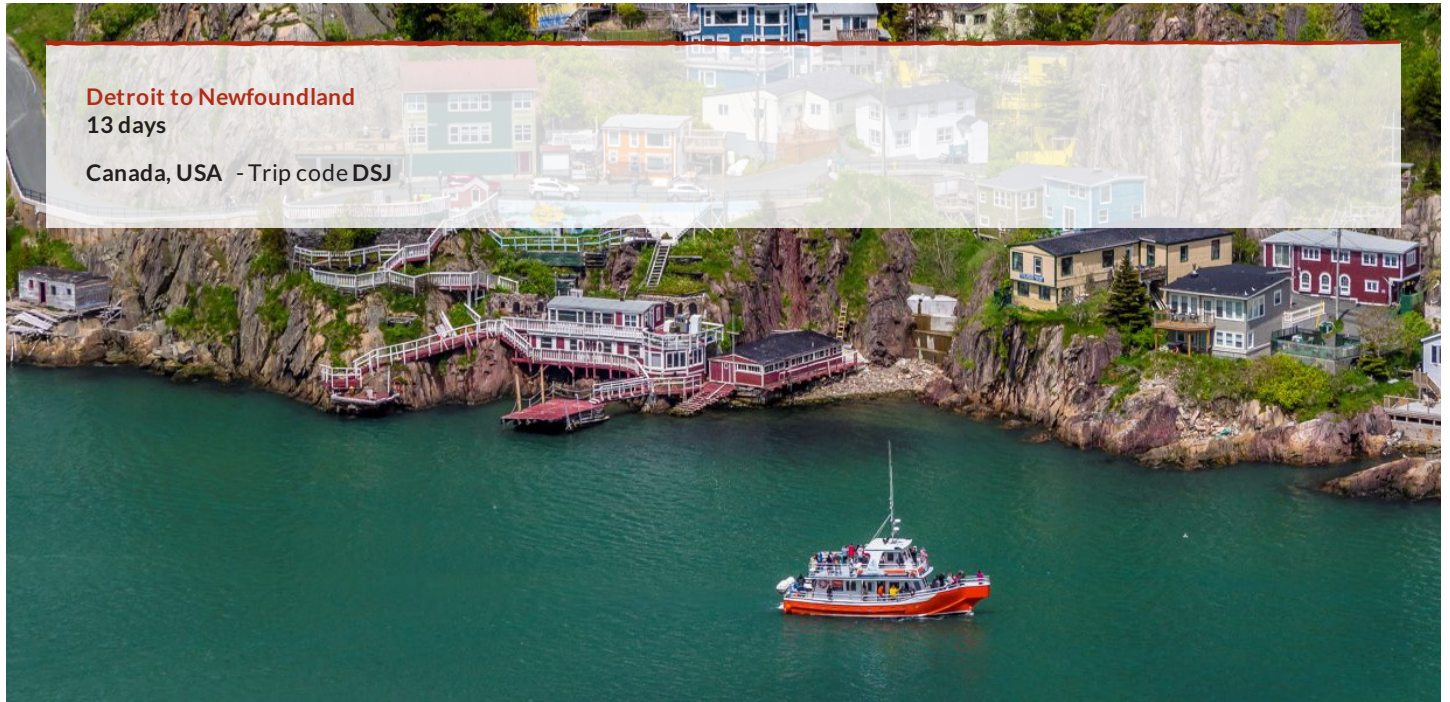


# EXPLORE!



## Detroit to Newfoundland

From Motown to the New World, we journey through history from the automobile boom and bust in Detroit to medieval French Canada and onwards to Newfoundland, the mysterious, iceberg-ridden corner of the Atlantic coast where Basque whalers first sailed in the 1500's. Detroit, a city where once-grand ruins rub shoulders with skyscrapers, is like no other place in the USA, where the country's turbulent social history is written in the streets of disused buildings. From here, this journey is one of many contrasts, through the big cities of Toronto, Quebec and Montreal to the totally unvisited and isolated areas of Fundy National Park, Nova Scotia and Newfoundland's East Coast Trail. Even the languages and social make-up of these places change dramatically, from the Afro-American heritage of Detroit through French Canada, and the Scottish and Irish accents heard in the Maritime Provinces. Our final destination, 'The Rock', has unspoiled mountains, valleys, rivers and lakes, and a coastline marked by grandiose fjords and cliffs. Estuaries of glacial rivers are populated by countless seabirds, including silver seagulls and flocks of terns, while wild Atlantic salmon, cod fish, seals and whales (the largest concentration of Humpback whales in the world) call its chilly waters home.

## Trip highlights

- ★ **Ruined buildings and street art** - Discover the outdoor art installation at the Heidelberg Project that is helping to redevelop communities in Detroit
- ★ **Niagara Falls** - Witness the power of these impressive falls and taste the region's wine at Niagara-on-the-Lake
- ★ **Train journeys** - Take the scenic route from Detroit to New Brunswick, via Toronto and Quebec
- ★ **Cabot Trail** - Discover stunning ocean vistas and highland scenery on one of Canada's most scenic drives
- ★ **East Coast Trail** - Explore wildlife and wilderness on foot
- ★ **Whalewatching** - Look out for finback and humpback whales in August

**ACCOMMODATION GRADE:**

No accommodation rating  
No accommodation description

**TRIP PACE:**

No pace rating  
No pace description

**GROUP SIZE:**

8 - 12

Maximum group size ranges from between 6 to 20 people, depending on the type of trip, the transport and accommodation used and activities included. We rarely have groups that are smaller than five or six people and the average is 12 people plus an Explore leader.

