

Himalayan Discovery (FDN 2014)

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TOUR **DURATION** 13



- Kathmandu Exploring the temples of Kathmandu and counting the monkeys
- Chitwan National Park Getting soaked by the elephants as we washed them in Chitwan

Tour Comfort: Standard

- Annapurna Trek Get away from it all whilst trekking, sleeping in teahouses along the way and having pancakes for breakfast!
- Dinner time Being allowed to eat a curry with our fingers true Nepalese
- Rafting Screaming in laughter as you travel through the rapids whilst whitewater rafting

Tour Essentials

Trek Grade: Easy to Moderate

Accommodation: 7 nights Standard Hotel

3 nights Simple Teahouse 2 nights Standard

Lodge

Included Meals: 12 breakfasts, 6

lunches, 7 dinners

Start Point: Join tour: Kathmandu **End Point:** Tour ends: Kathmandu

Transport: Bus **Countries:** Nepal

From 5 years Minimum Age:

Himalayan Discovery

Join us in Nepal, a fascinating destination for a family adventure. We discover the heart of this historic country, visiting bazaars and mountain temples. When Teahouse trekking in the Annapurna, we experience outstanding views of some of the world's highest peaks. In the jungle of Chitwan National Park we ride elephants and look out for one-horned rhinos. We also enjoy the thrill of whitewater rafting.



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

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.

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.



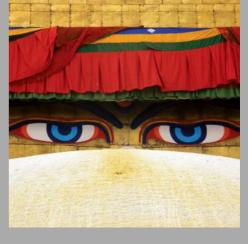
Join tour Kathmandu

Our tour begins this afternoon in Kathmandu.

Overnight: Standard Hotel











AM walking tour of Old Kathmandu. PM excursion to Swayambunath

After breakfast we have arranged a walking tour, visiting the bazaar and temples of old Kathmandu in the company of a local Nepali guide. Nepal's bustling capital is a captivating mix of spice sellers and potters, rickshaws and sacred cows, all crowded together amidst a city of vibrant noise and colour. Our sightseeing this morning takes in Durbar Square, with its collection of ornate palaces, courtyards and temples that span some three centuries of dynastic rule by Malla, Shah and Rana kings. We'll see the Great Bell and the fearsome image of the six-armed Kala Bhairab, the magnificent Taleju Temple and the Kasthamandap, the oldest building in the Kathmandu Valley. We will also visit the child-eating demon of Yitum Bahal and take in the sights, sound and smells of Kathmandu's fascinating bazaars, before returning to the hotel by rickshaw. After lunch we plan to visit Swayambunath, the Monkey Temple. This large temple complex at the top of a hill offers great views across the Kathmandu Valley. It gets it's name from the many monkeys that have made the site their home.

Overnight: Standard Hotel



AM free in Kathmandu. PM drive to Kurintar

This morning is free to enjoy a little more of Kathmandu, before an afternoon drive west along the Kathmandu-Pokhara highway brings us to Kurintar, on the banks of the Trisuli River.

Overnight: Standard Hotel



AM visit to Manakamana Temple. PM optional rafting on the Trisuli River

This morning we visit the nearby Manakamana Temple, which occupies a ridge overlooking the Trisuli and Marshyandi River valleys. Locals believe the goddess Manakamana fulfils the wishes of devotees and she is thus regarded as the wish fulfilling deity. Access to the top of the ridge is courtesy of Nepal's only cable car, imported from Austria and inaugurated in 1998. Many of the pilgrims still make the arduous trip to the summit by foot, but the express route will get you there in just 10 minutes. After lunch we have the option of enjoying some whitewater rafting on the Trisuli River where we will enjoy an exhilarating trip through exciting rapids, scenic valleys and impressive gorges (Maximum grade 3 rapids) . This is a fantastic way to take in the rich diversity of natural and cultural highlights along the valley. No previous experience is required and all training and safety equipment will be provided.

