

EXPLORE!



Adventures in Patagonia and Trelew Extension

ARGENTINA, CHILE - TRIP CODE PAT

DISCOVERY

DAYS

17

PRICE FROM

Call us

FLIGHTS

NOT

INCLUDED

Why book this trip?

Patagonia is home to some of the most spectacular landscapes on earth. On this trip through Argentina and Chile, we walk among the glacial lakes and mountain ranges of Torres del Paine National Park, discover the captivating city of Buenos Aires and admire views of the awe-inspiring Perito Moreno Glacier. Along the way we visit Ushuaia - the world's southernmost city, and enjoy walks through the spectacular scenery of Los Glaciares National Park.



INCLUDED MEALS
Breakfast: 16



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



TRANSPORT
Bus
Ferry
Flight



ACCOMMODATION
16 nights standard
hotel



TRIP PACE:
Moderate



GROUP SIZE:
12 - 18

Itinerary

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

DAY 1 - Join tour in Buenos Aires

Join tour Buenos Aires and check-in to our hotel. Here we find ourselves in the midst of Argentina's vibrant capital, located on the southern shores of the Rio de la Plata.

Since its founding by Pedro de Mendoza in 1536 the city has thrived on trade and its vibrant streets are filled with an eclectic mix of European architectural styles, with

Spanish, French and Italian classicism rubbing shoulders with remnants of Victorian grandeur. Gaining independence from its Spanish overlords in 1816 the city grew to

rival the great cities of Europe, its wide avenues and elegant squares earning it the title of the Paris of the South.



ACCOMMODATION:
Hotel Waldorf (or similar)



Grade: Standard Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



DAY 2 - In Buenos Aires; tour of the Argentinian capital

Today we will take a tour of the city, exploring the major landmarks around the Plaza de Mayo, site of the famous mass demonstrations by supporters of Juan Domingo Peron in 1945, organised by his wife Eva. We'll also visit the elaborate mausoleums of the famous Recoleta Cemetery, the final resting place of some of Argentina's most revered figures, including Eva Peron herself. Our tour will also take us via Palermo Park and the colourful vibrancy of La Caminito in the La Boca district of the city. Settled originally by Italian migrants, the area is famed for its colourful houses and lively street performers. You can even come across the tango being performed on some street corners,

highlighting the city's connection with this most Latin of dances. This evening we have an opportunity to enjoy something of Buenos Aires' dazzling nightlife and soak

up the pulsating rhythms of one of South America's most captivating cities.



ACCOMMODATION:
Hotel Waldorf (or similar)



Grade: Standard Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

DAY 3 - Fly to Ushuaia; free afternoon to explore

Today we transfer to the airport for the flight to Ushuaia, the world's southernmost city, spectacularly located on the Island of Tierra del Fuego at the very tip of the South American continent. Depending on the flight times, you may be departing in the very early hours for your internal flight. Beyond this remote port lies the Beagle Channel and then the open waters of The Drake Passage, where the deep rich waters of the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans converge amidst some of the most challenging seas on earth. This afternoon is free, flight time permitting. You may explore this remarkable city at the end of the earth and visit the Maritime Museum, housed in what was once the prison, to learn a little something about the harsh realities of life on these unforgiving oceans. Alternatively you can take a half day trip out into the Beagle Channel itself to experience a little something of the power and majesty of these southern oceans or visit Harberton Estancia to see the Penguins. A trip to the nearby Glacier Martial affords some superb views out across the Beagle Channel to the Chilean islands beyond (weather permitting). NB - depending on the flight times to Ushuaia breakfast will be taken either at the hotel in Buenos Aires or in flight.

The optional excursion to see the penguins is often very busy, and in peak times we may pre-reserve spaces for the group. If we are holding spaces, your Tour Leader will ask people to decide, book and pay shortly after your first briefing on Day 2 of the trip.



