

EXPLORE!



DISCOUNTED

New Zealand Explorer

NEW ZEALAND - TRIP CODE NZL

DISCOVERY

Why book this trip?

Combining the best of New Zealand's North and South islands, explore the land of giants and discover jaw-dropping scenery and dramatic landscapes around every corner. Sailing through mist-shrouded fjords, hiking in spectacular glacial valleys and spotting coastal wildlife on the very southern tip of the country, discover a little bit of magic at the other side of the world.

- **Doubtful Sound** - Stay overnight on the Fjordland Navigator boat and wake up surrounded by the pristine nature of this UNESCO heritage site
- **Abel Tasman** - Discover the sparkling blue waters and golden coastline of this beautiful national park, by boat and on foot
- **Hawke's Bay** - Sample authentic New Zealand Sauvignon Blanc in this famous wine-making region



INCLUDED MEALS
Breakfast: 18
Dinner: 2



TRIP STAFF
Explore Tour
Leader / Driver



TRANSPORT
Bus
Boat
Ferry



ACCOMMODATION
1 nights standard
boat
15 nights standard
hotel
2 nights standard
lodge



TRIP PACE:
Full on



GROUP SIZE:
10 - 15

Itinerary

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

DAY 1 - Join trip in Auckland

Our journey begins in Auckland, New Zealand's largest city and a thriving sporting and cultural centre that lies sprawled across a narrow isthmus between the harbours of Waitemata and Manukau. Popularly known as the City of Sails, Auckland is surrounded by volcanic peaks and blessed with a profusion of beaches and museums. The country's most cosmopolitan city, with a rich mix of European, Maori and Pacific Island influences, Auckland is the largest Polynesian city on the planet and on arrival today there's free time to enjoy the city or relax at the hotel.



ACCOMMODATION:
Amora Hotel (or similar)

Grade: Standard Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: NONE

DAY 2 - Explore Auckland; visit Hobbiton and drive to the Bay of Plenty

This morning we take in the delights of Tamaki Drive and Mission Bay, during our tour of the city of Auckland.

Departing in the late morning, our journey today takes us into the heart of North Island and the diverse landscapes of the Waikato region. We visit the Hobbiton movie set at Matamata where some of the original Hobbit holes from the Lord of The Rings still sit amongst the fertile hills that lie in the shadow of the Kaimai Ranges. We will discover the real Middle Earth on the most picturesque private farmland near Matamata in a fascinating two and a half hour guided tour. The set has been completely rebuilt and can be seen as it appeared in the films. A knowledgeable guide will accompany us through the ten-acre site recounting fascinating details of how the Hobbiton set was created. The Hobbit holes, the Mill and other structures created for The Lord of the Rings and The Hobbit films can be viewed. We will then head to Whakatane, a seaside town in the sunny Bay of Plenty.



ACCOMMODATION:

White Island Rendezvous Motel (or similar)

Grade: Standard Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

DAY 3 - Free day in Whakatane; evening Maori banquet

We're free today to discover Whakatane. One activity on offer is a boat trip to White Island, New Zealand's only active marine volcano with an enormous geothermal activity. As most of the volcano is under the water, you can disembark directly onto the crater complex with no climbing necessary. After a fascinating tour, with a bit of luck we may encounter dolphins on the way back to the mainland.

Alternatively, our accommodation for the evening is just a short walk from the town of Whakatane, with its lively shopping district and cafe culture. You could take in an art exhibit at the Whakatane Exhibition centre, hike to the beautiful Wairere Falls or take a short 10 minute taxi ride to a sandy beach.

This evening we attend a traditional Te Po banquet, where we are treated to a ritual Maori welcome. We'll be introduced to the customs and traditions of the local Maori, as well as visiting the Marae (meeting house) before we have a feast prepared in a traditional hangi (underground oven). Normally fish, chicken and plenty of kumara (sweet potato) bake alongside cabbage and other root veg like pumpkin, a method of cooking that has been used by the Maori for thousands of years.



