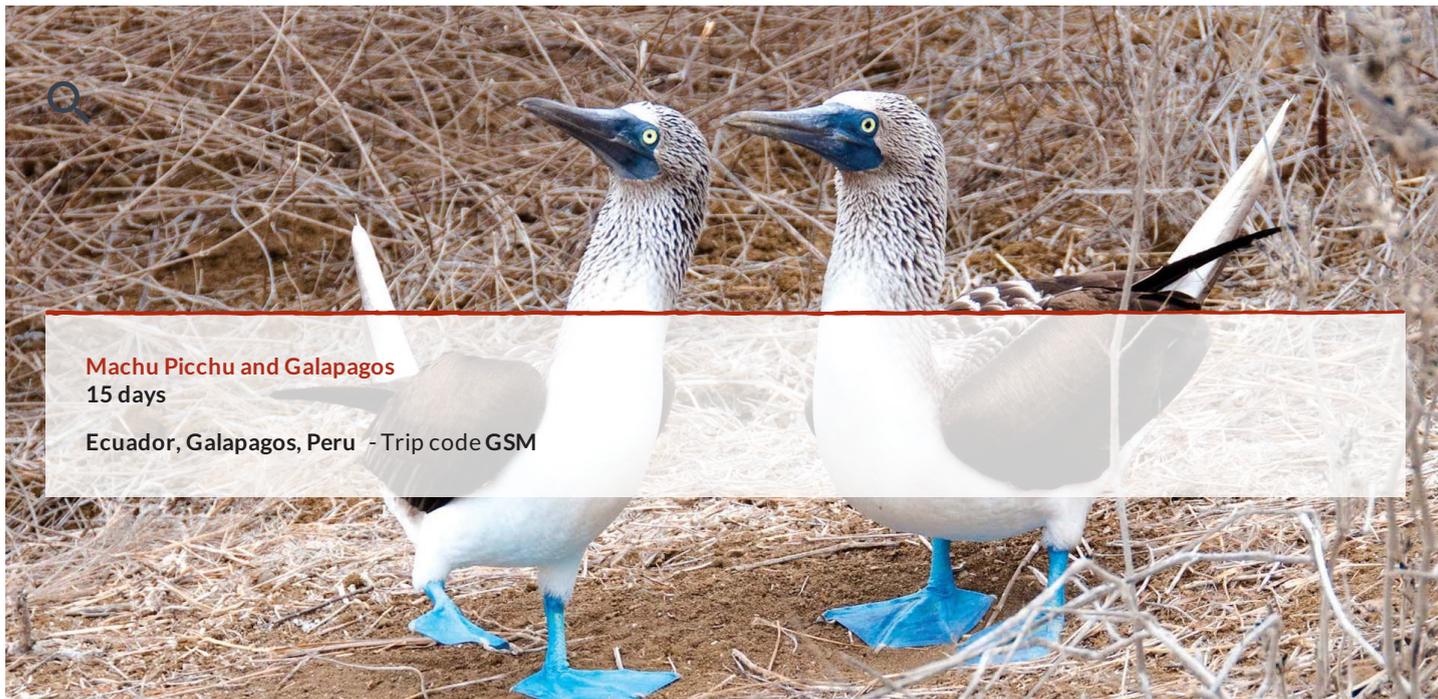


EXPLORE!



Machu Picchu and Galapagos
15 days

Ecuador, Galapagos, Peru - Trip code GSM

Machu Picchu and Galapagos

Two of South America's most iconic destinations are combined in this highlights trip. First discover the spectacular 'lost city' of Machu Picchu, one of the New Seven Wonders of the World. Warm up to the main event by visiting ancient ruins in the Sacred Valley, as well as learning about the still-thriving indigenous cultures in this part of the Andes. Discover some of the colonial history present in the cities of Cusco and Quito, before spending six days exploring one of the best wildlife experiences on Earth; the Galapagos Islands. Search for unique wildlife including giant tortoises, marine iguanas and blue-footed boobies.