ACCOMMODATION:
Villa Brescia Hotel (or similar)



Grade: Standard Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

DAY 4 - Walks in Tierra del Fuego National Park

Tierra del Fuego translates as the Land of Fires and today we have time to explore the nearby national park. Separated from Patagonia by the waters of the Magellan Strait, Tierra del Fuego is a landscape of lakes, forest and tundra, set beneath an imposing backdrop of ragged mountain peaks. This morning we take a forest trail to Lapataia Bay, taking in the expansive views and hopefully coming across some of the abundant wildlife in the area. These peaks and valleys, filled with Lenga and Guindo trees which provide a rich haven for Patagonian grey foxes and condors. After lunch we return to Ushuaia and have a free afternoon to further explore the area.



ACCOMMODATION:
Villa Brescia Hotel (or similar)



Grade: Standard Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

DAY 5 - Bus and ferry to Punta Arenas

After breakfast this morning we depart by public bus and spend our day travelling across Tierra del Fuego, crossing the Magellan Strait by ferry and entering Chile, to complete our journey to Punta Arenas later this afternoon. One of the largest maritime settlements in the region and the first Chilean settlement along the waters of the Magellan Strait, Punta Arenas was founded in the mid 19th century, beginning its

life as a penal colony and growing rich on sheep ranching and (before the opening of the Panama Canal) the vital facilities that it offered to shipping traversing the dangerous routes through the southern oceans. Tonight we will have a chance to enjoy some local specialities, such as king crab, and perhaps sampling some of the excellent Chilean wines before retiring for the evening.



ACCOMMODATION:
Hotel Savoy (or similar)

Grade: Standard Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

DAY 6 - Drive to Torres del Paine National Park

A landscape of rugged mountains, turquoise coloured glacial lakes and spectacular wildlife, the majestic vistas of Chilean Patagonia are some of the most scenic and environmentally diverse regions on the planet. Travelling north across the Patagonian steppe, with its desolate rolling plains and views of the peaks of the Cordillera in the distance, we head first for the city of Puerto Natales, our gateway into the sumptuous landscapes of the Torres del Paine National Park. Founded in 1911 this southerly coastal town is a shipping port and a transport hub for almost everyone heading for the Paine Park and in fine weather the cafes are filled with travellers and crowds gathering for the big event - the arrival of the Navimag boat from Puerto Montt. After a brief stop in the town we continue towards the magnificent landscapes of the park, surely one of the most beautiful natural vistas on earth and a place once described by Alberto de Agostini as one of the most spectacular sights that the human imagination can conceive. Blessed with an abundance of natural wonders, the 934 square miles of land was turned into national park in 1959 and takes its name from the Tehuelche Indian word payne

meaning blue, apt acknowledgment of the striking turquoise lakes that abound in this astonishing place. Our dramatic drive takes us via the Milodon Cave to our accommodation in Torres del Paine.



ACCOMMODATION:
Cabanas Del Paine (or similar)

Grade: Standard Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

DAY 7 - Discover Torres del Paine National Park on foot

Included in the trip is a full day of fairly easy hiking and lookout points, as we don our walking boots and take on a comfortable 8km wildlife hike from Lake Sarmiento to the Laguna Amarga. At first the area seems barren but it is home to a wide variety of flora and fauna. It's not unusual to see large numbers of guanacos here, as well as black-necked swans, upland geese and pink flamingos. We may even be fortunate enough to spot condors, or even the elusive puma. There are also more than 20 sites of ancient cliff paintings approximately 6000 years old along the trail. We continue by vehicle to the Cascada Paine, a stunningly situated falls under the backdrop of the jagged peaks of the Torres from where we hike to the Blue Lagoon for amazing views of the Torre Massif.

For those who prefer something more challenging, you have the option of undertaking the 22km trek to the base of the Torres del Paine. The hike culminates in one of the most impressive lookouts in the park, over the spectacular Torres - imposing pinnacles of sharp granite that rise up over 2600m to pierce the sky. The entire hike is full of breathtaking panoramas as you pass by glacial lakes, river valleys and mountain forest. If you would like to undertake this trek, your Explore Leader will need to know by day 2 of the trip, in order to ensure that a guide is in place for you. Please also note that the Torres hike is not included, whereas the day exploration is.



