

EXPLORE!

TRIP NOTES



Spice Trails of Petra (TP 2017)



TRIPDURATION
8
DAYS



Tour Style: Classic

Accommodation Grade: Simple

Tour Type: Small Groups

Trek Grade: Moderate

Trip Code: TP

Trip Highlights - Spice Trails of Petra

- ✓ Wadi Rum - Walks through breathtaking desert scenery with fascinating rock formations
- ✓ Petra - Two days of hiking and camping in this spectacular 'Rose Red City'
- ✓ Crusader castles - travel the ancient Kings Highway to one of Jordan's imposing Crusader Castles
- ✓ Dead Sea - Float in the saline waters at the lowest point on Earth

Trip Essentials

Accommodation:	3 nights Standard Hotel 4 nights Simple Camping
Included Meals:	7 breakfasts, 4 lunches, 4 dinners
Start Point:	Join trip: Amman
End Point:	Trip ends: Amman
Maximum Altitude on Trek (m):	1800
Transport:	4WD, Bus
Countries:	Jordan

Spice Trails Of Petra

This walking tour covers some of the world's most magnificent historic and natural sites, including the rock-carved city of Petra and the breathtaking canyons of Wadi Rum. We follow in the footsteps of the ancient Nabateans as we walk along the old spice trails which connect Petra with the Mediterranean coast, and camp in Bedouin style tents. We also discover other reminders of Jordan's past when we visit the Roman city of Jerash and the imposing Crusader castle at Kerak.

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: Simple

No-frills accommodation which includes berths on sleeper trains, rooms in village houses, boat cabins, campsites, huts and simple family-run lodges, guesthouses and hotels. Sleeping arrangements are simple and amenities are adequate, sometimes with en suite facilities and occasionally communal.

Tour Style: Classic

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

Trek Grade: Moderate

For those who are fit and active, these moderate walks are normally on good paths and tracks at low altitude. Days may include some fairly demanding ascents and descents, so previous experience is preferable but not essential.

Your trip itinerary

Tour itinerary notes

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

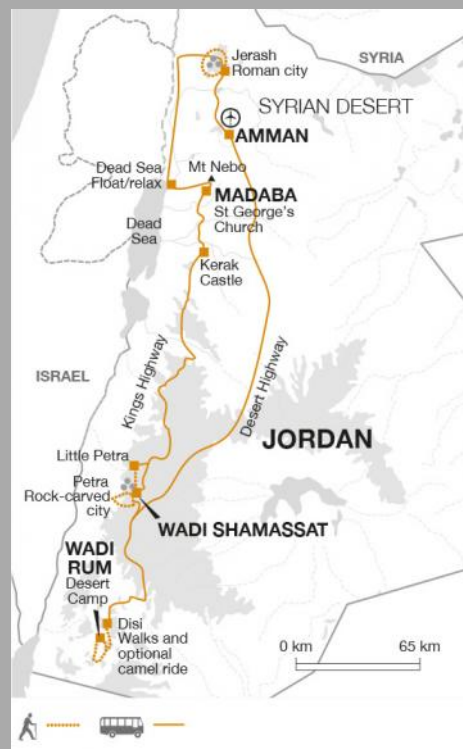
Your Tour Leader

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

DAY 1 Join tour in Amman

Join tour today in Amman, the capital of Jordan.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**
Single Room Available




 **Included Meals:** None

DAY 2 Walking in Wadi Rum

From Amman we immediately head south on the Desert Highway to Wadi Rum. On arrival we load our bags into vehicles which set off to deliver them to our nightstop whilst we walk through one of the most powerfully evocative places in the Middle East, to our campsite. The legend of Lawrence of Arabia and his Arab revolt lives strongly here and scenes from the famous film were shot here - deep in the fabulous purple-black and yellow mountains that rise from the sands of the desert. We generally arrive in the late afternoon as the hot desert sun starts to set, revealing an evening of incredibly clear skies studded with stars. The campsite we use presents the opportunity to experience traditional Bedouin living arrangements in a large communal style goat hair tent, which provides the best protection against typical desert extremes of hot and cold weather. The tent is laid out with rugs, mattresses, pillows and sleeping bags and is where each tribe would commune to eat, sleep and socialise. A toilet and wash block with limited washing facilities is also available during your stay. Today's 6.5km walk is expected to take around 2hrs with no noticeable ascent or descent.


Overnight: **Simple Camping**

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

DAY 3 Exploring Wadi Rum further on foot

We spend the next day exploring the beautiful desert area of Wadi Rum. Starting from our desert camp, we walk in the footsteps of the early Nabatean traders. Spices, silks and perfumes were once carried along this same route. We shall see their inscriptions and graffiti on the weathered pink granite mountains that we pass. The desert is another world, inhabited by the Bedouin people for generations. After an unforgettable day's trekking through this remarkable desert scenery of sculpted sandstone canyons and pristine dunes, we return to our camp and enjoy another night under the star-studded sky. Today's 17km walk is expected to take around 7hrs with 250m ascent and descent.