Trip highlights

- ★ **Cusco** - Explore the ancient capital city of the Incas
- ★ **Machu Picchu** - Travel by train to the 'lost city', one of the New Seven Wonders of the World
- ★ **Galapagos Islands** - Spend six days getting up close to the remarkable wildlife of Darwin's unique islands
- ★ **Quito** - Explore the majestic Andean colonial capital which boasts UNESCO World Heritage status

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.

TRIP PACE:

Moderate

Moderate pace tours are ideal if you want a holiday which combines exciting activities and experiences with plenty of time to relax and unwind. Typically you'll be active and busy for part of the day but then also have time to rest and recharge your batteries.

GROUP SIZE:

10 - 15

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 Cusco

Arrive Cusco (3400m) and check-in to the hotel.



Accommodation: Prisma Hotel (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: None

DAY 2 - Walking tour of the old Inca capital

The old capital of the Inca Empire survives only in its ruins, imbued with an atmosphere of mystery and grandeur. The Spanish colonial city, with its attractive pink tiled roofs, arcaded plazas and steep winding alleyways, stands upon tremendous Inca foundation stones.

The morning is free to rest and get acclimatised to the altitude.

In the afternoon we take a walking tour of this lovely city to see important Inca and Colonial monuments, such as the Plaza de Armas (main square), the cathedral, the Inca site of Qorikancha and the Inca wall of Hatunrumiyoc with its famous twelve-sided stone. The stone, measuring some 1.5 metres across, has the typical bevelled joints which create the patterns of light and shadow on Inca walls.



Accommodation: Prisma Hotel (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

DAY 3 - Explore the Sacred Valley, train to Aguas Calientes

Today we enjoy a tour of the Sacred Valley of the Incas. We will visit the market town of Pisac, strategically located at the head of the Urubamba Valley. Pisac once controlled the road connecting the Inca Empire with Paucartambo on its eastern borders and the magnificent Inca ruins that once so dominated this valley still occupy the mountainside above the town, providing a worthy match for any of the temples of Machu Picchu. We will also stop at Ollantaytambo. During the Inca Empire it was the royal state of Emperor Pachacuti who conquered the region and built the town as a ceremonial centre. We will visit its majestic fortress.

Late this afternoon we transfer to the railway station to catch the train to Aguas Calientes, the gateway to one of the greatest of all archaeological sites. The train slowly meanders down the valley, following the tumultuous waters of the Urubamba River through a series of rock cut tunnels before emerging at the small town of Aguas Calientes, serenely nestling amidst a lush landscape of cloudforests. This evening there is the chance to soak in the nearby natural hot baths.



Accommodation: Hatun Samay Hotel (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

DAY 4 - Discover the majestic Machu Picchu, return to Cusco

Early this morning we take a public bus up to the mountain complex of Machu Picchu, the fabled 'lost city' of the Incas and probably the most spectacular feat of engineering in ancient America. The existence of this exquisite masterpiece of ancient civilisation remained unknown to the outside world until it was 'discovered' by an American archaeologist, Hiram Bingham in 1911. Temples, stairways, palaces and gabled stone dwellings are scattered everywhere, testifying to the energy and ingenuity of the builders. Not without reason is this site probably the most revered tourist attraction in the Americas; its location alone is dramatic in the extreme, teetering on the saddle of a high mountain peak that towers above the valley below. Built in the mid-15th century by Pachacuti, the city was thought to have been a major agricultural centre for the Incan Empire and its inaccessibility seems to have preserved it from the looters of the intervening years, resulting in the remarkably well-preserved ruins that we see today.

In the afternoon, we return to Cusco, by train to Ollantaytambo and the rest of the way by bus.



Accommodation: Prisma Hotel (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

DAY 5 - Free day in Cusco; optional Sacsayhuaman visit

Today is a free day with a wide choice of things to do including a tour of the South Valley including Tipon, Pikillacta and Andahuayillas.