ACCOMMODATION:
White Island Rendezvous Motel (or similar)

Grade: Standard Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST & DINNER

DAY 4 - Drive to Gisborne through the Waioeka Gorge

The road from Whakatane to Gisborne takes us through the remote Waioeka Gorge, a stunning forest-lined road winding past clear rivers and native farmland. There are plenty of stops to visit en route, which will all depend on timings and weather. These might include checking out the views from the Tauranga Suspension Bridge or many of the other rest stops along the river, which all have tracks and paths to follow so that you can stretch your legs along the route. The hikes are easy and well marked, normally varying between 15 and 45 mins.

We arrive at Gisborne in the afternoon, the first part of New Zealand to be sighted by James Cook's deckhand in 1769. Long beaches invite you to take a swim. Alternatively, take the 30 minute climb up Kaiti Hill for views across the city.



ACCOMMODATION:
Emerald Hotel (or similar)

Grade: Standard Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

DAY 5 - Drive to Napier; visit Hawke's Bay vineyard

We'll continue in a southward direction, first past the coast, then over the hills and a gorge to Napier, one of the country's most famous grape-growing areas. En route we visit the vineyards of Hawke's Bay and enjoy an afternoon of fine wine, gourmet cheeses and a tour of two of the area's best wineries. Famed for its Chardonnays and superb reds, the area is home to over 80% of the country's Merlot, Cabernet

Sauvignon and Syrah grapes, and produces some of the richest and most exquisite wines in New Zealand. Our final destination for the day is the engaging town of Napier, lying on the southern edge of Hawke's Bay, whose unique collection of art deco buildings makes it one of the most popular attractions on North Island.



ACCOMMODATION:
Quality Inn (or similar)



Grade: Standard Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

DAY 6 - Free time in Napier; drive to Wellington

In 1931 Napier was destroyed by a massive earthquake that registered 7.9 on the Richter Scale. Following the wholesale destruction of the city, its centre was rebuilt in the popular art deco style of the period, creating a wonderful location to explore. We then head south, towards New Zealand's capital, Wellington, whose engaging mix of culture and art, combined with stunning harbour views and a backdrop of steep hills and forest, makes it one of the country's most captivating cities. On arrival we will have some free time take a wander through Wellington's quirky city streets.



ACCOMMODATION:
West Plaza Hotel (or similar)



Grade: Standard Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

DAY 7 - Free day to explore the capital

This morning you can visit the superb Te Papa National Museum, one of the finest museums in the world, filled with a staggering collection of Maori treasures, artworks and a unique Marae. The rest of the day is left free day to explore the city, with several options for you to do. The top of the cable car, a Wellington icon running from Lambton Quay, gives a great close-up view of the city. From here, you can visit the Observatory and stroll back through Botanic Gardens, extending all the way down to the parliamentary complex. The Parliament's Buildings, including the 'Beehive', are well worth visiting. Apart from its importance as the political centre, the city offers a large cultural choice of museums and art galleries and an abundance of cafes, restaurants and boutique shops, many situated around Cuba Street. You could visit Zealandia and see some of New Zealand's rarest birds, reptiles and insects living wild in their natural environment, including the hihi, tuatara, saddleback, kaka and (at night) little spotted kiwi. Or simply enjoy a leisurely stroll along the harbourside, which is particularly beautiful on a fine day or when lit up in the evening.



ACCOMMODATION:
West Plaza Hotel (or similar)

Grade: Standard Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

DAY 8 - Ferry across the Cook Strait to Picton; drive to Nelson

This morning we cross the Cook Strait and make our way to the bustling port of Picton, at the head of the picturesque Queen Charlotte Sound. On arrival we drive west, following the coastline of the South Island to the town of Nelson. A lively city on New Zealand's northwest coast, Nelson is a haven for hikers, beachgoers and kayaking fans, and is often known as the 'sunshine capital' of the country. Located next to the wine making region of Marlborough, Nelson also has its fair share of wineries as well as being a great starting point for visiting the Abel Tasman National Park, full of golden sandy beaches, rocky outcrops, seals and forest birds. On arrival we are free to explore the city, which is a magnet of artists and craftspeople, and boasts a number of excellent galleries.



