



# EXPLORATIONS

## A Trip Designer Shares her Secrets

Discover exactly how we craft your travel experiences on Explorations

pg. 40

## 6 Traits of an Explorations Traveller

A snapshot of who you are, how you travel, and how Explorations is right for you.

pg. 6

## SMALL GROUP TRAVEL

*reinvented*

## Caring for Where we Live, Work & Travel

See how Explorations' Impact Moments are seeking to shape a better tomorrow through travel.

pg. 68

This is your time to head off the well-known path and appreciate all the extraordinary moments held in the everyday. It's time to wander, to wonder, and to awaken your soul.

*spark*  
YOUR SENSE OF WANDER





# discover WHAT'S INSIDE

When it comes to creating an immersive travel experience for Explorations, we have done a pretty amazing job. We've spent the night in the Moroccan desert, sleeping in Berber tents among the dunes. We've braved the snows of Finland to find the northern lights. We've spoken to the locals and found the places they know and love.

And, that's just what you'll do, too. On Explorations tours, you'll have the opportunity to travel beyond the surface and immerse yourself in the cultures, foods, and experiences of local life.

We invite you to journey off the well-travelled path and explore with Thomas Cook Tours.

## Africa

pgs 60-67

### Helping women stand strong at The Amal Centre, Morocco pg. 60

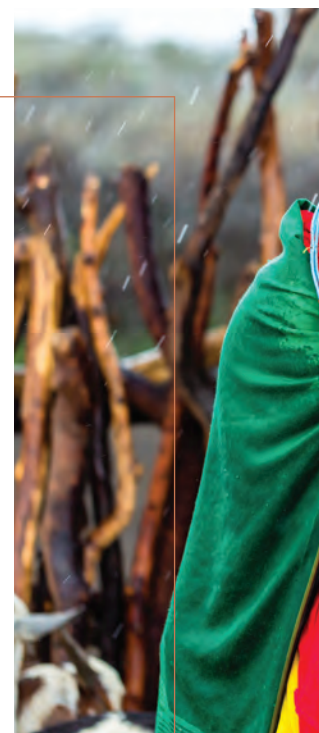
In Marrakech, Morocco, women who have found themselves in a difficult place are given the tools to change their life.

### Connect with Masai culture in Kenya pg. 62

Spend an afternoon getting to know the Masai people, and be a welcomed visitor in a local village to see a slice of everyday life.

### Experience three different ways to safari in South Africa pg. 64

Experience a variety of ways to safari. Cruise down the Chobe, set out on a walking safari with an expert, and hop on a 4x4 in a private reserve.



## Asia

pgs 49-59

### Mingle with the monks of a local monastery in Laos pg. 52

Hop aboard a Tuk Tuk and head to a local monastery where you'll meet the monks who reside there.

### Oh, Delhi! A street food adventure one bite at a time pg. 54

A labyrinth of historic alleyways and narrow quarters hold a treasure trove of eating possibilities in a compact space in Delhi, India.





## Europe

pgs 18-39

### **How an adventurer fell in love with dogs (and reindeer) in Finland** pg. 18

While on The Northern Lights of Finland tour, our Marketing Art Director discovered that dogs and reindeer are pretty magical.

### **Live like a local in the Aran Islands of Ireland** pg. 26

Settle in for an overnight stay on the island of Inisheer, the smallest of the Aran Islands, off the western coast of Ireland.



## The Americas

pgs 42-48

### **A trip designer shares her secrets** pg. 40

Recently, our Director of Product Design sat down with AFAR magazine to dish about her day job—travelling the world.

### **Be at one with nature in Costa Rica** pg. 42

From a jungle oasis in Tortuguero, to the remote wonders of Manuel Antonio National Park, nature is truly all around you.

### **Embark on a nature cruise of a lifetime** pg. 46

Galápagos isn't just a destination, it's an experience that will be forever seared into your memory. Join a naturalist guide on 5-day cruising exploration of these unforgettable islands.

# THE EXPLORATIONS TRAVELLER

✓ You are an individual and **value your independence.**

✓ You **discover new destinations** best by getting to know the people who call it home.

✓ You're pretty **active.** You enjoy walking, hiking and the occasional bike ride.

✓ You like the thrill of planning travel, but aren't a fan of logistics. You want to focus on making the trip **memorable**, not getting wrapped up in the details.

✓ You have an **adventurous spirit.** You find that your best stories are from when you said "yes" to something new.

✓ **Social butterfly? Perfect. Engaged observer? No problem.** No matter which way you lean, Explorations experiences will fit you.

**You'll share the road, a few meals, and a variety of special moments with a small, tight-knit group averaging about 15 people.** You won't be one of the crowd with Explorations, you'll be an integral part of a cultural expedition. Every Explorations traveller is unique, but you all share a similar agenda—**to travel and connect to the world in a more authentic way.**

## ACTIVITY LEVELS

As part of the Thomas Cook Tours family, we share **5 activity levels** across more than 160 tours. On Explorations, you'll find our tours scale a bit more active to allow for the most immersive experience possible. Here's a little about what activity levels 3-5 mean for you and your travel experience:

### 3 MODERATE PHYSICAL ACTIVITY:

You enjoy a blend of longer days, shorter days, and leisure time. Plan for some walking tours, walking slightly longer distances, up stairs, or on uneven walking surfaces.

### 4 ACTIVE:

You're comfortable with a mix of longer days and some evening or early-morning activities. You can expect longer walking tours, traversing uneven terrain, climbing stairs, and periods of standing.

### 5 VERY ACTIVE:

You're in good health and able to handle activities like: extensive walking tours, transfers over uneven or dusty terrain, high altitudes, early-morning departures, late-night activities, or extreme temperatures. This tour is not appropriate for individuals who use walkers or wheelchairs.





# WHAT YOU'LL DO

*unique* experiences

**It's often said that experience is the best teacher and we couldn't agree more.**

Experiences help educate us as travellers about cultures, traditions, and the human spirit. It's why we take the time to include truly exceptional experiences on Explorations. Some experiences are active and even a little adventurous, some are designed to reveal the heart of a culture, and some may even have the power to change your life.

**Hard to replicate, and impossible to forget, these experiences will help shape your understanding of a destination, and shape your vision of the world.**



**It was brilliant.**

A very well-organised tour. Hotels were five-star. Our tour manager was the best. The bus stopped at a small village and we walked through a market with our guide who suggested local produce for us to try. We were able to chat with the local people who were very friendly."

**EXPLORATIONS TRAVELLER ON MYSTERIES OF INDIA**



## TUSCANY ON TWO WHEELS

Golden rolling hills, the warm sun on your shoulders, and quaint hill towns that seemingly spring up out of nowhere. This is the Tuscany you've always imagined. It's even more memorable as you zip through winding roads on a Vespa tour. On **Italy's Bella Vita**, you'll join a local expert who will guide you through the Tuscan countryside and acquaint you with the history, culture, and beauty of this region.

» *Italy's Bella Vita*, pg. 36-37





## A MORE INTIMATE SIDE OF IRELAND

Many travellers get to experience the breathtaking beauty of Inisheer (the smallest of the Aran Islands), but few see what the island is like as the last ferry departs for mainland Ireland. On **Countryside of the Emerald Isle**, you'll settle in for an overnight stay amid the island's desolate yet magnificent beauty. With a population of just over 260, you'll practically have the island to yourself to explore the labyrinth of stone walls, the local arts centre, Inisheer lighthouse, and the Plassy shipwreck. It's an education in local culture unlike any other.

» *Countryside of the Emerald Isle, pg. 26-27*

## UNCOVERING THE ROMANCE OF Udaipur

Far from the powerful din of Delhi, you'll find a perfect slice of tranquility on a cruise of Lake Pichola. As the sun dips in the early evening and glitters along the softly rippled water, the regal allure of Udaipur unfolds before you. When nightfall comes, and the royal surroundings are illuminated one by one, you can almost feel the magic in the air. See it all from the grounds of your lakeside hotel—a historic palace.

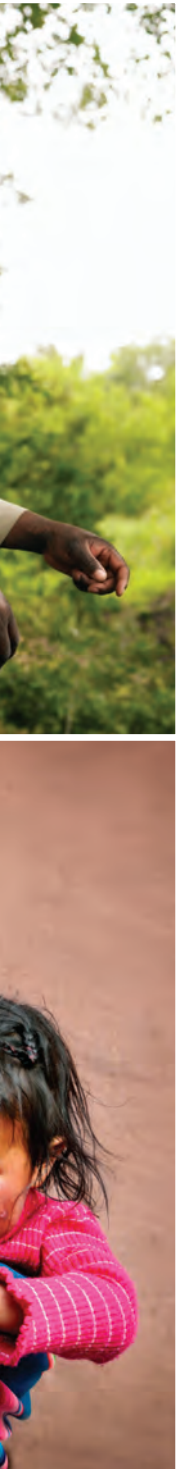
» *Mysteries of India, pg. 56-57*





# WHO WILL JOIN YOU

**Your travels are often made more memorable by the people you meet and the connections you make along the way.** Explorations does more than show you a new place. It connects you to new cultures and shows you a fresh perspective of the world. This approach to travel wouldn't be possible without a little help from the people who will share the adventure with you.



## Explorations LEAD

**Liaison to Experiences, Adventure & Discovery;** Part friend, part historian, and a total virtuoso with logistics, it takes a special type of person to be an Explorations LEAD. From recommendations for free time to introducing you to new foods, people, and experiences, our LEADs are your go-to expert for everything while you're travelling. They make every part of your trip seamless.



## Local Guides

**Our local experts know more than just the lay of the land. They reveal the spirit of their hometown.** Maybe they'll point out their childhood home on a walking tour. Maybe they'll tell you a story you won't find in a travel guide. You won't find a more authentic way to see the local sights than with our local experts.



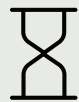
## Fellow Travellers

**You'll travel with a small group of 19 or less people who are a lot like you.** And while every traveller is unique, Explorations travellers have many similar interests and a shared desire to travel in a deeper, more meaningful way.



## Local Community

**You won't just see locals going about their everyday lives, you'll experience life right alongside them.** Cook a meal together. Share a few stories. Learn about traditions. You'll truly come to understand a destination by connecting with the people who call it home.



## YOUR TIME IS VALUABLE WHILE YOU'RE TRAVELLING.

Make the most out of it by getting local recommendations from your **Explorations LEAD**. Our **LEADs** know just where to go (and not to go) so you can spend more time making memories and less time planning for them.



### Nature tour of Costa Rica was *wonderful!*

A tour director who knows where to find wildlife!  
We would never have seen these things on our own."

**EXPLORATIONS TRAVELLER ON  
COSTA RICA: A WORLD OF NATURE**





## WHAT'S ON THE MENU

### *culinary* adventures

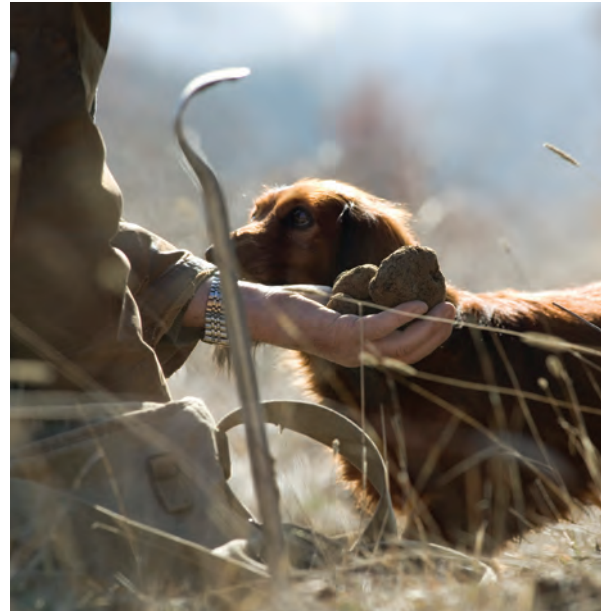
Local cuisine is so much more than taste and texture. It's about the experience and ambiance served up alongside a mouthwatering meal. Explorations seeks to delight the entire palate, creating an unforgettable and hard-to-replicate epicurean adventure. From home-hosted meals to hands-on cooking classes, intimate local restaurants to street food tours, you will savour the many local flavours your destination has to offer.



### We loved the smaller group focus on small hillside towns!

Highlights include the visit to the olive oil farm, Carletti, where the intimate setting was marvellous as was the olive oil. The cooking class in Vallo di Nera was a lot of fun and laughs."

**EXPLORATIONS TRAVELLER ON  
TUSCAN & UMBRIAN COUNTRYSIDE**



## HUNTING FOR TRUFFLES IN FRANCE

Delight in the "thrill of the hunt" on an epicurean adventure through the forests of Southern France. Led by a local chef and his keen-sensed dogs, this culinary experience on **Journey Through Southern France** will have you searching for coveted black truffles where they naturally grow.

» *Journey Through Southern France, pg. 28-29*



## A SENSORY FEAST IN THE SAHARA

Venture into the Sahara on **Colours of Morocco** and let the intoxicating sound of Berber drums and the fresh, minty aroma of Moroccan tea delight your senses. Feast on traditional Moroccan dishes as you indulge every sense in the quiet serenity of the desert.

» *Colours of Morocco pg. 60-61*



# WHERE YOU'LL STAY

*authentic* surroundings

**Explorations includes a variety of unique places to rest up and rejuvenate during your travels.** Each hotel (4-star and above) is carefully chosen to ensure that your exploration never stops, even while you're relaxing after a full day, or lingering over a morning coffee. Whether it's the history, the view, the location, or the amenities, your hotels will capture the spirit of your destination.



*These are but a few of the types of places you can expect to stay with Explorations. Visit [thomascooktours.com/explorations](https://thomascooktours.com/explorations) to see specific hotel details for your trip.*



## ECO LODGE

At an eco lodge, the environment is key. Both in your surroundings and preserving it for the generations to come. One of our favourite spots for staying in an eco lodge is in Costa Rica, where your surroundings are truly alive and conservation is always top of mind.



## CASTLES & CHATEAUS

You'll truly live like a royal on some of our European Explorations. Walk the halls and grounds where royals once reigned and take time to appreciate the history that surrounds you.



Italy's Treasures had us staying in the best places outside of large cities (except for Venice, of course) in picturesque villas seen only in movies. The whole experience was exceptional. Our guide was outstanding."

**EXPLORATIONS TRAVELLER ON  
ITALY'S TREASURES**



## MOROCCAN RIAD

A riad—a large traditional home or palace built around a central courtyard—is perfect for soaking in the cultural ambiance of Morocco. Steeped in history and heritage, staying in a riad is a must to connect with Morocco's storied past.

# FEEL THE FREEDOM TO *explore*

**No one has travelled the same path as you. And no one will experience the world just as you do.** While there's no "one size fits all" travel experience, the travel experiences we craft include a good balance of unique, hard-to-replicate experiences, cultural connections, and plenty of opportunities for "you" time.

Sometimes with a guide by your side, and others with no other agenda other than to explore, these included and optional experiences mean you'll come to understand a destination on your own terms.

## *included on* **EXPLORATIONS**

### **It's Your Choice**

Zip lining or hiking, walking or biking, leisure time or guided sightseeing—it's all up to you. We build these choices into Explorations to allow you to tailor your experience. All you have to do is choose which included option best suits your interests.

### **Plenty of You Time**

To truly feel the pulse of a new destination, you need time to set off on your own. We incorporate the right mix of guided experiences and time to independently explore on every tour we craft.



ANGKOR WAT, CAMBODIA



ZIP LINE IN COSTA RICA



LAVENDER FIELDS IN FRANCE



"BIG 5" GAME DRIVES  
IN KENYA



TAJ MAHAL, INDIA



HALONG BAY, VIETNAM



MACHU PICCHU, PERU



FLORENCE, ITALY



DUBAI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

## *optional* **ADD ONS**

### **Excursions**

Bringing you one step deeper into the culture, our **optional excursions** will provide you with new experiences and perspectives. From culture walks to exotic cruises and cultural connections, there's a little something for every type of traveller.

