

EXPLORE!

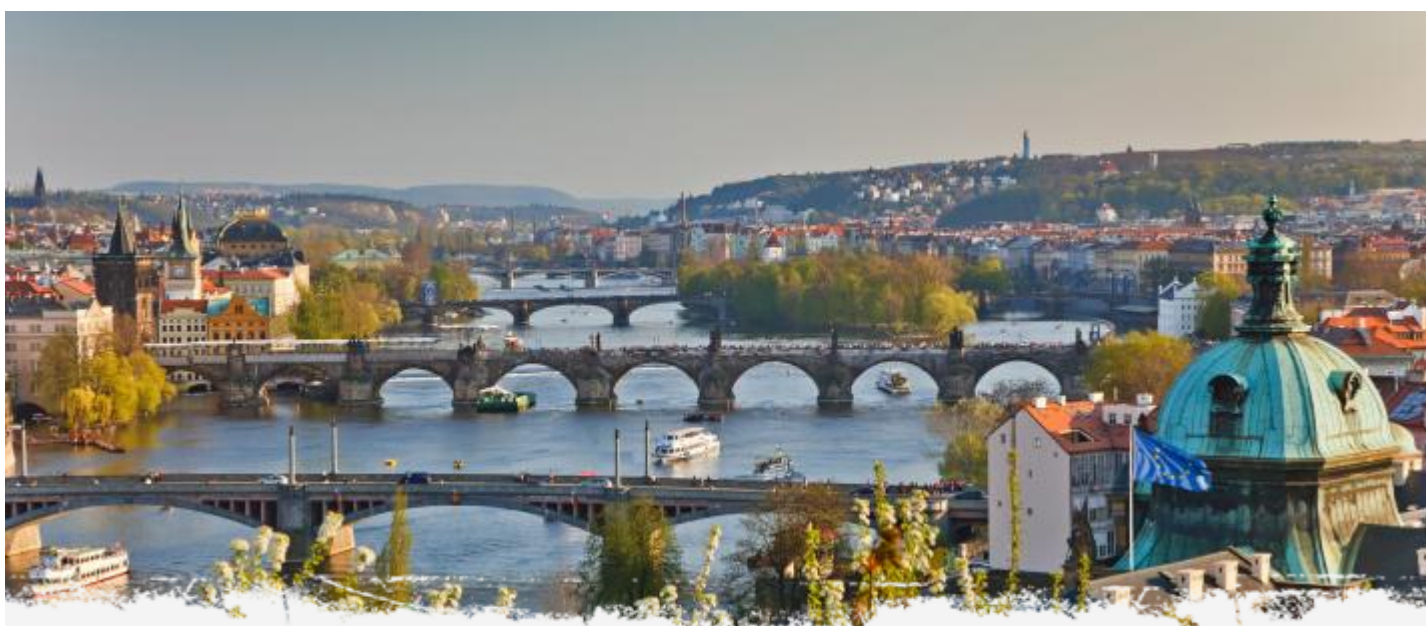
Tour Notes



Highlights of Eastern Europe (CZ 2015)



TOUR DURATION
14
DAYS



Tour Style: Classic
Tour Pace: Busy

Tour Type: Small Groups
Tour Comfort: Standard

tour Code: CZ

Tour Highlights - Highlights of Eastern Europe

- ✓ Krakow - Explore the Medieval city's maze of streets and sample the coffee culture
- ✓ Dunajec Gorge - Marvel at the impressive gorge while rafting along the Dunajec River
- ✓ High Tatras - Enjoy walks in the surrounding mountains
- ✓ Budapest - Learn about this fascinating city on a walking tour with a local guide. Discover Castle Hill, Old Town, Fisherman's Bastion and the Royal Palace
- ✓ Prague - Uncover the mysteries of the Old Town, Prague Castle, Charles Bridge, the Jewish Quarter and Astronomical Clock

Tour Essentials

Accommodation: 2 nights Simple Hostel
4 nights Standard Guesthouse
6 nights Standard Hotel
1 night Hotel

Included Meals: 13 breakfasts, 0 lunches, 0 dinners

Start Point: Join tour: Krakow
End Point: Tour ends: Prague

Transport: Bus, Train

Countries: Poland, Slovakia, Hungary

Highlights of Eastern Europe

On this trip we discover the historic European cities of Krakow, Budapest, Bratislava, Vienna and Prague. We have the chance to explore the Medieval town of Banská Stiavnica, admire ancient architecture in Krakow and wander through cobbled streets in Budapest. We also enjoy walks through the spectacular scenery of the Tatras Mountains in Slovakia and experience rafting through the vast gorge on the Dunajec River.

