

# EXPLORE!

## TRIP NOTES



### Spitsbergen, Greenland and Iceland - M/S Fram (FRNP 2017)



TRIPDURATION  
**14**  
DAYS



**Tour Style:** Classic  
**Tour Pace:** Relaxed

**Tour Type:** Small Groups  
**Accommodation**  
**Grade:** Premium

**Trip Code:** FRNP

#### Trip Highlights - Spitsbergen, Greenland and Iceland - M/S Fram

- ✓ Explore three countries in one voyage
- ✓ Travel to the land of the polar bear
- ✓ Walk on Greenland's desolate shores
- ✓ Travel to the Land of Fire and Ice with its raw, untamed beauty
- ✓ Wildlife galore - from Arctic fox to seals and ivory gulls

#### Trip Essentials

**Accommodation:** 1 night Premium Hotel  
12 nights Premium Boat

**Included Meals:** 13 breakfasts, 12 lunches, 13 dinners

**Start Point:** Join trip: Reykjavik

**End Point:** Trip ends: Loneyarbyen

**Transport:** Zodiac, MS Fram

**Countries:** Arctic Region, Iceland, Greenland, Spitsbergen

# Spitsbergen, Greenland & Iceland - M/S Fram

This incredible expedition takes you to the biggest islands in the Arctic - Spitsbergen, Greenland and Iceland.

After a short stop in Longyearbyen, you will head north through the magnificent North West Spitsbergen National Park. The area is characterised by big inland glaciers and a typical alpine landscape and is filled with spectacular contrasts, from lush areas to naked moraines, rocky ridges and glaciers diving into the sea. Kongsfjorden and Magdalenefjorden impress with their dramatic landscapes and interesting history. At 78° 55' N you visit Ny Ålesund, one of the world's northernmost year-round communities and an advanced High Arctic research station.

As we sail towards the coast of Greenland, you can enjoy the solitude of this remote corner of the world. Once in the fjords of north east Greenland your sense of distance, size and shape of landscapes will be challenged. These are the largest fjords in the world and the surrounding alpine landscape, with hanging glaciers and dramatic vertical granite walls, reaches as far as the eye can see.

From the Westfjords of Iceland we spend three days exploring untouched nature with cliffs and valleys, high waterfalls and pure streams. This includes seeing famous places like Grundarfjörður, Flateyri and Ísafjörður, before ending this extraordinary arctic voyage in Reykjavik. This is an expedition where the elements rule, and the weather, wind and ice conditions will determine our final schedule. Safety is paramount and the captain will decide the final sailing itinerary during the voyage. This itinerary is just an indication of what you may experience on what promises to be a unique expedition.

## Wildlife

Polar Bears, walrus, seals, Arctic fox, musk oxen, Reindeer and a prolific birdlife - Arctic terns, Ivory gulls, Guillemots, Kittiwakes, to name a few..

## Ship Description

The M/S Fram is a comfortable vessel for your polar exploration with modern amenities such as a fitness room, Jacuzzi and sauna. The ample indoor and outdoor public spaces are designed to ensure you enjoy the passing scenery and wildlife sightings; each table in the restaurant has scenic views and the observation lounge has panoramic windows. There's also a selection of shore excursions to choose from, allowing you to experience as much of the polar wilderness as possible.

## 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: Premium

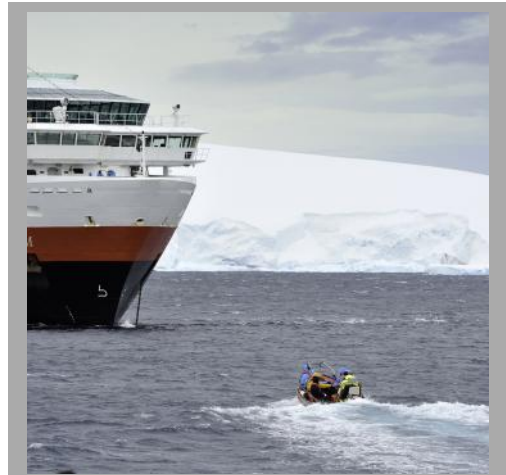
Our comfortable accommodation is hand-picked and chosen for its character, location or local importance. These properties have excellent facilities and a higher level of comfort and service.