Alternatively, you may wish to visit some of the outlying Inca sites including Cusco's temple-citadel, Sacsayhuaman which broods high above the town, its huge, zigzagging stone walls broken into 66 sharply projecting angles to catch attackers in a withering crossfire. 20,000 conscripted workers toiled for 90 years to finish it. You will also visit Quenqo, an immense rocky construction, similar to a maze, Pucapucara (red fortress) and Tambomachay (bath of the Incas).

There is also the opportunity to visit Maras and Moray. The amphitheatre-like terracing of Moray is a fascinating spectacle. Some believe the Incas used the terraces to determine the optimal conditions for growing crops of each species.



Accommodation: Prisma Hotel (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

DAY 6 - Fly to Quito

Today we transfer to Cusco Airport and fly via Lima to Quito. Quito is Ecuador's mountain capital and the second highest capital city in Latin America (2850m). One of South America's most beautiful cities, Quito lies in a narrow valley at the foot of the Pichincha Volcano, surrounded by snow-capped mountains and extinct volcanoes.



Accommodation: Hotel Plaza Sucre (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

DAY 7 - Tour the Andean colonial capital

Today we explore Quito's Old Town on a walking tour. The fascinating UNESCO Heritage site of the Old Town, with its rich blend of colonial architecture, imposing churches and bustling local markets, make for a stunning introduction to this most enchanting of regions. We will visit some of the main sites, including the Plaza de la Independencia, the cultural heart of the colonial city, and La Compania Church with its magnificent gilded altars, walls and ceilings. At the church of San Francisco we are introduced to Quito's largest and oldest colonial church, built in 1553.



Accommodation: Hotel Plaza Sucre (or similar)

 Standard Hotel

 Single room available

 Meals Provided: Breakfast

DAY 8 - Fly to the Galapagos

Lying on the Equator, 970km west of the Ecuadorean coast, the Galapagos National Park is a unique collection of islands, formed by volcanoes over hundreds of thousands of years and consists of six main islands, 12 smaller islands as well as over 40 small islets, supporting a distinct and unique flora and fauna, including prehistoric creatures found nowhere else on earth. This desolate and fantastic habitat was discovered in 1535 by Fray Tomas de Berlanga. One of the original designations by him was 'Las Islas Encantadas', the Enchanted Isles. Charles Darwin visited the islands on the Beagle exactly three hundred years later, in 1835. He observed the total isolation of the giant reptiles and other creatures, and this played a substantial part in his formulation of the theory of evolution.

The Galapagos have never been connected with the continent. Gradually, over many hundreds of thousands of years, animals and plants from over the sea somehow migrated there and as time went by they adapted themselves to Galapagos conditions and came to differ more and more from their continental ancestors. Thus many of them are unique: a quarter of the species of shore fish, half of the plants and almost all the reptiles are found nowhere else. In many cases different forms have evolved on the different islands.

Of the extraordinary animals to be found in the Galapagos many are reptiles, such as the great tortoise, large land iguanas, numerous lizards and three species of non-poisonous snakes. There are also several species of turtle, which come ashore to mate. Up to three quarters of a million seabirds flock to the islands, including a third of the world's blue-footed boobies, frigatebirds, pelicans, cormorants, albatross and petrels. Only 35cm tall, the Galapagos penguin can be seen swimming among tropical mangroves, whilst offshore it is common to see dolphins, sea lions and fur seals playing in the water. Fearless though not tame, the extraordinary wildlife can be easily approached and the opportunities for photography are superb.

The Galapagos National Park charges a visitor fee, payable on arrival, which funds park maintenance and supervision in the Galapagos, as well as ecological study, conservation and infrastructure development in Ecuador's other national parks. Entry fees and the funds they generate for the national park system are among measures taken by the Ecuadorian government to protect its natural heritage.