### **Add a Day (or two, or more!)**

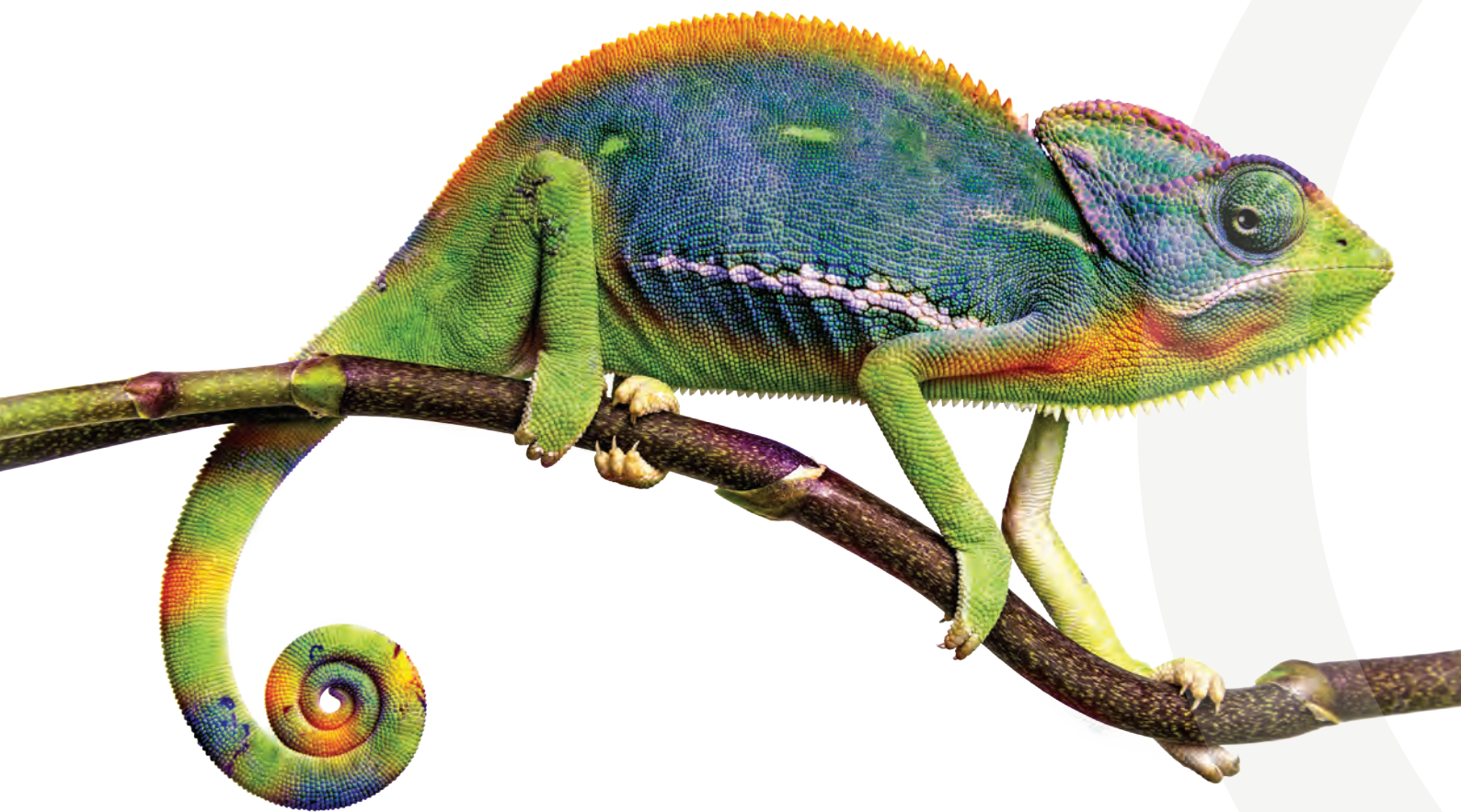
Ideal for independent explorers who want to spend even more time in the city where their tour begins or ends. **Start early, stay longer**, and let the adventure unfold.

### **Extensions**

Ready to experience more of the world? Extend your Explorations experience by adding an extension. These **pre- and post-tour** adventures include experiences, meals, hotels, transportation, and more.

### **Back-to-Back**

Want a grand adventure? **Combine two tours into one** unforgettable trip. Many of our Explorations and Thomas Cook tours match up perfectly to create the ultimate travel experience.



## WANDER THE WORLD WORRY-FREE

With an **industry-leading travel protection plan** (cancel for any reason right up to the day prior to departure) and 24/7 support, we are here to take the worry out of booking your trip. No one likes it when things go wrong, but when they do, you want someone in your corner to handle things the right way.

*See page 73.*

## GET THERE AND BACK WITH EASE

Forget about the hassle of coordinating logistics. **Add airfare to your booking and let us work with the airlines.** Not only will we plan all the details of your travel and handle any challenges, we'll **also include private transportation from your home to the airport.\***

*\*Restrictions apply. See full details on pages 70.*



# THE DETAILS? WE HAVE THEM *covered*

Explorations is proud to be part of the **Thomas Cook Tours family**. That means we are backed by years of expertise and travel insight. It also means that while you're travelling with us, every detail is covered.

## REWARD YOUR LOYALTY

Get yourself one step closer to your next destination with the Passport Club. **Automatically earn a £100 credit every time you travel** along with various other benefits. Credits can be used for any future Explorations or Thomas Cook tours. The world is yours!

*Call for more details.*

## MAKE AN IMPACT

We are committed to making our world a better place to live, work, and travel. We **help sustain and preserve communities, cultures, and traditions** on our travels and offer plenty of ways to make a positive impact while travelling with us.

## GO AHEAD, SAVE THE DATE

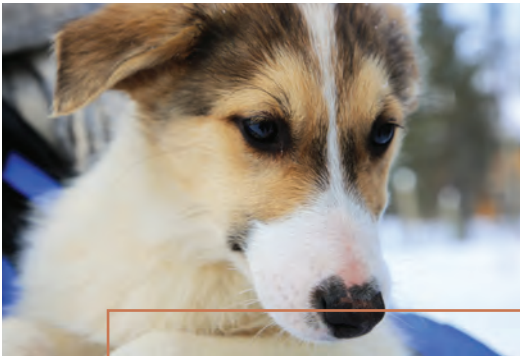
Many of our Explorations **departures are guaranteed**, so once you book, it's time to start getting excited for what's to come.

EXPLORE THE LAPLAND WILDERNESS ON A HUSKY SAFARI  
EXPERIENCE THIS ON THE NORTHERN LIGHTS OF FINLAND »

## HOW AN ADVENTURER

FELL IN LOVE WITH DOGS  
(AND REINDEER) IN FINLAND

While on **The Northern Lights of Finland** tour, Thomas Cook Tours' Art Director discovered that dogs are pretty amazing and that reindeer really are magical. Here, Chad Litchfield tells the tale of how animals brought experiencing the natural wonders of Finland to another level.



## *I'm a bit of a thrill seeker.*

I like speed and even a little danger, so when I learned that we would be going on a husky safari and a reindeer sleigh ride, I wasn't prepared for what was to come. It all sounded like fun, but my natural inclination would have been to hop on a snowmobile. I'm glad I didn't because these experiences turned out to be totally exhilarating in ways I didn't expect.

Before we set out to dash through the rugged Lapland wilderness, we got a chance to meet the dogs who would be pulling our sleds. We were greeted with sloppy kisses and wagging tails all around from dogs who were clearly up for an adventure. I even got to hold a wiggly little husky puppy. I was falling in love with the dogs, but this was just the beginning.

Once I was on that sled, I had a huge smile on my face as I led my team zig zagging through the snow. This is clearly what the dogs live for and it is absolutely the best way to experience the wilderness. But then I met the reindeer,

and I realized there are two best ways. Another part of The Northern Lights of Finland tour is going out at night for a reindeer sleigh ride. Eating dinner just a short distance away from the reindeer enclosure, we were able to anticipate our introduction to the calm and gentle animals. This was clearly going to be a different experience from the blood pumping exuberance of the husky safari, but equally intriguing.

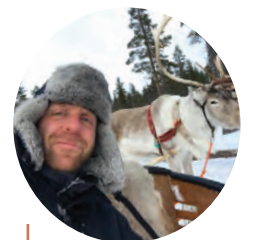
The reindeer and sleigh provided a relaxed and gentle glide through the snow. It was so silent and still beneath the vast night sky that I had time to contemplate how humble I felt in that moment. But all of that tranquility was punctuated with a giant exclamation point when the elusive northern lights suddenly appeared and danced through the sky like silent fireworks. I could never have anticipated the joy and connectedness to nature that I felt as the faithful reindeer kept their easy pace, unaffected by their surroundings. I was blown away.

After these two magical experiences, I can honestly say that dogs and reindeer are my new favourite ways to get around. **Now if I could only fit them into my suitcase...**



**I could *never* have anticipated the joy and connectedness to nature that I felt...**

**CHAD LITCHFIELD,  
ART DIRECTOR  
THOMAS COOK TOURS**





© Kakslauttanan Arctic Resort, Lapland, Finland

Kakslauttanan Arctic Resort

# THE NORTHERN LIGHTS OF FINLAND

## 3 EXPERIENCES

*beyond expectation*

## THE NORTHERN LIGHTS OF FINLAND

This is so much more than a hunt for stunning streaks of colour in the night sky (though it's a pretty amazing part). This is a step into Finland's dynamic and intriguing culture—from Helsinki's cool-casual vibe to the pristine winter wilderness of Lapland.

FROM £3324\* DAYS 7 MEALS 11

*\*Price based on 13 October, 2019 departure. Per person, double, land only.*

*Rates include internal flights on tour.*

### Where You'll Stay

#### Helsinki 2 Nights

Lilla Roberts Hotel

#### Kakslauttanan, Lapland

#### 3 Nights

Kakslauttanan Arctic Resort - West Village, Lapland

#### Helsinki 1 Night

Lilla Roberts Hotel

*On some dates alternate hotels may be used.*

### Included Meals

6 Breakfasts

5 Dinners

### Activity Level

1 2 3 4 5

#### Active

*See pg. 6 for details on our activity levels.*



## 1 SET YOUR SIGHTS ON THE NORTHERN LIGHTS

Sometimes a mere whisper of colour, others a symphony of neon hues, the northern lights are spellbinding. While in Lapland, keep a close eye to the night sky. On clear, starry nights, there's a high likelihood that magic will unfold right before your eyes. Experiencing this phenomenon—especially from the comfort of your glass igloo—will truly redefine the word “awesome.”

**>> SEEK THIS EXPERIENCE THROUGHOUT YOUR TIME IN FINLAND.**

## 2 BE THE LEADER OF THE PACK

Arguably one of the best ways to take in the postcard-perfect vistas of Finland's north country is by dogsled. Learn the commands, get acquainted with the dogs and hop on a sled for one unforgettable ride. This charming, high-energy breed is in their element as they dash through the snow, practically smiling as they guide you through the unspoiled wilderness.

>> EXPERIENCE THIS ON DAY 5 IN KAKSLAUTTANEN.



## 3 RETHINK YOUR DEFINITION OF SAFARI

While at the Kakslauttanen Arctic Resort, you'll head out into the wilderness on an evening reindeer safari. Search for the northern lights, warm yourself with a steaming cup of berry juice, and get to know local reindeer herders. This engaging experience, led by the indigenous Sami people, is the ultimate exploration of Lapland's culture and striking natural beauty.

>> EXPERIENCE THIS ON DAY 4 IN KAKSLAUTTANEN.

### WHAT YOU'LL DO

#### DAYS 1-2 HELSINKI

##### Uncover Helsinki's Charm

- Join a local expert and get to know Finland's vibrant capital city. Once you have the lay of the land, Helsinki is yours for the discovering.

#### DAYS 3-5 KAKSLAUTTANEN

##### Wander in a Winter Wonderland

- In addition to included activities like dogsledding, guided aurora hunting, and a reindeer safari, Kakslauttanen Arctic Resort boasts miles of cross-country skiing trails, restorative smoke saunas and ice pools, horseback riding, and more—ideal for exploring during your free time.
- Enjoy one night in a glass igloo (and two in a traditional Finnish log cabin).
- Introduce yourself to Lappish reindeer and meet Santa Claus himself.

#### DAYS 6-7 HELSINKI

##### Seek Out More in Helsinki

- Explore the city's historic squares and trend-wise boutiques and neighbourhoods.
- Gather around the table one last time to share stories and relive your Finnish experiences.



Visit [ThomasCookTours.com/explorations](https://www.thomascooktours.com/explorations) for complete tour details.



## ICELANDIC ADVENTURE

**This is Iceland.** A land forged by fire and ice and full of dramatic contrasts—from ethereal lava fields and thundering waterfalls to charming coastal villages.

**FROM £3744\* DAYS 10 MEALS 14**

*\*Price based on 24 October, 2019 departure. Per person, double, land only.*

*Rates include internal flights on tour.*

### Where You'll Stay

#### Reykjavík 3 Nights

Centerhotel Arnarhvoll,  
Centerhotel Plaza, or  
Alda Hotel

#### Húsavík 3 Nights

Raudaskrida Hotel & Guesthouse

#### Stykkishólmur 2 Night

Fosshotel Stykkishólmur

#### Reykjavík 1 Night

Centerhotel Arnarhvoll,  
Centerhotel Plaza, or  
Alda Hotel

*On some dates alternate hotels may be used.*

### Included Meals

9 Breakfasts  
5 Dinners

### Activity Level

1 2 3 4 5

#### Active

*See pg. 6 for details on our activity levels.*



## ICELANDIC ADVENTURE

### 3 EXPERIENCES

*beyond expectation*

#### 1 ADVENTURE HEATS UP ON ICE

After you've enjoyed a hearty spread of local specialties on the Snæfellsjökull Glacier, your next activity is yours for the choosing. Join an expert guide on a glacial climb that brings you to nearly 3,000 feet **-OR-** venture alongside a guide for a mountain hike through the otherworldly lava fields.

**>> EXPERIENCE THIS ON DAY 8 IN THE SNÆFELLSNES PENINSULA.**



#### 3 REDEFINE YOUR IDEA OF WHALE WATCHING

Sport some thermal wear (included) and join expert whale watchers on Skálafandi Bay. Get as close as you can to whales in northern Iceland aboard specialised zodiacs that give you the most intimate view possible of humpback, minke, orca, fin, and even the giant blue whales that frequent these waters.

**>> EXPERIENCE THIS ON DAY 5 IN HÚSAVÍK.**



## 2 SOAK IN THE LOCAL CULTURE

You can't leave Iceland without taking a dip in the warm, mineral-rich waters of the Blue Lagoon (and you will!), but, you also came to Iceland for an immersive local experience. We'll head to where the locals go for a revitalising soak in mineral-rich geothermal waters—the Blue Lagoon of the North, Mývatn Nature Baths.

>> EXPERIENCE THIS ON DAY 6  
IN LAKE MÝVATN.



Credit: Gregory Hall

### WHAT YOU'LL DO

#### DAYS 1-3 REYKJAVÍK

##### Discover Iceland's Cool Vibe

- Explore Reykjavík on a walking tour of the city's old quarter.
- Experience a "day in the life" at a family-owned dairy farm.
- Travel the Golden Circle and visit otherworldly Thingviller National Park, stunning Gullfoss Falls and the Strokkur Geyser.
- Learn about and discover Iceland's farm-to-table culture with a visit to Friðheimar Greenhouse Cultivation Centre.

#### DAYS 4-6 HÚSAVÍK

##### Appreciate Natural Wonders in Húsavík

- Stay on a family-owned, Environmental Gold-certified property, where you'll savour locally sourced farm-to-table meals.
- Travel to Húsavík to discover the town's connection to whaling before jumping in a RIB boat seek them out yourself.
- Soak in mineral-rich geothermal waters and witness the power of nature as we take a day exploring the Diamond Circle.

#### DAYS 7-8 STYKKISHÓLMUR

##### Dive Deep into Iceland's Landscapes

- Journey 100 feet below the ground to an 8,000-year-old lava tube on a thrilling tour of Vatnshellir Cave.
  - Capture the beauty of the Snæfellsnes Peninsula during guided exploration.
  - Ascend the captivating Snæfellsjökull glacier via mountain truck and enjoy a tasting of Icelandic delicacies.
  - Wander around the quaint fishing village of Stykkishólmur.
- Y IT'S YOUR CHOICE!** Join an expert guide on a glacial climb that brings you to nearly 3,000 feet **OR** venture alongside a guide for a mountain hike through the otherworldly lava fields.

#### DAYS 9-10 REYKJAVÍK

##### Celebrate Icelandic Heritage

- Meet with a local family that keeps alive a 400-year-old tradition of catching and preserving Greenland shark.
- Dive into the origins of Icelandic heritage during a visit to the Settlement Museum.
- Take a soak in the Blue Lagoon.

Visit [ThomasCookTours.com/explorations](https://www.thomascooktours.com/explorations) for complete tour details.

*a tale woven over time*

## THE LEGEND OF THE ARAN SWEATER

Set along the Wild Atlantic Way on the western coast of Ireland are the Aran Islands – a trio of limestone isles that seemingly remain untouched by the hands of time. From ancient stone fortresses that stand defiantly atop dramatic cliffs, to weather-beaten homes inhabited by humble farm folk, the Islands are a storybook setting for the centuries-old maritime legends and Celtic myths born from its windswept shores.





One such legend that's been passed down for generations is the origin of the Aran Islands sweater. Depending on who you ask, the storied sweater is an homage to centuries-old Celtic settlers, a religious garment worn to protect fishermen from the perils of sailing the Atlantic, or a creatively woven tale aimed at putting Aran Islands on the map. So, what was the true motivation behind the first stitch?

The majority of historians agree that the Aran sweater was invented in the beginning of the 20th century, and was an adaptation of Scottish Guernsey jumpers, or "Guernseys." The women of the Islands put their own spin on the sweater design, using thicker wool and patterns that completely covered the sweater. Knitting the sweaters turned from a

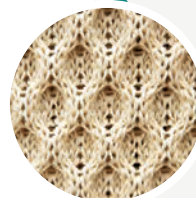
crafty pastime to a source of revenue, as the garments were sold to tourists in Dublin and by the 1950s, worldwide.

Capitalizing on this popularity, English yarn shop owner Heinz Edgar Kiewe made the claim that the sweater's intricate patterns held deeper religious meanings. Clever marketing also perpetuated the myth that particular patterns were linked to certain families, and that these stitches helped identify sailors who washed ashore after losing a battle with the sea.

**During your stay in Inisheer- the smallest of the three mystical Aran Islands-you'll partake in a knitting workshop where you'll learn about the traditional methods used to make the Aran sweater.** As you discover the garment's intricate stitch-work, you'll be in on one of the Islands' greatest sartorial secrets.

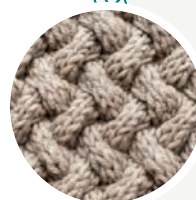


## A STORY FOR EVERY STITCH



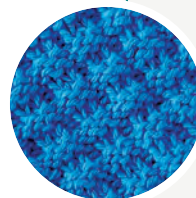
### HONEYCOMB

Represents the industrious honey bee. This stitch symbolized hard work – a virtue the Aran Islands' natives valued.



### BASKET

Symbolizes the fisherman's basket and hopes for a bountiful catch.



### TREE OF LIFE

Also known as the Trinity Stitch, said to symbolize the strong ties of family and the desire for familial unity.



### CABLE & ROPE

A popular, commonly seen stitch. Represents the fisherman's rope – said to bring good luck and safety.



### MOSS-FILLED DIAMOND

Represents the Carrageen Moss seaweed – an important fertilizer that helped the natives' crops grow. Symbolizes fertile fields and abundant growth.