ACCOMMODATION:
Cabanas Del Paine (or similar)



Grade: Standard Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

DAY 8 - In Torres del Paine National Park; optional boat trip

On our second day in Torres del Paine, we will start the day with a visit to a viewpoint where we will enjoy stunning panoramas of Lake Pehoe. Next, we will head to Mirador Cuernos where we will see views of the Valle del Frances (approximately 2 hours walk). In the afternoon, there is the opportunity to take an optional zodiac trip on the Serrano River to witness the Serrano Glacier. For those not interested in the boat trip, other options include walking to the Claudio Lagoon or to the Nuria river. (both walks are approximately 2 hours).



ACCOMMODATION:
Cabanas Del Paine (or similar)



Grade: Standard Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

DAY 9 - Travel to Calafate

After breakfast we depart for the Argentinean border at Cerro Castillo, crossing the vastness of an empty, treeless plateau, where the only signs of life are the occasional estancia sheltering behind a windbreak of rare trees. Our destination is Calafate, situated on the southern shores of Lago Argentino, an unassuming little community that has been declared the national capital of the glacier region and the gateway to Los Glaciares National Park (approximately 6 hours drive).



ACCOMMODATION:
Hainen (or similar)



Grade: Standard Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

DAY 10 - Full day visit to Perito Moreno Glacier

Today we have a full day visit to the awe-inspiring Perito Mereno Glacier, a highlight which ranks as one of South America's most magnificent sights and arguably one of the world's greatest spectacles. Fed by the vast expanse of the Southern Patagonian Ice Field, the glacier covers some 250 sq km and presents us with an impressive list of statistics. It stretches of over 30km and at its deepest point is over 700m thick. It is advancing at a rate of 700 metres per year, but is estimated to calve off great chunks at probably the same rate, meaning that it has remained pretty much stationary for nearly a century. All in all it is a

natural masterpiece of quite spectacular majesty. Whilst at the glacier, there will be the chance to either trek on the ice (an age limit of 65 years applies due to National Park regulations) or take a boat ride to get closer to the glacier face.



ACCOMMODATION:
Hainen (or similar)



Grade: Standard Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

DAY 11 - Drive to El Chalten; optional walks in the Huemul reserve

Today we drive to the picturesque town of Chalten (approximately 3 hours), lying at the confluence of the De las Vueltas and Fitzroy Rivers in Los Glaciares National Park. Arriving at approximately 11am we will have lunch before checking in, the afternoon is free to explore the town and its surrounding trails. You will have the option to visit the Huemul reservation, a private pristine reserve 16kms from Chalten, with numerous trails to explore. Although you don't get the spectacular views that you have come to expect from Torres, the park is beautiful in its solitude and is home to a diverse number of species including condors, foxes and the magellanic woodpecker. Alternatively you may wish to take a trip to Lago Del Desierto; during this 8 hour trip you will enjoy a scenic drive to the lake, followed by a short sail across the lake and a hike up to the Vespignani Glacier lookout.



ACCOMMODATION:
Kalenshen Hotel El Chalten (or similar)



Grade: Standard Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



SWIMMING POOL AVAILABLE





MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

DAY 12 - Hikes in the El Chalten area

Over the next day and a half we have the opportunity to explore the stunning Fitzroy Massif. Today you may choose to take the option to set out with a local guide, weather permitting, to cover the distance to the base of Fitzroy Mountain, whose unmistakable summit is almost permanently covered in cloud, a phenomenon that was believed to be smoke by the indigenous Tehuelche who named it Chalten (Smokey mountain). The mountain reaches a height of some 3405m and its forests and slopes are home to a unique array of wildlife, including the elusive huemul, a small deer and the majestic (and far from small) condor, one of the largest land birds on the planet. The scale and grandeur of this setting, where the glaciers seem to hang suspended between the jagged peaks, makes this walk a truly rewarding excursion and the return journey will take us some 8-9 hours (approx. 21km). Please note this walk is moderate to challenging due to the distance covered and the type of terrain, there are other shorter walks available on self-guided trails should you prefer or you may take the time instead to relax around the town of Chalten and its stunning surrounds.



