

EXPLORE!



Revolutionary Trails of Cuba

15 days

Cuba - Trip code CU

Revolutionary Trails of Cuba

Join us in Cuba as we uncover the island's revolutionary history. We explore colonial cities including Havana and Trinidad. We discover Fidel Castro's headquarters in the Sierra Maestra Mountains and visit Che Guevara's mausoleum in Santa Clara. We swim under waterfalls, climb forest trails and trek to the summit of Pico Turquino - Cuba's highest peak. Now is undoubtedly a fantastic time to visit Cuba to see and experience the island. Visiting Cuba is like stepping back in time as little has changed over the past 50 years. To fully enjoy the Cuban experience you should travel with a willingness to expect the unexpected and, above all, an adventurous spirit. In our opinion go now and experience this unique destination before it changes.

Trip highlights

- ★ **Havana** - Experience the faded colonial splendour and vibrancy of Cuba's capital
- ★ **Trinidad** - Enjoy the laidback atmosphere of this colonial town. Dance at Casa de la Musica or sip a rum cocktail under the stars
- ★ **Topes de Collantes** - Walk through the forests of the Escambray Mountains, swim in freshwater pools and camp out at haciendas
- ★ **Comandancia de la Plata** - Trek through the jungle of the Sierra Maestra Mountains to Fidel's 1950's rebel headquarters
- ★ **Pico Turquino** - Enjoy a three-day trek across the Sierra Maestra to the summit of Cuba's highest peak (1972m)

ACCOMMODATION GRADE:

Standard

Our standard, 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.

WALKING GRADE:

Moderate

For those who are fit and active, these moderate walks are normally on good paths and tracks at low altitude. Days may include some fairly demanding ascents and descents, so previous experience is preferable but not essential.

GROUP SIZE:

10 - 16

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 tour in Havana

Arrive Havana, the capital of Cuba, and check-in at our hotel. Built around a deep natural harbour, Havana is one of the most impressive surviving colonial cities in the Americas.



Accommodation: Sevilla Hotel (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Swimming pool available



Single room available



Meals Provided: None

DAY 2 - Tour of Havana including the 'Vieja' district

A tour of this most fascinating of cities this morning takes in some of the highlights of Havana's Vieja district and the art deco architecture along the coastal Malecon and through the Vedado and Miramar suburbs, where kids play baseball below rusting street lights. On foot we'll investigate the Vieja district with its beautiful neoclassical buildings at the Plaza de Armas and its sumptuous baroque Cathedral. Havana truly is a city in which to immerse yourself fully and after our brief orientation tour this morning, the afternoon has been left free to continue exploring at your leisure. You may wish to visit the City Museum, or the captivating Museum of the Revolution, where you can find the revered hull of the Granma, the boat that brought Castro back from exile and onto the world stage in 1956. You may wish to return to Old Havana and enjoy a stroll through its cobbled streets, stopping to enjoy a mojito at a local bar, or perhaps wander through the stalls of the street markets in search of a bargain or two. Cooling breezes blowing in from the Caribbean freshen a lively sunset stroll along the Malecon, where fishermen and locals take in the magical setting beneath the imposing ramparts of its old Spanish forts.



Accommodation: Sevilla Hotel (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Swimming pool available



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

DAY 3 - Drive to the colonial town of Trinidad via Bay of Pigs

Today we head east across Cuba, we drive through giant citrus and sugar plantations and out into the Zapata Peninsula. Further on cenotes or pools created by the ceiling collapse of the underground rivers dot the landscape and provide wonderful swimming opportunities. Later we visit the Playa Giron and the nearby museum dedicated to the infamous Bay of Pigs invasion, where a US supported attack by Cuban exiles failed to overthrow the Communist regime. Our journey then skirts the edge of the wooded Escambray mountains, hugging the coastline with views over the sparkling turquoise waters and arrive, where we will stay in homestays 'casas particulares' in the beautiful Spanish colonial town of Trinidad.