Overnight: Standard Hotel



Drive to Kande, then trek to Australian Camp (2000m)

Driving to Kande this morning, a short drive of around an hour, we then begin our trek up to Australian Camp, a two hour climb that takes us through a landscape of terraced fields and forests and affords some stunning views out across the Central Himalayas. Before us lie the snow-capped peaks of the Annapurna ranges, including Manaslu and Machhapuchare - the famous Fishtail Mountain. Walking time: approx 2 hours/280m ascent

Overnight: Simple Teahouse



Trek to Landruk (1565m)

Today's trek involves a relatively easy hike along the ridge-line from Dhampus to the Gurung village of Landruk, crossing a landscape of open meadows and small villages. Climbing through a pass at 2150m, the views of the Annapurna are absolutely breathtaking and from here we then begin the descent down into a lush forest alive with birds, orchids and ferns. Following a small canyon leading off from the Modi Khola, we then take a meandering trail through tiny hamlets to our final destination for the day. Landruk lies along the trekking route to Annapurna Base Camp and is famed for its honey hunting festival, where intrepid harvesters climb bamboo ladders and dangle precariously from ropes to gather the honeycomb from the sheer cliff faces. Surrounded by some of the most stunning scenery of the entire journey, the village lies within the Annapurna Conservation Area and provides us with one of the visual highlights of the trek. Walking time: approx 5 hours/240m ascent and 675m descent.

Overnight: Simple Teahouse



Trek from Landruk to Ghandruk (1940m)

Following a steep trail out of the village, through a patchwork of terraced fields that take us towards the Modi River, we then cross over a suspension bridge and continue up towards Ghandruk. The second largest Gurung village in the region, Ghandruk is a wonderfully confusing cluster of closely spaced, slate-roofed houses nestling between terraced fields of wheat and barley. A network of narrow alleyways, the village is a delight to explore and certainly one of the most beautiful in the Himalaya and at the top of the village a large handicraft factory provides an interesting venue to search for some traditional souvenirs. Walking time: approx 3.5 hours/620m ascent and 245m descent.

Overnight: Simple Teahouse



Trek from Ghandruk to Nayapul. Drive to Pokhara (1070m)

Leaving Ghandruk behind this morning we descend through villages and terraces to the Syauli Bazaar, a two hour trek that offers a dazzling backdrop of Annapurna South and Machhapuchhare. From here we then continue to follow the Modi River towards Nayapul, where we rejoin our vehicle for the hour and a half drive on to Pokhara, on the banks of Phewa Tal Lake. Nepal's second largest town, Pokhara is more relaxed than Kathmandu and its beautiful lakeside setting, beneath the imposing shadow of the stunning Annapurna Range, makes it the perfect ending for our trek, with only the foothills separating the town from the high mountain landscapes of the snow-capped Annapurna. Walking time: approx 4.5 hours/20m ascent and 890m descent.

Overnight: Standard Hotel



Today has been left free for you to continue exploring this delightful setting as you wish. Once part of the bustling trade routes between India and Tibet, Pokhara has always been a centre of trade and even today mule trains can be seen around the outskirts of the village, bringing in goods to the local Guring and Magar farmers. You could spend part of this afternoon doing some trading of your own, enjoying a walk amongst the markets in search of souvenirs. Other options inclusing hiring bicycles for rides into the surrounding countryside or taking a boat out onto the lake.

Overnight: Standard Hotel

Drive to Chitwan National Park

We drive to Chitwan, where our lodge is situated outside the park, near the village of Jagatpur, just over the Rapti river from the Natinal Park. Over the next two days our time here will be spent in a range of diverse activities, including jungle walks, bird spotting excursions, canoe trips along the Rapti River (seasonal) and elephant safaris.

Overnight: Standard Lodge

Chitwan National Park

Lying at the foot of the Himalayas, amidst subtropical lowlands, Chitwan is home to a staggering array of flora and fauna, with some 450 different species of birds being recorded here, as well as tiger, rhino and Gangetic dolphins. During our stay we will enjoy exploring the jungles and river banks with local guides, both on foot and (river conditions allowing) in dug out canoes. We'll also take elephant back safaris in search of the rare one-horned rhino, possibly even getting an opportunity to join the elephants for their daily bath (early autumn and late spring trips only). Royal Chitwan National Park is Nepal's oldest reserve and a UNESCO World Heritage Site that was once the exclusive hunting reserve for the Rana ministers. It was turned into a rhino sanctuary in 1963 and its rich alluvial flood plains and Sal forests are home to a rich array of wildlife, including striped hyena, python, monitor lizards, sloth bear, leopard and mugger crocodiles. We aim to cram as much into our time as possible whilst we are here, but it won't all be hard work. There will be plenty of opportunity to relax around the lodge and in the evenings we will enjoy informative slideshows about the park and its wildlife.