## Itinerary

Itineraries on some departure dates may differ, please select the itinerary that you wish to explore.

### DAY 1 - Join trip in Detroit

Our trip begins today in the fascinating city of Detroit. This once-thriving city was at the heart of the auto industry in the early-to-mid 1900s and went through a period of boom, but along with it some significant social change. Part of this change was driven by the influx of Afro-American workers. Racial and ethnic tensions grew significantly during the 50s and 60s, culminating in massive riots in the late 1960s. Wealthier white families started moving out to more desirable suburbs, along with small businesses. At the same time the big three auto companies (Chrysler, GM Motors and Ford) started moving their operations out of the city, resulting in a shrinking job base in Detroit's centre. The end result of these factors plus many others was that the city started falling into a massive decline, taking it from one of the world's most important industrial cities to a city famously made bankrupt.



**Accommodation: Hilton Garden Inn** (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: None

### DAY 2 - Walk the city and explore the art installation at the Heidelberg Project

Today we spend time walking the city and appreciating the notable difference between the striking art deco architecture downtown and the new. As well as the modern Grand Circus Park and river fronted Hart Plaza and Renaissance Centre, we'll see the magnificent old ruin of the 1913 Central Station, which last saw a train pass through in 1988. We also visit the Heidelberg Project, an unusual urban art environment where an entire street of disused houses has been reclaimed by the community, and used as a way to improve the lives of people and neighbourhoods through art. We have the afternoon free to explore on our own account, and there is a lot to see. The original home of Motown (Detroit is known as 'Motor Town' due to its history with the auto industry -

this is where the music of Motown originates from), the Motown Museum is a great stop for music lovers. The Detroit institute of art is one of the US's top art museum or alternatively the Detroit Historical Museum fills in some of the finer points of the city's turbulent history. You could also visit Belle Isle Park, an island on the Detroit River with three lakes, over 100 acres of woodland area, a maritime museum, conservatory and many more things to see.