Dingle Peninsula

# COUNTRYSIDE OF THE EMERALD ISLE

## 3 EXPERIENCES

*beyond expectation*



## COUNTRYSIDE OF THE EMERALD ISLE

From ancient castles and historic Dublin to less-travelled roads and charming villages, this adventure brings together the best of the Emerald Isle.

**FROM £2149\* DAYS 9 MEALS 12**

*\*Price based on 14 October, 2019 departure. Per person, double, land only.*

### Where You'll Stay

#### Dublin 2 Nights

Hampton Hotel

#### Kinsale 2 Nights

Actons Hotel

#### Killarney 2 Nights

Killarney Plaza Hotel

#### Inisheer, Aran Islands 1 Night

Tigh Ruairi

#### Ennis 1 Night

Old Ground Hotel

*On some dates alternate hotels may be used.*

### Included Meals

8 Breakfasts

4 Dinners

### Activity Level

1 2 3 4 5

**Moderate Physical Activity**

*See pg. 6 for details on our activity levels.*



## 2 LEARN TO COOK WITH A LITTLE IRISH FLAIR

Enjoy putting a modern spin on Irish cuisine during an interactive cooking class at one of Dublin's premier culinary institutions. You'll see how to put a distinctively Irish twist on favourites by transforming classic recipes into modern delights using locally sourced ingredients.

**>> EXPERIENCE THIS ON DAY 2 IN DUBLIN.**



# 1 LIVE LIKE A LOCAL IN THE ARAN ISLANDS

Journey to Inisheer, the smallest of the Aran Islands, on a local ferry and take in views of the Cliffs of Moher from a new angle—beneath them. Enjoy a private tour through the stone walls blanketing the island and learn about its 250 inhabitants. As the last ferry leaves, settle in to your island abode and experience an Ireland few will ever know.

>> EXPERIENCE THIS ON DAYS 7-8 IN INISHEER.



# 3 THE OLDEST STRUCTURE IN DUBLIN IS YOURS FOR EXPLORING

As the sun sets behind the towering Christ Church Cathedral and the last visitors leave, this ancient jewel of Dublin is yours to share with your fellow explorers. Walk the hallowed halls, see famous relics, and learn of the rich history of Christ Church before heading down to the crypts for a cocktail reception like no other.

>> EXPERIENCE THIS ON DAY 1 IN DUBLIN.

## WHAT YOU'LL DO

### DAYS 1-2 DUBLIN

#### Discover Dublin

- Tour the city with a local expert.
- Tour Christ Church Cathedral before enjoying a private cocktail reception in the crypts.
- Put a modern spin on Irish cuisine during an interactive cooking class at one of Dublin's premier culinary institutions.
- Get lost inside St. Stephen's Green, and marvel at the largest enclosed city park in all of Europe, Phoenix Park.

### DAYS 3-4 KINSALE

#### Get a Taste of Kinsale's Culture

- Tour the Irish National Stud, home to regal thoroughbreds and opulent gardens, and the Old Middleton Distillery, home of Jameson Irish Whiskey.
- Explore the seaside village of Kinsale on a walking tour with a local expert.
- Select the perfect spot from a "menu" of restaurants in Ireland's gourmet capital of Kinsale. Your dinner is included, but the choice is yours!

**IT'S YOUR CHOICE:** Visit the seaside town of Cobh, the last stop of the historic RMS Titanic **OR** spend a leisurely day in Kinsale.

### DAYS 5-6 KILLARNEY

#### Uncover the Quaint Beauty Surrounding Killarney

- Fall in love with the quaint towns and charming villages along Ireland's Wild Atlantic Way.
- Board a ferry and sail to stunning Garnish Island, home to one of Ireland's most beautiful gardens.
- Explore the enchanting hills and weather-worn bluffs of Dingle. Walk the country lanes on foot, or spend time in Dingle Town, where the Guinness is always freshly tapped.

### DAYS 7-9 INISHEER • ENNIS

#### Have an Island (Almost) to Yourself

- Board a ferry bound for Inisheer, where you'll explore the landscapes and culture of this unique island inhabited by just over 250 people.
- Enjoy a morning to sleep in or wake early for a sunrise hike to O'Brien Castle.
- Dive into local culture during a knitting workshop and experience the traditional craft of making the St. Brigid's Cross.
- Sail back to the mainland where you'll toast to adventure and close out your Irish experience in Ennis.

Visit

[ThomasCookTours.com/explorations](https://www.thomascooktours.com/explorations)  
for complete tour details.



Saint-Émilion

# JOURNEY THROUGH SOUTHERN FRANCE

## 3 EXPERIENCES

*beyond expectation*

### 1 DISCOVER THE CHARM OF SAINT-ÉMILION

Journey back in the past as a tuk-tuk brings you through the medieval village of Saint-Émilion. Surrounded by towering feats of architecture and miles of world-renowned wineries, you'll get a true taste of local life. Take time to walk the cobblestone streets, peek into centuries-old churches, and taste the wine that shares the town's name.

>> EXPERIENCE THIS ON DAY 3 IN SAINT-ÉMILION.



## JOURNEY THROUGH SOUTHERN FRANCE

Ignite the senses on a rich and engaging step back into time. Journey through some of the world's most decadent wine regions, explore medieval villages seemingly untouched by time, and discover the flavour, colour, and culture of Southern France.

FROM £2999\* DAYS 9 MEALS 12

\*Price based on 23 July, 2019 departure. Per person, double, land only.

#### Where You'll Stay

**Bordeaux 2 Nights**  
Intercontinental Le Grand Hotel

**Dordogne Valley 2 Nights**  
Château des Vigiers

**Carcassonne 1 Night**  
Mercure La Cite

**Saint-Rémy-de-Provence 3 Nights**  
Hotel Le Vallon De Valrugues

*On some dates alternate hotels may be used.*

#### Included Meals

8 Breakfasts  
1 Lunch  
3 Dinners

#### Activity Level

1 2 3 4 5

**Active**  
See pg. 6 for details on our activity levels.



### 3 FEEL LIKE A ROYAL IN DORDOGNE VALLEY

Tucked away amid vineyards, sleepy medieval towns, and groves of chestnut trees lies a legendary estate fit for royalty. Dubbed "Petit Versailles," Château Des Vigiers is a sprawling 16th-century estate that seamlessly pays homage to the past with luxurious contemporary comforts. You'll spend two nights here amongst the stunning beauty and historic ambiance of this incredible property.

>> EXPERIENCE THIS ON DAYS 3 & 4 IN DORDOGNE VALLEY.



## 2 DELIGHT IN THE “THRILL OF THE HUNT” IN GORDES

Led by a local chef and his keen-sensed dogs, this culinary adventure takes you through the countryside of Southern France on an exciting hunt for black truffles where they naturally grow. Après hunt, savour local farm offerings from throughout the countryside.

>> EXPERIENCE THIS ON DAY 7 IN GORDES.



### WHAT YOU'LL DO

#### DAYS 1-2 BORDEAUX

##### Drink in the Beauty of Bordeaux

- Enjoy a locally sourced meal paired with the region's famed wines.
- Explore the city with a local guide.
- Embark on a full-bodied exploration of wine culture at La Cité du Vin.
- Walk the grounds of a local winery in Medoc and absorb the atmosphere of the vineyards, smell the grapes, and taste locally grown wine.

#### DAYS 3-4 DORDOGNE VALLEY

##### Be Romanced by Regal Dordogne Valley

- **IT'S YOUR CHOICE:** Take a tuk-tuk through Saint-Émilion, one of Bordeaux's largest winemaking areas **OR** take a guided walking tour of the Old Town.
- See a slice of everyday life with a stop at a lively local market, followed by a visit to Chateau Monbazillac, a wine cooperative known for its signature dessert wine.
- Spend an afternoon relaxing and enjoy your chateau's luxurious spa or explore the grounds at your leisure.
- Spend two nights at a sprawling 16th-century estate nicknamed “Petit Versailles.”

#### DAY 5 CARCASSONNE

##### Step into a Storybook in Carcassonne

- Enjoy an independent exploration of the medieval city of Carcassonne, a UNESCO World Heritage site replete with drawbridges, towers, and cobblestone streets.

#### DAYS 6-9 SAINT-RÉMY-DE-PROVENCE

##### Peek into Provençal Life

- Gain an inside look at the village of Avignon during a walking tour with a local expert guide, ending with a visit to the dramatic Palace of the Popes.
- Join a local chef and his keen-sensed dogs as you hunt for truffles in the forests of Gordes.
- Learn more about Southern France's famed lavender at Musée de la Lavande.
- Enjoy free time to explore the Provençal charm of Saint-Rémy-de-Provence.

Visit [ThomasCookTours.com/explorations](https://www.ThomasCookTours.com/explorations) for complete tour details.



# THE NOVELTIES OF NORTHERN SPAIN

## 3 EXPERIENCES

*beyond expectation*

## THE NOVELTIES OF NORTHERN SPAIN

Enliven the senses and engage your sense of adventure on an exploration of Northern Spain's dynamic cultures. Against a landscape of centuries-old architecture, history, art, gastronomy, and culture, discover the nuances and novelties of Northern Spain.

**FROM £2699\* DAYS 9 MEALS 11**

*\*Price based on 08 November, 2019 departure. Per person, double, land only.*

### Where You'll Stay

**Barcelona 2 Nights**  
H10 Cubik

**Pamplona 1 Night**  
Hotel Maisonnave

**San Sebastián 2 Nights**  
Barceló Costa Vasca

**Burgos 2 Nights**  
NH Collection Palacio de Burgos

**Madrid 1 Night**  
NH Madrid Nacional

*On some dates alternate hotels may be used.*

### Included Meals

**8 Breakfasts**  
**3 Dinners**

### Activity Level

1 2 3 4 5

**Moderate Physical Activity**  
*See pg. 6 for details on our activity levels.*



### WHAT YOU'LL DO

#### DAYS 1-3 BARCELONA • PAMPLONA

#### Be Enchanted by Barcelona & Pamplona

- Drink in views of a lively Mediterranean port during a cocktail reception.
- Walk the halls of the famous La Sagrada Família Church and Towers.
- Make a few signature Catalan dishes at a hands-on workshop led by locally acclaimed chefs.
- Discover Barcelona on a guided tour of the city, then enjoy free time to explore on your own.
- Learn about Pamplona's history and ties to the San Fermin festival during a discussion with a local expert.

## 2 EXPERIENCE BURGOS' GOTHIC GRANDEUR

Reminders of Burgos' Gothic past are everywhere you turn, from the impressive Burgos Cathedral to your historic hotel, the NH Collection Palacio de Burgos. The halls of this former convent hold a stunning treasure—an original stone cloister. Settle in for an unrivalled history lesson as you spend two nights in this 16th-century complex.

>> EXPERIENCE THIS ON DAYS 6 & 7 IN BURGOS.



## 1 TAKE A FULL DAY TO EXPLORE SAN SEBASTIÁN HOW YOU WISH

The sophisticated coastal city of San Sebastián invites you to indulge in its many charms. Be swept away by the allure of golden beaches and lush hillsides and indulge in its world-class culinary scene. With a full day of leisure, you'll have plenty of time to discover this wonderful city.

>> EXPERIENCE THIS ON DAY 5 IN SAN SEBASTIÁN.



## 3 DON AN APRON AND DISH UP SOME CATALAN CUISINE

Head to one of Barcelona's liveliest neighbourhoods and try your hand at making signature Catalan dishes. This hands-on workshop, led by locally acclaimed chefs, puts a world of flavour at your fingertips. Learn the secrets and techniques to crafting regional favourites like paella, and enjoy the fruits of your labour for dinner.

>> EXPERIENCE THIS ON DAY 2 IN BARCELONA.

### DAYS 4-5 SAN SEBASTIÁN

#### Discover the Seaside Retreat of San Sebastián

- IT'S YOUR CHOICE: In San Sebastián, join a guided tour of the city's old town and ascend Mount Igeldo aboard a funicular **OR** set out for a guided walk through the farms, vineyards, and villages along the Coastal Camino route.
- Enjoy a full day of leisure to explore San Sebastián on your own terms.

### DAYS 6-7 BURGOS

#### Walk in the Past in Burgos

- Witness centuries of history unfold before your eyes during a walking tour of Burgos.
- Enjoy a leisurely afternoon in Burgos to explore how you wish.
- Settle in for an unrivalled history lesson as you spend two nights in a former 16th-century convent.

### DAYS 8-9 MADRID

#### Experience the Electricity of Madrid

- Shop as the Spaniards would on a visit inside one of Madrid's bustling marketplaces.
- Toast to new friends and many memories as you celebrate your unforgettable Spanish holiday over dinner.

Visit [ThomasCookTours.com/explorations](https://www.thomascooktours.com/explorations) for complete tour details.



# SWITZERLAND: HIDDEN TRAILS AND MAJESTIC PEAKS

## 3 EXPERIENCES *beyond expectation*

## SWITZERLAND: HIDDEN TRAILS AND MAJESTIC PEAKS

Set your sights on an active, immersive journey across Switzerland from the soaring Alps to the picturesque Swiss Riviera—all while travelling by train.

FROM £2999\* DAYS 9 MEALS 12

*\*Price based on 05 October, 2019 departure. Per person, double, land only.*

### 1 FIND AN IDEAL BALANCE OF GUIDED AND INDEPENDENT EXPLORATION

We've built in extra days just for you in three unique cities. Get the lay of the land first with guided walking tours and experiences, then take time to wander the streets, check out a museum using your Swiss Travel Pass, or get your heart pumping with a little activity. Be sure to turn to your tour LEAD for suggestions!

>> EXPERIENCE THIS ON DAYS 3, 5, AND 8 IN NEUCHATEL, ZERMATT, AND VEVEY.



#### Where You'll Stay

**Neuchatel 3 Nights**  
Best Western Premier Beaulac

**Zermatt 2 Nights**  
Unique Hotel Post or  
Hotel Alex

**Vevey 3 Nights**  
Astra Hotel

*On some dates alternate  
hotels may be used.*

#### Included Meals

8 Breakfasts  
1 Lunch  
3 Dinners

#### Activity Level

1 2 3 4 5

**Very Active**  
*See pg. 6 for details  
on our activity levels.*



### 2 DISCOVER HOW FINE SWISS WINE ACTUALLY IS

Swiss wine is a true treat. So much so that much of it is kept in country. Meet up with our friends, Jacques and Aurélia, for a wine tasting nestled amongst the vines. Enjoy time at their family-run winery, then continue on with a walk along Lavaux's World Heritage vineyards, complemented by stunning views of Lac Léman.

>> EXPERIENCE THIS ON DAY 7 IN LAVAUX.







impact moment:

REDUCING THE  
**F**  **T** **P** **R** **I** **N** **T**  
 LEFT BEHIND

The Swiss Rail Service — the efficient, clean, and comfortable way to cross the Swiss Alps — is the perfect way to lower your carbon emissions on tour.

### 3 GET AN ALL-ACCESS PASS TO SWISS CULTURE

On this journey, we'll only travel via the brilliantly efficient Swiss Rail Service (and your own two feet!). In addition to being your ticket for travel from city to city, your First Class Swiss Travel Pass includes an all-access entrée into more than 500 museums and cultural exhibitions throughout Switzerland, as well as local ferries, scenic trains, mountain trams, and more.

>> EXPERIENCE THIS THROUGHOUT SWITZERLAND WITH YOUR SWISS TRAVEL PASS.



#### WHAT YOU'LL DO

##### DAYS 1-3 NEUCHATEL

#### Let Neuchatel's History Enchant You

- Meet up with your fellow explorers for a reception in the centuries-old cloister of the Collégiale.
- Get to know Neuchatel, a hidden gem of a city totally off the tourist map. Take a walking tour of the city's historic quarter and drink in gorgeous views of Lake Neuchatel from your hotel room.
- Enjoy a full day at leisure to explore Neuchatel and its surroundings.

##### DAYS 4-5 ZERMATT

#### Stand in Awe Before Zermatt's Zenith

- Spend some time exploring Switzerland's capital of Bern.
- Enjoy a full day to wander pedestrian-friendly Zermatt at your leisure. Consider taking the Gornergrat Railway for stunning views of the Matterhorn!

##### DAYS 6-9 VEVEY

#### Indulge Yourself in Vevey

- Stroll the streets of Vevey on a guided walking tour.
- Get a behind-the-scenes glimpse into the artistry of handmade Swiss chocolate during an immersive tasting workshop at Läderach.
- Enjoy time at a family-run winery, then continue on with a walk along Lavaux' World Heritage vineyards.
- **IT'S YOUR CHOICE:** After visiting a local vineyard, return to Vevey via rail and enjoy the rest of your day at leisure **OR** continue your exploration through the miles of Lavaux vineyards to Saint-Saphorin, a medieval village dating back to Roman times.
- Enjoy a full day at leisure in Vevey, one of the "Pearls of the Swiss Riviera."

Visit [ThomasCookTours.com/explorations](https://www.thomascooktours.com/explorations) for complete tour details.



Cinque Terre

## ITALY'S TREASURES

Vineyards, olive groves, and cities that float. Incredible history, indelible culture, and unforgettable cuisine. This is *l'Italia* at its most iconic. Set off on a journey to make Italy's treasures yours.

**FROM £2849\* DAYS 11 MEALS 17**

\*Price based on 03 December, 2019 departure. Per person, double, land only.