Overnight: Standard Lodge

Return to Kathmandu

After a final jungle activity this morning we make the journey back to the capital. The drive back to Kathmandu should take around 5-6 hours. On arrival back in the city we will check into our hotel for our final evening in Nepal.

Overnight: Standard Hotel

Tour Ends Kathmandu

Our tour ends this morning after breakfast.

Ability to swim required

Accommodation and Meals

Food & Drink

Included meals: 12 breakfasts, 6 lunches, 7 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

Whitewater Rafting - a half day level 3 white water rafting trip. No previous experience required. Includes all permits, services of experienced river guides, helmet, life jacket and lunch. Minimum number of participants is 4. US\$60 (to be paid in USD travellers cheques or cash).

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

Local Crew: Although entirely voluntary, tipping is a recognized 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. 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. Accordingly, you should allow approximately £30.00 per person

Foreign Exchange

Nepal

ATM Availability: Although you may occasionally find cash machines these are very unreliable - do not rely on plastic!

Credit Card Acceptance: Credit cards are not generally accepted except in larger establishments in Kathmandu and Pokhara

Travellers Cheques: Travellers cheques will no longer be accepted as a valid mode of payment in Nepal after 15th November 2013.

Local Currency: Nepali Rupee.

Recommended Currency for Exchange: US\$ or GBP.

Where to Exchange: In major cities and towns

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.

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 Services 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

Nepal: An entry visa is required by UK, New Zealand, Australian, USA & Canadian citizens and can be obtained on arrival at Kathmandu Airport and various international border crossings between Nepal and its neighbouring countries. This currently costs 25USD for a 15 day visa, and 40USD for a 30 day visa. All visas are issued as multiple entry visas and are valid from the date they are issued. A passport-sized photograph for immigration is required. Payment must be made in cash, UK sterling and US dollars are both accepted.

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

Lone Parents

Nepal

Single parents or other adults travelling alone with children should be aware that some countries require documentation confirming that the individual has authority to travel with the minor. It is crucial that you contact the Nepal embassy for further information on exactly what may be required.

Vaccinations & Protection

Nepal

Nothing compulsory, but we recommend protection against malaria, infectious hepatitis, typhoid, tetanus, polio and Japanese encephalitis. Consult your travel clinic for latest advice on different prophylaxis available against malaria. Although not compulsory, travellers may wish to take immunisation against meningococcal meningitis.

Preparing for your Tour

Climate

Nepal

Temperatures in the lower altitude regions are extremely pleasant. At Pokhara variations in temperature are very limited: from the coldest recorded of 8°C (46°F) to the highest of 31°C (88°F). The mountains are best admired, with greater air clarity, from October to March. Monsoon rains are strongest in June, July and August. The coldest months are December and January.

Clothing

Long Trousers - For everyday walking, light cotton trousers are the most suitable. Knee length shorts are acceptable in the more remote areas, but to avoid giving offence in the villages, you should cover up with trousers. Although comfortable, leggings are also unsuitable as they too cause offence to local people. Jeans are not recommended as they are often difficult to walk in over longer distances and become cumbersome when wet.

Waterproofs - Breathable waterproofs not only protect against rain and wind but also stop you from overheating. They 'breathe' and avoid condensation which you will experience from nylon waterproofs. Rain during the trekking season is fairly rare but can be heavy if it does happen.

Gloves

Socks - It is best to wear a pair of reasonably thick loop stitch socks. These help to protect your feet against blisters. Avoid nylon socks, they are abrasive, don't breathe well and can cause blisters.



Fleece pullover/jacket - You will need a fleece pullover/jacket for the evenings. Make sure that your waterproof jacket is loose enough to wear over your pullover or fleece.

Track suit Comfortable around the camp and much more practical (and warmer) to sleep in than pyjamas.

Thin Shirt/T-Shirt

Equipment

Sleeping bag - provided by Explore whilst on the trek Trek kitbag - provided by Explore whilst on the trek

You should bring the following on this tour:

Water bottle

Plastic Bags - If you pack bits and pieces in plastic bags inside your bag they will stay dry in case of rain and be easier for you to sort through in camp. Remember, the less you have to unpack in the evening, the less you have to repack each morning! A bin liner to pack inside your daysac is also a good idea.

