose.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**
Single Room Available

Swimming Pool Available 

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

DAY 5 Catamaran to Praslin Island

This morning we leave Mahe and take the one hour crossing to Baie Saint Anne, Praslin, the second largest island in the Seychelles archipelago. Keep a look out for dolphins on the journey as they are regularly spotted in these waters. We check into our hotel before taking a short walk to the local village to get our bearings and check out the facilities. The rest of the afternoon is free to enjoy the beautiful surroundings. Our hotel is located right on the beach front and also has a lovely pool. Local restaurant choices tonight are a short stroll away.

Overnight: **Standard Guesthouse**
Single Room Available

Swimming Pool Available 

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

DAY 6 Walk and Local Bus to Anse Beach

We make our way back to the village this morning where we catch the local bus to the start of our walk. After disembarking we descend slowly along pathways, taking our time as we stop to look at the endemic fauna, listen out for birdlife and take in the stunning

panoramic views. We cross to the other side of the island and arrive at our first beach and swim and snorkel before continuing on towards the headland. The scenery is magnificent as we look out across the ocean and other islands. Anse Beach is our final destination, arguably the most beautiful in Praslin. Here we spend some time enjoying the crystal clear waters and soft white sand. Again we swim and snorkel enjoying the marine life right from the shore. After our day of exploration we take the local bus back to our hotel which follows either a coastal or mountainous route.

Overnight: **Standard Guesthouse**
Single Room Available

Swimming Pool Available 

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

DAY 7 Visit UNESCO site Vallee de Mai

Praslin is home to one of the Seychelles two World Heritage Sites - the Vallee de Mai. It is a primeval rainforest containing the famous coco de mer palms that have the largest, heaviest and most suggestively shaped nuts in the world. Local folklore has it that at sundown the male coco de mer tree leans over to the female tree and no human onlooker ever lives to tell the tale of what follows. The result of all of this nocturnal activity is the curious double hulled nut that resembles the female pelvis. Vanilla orchids, a variety of lizards and some of Earth's rarest birds also reside here. The walk follows a designated pathway and is shaded almost throughout as the trees provide an enormous rainforest canopy offering a welcome relief from the hot sun. Your entrance ticket is valid for the whole day so you can spend longer here if you wish. To return to our hotel it is a simple downhill walk back along the road.

Overnight: **Standard Guesthouse**
Single Room Available

Swimming Pool Available 

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

DAY 8 Optional Catamaran Trip to Three Islands

Praslin is an ideal place from which to visit many of the other smaller islands off the coast. You have the option to board a full day "Three Island" catamaran cruise today which visits the islands of Cousin, Curieuse and St Pierre. Cousin Island Special Nature Reserve is of particular interest to nature and bird lovers. It provides a true sanctuary for over 52 species of birds and with no predators here they nest on ground level allowing you to walk right amongst them. Birds flourishing here include the Seychelles Warbler, Bridled Terns, Madagascar Fody and the Brown and Lesser Noddy's. The birds nest in huge numbers, with up to 100,000 pairs recorded. After a walk around the island we sail on to Curieuse where we are greeted by giant tortoises who amble freely close to the waterfront. An hours' walk takes us across boardwalks above the mangrove swamps. Hundreds of large mud crabs scuttle into their holes as we approach. As you walk close to the water's edge listen out for splashing; small sharks and rays are often sighted here. The conditions may be hot and humid but the majority of the walk is flat and in shade. A delicious barbecue lunch is served back on board the catamaran before continuing to St Pierre Island, a pristine snorkelling area with coral, colourful fish and the occasional turtle. Should you choose not travel on this excursion you may like to relax at the hotel or take a local bus to one of the many coves nearby.