ACCOMMODATION:
Harbourside Motor Lodge (or similar)

Grade: Standard Lodge



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

DAY 9 - Explore the Abel Tasman National Park by boat and on foot

Today we join a sailing trip in New Zealand's coastal paradise, the Abel Tasman National Park. Gliding effortlessly through pristine waters while relaxing aboard a catamaran, we'll be surrounded by secluded coves, golden beaches, islands and lush native forest. Either relax on board and enjoy the views, or get involved in the sailing and learn as you go. This boat trip may include other travellers that are not all from the Explore group.

Sailing from Kaiteriteri Beach, we'll stop for a packed lunch (not included, but our Explore Leader will help us to collect snacks and food to bring along) on Anchorage Bay around midday, where we'll also have chance for a swim. In the afternoon, we'll take our three-four hour walk along sandy beaches and through native bush back to Marahau, near the entrance to the park. The walk is flat and easy, and gives us the chance to see some of the park's interior as well as the glorious golden sands.



ACCOMMODATION:
Harbourside Motor Lodge (or similar)



Grade: Standard Lodge



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

DAY 10 - Scenic drive on the Great Coast Road to Hokitika

We have an early start today as we head down the Great Coast Road towards of Hokitika at the mouth of the Hokitika River. This journey takes us on one of the greatest coastal drives in the world, passing through Punakaiki Rocks, where we'll stop to visit the amazing coastal rock formations, as well as taking in the seal colony at Cape Foulwind. The wild and rugged beauty of the west coast surrounds us on our journey, before finally arriving into the old gold mining town later this afternoon.

Founded in 1864, Hokitika was once a thriving community of over 50,000 until the end of the gold seams

saw its population drift away. Today it is home to around 4,000 people and the gold has been replaced by paua (abalone) shell and jade jewellery, with a prolific number of craft galleries and open studios. It still retains something of its frontier spirit though and a stroll through its historic heart makes for an interesting diversion. The town was put back on the map in 2013, after it was used as the gold-rush era setting of the winner of the 2013 Man Booker prize, Eleanor Catton's *The Luminaries*. If the weather is clear, the sunsets from Hokitika are amazing, and there is a handily-named Sunset Point that looks over the beach - perfect for a cold beer or fish and chips as you watch the sun go down.



ACCOMMODATION:

Beachfront Hotel (or similar)



Grade: Standard Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

DAY 11 - Visit Franz Josef Glacier en route to Fox Glacier

Crossing the Hokitika River this morning we head south on a short two hour drive to Fox Glacier, passing through native bush of Rimu (red pine) and Kahikatea (white pine). The first European to discover the west coast was Abel Tasman in December 1642. Long and thin and enclosed by the Tasman Sea to the east and the Southern Alps to the west, it is a land of glacial deposits and alluvium that flows from the rivers and glaciers of the Alps. There are some 60 glaciers in the park, but Franz Josef and Fox are the most famous. Up to 10 years ago the Franz Josef Glacier was one of the few glaciers worldwide that actually crept down below the vegetation line. Today however this glacier has receded so that one can only view it at a distance. Needless to say the whole landscape of this glacial region is quite fascinating and there are a number of optional excursions available today, including glacier valley walks (short walks that will take you to the glacier's terminal face but no further), heli-hikes that take you up onto the glacier itself and scenic helicopter flights over both Franz Josef and Fox Glaciers. We overnight in Fox Glacier town.