**Accommodation: Hilton Garden Inn** (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: None

## DAY 3 - Drive into Canada and take the train to Toronto; discover the city on foot

Taking a taxi out of the hotel this morning, we drive across the Ambassador Bridge, a suspension bridge that takes us across the Detroit River into Windsor, Canada. From there we catch our 4 hour train to Toronto, an exciting, buzzy metropolis of a city, idyllically located on the banks of Lake Ontario. After taking a taxi to our hotel, we head out to discover the city on foot. Toronto is one of Canada's most multicultural cities, with over 140 different languages spoken, and the jumble of eclectic neighbourhoods really highlights this diversity. This afternoon we have a quick orientation tour to discover some of the key sites, including the City Hall, and the Toronto skyline's most iconic feature, the CN Tower. We also head to the St Lawrence Market, Toronto's largest indoor market which on Sundays is uniquely dedicated to a treasure trove of antiques. At the end of the afternoon you'll be free to explore a little before dinner - you could head to the Kensington Market area, one of Toronto's more Bohemian neighbourhoods with a varied array of shops, cafes and graffiti'd walls. Or visit North America's largest Chinatown for some Dim Sum.



**Accommodation: Bond Place Hotel** (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: None

## DAY 4 - Visit Niagara Falls and Niagara-on-the-Lake

Toronto is perfectly located for a full-day trip to the Niagara Falls, an awesome testament to the power of nature. Here we have the chance to take a boat trip to the base of the falls, where we can feel the full force of the spray at the famous Horseshoe, surrounded by thousands of tons of falling water. After discovering the falls we visit the charming 19th century town of Niagara-on-the-Lake, where almost all houses proudly display their building date in the late 1800s, and horse and carts roam the streets. This area of Canada is also a hub of wine production and we will be stopping by one of the region's wineries to do some tasting before returning to Toronto in the evening.



**Accommodation: Bond Place Hotel** (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: None

## DAY 5 - Take the train from Toronto to Quebec, via Montreal

We're catching a train at approximately 6.30am this morning to Quebec, changing trains in Montreal. The journey out of Toronto is pretty, partly following the banks of Lake Ontario. In the afternoon we have a 4 hour stop in Montreal, perfect for seeing a little of the city's downtown area and having lunch in one of the many cafés or restaurants. French Canada is particularly known for its poutine - an oddly moreish combination of chips, curd cheese and gravy. At around 4pm we get back on the train and continue to Quebec, arriving in the evening.



**Accommodation: Hotel Clarendon** (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: None

## DAY 6 - Stroll the cobblestone streets of Old Quebec; overnight train to New Brunswick

Quebec City was a valuable prize sought after many times in the wars of the 17th and 18th centuries. When it finally fell to the English in 1759, New France became a British colony. Quebec City, the cradle of French civilization in North America, today is a busy seaport. This afternoon, we will explore the city on a guided walking tour including the cobbled streets of the Old town, the Ramparts, the Notre-Dame Cathedral and Château Frontenac. You may wish to take the ferry across the St-Lawrence River for a view of Quebec City and the famous Chateau Frontenac from the river. The parliament buildings (Hotel du Parlement) are well worth a visit. The old quarter of Quebec City was declared a world heritage site by UNESCO in 1985. This is the only fortified city in North America, and from the top of its ramparts you can admire the maze of narrow winding streets and sloping roofs. Near the St. John Gate, one of four in the fortifications, Artillery Park features an impressive fort dating from the French regime. At night, we'll head to the train station for our overnight train to Moncton, New Brunswick.



**Accommodation: Overnight Train from Quebec to Moncton**



Simple Overnight Train



Meals Provided: None

## DAY 7 - Drive to Alma on the Bay of Fundy; afternoon walks in Fundy National Park

Waking up in New Brunswick, scenic landscapes greet us as we follow the path of a river flanked by hills, and lakes, forests and farms pass us by before we come out at the beautiful ocean views of the Baie-des-Chaleurs. We head back inland for a short time before arriving at Moncton. From the station, we drive to Alma, a small village on the Bay of Fundy, famous for its extreme tides. The water levels rise some 12 metres off the sea floor before sluicing back out into the ocean. Time dependent, we may head into Fundy National Park to hike on one of the many trails. There are dozens of routes within the park, from rugged coastal trails to long stretches of beach and deep forest trails inland. Our Explore Leader will choose one that best suits our group.



