

EXPLORE!

Tour Notes



Along the Yangtse (YR 2014)



TOUR
DURATION
14
DAYS



Tour Style: Classic
Tour Pace: Moderate

Tour Type: Small Groups
Tour Comfort: Standard

Tour Code: YR

Tour Highlights - Along the Yangtse

- ✓ Three Gorges cruise - Spend two days cruising down the beautiful Yangtse River
- ✓ Hong Kong - Soak up the atmosphere in the night markets or take the tram to Victoria Peak for views across the city
- ✓ Yangshuo - Float past dramatic karst scenery on the Li River.
- ✓ Longji - Trek across rice terraces and through minority villages
- ✓ Chengdu - Meet the loveable pandas
- ✓ Shanghai - Take a break from the city in Yu Yuan gardens and spend time reflecting at the Jade Buddha temple.

Tour Essentials

Accommodation: 8 nights Standard Hotel
1 night Basic Overnight Train
1 night Simple Guesthouse
3 nights Basic Boat

Included Meals: 13 breakfasts, 4 lunches, 3 dinners

Start Point: Join tour: Hong Kong
End Point: Tour ends: Shanghai
Transport: Bus, Train, Boat, Flight
Countries: China, Hong Kong

Along The Yangtse

On this trip we cruise through the dramatic gorges of the Yangtse River. We explore the cosmopolitan cities of Hong Kong and Shanghai and the rice paddies and villages of rural China. We admire the spectacular karst landscapes at Guilin and the Buddhist sculptures at Baoding Shan. We also enjoy a boat ride along the River Li and explore the rice terraces of Longji.

Suitability

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

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

Tour Comfort: Standard

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

Tour Style: Classic

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

Tour Pace: Moderate

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

Your tour itinerary

Tour itinerary notes

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

Your Tour Leader

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

DAY 1 Join tour Hong Kong

Arrive Hong Kong and check into hotel.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**
Single Rooms Available

Swimming Pool Available 



 **Included Meals:** None

DAY 2 In Hong Kong

Situated in a dramatic setting, Hong Kong is a lively, sophisticated city and the world's third largest financial centre. We start with an orientation walk and leave the afternoon free for optional excursions. Public transport is efficient and easy to use. You can take a funicular railway to Victoria Peak or a launch out to a floating restaurant in Aberdeen Harbour. Alternatively explore the jade market or admire the latest sartorial and electronic fashions.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**

Single Rooms Available

Swimming Pool Available 

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

DAY 3 AM in Hong Kong; overnight train to Guilin

This morning will be left free to explore Hong Kong further. In the late afternoon we transfer by coach to the Sheng Shui train station close to the Chinese border. From Sheng Shui we then take a train to reach the pedestrian only border at Lu Wu. As we cross on foot and porters are not available please make sure you can comfortably carry your own luggage. After clearing immigration and customs we walk the short distance to nearby Shenzhen station from where we take an overnight train to Guilin, located on the west bank of the Li River. This is where the famous poetic landscape of China, at least its rather stereotyped Western image, is found; it has been the subject of Chinese poets and painters since time immemorial. The sparkling green plain is laced with lakes and rivers, in the midst of which looms a bizarre array of dome-like pinnacles and towers. These stretch into the distant horizon as far as the eye can see, separated from each other by winding ravines and penetrated by subterranean caves – a scene of great romantic beauty. They were uplifted from a limestone seabed about 300 million years ago, and eroded until only the tall rocky domes and towers remained.

Overnight: **Basic Overnight Train**

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

DAY 4 Arrive in Guilin; boat on Li River to Yangshuo

Upon arrival, we visit a local hotel for breakfast before we drive a short distance to the Bamboo Reed Dock where we board our boat on the Li River and cruise to Yangshuo via Old Xiping. Lunch is taken aboard the boat during the journey as we pass along the most scenic stretch of the river. An afternoon arrival in Yangshuo offers the opportunity to explore this laid back town – a contrast to the bustle of Hong Kong.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**

Single Rooms Available

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 5 In Yangshuo

Yangshuo has a lot to offer so the day is left free for you to explore at your own pace. You can walk into the surrounding karst summits or hire a bike and cycle through country back lanes. Alternatively, you can soak up the atmosphere of this beautiful riverside town. You may want to practice your bartering skills in the local market – selling batiks and silk paintings, or you may be tempted to buy a 'Little Red Book'. This evening you may choose to go to an amazing sound and light show (optional).

