EXPLORE!

TRIP NOTES

PRICE GUARANTEE 100% NO SURCHARGES

Yosemite and Grand Canyon (YSH 2017)

CULTURAL DISCOVERY

TRIPDURATI
20
DAYS

Tour Style: Classic
Tour Pace: Full On

Tour Type: Small Groups
Accommodation
Grade: Standard

Trip Code: YSH

Trip Highlights - Yosemite and Grand Canyon

- ✓ National Parks - Hike in Bryce, Zion and the Grand Canyon; explore the unique landscapes of Canyonlands, Capitol Reef and Arches national parks
- ✓ San Francisco - Explore the city highlights including the Golden Gate Bridge
- ✓ Yosemite National Park - Fabulous scenery of the world's first protected area
- ✓ Route 66 - Drive along one of the most historic highways in America
- ✓ Monument Valley - Incredible landscapes and Navajo culture
- ✓ Mesa Verde National Park - Visit the UNESCO ruins of the Anasazi
- ✓ Las Vegas - America's surreal and extravagant playground

Trip Essentials

Accommodation:	17 nights Standard Hotel 2 nights Premium Hotel
Included Meals:	0 breakfasts, 0 lunches, 0 dinners
Start Point:	Join trip: San Francisco
End Point:	Trip ends: Las Vegas
Transport:	Maxiwagon
Countries:	USA

Yosemite and Grand Canyon

From the vast landscapes of Yosemite, Zion and Arches National Parks to the vibrant cities of San Francisco and Las Vegas, we visit many of America's natural and cultural highlights. We marvel at the Grand Canyon and discover the spectacular rock formations of Bryce Canyon. We also visit the iconic Monument Valley and the archaeological site of Mesa Verde.

Suitability

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

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

Accommodation Grade: Standard

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

Tour Style: Classic

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

Tour Pace: Full On

These fast paced tours move on quickly from place to place and with lots of early starts and long busy days, they're packed with experiences.

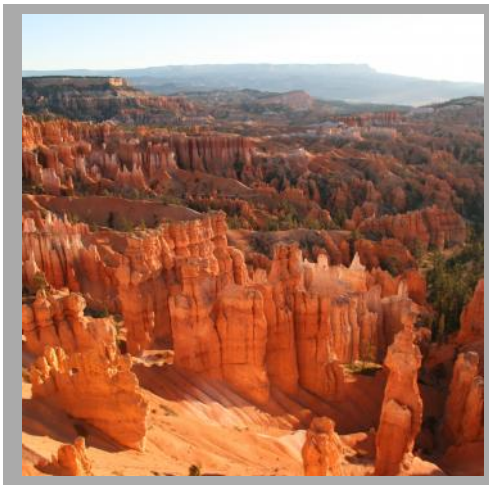
Your trip itinerary

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. Please note that the Tour Leader will also drive the touring vehicle on this tour.



DAY 1 Join tour in San Francisco

Join tour San Francisco and check-in at the hotel. Hugging the shores of San Francisco Bay, America's second most populous city is a fascinating mix of culture, commerce and character that cannot fail to charm.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**
Single Room Available

Included Meals: None

DAY 2 Sightseeing tour including the Golden Gate Bridge, free afternoon

We have the day to explore some of San Francisco's famous sights. On a morning's orientation tour of the city we take in the colonial architecture of Alamo Square and the colourful eccentricity of Haight Ashbury, San Francisco's once thriving 'hippie district' of the 1960s. Driving up to Twin Peaks we then enjoy some great views across the city and the bay (weather dependant), before moving on to Golden Gate Bridge and Fisherman's Wharf. This afternoon is free to perhaps take in Lombard Street and Coit Tower, returning by the city's famous cable cars back down to Union Square and Market Street.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**
Single Room Available

Included Meals: None

DAY 3 Transfer to Yosemite National Park, walk to the base of Yosemite Falls

This morning we leave San Francisco behind and drive northward, heading through Stanislaus County towards Yosemite National Park. Passing numerous orchards and vineyards we head up into the Sierra Nevada, towards the rugged beauty of Yosemite. A mere 20 kilometres long, the central valley is dominated by the vast granite bulks of Half Dome and El Capitan (twice the size of the Rock of Gibraltar). We aim to take a walk up to the base of Yosemite Falls (the highest waterfall in the States), before continuing along to our hotel in Mariposa.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**
Single Room Available