Today we fly to the Galapagos island of Santa Cruz. Santa Cruz is the second largest island in the Galapagos and has the largest population, with Puerto Ayora as its main town. It also boasts the most varied of the islands' vegetation zones: coastal, transition, scalesia, miconia and pampa. We will travel through the highlands, stopping at Los Gemelos (the twins), two volcanic craters. Later, we will visit a ranch where we might see some giant tortoises roaming around. Next we will be transferred to our lodge in the highlands. In the evening, the lodge provides a free transfer to Puerto Ayora which you may wish to take to explore the town or have dinner there.



Accommodation: Casa Natura Galapagos Lodge (or similar)

 Standard Lodge

 Swimming pool available

 Single room available

 Meals Provided: Breakfast

DAY 9 - Sail to Isabela Island

This morning we leave Santa Cruz and journey west by boat, crossing the open waters to nearby Isabela Island where we will spend the next two days. The largest of the Galapagos Islands, Isabela is formed from five volcanoes, of which two are still active. An idyllic paradise of white sand beaches and swaying palms, it is home to the second largest caldera on earth and the highest point in the archipelago. As with Santa Cruz we will base ourselves here, in the small town of Puerto Villamil on the southern coast, and take excursions out around the island.

On arrival we intend to visit the Arnaldo Tupiza breeding centre, approximately a 1.5km walk from Puerto Villamil. The walk itself is a nature experience through the wetlands, where you may see heron, flamingos and many other bird species as well as iguanas, lizards, crabs and other creatures. Once in the centre you will learn an impressive amount about the background of the famous Galapagos turtle, and the centre's aims to restore their numbers and release them back onto the islands.



Accommodation: Hostel Gran Tintorera (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

DAY 10 - Sierra Negra Volcano walk, afternoon snorkelling

Our second day on Isabela affords us the opportunity to explore the island more fully: we will take a walk up the Sierra Negra Volcano. Measuring an impressive 12km, the volcano dominates the southern half of the island. The walk to the top is 3.5 hours return and the views from the top, presenting us with some spectacular views across the island and towards Santiago Island to the northeast, are well worth the effort. This afternoon we may also have the chance for snorkelling at Concha y Perla



Accommodation: Hostel Gran Tintorera (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast & Lunch

DAY 11 - Tintoreras Islets trip

This morning we will take a small boat to the nearby Tintoreras Islets. These islets were formed from the lava flows from volcanoes and are fantastic for viewing wildlife. The bay in front of the islands is home to a colony of white tip sharks. As we walk around we may see a vast array of birdlife and an abundance of marine iguanas (only found in the Galapagos) whilst in the water giant turtles, Galapagos penguins and sea lions may be swimming around. In the afternoon we take the boat back to Santa Cruz Island where we will spend the next three nights.



Accommodation: Casa Natura Galapagos Lodge (or similar)

 Standard Lodge

 Swimming pool available

 Single room available

 Meals Provided: Breakfast

DAY 12 - Visit the turtle nesting ground at Tortuga Bay

This morning we will take a walk to Tortuga Bay (5km return walk) where we have the opportunity to swim at one of the most spectacular beaches in the Galapagos Islands and an important turtle nesting ground.

In the afternoon, we will visit Charles Darwin Research Station, which has been responsible for conservation projects within the islands since 1959 (the centenary of the publication of Darwin's book the Origin of the Species). Here, an exhibition centre displays photos of recent volcanic eruptions, charts outlining geological formations and drawings of the evolutionary development of endemic species. A corral houses adult Galapagos tortoises, and a nursery cares for young tortoises until they are about three years old, when their shells have hardened enough to resist attack from feral dogs. The Research Station is also the training centre for naturalist guides who accompany all visitors and members of the international scientific community often come to study at the station.