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**

Single Rooms Available


 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

DAY 6 Drive Longji; walks on rice terraces

A morning drive takes us to the stunning rice terraces of the Longji area. These amazing feats of agricultural engineering climb to a peak of 800m known as the 'Dragon's backbone'. The area is home to both the Zhuang and Yao minorities and we may see the women working in the fields in their colourful costumes. We spend the night in a local guesthouse in the small village of PingAn. Please note there is a 30 minute walk up steps to our guesthouse. Our main luggage will not be with us this evening.

Overnight: **Simple Guesthouse**

Single Rooms Available

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

DAY 7 In Ping 'An, fly to Chengdu

This morning we will have time for another walk along the rice terraces if you wish before returning to Guilin for our flight to Chengdu.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**
Single Rooms Available



Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 8 Visit Panda Research Centre; drive to Dazu

This morning we drive to the Panda Research Centre to see the animal synonymous with China. We'll then pay a visit to the Wenshu Monastery, dedicated to the God of Wisdom, where we have a chance to sample their famous Buddhist vegetarian cuisine (optional). We then head for Dazu, a former county town famous for its Buddha rock carvings.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**
Single Rooms Available



Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 9 Board Riverboat for 2 and a half day cruise via 'Three Gorges' on Yangtse River

This morning we visit the cliff sculptures at Baoding Shan (Precious Summit Hill). It is fascinating to wander beside the many brightly painted images carved into the rock face, amongst the most impressive of which is an enormous reclining Buddha, 31m long and 5m high! We then drive to Chongqing where we join our riverboat for a two and a half day cruise along the Yangtse River. The longest river in China, it runs through nine provinces forming a delta in the south which has attracted a very high population density to the region. In addition, the river flows through important industrial centres which form the economic heart of China. We travel on board a four star cruise boat fully equipped with two berth airconditioned cabins. Our boat carries approximately 150 passengers with your fellow travellers likely to come from a variety of different countries. After our first night on board we arrive at the Temple of Fengdu, for an opportunity to explore the town.

Overnight: **Basic Boat**



Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 10 Continuing our cruise

Our journey will take us 193km through the 'Three Gorges', each one spectacular in its own way. We start our journey into the gorges on the second day. The first is Bellows Gorge (Qutang Xia) which is only 8 km long. This was always considered a treacherous but necessary part of the river for it was the only way to reach Sichuan province from the eastern lowlands which are surrounded by impassable mountains. After passing through Bellows Gorge, we enter Wu gorge and travel up Shennong stream to admire smaller gorges. Wu gorge is 40km long and it follows a relatively calm stretch of river. Surrounded by hazy mountain peaks, this mystical section of the Yangtse is steeped in legend. Finally, the third gorge we travel through is Xiling Gorge which is actually comprised of several smaller gorges along a 78km stretch, a smaller motorised boat for lesser gorges. Finally we descend via a series of locks through the dam itself.

Overnight: **Basic Boat**



Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 11 Continuing our cruise aboard the Riverboat

Today we continue exploring aboard the riverboat.

Overnight: **Basic Boat**



Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 12 Visit dam project; fly Shanghai

In the morning we disembark and drive to take a tour of the dam itself and learn about this amazing project, one of the great engineering wonders of the world. We then continue our cruise to Yichang where we disembark for our flight to Shanghai.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**
Single Rooms Available



Included Meals: Breakfast

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DAY 13 In Shanghai

Shanghai is one of Asia's most vibrant and dynamic cities. It began as a fishing village in the 11th century, but after the end of the first opium war and of the five newly opened treaty ports Shanghai soon became the most cosmopolitan city, with Asian, Russian, European and Jewish influences. Here were cabarets and ballrooms, fine shops and satirical newspapers, and with such style and influence Shanghai was dubbed the 'Paris of the Orient'. Today its elegant past is still noticeable as you walk down 'the Bund'. This wide avenue is a good place to start to get to know the city: people practice Tai Chi early in the morning. We make a city sightseeing tour to visit the famous Jade Buddha temple with its white jade statues, continuing on to the 16th Century Yu Yuan Gardens. We also visit the museum which houses some very good examples of Ming pottery. In the evening you may wish to see the city's world famous troupe of acrobats (optional).