Suitability

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

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

Tour Comfort: Standard

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

Tour Style: Classic

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

Tour Pace: Busy

There may be early starts, long journeys and tiring days along the way, but you'll return home feeling you've really experienced as much as you possibly could.



Your tour itinerary

Tour itinerary notes

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

Your Tour Leader

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

DAY 1 Join tour Krakow; late afternoon orientation walk around the old centre

Poland's former capital (until 1596) has a very distinctive character and is on the UNESCO World Heritage list. Its historic architecture came through World War II unscathed and the city has preserved its rich culture to the present day. It was the residence of Polish kings and has nearly one hundred churches, as well as Poland's oldest university. Among its most important architectural treasures are St Mary's Church, which contains the world-famous altarpiece carved by Veit Stoss, the medieval buildings of the Jagiellonian University and Wawel Castle with the Cathedral. Your tour leader will lead a short orientation around the city's Old Quarter in the late afternoon. Please note that if your flight arrives in the late afternoon this short walking tour may take place on day 2 instead.

Overnight: **Simple Hostel**
Single Room Available

 **Included Meals:** None

DAY 2 In Krakow

Today is left free for you to explore Krakow and further afield if you wish. The Jewish Kazimierz district, the setting for the film Schindler's List, has many points of interest, including the Old Synagogue and the Museum of Jewish life. You may like to make an excursion to Oswiecim, the site of the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp; a haunting reminder of the terrible atrocities which took place there during World War II. It is also possible to visit the Royal Castle, perched high on Wawel Hill, which overlooks both the Old Town and the Vistula River. Constructed in Renaissance style, the castle houses exquisite treasures collected through the ages by Polish monarchs. Next to the castle is Wawel Cathedral, the final resting place of Polish Kings. Another option is to visit the salt mines of Wieliczka.

Overnight: **Simple Hostel**
Single Room Available

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

DAY 3 Rafting in the Dunjec Gorge en route to the High Tatras (Slovakia)

This morning we depart for a trip rafting on the Dunajec River to a point close to the Polish border near Lesnica. It's a chance to get active and probably get wet as well as enjoy the picturesque surroundings. This river has been a famous attraction in this area since the middle of the 19th century, when tourists came here to raft down the gorge. Following in the footsteps of those early travellers, we take to the waters for a rafting trip through this beautiful landscape. We meander along the bottom of the spectacular gorge that bears the river's name, passing a landscape of towering limestone cliffs, blanketed in lush forests of fir, beech, larch and spruce. Part of the Pieniny National Park, the gorge is without doubt one of the most stunning in Europe and its verdant slopes attract a diverse collection of wildlife, including lynx, wolf, stag and some 14 species of bats. Birdlife includes eagle and pygmy owls, three toed woodpeckers and rare black storks can sometimes be spotted along the river's edge. In the afternoon we continue to Tatranska Lomnica in the High Tatras mountains of Slovakia. The High Tatras area of Slovakia can justly claim to be the Switzerland of the country. Snow-capped for most of the year, the compact High Tatras range is sliced by beautiful valleys and lakes. An ideal region for winter sports, in summer the network of well-marked trails is a hiker's delight.

Overnight: **Standard Guesthouse**
Single Room Available

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

DAY 4 Walking in the Tatras Mountains

Today we take a cable car to the Skalnaté pleso halfway point. From here it's an easy to moderate, mainly downhill hiking tour to Hrebienok, Studenovodské waterfalls and back to Tatranska Lomnica (approximately 2 hours). Anyone not wishing to walk can take the cable car to Lomnica peak. In the afternoon we will pay a visit to the impressive Spis Castle.

Overnight: **Standard Guesthouse**
Single Room Available

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

DAY 5 Train to Banska Bystrica; afternoon orientation stroll

This morning we travel by rail to Banská Bystrica (the journey will involve changes of train). On arrival your tour leader will take you on an orientation walk of the town.