Accommodation: Casa Natura Galapagos Lodge (or similar)

 Standard Lodge

 Swimming pool available

 Single room available

 Meals Provided: Breakfast

DAY 13 - Santa Cruz Bay boat tour

The activity for today depends on which departure date you have booked onto. On the March departure we will head out for a morning boat tour around Santa Cruz Bay (approximately 3.5 hours). The boat will take us to 'Loberia', so named for the large sea lion colony where snorkelling is possible not far from these amazing mammals. It is also a good place to spot a variety of multi-coloured fish. During the tour, you may also view sea turtles, marine iguanas, crabs, pelicans and other marine birds.

On the May and October departures you will be taking a full day boat trip to one of the smaller islands of the Galapagos, which will be either Seymour, Bartolome, Santa Fe or Plazas Island depending on the schedule of the yachts departing from Santa Cruz. Depending on the island, we will be seeing sea lions playing in the water just off shore, land iguanas strolling around their land, magnificent red-throated frigate birds, blue footed boobies, swallow-tail gulls or Galapagos penguins. Time permitting we will also have the opportunity for some snorkelling or hiking about the island.



Accommodation: Casa Natura Galapagos Lodge (or similar)

 Standard Lodge



Swimming pool available



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

DAY 14 - Fly back to the mainland

Leaving the Galapagos behind, we fly to Guayaquil today. On arrival the rest of the day is free to explore at your leisure. The largest city in Ecuador and its principal port, Guayaquil is a bustling, lively city with a number of churches and museums you might like to visit. Alternatively you might like to wander through the old district of Las Penas, an area of cobbled streets, painted houses and cafes, where you can sit and watch the world go by.



Accommodation: Hotel Doral (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

DAY 15 - Trip ends in Guayaquil

The trip ends in Guayaquil this morning after breakfast.



Meals Provided: Breakfast



Why book this trip

This tour is ideal for travellers who are interested in both culture and nature. Spend one week exploring the best of Peru and one week discovering the wildlife of the Galapagos, by boat during the day but overnight on terra firma. This will allow you to stay on Santa Cruz and Isabela Islands and experience the Galapagos from a different perspective.

What's included?



Included meals

Breakfast: 14
Lunch: 1



Transport

Bus
Boat
Flight



Trip staff

Explore Tour Leader
Boat Crew
Driver(s)
Local Guide(s)
Naturalist(s)



Accommodation

10 nights standard hotel
4 nights standard lodge

Trip information

Country information

Ecuador

Climate

Temperature ranges are similar all year round. In the highlands: the dry season lasts from June to mid-September. November and December are partially dry. The rainy months are October and from January to May, but showers are short and mostly in the afternoons. Temperatures range from 12°C to 24°C. Nights are cold at altitude (4°C - 10°C). The Coastal Region: from December to May it is hot and wet. From June to November it is generally cool and misty with sudden light showers. Temperatures range from 16°C to 32°C. The Amazon Area: it is humid all year round. Temperatures range from 16°C to 32°C. From April to August the rainfall is heavier. The Galapagos: On the Galapagos, the hot season is January to April with largely sunny days and the possibility of heavy showers; the cool season runs from May to December and is generally more cloudy with much cooler seas. Please note that although it is windier from July to November the sea can be rough at any time of the year. On the mainland the dry season lasts from June to October, though September can be wet.

Time difference to GMT

-5

Plugs

2 Pin Flat

Religion

Roman Catholic

Language

Spanish

Galapagos

Peru

Climate

There is a rainy season from Dec - Mar however on the coast it rarely rains. Jun-Oct is damp and misty, but temperatures never

drop below 10°C. At high altitudes although there are sunny days temperatures can drop dramatically, and conditions can change suddenly.

Time difference to GMT

-5

Plugs

2 Pin Flat

Religion

Catholicism

Language

Spanish

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.

Aguas Calientes - Thermal baths US\$4

Cusco - Half day visit to 4 ruins inc. Sacsayhuaman US\$90; Chinceros, Moray and Maras Salt mines US\$94 (min 3 pers); South Valley excursion US\$80 (min 3 pers)

Snorkel equipment - Snorkel/ Mask and Fins hire - US\$10 per day plus US\$20 deposit; Kayak rental per hour US\$30 for 2 pers.

