

# EXPLORE!

## TRIP NOTES



### Highlights of Mont Blanc (MBH 2017)



TRIPDURATION  
**8**  
DAYS



**Tour Style:** Classic  
**Accommodation**  
**Grade:** Standard

**Tour Type:** Centre Based  
**Trek Grade:** Easy to Moderate

**Trip Code:** MBH

#### Trip Highlights - Highlights of Mont Blanc

- ✓ Mont Blanc massif - Enjoy spectacular scenery of snowy peaks, glaciers and granite spires
- ✓ Tour du Mont Blanc - Day hikes along some of the most scenic sections of the classic circuit
- ✓ Chamonix life - Relax in one of the many open-air cafes and watch the street life
- ✓ Optional activities - Chance to try out rock climbing, cycling or whitewater rafting

#### Trip Essentials

**Accommodation:** 7 nights Standard Hotel  
**Included Meals:** 7 breakfasts, 5 lunches, 4 dinners  
**Start Point:** Join trip: Geneva Airport  
**End Point:** Trip ends: Geneva Airport  
**Maximum Altitude on Trek (m):** 2352  
**Transport:** Bus, Train  
**Countries:** France, Switzerland

## Highlights of Mont Blanc

The Mont Blanc massif provides outstanding mountain scenery and is home to the charming Chamonix Valley. Our day walks in the Alps include sections of the famous Tour du Mont Blanc route, including the spectacular trail to Lac Blanc, where we can enjoy panoramic views of the whole Mont Blanc range. Based in a comfortable hotel, we can relax at the end of each day, with no need to carry luggage during walks or pack up every night.

### Why Book this trip

This trip stays at the Hotel du Bois, an attractive alpine chalet in the village of Les Houches, a few kilometres from Chamonix which can easily be reached by local bus. It makes a great base for accessing some of the most beautiful walking in the Alps. The hotel's restaurant serves French cuisine and wine and there is a cosy bar with outside seating where you can enjoy a drink in the sunshine; an ideal spot to wind down after a day walking. The large garden has wonderful views of Mont Blanc and the Chamonix Valley and the hotel has a heated indoor pool and a sauna.

### Suitability

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

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

### Accommodation Grade: Standard

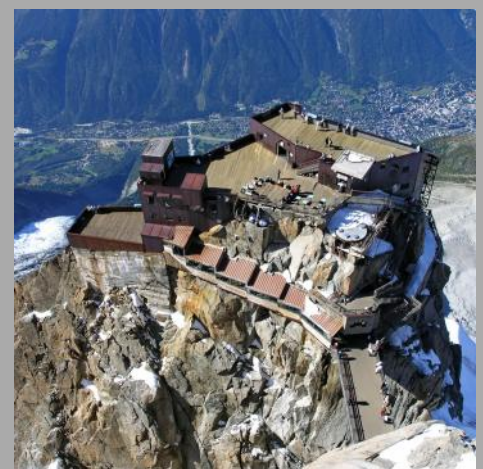
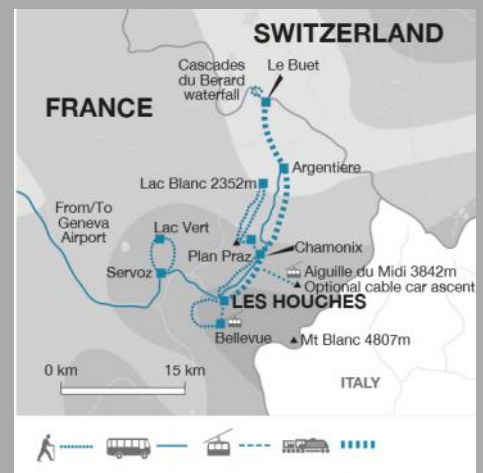
Our mid-range accommodation offers a good level of service often with other amenities such as a restaurant, bar, garden or swimming pool. Generally rooms will be comfortable with en-suite facilities.

### Tour Style: Classic

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

### 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.

### Your Tour Leader

The Leader is an integral part of any Explore trip and your trek will be led by a qualified International Mountain Leader. We believe that our Leaders are the key to the success of our trips; they are passionate travellers who are bursting with first-hand local knowledge which they love to share. Your Leader will also take care of all the planning and organization throughout your journey. Their passionate approach will make this trip fun and inspiring, bringing the destination to life whether you're travelling alone or with others.