### Where You'll Stay

#### Stresa 2 Nights

Regina Palace Hotel or  
Grand Hotel des Iles Barramees

#### Italian Riviera 2 Nights

Grand Hotel dei Castelli or  
Grande Albergo

#### Tuscany 4 Nights

Villa Lecchi, Tuscany or  
Villa Sanpaolo, San Gimignano

#### Venice 2 Nights

Hotel Ca' dei Conti or  
Hotel Bonvecchiati

*On some dates alternate hotels may be used.*

### Included Meals

**10** Breakfasts  
**1** Lunch  
**6** Dinners

### Activity Level

1 2 **3** 4 5

**Moderate Physical Activity**  
*See pg. 6 for details on our activity levels.*



# ITALY'S TREASURES

## 3 EXPERIENCES

*beyond expectation*



### WHAT YOU'LL DO

#### DAYS 1-2 STRESA

#### Raise a Glass in Stresa

- Visit a wine shop and enjoy a cocktail party with some *prima di cena* snacks.
- Cruise to Isola dei Pescatori, and get to know new friends over dinner.
- Sample artisanal cheeses, paired with regional wine at an ancient village nestled in the mountains of Stresa.
- Enjoy time to explore Stresa on your own.

Visit

[ThomasCookTours.com/explorations](https://www.thomascooktours.com/explorations)  
for complete tour details.

## 1 FEAST ON THE WONDERS OF FLORENCE

In the “Cradle of the Renaissance,” a treasure trove of culture, cuisine, art, and architecture lays before you. The compact city is easy for exploration, allowing you to make the most of your free afternoon here. We'll show you the way on a guided walking tour of the city, then let you wander through the cobbled streets to find your own memories.

>> EXPERIENCE THIS ON DAY 6 IN FLORENCE.

## 2 FILL YOUR PALATE WITH THE FLAVOURS OF TUSCANY

In the heart of the Tuscan countryside, you'll get an intimate look into a family-run wine estate. Tour the wine cellar, vineyards and olive groves, then craft an authentic Tuscan lunch with the estate's own chef. Break bread with new friends and toast with wines produced on-site.

>> EXPERIENCE THIS ON DAY 8 IN TUSCANY.

## 3 EXPERIENCE A CRAFT CENTURIES IN THE MAKING

On a tiny island just off Venice's north coast, the art of glass is alive and well. See this centuries-old artform for yourself during a trip to Murano. In the workshop of a talented artisan, you'll watch molten glass become a work of art right before your eyes. *Bellissimo!*

>> EXPERIENCE THIS ON DAY 10 IN VENICE.



### DAYS 3-4 ITALIAN RIVIERA

#### Be Romanced by the Italian Riviera

- Witness picture-perfect views of the lakes region from Lake Orta.
- Sail to Isola di San Giulio to visit this island's working convent.
- Travel to magical Cinque Terre and enjoy free time to uncover the medieval charm of these five villages.

### DAYS 5-8 TUSCANY

#### Traipse Through Tuscany

- Choose how you'll spend your afternoon in Lucca. Discover Lucca's old-world ambiance on foot **OR** by bike.
- Indulge in local seasonal delicacies during a tour of Lucca's specialty food shops.
- Set out on a walking tour of Florence to get the lay of the land, then take the rest of the day to explore on your own.
- Walk the medieval streets of Siena on a guided tour.
- Tour a family-run wine estate, then make lunch with the estate's chef.
- Retreat nightly to your Tuscan villa.

### DAYS 9-11 VENICE

#### Be Bewitched by Venice

- Enjoy a walking tour of historic Bologna, then take some time to stroll the streets on your own.
- Join a local guide for a tour of Venice's incredible sites.
- Journey to the island of Murano to visit a local artisan's workshop.



Florence

## ITALY'S BELLA VITA

This is your moment to live the good life. With each day and each destination, immerse yourself in Italy's *bella vita*. Incredible culture, fantastic cuisine, and captivating landscapes are yours for the discovering.

FROM £3099\* DAYS 8 MEALS 11

*\*Price based on 14 July, 2019 departure. Per person, double, land only.*

### Where You'll Stay

#### Florence 2 Nights

Hotel Pierre

#### Bologna 2 Nights

I Portici Hotel

#### Parma 1 Night

Antico Borgo di Tabiano Castello

#### Como 2 Nights

Hilton Lake Como

*On some dates alternate hotels may be used.*

### Included Meals

7 Breakfasts

4 Dinners

### Activity Level

1 2 3 4 5

**Active**

*See pg. 6 for details on our activity levels.*



## ITALY'S BELLA VITA

3

EXPERIENCES

*beyond expectation*

### 1 VENTURE THROUGH TUSCANY ON TWO WHEELS

Olive groves and vineyards stretch for miles as the sun warms your shoulders. This is the magic of Tuscany, and it all unfolds from the seat of a Vespa! Join a local expert on a tour of Tuscany's countryside before relaxing with a glass of wine at a castle. Not feeling that adventurous? Stay back and explore the castle's family-run vineyard on foot.

>> EXPERIENCE THIS ON DAY 2 IN FLORENCE.



### 3 SLEEP AMID HUNDREDS OF YEARS OF HISTORY

The epicentre for wars and sieges, love and betrayal, poetry and legend, Castello di Tabiano is a living connection to Parma's past. Wander the grounds, take a private tour with a local expert, and slowly fall under its captivating spell. Then, retreat to your room on the castle's grounds and soak up the rich history that abounds from this centuries-old defensive monument.

>> EXPERIENCE THIS ON DAY 5 IN PARMA.



## 2 INDULGE IN A LITTLE HOME COOKING

There's no match for home cooking, and that rings truest in Italy. In the cozy surrounds of a private apartment in Bologna's historic centre, you'll roll up your sleeves and learn the secrets to making three traditional pasta recipes. Enjoy the fruits of your labour over dinner, paired with local wines and accompanied by espresso with dessert.

>> EXPERIENCE THIS ON DAY 5 IN BOLOGNA.

### WHAT YOU'LL DO

#### DAYS 1-2 FLORENCE

##### Feel the Renaissance Come Alive in Florence

- Savour a quintessentially Italian experience, the *aperitivo*, when you learn to craft one of Italy's most famous cocktails, the *Spritz*.
- Take a walking tour through hundreds of years of Florentine history and discover the city's beating heart.
- Join a local expert for a Vespa tour of Tuscany's countryside before relaxing with a glass of wine at a castle.
- Retreat to the countryside to Castello di Trebbio, where wine and centuries of history flow plentifully.

#### DAYS 3-5 BOLOGNA • PARMA

##### Feast on Bologna & Parma's Unrivalled Flavour

- **Y** Take the train to Bologna, where **IT'S YOUR CHOICE!** Join an expert-guided walk of this medieval city **OR** pedal the narrow lanes and winding alleys on a bicycle tour.
- Take a full day on your own to feel the unique vibe of Bologna, a city steeped in the past, but very much alive with an eclectic presence.
- Roll up your sleeves and learn the secrets to making three traditional pasta recipes in the cozy surrounds of a private apartment.
- Experience the workings of a local cheese shop and sample the Parmigiano-Reggiano this region is famous for.

#### DAYS 6-8 COMO

##### Relax in the Tranquil Beauty of Lake Como

- Cruise to Bellagio. Take a tour of the "Pearl of the Lake," then spend the afternoon independently exploring.
- Join your guide and catch a sunrise funicular ride to watch the lake wake up, then explore Como's lakeside trails and frescoed hamlets on foot, or remain at the hotel to relax.

Visit [ThomasCookTours.com/explorations](https://www.thomascooktours.com/explorations) for complete tour details.



Tuscany

## TUSCAN AND UMBRIAN COUNTRYSIDE

Winding country roads bounded by miles of vines, soul-warming meals paired with full-bodied vintages, quiet hill towns and ancient cities—this is a land where time stands still. Fill up your plate, raise a glass, and let Tuscany and Umbria seduce every sense.

FROM £2399\* DAYS 10 MEALS 16

*\*Price based on 03 November 2019 departure. Per person, double, land only.*

### Where You'll Stay

#### Rome 1 Night

Hotel Kolbe

#### Umbria 4 Nights

Hotel Antica Dimora Alla Rocca, Trevi or Hotel Dei Duchi, Spoleto

#### Tuscany 4 Nights

UNA Palazzo Mannaioni, Montaione

*On some dates alternate hotels may be used.*

### Included Meals

- 9 Breakfasts
- 3 Lunches
- 4 Dinners

### Activity Level

1 2 3 4 5

**Active**  
See pg. 6 for details on our activity levels.



# TUSCAN AND UMBRIAN COUNTRYSIDE

## 3 EXPERIENCES

*beyond expectation*

1

### FEEL RIGHT AT HOME IN UMBRIA

Home is where the heart of culture is. Join our local Umbrian friends for a soul-warming meal prepared right in their home and discover that the comforts of a home-cooked meal really do translate across cultures and languages. It will be a meal to remember!

>> EXPERIENCE THIS ON DAY 5 IN UMBRIA.



## 2 AN ITALY FEW GET TO EXPERIENCE

A visit to a country restaurant, sheltered inside a 16th century farmhouse, is a charming step into yesterday. Stroll the herb garden (weather permitting), and learn how cheese is made on the farm. Your palate-expanding journey continues as you join the chef for a hands-on Umbrian cooking lesson.

>> EXPERIENCE THIS ON DAY 3 IN THE UMBRIAN COUNTRYSIDE.



## 3 TOAST TO TUSCAN HOSPITALITY

Time slows down among the sunflower-covered hills and villages of Tuscany's Val d'Orcia region. Among the vineyards and olive groves, tour a winery's family estate and cellar before indulging in an authentic Tuscan lunch, created by the winery's chef and paired expertly with the vineyard's very own wines.

>> EXPERIENCE THIS ON DAY 6 IN TUSCANY.



### WHAT YOU'LL DO

#### DAYS 1-6 ROME • UMBRIA

##### The Old World is Alive in Umbria

- Kick off your journey with dinner in Rome.
- Join a local expert in the Etruscan hill town of Orvieto, then take the afternoon to explore on your own.
- Enjoy walking tours of ancient Spoleto, medieval Assisi, and the walled town of Bevagna.
- Visit a country restaurant for a chef-led cooking lesson.
- Head to a local winery to sample their vintages and a variety of authentic Umbrian dishes.
- Delight in the comforts of a home-cooked meal in a local Umbrian family's home.
- Pay a visit to a local family-run 'frantoio' or olive presser.

#### DAYS 7-10 TUSCANY

##### Step in to a Living Postcard in Tuscany

- Take a locally guided walking tour of Florence, then explore more of the city on your own.
- Tap in to your creative side with visits to local artisans' workshops.
- Tour a winery's family estate and indulge in an authentic Tuscan lunch, created by the winery's chef and paired with the vineyard's own wines.
- Set out on a guided walking tour of Siena.
- **Y IT'S YOUR CHOICE IN SIENA:** Explore the beautiful Gothic cathedral at your own pace **OR** join a guide and immerse yourself in local life in a Contrada, a small, close-knit community.
- Enjoy dinner paired with an interactive presentation on wine, delivered by the restaurant's own sommelier.

Visit

[ThomasCookTours.com/explorations](https://www.thomascooks.com/explorations)  
for complete tour details.

# A TRIP DESIGNER SHARES HER *secrets*

Recently, our own **Diana Ditto**, Director of Product Design, sat down with AFAR magazine to dish about her day job—travelling the world to research and craft travel experiences for our guests. Read an excerpt here and see the full interview at [AFAR.com](https://www.afar.com).



## WHAT DOES A TYPICAL DAY IN THE LIFE OF A DESIGN MANAGER LOOK LIKE WHEN YOU ARE EXPLORING NEW ITINERARIES/DESTINATIONS?

As a design manager, we are constantly researching new and unique experiences, restaurants, and hotels. We don't want to be like every other tour operator. Our goal is to handcraft bespoke experiences and to move away from ones that are so commercialized they've lost their uniqueness. Tour designers spend 100+ days on the road each year, sourcing the best for our travellers. Our designers also find unique accommodation—castles, igloos, Bedouin camps—that guests can't book on their own. We introduce our guests to local people and local cultures, we don't just stare at them from a distance. But all this takes a tremendous amount of preparation and research, visiting countless restaurants or cooking schools to find the perfect one.

## WHAT TYPES OF EXPERIENCES AND ACCOMMODATION CAN AN EXPLORATIONS TRAVELLER EXPECT?

On an Explorations tour, guests will find themselves going beyond surface level experiences. Accompanying a chef to a local market and preparing a meal using the freshest ingredients. They will see the must-sees, but also the incredible natural landscapes, architectural

wonders, and historic landmarks that evoke a sense of awe. And the best part is that guests will do all of this with exceptional access due to the small size of the groups—an average of 15 travellers.

## WHAT DOES EXPLORATIONS OFFER THAT OTHER TOUR COMPANIES DON'T?

After speaking with various travel professionals and conducting extensive research we identified a gap in the competitive landscape of small group tours. We are designing itineraries that include all the things people want to do, but may be afraid to do on their own. I was recently in Old Delhi in India and knew I wanted to try some street food—it's so famous and said to be some of the best cooking in the world. I was petrified, however, of picking the wrong vendor and getting sick. We spent two days sourcing vendors and experiences for our street food tour, and the result is incredible. There are many times where I see tourists, longing to participate in an activity, but really struggling with how they would go about arranging something like this. Explorations solves this issue, and more, by allowing guests to see and do things they had only dreamed about.



## WHY IS TRAVEL IMPORTANT TO YOU?



I want to *change the world*, and I truly believe travel has the power to do that.

TO READ THE FULL ARTICLE, VISIT  
[www.afar.com/magazine/a-trip-designer-shares-her-secrets](http://www.afar.com/magazine/a-trip-designer-shares-her-secrets)



Red-Eyed Tree Frog

## COSTA RICA: A WORLD OF NATURE

By land and by sea, thrilling journeys await as you seek out to discover the essence of Pura Vida. Pull back the curtain of the rainforest and step inside to experience life unfiltered. This is where the wild things are.

FROM £2149\* DAYS 12 MEALS 23

*\*Price based on 20 October, 2019 departure. Per person, double, land only.*

### Where You'll Stay

#### San José 1 Night

Doubletree by Hilton Cariari Hotel

#### Tortuguero 2 Nights

Evergreen Lodge

#### Sarapiquí 2 Nights

Selva Verde Eco-Lodge & Rainforest Reserve

#### Arenal 3 Nights

Hotel Arenal Springs

#### Manuel Antonio 2 Nights

Parador Resort and Spa

#### San José 1 Night

Doubletree by Hilton Cariari Hotel

*On some dates alternate hotels may be used.*

### Included Meals

11 Breakfasts

4 Lunches

8 Dinners

### Activity Level

1 2 3 4 5

**Active**

*See pg. 6 for details on our activity levels.*



COSTA RICA

## COSTA RICA: A WORLD OF NATURE

### 3 EXPERIENCES

*beyond expectation*

#### 1 CHOOSE YOUR OWN ADVENTURE

When in the birthplace of zip lining, you zip line! Experience Costa Rica's thrilling landscapes from above as you glide over lush green canopies.

**-OR-** Make your way across lava fields for an up-close-and-personal look at Arenal Volcano on a moderate hike along the trails.

**>> EXPERIENCE THIS ON DAY 7 IN ARENAL.**



#### 2 BECOME ONE WITH NATURE

From a jungle oasis in Tortuguero, to the remote wonders of Manuel Antonio National Park, nature is truly all around you. Enjoy two nights in each locale, where you can seek out the elusive green macaw and let monkeys be your alarm clock in Tortuguero, and enjoy free time in Manuel Antonio to hike or go for a swim in turquoise waters.

**>> EXPERIENCE THIS ON DAYS 2-3 AND 9-10 IN TORTUGUERO AND MANUEL ANTONIO.**



### 3 TAKE A FLOAT ON THE WILD SIDE



Get up close with crocodiles as you head down the Tárcoles River on an exhilarating jungle safari. Float along beneath the towering jungle, looking just below the water's surface for a glimpse of these incredible creatures that heavily populate this section of the river.

**>> EXPERIENCE THIS ON DAY 9 IN TÁRCOLES.**

#### WHAT YOU'LL DO

##### DAYS 1-3 SAN JOSÉ • TORTUGUERO

#### Welcome to the Jungle

- Start your journey in Costa Rica's culture hub, the capital of San José.
- Venture to Tortuguero National Park, where you'll stay two nights amongst the wildlife.
- Visit the world's first green turtle research station.
- Embark on a nature cruise through Tortuguero for a peek behind the rainforest's lush green walls.

##### DAYS 4-5 SARAPIQUÍ

#### Savour the Fruits of Sarapiquí

- Cut through the mists of the rainforest as you travel from Tortuguero to Sarapiquí.
- Indulge in a taste of Costa Rica's finest fruits with visits to organic pineapple and cacao plantations.
- See the Sarapiquí region from a different perspective on a rafting trip along the river that's a perfect balance of excitement and relaxation.
- Before you set off for Arenal, enjoy an early morning bird-watching excursion.

##### DAYS 6-8 ARENAL

#### Awaken Your Sense of Adventure in Arenal

- Suspended over the rainforest floor, take in a birds-eye view of the jungle on a guided tour of Arenal's famous hanging bridges.
- **Y IT'S YOUR CHOICE!** Zip line over lush green canopies **OR** take a moderate hike past Arenal's lava fields.
- Roll up your sleeves for a hands-on cooking demonstration; then savour the local flavours of Costa Rica during a traditional dinner.
- Enjoy a full day at leisure to wander the grounds of your resort, soak in the famous hot springs, or set off on an optional excursion.

##### DAYS 9-12 MANUEL ANTONIO • SAN JOSÉ

#### Get in Touch with Nature at Manuel Antonio

- Witness colourful birds, hike rugged rainforests, and enjoy pristine beaches prime for swimming and snorkeling in Manuel Antonio National Park.
- Get up close with crocodiles as you head down the Tárcoles River on an exhilarating jungle safari.
- Wake up and smell the coffee at a local farm that produces some of Costa Rica's well-known beans.
- Return to San José and recount your memories and special moments as you bid farewell to Costa Rica and your fellow explorers.



Visit [ThomasCookTours.com/explorations](https://www.thomascooktours.com/explorations) for complete tour details.



Cartagena

## EXPERIENCE COLOMBIA

Colombia's pulse beats strong with a red-hot culture steeped in history, art, and tradition. Thriving cities, remote jungles, and warm, welcoming people await you in this multi-faceted jewel of South America.