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**
Single Rooms Available



Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 14 Tour ends Shanghai

Our tour ends this morning after breakfast.



Included Meals: Breakfast

Accommodation and Meals

Accommodation Rating

As tourism developed relatively recently in China, accommodation is usually modern, spacious and comfortable, albeit rather generic. Most hotels are large and purpose built and though rarely characterful, you can generally rely on good facilities. In major cities the hotels that we use are of international style generally with business facilities, restaurants and bars and all mod cons, though few have pools. In other cities and large towns the standard is similar although on a lesser scale. In small towns or villages where tourism is less prevalent, the hotels we use are smaller and facilities are more limited, though we generally stay in the best place in town. Rooms will still be en suite but can be basic. Plumbing and electricity supplies can be somewhat erratic and although the welcome is warm, service levels may be less efficient than you may be used to.

Aboard the overnight sleeper train, berths are usually in 1st class 'soft sleeper' lockable compartments for 4 which have 2 sets of bunks with clean bedding provided. WC and washbasins are provided for shared use at the end of each carriage. Hot meals and snacks are usually sold to your berth on overnight journeys. In times of large demand we may have to travel in 2nd class 'hard sleeper' which consists of sectioned off compartments for 6, leading off an open plan carriage. The majority of hotels in China offer check in from 12noon. On days where we will arrive on a sleeper train the Tour Leader will try and arrange an early check in for the group, however this may not be possible.

Food & Drink

Included meals: 13 breakfasts, 4 lunches, 3 dinners included in the price of this tour. Please be prepared to pay for non-included meals. Please note that costs for drinks and meals can vary depending on location.

Budgeting for your Tour

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

Other Sightseeing & Activities

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

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

Optional Excursions

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 this dossier was originally issued but may change at any time due to currency fluctuations.

Hong Kong - Sightseeing tour £33.00.

Yangshuo - Sound and Light show £21.00 (£26 for VIP seat) ; bicycle hire £5.00; painting lesson £5.00; calligraphy lesson £8.00; cooking class £13.00.

Dazu - Sichuan opera £9.00.

Chongqing - Sichuan opera £8.00.

Shanghai - Acrobats £28.00.
Beijing - Opera £15.00; Hutong Tour £13.00.

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

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 £35 for tipping.

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

China

ATM Availability: All major towns.

Credit Card Acceptance: Most major restaurants and stores.

Travellers Cheques: Travellers cheques can be changed in Hong Kong and at the Bank of China in all major cities but only during bank opening hours. Please note this is very time consuming and is not recommended.

Local Currency: Renminbi/Yuan

Recommended Currency for Exchange: Either EUR, USD or GBP.

Where to Exchange: In all towns - your Tour Leader will advise you on arrival. When changing money ask for a receipt so you can change Yuan back into your own currency when leaving China.

Hong Kong

ATM Availability: All major towns.

Credit Card Acceptance: Most major restaurants and stores.

Travellers Cheques: Travellers cheques can be changed in Hong Kong and at the Bank of China in all major cities but only during bank opening hours. Please note this is very time consuming and is not recommended.

Local Currency: Hong Kong Dollar.

Recommended Currency for Exchange: Either EUR, USD or GBP

Where to Exchange: In all towns - your Tour Leader will advise you on arrival. When changing money ask for a receipt so you can change Yuan back into your own currency when leaving China.

Joining your Tour

Flight Information

You are able to book this tour on a 'land only' basis or as a 'flight inclusive' package. Your flight inclusive package will be fully protected by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) ATOL protection scheme.