Swimming Pool Available

Included Meals: None

DAY 4 Explore Yosemite National Park on foot

More than 90% of Yosemite is designated as a wilderness area and over the next two days we have ample chance to explore. We can hike up to Glacier Point and then follow the Panorama and Mist Trail back down into the valley (an additional 5-7 hours), a challenging walk that takes us past Nevada and Vernal Falls and offers some stunning views of Half Dome and El Capitan. Other less demanding options include bike hire, a walk up to the top of Yosemite Falls (3 hours walk to the top) or a relaxing day along the riverbanks. The park is filled with a variety of wildlife too, including hummingbirds, deer and even black bears.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**
Single Room Available

Swimming Pool Available

Included Meals: None

DAY 5 Walks in Yosemite National Park

Today we continue exploring Yosemite National Park.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**
Single Room Available

Swimming Pool Available

Included Meals: None

DAY 6 Travel to Bishop via Tenaya and Mono Lakes

Leaving the park this morning we plan to drive across the scenic Tioga Pass (3032m) en route to Tenaya Lake. After lunch we continue on to the surreal landscapes of Mono Lake, at the base of the High Sierras. This incredible body of water is two and a half times as salty and eighty times as alkaline as sea-water and whilst it can sustain no fish life, it does abound in brine shrimp and flies, providing food for millions of migratory birds. From here we drive to Bishop, where we spend the evening. On early spring departures, if the passes over the Sierra Nevada are closed we may have to amend our itinerary and re-route the tour.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**
Single Room Available **Swimming Pool Available**

Included Meals: None

DAY 7 Journey through Death Valley to Las Vegas

Starting early to avoid the heat, we descend into Death Valley today, one of the lowest and hottest places on earth. After taking breakfast in Stove Pipe Wells (at own expense), we then journey into the heart of one of the most remarkable settings on earth, where the marbled rocks, salt pans and black mountains provide us with an incredible backdrop. In marked contrast we end our day in Las Vegas, America's extraordinary desert playground, where exploding volcanoes share centre stage with Venetian canals and ancient pyramids. This evening we have some free time to explore this unique city.

Overnight: **Premium Hotel**
Single Room Available **Swimming Pool Available**

Included Meals: None

DAY 8 Head to Zion National Park, walk to the Emerald Pools

Leaving the bright lights of Vegas behind us this morning we head next into the wilderness of south-western Utah and the stunning beauty of Zion National Park. Zion Canyon is an incredible natural landscape that sits at the meeting point of the Colorado Plateau, the Great Basin and the Mohave Desert. Home to golden eagles, elk and black bear, Zion boasts an incredible diversity of flora, from Ponderosa pine to desert bush. On arrival in the park this afternoon we take a walk to Emerald Pools before overnighting in nearby Springdale.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**
Single Room Available **Swimming Pool Available**

Included Meals: None

DAY 9 In Zion National Park, walks include Angel's Landing or the Narrows

Today we have a chance to hike up to Angel's Landing, to enjoy a spectacular viewpoint down across the valley (approximately 4 hours). Other option for today includes The Narrows, the latter of which takes us along the river bed and (depending on the season) may require us to negotiate waist-high water (approximately 3 hours). Those looking for a more arduous trek might like to try the hike up to Observation Point (about 5 hours). Later, we drive to Bryce Canyon, travelling via Buffalo and Mt Carmel Junction.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**
Single Room Available **Swimming Pool Available**

Included Meals: None

DAY 10 Early morning at Sunrise Point, Bryce Canyon, time to discover this natural wonder

This morning we see Bryce at its most radiant, in the golden hues of sunrise. This afternoon we do an afternoon hike around the Navajo Loop, possibly taking in Queens Gardens as well if we have time. Bryce's stunning multicoloured formations are steeped in the legends of the Paiute Indians and this evening we have a chance to watch the sun set across the sandstone 'hoodoos' from the canyon's rim.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**
Single Room Available **Swimming Pool Available**