**DAY 1** Join trip at Geneva Airport; drive to Les Houches near Chamonix

Arriving at Geneva Airport we transfer in 1.5 hrs to our hotel in Les Houches (990m) in the Chamonix Valley. Hotel du Bois is our home for the week. A relaxed

atmosphere, pool and gardens with views across the Mont Blanc range make this family-run alpine chalet a comfortable place to relax at the end of the day's walk. The bedrooms are full of light and enjoy mountain views.

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

**Swimming Pool Available** 


 **Included Meals:** Dinner

## DAY 2 Walk along the Petit Balcon Sud to Paradise du Praz

From the hotel, we walk along the Petit Balcon Sud to Chamonix town with excellent views of the glaciers and ridges that descend from Mont Blanc into the valley. We then continue along the River Arve to Paradise du Praz where we have picnic lunch in a shaded spot. In the afternoon, you can opt to take the bus back to the hotel or climb to a pretty mountain café with wonderful flowers and a view down to Chamonix, an ascent of some 300 metres. We then descend to Chamonix with time for a look around the town before heading back to our hotel by local bus. The morning walk of 12 kilometres will take us around three-and-a-half hours and is pretty much on the flat. Our optional walk in the afternoon is five kilometres and will take around two-and-a-half hours with a total ascent and descent of 250m each way.

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

**Swimming Pool Available** 

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

## DAY 3 Cable car to Bellevue; walk to Le Prarion (1969m)

We walk from the hotel to Le Bellevue cable car which takes us up to 1800m in a matter of minutes. At the top of the cable car we are on part of the Tour du Mont Blanc circuit trek and it is an amazing spot to see Mont Blanc looming above. It is also the starting point of the main route for climbing Mont Blanc and we may see some mountaineers returning from the summit. We see views of the Contamines Valley, Mont Joly and towards the Aravais mountain range. Our walk descends to the Col du Voza (1653m) and then up to Le Prarion - a small peak at 1969m with spectacular 360 degree views. We then descend through the forest back to Les Houches. For those not wishing to make the descent, you can save your knees and take the cable car. Today's 13 kilometre walk is expected to take around four-and-a-half hours with a total ascent of 300m and a descent of 1150m which can be reduced by 1000m (and five-and-a-half kilometres) by taking the cable car down.

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

**Swimming Pool Available** 


 **Included Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch

## DAY 4 Hike from Le Buet to the Cascades de Berard

We travel along the length of the Chamonix Valley passing some beautiful scenery and iconic mountains such the Les Drus and the Aiguille d'Argentiere. After an hour we arrive at the pretty hamlet of Le Buet (1300m). From here we take a short walk to the river and then climb to Les Cascades du Berard - waterfalls in a lovely setting (1400m). We then continue alongside the river and further into the forest of the Berard Valley. A short climb brings us to Les Granges (1566m), a hamlet with summer houses and a viewpoint of the Mont Blanc range from the east. We descend via a different route and then take the train or a local bus back to Les Houches. Today's eight kilometre walk is expected to take around four-and-a-half hours with a total ascent of 300m and descent of 500m.

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

**Swimming Pool Available** 

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

## DAY 5 Free day for various optional activities

Today has been left free. You can relax at the hotel, go into Chamonix, take a walk or take part in some optional activities. Activities include a ride up the spectacular cable car to the Aiguille du Midi at 3842m for arguably the finest view in the Alps. At this height you are among the great Alpine peaks and glaciers with unimpeded views from Mont Blanc to the Matterhorn almost 100km away. Other activities include rock climbing, cycling, rafting and visiting Chamonix's Alpine museum. You may also like to take the cog-railway to Montenvers where you can take a series of steps down to the Mer de Glace and go inside the glacier itself.

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

**Swimming Pool Available** 

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

## DAY 6 Walk from Servoz to Lac Vert

We travel to the pretty village of Servoz. We then climb through meadows and forest to Lac Vert, flanked by huge limestone cliffs. The lake has many varieties of tree which are helpfully labelled. From here there are magnificent views of the North-West faces of the Mont Blanc range. We then climb a little higher before returning to Servoz via a different path. Today's eight kilometres walk will take us around four to five hours with a total ascent and descent of 470m each way.