Overnight: **Standard Guesthouse**
Single Room Available

Swimming Pool Available 

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

DAY 9 Ferry to La Digue

We depart Praslin and take a short fifteen minute ferry journey to laid back La Digue. This island is the smallest of the three on our itinerary and is the epitome of idyllic isolation. It has a real traditional charm about it with tumbledown plantation houses and dusty roads. Arriving here is like stepping back in time. Transport is very closely controlled and the most popular form of travel is by bicycle. The beaches are simply breath-taking and it is a pure photographers dream. The tropical beaches here have provided the backdrop to several well-known advertising campaigns over the years, such as Bacardi Rum & Cadbury's Bounty bars. These too are distinguished by weathered granite boulders that resemble modern pieces of art. The rest of the day is left free for you to explore this beautiful island or enjoy the hospitality and pool area of our characterful chateau hotel.

Overnight: **Standard Guesthouse**
Single Room Available

Swimming Pool Available 

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

DAY 10 Visit L'Union Estate Coconut Plantation

Our Explore Leader will conduct a walking tour to L'Union Estate, a working coconut plantation. We will be taken through the whole process from the coconut dropping from the tree to producing coconut milk and oil. The plantation sits in a lovely garden setting and the buildings offer great examples of Creole architecture. It is also located close to a succession of stunning beaches. The rest of the day is left free to enjoy this island tropical paradise.

Overnight: **Standard Guesthouse**
Single Room Available

Swimming Pool Available 

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 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

DAY 11 Optional Half Day Snorkelling Trip

La Digue is almost completely encircled by a coral reef allowing fantastic opportunities for snorkelling. An optional half day boat excursion to the nearby islands of Moyenne, Cocos and Felicite is available today. Moyenne is a protected reserve once owned by Yorkshire man Brendon Grimshaw. He lived here in blissful solitude and worked to safeguard the future of the giant tortoises. His efforts paid off and there are now over one hundred of these wonderful creatures roaming the island. Should you prefer another option today you could spend your time relaxing or hire a bike from our hotel and cycle around the island.

Overnight: **Standard Guesthouse**
Single Room Available

Swimming Pool Available 

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

DAY 12 Discover Hidden Beaches of La Digue

Today our Explore Leader will take us to three of the most stunning beaches found on the island. These are off the beaten track and so we will enjoy these shores almost to ourselves. The start of the walk takes us past La Digue Vev Reserve. This is home to the Paradise Flycatcher, a bird endemic to La Digue which has quite remarkable colouring. The male is a blackbird with a bright blue bill and blue around its eyes; it appears to be wearing bright blue sunglasses! We will take a walk through here in the hope of spotting it. We then continue towards the beach and after half an hour or so will reach our first beach of the day, Grand Anse. We are greeted by an enormous expanse of white sand, turquoise water and huge boulders jutting from the sea. You may choose to stay put here and enjoy a refreshing drink or you may like to continue further to the second beach, Petit Anse. This walk takes a rocky path, shaded in places, providing glimpses through the vegetation of the incredible blue sea and white sand below. Our third and final beach, Anse Coco, is worth the effort of a further thirty minute walk. This beach not only has the powder sand and crystal waters of the others, it also has a hidden gem. A large secluded rock pool hidden behind a cluster of enormous boulders. It provides the most perfect swimming spot. The afternoon is quite flexible, you can stay at the beach as long as you wish, relaxing, snorkelling and just taking in this incredible paradise.

Overnight: **Standard Guesthouse**
Single Room Available

Swimming Pool Available 

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

DAY 13 Ferry to Mahé Island where Trip Ends

We return to Mahe Island by ferry and enjoy our last day in this tropical paradise. Passengers with flights booked directly through Explore have access to our hotel until departure for the airport. So there will be a last chance to enjoy the pool and beach before heading home. Land Only passengers who have booked their own flights will end the tour on arrival in Mahe late morning.

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

Accommodation and Meals

Accommodation Notes

We stay in three locally-owned and run guest house/hotels in the Seychelles, which brings money into the hands of local people.

Food & Drink

Included meals: 12 breakfasts, 0 lunches, 0 dinners included in the price of this trip. Please be prepared to pay for non-included meals. Please note that costs for drinks and meals can vary depending on location.