Included Meals: None

DAY 11 Transfer to Capitol Reef National Park and Moab

Today we drive to Capitol Reef National Park, where we can stop and take a short hike. Capitol Reef encompasses a landscape of coloured sandstone cliffs, twisting canyons, monoliths and spires. From here we then drive to Moab, the largest town in south-eastern Utah, where the rest of the evening is free to relax and enjoy at our own pace. Time permitting we may visit Dead Horse point.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**
Single Room Available

Included Meals: None

DAY 12 Hikes in Arches National Park

Located a short distance from Moab is Arches National Park, home to the world's largest concentration of natural sandstone arches. With over 2000 arches, giant sandstone fins, balancing rocks and towering spires, the park provides a unique setting for today's hike. We take in the Devil's Garden, a strenuous four-hour trek that takes us through a landscape littered with arches. We also enjoy a more gentle walk around The Windows Loop (approximately 1.5 hours), before returning to Moab later this afternoon.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**
Single Room Available

Included Meals: None

DAY 13 Optional activities including mountain biking and rafting, view the sunset over Arches National Park

A free morning in Moab allows us a chance to enjoy some optional mountain biking or rafting excursions. Please note: Participation in canoeing, kayaking, or rafting (including whitewater) requires that you are able to swim 25 metres unaided. We then head back to Arches to walk to Delicate Arch for sunset (2 hours). Probably one of the most photographed arches in the American southwest, Delicate Arch, with its backdrop of the snow-capped peaks of La Sal, provides the perfect setting for our late afternoon hike. After our walk we then head back to Moab for the evening.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**
Single Room Available

Included Meals: None

DAY 14 Drive to Mesa Verde National Park; afternoon guided tour, continue to Cortez

After breakfast, and a quick visit to the News Paper Rock, we continue on to Mesa Verde National Park this morning. A UNESCO World Heritage Site, Mesa Verde is home to some of the best preserved cliff dwellings in the world. After viewing the Native American exhibits at the Visitors Centre, we then take a guided tour of the site and pay a visit to the Chapin Mesa Archaeological Museum. After our visit we continue to the city of Cortez.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**
Single Room Available

Included Meals: None

DAY 15 Travel to Monument Valley; optional afternoon jeep tour with a Navajo guide

Set deep in the heart of the Navajo Nation, the sandstone buttes and monoliths of Monument Valley present us with some of the most famous landscapes on earth; stars of countless westerns and Hollywood movies.There is the option to join a jeep tour today to enjoy a Navajo Cultural Experience. On the May and June departures, we will be continuing towards Page, via the Navajo National Monument, taking a short walk from the visitors centre to view the Anasazi (ancient Pueblo) ruins in the Betatakin Canyon. On the July to September departures, we overnight tonight in nearby Kayenta and visit the Navajo monument tomorrow.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**
Single Room Available **Swimming Pool Available**

Included Meals: None

DAY 16 Visit the Navajo National Monument, then head to Lake Powell

May to June departures will follow the below itinerary: Waking up in Page, we head out to Lake Powell, the second largest manmade lake in the United States, enjoying a scenic hike to Horseshoe Bend and paying a visit to the impressive Glen Canyon Dam complex en route. We have the option for a boat tour to the impressive Rainbow Bridge, a large natural bridge sculpted by the power of wind and water, before returning to Page. July to September departures will follow the below itinerary: This morning we drive to the Navajo National Monument. The Navajo Nation constitutes the largest tribe left in the United States and this morning we take a short walk from the visitors centre to view the Anasazi (ancient Pueblo) ruins in the Betatakin Canyon. Leaving the valley behind, we then drive to Lake Powell, the second largest manmade lake in the United States, enjoying a scenic hike to Horseshoe Bend and paying a visit to the impressive Glen Canyon Dam complex en route.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**
Single Room Available **Swimming Pool Available**

Included Meals: None

DAY 17 Optional visit to Antelope Canyon, drive to the Grand Canyon

There is the option this morning for us to pay a visit to Antelope Canyon, probably the most photographed slot canyon in the southwestern United States. Formed by water erosion, the Navajo sandstone has been sculpted into an incredibly beautiful landscape of 'flowing' rocks. From here we drive to the Grand Canyon, stopping off to view the national park from the vantage points of Desert View and the Grand Viewpoint, before finally reaching our hotel later this afternoon.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**
Single Room Available **Swimming Pool Available**

Included Meals: None

DAY 18 Free day at the Grand Canyon

Today we explore one of the oldest landscapes on earth. Reaching a depth of 1600 metres the Grand Canyon took over two billion years to create and this morning we have a chance to hike down into the canyon. The hike down to Indian Gardens takes around three hours, with the journey out to Plateau Point adding an extra 45 minutes each way. Alternatively you may like to use the park's free shuttle service to explore the West Rim and the Hermit's Rest. This afternoon is free to continue exploring, or perhaps enjoy a helicopter flight over the canyon (optional).