Accommodation: Casa Particulares - Trinidad (or similar)



Simple Casas Particulares



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

DAY 4 - Explore Trinidad's colonial centre; free afternoon

This morning we wander through the old centre of Trinidad. In the early 19th century French settlers, fleeing a slave revolt in Haiti, landed and started to grow sugar cane in the Valle de Los Ingenios. This crop generated considerable wealth and consequently the town had to be regularly defended from pirates. The street layout is said to be deliberately complicated so as to confuse them. This afternoon is free to relax on nearby Playa Ancon, or continue to wander through Trinidad's lovely colonial streets: a paradise for photographers. Alternatively you may wish to take an excursion to Cayo Las Iguanas, to snorkel and relax however this is a full day excursion and will cut short your time in Trinidad.



Accommodation: Casa Particulares - Trinidad (or similar)



Simple Casas Particulares



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

DAY 5 - Walk through the tropical forests of Topes de Collantes

This morning we drive beside the turquoise waters of the Caribbean on our right, before taking a short drive on steep, switch-back roads which leads us into the densely wooded Escambray Mountains, to the Topes de Collantes nature reserve. We board an open-sided 4WD truck which takes us deeper into the reserve, then set off on foot through the forests with our naturalist guide. Our trail

takes us along a ridge with panoramic views on all sides, then into a valley cut deep by the Guayanara River. Our guide will point out the rich and varied flora and fauna along the way, including the rare Cuban trogon, Cuba's national bird, whose red, white and blue plumage mirrors the national flag. After a walk of around 3 to 4 hours we arrive at our hacienda, set in a beautiful valley. Lying alongside a river with bathing pools, Hacienda de Gallega is a converted farmstead with a dining area, a bar, simple toilet and shower facilities and some flat terraces where our tents will be set up. Surrounded by beautifully tended flowerbeds and the forests of Topes de Collantes, this is a wonderfully relaxing and peaceful place to stay. After lunch there's the chance to walk along the river to the Salto de Rocio waterfall, a 3 hour round trip, through an area rich with trogons, hummingbirds and woodpeckers. Close to the waterfall there are rockpools where we can swim and - for the intrepid - swing out Tarzan-style on a liana overhanging the deepest pool. In the evening we eat a wholesome dinner at the hacienda then settle down to sleep overnight in our tents. Generous 2-man tents are provided along with foam mattresses and blankets, but we recommend you bring your own sleeping bag or at least a sleeping sheet. If you prefer you can sleep out on the verandahs at the hacienda, under the eaves, rather than in a tent. Please note you can travel by truck to the hacienda if you prefer not to walk today.



Accommodation: Hacienda Gallega (or similar)



Simple Camping



Meals Provided: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

DAY 6 - Explore more of the national park on foot

A full day in the Escambray Mountains, exploring more of the Topes de Collantes nature reserve. In the morning we drive by truck to the start of our 3 to 4 hour walk. We follow a trail through forests and valleys, past streams and glades with flowers, butterflies and darting hummingbirds. Further on we reach La Batata, a cave through which an underground river gurgles, gently carving out rock pools. The water rarely exceeds 20°C so the swimming is exhilarating here! We walk on until we reach the beautiful, isolated Hacienda Codina, set in a green valley with manicured gardens all around. The traditional hacienda has a pleasant bar and verandah, with rocking chairs to sit back and enjoy the view. We enjoy a leisurely lunch in the dining area, surrounded by colourful flowers and birds, then rest through the heat of the day. Later in the afternoon we explore a short nature trail close to the hacienda, with rare orchids and unusual medicinal plants. At one point the trail actually passes through a cave (Cueva del Altar), emerging on the other side of the hill to beautiful views over the distant Caribbean. Later we have dinner, enjoying another traditional home-cooked meal, before settling down for the night in our tents or again you can choose to sleep on the verandahs of the hacienda. Once again you can skip the walk today and travel to the hacienda by truck if you prefer.