## 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 Oslo to Longyearbyen

Your Arctic adventure starts with an evening flight from Norway's capital, Oslo. Before departure, you can spend some time exploring this fjord-side city surrounded by forests, lakes and hills. Oslo offers a varied architecture, top-notch restaurants and endless shopping possibilities. The contrast will be significant when you arrive in Longyearbyen a couple of hours later. On arrival, you will be transferred to your hotel.

#### Hotel in Longyearbyen


#### Single Room Available

 **Included Meals:** Dinner

### DAY 2 Longyearbyen

Spend the morning exploring Longyearbyen and its surroundings, before embarkation in the afternoon. Longyearbyen is a Norwegian settlement often referred to as the capital of Svalbard. This is a lively small town, situated amid some incredible Arctic landscape. Barentsburg is a Russian settlement with an exotic collection of Russian artefacts and architecture and is very different to Longyearbyen. The museum, library and newly opened brewery function as meeting points and a research station is under construction. See a colourful folklore show and visit the hotel and museum. Experience a different side of Svalbard - a little piece of Russia in the Arctic. You will board your expedition vessel in the afternoon.


#### M/S Fram

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

### DAY 3 North West Spitsbergen National Park

The first national park we visit covers the northwest corner of Spitsbergen. The area is characterised by big inland glaciers and a typical alpine landscape contrasted by green areas and moraines. We continue into Kongsfjord and Magdalenefjord, offering spectacular scenery and interesting history. At 78° 55' N we visit Ny-Ålesund, the starting point for numerous expeditions towards the North Pole. Today it is home to an advanced High Arctic research station.

#### M/S Fram

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

### DAY 4 At Sea

After exploring the Spitsbergen shore, our course is set for the isolated coast of North East Greenland. We spend the day crossing the Fram Strait, during which our expedition team will give lectures on interesting subjects connected to this area

#### M/S Fram

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

### DAY 5 North East Greenland National Park, Greenland

As we arrive in the largest national park in the world, enjoy the solitude and remoteness of this far corner of the globe. Apart from the abandoned trapping stations, a weather station and the traditional Sirius sled patrol, there are no other signs of human life here.

#### M/S Fram

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

### DAY 6 North East Greenland National Park

We will cruise within the boundaries of North East Greenland National Park and will enjoy some landings on shore. With the exception of 30 or so researchers who overwinter here, this area remains uninhabited by humans for most of the year. During the very short

summer months, when the water is no longer frozen, we are able to step ashore to explore this alpine wilderness. Look out for musk oxen who populate the valleys within the park and enjoy the incredible icebergs which form the back-drop as you look out to sea.

**M/S Fram**



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

DAY **7** North East Greenland National Park

Once inside the fjords of North East Greenland your sense of distance, size and shape of landscapes will be challenged. These are the largest fjords in the world and the alpine landscape around, with hanging glaciers and vertical granite faces, reaches as far as the eye can see. We will take to a Polar Circle boat at any given opportunity, so that we can fully explore the fjord lands and it's incredible glacial scenery.

**M/S Fram**



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

DAY **8** North East Greenland National Park

As well as terrestrial wildlife like musk oxen, arctic fox, hare and wolf, we may see a variety of sea birds. And remember, where there is ice, there might be polar bears.

**M/S Fram**



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

DAY **9** North East Greenland National Park

The very isolated weather and research station, Danmarkshavn is one of the places we hope to visit en-route. Sailing into fjords like Kaiser Franz Josef Fjord or Alpefjord will provide an expedition of a lifetime and a pure wilderness experience.

**M/S Fram**



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

DAY **10** North East Greenland National Park

We might meet the Sirius Patrol, who are a part of the Danish Navy, who supervise the park using traditional methods with the use of mushing dogs. Before the Danes acquired sovereignty of this area, the Norwegians claimed it. A natural place to attempt a landing is Myggbukta (Mosquito bay), where the legendary Governor of North East Greenland had his base.

**M/S Fram**



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

DAY **11** North East Greenland National Park

You will have ample time to explore this glacial wilderness, one of the most isolated places on earth. Our expert guides and lecturers will safely guide you on hikes and small boat trips, whilst also providing lectures and briefings on the places that we visit.

**M/S Fram**



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

DAY **12** Ittoqqortoormiit, Scoresbysund

Ittoqqortoormiit is the most isolated town in Greenland. Here, you can wander freely and perhaps visit the museum, the church, or the local photo exhibition.