Booking a land only package with Explore

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

Joining Tour Abroad

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

Booking a flight inclusive package with Explore

We have a good selection of flights not only from London but from many regional airports around the UK allowing us to compare fares between scheduled carriers as well as low cost and charter airlines. Our dedicated flights team will match the best flight options to your arrival and departure airport.

On our website we display a UK flight inclusive package guide price which is generally based on a London departure. To avoid paying supplements or to secure your preferred flight option, we recommend booking as early as possible, especially for peak travel dates.

Important Information

Travel Insurance

It is a condition of joining **any** of our tours that you must have valid travel insurance. It must indicate that you have cover for (at least) medical expenses and emergency repatriation in the event of illness or injury. Medical and repatriation insurance cover is not mandatory for UK residents who are travelling in England and Scotland. We also strongly recommend your policy includes curtailment, personal effects and cancellation protection as all deposits paid are non-refundable. You will also need to ensure your travel policy covers you for all activities you intend to do whilst on tour. Your insurer may charge an additional premium for certain activities.

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

Visa Information

China: A visa is required by all nationalities. A single entry visa should be arranged in advance of travel, this can be obtained through Explore's recommended visa service in the UK; Visaswift, at <http://www.visaswift.com/explore.aspx>.

Other nationalities should consult their local embassy or consular office.

Passengers wishing to extend their stay in China should be aware that current visa regulations only allow foreigners to stay in the country for up to 30 days. Please consider this when planning your trip.

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

Vaccinations & Protection

China

Nothing compulsory, but we recommend protection against malaria, infectious hepatitis, typhoid, tetanus and polio. Consult your travel clinic for latest advice on different prophylaxis available against malaria. Travellers may wish to take immunisation against Japanese Encephalitis. 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.

Hong Kong

Nothing compulsory, but we recommend protection against malaria, infectious hepatitis, typhoid, tetanus and polio. Consult your travel clinic for latest advice on different prophylaxis available against malaria. Travellers may wish to take immunisation against Japanese Encephalitis. The above is not an exhaustive list. Further information regarding vaccinations and travel health advice can be found by following the NHS and NaTHNaC links at <http://www.explore.co.uk/Travelhealth/> and from your local healthcare provider.

Preparing for your Tour

Climate

China

China has primarily a temperate climate, with a wide spectrum of extremes due to its huge area. Summer months are hot and rainy though in the south the climate is tropical and we can experience rain at any time of the year, often falling in sharp tropical rain-storms which are heavy but short lived. Winter is colder and drier, temperatures in Beijing can be as low as -12c.

Hong Kong

Hong Kong enjoys more of a sub-tropical climate and the winter months tend to produce temperatures in the high teens, with January being more susceptible to cloud cover, with occasional rain and cold fronts.

Clothing

Light rainwear is advisable at all times.

Equipment

Bring a sunhat, insect repellent, torch and waterbottle. You may find rehydration salts useful.

Footwear

Comfortable shoes or trainers and sandals. You might choose to bring walking boots for the walks on days 6 and 7.

Luggage: On Tour

One main piece and a daysac. Remember, you are expected to carry your own luggage – so don't overload yourself. Whilst walking on the Great Wall your main luggage will be left on the vehicle or in the hotel. You should carry a daysac containing water, sunscreen and a hat at the very least.

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It is essential that your baggage is lockable to comply with local aviation regulations. Please be aware, before boarding a flight in China that the Chinese authorities will only allow bottles onto aircraft if they have been checked in as main luggage. Any bottles in the hand luggage may be confiscated.

You will also need a shoulder bag to carry clothing and toiletries for your nightstop in Ping An. Your main baggage will be transferred from Yangshuo to Guilin and you will collect it before flying to Chengdu on day 7.

Luggage allowance on tour: 20kg

General Information

Food

The prices for meals and drinks can vary greatly depending upon location and the prices detailed below are an average guide. In general you would expect that drinks purchased in a supermarket or local bar to be less expensive, whilst drinks in an upmarket bar or restaurant may be more expensive. The costs for meals may vary depending upon location, type of restaurant and number of courses eaten and so the prices given are an average guide. Local restaurants located off the beaten track may be less expensive, whereas an upmarket restaurant located in the centre of a major city may charge more.