Overnight: **Simple Camping**

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

DAY 4 Petra; walking in the Rose Red City

After breakfast there is an optional camel ride through a landscape of sandstone canyons. Non-riders are welcome to walk with the riders - quite a moderate pace, given the speed at which camels walk - or transfer ahead by 4WD to the road. From Wadi Rum we drive northwards to Petra. Our luggage is taken to our campsite and we look forward to a day and a half of exploring this dazzling site on foot. We first enter via the twisting and colourful Siq gorge arriving at the famous Al-Khazneh (The Treasury), and continue through the heart of the ancient city before heading up to our campsite in the Wadi Shamassat. Today's 13km walk is expected to take around 5hrs with 200m ascent and 450m descent.


Overnight: **Simple Camping**

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

DAY 5 A further day exploring Petra and its surroundings

Today we head back to Petra to walk up to one of Petra's greatest monuments, Ad-Deir (The Monastery), set high above the city and almost hidden in the mountains. Following the 900 steps down into the heart of Petra, we hike to the High Place of Sacrifice. Here is a unique and unforgettable vantage point offering excellent views out over the whole city of Petra. Finally we descend into the site before returning to our camp. Today's 18km walk is expected to take around 7hrs with 850m total ascent and 800m total descent.

Overnight: **Simple Camping**

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

DAY 6 Hike to Little Petra; King's Highway to Madaba

We set out today along the Desert Highway before joining one of the oldest trade routes in the world, the King's Highway, up to the impressive Crusader Castle of Kerak, imposingly sited on a hilltop. Kerak became famous in the time of the Crusades as one of a chain of fortresses in the Holy War against Islam. The castle was built in 1132 by Baldwin of Jerusalem, a Crusader king. Later in the afternoon, we continue to the small, mainly Christian town of Madaba where we spend the night. (Please note that on some departures we will visit the Crusader castle of Shobak instead of Kerak.)

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**
Single Room Available

Swimming Pool Available 

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

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DAY 7 Visiting Mount Nebo, the Dead Sea and Jerash

Madaba is famous for its collection of extraordinary mosaics, including the Great Map of Palestine (6th century). Discovered in 1896, and only fragmentary, it contains a good picture of Jerusalem. From Jebel Neba (808m), better known as Mount Nebo - the point from which Moses saw the Promised Land - we descend to the lowest place on earth, the shimmering Dead Sea. Surrounded by barren hills, this unique water body has an amazingly high salt content (33%) that means no animal life survives and that it is almost impossible to sink. We end with a flourish as we finally drive northwards to ancient Jerash. Located in the Gilead Hills, it is considered to be the best-preserved city of the Decapolis, a confederation of ten Roman cities. One of the highlights of the Middle East, a triple arch gateway gives way to colonnaded streets, theatres, temples and baths. Particularly striking is the elegant forum - a fitting place to reflect on our exploration of this wonderful desert kingdom before we return to Amman.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**



Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 8 Tour ends in Amman

Tour ends in Amman after breakfast.



Included Meals: Breakfast

Accommodation and Meals

Accommodation Notes

The camping during your trip is in traditional Bedouin style goat hair tents. It is communal camping and the tent is laid out with rugs, mattresses, pillows and sleeping bags. There is a chemical toilet and limited hot and cold water for washing but no showers. This is basic camping but a wonderful chance to experience life in a Bedouin style tent with some of the most amazing backdrops to your nights' sleep.

Please note that some hotel swimming pools in Jordan may operate separate timetables for men and women.

Food & Drink

Included meals: 7 breakfasts, 4 lunches, 4 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.

Jordan

Lunch £: 10.00

Dinner £: 15.00

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.

Jordan

Bottle of Beer £: 4

Water £: 1.50

International Departure Taxes

The Jordanian government levies on all travellers a departure tax of JD8.00 per person. For travellers departing by air this is usually included in the taxes on the airline ticket and thus nothing will be collected from you at the point of departure. For those travellers departing by land, this will be collected by the immigration authorities at the port of departure from Jordan.



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

Wadi Rum - Camel trek £28.00

Petra - Turkish bath £24.00

Petra by Night - £17.00

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

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 approximately 28.00JD (Jordanian Dinar).

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

Foreign Exchange

Jordan

ATM Availability: ATMs are widely available, but do not always work.

Credit Card Acceptance: In hotels and some larger shops/restaurants.

Travellers Cheques: Travellers Cheques, although still the safest way of carrying money, are difficult to cash in Jordan. There are high commission charges on Travellers Cheques on a per cheque basis so if using them we suggest you take high denomination cheques. Proof of purchase may be necessary for encashment of Travellers Cheques.

