

# EXPLORE!

## TRIP NOTES



### Yellowstone and Western Trails (YL 2017 EARLY SEASON ITINERARY)



TRIP DURATION  
**15**  
DAYS



**Tour Style:** Classic

**Accommodation Grade:** Simple

**Tour Type:** Small Groups

**Trek Grade:** Easy to Moderate

**Trip Code:** YL

#### Trip Highlights - Yellowstone and Western Trails

- ✓ Yellowstone NP - Thorough exploration of spectacular scenery and mud volcanoes
- ✓ Grand Teton NP - Soaring peaks and glacial lakes.
- ✓ Dinosaur National Monument - Uncovering America's jurrassic past
- ✓ Moab - Adventure centre with many optional activities on offer
- ✓ Arches NP - Picturesque rockscape
- ✓ Canyonlands NP - Rock Hoodoos and Canyons
- ✓ Salt Lake City - Mormon Capital of Utah

#### Trip Essentials

**Accommodation:** 2 nights Standard Hotel  
12 nights Simple Cabins

**Included Meals:** 13 breakfasts, 10 lunches, 7 dinners

**Start Point:** Join trip: Salt Lake City

**End Point:** Trip ends: Salt Lake City

**Transport:** Maxiwagon

**Countries:** USA



## Yellowstone And Western Trails

Following scenic park trails we discover some of the most spectacular scenery in North America's National Parks. From glaciers and rivers, to deserts and canyons, hot springs and waterfalls, join us as we view the geysers of Yellowstone National Park, meander amongst the hoodoos and rock formations of Arches and Canyonlands and hike along the shores of dramatic glacial lakes.

### Suitability

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

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

### Accommodation Grade: Simple

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

### Tour Style: Classic

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

### Trek Grade: Easy to Moderate

This grade is ideal if you want to enjoy both easy and moderate level walks on the same tour. You'll be walking mainly on good paths and at low altitude, with occasional more demanding ascents or descents.

## Your trip itinerary

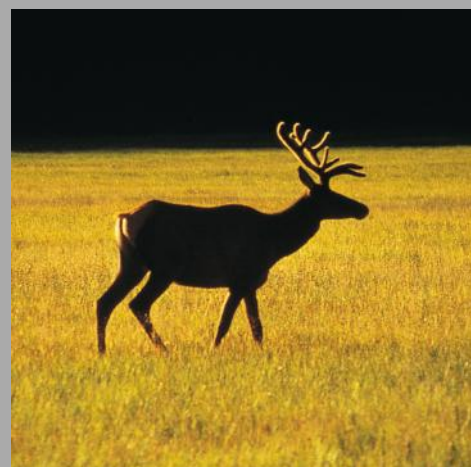
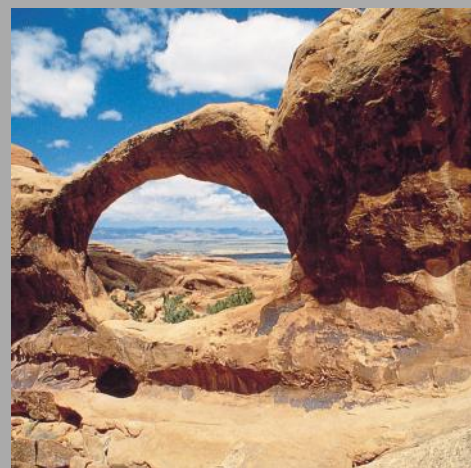
### Tour itinerary notes

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

### DAY 1 Join tour in Salt Lake City

Join tour in Salt Lake City

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



 **Included Meals:** None

## DAY 2 Drive to Yellowstone National Park area

Leaving early we journey north towards the Rockies, aiming to reach the outskirts of Yellowstone National Park. We travel through Utah and Idaho passing through National Forests and the Fort Hall Indian reservation. The scenery today is on a par with Yellowstone itself, and we plan to stop off at the magnificent Mesa falls, on the approach we witness the toothy skyline of the Teton Range, which thrusts up 2135 metres from the plains - out to the north you can see Big Bend Ridge, the western flank of a volcano that erupted 1.3 million years ago. We reach West Yellowstone late in the day, our long drive enabling us to make the most of our time here. The elevation of this area is just under 2300 metres, so nights can be cold.