**M/S Fram**



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



## DAY 13 The Westfjords of Iceland

Ísafjörður is the capital of the Westfjords region. Take a stroll around this cosy town and enjoy its diverse architecture. You'll find the country's oldest dwelling here, along with fine examples of timber houses built by wealthy foreign traders in the 18th century. Our optional excursions offer a variety of experiences from hikes to tastings of local food.

### M/S Fram



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

## DAY 14 Reykjavik

Reykjavik is Iceland's capital city and referred to locally as the 'smallest big city on Earth'. In relative close surroundings of the city you may find glaciers, waterfalls, geysers and mountains. We will arrive in the morning hours and it is here, that our voyage ends.



**Included Meals:** Breakfast

## Accommodation and Meals

### Food & Drink

Included meals: 13 breakfasts, 12 lunches, 13 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.

### Cabins

Prices are based on the use of inside, category one cabins on decks 3, 5 and 6. Category one cabins are based on twin share, with one bed and one sofa bed. They are comfortable with a private toilet and shower, fridge and TV. The MS Fram has a number of different cabin categories, many of which are outside facing, with two beds (apart from superior cabins and suites, which have double beds). Some cabins have portholes and others, larger windows and sitting areas. All cabins are twin share, but we can also offer single occupancy at a supplement, if you are travelling alone. Call us for details on the cabin choice to fit your requirements.

### Ship Dining

All meals are included in the price of your expedition; a buffet breakfast and lunch, and set menu for dinner; it's free seating for breakfast and lunch, and assigned seating for dinner. Vegetarians and some special dietary requirements can be accommodated with advance notice - please kindly advise us of any dietary requests at the time of confirmation. Coffee and tea are provided free of charge at all times and all other beverages, both alcoholic and non-alcoholic, are not included and can be purchased in the bar.

## 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.

#### Arctic Region

##### Iceland

**Lunch £:** 10.00 - 12.00

**Dinner £:** 18.00 - 24.00

##### Greenland

##### Spitsbergen

**Lunch £:** 12.00-16.00

**Dinner £:** 35.00-40.00

### 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.



## Arctic Region

### Iceland

**Bottle of Beer £:** 4.00 - 6.00

**Water £:** 2.00

### Greenland

### Spitsbergen

**Bottle of Beer £:** 6.00-8.00

**Water £:** 2.00-3.00

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## Tipping - Local Crew

Tipping is collected at the end of the voyage and is divided among the crew. Tipping is a very personal matter and the amount you wish to give is at your discretion, but as a generally guideline, we suggest US\$12 per person per day.

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## Foreign Exchange

### Arctic Region

**ATM Availability:** Cash can be drawn on credit or debit cards from ATMs in major cities.

**Credit Card Acceptance:** Credit cards are useful and can be used in many places, but may be subject to a service charge. The ship accepts Visa and Mastercard.

**Travellers Cheques:** Travellers Cheques can be difficult to exchange and are not accepted aboard.

**Recommended Currency for Exchange:** A combination of US dollars cash and cards is best. It is advisable to take a minimum of US\$200-500 of your total spending money in cash, in mixed denominations (notes should be in good condition).

**Where to Exchange:** Banks or Forex offices in major cities.

### Iceland

**ATM Availability:** Cash can be drawn on credit cards from ATM's in Reykjavik and at the airport.

**Credit Card Acceptance:** Most shops and restaurants take credit cards.

**Travellers Cheques:** Can be exchanged at banks and post offices.

**Local Currency:** Icelandic Krona (ISK).

**Recommended Currency for Exchange:** Both GBP and USD are readily exchanged at banks and post offices.

**Where to Exchange:** Both GBP and USD are readily exchanged at banks and post offices

### Greenland

### Spitsbergen

## 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.

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### 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](http://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>.

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### 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>.

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## 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.

**EXPLORE!**  
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](http://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.

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### 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](http://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](mailto:cr@explore.co.uk) or 01252 379438.

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### 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.

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### Visa Information

Entry visas NOT required by UK, AUS, NZ, USA, CAN Citizens. Other nationalities should consult the relevant consulate.

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

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](http://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.