**Accommodation: Alpine Motor Inn** (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast & Lunch

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## DAY 8 - Full day of walks in the forest and coast of Fundy National Park

Today we have a full day of hiking in Fundy National Park, exploring the superb forests, coastline and waterfalls that the park has to offer. The Acadian forest within the park is dense and atmospheric - here the evergreen trees of spruce and fir blend with the hardwood forest trees of maple, birch, larch and balsam, much of it blanketed with dangling 'old man's beard' lichen. There are also options to canoe or kayak on Lake Bennett within the park.



**Accommodation: Alpine Motor Inn** (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: None

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## DAY 9 - Drive on the scenic Cabot Trail around Cape Breton

We leave New Brunswick this morning for the peninsula of Nova Scotia, a curious province that still has many throwbacks to its old Scottish and French ancestors, from the mixture of accents to the old festivals celebrated in the small towns and villages. Our destination is Cape Breton Island, and in particular the world-famous Cabot Trail, a scenic drive that winds past serene lakes, through forest, and overlooking dramatic, coastal vistas and beaches galore. We drive the classic road, and make scenic stops along the way - keep your eyes open for soaring eagles or moose, and you might even catch a minke or pilot whale breaking the waves in the Atlantic or the Gulf of St Lawrence. Lobster is always on the menu in this area, and a steaming plate of fresh seafood is a great option for lunch or dinner. We end up on the north-western side of the island in Cheticamp; a small French-speaking community is a complete contrast to Quebec City. We recommend a night out at the beverage hall - a dive bar with regular live music, with a distinctive Breton and Gallic flavour.



**Accommodation: Lauries Inn** (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: None

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## DAY 10 - Hike in Cape Breton Highlands National Park; take the overnight ferry to Newfoundland

We spend the morning and early afternoon exploring the Cape Breton Highlands National Park on any number of wonderful trails, either through Acadian forest, or following the rugged shoreline to hidden coves. There are also short, steep trails that climb out of the forest giving spectacular vistas over the Atlantic coast. Our Explore Leader will take us on an exploration of several of these trails. In the late afternoon we drive to North Sydney, where we take our overnight ferry across to Newfoundland. We will be using 4 berth cabins on the ferry, which may be shared with members of the opposite sex. All ferries are modern with plenty of amenities and food choices available, as well as deck access for views across to Newfoundland.



**Accommodation: Overnight Ferry from North Sydney to Argentia** (or similar)



Simple Boat

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## DAY 11 - Drive to the coastal city of St John's; discover the city on foot and visit the Cape Spear Lighthouse

Arriving at 10am to the island of Newfoundland, we drive out east to Signal Hill, with breath-taking views to St John's Harbour. From here it's a 15 minute walk past the Queen's Battery and Barracks, down to the hotel in the city of St John's. The oldest port city in North America, its steep streets are perched on a fjord-like bay, and the terraces of multi-coloured houses tumble down to the water. The city's name has been attributed to the feast day of John the Baptist, when Italian navigator and explorer John Cabot was believed to have sailed into the harbour in 1497 and called the region 'New Founde Lande'. Also learn why this Canadian Province has plenty of stories of skirmishes between the British, Irish, Dutch, Portuguese, Spanish and French since Basque whalers first fished here in the early 1500's. This is a reason for Newfoundland's one of a kind accent! Unlike many North American cities and towns, it is an easy place to get around on foot, and we'll explore the many old buildings as well as the small fishing village of Quidi Vidi, a good place to visit the dive bars and drink with the locals. We also drive 20 minutes to Cape Spear, North America's easternmost point. The drive south from St. John's passes a typical Newfoundland fishing community along the coast. Historic Cape Spear Lighthouse is meticulously restored and holds the distinction of hosting Newfoundland's oldest surviving lighthouse. In season (late June to mid-September) it is possible to spot whales from a high ridge.