Local Currency: Jordanian Dinar

Recommended Currency for Exchange: Sterling and US\$ are widely accepted though exchange rates tend to favour the US\$. It is worth taking some money in cash. You may be able to order Dinars from your bank although the rate will usually be lower than purchasing currency in country.

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

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 Introducing 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

Jordan: The Jordanian government have announced that from 01 June 2015, all visa fees will be waived for tourists of British, American, Australian and Canadian nationalities on arrival at an international Jordanian airport. There are however, certain conditions that each tourist of these nationalities must meet in order to gain the free visa. Most of these are already met by Explore tours, however flight information and arrival date into Jordan both have an effect on qualifying for the free visa. Please see below for the category that is applicable to your flight arrangements:

The following information relates to the above nationalities travelling on flights to Jordan arranged by Explore arriving on the first day of the tour: In order to qualify for the free visa, the above nationalities must be met by a representative who will assist with the visa process, this is already arranged by Explore as part of the transfer arrangements from the airport to the start of the tour.

The following information relates to the above nationalities with Land Only arrangements arriving on the first day of the tour: In order to qualify for the free visa, these tourists must be met by a representative who will assist with the visa process. Land Only customers of the above nationalities arranging their own flights to arrive in Jordan on the first day of the tour must advise their full flight details to Explore at least 7 days prior to your departure date. We will then arrange for the representative to meet you as part of the transfer arrangements from the airport to the start of the tour.

The following information relates to the above nationalities arriving in Jordan prior or after the first day of the tour: In order to qualify for the free visa, tourists of the above nationalities must be met by a representative who will assist with the visa process. To qualify for the free visa, you must contact Explore at least 7 days prior to your departure date to arrange and purchase a private transfer. We will then arrange for the representative to meet you as part of the transfer arrangements.

Please Note: For all tourist of the above nationalities that arrange their own travel arrangements and do not advise their flight details to Explore within the above specified timelines, the Jordanian visa fee of JD40.00 (approximately £40) will be applicable. This must be paid on arrival at an international Jordanian airport in order for individuals to gain a visa to enter the country.

All other nationalities should consult the relevant consulate to determine if they are applicable for the above free visa on arrival or must gain a visa prior to departure.

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

Jordan

Nothing compulsory, but we recommend protection against malaria, typhoid, tetanus infectious hepatitis and polio. Consult your travel clinic for latest advice on different prophylaxis available against malaria.

Preparing for your Trip

DAILY DISTANCES

Day 2	6.5km	2hrs
Day 3	17km	7hrs
Day 4	13km 9km*	5/2hrs
Day 5	18km	7hrs
Day 6	3km	45mins

*Optional camel trek

Maximum Altitude on Trek (m)

1800

Trekking Details

Walks on 4 days for between 2 and 6 hours each day along rocky paths and mountain trails. We have graded this trip as moderate.

Walking Boots

Comfortable walking shoes or boots recommended.

Climate

Jordan

During April to November days are generally sunny and hot without rain with temperatures around 32°C. In spring and autumn evenings can be cool and night temperatures can drop suddenly especially in the desert. Expect cold nights in winter (December to February) when temperatures can drop to around 0 degrees. Some rain should also be expected at this time of year.

Clothing

Lightweight clothing is essential in mid-summer, with a sun-hat and neck protection, though a jumper and light jacket are advisable for Wadi Rum and Petra. Early mornings can be very cold when camping in the desert. Winters in Jordan can be cold, so please bring suitable warm clothing including warm sleepwear. We recommend a waterproof jacket in winter. Bring a swimsuit if you wish to swim in the Dead Sea. Women are advised not to wear shorts or dresses that are too revealing as this can attract unwelcome attention in the streets of Muslim towns - loose fitting trousers are ideal. Women should also cover their head and shoulders when entering a mosque and men should wear long trousers.

Equipment

Sleeping bags, blankets and mattresses are provided, but we suggest you bring your own sleeping sheet. A personal water bottle and a small torch are essential for the nights camping. Bring anti-bacterial hand wash, such as Travelproof's 'H2O-No' waterless hand scrub (available through Explore Trader catalogue); try to avoid anti-bacterial wipes as these can pose a disposal problem. Take walking poles if you normally use them.

Footwear

Trainers and sandals are recommended for exploring towns or relaxing in the evenings.

Luggage: On Tour

One main piece of baggage and a daypack.

Luggage allowance on trip: 20kg

General Information

Country details

Jordan

Population: 6,407,085

Size of Country: 92,300 sq km

Major Language: Arabic

Religion: Muslim

Time Difference to GMT: +2

Electric Supply & Plugs

Jordan

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,

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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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