ACCOMMODATION:

Heartland Hotel (or similar)



Grade: Standard Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

DAY 12 - Explore Fox Glacier then travel to Wanaka

A short drive south this morning brings to the breathtaking setting of Lake Matheson, where weather permitting we are treated to a picture perfect image of Mount Cook reflected in the lake's dark, mirrored waters. Following this we will head to Fox Glacier, named after a former Prime Minister of New Zealand. The walking track from the car park along the glacial valley crosses a landscape of ancient moraine that testifies to the continual advance and retreat of the glacier over the centuries. Our journey then continues across the River Haast and away from the coast, passing through the beautiful scenery of the Haast River Valley as we snake our way through the Aspiring National Park and onto the town of Makaroa. After a brief stop to refuel and refresh, we head next for the lakeside setting of Wanaka, impressively situated amongst an encircling ring of mountain peaks before the still waters of the lake.



ACCOMMODATION:
Wanaka Hotel (or similar)



Grade: Standard Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

DAY 13 - Free day in Wanaka

Wanaka is one of the favourite vacation spots for New Zealander's because of its beautiful environment. Mount Aspiring dominates this area with its glaciers. Today is at your leisure, and there are a number of optional activities to choose from, including jet boating and the strenuous five hour hike on the Rob Roy Glacier track up to the glacier face. Alternatively, there is the option to take a boat across Lake Wanaka to the remote Mou Waho Island Nature Reserve, which is predator-free and home to the rare flightless Buff Weka (extinct on the mainland since 1920). Guides will take you on a one hour bush walk and point out some of the native trees, birds and flowers, while you take in the vistas across the lake of the Southern Alps mountain range. Wanaka is a hikers paradise so there are plenty of other walking trails in the vicinity, from short 1 hour hikes to full day trails.



ACCOMMODATION:

Wanaka Hotel (or similar)

Grade: Standard Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

DAY 14 - Overnight cruise on the Doubtful Sound

Today we will start early to set out towards the UNESCO World Heritage Fjordland National Park, a fantastic experience of New Zealand's wild nature. We take a scenic drive along the southern coast to reach Lake Manapouri, which we traverse by boat to West Arm (time permitting, we'll be able to have a brief visit to Queenstown to see New Zealand's adventure capital). Jumping back in the minibus we travel over Wilmot Pass through dense rainforest. There are opportunities along the way to examine the plant life and view the spectacular scenery. In Deep Cove we will embark on the majestic Fjordland Navigator boat. As we cruise through some of New Zealand's most stunning scenery, our knowledgeable nature guides will provide commentary - be it on the pod of resident dolphins, fur seals or penguins that we may encounter. After dropping anchor in a sheltered cove, we can choose to explore the shoreline by kayak, or to simply relax on board. In the evening if the weather goes in our favour, we should have the most amazing starlit sky above us, with the only lights coming from the boat itself. There will be other passengers on the boat that are not from your Explore group, but our ensuite twin-share cabins will only be shared with your fellow Explore travellers.



ACCOMMODATION:
Fjordland Navigator (or similar)

Grade: Standard Boat



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST & DINNER

DAY 15 - Sail back to the mainland; drive to Dunedin

We wake up in total wilderness and enjoy the rest of the morning exploring other parts of the fjord. On our return to Deep Cove, we drive again back to Lake Manapouri, traverse it by boat and then continue

on to Dunedin, the city they call the 'Edinburgh of the South', arriving in the late afternoon. Dunedin was settled by Scottish settlers in the middle years of the 19th century and today is a picturesque setting of towers and spires that still retains something of its Gaelic heritage. Our route takes us via the town of Gore and, as we drive across country that was once home to Maori tribes and the great (but now sadly extinct) Moa, we take in the fabulous views out across the Pacific Ocean and Otago Harbour.