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

**Swimming Pool Available** 


 **Included Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch

## DAY 7 Tour du Mont Blanc walk to Lac Blanc (2352m)

We take the bus to Les Praz and then a short telecabin ride to Chalet de la Flegere (1871m). We then make our way on the Tour du Mont Blanc to Lac Blanc (2352m) for panoramic views of the whole Mont Blanc range. It is approximately 2-2.5 hours to the lake and is a fitting end to the holiday with magnificent views all around. We descend to Chalet de la Flegere and return to Chamonix via a forest walk. For those with tired legs, you can take the cable car back down to the valley floor. Today's ten kilometre walk is expected to take around six hours with a total ascent of 470m and descent of up to 1300m depending on the route taken.

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

**Swimming Pool Available** 

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

## DAY 8 Drive to Geneva Airport where the trip ends

Today we drive back to Geneva airport where the trip ends.

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

## Accommodation and Meals

### Accommodation Notes

The three-star Hotel du Bois is an attractive alpine chalet with 43 guest rooms in the heart of the small village of Les Houches, just five km from Chamonix. The village has some small bars, a couple of supermarkets, a post office, bank and tourist office, and makes a great base for accessing some of the most beautiful walking in the Alps.

The hotel's restaurant serves French cuisine and wine and there is a cosy bar with outside seating where you can enjoy a drink in the sunshine; an ideal spot to wind down after a day walking. The large garden has wonderful views of Mont Blanc and the Chamonix Valley and the hotel has a heated indoor pool and a sauna. Breakfast comes as a continental buffet with cereals and dinner is generally a three-course set menu. WiFi internet connection is available free of charge. Mountain bikes are available to hire if you fancy exploring on 2 wheels for a while.

All bedrooms are light and enjoy views of the mountains. They have en suite private bathrooms with a full bath and a hairdryer provided. Simply and tastefully furnished, rooms are equipped with a flat screen TV, telephone, mini bar, small desk and wardrobe.

### Food & Drink

Included meals: 7 breakfasts, 5 lunches, 4 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.

### France

**Lunch £: 11.00**



**Dinner £:** 16.00 - 18.00

### Switzerland

**Lunch £:** 16.00

**Dinner £:** 23.00

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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.

### France

**Bottle of Beer £:** 4.00

**Water £:** 1.30

### Switzerland

**Bottle of Beer £:** 5.20

**Water £:** 1.50

### 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

Aiguille du Midi - Panoramic views of Alps €55

Mountain biking - Full day's hire €30

Rock climbing - Half day €45

Rafting - 1.5 hours / €40-60 per person (depends on number of people taking part)

Public swimming pool - (3 pools, jacuzzi, death slide) €6

Paragliding - 1000m vertical descent €120 / 2550m vertical descent €220

Cable Cars - From Le Prarion to Les Houches €15.50, from Chalet de la Flegere to Les Praz €15.50.

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### Tipping - 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

Service is included in French restaurants, although it is polite to tip 10% if the service has been very good. Bar staff and café waiters expect a small tip or loose change.

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### Foreign Exchange

#### France

**ATM Availability:** In cities and most major towns

**Credit Card Acceptance:** In major restaurants (make sure you have informed your credit card company that you are travelling abroad as some companies will reject payments)

**Travellers Cheques:** Travellers Cheques are no longer commonly accepted and can only be changed in larger airports with a Bureau de Change.

**Local Currency:** Euro

**Recommended Currency for Exchange:** Pounds Sterling and US Dollars can only be changed in larger airports with a Bureau de Change. Please change currency into Euros prior to arriving in France.

**Where to Exchange:** Bureau de Change can only be found in major cities and large airports. Many French banks no longer exchange Foreign currency.

#### Switzerland

**ATM Availability:** Local currency can be obtained using credit cards in ATM's.

**Credit Card Acceptance:** In major restaurants.

**Travellers Cheques:** Not recommended.

**Local Currency:** Swiss Franc.

**Recommended Currency for Exchange:** Euros.

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



## Joining your Trip

### Flight Information

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

### Booking a land only package with Explore

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

### Joining Tour Abroad

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

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

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

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

### Booking a flight inclusive package with Explore

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

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

## Important Information

### Travel Insurance

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

**EXPLORE!**  
The Adventure Travel Experts

CAMPBELL IRVINE  
DIRECT TRAVEL INSURANCE



Travel Insurance is essential. If you have not already arranged cover, please contact our recommended Travel Insurance providers [www.campbellirvinedirect.com/Explore](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)

**EXPLORE!** Share your experiences with us



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

France and Switzerland: Visas are not required by UK, E.U Nationals, Australian, New Zealand, US and Canadian citizens. 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

### France

Nothing compulsory. Tetanus recommended. 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.