Overnight: **Standard Guesthouse**

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

DAY 6 Sightseeing from Banska Bystrica

Today is left free for you to explore this medieval town at your own pace. You have the option to explore 'off the beaten track' attractions of this part of rural Slovakia. Options include a visit to Banska Stiavnica - a preserved medieval town that is a UNESCO world heritage site. The open air mining museum here dates back to the 17th century and offers a two kilometres long underground excursion!

Overnight: **Standard Guesthouse**

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

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DAY 7 Drive to Budapest; walking tour with local guide

Today we start our day with a visit to Hronsek Wooden Church and a small village of Sebechleby for for an optional wine tasting. From here we continue our journey to Budapest. Situated on a beautiful stretch of the Danube, Hungary's capital consists of two parts: Buda and Pest. Buda seems today the older, more graceful part, with cobbled streets and medieval buildings, whilst the latter is the business centre. Utilising local transport, the afternoon's guided walking tour takes in the major sites of this impressive city. We discover the Basilica of St. Stephen and Parliament buildings before crossing Chain Bridge to the Castle District and Watertown. Here lie Buda's most ancient gems - Castle Hill with the Old Town, Fisherman's Bastion and the Royal Palace.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**
Single Room Available

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

DAY 8 In Budapest

Today in Budapest is left free for you to further explore its many attractions. You may want to visit one of the city's famous thermal baths, or take a boat cruise on the Danube. Another recommended attraction is Szentendre; an artist's town with a Serb minority located on the bank of the Danube, which can be visited by train or bus.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**
Single Room Available

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

DAY 9 Drive to Bratislava; afternoon orientation walk

Today we make our way to Bratislava, the largest and the capital city of Slovakia. Upon arrival we will have a short orientation tour of the city, on which you'll see the contrast between the beautiful Old Town originating from medieval times and the more modern districts from the time of communism.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**
Single Room Available

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

DAY 10 Train to Vienna and city tour

This morning we take a short train ride to Austria's capital, Vienna, where we enjoy a walking tour of the old city with a local guide, which should offer a good initial overview of the history and the structure of the city. Sights during the walk will include the museum quarter, Heroes Square, Hofburg (imperial palace complex), Imperial Treasury, National Library, Spanish Riding School, Vienna's ancient housing estates, St. Stephens Church and the Opera. We won't have the time to enter any of these places on our tour but afterwards you will be free to return to visit any that you wish. You can return to Bratislava by train at your leisure (we will provide a return ticket) or you may wish to take a boat along the Danube (optional).

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**
Single Room Available

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

DAY 11 Train and bus to Mikulov; visit to UNESCO listed Lednice-Valtice

Today we start our day with a train trip, followed by a short bus journey, to the beautiful town of Mikulov. Filled with history embodied in architectural monuments, this small town offers something for everyone. Situated in the very heart of wine region, this town offers plenty of vine paths with local and family run wine cellars or wine tasting centres. En route to Mikulov we visit Lednice-Valtice Cultural landscape, which is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. It is one of the largest artificial landscapes in Europe. In the afternoon we visit the Jewish cemetery and enjoy a wine tasing in Mikulov.

Overnight: **Hotel**
Single Room Available

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

DAY 12 Train to Prague; walking tour with local guide

A train journey takes us to our final destination of Prague, capital of the Czech Republic. Twelve centuries have adorned it with a labyrinth of old streets and wonderful palaces and bridges. We enjoy a guided city tour which will take in some of the main highlights including the Old Town Square and City Hall, set amid antique houses and arcades. Other sites include the Astronomical Clock, Powder

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Tower and Prague Ghetto, which includes the Jewish Cemetery and Synagogues. We also see the Charles Bridge, the oldest and most handsome bridge over the Vltava River and the area of Hradcany with the castle of the Bohemian Kings.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**

Single Room Available



Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY **13** Free day in Prague

On our second day in Prague you are free to continue enjoying the city at your leisure. You may wish to head to Konopiste Castle, originating from around 1300, by local train. The castle was once owned by Archduke Ferdinand, whose assassination in Sarajevo triggered the start of World War I. A boat trip on the Vltava River is another possibility. There are also many classical music concerts to be found. If the timing is right, you may be lucky to see a performance in one of the old atmospheric churches (optional).