Budgeting for your Trip

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

Food

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

Seychelles

Lunch £: 15.00

Dinner £: 20.00

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.

Seychelles

Bottle of Beer £: 3.00

Water £: 1.50

Other Sightseeing & Activities

The following excursions and/or activities are usually available and may be arranged locally. Estimated costs are provided below for guidance only, are on a per person basis unless shown otherwise, and may depend on the number of participants. Prices quoted are correct as of the date these tour notes were originally issued but may change at any time due to currency fluctuations.

Please note: These activities are booked and paid for direct with the supplier and do not form part of your Explore holiday contract.

Optional Excursions

Mahé Island - Island Tour €40.00-60.00 per person depending on group size; Tea factory tour €2.00 per person. Glass bottom boat trip (including lunch and snorkelling) €105.00 per person.

Praslin Island - Full day boat trip including Curieuse Island and lunch €160.00 per person;

La Digue Island - Half day boat/snorkelling trip to Cocos and Felicite Islands €55.00 per person; Bicycle hire €10.00 per person per day.

Tipping - Local Crew

You should allow €20 for tipping local staff.

Foreign Exchange

Seychelles

ATM Availability: There are ATMs, which accept major international cards, at the airport and at all the major banks in Victoria. You'll also find ATMs at Beau Vallon on Mahé and on Praslin and La Digue.

Credit Card Acceptance: Widely accepted, but the government does impose a levy which is passed on by the retailer, so check first.

Travellers Cheques: Not recommended.

Local Currency: Seychelles Rupees.

Recommended Currency for Exchange: We suggest you take most of your spending money in cash (in small denominations). Sterling, Euros and US Dollars are all readily convertible. N.B. US\$ notes should be in good condition and not torn or marked. Notes prior to 2000 of any currency are often not accepted.

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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The Adventure Travel Experts

CAMPBELL IRVINE
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

Seychelles: Most nationalities including citizens of the UK, EU, Australia, New Zealand, US and Canada do not require a visa. However, you will need to provide a valid flight ticket, have confirmed accommodation and have sufficient funds for the intended length of stay. Permit will be issued on arrival valid for 1 month.

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

Seychelles

Nothing compulsory, but we recommend protection against tetanus, typhoid, hepatitis A, polio and diphtheria. Yellow fever is required if coming from S. America or Africa. 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 Trip

Climate

Seychelles

The location of the Seychelles, almost directly on the equator, ensures the islands of the Mahé group have a relatively constant climate. Average daytime temperatures range from 24 to 30°C. Relative humidity hovers around 80%. Seasonal winds provide not only refreshment, but also a certain amount of climatic variation. The 'cooler' dry season between May and October is a result of the southeast trade wind. From December until mid-March the northwest monsoon is responsible for warmer, wetter weather. Between these two distinct seasons the islands experience intense heat occasionally aggravated by a complete absence of wind.

Clothing

Clothing should be lightweight and ideally cotton all year round. Shorts and T-shirts are acceptable everywhere, although take long trousers/skirts for evening wear. Don't forget your swimming costume.

Equipment

Take a small torch, water bottle, sunglasses, sunhat, suncream, insect repellent, binoculars if planning to birdwatch and a beach towel. Hire of snorkel, mask and fins locally is unreliable, it is recommended that you take your own. Bring a lightweight rainjacket just in case.

Footwear

Lightweight walking boots/shoes or trainers are useful for exploring the islands. Sandals for relaxing and beachwear.

Luggage: On Tour

One main bag – either a holdall, soft bag or suitcase, plus a daypack. Please remember that you will have to carry your luggage on and off ferries, so try not to overload yourself.

Luggage allowance on trip: 20kg

General Information

Country details

Seychelles

Population: 84,000

Size of Country: 451 sq km

Major Language: Seychellois Creole

Religion: Roman Catholic

Time Difference to GMT: +4

Electric Supply & Plugs

Seychelles

3 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, 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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