FROM £2164\* DAYS 10 MEALS 14

\*Price based on 10 June, 2019 departure. Per person, double, land only.

Rates include internal flights on tour.

### Where You'll Stay

#### Bogotá 2 Nights

Movich Chicó 97

#### Pereira Coffee Region 2 Nights

San Carlos Lodge

#### Medellín 2 Nights

Hotel Park 10

#### Cartagena 3 Nights

Hyatt Regency

On some dates alternate hotels may be used.

### Included Meals

9 Breakfasts

1 Lunch

4 Dinners

### Activity Level

1 2 3 4 5

Active

See pg. 6 for details on our activity levels.

### SOUTH AMERICA



# EXPERIENCE COLOMBIA

## 3 EXPERIENCES

*beyond expectation*



### 1 ADVENTURE IS BREWING IN COCORA VALLEY

Feel the wind in your hair and spy vivid green as far as you can see as you ride through Cocora Valley in equipped 4x4 jeeps known as "Willys." Afterward, choose your next adventure. Hike the valley with a guide, pausing to look up at the sky-high wax palms or travel on horseback to see the valley through the eyes of a Colombian farmer.

>> EXPERIENCE THIS ON DAY 4 IN COCORA VALLEY.

### 3 GET A TASTE OF LOCAL LIFE

A happy overload of exotic fruit, vegetables, meat, fish, herbs, and flowers, Paloquemao Market is a haven for foodies. Stroll the market's rainbow displays while your guide dishes out some favourite samples. A bit off the well-worn path, you won't find the stalls clogged with tourists, but teeming with locals and thriving with an intoxicating energy.

>> EXPERIENCE THIS ON DAY 2 IN BOGOTÁ.





## 2 SEE A NEIGHBOURHOOD TRANSFORMED BY ART

Comuna 13, once Colombia's most notorious neighbourhood, is a barrio reborn. Meet up with a neighbourhood resident and walk the streets, vibrant with bold murals and stunning graffiti art, to learn of Comuna 13's past, present, and promising future.

>> EXPERIENCE THIS ON DAY 6 IN MEDELLÍN.



### WHAT YOU'LL DO

#### DAYS 1-2 BOGOTÁ

##### Feel the Beat of Bogotá

- Get to know the city on a lively walking tour.
- Explore the artifacts at Museo del Oro.
- Stroll Paloquemao Market's rainbow displays while your guide dishes out some favourite samples.

#### DAYS 3-4 PEREIRA COFFEE REGION

##### Breathe in the Coffee Region's Splendour

- Learn about the coffee-making process and sample the perks of the region, bean to cup.
- Experience the majesty of the Cocora Valley aboard equipped 4x4 jeeps known as "Willys."
- Enjoy a locally sourced picnic lunch.
- Explore Salento on your own, discovering quaint streets, local artisans, and *paisa* architecture.

#### DAYS 5-7 MEDELLÍN

##### Behold Medellín's Vibrant Spirit

- Dine with the locals in the city of Medellín and indulge in a specially cultivated tasting menu.
- Join a local resident for a poignant walking tour through the vibrantly muralled neighbourhood of Comuna 13.
- Meet with a *silletero* and learn firsthand what a "day in the life" of a flower farmer is like.

#### DAYS 8-10 CARTAGENA

##### Step in to Cartagena's Culture

- Take in the history and lively energy of Cartagena during a tour of this stunning Caribbean city.
- Enjoy a full day to explore Cartagena at your leisure.

Visit

[ThomasCookTours.com/explorations](https://www.thomascooks.com/explorations)  
for complete tour details.

# MACHU PICCHU & THE GALÁPAGOS ISLANDS

## 3 EXPERIENCES

*beyond expectation*



Machu Picchu, Peru

## MACHU PICCHU & THE GALÁPAGOS ISLANDS

Uncover mysteries that dwell among the wonders, ruins, and unspoiled lands of South America. From the “Lost City of the Incas” to the mysteries of the Galápagos Islands, you’ll delve deep into ancient cultures, then dive deeper into the wonders of nature.

FROM £6334\* DAYS 15 MEALS 30

\*Price based on 29 October, 2019 departure. Per person, double, land only.  
Rates include park fees and internal flights on tour.



### Where You'll Stay

#### Lima 2 Nights

Casa Andina Premium Miraflores

#### Sacred Valley 2 Nights

Casa Andina Premium Sacred Valley

#### Aguas Calientes 1 Night

Sumaq Machu Picchu Hotel

#### Cuzco 2 Nights

Casa Andina Premium

#### Quito 2 Nights

Mercure Grand Hotel Alameda

#### Galápagos Islands 4 Nights

m/v Galápagos Legend

#### Quito 1 Night

Mercure Grand Hotel Alameda

On some dates alternate hotels may be used.

### Included Meals

14 Breakfasts

6 Lunches

10 Dinners

### Activity Level

1 2 3 4 5

Active

See pg. 6 for details on our activity levels.

SOUTH AMERICA



## 2 SPEND A LEISURELY MORNING AT THE FOOT OF RUINS

For some, visiting Machu Picchu once is not enough. This is why we give you a morning of leisure during your stay there. Whether you take an optional excursion to see the ruins at sunrise, or wander through the local markets of Aguas Calientes for a taste of Andean culture, you'll soak up every bit of this iconic site.

>> EXPERIENCE THIS ON DAY 6 IN MACHU PICCHU.





### 3 TRY YOUR HAND AT MAKING WORLD-RENOWNED CUISINE

Peru's cuisine consistently ranks high amongst the world's foodies. Discover why during an interactive cooking class. Hone your skills as you craft signature Peruvian starters like ceviche and pisco sours, then delight in more of the region's specialties over dinner.

>> EXPERIENCE THIS ON DAY 3 IN SACRED VALLEY.

### 1 EMBARK ON A NATURE CRUISE OF A LIFETIME

With wildlife that seems anything but wild and landscapes that are anything but tame, the Galápagos Islands aren't just a destination, it's an experience that will be forever seared into your memory. Accompanied by a naturalist guide for expert exploration, your 4-night cruise will be simply unforgettable.

>> EXPERIENCE THIS DAYS 10-13 IN THE GALÁPAGOS ISLANDS.



#### WHAT YOU'LL DO

##### DAYS 1-4 LIMA • SACRED VALLEY

#### Get a Taste of Authentic Peru

- Uncover Lima's historic past on a city tour, followed by a trip to a former home of a conquistador.
- Kick up your heels during a private salsa class.
- Learn centuries-old methods of creating traditional textiles at Awana Kancha and stroll through Pisac's local handicraft market.
- Visit the ruins of Ollantaytambo.
- Learn of the thriving culture of the Andean people during a farm-to-table lunch.

##### DAYS 5-7 AGUAS CALIENTES • CUZCO

#### Reach the Peak of Incan Culture

- Uncover the mysteries of Machu Picchu, the "Lost City of the Incas."
- Witness an exclusive culinary demonstration and savour an eclectic tasting.
- Enjoy a morning of leisure at the foot of Machu Picchu, where you may choose an optional excursion to see the ruins again at sunrise, or wander through the local village for a taste of Andean culture.
- Immerse yourself in Peru's heart and soul during a special community dining experience.

**Y IT'S YOUR CHOICE** in the former Incan capital of Cuzco. Head out on a comprehensive city tour **OR** walk the artisan neighbourhood of San Blas.

##### DAYS 8-9 QUITO

#### Check Out Quito's Colonial Charm

- Meet some of the children thriving at the Children International community centre, supported by the Collette Foundation.
- Tour the Presidential Palace.
- Stand at the "Middle of the World" at the Equatorial Line Monument and Museum.
- Take some free time to explore the city on your own.

##### DAYS 10-13 GALÁPAGOS ISLANDS

#### Become One with Nature in the Galápagos Islands

- Embark on a 4-night cruise in the company of a naturalist guide.
- Get an up-close look at the endangered tortoises at the Cerro Colorado Tortoise Reserve.
- Sail to Española Island in Gardner Bay aboard a panga.
- Swim and snorkel with manta rays and white-tipped sharks.
- Hike the volcanic terrain of Suarez Point.
- Stand before giant tortoises, the stars of the Charles Darwin Research Station.
- Walk inside dormant lava tubes for a peek into how these primordial islands formed.
- Enjoy time on your own to explore Port Ayora.

##### DAYS 14-15 QUITO

#### Celebrate Your Journey in Quito

- Take an evening city tour of colonial Quito.
- Feast in a historical restaurant and toast to your memorable journey.

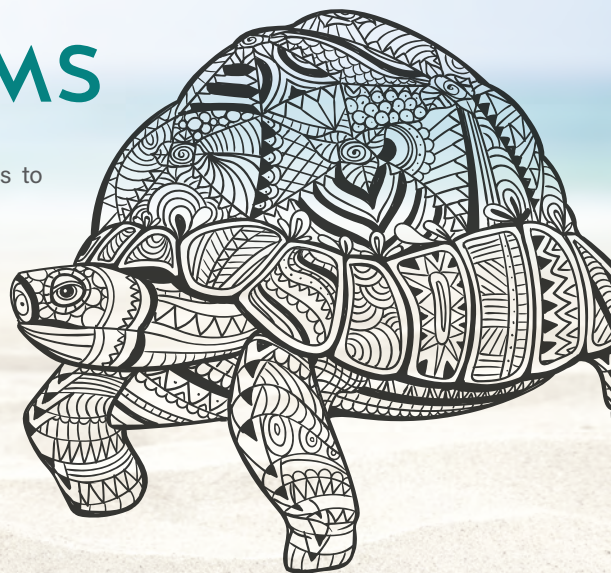
Visit [ThomasCookTours.com/explorations](https://www.thomascooktours.com/explorations) for complete tour details.

impact moment:

# CONSERVING UNIQUE ECOSYSTEMS

On the other side of the globe, in the Galápagos Islands, the approach to conservation takes a different path. On this far-flung archipelago in the Pacific, where 97.5% of the land is a national park, knowledge becomes power. **The Charles Darwin Research Station** serves as the nexus for the preservation, conservation, and education of this unique and delicate ecosystem. The Research Centre works towards

returning these isolated islands to their ecological prime with their giant tortoise breeding program. This fight to save an incredibly rare animal, found only in the Galapagos, continues to this day - funded by the eco-tourism of the islands themselves.



## OTAVALO

### 3-NIGHT POST-TOUR EXTENSION

See the beauty of Ecuador's natural world and shake hands with the welcoming people there as you explore this South American paradise.

£820\* MEALS 8

*\*Per person, double, land only*

#### WHAT YOU'LL DO

- Take an unforgettable train ride on the Andes Mountain Train past towering volcanoes and through fertile valleys of fruit and sugar plantations.
- Stay in a historic, 300-year-old Andean hacienda. Or, choose a home-cooked dinner and homestay in the Karanki indigenous community of La Magdalena.
- Witness the extraordinary community tourism project at La Magdalena and discover how the Collette Foundation is helping to support its talented residents.
- Venture to Condor Park, a rescue centre for a variety of birds of prey, to learn about the protection of these birds and see a live falconry demonstration.
- Visit La Compañía Hacienda to walk among greenhouses full of some of the most magnificent varieties of roses.

ADD THIS  
EXTENSION TO:  
MACHU PICCHU  
& THE GALÁPAGOS  
ISLANDS





# BANGKOK

## 3-NIGHT EXTENSION

Step into the swirling excitement of Bangkok, a bustling city that blends its cosmopolitan sophistication with strong ties to history and tradition.

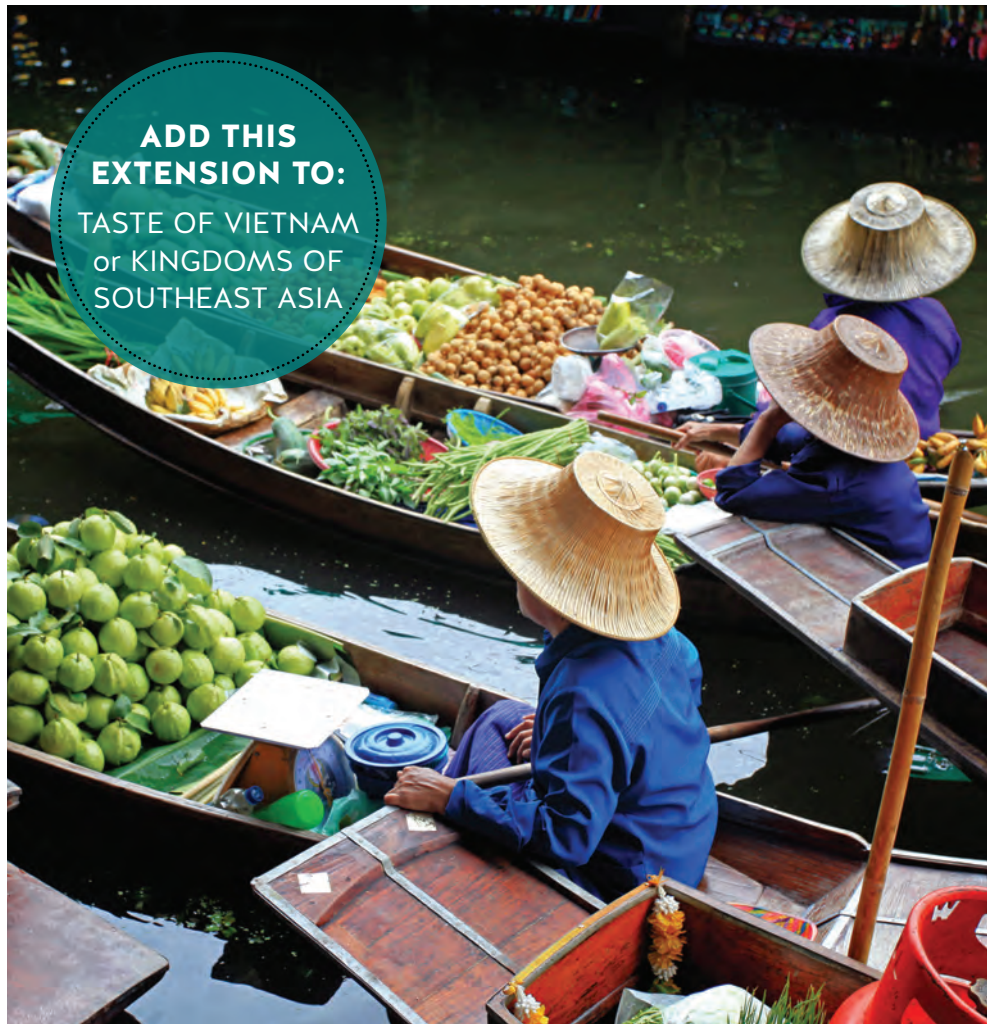
**£500\*** MEALS 4

*\*Per person, double, land only*

**ADD THIS  
EXTENSION TO:  
TASTE OF VIETNAM  
or KINGDOMS OF  
SOUTHEAST ASIA**

### WHAT YOU'LL DO

- Board a long-tail boat and explore Bangkok's network of canals, learning about daily life along the waterways. Stop at the iconic Wat Arun, the Temple of the Dawn.
- Visit the Golden Buddha and Wat Po, temple of the Reclining Buddha. Explore the grounds of the Grand Palace.
- Stop at Wat Phra Kaew, home of Thailand's most sacred temple.
- Visit the Damnoen Saduak floating market.





Vietnamese Boatsman

## TASTE OF VIETNAM

From Hanoi to Ho Chi Minh City and the Mekong Delta, Vietnam is a fascinating mosaic of culture, indescribable beauty, and complex history. Fully immerse yourself and explore the very best of Vietnam.

FROM £2014\* DAYS 13 MEALS 21

\*Price based on 15 June, 2019 departure. Per person, double, land only.

Rates include internal flights on tour.

### Where You'll Stay

#### Hanoi 3 Nights

La Siesta Trendy Hotel or Silk Path Hotel

#### Halong Bay 1 Night

Bhaya Classic

#### Hue 2 Nights

Pilgrimage Village

#### Hoi An 3 Nights

Hotel Royal Hoi An

#### Ho Chi Minh City 3 Nights

Hotel Des Arts Saigon MGallery

On some dates alternate hotels may be used.

### Included Meals

12 Breakfasts

4 Lunches

5 Dinners

### Activity Level

1 2 3 4 5

Moderate Physical Activity

See pg. 6 for details on our activity levels.



## TASTE OF VIETNAM

### 3 EXPERIENCES

*beyond expectation*

#### 1 FLOAT AMONGST LIMESTONE GIANTS

On a two-day cruise of Halong Bay, you'll sail scenic waters dotted with thousands of limestone islands. Feast on fresh seafood, trek through limestone caves, and be peacefully lulled to sleep by lapping water—all aboard a luxury junk boat. You'll also choose how you'll explore a floating fishing village: by traditional row boat, or from the seat of a kayak.

>> EXPERIENCE THIS ON DAYS 4 & 5 IN HALONG BAY.

#### 2 IMPACT MOMENT: LANTERN WORKSHOP AT REACHING OUT VIETNAM

Celebrate the work of a talented team of disabled artisans during an immersive lantern-making experience. Amongst new friends, work together to create these colourful beacons of prosperity, in a place that is a beacon of hope for the community.

>> EXPERIENCE THIS ON DAY 8 IN HOI AN.

### WHAT YOU'LL DO

#### DAYS 1-4 HANOI • HALONG BAY

#### Feel the Hum of Hanoi, the Peace of Halong Bay

- Tour the Hoa Lo Prison, the Vietnam National Art Museum, and stand in awe of French-inspired architecture.
- Enjoy a traditional water puppet show that welcomes you to Vietnam with its incredible display of artistry and folklore.
- Take a step back in time on a guided walking tour through Hanoi's Old Quarter.
- Sample some of Vietnam's most famous dishes on a walking street food tour.
- Travel to Halong Bay, where you'll cruise the emerald waters and spend the night aboard a luxury junk boat.