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**

Single Room Available



Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY **14** Tour ends Prague

Your tour ends today after breakfast.



Included Meals: Breakfast

Included Activities

This tour is designed to acquaint you with the highlights of five fascinating countries in 14 days. There's so much to enjoy and there's a lot of ground to cover, so please be prepared for the busy nature of this enthralling holiday.

Accommodation and Meals

Accommodation Rating

The Hostel that we stay at in Krakow has single and double rooms but you will be sharing a bathroom. We do not use the dormitories.

Food & Drink

Included meals: 13 breakfasts, 0 lunches, 0 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.

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.

Poland

Lunch £: 12.00

Dinner £: 20.00

Slovakia

Lunch £: 14.00

Dinner £: 23.00

Hungary

Lunch £: 12.00

Dinner £: 20.00

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.

Poland

Bottle of Beer £: 1.20

Water £: 0.80

Slovakia

Bottle of Beer £: 2.00

Water £: 1.00

Hungary

Bottle of Beer £: 1.50

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

Krakow - Visit to Auschwitz approximately £26.00; Wieliczka Salt Mine £20.00; Wawel Castle entrance fee £5.00

Budapest - Thermal Baths £10.00; Danube River cruise £13.00

Prague - Theatre tickets £5.00 to £60.00; concert tickets £15.00 to £70.00; train to Konopiste £3.00; guided tour of Konopiste Castle £8.00; boat trip on Vltava River (including dinner) £20.00

Also allow about £15.00 for various museum and site entrance fees during the tour.

Tipping - Tour Leader

At your discretion you might also consider tipping your Tour Leader in appreciation of the efficiency and service you receive.

Tipping - Local Crew

Although entirely voluntary, tipping is a recognised part of life in this region of the world. Some local staff will look to members of the group for personal recognition of particular services provided. Accordingly you should allow approximately 20 Pounds for tips. In order to make things easier for you, the Tour Leaders may organise a group's tips kitty and if this is the case, they will account for it throughout the tour.

Foreign Exchange

Poland

ATM Availability: Available in all major cities

Credit Card Acceptance: Credit cards are widely accepted in all major cities

Travellers Cheques: Easily exchanged.

Local Currency: Zloty

Recommended Currency for Exchange: Sterling, USD and Euros are all accepted at exchange offices and banks.

Where to Exchange: Most major towns - your Tour Leader will advise you on arrival

Slovakia

ATM Availability: Your tour leader will advise you on arrival. Be aware that some ATMs will charge a 5% commission and out of the main cities they can sometimes be difficult to find.

Credit Card Acceptance: At most shops and restaurants.

Travellers Cheques: Travellers cheques can be difficult to change

Local Currency: Slovakia Euro

Recommended Currency for Exchange: GBP, USD and Euros are accepted at exchange offices and banks.

Where to Exchange: Your tour leader will advise you on arrival.

Hungary

ATM Availability: All main towns and cities have ATM's for cash withdrawal.

Credit Card Acceptance: Credit cards are widely accepted.

Travellers Cheques: Travellers Cheques can be changed in main banks.

Local Currency: Forint.

Recommended Currency for Exchange: Sterling pounds, US Dollars can all be exchanged locally for Euros.

Where to Exchange: GBP, USD and Euros cash are accepted at exchange offices

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

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.

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>.

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

Booking a flight inclusive package with Explore

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

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

Important Information

Travel Insurance

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

We are delighted to include FREE travel insurance **for all qualifying customers** who book an Explore trip from 01 January 2015.

For more information about Travel insurance and to check whether you are eligible to receive free cover, please visit www.explore.co.uk/insurance. Explore Worldwide Ltd are an Appointed Representative of Campbell Irvine Limited, who are authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. The registration number can be checked by visiting the the FCA's website www.fca.gov.uk or by contacting them on 0800 111 6768.

Visa Information

Poland: Visas are not required by UK, US, Canadian, Australia and New Zealand citizens. Other nationalities should consult their local embassy or consular office.

Slovakia: Visas are not required by UK, US, Canadian, Australia and New Zealand citizens. Other nationalities should consult their local embassy or consular office.

Austria: Visas are not required by UK, US, Canadian, Australia and New Zealand citizens. Other nationalities should consult their local embassy or consular office.