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**
Single Room Available **Swimming Pool Available**

Included Meals: None

DAY 19 Return to Las Vegas via Route 66

This morning we drive along one of the most historic highways in America, the famous Route 66. A shadow of its former self, the road is nonetheless still rich in the Americana of its glory days, when it used to be known as the 'Main Street' of America. Our drive back to Las Vegas takes us through the towns of Kingman and Seligman, home to the wonderfully eccentric 'Delgadillo's Snow Cap Drive-in'. On arrival in Vegas we then have a final free evening to make the most of one of America's most iconic cities.

Overnight: **Premium Hotel**
Single Room Available **Swimming Pool Available**

Included Meals: None

DAY 20 Tour ends Las Vegas

The tour ends in Las Vegas this morning.

Included Meals: None

Accommodation and Meals

Accommodation Notes

During this trip you will be staying for one night at a simple motel in Kayenta, near Monument Valley. This accommodation is very simple, with basic facilities and old-fashioned decor. We use this place in order to support the local Navajo people, as it is the only accommodation in the area that is owned and operated by Navajo.

Food & Drink

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

Budgeting for your Trip

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

Food

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

USA

Lunch £: 15.00

Dinner £: 21.00

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.

USA

Bottle of Beer £: Varies for different towns, average £4.00

Water £: 1.10

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

Yosemite National Park - Bike hire US$12 per hour
Bryce National Park - Horse riding US$ 65-70 (1.5 hours).
Page - Antelope Canyon jeep excursion US$ 45; Boat excursion US$ 45.
Moab - River float half day US$ 55; Hummer sunset tour US$ 90; Biking US$ 45-65; Jet boat US$ 80, Rafting US$ 50 (half day).
Monument Valley - Jeep tour with Navajo guide - US$ 45, with dinner US$ 75.
Page - Rainbow River boat tour (May to June departures only) - US$147
Grand Canyon - Helicopter flight approximately US$ 254-284 (1 hr), IMAX cinema US$ 13.
San Francisco - If you want to visit Alcatraz, we strongly recommend that you book your tickets in advance, especially during August. Please visit www.alcatrazcruises.com for tickets. (We recommend you book a slot from 3pm onwards).
Las Vegas - Limousine ride US$ 150 (between 13 people).

Tipping - Tour Leader

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

In North America tipping is a recognised part of life across the service industry, including restaurants, activity suppliers, taxis and guides. Local staff will look to members of the group for personal recognition of particular services provided.
To assist with this the Tour Leader may organise a group tips kitty for included activities and meals, they will then account for kitty use throughout the tour. For this we suggest US/CAN$50.
For all non-included services and meals on your North American trip, we recommend tipping at around 15%.

Foreign Exchange

USA

ATM Availability: Widely available.

Credit Card Acceptance: Widely accepted just about everywhere.

Local Currency: US Dollars.

Recommended Currency for Exchange: Bring your money in US$ cash.

Where to Exchange: Banks or 'Forex' offices in main towns/cities. Your tour leader will advise you on arrival.

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.

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 who offer Travel Insurance specifically designed to cover travel with Explore or call **Campbell Irvine Direct** on Tel: 020 7938 1734

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

Travel Aware

We strongly recommend that you check your government's travel advisory for up-to-date information and advice about your destination: safety and security, entry requirements, health, local laws and customs. For UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office Advice follow the link at www.explore.co.uk/travel-safety
We strongly advise that you register with the FCO to receive updates to the travel advice for your chosen destination. A hard copy of the current FCO Travel Advice for your chosen destination is available by contacting cr@explore.co.uk or 01252 379438.