ACCOMMODATION:
Kingsgate Hotel Dunedin (or similar)

Grade: Standard Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

DAY 16 - Free morning; afternoon wildlife cruise to see albatross

This morning is free to enjoy Dunedin - you may wish to visit Larnach Castle or St Paul's Cathedral, and enjoy a hearty meal and a beer at Speight's Brewery. For those who wish, there is the option to take the Taieri Gorge train ride, travelling 78km through a kaleidoscope of scenery that is only accessible by train. The Taieri Gorge is famous for its sheer cliff faces and sudden ravines, framing the tranquil Taieri River. If you are interested in booking the train ride, the price is in the optional activities section of these tour notes and this must be booked through Explore prior to your trip. Please note that the train is not available on the 11th November 2019 departure.

In the afternoon we'll regroup and travel to the Otago Peninsula, where we board a boat for our wildlife cruise around Weller's Rock and Tairua Head. We'll see uninterrupted views of the world's only mainland nesting place of albatross, and we may be lucky enough to see them soaring and banking, with their three metre wingspan unfurling overhead. We'll also see the New Zealand fur seals playing on the rocks around their breeding rookeries, with expert guides telling us all about these beautiful creatures.



ACCOMMODATION:
Kingsgate Hotel Dunedin (or similar)

Grade: Standard Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

DAY 17 - Drive to Mackenzie Country via the Moeraki Boulders

We depart the city and head north, stopping off to view the incredible boulders that lie strewn across Moeraki Beach, before continuing via the coastal town of Oamaru to the rural community of Omarama. For us, it is our gateway into the dramatic vistas of the Aoraki/Mount Cook National Park. There is a helicopter flight on offer this afternoon, taking us directly over Aoraki/Mount Cook and the stunning park. We may have time after the four and a half hour drive to head into the park for a walk on the many trails - some are only 30 minutes long but even this is enough to be seriously impressed by the park's towering mountains and glaciers.



ACCOMMODATION:
Heritage Gateway Hotel Omarama (or similar)

Grade: Standard Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

DAY 18 - Drive to Christchurch

Today we head towards Christchurch, stopping en route at the glacial Lake Pukaki, where we have the opportunity to admire the magnificent glaciers of Mount Cook (weather permitting). The Maori name for the highest peak in New Zealand is Aoraki, which translates as the 'Cloud Piercer'. We also stop at Lake Tekapo and visit the 'Church of the Good Shepherd', the oldest church in New Zealand. The view from the church window over the Lake and up to the snow-covered mountains of the Southern Alps is particularly beautiful. We arrive to our final destination in the late afternoon.



ACCOMMODATION:
Heartland Hotel Cotswold (or similar)

Grade: Standard Hotel





SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

DAY 19 - Trip ends in Christchurch

Our trip ends this morning in Christchurch.



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

Trip information

Country information

New Zealand

Climate

New Zealand's climate is maritime: mild and pleasant with abundant sunshine, high rainfall and a few extremes of heat and cold. However, settled weather cannot be counted on at any time of year - all seasons can be experienced in one day! Generally the summer months (Nov-April) are warmest and most pleasant, with least rainfall. In the Southern Alps temperatures can fluctuate dramatically. Seasonal weather patterns can be unpredictable.

Time difference to GMT	Plugs	Religion	Language
-12	3 Pin Flat	Christian	English

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.

Auckland - Sky tower NZ\$32;

Whakatane - White Island boat trip NZ\$229; White Island by helicopter NZ\$1095

Wellington - Cable car NZ\$9; Zealandia NZ\$19.50; guided by day NZ\$55 or by night NZ\$85

Gisborne - Wine tasting - from approximately NZ\$20-50 depending on numbers

Wanaka - Jet boat and walk from NZ\$239; Lake cruise and nature walk NZ\$245; Rob Roy hike NZ\$295

Fox Glacier and Mt Cook - Helicopter flights; NZ\$245-480;

Dunedin - Speights brewery NZ\$30; Lanarch Castle NZ\$34; Taeri Gorge Train journey £70 must be booked through Explore at the time of booking your holiday or at least 30 days before travel (subject to cancellation fee if within 21 days of travelling)

Clothing

You will need a mixture of lightweight and warmer clothing - merino wool is particularly good in cooler weather. Good rain gear is essential as is warm upper body clothing. Please note that most accommodation in New Zealand has laundry facilities - washing machines and driers - available for guest use, and hairdryers are available in most places. Bring swimwear too.