Accommodation: Hacienda Codina (or similar)



Simple Camping



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

DAY 7 - Visit the town of Sancti Spiritus en route to Bayamo

Today after a short ride to the entrance we have a full days drive to Bayamo in South East Cuba. En route we will have a brief stop in Sancti Spiritus for lunch before we continue to Camaguey. We continue towards the beautiful mountains landscapes of the Sierra Maestra to Bayamo. Lying in the Granma Province, this is a region infused with the revolutionary zeal that has been such an integral part of Cuban life since the late 19th century. It was on the beaches of Granma that Fidel landed in December 1956 to start his journey on the long road to freedom, and the mountains inland are scattered with reminders of its revolutionary heritage.



Accommodation: Royalton Hotel (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available

DAY 8 - Walk through the jungle to Castro's rebel headquarters

This morning we will continue further into the Sierra Maestra to Bartolome Maso, a small village lying besides the Rio Yara, amongst the cloud forest landscapes of the Gran Parque Nacional Sierra Maestra, and provides us with an ideal base from which to explore these captivating mountains. On arrival we can either take an invigorating walk or 4WD vehicles up the steep asphalt road to Alto de Naranjo from where we start today's walk (950m). We follow in the famous footsteps of Che, Fidel and the rest of the revolutionary heroes, who for two years fought a protracted guerrilla war amongst these beautiful highlands. For much of 1957 the guerrillas kept on the move, playing a dangerous game of cat and mouse with Batista's troops, as they tried to gain a foothold after the unsuccessful uprising against Batista the previous year. Then in 1958 they set up a permanent base in the foothills of Pico Turquino, Cuba's highest peak. This base of operations came to be known as La Comandancia de La Plata (1000m) and its location deep in the heart of this lush jungle landscape makes it one of the country's most fascinating and authentic experiences. A remarkable testament to the resolve and spirit of the revolutionaries, it captures a snapshot in time of one of the most pivotal periods in Cuba's history, one that was to have worldwide repercussions in later years. It was here that Fidel Castro began to formulate his plans for the future of the country and the site presents us with a captivating glimpse of life during those dangerous and heady days of the late '50s. There is a small museum and press office, a field kitchen and the command centre itself, complete with a fridge with bullet holes. From here we trek back to Alto de Naranjo where you can walk or drive down depending on your energy levels to our accommodation. Total walking time: approx 4 hours.



Accommodation: Villa Santa Domingo (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

DAY 9 - Trek through the Sierra Maestra Mountains to refuge

Today we start with an early drive to Alto de Naranjo where we begin our trek up Pico Turquino (1972m), across the Sierra Maestra. Over the coming days we trek through landscapes that take us from high mountain ridges and through rain forest. Our first day sees us heading east, following the La Plata trail up towards Pico Turquino, crossing landscapes blanketed in pines and mosses, giant ferns and wild orchids to our overnight stop at the Aguada do Joaquim. Please note tonight's accommodation is in basic dorm style rooms. (Your main luggage will be stored at the previous hotel, you will only need to carry the necessary for the trek).



Accommodation: Cabin Joaquin (or similar)



Simple Hut



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

DAY 10 - Ascend Pico Turquino (1972m), Cuba's highest peak

This morning we start our ascent to Pico Turquino (1972m) the highest peak in the country, we will have several rest stops on this climb. If the weather conditions are favourable the views along this section are truly outstanding and at the top of Pico Turquino we can see the bronze bust of Jose Marti, dragged up here by Castro's charismatic mistress, Celia Sanchez in 1952. Marti was the 19th century hero of the Cuban independence movements and a man who to many is little short of a saint. From here we will return to the Aguada do Joaquim where we will spend our second night at the refugio.