Torch/Batteries/Bulb - A small torch is essential for finding things in your tent, going to the loo in the night etc. Head torches are particularly useful. Remember that in most developing countries only a limited selection of batteries is available so bring spare batteries and bulb. The most common are pen cells (or AA size) and SP/HP2 (D size).

Toiletries - Try to keep heavy cosmetics etc to a minimum. Essentials are toothbrush/paste, bio-degradable soap, small towel, small nail brush and toilet rolls! 'Wet Wipes' are great for a quick clean up so bring a pack of those (non-perfumed to avoid rashes!).

Binoculars - Useful for game viewing in Chitwan.

Sunglasses - A good pair of sunglasses is essential for protection against UV rays and glare.

Sun Hat, Sun Cream/Block & Lip Salve - Choose a high factor suncream (Factor 15 or more) to protect your skin against the sun at higher altitudes. A combination sunblock/ lipsalve is ideal for facial protection.

Personal First Aid Kit Each trek carries an extensive first aid kit but no prescription medicines. You should have your own supply of plasters, aspirin, diarrhoea tablets and also a comprehensive blister kit, plus any other items you or your doctor feels advisable. (Please do not give medicines to local people without consulting the trek leader.) See the list in our General Information Booklet.

Trekking poles - Trekking poles with rubber points are recommended. Swimsuit

Chlorine Dioxide for water purification

Anti-bacterial handwash

Footwear

Walking Boots - Probably the trickiest part of all. We strongly recommend walking in good boots. Trainers, tennis shoes etc. do not give the ankle support afforded by a decent pair of boots. Many people now trek in the lighter weight Goretex or leather boots and these are usually satisfactory. They have the advantage that they take little breaking in. The slightly heavier traditional leather walking boots are also good. Ideally, visit a specialist 'outdoor pursuits' shop who will offer advice, and resist the temptation to buy 'fashion' footwear which give little support. Above all, your boots must be well broken in and comfortable. We do not recommend borrowing or renting boots. It is a good idea to carry your boots in your hand luggage on international flights or wear them - should your luggage be delayed, your well broken in boots are the one thing, which will be irreplaceable.

Trainers or Sandals - Useful in the teahouse, in towns and when travelling. Velcro sandals are especially useful if taking the optional rafting trip.

Long Trousers

Luggage: On Tour

One main piece of baggage and a daysac. You will be supplied with an Explore! kitbag at the start of your tour. Items you will need whilst on trek should be repacked into your kitbag and your daysac/rucksack. Advice on how and what to pack for the trek will be given at the tour briefing in Kathmandu. Before leaving Kurintar there is time to re-sort luggage into what you need on trek and what can be left behind in your main luggage with which you will be reunited after the trek in Pokhara . Your trek luggage will be carried by the porters. The weight limit for this is 10kg but you will probably find that you do not need this much. We advise that you line your kitbag with a large plastic bag to keep the contents dry.

Rucksack/Daysac: During the course of a trekking day, you do not have access to the luggage which is being carried for you by the porters. In any mountain region the weather can change rapidly and you must be equipped for this eventuality. Your daysac, which is carried by yourself, should therefore be large enough to carry the following: Waterproofs, fleece jacket/sweater, long trousers (if walking in shorts), warm hat and gloves, sun hat, sun cream, water bottle (minimum 1 litre). Most people normally find that this adds up to about 2 to 3kg. Camera equipment can be heavy so think carefully when deciding what to take. It is usually more comfortable to carry a larger pack than one which is overfull or with bits tied to the outside - aim for a 30-35 litre capacity pack. We advise you to line the sack with a large plastic bag to keep the contents dry. Your daysac could be used as hand luggage on the flight to Nepal bearing in mind that shoulder bags are not practical for the trek.

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.

Nepal

Lunch £: 7.00 **Dinner £:** 10.00

Drink

Nepal

Bottle of Beer £: 2.00 Water £: 0.30

Country details

Nepal

Population: 29,331,000

Size of Country: 147,181 sq km

Major Language: Nepali Religion: Hinduism

Time Difference to GMT: +6

Electric Supply & Plugs

Nepal

2 Pin Round

Why Choose Explore

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

- With over 30 years experience, we are passionate about what we do.
- Pioneering small group adventures & 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, 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 traditional, 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 support 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.

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% nonrefundable 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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