China

Lunch £: 5.00

Dinner £: 10.00

Hong Kong

Lunch £: 7.50

Dinner £: 14.00

Drink

China

Bottle of Beer £: 2.00

Water £: 1.50

Hong Kong

Bottle of Beer £: 2.40

Water £: 1.30

Country details

China

Population: 1,339,724,852

Size of Country: 9,640,821 sq km

Major Language: Mandarin

Religion: Mainly Buddhist

Time Difference to GMT: +8

Hong Kong

Population: 7,061,200

Size of Country: 1,104 sq km

Major Language: Chinese, English

Religion: 3 main religions - Buddhism, Taoism and Confucianism

Time Difference to GMT: +8

Electric Supply & Plugs

China

3 Pin Flat

Hong Kong

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 & 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, elephant, or any number of unusual forms of transport. Often you will stay in family run hotels and village houses and enjoy authentic local cuisine. In this way, it's easy to discover the true heart of the people and the place you travel to – and make some new friends along the way. Each tour is uniquely different, so please feel free to browse through our tours to see what may whet your appetite.

Our commitment to the environment

We are passionate about sustainable travel and work hard to create tours where your holiday delivers real benefits to the local communities. We minimise our impact by travelling in small groups, respecting local cultures and traditions, reducing waste and offsetting 100% of the CO2 from our flights.

When you travel with Explore, you are directly contributing to local economies and helping empower the people you meet. We currently support a range of charities and good causes, including: The Sunshine Orphanage (which cares for abandoned children in Luxor, Egypt), Education for All (sponsoring children through their secondary education in Morocco), The Hope Foundation (helping an Indian Village to recover from the 2004 Tsunami) and the Mufindi Orphanage, which supports AIDS orphans in Tanzania.

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

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

Cool Earth

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

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

Earth Matters

- [The Travel Foundation](#)
Explore are active members and supporters of the Travel Foundation which has established a variety of sustainable tourism projects in destinations and works with industry to improve practice. Visit their website www.thetravelfoundation.org.uk
- [Tourism Concern](#)
Explore support the work of Tourism Concern who campaign for fairly and ethically traded tourism, and are part of its Ethical Tour Operator Group www.tourismconcern.org.uk
- For further information on responsible travel go to <http://www.explore.co.uk/ResponsibleTourism/>

Know before you go

We strongly recommend that you check your government's travel advisory for up-to-date information and advice about your destination: safety and security, entry requirements, health, local laws and customs. For UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office Advice follow the link at <http://www.explore.co.uk/essential-travel-information/travel-resources/travel-safety>

Booking Your Holiday

Peace of mind - book with confidence

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

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

Reserving your place

To reserve your place on this tour you will need to check availability on the Explore website or through our dedicated call centre based in the UK where you can. Our tours can fill up quickly so you are advised to book as early as possible. If your chosen date is 'Available' or 'Guaranteed' we will be able to provisionally hold you a space for up to 48 hours.

The easiest way to confirm your booking is through our website. When you are ready to book, we normally require a 10% non-refundable deposit, but for some holidays this may be more to cover such items as permit fees, internal flights or other non-refundable services. If your travel starts within 60 days of booking, full payment will be required at the time of booking

100% No Surcharge Guarantee

The price paid for our holidays is no longer subject to change. Once booked and confirmed we will guarantee the price you pay will not increase, whatever the circumstances. You will not be approached to pay fuel surcharges unlike the vast majority of other adventure tour operators. The price guarantee applies to all new bookings departing between 1st January 2013 and 31st December 2014.

Tour Itinerary Versions

Itinerary details may vary depending on departure date and alternative itineraries for this tour may exist. Please refer to the dates and prices page on our website to check which itinerary operates on each departure date.

Please ensure that you have an up-to-date copy of these tour notes immediately before you travel, as from time to time our itineraries may be amended, either for operational reasons or in response to feedback from customers. You will be informed of any major changes to your tour but small changes may just be added to these tour notes.

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

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