Footwear

Comfortable shoes/trekking trainers. Sandals and/or old training shoes are useful if you want to do any whitewater rafting.

Luggage

20kg

Luggage: On tour

One main piece of baggage and a daypack. A backpack or soft holdall with wheels may prove more convenient, as you will be required to carry your luggage to/from on/off coaches, trains and ferries.

Equipment

Bring a torch, a water bottle and sunscreen. Due to increased exposure risk in New Zealand, we recommend a minimum of SPF 30+. Due to lack of ozone, burn times are drastically reduced and adequate protection is a vital part of your holiday. Walking poles are useful on some walks.

Sandflies can be particularly bad on the west coast of the South Island. While their bites do not carry any disease, they can be particularly irritating and itchy for some people. Good insect repellents need to be carried (best purchased in New Zealand, as these are specific for the New Zealand sandfly). A good effective mild analgesic is available to soothe any bites.

Tipping

Explore leader

Tipping isn't compulsory, and we work hard to ensure that our leaders all receive a fair wage. However, you might want to recognise a leader that's done a great job or really added to your trip by giving them a tip. We're often asked about the recommended amount. It's a tricky one, and down to personal preference, but we'd recommend between £15 to £20 per person per week as a guideline

New Zealand

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
£14	£20.00 - 24.00	£3	£1

Foreign Exchange

Local currency

N.Z. Dollar.

Recommended Currency For Exchange

Local currency in New Zealand is the New Zealand Dollar. You can choose to either change your money in advance or on arrival at the airport. Here you will find both ATMs and Bureau de Change. The exchange rate with the NZ\$ is approximately NZ\$ 1.94 to the British Pound. Please check on line for up to date information

Where To Exchange

Tour Leader will advise on arrival

ATM Availability

ATMs can be found in the major towns and cities for cash withdrawals in NZ\$. Always have some cash back up as they are not always reliable

Credit Card Acceptance

Credit card are widely accepted in many shops and restaurants but some may be subject to a service charge

Travellers Cheques

We do not recommend Travellers Cheques

Transport, Accommodation & Meals

Transport Information

Bus, Boat, Ferry

Accommodation notes

During this tour we use a mixture of hotels and motels, usually centrally located and perfect for exploring New Zealand's mixture of interesting towns and stunning nature. On the Doubtful Sound, you will be staying in twin-share cabins with private bathrooms.

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

New Zealand: From 1 October 2019, travellers must have an Electronic Travel Authority (ETA) to travel to NZ as well as having to pay an INTERNATIONAL VISITOR CONSERVATION AND TOURISM LEVY (IVL). You will be able to obtain these from July 1st 2019 onwards via the mobile ETA app or the immigration.govt.nz website

ETA - The cost of the ETA is NZD\$ 9 via the mobile app or NZD\$ 12 via the Immigration New Zealand website.

IVL - The cost of the IVL is NZD\$35. Visitors pay the IVL when they apply for a visa or ETA either on the ETA App or immigration website.

We recommend you to allow at least 72 hours for processing

Once issued the these are valid for 2 years or until your passport expires and can be used for multiple visits. Travellers should allow 72 hours for processing.

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 complimentary transfers will be arranged from the Explore designated airport or train station to your trips joining point, and then back from the ending point to the designated airport or train station. Generally the airport or station that Explore have selected will be the one that is closest to the town or city where the trip starts, or the one nearest to the joining point. It will be either an airport or train station but not both.

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.

Ability to swim

An ability to swim is essential for your safe enjoyment of the water based activities on this trip. If you wish to participate in these activities then we insist that you are able to swim.

New Zealand

Vaccinations

Nothing required. Tetanus 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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