Clothing

Daytime clothing should be lightweight and loose fitting, but warmer clothing is needed at altitude and at sea, particularly at night, so bring something to wrap up in, including a pair of gloves, hat and scarf. Long-sleeved lightweight clothes are useful for protection against sunburn. Bring a swimsuit, sunhat and a thick sweater or fleece. Lightweight waterproofs are essential.

Footwear

Comfortable walking boots or shoes and trainers or sandals with a good grip. Plastic sandals (not flip flops) are useful for wet landings.

Luggage

20kg

Luggage: On tour

One main piece of luggage and a daypack.

You will need an overnight bag for the two nights on Isabella Island, your main luggage will be stored in your hotel in Santa Cruz.

Equipment

A torch, water bottle, sunglasses, insect repellent, high factor sunscreen, beach towel, waterproof bag for camera, and motion sickness tablets / patches for the boat. Snorkel equipment is available for rent locally, but you may wish to take your own if you're a keen snorkeler.

Tipping

Explore leader

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

Local crew

You should allow US\$40 for the land portion of the trip and US\$70 (\$30 for local guide and \$40 rest of staff) for the Galapagos portion of the trip for tipping.

Local fees

The Galapagos Authorities have introduced the Galapagos Transit Control Card, which each person visiting the Galapagos must have. It costs \$20 and it will be payable before entrance is permitted. Please also note that there is an entrance fee to the Galapagos of US\$100 per person which must be paid individually on arrival in the Galapagos. There is an additional entry fee of US\$10 per person to visit Isabela Island. All these local fees to visit Galapagos are subject to change.

Country Information

Ecuador

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

£10

Dinner price

£13

Beer price

£1.7

Water price

£1.3

Foreign Exchange

Local currency

USDollar.

Recommended Currency For Exchange

Carry all your funds in U.S. Dollar Cash (NOT Sterling, which is almost impossible to change). The US dollar is the currency used in Ecuador. It is advisable to bring some US\$400 - \$500 of your total spending money in cash, in small denomination notes (in good condition). 100US\$ bills are very difficult to use.

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

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

Travellers Cheques

Travellers Cheques can be awkward or expensive to change

Galapagos

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.

Foreign Exchange

Peru

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.

Breakfast price

£4.00 - 7.00

Dinner price

£6.00 - 8.00

Beer price

£2.00 - 4.00

Water price

£1

Foreign Exchange

Local currency

Nuevo Sol

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 for your tour, in mixed denominations. Notes should be in good condition otherwise they might be difficult to exchange.

Where To Exchange

Most major towns - 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

In major restaurants. In some establishments Master card is not accepted.

Travellers Cheques

Travellers Cheques are not always easy to exchange.

Transport, Accommodation & Meals

Transport Information

Bus, Boat, 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

Peru: Visas are not required for UK, New Zealand, Australian, US and Canadian citizens. Other nationalities should consult the relevant consulate. Please note we require a photocopy of your passport 3 month pre departure.

Ecuador: Visas are not required by UK, Australian, New Zealand, US and Canadian citizens. In order for your visa to be granted on arrival, you will be required to show proof of travel insurance valid for the duration of your trip. Please also ensure your passport is stamped with the T3 permit (for 30 or 90 days) on arrival in Ecuador. Other nationalities should consult the relevant consulate. Your passport should be valid for a minimum period of 6 months from the date of entry; this is a strict legal requirement from the Ecuadorean government. Without this minimum validity entry to the country will be denied.

Galapagos Islands: Visas are not required by UK, Australian, New Zealand, US and Canadian citizens. Other nationalities should consult the relevant consulate.

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.

Ecuador

Vaccinations

We recommend protection against malaria, Tetanus, Infectious Hepatitis, Typhoid 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. Yellow fever is only recommended for those travelling east of the Andes (Amazon Extension). 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.

Galapagos

Peru

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. 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.