**Accommodation: Quality Hotel Harbourview** (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: None

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## DAY 12 - Morning hike in the Bay of Bulls; whale and zodiac excursion

This morning a short drive take us to the start of our walk on part of the acclaimed East Coast Trail - identified by National Geographic as one of the 10 best adventure destinations in the world a few years ago. The twisting paths of this trail pass towering cliffs and headlands, eroded sea stacks and deep fjords. Along the trail we'll search for seabird colonies and experience an exceptional blend of wilderness adventure, outstanding natural beauty, culture, and history. In the afternoon we head out to sea in a zodiac boat for some whale watching and iceberg observation. The peak observation months for whales, icebergs and puffins are as follows: Whales - July & August but they are in the area from June till mid-September. Icebergs - May to early June but they can sometimes be seen in July as well. Puffins - Between May and September. Downtown St John's is famous for its bars and folk music - we recommend a wander down there in the evening.



**Accommodation: Quality Hotel Harbourview** (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: None

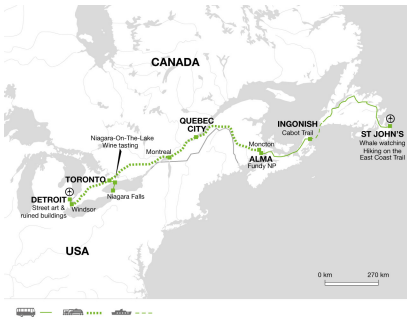
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## DAY 13 - Trip ends in Newfoundland

Our trip ends today in Newfoundland. For customers departing on the 1am flight in the early hours of tomorrow morning, you'll have the entire day to enjoy Newfoundland. The Explore Leader and bus are still on hand to drive us out so that we can continue exploring and hiking the twisting paths of the East Coast Trail.



Meals Provided: None



## Why book this trip

This trip is a one-of-a-kind adventure through some of the most contrasting areas that North America has to offer, from big cities to totally isolated backwater communities. Moving through different social and linguistic landscapes as well as epic scenery, this journey will suit travellers who are looking for something different out of their holiday in North America.

## What's included?



### Included meals

- Breakfast: 1
- Lunch: 1



### Accommodation

- 1 nights simple boat
- 10 nights standard hotel
- 1 nights simple overnight train

## Trip information

### Country information

### Canada Trips

#### Climate

May-Sep is the best time to visit, when the weather is usually warm, dry and pleasant. Temperatures can be a little cooler on the coast and in the mountains; rain can be expected at any time. Early in the season, there can be snow in some areas which may limit walking possibilities.

#### Time difference to GMT

-7

#### Plugs

2 Pin Flat

#### Dress codes

Clothes

#### Religion

Roman Catholic, Protestant

## Language

English and French

# USA Holidays & Tours

## Climate

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.

## Time difference to GMT

-9

## Plugs

2 Pin Flat

## Religion

Christian

## Language

English

## Budgeting and packing

## Optional activities

Detroit - Motown Museum USD\$15, Niagara Falls - Boat Trip to the base of the falls USD\$26 Quebec - Tour of the Citadelle and Museum CAD\$16; Musee de la Civilisation CAD\$16; Ferry to Levis (across the river) CAD\$8.50; Musee National des Beaux-Arts CAD\$20 Fundy National Park - Kayak and canoe rental at Bennett Lake CAD\$10-15

## Clothing

Weather is changeable in all locations, particularly on the Atlantic areas of Fundy National Park, Cape Breton and Newfoundland, so bring a warm jacket/fleece and a waterproof jacket and trousers. Think 'layers' to enable you to be comfortable no matter what the temperature as this could easily fluctuate throughout the day.