Overnight: **Simple Cabins**  
**Single Room Available**

**Swimming Pool Available** 


 **Included Meals:** Lunch, Dinner

## DAY 3 Exploring Yellowstone NP

We have almost 3 full days to thoroughly explore the wonderland of Yellowstone National Park by vehicle and on foot. Although scenery is the primary draw of this area, the park abounds with wildlife. Having been protected from hunters since the park's inception, bear, moose and elk are frequently seen. Here we see geysers, hot springs and mud volcanoes and walk along beautiful trails. There are flowery alpine meadows to explore where wild animals roam. Buffalo Bill was the first to bring tourists here (often royalty he'd met on his travels) and these visitors, like us, marvelled at the spectacular scenery. The volcanic activity frightened the Indians who believed this to be the land of evil spirits, and so the wilderness remained unexplored until it was declared the first National Park in 1872. We plan 2 half day walks in the park. The itinerary is flexible depending on local conditions and the ability of the group but will incorporate areas such as the Grand Canyon of Yellowstone with its beautiful waterfalls, Mud Volcano, Beaver Ponds Trail and Mammoth Hot Springs.

Overnight: **Simple Cabins**  
**Single Room Available**

**Swimming Pool Available** 


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

## DAY 4 Explore Yellowstone NP

Today we continue exploring more of Yellowstone National Park.

Overnight: **Simple Cabins**  
**Single Room Available**

**Swimming Pool Available** 

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

## DAY 5 Visit Old Faithful and drive to Grand Teton NP

Before leaving the park this afternoon we drive to the Upper Geyser Basin. Old Faithful - the most famous and reliable of the geysers is here, amidst this intensely geo-thermal area, home to the world's largest concentrations of hot springs and geysers. We spend 4-5 hours in the area, walking from Firehole River to Geyser Hill, perhaps diverting to Morning Glory and Biscuit Basin. We travel on to Grand Teton N.P. via Colter Bay where we visit an Indian Arts museum (optional). We continue to our base, just outside the park, for the next 4 days. The Grand Teton area is blessed with some of the most dramatic mountain scenery anywhere in North America - 10 summits carved by glaciation tower three kilometres above the valley floor. At the foot of the mountains lies a necklace of sparkling lakes. These jagged pinnacles are the inspiring back-drop for our hikes in the park.

Overnight: **Simple Cabins**  
**Single Room Available**

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch

## DAY 6 In Grand Teton NP; Cascade Canyon

On our first day we drive to Jenny Lake. You may follow the shoreline on foot and follow this scenic walk up to Hidden Falls and Inspiration Point (4 hrs return). Then we continue further to Cascade Canyon passing beneath Mount Aven where moose and bear are often spotted. On the return it is possible to take the passenger ferry (optional) which plies across the blue waters of Jenny Lake, back to our transport waiting on the far side - high above hangs the Teton Glacier, a stunning finale to our walk.

Overnight: **Simple Cabins**  
**Single Room Available**

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

DAY **7** In Grand Teton NP; optional rafting on Snake River

Our second day is free for relaxing in nearby Jackson, an ideal place to wind down after the last few days. The downtown area still has the boardwalks so typical of the first town in the west and has some good shopping. It is an excellent centre for outdoor activities: grade 3 rafting trips on the Snake River can be arranged or you could perhaps hire a bike for some independent sightseeing.


Overnight: **Simple Cabins**  
**Single Room Available**

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

DAY **8** In Grand Teton NP; Hike at Amphitheatre Lake

The final day can be spent hiking up to Amphitheatre Lake - a tough trek (6 hours walk) which rewards the traveller with remarkable views of Jackson Hole and its lakes - alternatively for those wishing something easier, it is possible to stroll around one of the many nearby glacial lakes such as Taggart and Bradley.

Overnight: **Simple Cabins**  
**Single Room Available**


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

DAY **9** Drive to Flaming Gorge area

We drive through the Gros Ventre range onto the Sublette Plateau, heading down through the rich red-hued rock of Flaming Gorge, appropriately named by Major John Wesley Powell whilst on his famous expedition in 1869. Once a hideout for Butch Cassidy, Flaming Gorge is now home to wildlife such as Osprey which are often spotted nesting on craggy rock pinnacles and clifftops and here we explore the Canyon Rim Trail on foot (1.5 hours walk). Tonight we stay near the town of Vernal.

Overnight: **Simple Cabins**  
**Single Room Available**


**Swimming Pool Available** 

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

DAY **10** Drive to Moab via Dinosaur National Monument

We traverse the high desert landscape which switches to pine clad mountains as we enter the state of Utah. Here we explore the Dinosaur National Monument, renowned for the exceptional number of dinosaur bones discovered in one single sandstone cliff, including Brontosaurus. We journey across the 2511 m high Douglas Pass to Moab.

Overnight: **Simple Cabins**  
**Single Room Available**

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

DAY **11** Fisher Towers Recreation Site and Canyonlands National Park

Waking early to take advantage of the brief respite from the desert heat, we drive to the Fisher Towers, one of the most outstanding scenic features of Utah's Colorado Riverway. Rock pinnacles soar above a maze of red and purple hued canyons. The 3 kilometre hiking trail along the base of the towers offer excellent views (3-4 hours). In the late afternoon, we head to Canyonlands National Park where we explore the arid, canyon incised region set at an altitude of 1800 metres, known as the 'Islands in the Sky'. The plateau is set 600 metres high above the confluence of the Green River and the Colorado. We visit Mesa Arch and Grand View Overlook, walking some of the trails into the desert wilderness.