### 3 GRAZE YOUR WAY AROUND HANOI

Bánh mì to pho, Vietnamese food is incredible. After you've worked up an appetite walking the Old Quarter with your guide, keep walking for a street food tour that serves up some of Vietnam's most famous dishes. Finish your delicious tour at a hidden rooftop café with gorgeous views of Hoàn Kiếm Lake.

>> EXPERIENCE THIS ON DAY 3 IN HANOI.

#### DAYS 5-6 HUE

##### Wander Through the Past in Imperial Hue

- Cruise the famous Perfume River in a traditional dragon boat and watch Hue's Imperial past unfold.
- Find yourself inside the most elaborate royal tomb in Vietnam, the mausoleum of Emperor Tu Duc.
- Get a thrilling perspective of Hue with a tour in a traditional Cyclo.

#### DAYS 7-9 HOI AN

##### Savour Hoi An's Captivating Flavour

- Pause for a glimpse of the quaint fishing village, Lang Co, as you travel the scenic Hai Van Pass.
- Take a river basket boat to an immersive cooking class. You'll learn to catch fish and crabs in the river, grind rice into flour and use the ingredients from your earlier market stop to craft four classic Vietnamese dishes.
- Celebrate the work of a talented team of artisans during an immersive lantern-making experience.
- Enjoy a full day at leisure to explore the magic of Hoi An.

#### DAYS 10-13 HO CHI MINH CITY

##### Experience Ho Chi Minh City's Dynamic Energy

- Tour the energetic urban capital of Ho Chi Minh City, concluding with a stop at the Old Market to explore treasures from local vendors.
- Cruise the famous Mekong Delta by sampan. Stop in a local home to discover traditional ways of life on the river, savour lunch in a lush garden, and learn the art of making coconut candy in a local resident's home.
- Embark on a journey to the Cu Chi Tunnels.

Visit

[ThomasCookTours.com/explorations](https://www.thomascooktours.com/explorations)  
for complete tour details.



Angkor Wat

## KINGDOMS OF SOUTHEAST ASIA

Enrich yourself in the distinctive culture, history, and cuisine of Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia. From the kinetic spark of ancient cities to lush jungles that harbour vast complexes of sandstone temples, Southeast Asia is an adventure for the senses.

**FROM £2214\* DAYS 13 MEALS 20**

*\*Price based on 09 June, 2019 departure. Per person, double, land only.  
Rates include internal flights on tour.*

### Where You'll Stay

#### Hanoi 3 Nights

Silk Path Hotel

#### Luang Prabang 3 Nights

Sanctuary Hotel or  
La Parasol Blanc

#### Siem Reap 3 Nights

Memoire D'Angkor

#### Ho Chi Minh City 3 Nights

Grand Hotel Saigon

*On some dates alternate hotels may be used.*

### Included Meals

12 Breakfasts

4 Lunches

4 Dinners

### Activity Level

1 2 3 4 5

**Active**

*See pg. 6 for details on our activity levels.*



# KINGDOMS OF SOUTHEAST ASIA

## 3 EXPERIENCES

*beyond expectation*



## 3 SEE WHERE YOUNG LOCALS LEARN TRADITIONAL ARTS

Discover Les Artisan d'Angkor Workshop, a development project that teaches the Kmer arts to young adults. See how Cambodia is using these heritage artisan skills – like wood carving and ceramics – to provide a creative source of industry for future generations.

**>> EXPERIENCE THIS ON DAY 9 IN SIEM REAP.**



## 1 MINGLE WITH THE MONKS OF A LOCAL MONASTERY

Hop aboard a Tuk Tuk and head to a local monastery where you'll meet the monks who reside there. Then, participate in a private blessing ceremony delivered by one of the monks.

>> EXPERIENCE THIS ON DAY 5 IN LUANG PRABANG.



## 2 WHERE HISTORY LIES BENEATH

Explore the Cu Chi Tunnels, a maze of underground passageways used as hideouts by the Viet Cong during the Vietnam War. Learn how these underground routes were used by soldiers to house troops, transport supplies and mount surprise attacks.

>> EXPERIENCE THIS ON DAY 12 IN HO CHI MINH CITY.



### WHAT YOU'LL DO

#### DAYS 1-3 HANOI

##### Encounter Hanoi's Imperial History and Tranquil Lake Ham Kiem

- Discover Ho Chi Minh's mausoleum, One Pillar Pagoda, and the Temple of Literature.
- A traditional water puppet show welcomes you to Vietnam with its incredible display of artistry and folklore.
- Take a step back into time on a guided walking tour through Hanoi's Old Quarter.
- Sample some of Vietnam's most famous dishes on a walking street food tour.

**Y IT'S YOUR CHOICE:** Venture to the centuries-old temples of Bich Dong Pagoda on a leisurely bike ride **OR** travel by coach to the Thung Nham Bird Garden, a stunning sanctuary boasting more than 40 species of birds.

#### DAYS 4-6 LUANG PRABANG

##### Be Moved by Beauty and Faith in Laos

- See the Buddhist temple Wat Xieng and its Tree of Life mosaic that make this temple one of Luang Prabang's most beautiful.
- Be introduced to Lao cuisine at a home-hosted dinner in a traditional Laotian village.
- Enter the heart of spiritual Laos via local Tuk Tuk and take part in an exclusive private blessing ceremony, delivered by one of the monks.
- Visit the Bear Rescue Centre and learn how its working to conserve the black bear population in northern Laos.
- Encounter beautiful scenery in the refreshing cascade of Kuang Si falls.

#### DAYS 7-9 SIEM REAP

##### Explore Hallowed Ground in Cambodia

- Explore incredible Angkor Wat, the world's largest religious structure.
- Be greeted by many stone "faces" smiling upon you at Angkor Thom.
- Visit Les Artisan d'Angkor Workshop, a development project that teaches the Kmer arts to young adults.
- Savour dinner at a local restaurant while enjoying a traditional Apsara show.

#### DAYS 10-13 HO CHI MINH CITY

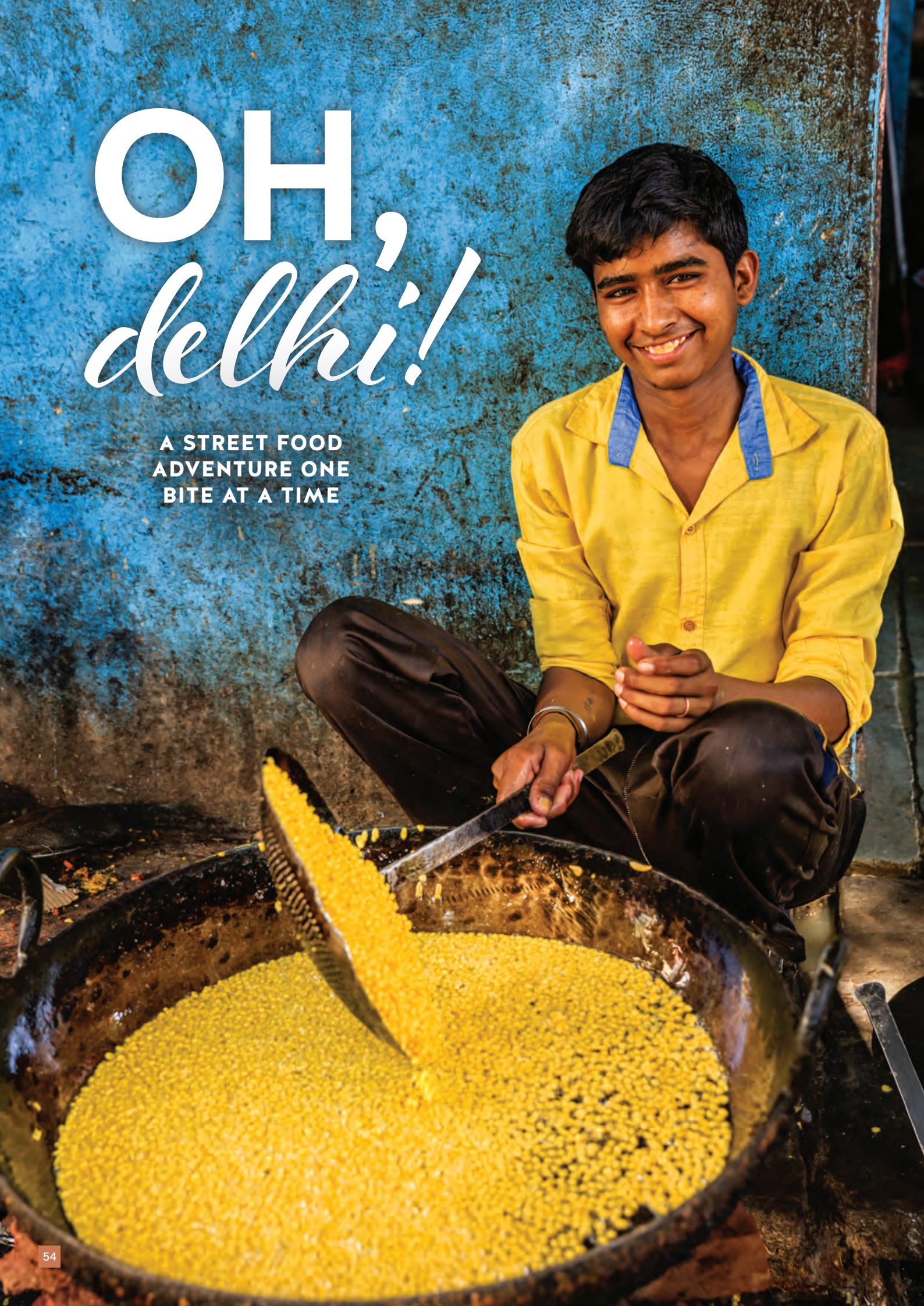
##### Dive in to Rich Nature and History

- Cruise the famous Mekong Delta River, rich with natural and cultural wonders.
- Explore the Cu Chi Tunnels, a maze of underground passageways used as hideouts by the Viet Cong during the Vietnam War.
- Discover the Post Office, Notre Dame Cathedral, and the Reunification Palace.

Visit  
[ThomasCookTours.com/explorations](https://www.thomascoktours.com/explorations)  
for complete tour details.

# OH, *delhi!*

A STREET FOOD  
ADVENTURE ONE  
BITE AT A TIME



*Old Delhi* is where the action is. And where foodies will find their slice of heaven. A labyrinth of historic alleyways and narrow quarters hold a treasure trove of eating possibilities in a compact space. You can cover a lot of ground in very little time. **And that's a good thing.**



**If you really want to experience the thrill of this corner of India's capital, the preferred way to do it is by rickshaw.**

India's most popular way of getting around holds a certain edge here in Old Delhi; a new thrill with every dodge of a car, cow, motorbike, or another rickshaw.

Rolling alongside buildings stacked beside pagodas, you'll hop on, hop off, and eat as the locals do. Inside the din of Old Delhi, the senses are filled with smells of curry and chapatti, lights almost as bright as the Lane of Spices, and the stereo surround of honking horns and conversations turned up to eleven. But in the thick of what looks like madness, the flow of the journey is orchestrated chaos.

Hit up the street stalls filled with Chana masala, goat curry, kofta, and dahl, and walk among the crowds lining the sidewalks beside cauldrons of biryani and flaming kebabs. Devour

butter chicken roasted over open flames and drenched in ghee and immerse yourself in the crowd as it rings around deep pans where balls of dough fry in to hot bubble bread the size of a small balloon.

As you maneuver past a 200-year-old store selling incense, stop at a spot serving fried chicken and happiness for more than forty-five years. There's always room for dessert, even here in Old Delhi. Back on the rickshaw, it's time to follow the sweet scent of Jalebi—swirling shapes of fried batter, dumped in a vat of sugary syrup. Next, at a Kulfi shop, cleanse the palate with a refreshing mix between sorbet and ice cream, in flavours like mango, saffron, lychee, and even garlic!

**Through all of the spices, sauces, samosas, chicken birra, and kulfi, discover the heart of India— exciting, colourful, flavourful, and beautifully chaotic. Old Delhi serves it all up on a platter.**



*try these*

**STREET FOOD GEMS**



**SAMOSAS**



**KOFTA**



**BUTTER CHICKEN**



Bengal Tiger

## MYSTERIES OF INDIA

Welcome to India—a perfect synthesis of nature, spirituality, and regal legacy. Breathe new life into the soul and resurrect the senses on this electrifying plunge into India’s stunningly vibrant culture.

**FROM £2459\* DAYS 14 MEALS 25**

*\*Price based on 03 April, 2020 departure. Per person, double, land only.*

*Rates include internal flights on tour.*

### Where You'll Stay

#### Delhi 2 Nights

Hyatt Regency

#### Udaipur 2 Nights

Lalit Laxmi Vilas

#### Jaipur 2 Nights

ITC Rajputana

#### Ranthambore 2 Nights

Juna Mahal

#### Agra 2 Nights

ITC Mughal

#### Khajuraho 1 Night

Radisson Jass Hotel

#### Varanasi 2 Nights

Rivatas Hotel

*On some dates alternate hotels may be used.*

### Included Meals

13 Breakfasts

6 Lunches

6 Dinners

### Activity Level

1 2 3 4 5

**Active**

*See pg. 6 for details on our activity levels.*



ASIA



## MYSTERIES OF INDIA

### 3 EXPERIENCES

*beyond expectation*



### 1 EXPERIENCE A SUNRISE LIKE NO OTHER – AT THE TAJ MAHAL

An icon among icons, the Taj Mahal cannot be missed. Find yourself in awe as you stand before this marbled tribute to true love bathed in the early morning light. As the sun rises, the colours seem to dance on the white marble façade and shimmer along its reflective pool.

**>> EXPERIENCE THIS ON DAY 10 IN AGRA.**

### 2 IGNITE YOUR SPIRIT IN INDIA'S HOLIEST CITY

Each evening, just after dusk, the holy Dasaswamedh Ghat on the banks of the River Ganges becomes bathed in a choreographed spectacle of fire, fragrant incense, and rhythmic chants. Witness this devotional ritual as Hindu priests provide offerings to the Goddess Ganga.

**>> EXPERIENCE THIS ON DAY 12 IN VARANASI.**



### 3 FILL UP ON LOCAL FLAVOUR IN OLD DELHI

Meet up with a local guide, jump in a rickshaw, and head through Old Delhi's narrow streets and corridors for a delicious sampling of the city's incredible food scene. Bring your appetite and sense of adventure—we'll handle the rest.

>> EXPERIENCE THIS ON DAY 2 IN DELHI.



#### WHAT YOU'LL DO

##### DAYS 1-2 DELHI

#### Feel Delhi's Dynamic Pulse

- Stimulate the senses on guided explorations of modern New Delhi and historic Old Delhi.
- Meet up with a local guide, jump in a rickshaw, and indulge in a delicious sampling of the Old Delhi's incredible food scene.

##### DAYS 3-4 UDAIPUR

#### Behold the Romance of Udaipur

- In Udaipur, **IT'S YOUR CHOICE!** Join a local expert to learn the basic practices of yoga **OR** embark on a leisurely walking tour as the city's streets come to life.
- See this sparkling city from a new perspective on an evening cruise.
- Look over Lake Pichola from your luxurious hotel—a historic palace.

##### DAYS 5-6 JAIPUR

#### Connect with Culture in Jaipur

- Join a local host where you'll shop for fresh ingredients together, then return to her home to discover the secrets (and joys) of preparing an authentic Indian meal.
- Ascend Amber Fort in a vintage jeep, and soak in vibrant views of the "Pink City."
- Enjoy lunch at a local school where children are thriving in a programme supported by the Collette Foundation.

##### DAYS 7-8 RANTHAMBORE

#### Walk on the Wild Side in Ranthambore

- Meet with a naturalist, then get an up-close glimpse of Ranthambore National Park's most popular residents—Bengal tigers—and more wildlife on two game drives through the park.
- See first-hand how the Ranthambore School of Art is improving lives through art.

##### DAYS 9-11 AGRA • KHAJURAHO

#### Step Back in Time in Agra and Khajuraho

- Lunch at Sheroes Hangout. See page 58 to learn more about this amazing organisation.
- The can't-miss visit to the Taj Mahal. Feel the full power of this monument's romantic spirit with a sunrise visit.
- Make passage to Khajuraho on an exciting train journey, then explore the stunning UNESCO-designated sculptures of Khajuraho and the Chandel Temple complex.

##### DAYS 12-14 VARANASI

#### Be Moved by the Holy City of Varanasi

- Sail along the Ganges and drink in the vibrant colours and beautiful balance between life and death in India's holiest city.
- Witness the powerful Ganga Aarti ceremony held on the banks of the River Ganges.
- Look inward and reflect on yourself and your journey as an expert teacher guides you through a meditative yoga session.
- Embark on an enlightening journey of mind, body and spirit during a visit to the Buddhist holy site of Sarnath, where Siddhartha Gautama, gave his first sermon in 6th century B.C.

Visit  
[ThomasCookTours.com/explorations](https://www.thomascooktours.com/explorations)  
for complete tour details.

impact moment:

## Seeing Beauty Inside & Out

In India, **Sheroes Café** is home to a powerful message – you cannot break our spirits, no matter how hard you try. The women who work and run Sheroes (*a portmanteau of “She” and “Heroes”*) are all survivors of heinous acid attacks, and with one clear voice they tell the world that they will not be cowed by violence. Instead, they serve up teas, coffee, and other delicious treats in a positive and welcoming café environment. They continue their work with the Stop Acid Attacks campaign, to show that they stand in solidarity with every brave acid attack survivor.



## NEPAL

### 4-NIGHT POST-TOUR EXTENSION

In the legendary and mountainous country of Nepal, seek out the perfect balance between adventure and serenity in a culture that thrives on both.