## Footwear

Lightweight hiking boots for walks, trainers for the cities, and sandals if you wish for travelling.

## Luggage

20kg

## Luggage: On tour

Bring only the bare essentials - one main bag plus a daysack for walking and for personal items. This bag can also be used as an overnight back on the train journey from Quebec to Moncton.

## Equipment

You may find walking poles useful. Binoculars are also recommended.

## Tipping

### Explore leader

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

### Local crew

In North America tipping 15%-20% is a recognised part of life across the service industry, including restaurants, activity suppliers, taxis and guides. Local staff will look to you for personal recognition of particular services provided. Unlike other Explore trips,



during our trips in North America our Explore leaders will not operate a tips kitty. However, they will be more than happy to provide guidance throughout the trip on who to tip when and to suggest appropriate amounts.

## Country Information

### Canada Trips

#### Food and drink

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.

**Lunch price**

£13.00

**Dinner price**

£20.00

**Beer price**

£3.00

**Water price**

£1.10

#### Foreign Exchange

**Local currency**

Canadian Dollars.

**Recommended Currency For Exchange**

Bring your money in Canadian Dollars or US Dollars cash or Travellers Cheques which can be used almost everywhere, although local stores are not keen to change anything over \$50.

**Where To Exchange**

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

**ATM Availability**

There are ATMs in the towns.

**Credit Card Acceptance**

Widely accepted just about everywhere.

**Travellers Cheques**

Canadian Travellers Cheques are the most convenient.

### USA Holidays & Tours

#### Food and drink

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.

**Lunch price**

£15

**Dinner price**

£21

**Beer price**

£Varies for different towns, average £4.00

**Water price**

£1.1

#### Foreign Exchange

**Local currency**

USDollars.

**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.

**ATM Availability**

Widely available.

**Credit Card Acceptance**

Widely accepted just about everywhere.

## Transport, Accommodation & Meals

### Accommodation notes

**Booking a Single Room**

All of our group tours are planned and operated on a twin-share basis, meaning that the standard cost is based either on individual travellers sharing accommodation with another group member of the same sex, or people who book together sharing accommodation. Please refer to the tour notes where the single room option availability is detailed on a night by night basis for this tour, and the price for the available nights is detailed on the dates & prices tab by departure date. For Self-Guided trips the Single Room supplement offers the option of a single room each and is charged per person. The Single Room supplement also applies to the third person in a party of three that will be accommodated in a single room.

We stay in centrally-located city hotels and inns during this trip, all placed for us to have the best possible stay. There is one night on an overnight train, in which we have two-berth cabins with bunks, and one night on an overnight ferry where we share four-berth cabins, possibly with members of the opposite sex. Luggage during the train journey will be stored separately and inaccessible during the journey, so all overnight belongings should be in a separate, small, overnight bag.

## Essential information

### FCO Advice

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 click [here](#).

For more information from Explore about travel advice, click [here](#)

**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.

### Essential Information

Once your booking has been confirmed we guarantee the price will not increase, whatever the circumstances. Before booking please ensure you have read our important tour pricing information. [Booking Conditions](#)

### Booking conditions

Before booking your Explore trip, please ensure that you read both our [Essential Information](#) and [Booking Conditions](#).

### Transfers

[Find out more about Trip Transfer Terms and Conditions before you book.](#)

**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 below in the dates and prices information.

You may also be eligible for the Free Explore Transfer.

### **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 [click here](#)

## **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.

Read more information about what travel insurance is required.

## **Flight information**

Explore offers a wide range of flexible flying options to make joining and leaving our trips easy. [Read more about them here.](#)

### **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 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.

## **Canada Trips**

### **Vaccinations**

Nothing compulsory, but we recommend protection against tetanus, typhoid, infectious hepatitis and polio. 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.

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## **USA Holidays & Tours**

### **Vaccinations**

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.

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