Accommodation: Cabin Joaquin (or similar)



Simple Hut



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

DAY 11 - Descend to Alto de Naranjo, explore the city of Santiago

This morning we will continue our descent to Alto de Naranjo (8km) from where we will meet our 4WD vehicles which will drive us to Bartolome Maso from where we will re join our bus and set out to Santiago which has been at the epicentre of revolutionary ideals since the time of Cespedes. Founded by Diego Velazquez de Cuellar in 1514 the city has been at the heart of Cuban culture and history since its inception. Briefly the country's capital, it rose to prominence during the 17th and 18th centuries, with first the arrival of Spanish settlers from Jamaica, then French plantation owners from Haiti. The region saw much of the fighting in both wars for independence and it was in Santiago that success against Batista's forces was finally, and very publicly, acknowledged by Fidel Castro on January 1st 1959. Little wonder then that the city has earned itself the moniker of Hero City of the Republic of Cuba. The city itself is an eclectic mix of Cuban life. Its colonial architecture glimmers in attractive shades of pastel, whilst its Afro-Caribbean mix affords it the unmistakable vibrancy of a true city of the revolution. This afternoon we will take a tour of Santiago city, taking in the Plaza de la Revolucion with it's fine monument to the heroes of the Independence wars and the remarkable cemetery where independence hero José Martí is buried, the Santa Ifigenia cemetery. At the Moncada Barracks we visit the site of Castro's unsuccessful attempt to instigate a general uprising against Batista, an attempt that saw him tried and imprisoned.



Accommodation: Casagranda Hotel (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

DAY 12 - Drive to the provincial capital Camaguey; free afternoon

This morning we head back north to the city of Camaguey. On arrival you may wish to take a city tour on one of the local bicitaxi's and we also recommend a visit to the bustling farmers market.



Accommodation: Colon Hotel (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

DAY 13 - Visit Che Guevara's Mausoleum en route to Havana

This morning we will start on a full days drive to Havana, stopping on route at Santa Clara to visit Che's Mausoleum, one of Cuba's most revolutionary landmarks. We will then continue to Havana where we will enjoy a free evening to enjoy the vibrant night life of Havana Vieja.



Accommodation: Sevilla Hotel (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Swimming pool available



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

DAY 14 - Walk in Las Terrazas nature reserve, west of Havana

This morning we transfer to Las Terrazas perched on the edge of the Unesco Reserva Biosfera Sierra del Rosario. This entire region is a testament to reforestation, taking an area that has been ravaged by fire and agricultural incompetence and turning it into a bio reserve of staggering diversity. In Las Terrazas we discover some of Cuba's most diverse and verdant natural landscapes, where we have time to wander through tropical forest and swim in jungle waterfalls. We will have an included lunch here before a free afternoon to relax and explore further.



Accommodation: Sevilla Hotel (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Swimming pool available



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast & Lunch

DAY 15 - Tour ends in Havana

Our tour ends in Havana after breakfast, although clients travelling back on the group flight to London will have the day free before transferring to the airport later this afternoon.



Meals Provided: Breakfast

Walking and Trekking information

DAILY DISTANCES

Day 5	12km	5km
Day 6	8km	1.5km
Day 7		
Day 8	6km	
Day 9	8km	
Day 10	10km	
Day 11	8km	
Day 12		
Day 13		
Day 14	6km	

Optional Walks

Walking grade

Moderate

Trek details

Walks on 7 days for between 2 and 5 hours each day. The walking is mainly moderate with one challenging day ascending Pico Turquino. Although walking distances are not particularly far, heat is a factor to consider, especially in the summer. Maximum altitude 1972m.



What's included?



Included meals

Breakfast: 14
Lunch: 6
Dinner: 5



Transport

Bus
Truck



Trip staff

Explore Tour Leader
Driver(s)
Local Guide(s)



Accommodation

2 nights simple camping
2 nights simple casas particulares
8 nights standard hotel
2 nights simple hut

Trip information

Country information

Holidays to Cuba

Climate

The dry season is from November to April. Average temperatures are 22-26C. Though the sky is often cloudless during the dry season, cold wet snaps do come in from North America especially in Dec and Jan, when the temperatures can drop to as low as 5C at night. From May to October there are normally fine mornings and clear evenings, afternoon rains tend to be short & heavy. Temperatures are hot and humid.