ACCOMMODATION:
Kalenshen Hotel El Chalten (or similar)



Grade: Standard Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



SWIMMING POOL AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

DAY 13 - Free morning; fly to Buenos Aires

This morning is left free to further explore the area, and there are a number of short walks that you could undertake, such as the 45min walk to the condor lookout, or the 2 hour (6km) easy walk to the Chorrillo del Salto waterfall. After making the most of our final time in these beautiful surroundings, we fly back to Buenos Aires this afternoon.

Please note that on the 24th March 2018 departure, we will be departing Chalten in the morning, arriving into Buenos Aires in the early afternoon. We'll have the whole afternoon free to explore the neighbourhoods of the capital city.



ACCOMMODATION:
Hotel Waldorf (or similar)



Grade: Standard Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

DAY 14 - Fly Trelew

Today you fly (unescorted) to Trelew. Situated in the northwest of Argentinean Patagonia, on the Chubut River, the town can trace its Celtic routes back to the 1860s, when this small community was established by Captain Sir Love Jones-Parry and Lewis Jones. Today it provides the ideal base from which to explore the UNESCO World Heritage Site of the Valdes Peninsula and can boast the distinction of being one of the only places outside of Wales where the annual Eisteddfod is performed. Please note while staying in Trelew transfers and excursions are not in a private vehicle but may be shared with others.



ACCOMMODATION:
Libertador Hotel (or similar)



Grade: Standard Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

DAY 15 - Full day discovering the Valdes Peninsula wildlife

A UNESCO site of some significance for the conservation of marine mammals, the Valdes Peninsula covers over 3600 square kilometres of salt lakes and coastline that provides vital breeding grounds for southern elephant seals, southern sea lions and the endangered southern right whale. These rich Atlantic waters are also the hunting ground of orcas, which have developed a unique strategy that sees them beaching themselves on the barren shores to take full advantage of the breeding colonies of seals

occupying the rocky peninsula. Away from the waters the area is also populated by large numbers of rheas and guanacos, as well as over 180 species of birds, including the Antarctic pigeon. Today we take a full day trip visiting the reserve and its museum, before continuing by bus to Puerto Piramides a small village lying on the Golfo Nuevo where the whales come each spring to breed. In October and November it may be possible to take a boat trip into the bay for a close-up view of the whales basking and diving amongst the sheltered waters of the bay (optional excursion, dependent on local weather conditions). From here we continue along the coast to Caleta Valdes to view some colonies of elephant seals en route back to Trelew. You may wish to add on the optional visit to the Estancia San Lorenzo - this excursion would be added onto your included Valdez Excursion. This needs to be pre arranged the day before.



ACCOMMODATION:
Libertador Hotel (or similar)



Grade: Standard Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

DAY 16 - Optional Punta Tombo penguin visit, fly back to Buenos Aires

This morning is left free. You have the option to visit Punta Tombo, before your return flight to Buenos Aires



ACCOMMODATION:
Hotel Waldorf (or similar)



Grade: Standard Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

DAY 17 - Trip ends Buenos Aires

Our trip ends this morning in Buenos Aires.



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

Trip information

Country information

Argentina

Climate

Argentina has a climate that ranges from subtropical in the north to cold in the temperate south. The Andes has erratic rainfall and flash floods from December to May. From June to September spring like sunny days temper the cold nights.

Time difference to GMT

-3

Plugs

3 Pin Flat

Religion

Predominantly Roman Catholic.

Language

Spanish is the main language throughout this region, along with a number of indigenous dialects, of

Chile

Climate

The best time to visit is spring (Sept-Nov) and autumn (March- April). Between June and September the heat in the northern part of the country is less intense. Remember rain can fall at any time of the year and the weather is changeable in the mountains. Easter Island has a tropical climate so is likely to be quite hot and humid. It can also rain there in the evenings and become chilly.

Time difference to GMT

-4

Plugs

2 Pin Round

Religion

Predominantly Roman Catholic.

Language

Spanish, Aymara, Rapanui.

Budgeting and packing

Optional 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.