Under 18 immigration guidance

Please note that some countries require proof of parental consent when travelling overseas with under 18s. Please check requirements with the relevant embassy or consular office well in advance of travel if this applies to your party.

Visa Information

USA: Citizens of the UK, New Zealand, Australia, Canada and passport holders from several EU countries can enter the United States without a visa under the Visa Waiver Program (VWP) - where you apply for an ESTA (Electronic System for Travel Authorisation), which applies if you enter the country by sea or by air. This must be done on line - https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov no later than 72 hours prior to travel. Travellers who have not registered before their trip are likely be refused boarding.

You must have an electronic passport with a digital chip containing biometric information about the passport owner. UK passports

which are biometric feature a small gold symbol (camera) at the bottom of the front cover.

If you have visited Iraq, Syria, Iran or Sudan in the past five years or are dual nationals of these countries, you cannot travel under the Visa Waiver Programme. Instead you will need to apply for a visa from the nearest US Embassy or Consulate. If you are unable to provide a valid visa before boarding flights to the US, or entering via another method, you may not be permitted to travel.

For further information please check out the US embassy website. Visa applications - http://london.usembassy.gov/niv/apply.html

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

USA

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. Visa and vaccination requirements are subject to change and should be confirmed before departure.

Preparing for your Trip

Climate

USA

There are great variations in the altitude and terrain of the areas visited and this is reflected in the temperatures. Desert areas can be extremely hot in the summer months (49°), though temperatures can drop dramatically at night. The mountains are cooler and wetter especially in the north of the Rockies. At the beginning and end of the season there may still be some snow around in the high passes and it can be cold, whereas in mid-summer the day time temperatures can soar.

Clothing

Pack for hot conditions for June, July and August departures. For departures earlier and later in the year, the weather can be cooler, especially at night in the desert so make sure you bring some warmer layers including a fleece. Include a long sleeved shirt and warm trousers. Also a lightweight waterproof jacket, swimwear and a sun hat.

Equipment

Bring a water bottle (3 litre capacity), high factor sunblock, plastic bags to keep things dry and a (head) torch and a towel. You may find a walking pole useful and insect repellant especially in June and July.

Footwear

Lightweight walking/hiking boots with good ankle support, trainers and/or sandals for travelling.

Luggage: On Tour

Bring only the bare essentials - one main bag plus a small daypack for walking and for personal items. Main luggage cannot be accessed during the day. Soft luggage is more practical. Bring plastic bags to keep things dry. Laundry facilities are available at various points during the trip.

Luggage allowance on trip: 20kg

General Information

Country details

USA

Population: 312,609,000

Size of Country: 9,826,675 sq km

Major Language: English

Religion: Christian

Time Difference to GMT: -9

Electric Supply & Plugs

USA

2 Pin Flat

Why Choose Explore

We've been creating award-winning pioneering adventure holidays for over 30 years, earning the trust of thousands of delighted customers, who feel safe in our hands. Our tour leaders have expert local knowledge and our tours are designed to take you off the beaten track to see the most exotic, inspiring and dramatic places in the world.

- With over 30 years' experience, we are passionate about what we do.
- Pioneering small group adventures, self-guided, private journeys & tailormade holidays.
- Award winning tour leaders who you can trust.
- Responsible travel is and always has been one 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 LicenceÂ granted by the Civil Aviation Authority.Â Our ATOL number is ATOL 2595. In addition, As a member of the Association of Bonded Travel Organisers Trust Limited (ABTOT), Explore has provided a bond to meet the requirements of the Package Travel, Package Holidays and Package Tours Regulations 1992. Please note that packages booked outside the UK are only protected when purchased directly with Explore.

Reserving your place

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

For Self-Guided holidays and Private Journeys simply choose your date of travel and let us know so we can confirm all ground services.

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

100% No Surcharge Guarantee

The price paid for our holidays is no longer subject to change. Once booked and confirmed we will guarantee the price you pay will not increase, whatever the circumstances. You will not be approached to pay fuel surcharges unlike the vast majority of other adventure tour operators. The price guarantee applies to all new bookings departing between 1st January 2016 and 31st December 2017.

Trip Itinerary Versions

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

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

Please note: 2017 itinerary versions are applicable to tours departing in 2017. 2018/19 itinerary versions are applicable to tours departing from 1st January to 31st December 2018.

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