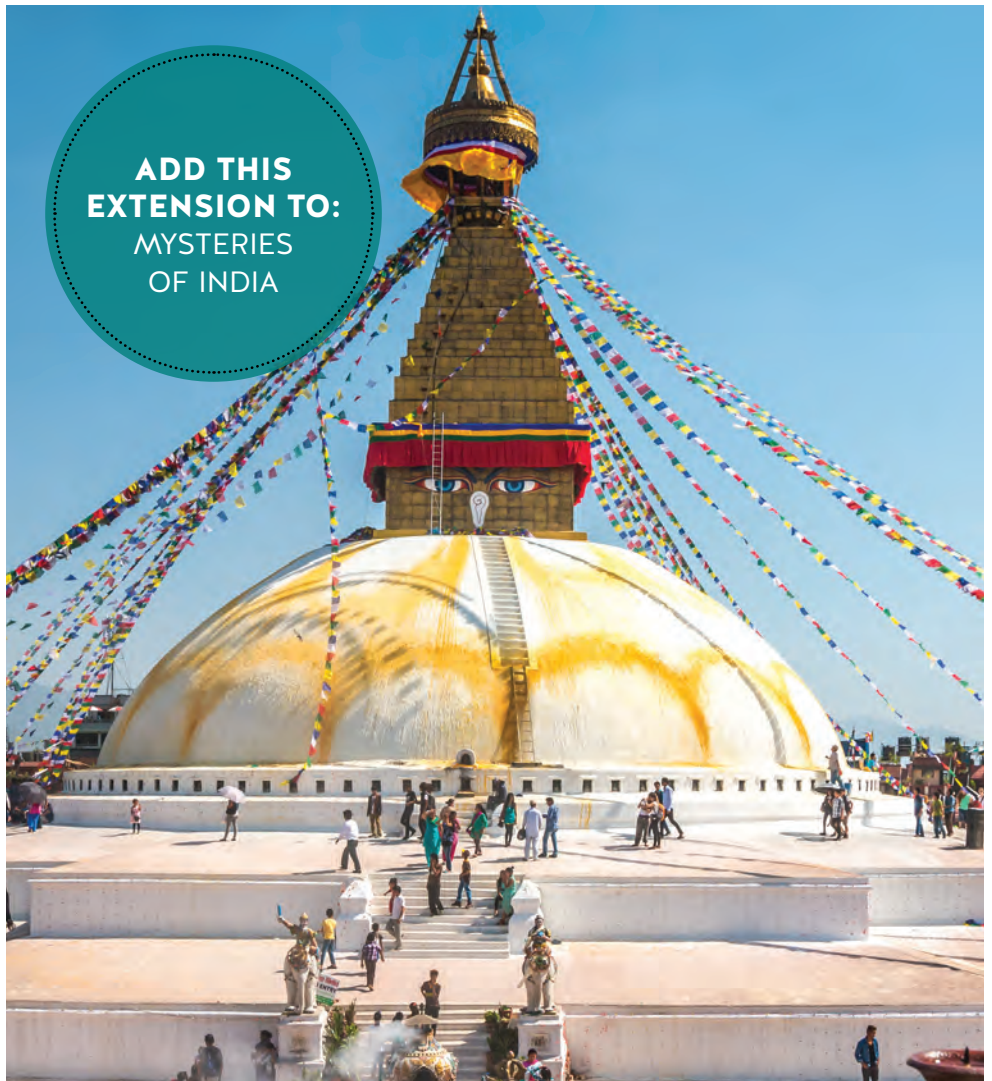
**Call or visit website for pricing.**

**MEALS 5**

### WHAT YOU'LL DO

- Enjoy a sightseeing tour of Patan city, the old Newar city. See the Patan Durban Square, a combination of palace buildings, artistic courtyards and pagoda-style temples.
- Tour Kathmandu and Swayambhunath Stupa, a famous monkey temple boasting the painted eyes of Buddha watching all who ascend the steps.
- Visit such sites as the Hanuman Dhoka, the temple of the living goddess, and Kasthmandap, a wooden temple built from a single tree.
- See Boudnath, one of the largest stupas in the world and a sacred place to Buddhist pilgrims from Tibet.

**ADD THIS  
EXTENSION TO:  
MYSTERIES  
OF INDIA**



## SOUTH INDIA

### 6-NIGHT POST-TOUR EXTENSION

Delve into the kaleidoscope of colours and cultures on a journey across South India, and witness the melding of different traditions from across the globe.

Call or visit website for pricing.

MEALS 11

#### WHAT YOU'LL DO

- Witness the "Kathakali," a striking dance form featuring elaborate face make-up and costumes.
- Tour the captivating port city of Cochin, taking in the myriad styles that attest to Arab, Jewish, and European influences.
- In the crisp, cool air of the Western Ghats, learn about the local agriculture during a guided visit to a spice garden led by its caretaker.
- Embark on a boat cruise from Alleppey to Kumarakom through the backwaters, a network of lagoons, lakes, rivers and canals.



ADD THIS  
EXTENSION TO:  
MYSTERIES  
OF INDIA



ADD THIS  
EXTENSION TO:  
MYSTERIES  
OF INDIA

## DUBAI

### 3-NIGHT PRE-TOUR EXTENSION

Discover this ultra-modern city before exploring the ancient, alluring charm of the desert.

£465\* MEALS 4

*\*Per person, double, land only*

#### WHAT YOU'LL DO

- View the Al Bastakia old wind-towered houses built by wealthy merchants.
- Travel by abra, a traditional water taxi.
- Embark on an exciting desert safari and ride aboard luxury 4x4 vehicles over rolling sand dunes through the Dubai desert.
- Arrive at a desert campsite where a feast awaits you and enjoy a belly dancing performance.



Hassan II Mosque, Casablanca

## COLOURS OF MOROCCO

From vibrant cities to the still of the desert, Morocco will enchant you with its deep history, unique atmosphere and welcoming people.

**FROM £1849\* DAYS 10 MEALS 17**

*\*Price based on 20 September, 2019 departure. Per person, double, land only.*

### Where You'll Stay

#### Casablanca 1 Night

Hotel Val D'Anfa

#### Fes 2 Nights

Riad Yacout

#### Sahara Desert 2 Nights

Xaluca Luxe Bivouacs Belle Etoile

#### Boumalne du Dades 1 Night

Hotel Xaluca Dades

#### Marrakech 3 Nights

Es Saadi Hotel

*On some dates alternate hotels may be used.*

### Included Meals

9 Breakfasts

2 Lunches

6 Dinners

### Activity Level

1 2 3 4 5

Active

*See pg. 6 for details on our activity levels.*



# COLOURS OF MOROCCO

## 3 EXPERIENCES

*beyond expectation*



### 1 LOCAL LEATHER TANNERIES CAPTIVATE WITH COLOUR

In the heart of Fes, you'll see merchants selling vibrant leather goods in every shade of the rainbow. You'll get a bird's-eye view of the tanneries where these goods are fashioned and witness an eye-catching honeycomb of vats in brilliant colours. Watch as artisans work their craft that's remained virtually unchanged for centuries.

**>> EXPERIENCE THIS ON DAY 3 IN FES.**

### 3 EXPERIENCE TWO NIGHTS OF SERENITY OF THE DESERT

A 4x4 jeep provides your transportation to a desert camp in the Sahara. For the next two nights, in the tranquil silence of the desert, you'll drift off to sleep in a fully equipped Berber-style tent. As each morning dawns, enjoy amazing views of the sunrise and the perfect stillness of the desert. Return from the camp via camel, as the morning light greets the dunes.

**>> EXPERIENCE THIS ON DAYS 5 AND 6 IN THE SAHARA DESERT.**





## 2 PREPARE A LUNCH AND HELP LOCAL WOMEN STAND STRONG.

Gather fresh and local ingredients and prepare for a special culinary workshop at the Amal Centre, a social enterprise benefiting disadvantaged women. Here at Amal, women are trained in every aspect of the restaurant industry to help them secure a job and their own financial independence.

>> EXPERIENCE THIS ON DAY 9 IN MARRAKECH.



### WHAT YOU'LL DO

#### DAYS 1-3 CASABLANCA • FES

##### We'll Always Have Morocco: Casablanca to Fes

- Gaze upon a rainbow of ceramic tile (called zellij) and the hand-carved stone of the Hassan II Mosque.
- Visit the Mausoleum of Mohammed V in Rabat, the capital of Morocco.
- Discover Fes: see the Jewish Quarter, the city ramparts, and the gates of the palace, then take a walking tour of the Medina.
- Witness the brilliantly hued honeycomb of vats at Fes' leather tanneries.
- Spend two nights in a traditional riad.

#### DAYS 4-6 SAHARA DESERT • BOUMALNE DU DADES

##### Into the Desert

- Jump into a 4x4 vehicle to explore the Sahara before spending the next two nights in a luxury desert camp.
- Meet a desert farmer, visit a local village, and meet with a nomadic community before watching the sun set over the sands.
- Return from your desert stay via camel.
- Soak in the tranquil silence of the desert, under a stunning blanket of stars.
- Visit and overnight in Morocco's "Grand Canyon," Boumalne Du Dades.

#### DAYS 7-10 MARRAKECH

##### Awaken Your Senses in Marrakech

- Discover the treasures of Marrakech: ancient El Bahia Palace, historic Jewish Mellah, and the majestic 12th-century Koutoubia Mosque.
- Select fresh and local ingredients for your culinary workshop at a social enterprise benefitting women.
- Wander the expansive labyrinth of souks, homes, and businesses within the 1,000-year-old walls of the Medina.
- In Marrakech, **IT'S YOUR CHOICE!** Tour Jardin Majorelle and the Berber Museum. **OR**, explore the Yves Saint Laurent Museum.
- Conclude your journey with dinner in a palace.

Visit

[ThomasCookTours.com/explorations](https://www.thomascoktours.com/explorations)  
for complete tour details.



## THE PLAINS OF AFRICA

Prepare to see an Africa you've only known in your dreams, and one you never knew existed. Explore Kenya's wildlife, up close and personal, against a stunningly untamed backdrop.

FROM **£3409\*** DAYS **13** MEALS **33**

*\*Price based on 14 June, 2019 departure. Per person, double, land only, including park fees.*

### Where You'll Stay

#### Nairobi 1 Night

Sarova Stanley Hotel

#### Nyeri 1 Night

Aberdare Country Club

#### Shaba Reserve 2 Nights

Sarova Shaba Lodge

#### Nyeri 1 Night

The Ark Hotel

#### Lake Nakuru 2 Nights

Sarova Lion Hill Lodge

#### Masai Mara 2 Nights

Sarova Mara Camp

#### Nairobi 1 Night

Sarova Stanley Hotel

#### Amboseli 2 Nights

Ol Tukai Lodge

*On some dates alternate hotels may be used.*

### Included Meals

12 Breakfasts

11 Lunches

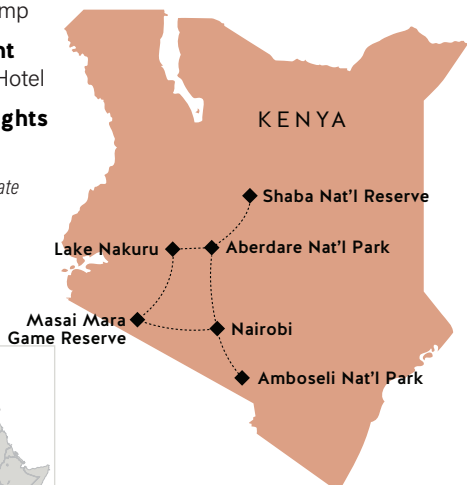
10 Dinners

### Activity Level

1 2 3 4 5

Active

*See pg. 6 for details on our activity levels.*



# THE PLAINS OF AFRICA

## 3 EXPERIENCES

*beyond expectation*

### 1 HEAD INTO THE WILD ON ELEVEN GAME DRIVES

Get ready to fill up your mind and memory card with the images of Kenya's striking landscapes and variety of wildlife, including the "Big 5." Early morning and late afternoon drives seek to deliver you the best opportunity to spy the animals that call each destination home.

>> EXPERIENCE THIS THROUGHOUT YOUR TRAVELS IN KENYA.

### 2 CONNECT WITH MASAI CULTURE

Spend an afternoon getting to know the Masai people. You'll be a welcomed visitor in a local village (called an enkeng in Maa, the Masai language) and see a slice of everyday life. Later, as you indulge in a traditional bush dinner, take in the incredible sights of a Masai dance performance.

>> EXPERIENCE THIS ON DAY 8 IN MASAI MARA.



### WHAT YOU'LL DO

#### DAYS 1-2 NAIROBI • NYERI

#### Getting Back to Nature in Nairobi & Nyeri

- Seize an opportunity to give back to nature with a "seedball." The compact balls of seed limit the cost of planting indigenous trees.
- Enjoy an afternoon at leisure to explore Aberdare Country Club's amenities like golfing, nature walks, and spa treatments.

#### DAYS 3-4 SHABA RESERVE

#### Shaba Reserve: The Africa You've Always Imagined

- Discover the magic of the Shaba, Samburu and Buffalo Springs reserves on three game drives.
- Enjoy a traditional Sundowner as the sun sets over the banks of the Ewaso Ng'iro River.
- In the company of a Samburu tribe member, learn about the culture, traditions, and folklore of the Samburu region and its people.



### 3 THIS IS TRUE SAFARI LIFE

Tucked in a deluxe tented camp for two nights, you'll experience the adventure of sleeping in the heart of nature (with plenty of creature comforts). This relaxing retreat in the wilds of the Masai Mara Game Reserve is the perfect way to live the safari life without giving up the amenities of a lodge.

**>> EXPERIENCE THIS ON DAYS 8-9 IN MASAI MARA GAME RESERVE.**

#### DAYS 5-7 NYERI • LAKE NAKURU

##### Stay Where the Wild Things Are

- Join a discussion about conservation efforts and anti-poaching measures in the region.
- Stay amongst the wildlife at The Ark Hotel, and spy animal activity at the floodlit water hole.
- Embark on two game drives in the wildlife haven of Lake Nakuru, your home for two nights.
- Get a true taste of Africa with a traditional breakfast prepared right in the bush.

#### DAYS 8-9 MASAI MARA

##### Dreaming in the Wilds of Masai Mara

- Embark on three game drives in arguably the most stunning game viewing reserve in all of Kenya— the Masai Mara.
- Visit a local Masai village and see a slice of everyday life.
- Indulge in a traditional bush dinner, complete with a Masai dance performance.
- Take in the vast landscape of the Mara during a picnic stop.
- Spend two nights being lulled to sleep by the sounds of the wild in a deluxe tented camp.

#### DAYS 10-13 NAIROBI • AMBOSELI

##### In the Land of Giants in Amboseli

- Return to Nairobi and visit the house of Karen Blixen, author of *Out of Africa*.
- Seek a glimpse of free-running lions, roaming herds of elephants, wildebeests, zebras and more during three game drives in Amboseli National Park.

Visit [ThomasCookTours.com/explorations](https://www.thomascoktours.com/explorations) for complete tour details.



Cape of Good Hope

# EXPLORING SOUTH AFRICA, VICTORIA FALLS AND BOTSWANA

## 3 EXPERIENCES

*beyond expectation*

## EXPLORING SOUTH AFRICA, VICTORIA FALLS AND BOTSWANA

Thread by thread, the tapestry of South African life comes alive before your very eyes. From the “Big 5” to connecting with the people who call this place home, this is a journey to remember.

Call or visit our website for pricing.

**DAYS 13 MEALS 23**



### Where You'll Stay

**Cape Town 3 Nights**  
Commodore Hotel

**Stellenbosch 2 Nights**  
Spier Hotel or  
De Zalze Lodge

**Entabeni 2 Nights**  
Hanglip Mountain Lodge

**Johannesburg 1 Night**  
Hallmark House

**Victoria Falls 2 Nights**  
Victoria Falls Safari Lodge

**Kasane 2 Nights**  
Chobe Marina Lodge

*On some dates alternate hotels may be used.*

### Included Meals

12 Breakfasts  
3 Lunches  
8 Dinners

### Activity Level

1 2 3 4 5

**Active**  
*See pg. 6 for details on our activity levels.*



## 2 EXPERIENCE THREE DIFFERENT WAYS TO SAFARI

You'll get to experience a variety of ways to spot wildlife during seven safaris. Cruise down the Chobe, set out on a walking safari with an expert, hop in a 4x4 in a private reserve. With so many ways to catch an up-close glimpse at wildlife, you're bound to have a memorable encounter!

**>> EXPERIENCE THROUGHOUT YOUR TRAVELS IN SOUTH AFRICA.**





# 1 STAND IN AWE BEFORE VICTORIA FALLS

There are some things in this world that defy definition. Standing before the thunderous rush of water at Victoria Falls will certainly be one of those events. Enjoy time here in the afternoon, when the rainbows just off the water are simply spectacular.

>> EXPERIENCE THIS ON DAY 9 IN VICTORIA FALLS.



# 3 GET AN IN-DEPTH PEEK AT EVERYDAY LIFE

Embark on a captivating tour of a local village with our friend, a most passionate village elder. From a casual chat inside an open-roofed lapa that's welcomed dignitaries and local leaders, to the surrounding fields, bush, and round houses with perfectly swept yards, discover a palpable energy in a place where traditions are expressed with pride.

>> EXPERIENCE THIS ON DAY 10 IN VICTORIA FALLS.



## WHAT YOU'LL DO

### DAYS 1-3 CAPE TOWN

#### Get to Know Cosmopolitan Cape Town

- Whisk away to the top of Table Mountain for incredible views of Cape Town and beyond.
- Enjoy free time to explore Cape Town how you choose.
- Take an easy hike along Cape of Good Hope, ending at Boulders Beach, home to endangered African penguins.
- Eat a delicious meal in a local family's home.

### DAYS 4-5 STELLENBOSCH

#### Sip and Savour Stellenbosch's Wine Country

- Enjoy an afternoon at leisure in Stellenbosch's picturesque wine country.
- Sample the region's most renowned wines.
- Choose to spend a day of leisure in Stellenbosch **OR** discover the maritime village of Hermanus.