### Switzerland

Nothing compulsory; Tetanus recommended. The above is not an exhaustive list. Further information regarding vaccinations and travel health advice can be found by following the NHS and NaTHNaC links at <http://www.explore.co.uk/Travelhealth/> and from your local healthcare provider.

## Preparing for your Trip

### DAILY DISTANCES

Day 2	12km	5km	3.5/2.5hrs
Day 3	13km		4.5hrs
Day 4	8km		4.5hrs
Day 5			
Day 6	8km		4.5hrs
Day 7	10km		6hrs

Optional Walks

## Maximum Altitude on Trek (m)

2352

## Trekking Details

Walks on 5 days for between 3.5 to 6 hours. We follow well-maintained and marked mountain trails. We have graded this trip as Easy to Moderate and, as the itinerary is centre-based, any walk can be opted out of if desired.

## Climate

### France

Across France, from April - August, weather conditions are generally warm and pleasant with moderate rainfall; Autumn temperatures are a bit lower and the winter months (though colder) remain mild. The summer months on the Mediterranean Coast in the south tend to be warmer than the rest of France and have less rainfall, and also more mild winters; freezing conditions are nearly unheard of. The mountainous areas of the Alps, Juros and Pyrenees can be quite different. During summer the morning and evening temperatures are considerably cooler and it becomes much colder in winter with heavy snowfall. Western France, along the English Channel, there can be very strong winds and frequent rain during the winter months Nov - Apr. Wine harvesting takes place in late August/early September.

## Switzerland

Summers are generally warm, or even hot, with a three-month period when rain rarely falls. When it does rain in this season, it is heavy and often accompanied by thunder. There are as much as eleven to twelve hours' sunshine a day in summer, but as with anywhere in mainland Europe it can occasionally be cold and wet. Early and late summer is generally the best times to visit this region.

## Clothing

The following are essential: Good quality waterproof jacket and trousers, fleece jacket, comfortable walking trousers, shorts, warm hat and gloves, sunhat, sunglasses and high factor sun-cream.

Jeans are not ideal for walking. There is a good public swimming pool in Chamonix so bring your swimming things. Note that French health regulations require men to wear proper swimming trunks, not loose Bermuda / boxer-style trunks. For around-town wear in Chamonix, you may like to bring some slightly smarter clothes.

## Equipment

You will need a water bottle (preferably 2 litres) and high factor sun cream. You may like to bring trekking poles. It is a good idea to line your day-sac with a good quality plastic bag. This will go a long way in protecting your gear from any rainstorms we encounter. Tap water is safe to drink as are the fountains found in villages, but water sources along the trail may not always be drinkable. Using tap or purified water rather than bottled water will help avoid creating plastic bottle waste. Energy snacks including chocolate and sweets are recommended whilst on trek.

## Footwear

We recommend walking boots with proper ankle support and good tread. Trekking shoes are okay as long as you are confident on your feet in the mountains, however, they do not give ankle support. In addition, you should avoid cheap boots found in high-street shops that are merely trainers with a higher canvas side sewn on. Make sure that your boots are worn-in and comfortable before the start of the trip. We recommend that you wear/carry your walking boots as hand luggage on the international flight. Should your luggage be delayed, your well broken in boots will be irreplaceable. Trainers or trekking sandals are useful for relaxing in the evening.

## Luggage: On Tour

One main piece of baggage and a waterproof daysac (30-40 litres recommended).

Luggage allowance on trip: 20kg

# General Information

## Country details

### France

**Population:** 65,821,885

**Size of Country:** 674,843 sq km

**Major Language:** French

**Religion:** Catholic

**Time Difference to GMT:** +1

### Switzerland

**Population:** 7,866,500

**Size of Country:** 41,285 sq km

**Major Language:** German

**Religion:** Catholic

**Time Difference to GMT:** +1

## Electric Supply & Plugs

### France

2 Pin Round

### Switzerland

3 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, 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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