Time difference to GMT

-5

Plugs

2 Pin Flat and 2 Pin Round

Religion

60% Catholic

Language

Spanish

Budgeting and packing

Optional activities

Havana - Museo de la Ciudad CUC3, CUC8 with guide; Museo de la Revolucion & Arte Colonial CUC8 each, CUC10 with guide; Rum museum CUC7, CUC10 with guide. Trinidad - Cayo Las Iguanas Boat Excursion CUC60 this is a full day so will shorten your time for Trinidad tour) plus transport 10CUC per taxi each way; Excursion to Playa Ancon CUC10 per taxi each way; Salsa classes CUC10. Comandancia - Use of camera CUC5 and video CUC10.

Clothing

Include light cotton clothing plus something warmer for the evenings in the hills when it can get cool. A light fleece would be useful except Dec-Jan when a heavier fleece and waterproof are recommended. An umbrella is useful in the rainy season. Please note it can be a lot cooler in the mountains particularly at night so also bring some warmer clothes for trekking.

Footwear

Bring comfortable walking boots, and shoes and trainers or sandals for relaxing. We suggest that on international flights you either carry your walking boots in your hand luggage or wear them. Should your luggage be lost or delayed, your well broken-in boots are the one thing that are irreplaceable.

Luggage

20kg

Luggage: On tour

Bring one main piece of luggage, and a soft holdall and a good-sized daypack for the trek (at least 25-30 litres). On the trek mules will carry the food and cooking equipment for our overnight on the mountain. Normally there will be enough mules to carry your sleeping bags but in the event that not enough mules are available it may be necessary for members of the group to carry their own overnight kit (including sleeping bag). So please make sure your daypack is large enough to carry your sleeping bag, a lightweight waterproof, water, fleece and a toothbrush. Your main luggage will stay with the driver whilst you do the treks.

Equipment

A torch (with spare batteries and bulb), filter water bottle, travel pillow, towel, sunblock, pocket knife, insect repellent, sunglasses, sun hat and swimgear. We highly recommend a walking pole. A 2-season (temperature 0°C to 5°C) sleeping bag is essential for the two night stay in the haciendas (mattresses are provided). Due to the limited availability of bedding (and other goods) in Cuba, the bedding provided in Topes may not be up to the standards you are used to. Accordingly, we strongly recommend you take your own sleeping bag for these night's stay. You may also wish to bring your own mask and snorkel (see day 4). Camera equipment is not available to buy in Cuba. In Cuba, food is still rationed. Many food products are controlled so therefore it can be quite difficult for restaurants to offer a varied menu. Vegetarian meals can be quite basic. We recommend you take out with you energy bars and snacks as these are hard to find in Cuba.

Tipping

Explore leader

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

Local crew

Although entirely voluntary, tipping is a recognized part of life in this region of the world. Some local staff will look to members of the group for personal recognition of particular services provided. In order to make things easier for you, the Explore Leader may organise a group's tips kitty and if this is the case, they will account for it throughout the trip. Accordingly you should allow approx. CUC40 for gratuities for local staff. 10% is expected in restaurants.

Country Information

Holidays to Cuba

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.

Dinner price
£12.00-15.00

Beer price
£2

Water price
£1.5

Foreign Exchange

Local currency
Cuban Convertible Peso (CUC).

Recommended Currency For Exchange
US dollars are no longer accepted in shops and other businesses, tourists and Cubans exchanging dollars will have to pay a 20% commission. We recommend you take clean Euro, Canadian dollars or Sterling cash as these are easier to exchange. Please note that Scottish Pounds are not accepted in Cuba.

Where To Exchange
Your Tour Leader will advise you on arrival.