A selection of optional activities are listed below to help you budget for your adventure. Whilst the basic tour price you pay before you travel includes a great selection of highlights, we have also built in free time to allow you the flexibility to choose from a carefully selected range of additional excursions and activities, or take time to relax, the choice is yours.

Argentina is undeniably an expensive destination to visit, and the costs of these optional excursions do show that. However, please remember that at certain destinations along the way there may be several options to choose from and it may not be possible to fit all the activities in.

Day 2 or Day 13: Buenos Aires - Tango Show/Dinner US\$ 120, without dinner US\$ 70;

Day 3: Ushuaia - Boat excursion on Beagle Channel US\$ 40;

Day 3: Ushuaia - Beagle Channel Catamaran inc. Penguins viewing US\$70;

Day 3: Ushuaia - Estancia Harberton and Isla Martillo US\$152 + US\$22 entrance fee (all boat trips have an additional 20 pesos harbour tax);

Day 3 or 4: Ushuaia - End of the World Museum US\$15;

Day 8: Torres Del Paine - Boat trip to visit Serrano River and glacier US\$ 140;

Day 8: Torres Del Paine - Base Torres trek US\$220 divided by number of hikers;

Day 10: El Calafate - Boat trip to view Perito Moreno glacier US\$23;

Day 10: El Calafate - Perito Moreno Ice Trek (ages 65 and under due to Glaciares National Park regulations) US\$110 without transfers, US\$138 inc. transfers;

Day 11: El Chalten - Viedma Glacier boat trip US\$78;

Day 11: El Chalten - Huemul Reservation (includes Guide, transfers + Entrance Fee) - minimum 2 Pax US\$D 160 per person;

Day 11: El Chalten - Lago Del Desierto and Vespignani Glacier Boat and Hike US\$80;

Day 16: Trelew - Tombo Reserve - US\$82 plus entrance fee US\$20

Optional excursions need to be paid in USD cash (not dispensed by ATMs in Argentina or Chile), although some accept credit card

In Torres del Paine hotel they charge 19% interest on the use of Chilean Pesos.

Clothing

A warm sweater or fleece, good waterproofs and a windproof jacket are all essential. We also recommend bringing waterproof trousers as weather conditions can change suddenly whilst walking. Laundry services are available throughout.

Footwear

Comfortable and sturdy walking boots with good ankle support and tread are essential. Trainers/sandals for relaxing in.

Luggage

15Kg

Luggage: On tour

One main piece of baggage and daypack.

Total allowance for your international flight: 44lb/20kg. Luggage limit for domestic flights is 15kg. You may leave excess luggage at the hotel in Buenos Aires.

Remember you are expected to carry your own luggage so don't overload yourself.

Equipment

Binoculars, torch, water bottle, insect repellent, suncream (at least factor 15), good quality sunglasses and a lipsalve with sun protection and walking poles (if you use them).

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

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 Tour Leaders may organise a group's tips kitty and if this is the case, they will account for it throughout the tour.

Accordingly you should allow approx. US\$ 60 for gratuities for local staff.

Argentina

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	Dinner price	Beer price	Water price
£11	£20	£3-4	£2

Foreign Exchange

Local currency

Peso

Recommended Currency For Exchange

Carry all your funds in US cash NOT Sterling or Travellers Cheques which are more difficult to exchange. We recommend to take a minimum of US\$400-\$500 of your total spending money in cash, in mixed denominations. Notes should be in good condition otherwise they might be difficult to exchange. You may wish to take extra cash as most optional excursions need to be paid in USD cash (not dispensed by ATMs in Argentina or Chile).

Where To Exchange

Your Tour Leader will advise you on arrival.

ATM Availability

Available in Buenos Aires. In Patagonia some cards with Chip and Pin do not work in the ATM machines. Always have some cash as back-up as they are not always reliable

Credit Card Acceptance

Credit cards are useful and can be used in some places, but may be subject to a 10% service charge

Travellers Cheques

Travellers Cheques can be awkward or expensive to change

Chile

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	Dinner price	Beer price	Water price
£13	£20	£3.00 - 4.00	£2

Foreign Exchange

Local currency

Peso.