Overnight: **Simple Cabins**  
**Single Room Available**

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch

DAY **12** Free day in Moab

As well as being ideally located for walks in the nearby parks, Moab is one of the USA's leading adventure centres where you can take advantage of the many activities on offer. The opportunities are boundless, for example taking an optional half day float trip on the Colorado River - a unique way to view the towering canyons and experience the silence and beauty of this remote area. We use inflatable kayaks and will travel over some small rapids, but no experience is necessary. There is also an opportunity to make an



optional jeep excursion to visit areas which are inaccessible to other vehicles, perhaps seeing petroglyphs left behind by the Ancient Ones.

Overnight: **Simple Cabins**  
**Single Room Available**

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

## DAY 13 Hiking in Arches National Park

Today we visit the extraordinary Arches National Park, where more than 1,600 natural arches have been sculpted over the years by wind, sun, frost and rain, creating a strange rockscape in the desert. Soft Entrada Sandstone – a 91m layer of rock deposited as sand during the Jurassic Period – has been eroded into twisted spires, fins and arches which are particularly beautiful in the morning and afternoon when they take on a fiery glow in the low light. The famous Delicate Arch has become Utah's symbol and seems to defy gravity as the large precariously-balanced boulders hover near the edge of a cliff.

Overnight: **Simple Cabins**  
**Single Room Available**

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch

## DAY 14 Drive back to Salt Lake City

We return to Salt Lake City, Utah's capital, with time to take a stroll around the centre. Founded by a group of believers of the Church of the Latter Day Saints (Mormons) in 1847, the city is now their international headquarters and some of the finest buildings are ecclesiastical. The setting, below the Wasatch mountains and beside the great salt lake, is superb and makes this a pleasant city to explore on foot.

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

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

## DAY 15 Tour ends Salt Lake City

The tour ends in Salt Lake City this morning after breakfast.

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

## Accommodation and Meals

### Accommodation Notes

The simple Log Cabins are like camping at its best. Cabins have a double bed or twin size bunk beds. They have electricity and heat but no running water or bath facility. You will need a sleeping bag. Water is available nearby outside your cabin. Grills for cooking are also available in front of your Cabin. Restrooms and showers are located in 3 complexes throughout the property. Like many adventures of this type, much of the team spirit and camaraderie is developed through mucking in and helping out with basic responsibilities which may include help with meal preparation, washing and clearing up, loading and unloading of trailer. Be prepared for some early starts and some long days - there is an enormous amount to see!

### Food & Drink

Included meals: 13 breakfasts, 10 lunches, 7 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

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**Dinner £:** 21.00

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## 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.

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## Optional Excursions

There are a number of exciting optional excursions you can do on tour. These activities are booked and paid for direct with the supplier and do not form part of your Explore holiday contract.

Jackson - Teton Village Aerial tram US\$ 20; Bike Hire US\$50; Rafting US\$ 65.

Moab - Float trip US\$ 55; Jet Boat US \$80 for 1/2 day; Hummer sunset tour US \$90

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## 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.

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## 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\$ 40.

For all non-included services and meals on your North American trip, we recommend tipping at around 15%.

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## 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.

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## Joining your Trip

### Flight Information

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

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### Booking a land only package with Explore

Customers who have chosen to book on the 'Land Only' arrangements of our tour, please ensure that you have checked your tour specific 'Joining Instructions' prior to booking your own travel arrangements. Your joining instructions can be found on our website at [www.explore.co.uk](http://www.explore.co.uk), in the tour specific dates and prices section.

You may also be eligible for the Free Explore Transfer. For more information please refer to <https://www.explore.co.uk/transfers>.

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### Joining Tour Abroad

Customers booked on the 'Land Only' arrangements will now receive a Free Transfer, provided you arrive and depart on the tour only itinerary start and end dates. The transfers will be from the Explore designated airport or train station to the joining point of your tour, and then back from the ending point to the designated airport or train station. The exception to this rule is customers who are booked on a tour where the joining and ending point is at the designated airport or train station.

Free transfers are not available for Self-Guided, Tailormade or Tours for Churches customers.

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If you are not eligible for the Free Transfer then you will need to make your own way through to the joining and ending point. On a majority of our tours Explore will be able to provide a private transfer at an additional cost. Please ask for a quote at the time of booking.

For more information regarding the Explore Free Transfer please refer to <https://www.explore.co.uk/transfers>.