Hungary: Visas are not required by UK, US, Canadian, Australia and New Zealand citizens. Other nationalities should consult their local embassy or consular office.

Czech Republic: Visas are not required by EU, US, Australia, New Zealand and Japanese citizens. Other nationalities should consult

their local embassy or consular office.

Please note that you should carry your passport with you at all times when in Czech Republic for identification purposes as police officers may fine you or arrest you if you fail to do so.

Other nationalities should consult the relevant consulate.

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

Vaccinations & Protection

Poland

Nothing compulsory, but we recommend protection against tetanus, polio and hepatitis A. Tickborne encephalitis is recommended by some medical sources if travelling in certain areas of Europe, at specific times of the year. Check latest requirements with your travel clinic or doctor prior to departure. 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.

Slovakia

Nothing compulsory, but we recommend protection against tetanus, polio and hepatitis A. Tick-borne encephalitis is recommended by some medical sources if travelling in certain areas of Europe, at specific times of the year. Check latest requirements with your travel clinic or doctor prior to departure. 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.

Hungary

Nothing compulsory, but we recommend protection against tetanus, polio and hepatitis A. Tickborne encephalitis is recommended by some medical sources if travelling in certain areas of Europe, at specific times of the year. Check latest requirements with your travel clinic or doctor prior to departure.

Preparing for your Tour

Climate

Poland

Poland has a temperate, changeable climate. September and October are cooler and gradually become damper until late November when temperatures fall below freezing with snowfall, particularly in mountain areas. Cold temperatures last through to March, but are tolerable. Snow can lie for up to three months in the mountains.

Slovakia

Summers are short in the mountains. July to August is the hottest period, when daytime temperatures average 20-22°C, though it may be much cooler in the early morning or late evening. Mountain weather is notoriously changeable and it can be cold at any time of year, so be prepared. Early and late in the season there may also be snow. Early July is the best time for flowers.

Hungary

Summer days are generally quite hot and sunny with usually between 9-10 hours of sunshine daily. Night time temperatures can drop quite low in the hills whilst most rain falls in spring and early summer. Sudden rain showers can, however, occur at any time of the year.

Clothing

Mountain weather is changeable. Summer cottons or medium weights in spring and autumn. A windproof and waterproof garment is needed. Warmer clothing is needed in the Tatras - so a warm fleece and hat are essential at both ends of the season. Bring a swimming costume.

Equipment

Bring a water bottle, some insect repellent, a sunhat, sunscreen, sunglasses and a torch. You may also find a walking pole useful for the hike in the Tatras Mountains.

Footwear

Walking boots for the Tatras trails are required, comfortable trainers/sandals for city sightseeing and relaxing.

Luggage: On Tour

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

This tour is a busy pace, including several train journeys and shorts walks between stations and accommodations, for this reason please take care to make sure you can comfortably carry your own luggage throughout the tour.

Luggage allowance on tour: 20kg

General Information

Country details

Poland

Population: 38,186,860

Size of Country: 312,685 sq km

Major Language: Polish

Religion: Roman Catholic

Time Difference to GMT: +1

Slovakia

Population: 5,440,078

Size of Country: 49,035 sq km

Major Language: Slovak

Religion: Roman Catholic

Time Difference to GMT: +1

Hungary

Population: 9,979,000

Size of Country: 93,030 sq km

Major Language: Hungarian

Religion: Christian

Time Difference to GMT: +1

Electric Supply & Plugs

Poland

2 Pin Round

Slovakia

2 Pin Round

Hungary

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

Our commitment to the environment

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

When you travel with Explore, you are directly contributing to local economies and helping empower the people you meet. We currently support a range of charities and good causes, including: Toilet Twinning (helping to flush away poverty), Lone Buffalo Foundation (a community project based in Laos providing creative skills for young people), Dekamer (a turtle rescue centre in

Turkey) and Kids Saving the Rainforest (a wildlife rescue centre in Costa Rica supported through the LATA foundation). We also care passionately about the world's wildlife. We are patrons of the Born Free Organisation and Friends of Conservation.

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

- [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.

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 2014 and 31st December 2015.

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: 2015 itinerary versions are applicable to tours departing in 2015. 2016/17 itinerary versions are applicable to tours departing from 1st January to 31st December 2016.

These tour notes were printed on 06/03/2015 21:21:19