Recommended Currency For Exchange

Carry all your funds in US cash NOT Sterling. We recommend to take a minimum of US\$400-\$500 of your total spending money in cash for your tour, in mixed denominations. Notes should be in good condition otherwise they might be difficult to exchange.

Where To Exchange

Tour Leader will advise on arrival

ATM Availability

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

Credit Card Acceptance

Credit cards are useful and can be used in many places, but may be subject to a service charge.

Travellers Cheques

Travellers' Cheques can be awkward or expensive to change

Transport, Accommodation & Meals

Transport Information

Bus, Ferry, Flight

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.

Price Guarantee

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 and Passport Information

Please note we require a photocopy of your passport 3 month pre departure.

It is essential that you provide Explore with a photo copy of your passport at the time of booking, as this will be required in order to confirm accommodation.

Argentina: Visas are not required for UK, US, Canadian, Australian and New Zealand citizens.

Please note Australian passport holders will need make a payment called the 'reciprocity fee' in advance of travel to enter Argentina. This currently costs US\$ 100. This payment needs to be made online at <http://www.migraciones.gov.ar/accesible/templates/reciprocidad/reciprocidad.htm> The receipt generated at the time of online payment must be printed and given to local immigration authorities together with your passport.

Chile: Visas are not required for UK, New Zealand, Australian, US and Canadian citizens.

Other nationalities should consult the relevant consulate.

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

USA: (including those in transit) Citizens of the UK, New Zealand, Australia, Canada and passport holders from several EU countries can enter the United States without a visa under the Visa Waiver Program (VWP) - where you apply for an ESTA (Electronic System for Travel Authorisation), which applies if you enter the country by sea or by air. This must be done on line - <https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov> no later than 72 hours prior to travel. Travellers who have not registered before their trip are likely be refused boarding.

You must have an electronic passport with a digital chip containing biometric information about the passport owner. UK passports which are biometric feature a small gold symbol (camera) at the bottom of the front cover.

If you have visited Iraq, Syria, Iran or Sudan since 2011 or are dual nationals of these countries, you cannot travel with an ESTA and instead you will need to apply for a visa from the nearest US Embassy or Consulate. If you are unable to provide a valid visa before boarding flights to the US, or entering via another method, you may not be permitted to travel.

Please note for your ESTA application you will be required to supply Point of Contact information. Explore's USA contact information will be listed on your final documentation which you will receive approximately 3-4 weeks before departure. If you are leaving for the USA before this, please call the Explore team to get this information.(Not necessary if in transit)

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

Canada: An electronic travel authorisation (ETA) is required by British citizens transiting via Canada. For more information see the official Canadian government website:

<http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/visit/eta.asp>

Other nationalities should consult their local embassy or consular office.

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

It is your responsibility to ensure that you are in possession of a full passport, with the correct validity for your chosen destination.

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, Polar, 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. The cost of many of our Polar Voyages will exceed the capped amount covered by standard insurance premiums and you will be required to pay an additional premium to cover the full value of your trip. Please ensure that you are covered for the full amount of your holiday cost, as insufficient cover could invalidate a claim under the policy. 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.

Argentina

Vaccinations

Nothing compulsory, we recommend protection against typhoid, tetanus, polio and hepatitis A. 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. Yellow fever is only recommended for those travelling to Iguazu falls. Please check the latest requirements with your travel clinic or doctor prior to departure. The above is not an exhaustive list. Further information regarding vaccinations and travel health advice can be found by following the NHS and NaTHNaC links at Explore Travel Health and from your local healthcare provider. Visa and vaccination requirements are subject to change and should be confirmed by you before travelling.

Chile

Vaccinations

Nothing compulsory, we recommend protection against typhoid, tetanus, diphtheria, polio and hepatitis A. Please consult your travel clinic for the latest advice on Malaria, Dengue Fever 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. Please check the latest requirements with your travel clinic or doctor prior to departure. The above is not an exhaustive list. Further information regarding vaccinations and travel health advice can be found by following the NHS and NaTHNaC links at Explore Travel Health and from your local healthcare provider. Visa and vaccination requirements are subject to change and should be confirmed by you before travelling.



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