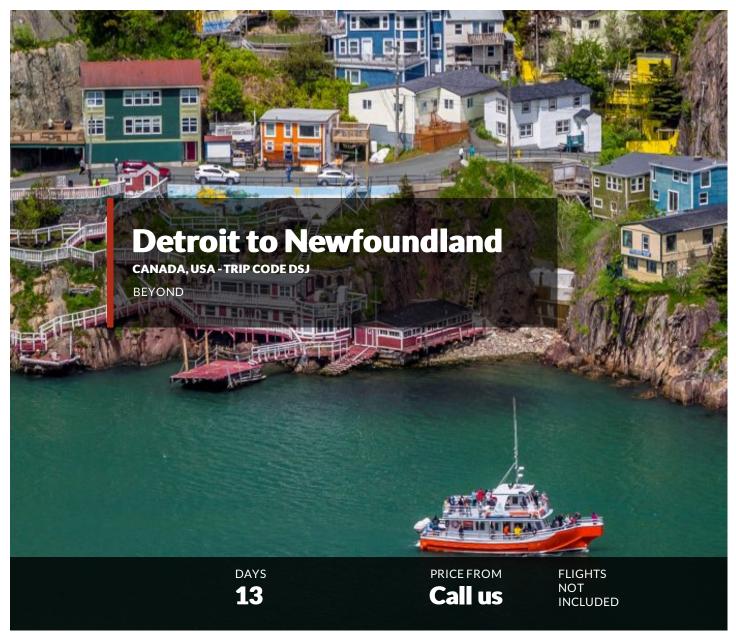
# **EXPLORE!**



# Why book this trip?

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 oncegrand 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.





INCLUDED MEALS Breakfast: 1 Lunch: 1

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





ACCOMMODATION





TRIP PACE: Fullon

**GROUP SIZE:** 8 - 12

Ferry Minibus Taxi Train

# Itinerary

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

# **Trip information**

#### **Country information**

# Canada

#### 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	Plugs	Religion	Language
-7	2 Pin Flat	Roman Catholic, Protestant	English and French

# USA

#### 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 GMTPlugsReligionLanguage-92 Pin FlatChristianEnglish

#### **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.

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.

# Canada

#### 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
£13.00	£20.00	£3.00	£1.10

#### Foreign Exchange

**Local currency** Canadian Dollars.

#### **Recommended Currency For Exchange**

Bring your money in Canadian Dollars or US Dollars cash 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 AvailabilityCredit Card AcceptanceThere are ATMs in the towns.Widely accepted just about everywhere.

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Lunch price	Dinner price	Beer price	Water price
£15	£21	£Varies for different towns, average £4.00	£1.1

#### **Foreign Exchange**

Local currency	Recommended Currency For Exchange	
US Dollars.	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 AvailabilityCredit Card AcceptanceWidely available.Widely accepted just about everywhere.

#### **Transport, Accommodation & Meals**

#### **Transport Information**

Ferry, Minibus, Taxi, Train

#### Accommodation notes

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.

# **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**

USA: On this trip you will enter the USA by land through an authorised border crossing. Entry requirements are as follows -

ESTA - Citizens of the UK, New Zealand, Australia, and passport holders from several EU countries can apply online for an ESTA (Electronic System for Travel Authorisation), here https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov no later than 72 hours prior to travel into the USA. Travellers who have not registered before their trip may be refused entry or held up at the border.

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 Libya, Iran, Iraq, Somalia, Sudan, Syria or Yemen since 01 March 2011 or are dual nationals of these countries, you cannot travel with an ESTA. If you are a citizen of a country not included in the VWP you cannot apply for an ESTA. In both cases, you will instead 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. (This is not necessary if only transitting through the USA)

Canada: Citizens of the UK, New Zealand, Australia and passport holders from several EU countries can enter Canada with an Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA). An electronic travel authorisation (ETA) is required when flying into Canada or transiting via Canada.

For more information and to apply 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.

Please note you must also ensure you get an entry stamp when going through immigration on arrival. In most cases the border agents will provide this stamp automatically but if for any reason they do not provide one, please ensure you request one as you are crossing into the USA via land border and stamped entry will be required.

I-94 - The i94 is a history of entries and exits to the US. You can get this online here for \$6: https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/I94/#/home. Each i94 accessed is only valid for border crossing for 7 days.

Entry requirements for the USA can change regularly, therefore, please ensure you have the most up to

date information before you travel by checking the US embassy website. Visa applications - http://london.usembassy.gov/niv/apply.html.

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.

# Canada

#### Vaccinations

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

# USA

#### Vaccinations

Nothing compulsory, we recommend protection against typhoid, tetanus, diphtheria, polio and hepatitis A. 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.