ATM Availability
Available in major towns. Always have some cash as back-up as they are not always reliable

Credit Card Acceptance
Please note credit and debit cards associated with American Banks are not accepted. Credit cards are useful and can be used in many places, but may be subject to a 10% service charge

Travellers Cheques
We do not recommend Travellers Cheques. Amex Travellers Cheques are not accepted.

Transport, Accommodation & Meals

Transport Information

Bus, Truck

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.

Accommodation and service levels in Cuba have improved in recent years but there is an ongoing trade embargo and lack of investment in infrastructure. Accommodation can be basic, particularly in some rural areas, occasionally with unreliable water and electricity supply. Service levels in government hotels, shops and restaurants are generally poor as this is not a service-oriented western culture. Of course, this is all part of seeing the 'real Cuba' and while we think you'll be pleasantly surprised by most of the hotels we use, you should be prepared for simply furnished rooms, some out-dated furniture and varying levels of service. Most of the hotels do have air conditioning and en-suite facilities. Casas particulares - This is a Spanish term meaning private accommodation or homestay in Cuba. Staying in a casa offers the visitor a unique opportunity to experience Cuban hospitality in local accommodation adapted for tourism. The number of rooms, quality, facilities and access to other areas of the house such as the living room varies massively but as a general rule the majority of Casas are clean, basic, centrally located and can host only a handful of guests. Casas are generally run by the owner and members of the family that live there and the standard of English spoken will vary from zero to fluent, which is a good opportunity for you to practice your Spanish. Virtually all of the rooms have private facilities but on rare occasions it may be necessary to share. Your Explore Leader will coordinate accommodation arrangements on the trip. The mountain refuge on Pico Turquino is very simple dormitory style accommodation, shared with other people also climbing the mountain. Facilities are basic and water for washing is limited, so it is recommended to bring wet wipes and hand sanitiser with you. You may also wish to bring snacks as there is little opportunity to purchase extra food.

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](#)

Visa Information

Cuba: Visas or Tourist cards are required by all nationalities travelling to Cuba. Explore can only supply the Cuban Tourist Cards to citizens of the EU, Canada, Australia and New Zealand who are resident in the UK. This currently costs £15. Please contact Explore or your Travel Agent to arrange this service and we will send your tourist card with your final documentation. Alternatively they can be obtained directly through Cuban embassies and consulates. Other nationalities should consult the relevant consulate. Due to US Treasury Department Regulations we are unable to accept bookings from US passport holders. These Regulations set out different categories under which it is possible for US citizens to travel to Cuba; our trips do not fall under any of the permissible categories. As a tour operator we have an obligation to follow legal procedures, and as such we are unable to sell our trips to US passport holders. Travelling for tourism reasons directly from the USA to Cuba isn't allowed under US law. The law applies to US nationals and all foreign nationals who are either resident in the USA, or travelling through the USA en route to Cuba. Those travelling on direct flights between the UK and Cuba, or via other countries excluding the USA, are unaffected by this US legislation. You should confirm all visa related questions with the relevant Embassy prior to departure. Canada: An electronic travel authorisation (ETA) is required by British citizens transiting via Canada. For more information see the official Canadian government website: <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/visit/eta.asp> Other nationalities should consult their local embassy or consular office.

If you do require assistance in obtaining a visa then you may consider applying through Explore's recommended visa service in the UK, Travcour. See www.travcour.com 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.

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.

Holidays to Cuba

Vaccinations

Nothing compulsory, but we recommend protection against typhoid, tetanus, TB, infectious hepatitis and polio. Please consult your travel clinic for the latest advice on Malaria, Dengue and Zika Virus. Please take preventative measures to avoid mosquito bites - these include mosquito repellent as well as long trousers and long sleeve shirts to cover up when necessary. Please note many countries in Central America, South America and the Caribbean require a yellow fever vaccination certificates if travelling from infected areas. A detailed list of these countries can be found on the NaTHNaC website - <http://travelhealthpro.org.uk/countries>. Also on the NaTHNaC site there is a list of Countries (and specific areas within a country) which are at risk of infection and a vaccination is therefore 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.