## Booking a flight inclusive package with Explore

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

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

## Important Information

### Travel Insurance

It is a condition of booking with Explore that you have adequate valid travel insurance. It is your responsibility to arrange appropriate travel insurance and ensure you have read and understood the full terms and conditions of your travel insurance policy to ensure that you are covered for all activities you intend to undertake whilst on the tour, including all optional activities. Your Insurance Policy must fully cover you for medical expenses and emergency repatriation to your home country. Please ensure your policy includes medical emergency helicopter evacuation in the event of illness or injury and covers the entire duration of your holiday. If you are trekking at altitude please ensure that there is no upper altitude limit which may limit or exclude cover for your trip. Medical and repatriation insurance cover is not mandatory for UK residents who are travelling on trips within the United Kingdom.

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CAMPBELL IRVINE  
DIRECT TRAVEL INSURANCE



Travel Insurance is essential. If you have not already arranged cover, please contact our recommended Travel Insurance providers [www.campbellirvinedirect.com/Explore](http://www.campbellirvinedirect.com/Explore) who offer Travel Insurance specifically designed to cover travel with Explore or call **Campbell Irvine Direct** on Tel: 020 7938 1734

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

### Travel Aware

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

We strongly advise that you register with the FCO to receive updates to the travel advice for your chosen destination. A hard copy of the current FCO Travel Advice for your chosen destination is available by contacting [cr@explore.co.uk](mailto:cr@explore.co.uk) or 01252 379438.

### 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: (including those in transit) 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 to 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 since 2011 or are dual nationals of these countries, you cannot travel with an ESTA and 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.

Please note for your ESTA application you will be required to supply Point of Contact information. Explore's USA contact information will be listed on your final documentation which you will receive approximately 3-4 weeks before departure. If you are leaving for the



USA before this, please call the Explore team to get this information.(Not necessary if in transit)

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

Canada: An electronic travel authorisation (ETA) is required by British citizens transiting via Canada. For more information see the official Canadian government website: <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/visit/eta.asp>

Other nationalities should consult their local embassy or consular office.

If you do require assistance in obtaining a visa then you may consider applying through Explore's recommended visa service in the UK, Travcour. See [www.travcour.com](http://www.travcour.com) to download the relevant visa application for your trip, if applicable (UK citizens only), along with details of how to apply for your visa through Travcour. The Team at Travcour will be happy to answer specific questions relating to visa applications, please call them directly on 0208 5431846.

## 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

### DAILY DISTANCES

Day 3	9km	8.8km	3.5/4hrs
Day 4	8.3km		2-3hrs
Day 5	5-8km		3hrs
Day 6	4-10km		3-4hrs
Day 7			
Day 8	15km		6-7hrs
Day 9	4-7.5km		1.5-2hrs
Day 10			
Day 11	7km		3.5hrs
Day 12			
Day 13	4.8km		2-3hrs

Optional Walks

## Trekking Details

8 days walking of between 4-6 hours a day. Longer options available. Please see website for more details.

## 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 layers! Please note that temperatures in this area can be high during summer - sometimes over 40°C. Please bear this in mind when packing for your trip. Dress is informal. A warm fleece or sweater is essential for cooler nights in the desert or at higher altitudes. Include a long sleeved shirt, warm trousers, a lightweight waterproof jacket, swimwear, sunglasses and a sun hat.

## Equipment

Bring a water bottle (3 litre capacity), high factor sunblock, plastic bags to keep things dry, a (head) torch and a towel. Please also bring a 2 or 3-season (temperature -5°C to 0°C) sleeping bag (a sleeping sheet is useful). A thermal ground pad is provided. You may



find a walking pole useful. Please note: Sleeping bags can be purchased from a store for as low as US \$50. Please ask your Tour Leader on arrival.

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### **Footwear**

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

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### **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 than a hard shell suitcase. Bring plastic bags to keep things dry. Please only pack what you can carry.

Laundry facilities are available at various points during the trip.

Luggage allowance on trip: 20kg

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## **General Information**

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### **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

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### **Electric Supply & Plugs**

#### **USA**

2 Pin Flat

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## Why Choose Explore

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

- With over 30 years' experience, we are passionate about what we do.
- Pioneering small group adventures, self-guided, private journeys & tailor-made holidays.
- Award winning tour leaders who you can trust.
- Responsible travel is and always has been one of the driving principles of Explore.

Our adventure holidays are full of exciting things to see and do, exploring in small groups travelling by bus, boat, plane, rickshaw, camel, or any number of unusual forms of transport. Often you will stay in family run hotels and village houses and enjoy authentic local cuisine. In this way, it's easy to discover the true heart of the people and the place you travel to – and make some new friends along the way. Each tour is uniquely different, so please feel free to browse through our tours to see what may whet your appetite.

### 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](http://www.tourismconcern.org.uk)) and support their campaign for fair and ethical tourism. We also care passionately about the world's wildlife and actively support and promote the Born Free Organisation and Mahouts Elephant Foundation.

## 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.

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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