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### Vaccinations & Protection

#### Arctic Region

Nothing compulsory, we recommend protection against typhoid, tetanus, diphtheria, polio and hepatitis A. 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.

#### Iceland

Nothing compulsory; tetanus recommended. 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.

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## Greenland

### Spitsbergen

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

### Climate

#### Arctic Region

The average temperatures in the Norwegian Arctic is approximately 5 degrees centigrade during the summer months (June-August.) It can however feel significantly colder with the wind, so be prepared for colder temperatures.

#### Iceland

Iceland has a cool and temperate climate and, despite its location just south of the Arctic Circle, its northerly latitude is counteracted by the warm waters of the North Atlantic Drift which encircles the island. Temperatures in winter can fluctuate between about 10°C and -10°C and precipitation in the form of rain, sleet or snow is to be expected at any time. Days will be short, with daylight often only guaranteed between about 11 am and 4 pm in December. The best time for seeing the Aurora Borealis is October to March. Summer is generally cool with average temperatures for June and July around 12 - 15 degree centigrade in Reykjavik, although is known to be warmer in other parts of the country. In June and July you can enjoy continuous daylight and see the Midnight Sun, whilst late spring and early autumn offer long twilights.

## Greenland

### Spitsbergen

Between May and September is the best time to visit this region, with summer temperatures reaching a maximum of 5 degrees centigrade. North of the Arctic Circle, the sun does not set between the middle of May and the end of July, so you can expect to encounter the midnight sun during this period.

### Clothing

Pack comfortable, casual clothing for all activities. Wind and waterproof outer layers are essential, and a jacket is provided in the cost of the cruise. Beware of tight clothing that leaves no room for trapped air, which is an excellent insulator. Wool, silk and some of the new synthetic fibres, like polar fleece, retain heat better than cotton.

#### Parkas

A wind and waterproof jacket is provided as part of the cost of your holiday.

#### Gloves

Keeping your hands warm and dry can be a challenge. Thin polypropylene gloves can be worn underneath warm outergloves. This allows you some protection from the cold when removing your gloves to operate your camera etc. We strongly recommend that you bring more than one pair of gloves, in case one gets wet (or lost).

#### Hat/Cap

Warm, woollen hat/cap to protect your ears, as well as a scarf, neck gaiter or other face protection, such as a balaclava.

#### Trousers

Water-resistant trousers of coated nylon or, even better, Gore-Tex® are essential for your comfort. They can be worn over your regular clothes to keep you warm and dry. We suggest that you purchase trousers a few sizes larger than you normally wear as you will be wearing them over other clothing. Gore-Tex® or similar fabrics are excellent for keeping out wind and water without trapping excess heat. Rain gear and Gore-Tex® products can be found in any outdoor sport clothing store. In addition to your waterproof trousers, warm ski pants are suggested if you have them. Warm trousers such as jeans, corduroys etc are also good.

#### Socks

Warm wool socks worn over a thin pair of silk, polypropylene socks should provide enough warmth and insulation for your feet. Bring several pairs of socks, since you will inevitably get your feet wet.

#### Outer Clothing

Woollen, knit or cotton sweaters/tops, polar fleece tops (medium weight), several cotton turtlenecks and T-shirts for layering on and off the ship.

#### Underclothing

Thermal underwear is highly recommended as it will keep you warm without adding bulk. Most polar travellers prefer a lightweight version.

### Equipment

Sunglasses and sun cream

Personal toiletries

A refillable water bottle

Books/reading material

Camera and memory cards (and something to protect the camera when out in the elements)

Seasickness remedy

Walking poles



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## Footwear

Waterproof boots are available on-board for a small charge.  
Also ensure you take good walking boots and trainers for relaxing.

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## Luggage: On Tour

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

Luggage allowance on trip: 20kg

# General Information

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## Country details

### Arctic Region

**Time Difference to GMT:** +1

### Iceland

**Population:** 318,452

**Size of Country:** 103,001 sq km

**Major Language:** Icelandic

**Religion:** National Church of Iceland

### Greenland

### Spitsbergen

**Time Difference to GMT:** +1

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## Electric Supply & Plugs

### Arctic Region

2 Pin Round

### Iceland

2 Pin Round

### Greenland

### Spitsbergen

2 Pin Round

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# 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.

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## 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.

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## 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](http://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.

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## 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.

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### 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

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### 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.

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### 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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