### DAYS 6-8 ENTABENI • JOHANNESBURG

#### Nature and Culture Revealed from Entabeni to "Joburg"

- Head out in search of the "Big 5" on 4 game drives through Entabeni Conservancy.
- Join a ranger and tracker to follow clues left by wildlife tracks.
- Indulge in dinner under a blanket of stars.
- Explore Maboneng, the epicentre of the "Joburg" inner-city renaissance. Stay one night in this regenerated cultural hub where history, business, and lifestyle blend seamlessly.

### DAYS 9-10 VICTORIA FALLS

#### Behold the Power of Victoria Falls

- Stand before stunning Victoria Falls in the afternoon, when the rainbows are at their best.
- Indulge in a Boma dinner as traditional dancers and drummers surround you.
- Interact with African elephants in their own habitat.
- Explore a local village.

### DAYS 11-13 KASANE

#### Discovering Life in Chobe

- Look for elephants, hippos, crocodiles and more on a safari cruise along Botswana's Chobe River.
- Explore the diverse ecosystems of Chobe National Park.
- **Y IT'S YOUR CHOICE!** Continue the wildlife search by land on an afternoon game drive, **OR** hit the river for a safari cruise.
- Learn the secrets to cooking a traditional braai during a chef-hosted dinner by the river.

Visit [ThomasCookTours.com/explorations](https://www.thomascooktours.com/explorations) for complete tour details.

## TSAVO NATIONAL PARK

### 4-NIGHT PRE-TOUR EXTENSION

Heed the call of the wild as you explore the many wonders of Tsavo National Park. From rare red elephants to the bounty of animals at Mzima Springs, countless wonders await.

**£1095-£1165\*** MEALS 7

*\*Per person, double, land only. Rates include park fees.*

#### WHAT YOU'LL DO

- Settle in for a two-night stay at a lodge in the heart of Tsavo National Park. Set upon stilts and overlooking a watering hole, your lodge offers plenty of opportunities to view wildlife in a comfortable setting.
- Embark on an afternoon game drive in Tsavo National Park, in search of majestic elephants and other impressive fauna.
- In the private game reserve of Taita Hill Sanctuary, set out to spot lions, elephants, impalas, oryx and more.



## TANZANIA

### 4-NIGHT POST-TOUR EXTENSION

See the unparalleled beauty of the natural world unfold around you in these stunning and rugged African parks – Serengeti National Park and Ngorongoro Crater.

**£1525-£1955\*** MEALS 12

*\*Per person, double, land only. Rates include park fees.*

#### WHAT YOU'LL DO

- Enjoy a full-day game drive in Serengeti National Park, undoubtedly the most famous wildlife sanctuary in the world.
- Safari across the Ngorongoro Crater, the largest intact caldera in the world, teeming with wildlife residing on the lush crater floor.

impact moment:

# SEEDS OF CHANGE

In Kenya, deforestation has run rampant across the beautiful landscape. Trees have been cleared in droves for firewood and lumber at an unsustainable rate. What might

seem like a single issue, loss of trees, rapidly causes a

domino effect across the ecosystem, causing the harmony of the natural world to be disrupted. To counter-act this, people in Kenya have developed "seed balls," literally golf ball sized spheres of seeds and fertilizer. They scatter them from airplanes over large patches of deforested land, but also hand them out to travellers

coming into Kenya. These seed balls are so robust, and so cost-effective to make, that the people of Kenya want travellers to scatter them everywhere. This is a monumental effort taken in tiny steps by thousands of people, replanting forests one seed at a time.



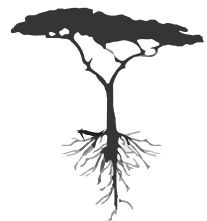
THROW



WAIT...



GROW!



ADD THIS  
EXTENSION TO:  
EXPLORING SOUTH  
AFRICA, VICTORIA  
FALLS AND  
BOTSWANA

## DUBAI

### 3-NIGHT PRE-TOUR EXTENSION

Discover this ultra-modern city before exploring the ancient, alluring charm of the desert.

Call or visit website for pricing.

MEALS 4

#### WHAT YOU'LL DO

- View the Al Bastakia old wind-towered houses built by wealthy merchants.
- Travel by abra, a traditional water taxi.
- Embark on an exciting desert safari and ride aboard luxury 4x4 vehicles over rolling sand dunes through the Dubai desert.
- Arrive at a desert campsite where a feast awaits you and enjoy a belly dancing performance.





# impact moments

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## GIVING BACK to a world that gives us so much

Travel should make a positive impact, both on you and the world. That is why Explorations designs tours with powerful **impact moments**. From connecting with indigenous cultures and learning how to preserve their ways of life, to helping restore and protect the environment, or visiting a non-profit organisation with a powerful cause, **impact moments** are how we can help make tomorrow better for us all.

Social responsibility takes many forms across the world, and we are adding more **impact moments** to our tours all the time. Driven by four key pillars – Community, People, Travel and Planet – we work every day to care for the places we live, work, and travel.

Lessen your carbon footprint on **Switzerland: Hidden Trails & Majestic Peaks**.

See this **Impact Moment** on pg. 33  
Tour information on pg. 32

Help replenish the landscape of **Kenya** with a “seed ball”.

See this **Impact Moment** on pg. 67  
Tour information on pg. 62

Discover how you can make lunch more meaningful at **Sheroes Café**.

See this **Impact Moment** on pg. 58  
Tour information on pg. 56

See how the **Charles Darwin Research Centre** is restoring the Galápagos Islands to their ecological prime.

See this **Impact Moment** on pg. 48  
Tour information on pg. 46



# THOMAS COOK TOURS GIVES YOU more IN EVERY WAY

With years of experience of listening to our customers, we know how important all the elements of your holiday are. This is why our inclusive tours offer you MORE for your money, and with a focus on service, we give you MORE of what makes travel special.

## USEFUL HOLIDAY INFORMATION

Please read carefully through the following information before booking your Thomas Cook Tours. When you book, you will be asked if you have read and understood this section, as well as our Booking Conditions.

### FELLOW TRAVELLERS

Your fellow travellers will come from a wide range of locations and backgrounds. However, because we only offer English-speaking trips, the majority will be from the USA, UK, Canada and Australia.

### GROUP SIZE

Our group size ranges from between 10 to 44 people, depending on your chosen style of tour. The approximate maximum number on each tour is detailed on each tour page, although we rarely have groups that are smaller than six or seven people.

### INCLUSIVE TOURING

Inclusive Touring with Thomas Cook Tours means that we provide you with the peace of mind of knowing that all of the essential elements of your holiday are carefully looked after by us. We include the following with every escorted tour package booked with us, and the full details can be found on each page within the brochure and online.

- ✓ Transportation via coach, mini bus
- ✓ Quality accommodation in carefully selected locations
- ✓ Most meals as detailed
- ✓ Included sightseeing as detailed
- ✓ Admission charges as detailed
- ✓ Porterage as detailed

### YOUR FLIGHTS

When you have selected your chosen itinerary, we will find the best priced flight available to meet your holiday requirements. When you book your flight with us, you will receive a complimentary private door to door airport transfer, arrival and departure transfers within your chosen holiday destination and your holiday will be fully bonded through our ATOL bonding.

When purchasing flights from Thomas Cook Tours you must ensure that the name as submitted matches the name on your passport. Please notify Thomas Cook Tours, your travel agent or your group leader immediately in the event of any discrepancy.

### PRIVATE UK AIRPORT TRANSFERS

Thomas Cook Tours includes a private airport transfer on all bookings when a flight is booked with us. The complimentary service is for distances

of up to 150 miles from the point of collection to the departure airport. A supplement is payable for distances over 150 miles. Mileage is calculated using Google Maps. The service is offered per booking in the mainland UK and Northern Ireland only. Complimentary private airport transfers do not apply to tour only bookings or group bookings.

### TOUR ONLY

If you purchase a 'tour only' holiday, please provide Thomas Cook Tours with your flight schedules for the entire tour 8 weeks prior to departure. Choosing to book a tour only with us excludes Thomas Cook Tours from any liability where your privately organised travel arrangements may result in inconvenient or difficult flight connection times/transfer times. We do not include transfers from the arrival and departure airport at the holiday destination or private UK airport transfers with tour only bookings.

### ACCOMMODATION

We pride ourselves on the quality of accommodation available on each tour. We tend to use 4 star hotels on all of our tours. However, on certain tours we will put location as the key selection criteria. This is true in many of our tours where we stay within a national park, where the uniqueness of staying within the national park is a major highlight of the tour. We have listed the hotels where you will stay on each tour page, although on some dates alternative hotels may be used.

### SOLO TRAVELLERS

Our tour pricing is based on 2 sharing a twin /double room. If you are travelling on your own, we have pricing for solo travellers which takes into account having your own room throughout your tour. Please see the Solo Traveller pricing on each tour page. Places are limited so please book early.

### INCLUDED MEALS

We include many meals on each tour, but not all. This allows you to choose on selected nights where you'd like to dine. Your tour manager can organise restaurants to suit your personal tastes giving you flexibility and choice on your tour to try the cuisine in local restaurants and also to choose where to eat and how much to spend. Please see individual tours for specific meal inclusions.

## TRANSPORT

On each tour we use a variety of different transport. We use everything from coaches, boats, river cruisers and trains to tuk tuk's and camels. On some tours smaller buses, which may not be lavatory equipped, may be used. In this case, frequent stops are made during travel periods.

## TOUR PACING

Tour pacing varies by itinerary, and each destination's sightseeing and activities are unique. Pacing is subject to personal interpretation. At Thomas Cook Tours, we do include the best a destination has to offer, enhancing your overall tour experience. For overnight pacing of a tour, please refer to the "Accommodation" section on each tour page and on the tour map. These describe the number of nights you will stay in each hotel during your tour. The day-by-day descriptions will provide additional detail about the number of activities included in each day.

The Tour Activity Level Ranking is featured on each tour itinerary in a circle. The definition of each activity level is listed here. If you have additional questions regarding a specific tour, please enquire at time of reservation. For your comfort, we recommend packing comfortable walking shoes so you can fully enjoy every aspect of your tour.

Level 1: At a very leisurely pace, this tour involves minimal physical activity, such as climbing some stairs, boarding a motorcoach, and walking from the hotel reception area to hotel rooms and dining areas.

Level 2: This tour requires average physical activity. You should be in good health, able to climb stairs and walk reasonable distances, possibly over uneven ground and cobblestoned streets.

Level 3: This tour includes moderate physical activity. The itinerary blends some longer days with shorter days and more leisure time. Walking tours, as well as walking slightly longer distances, up stairs or on uneven walking surfaces should be expected.

Level 4: To truly experience the program and destination, you need to be able to participate in physical activities such as longer walking tours, walking over uneven terrain, climbing stairs and periods of standing. Some of the touring days may be longer, with select included activities occurring later in the evening.

Level 5: This tour is very active, requiring participants to be physically fit to fully enjoy all the experiences. This itinerary has more strenuous activities which may include such things as: extensive walking tours, transfers over uneven and dusty terrain, high altitudes, early morning departures, late night activities, or extreme temperatures. All conditions do not apply to all days, so please read the itinerary carefully and speak to one of our travel advisors to determine if this tour is right for you. We recommend this program to individuals who are physically fit. Unfortunately, this tour is not appropriate for individuals who use either walkers or wheelchairs. If this trip is not ideally suited for you, our travel advisors can help determine the perfect trip for you.

## TOUR MANAGERS

Our award-winning tour managers are carefully selected for their travel experience, people skills and their time working with you. Their main responsibility is to make sure that all members of the group are well looked after and return home having had a wonderful holiday with amazing memories. It is the tour manager's responsibility to ensure that the tour runs smoothly and that all the logistics are in place; also to oversee the health and safety aspects of your holiday. They are also on hand to provide advice and recommendations for any free time within your specific tour.

## HIGH ALTITUDE

Several tours reach elevations of 8,200 feet or more. We allow time for acclimatisation and usually the body acclimatises well to spending extended periods of time above this altitude. It is difficult to predict who is at risk from altitude sickness but if you have a heart or respiratory problem we advise you not to risk extended travel at high altitudes and to check with your doctor.

## PASSPORTS AND VISAS

All visa information provided in this brochure is for guidance. Where visas are required, you must check with the relevant embassy or consulate on how to apply.

For tours where a visa is required for UK passport holders, we will advise you at the time of booking. Obtaining the proper proof of citizenship for entry to destination countries is your responsibility. A valid 10 year machine readable passport is required for all individuals travelling outside of the United Kingdom. Passports must be valid for at least six months beyond the return date from the destination. You must check with the appropriate embassy or consulate for specific information and entry requirements.

## HOTEL AND AIRPORT PARKING

Hotel and parking option includes one night's accommodation before the tour, and free parking for the duration of any tour. Additional parking due to private arrangements or tailor made extensions are payable at the reduced rate of £10 per day.

## HOTEL CHECK IN AND OUT

Most hotels make rooms available for check in at approximately 3pm on the day of arrival. Thomas Cook Tours has taken your time of arrival into consideration when arranging flights to accompany our tours. On checking in, the hotel will ask each customer to register and may require an imprint of your credit card in order to cover personal items and incidentals. If you do not have a credit card for this purpose, a cash deposit may be requested. Check out of hotels is usually between 10am and midday on the day of departure. If you have a late evening flight, we will inform you of this and ask if you wish to make provision for your departure by booking a day room on your last day (time permitting).

## HEALTH AND SAFETY

If you are taking prescription medication, please be sure to take an adequate supply for your tour and a few additional days in original prescription containers.

Medication should be packed in your carry-on baggage (never in checked luggage).

You may want to carry an extra prescription in case medication is lost. We operate a 'No Smoking' policy on all of our coaches. During the tour, your coach will make frequent stops for the convenience of all guests. The Foreign & Commonwealth office produces up-to-date travel information to help British travellers make informed decisions about travelling abroad. For further information please visit; [www.fco.gov.uk/knowbeforeyougo](http://www.fco.gov.uk/knowbeforeyougo). Alternatively you can contact ABTA at [abta.com](http://abta.com). We recommend viewing health advice from the Department of Health and discussing with your own GP any specific needs you may have whilst travelling. The Department of Health is a source of information regarding health facilities, vaccinations, and up to date health information for travel including advice on Deep Vein Thrombosis. Please visit their website at [www.dh.gov.uk](http://www.dh.gov.uk) for further details.

## SPECIAL ASSISTANCE

Thomas Cook Tours will make reasonable efforts to accommodate the special needs of tour participants. Persons requiring individual assistance must be accompanied by a companion who is capable of, and totally responsible for, providing the necessary assistance. Neither Thomas Cook Tours personnel nor its suppliers may physically lift or assist clients onto transportation vehicles. Please ask your booking agent for a Special Needs form if applicable. This form must be filled out and submitted to us at least eight weeks prior to your departure date so that we can make appropriate arrangements and inform your Tour Manager. Please Note: It is a condition of your contract with us that you inform us before booking of any special needs or assistance that may be required from Thomas Cook Tours during your tour. You will be responsible for indemnifying us in relation to any costs we incur as a result of any failure on your part to do so. Facilities on tour to assist individuals with disabilities vary from country to country.

## LUGGAGE ALLOWANCE

Due to limited vehicle capacity, one carry-on 36 inches/95 cms in length, height, and width; not to exceed 11 lbs/5 kg.) and one checked luggage (62 inches/160 cms in length, height and width; not to exceed 50 lbs/23 kgs) are allowed. Please note that these guidelines must be considered with the specific allowance permitted by the airline with whom you are booked to travel. If you exceed the limit of 2 bags, we cannot guarantee that your additional luggage will be able to fit in the vehicle.

Storage or shipment of additional luggage will be at your expense. If we are able to accommodate your additional luggage, we will levy a £2.50 per hotel, per bag fee.

Although every effort is made to handle passengers' luggage carefully, we cannot be responsible, assume liability or accept claims for loss or damage to luggage and personal effects due to breakage, theft, or normal wear and tear that results from hotel, airline and group carrier handling. It is in your best interest to make certain you have adequate insurance to cover these eventualities. On safari tours, soft duffel bag luggage is required as storage space on safari vans is limited.

# BOOKING CONDITIONS

These Booking Conditions, together with our privacy and data protection policy, and any other written information we brought to your attention before we confirmed your booking, form the basis of your contract with Adventures Unlimited Inc. of Unit 6, Brook Business Centre, Cowley Mill Road, Uxbridge, Middlesex UB8 2FX, United Kingdom ('we' or 'us'). Please read them carefully as they set out our respective rights and obligations. All the holidays in this brochure/ website are operated by Adventures Unlimited Inc. trading as Thomas Cook Tours. References to 'you' and 'your' include the final named person on the booking and all persons on whose behalf a booking is made or any other person to whom a booking is transferred.

By making a booking, the first named person on the booking agrees on behalf of all persons detailed on the booking that:

- He/she has read these Booking Conditions and has the authority to and does agree to be bound by them;
- He/she consents to our use of information in accordance with our Privacy & Data Protection Policy;
- He/she is over 18 years of age and resident in the United Kingdom and where placing an order for services with age restrictions declares that he/she and all members of the party are of the appropriate age to purchase those services;
- he/she accepts financial responsibility for payment of the booking on behalf of all persons detailed on the booking.

## 1. MAKING A BOOKING AND PAYING FOR YOUR HOLIDAY

To secure a booking, we or our authorised travel agent must receive the applicable deposit per person (or full payment depending on when your date of departure is) in accordance with table 1 below at clause 2. If the arrangements you wish to book are available we will issue a Confirmation Invoice and send this to you or your travel agent. We reserve the right to return your deposit and decline to issue a confirmation at our absolute discretion. A binding contract will come into existence between you and us as soon as we have issued you with a Confirmation Invoice confirming the details of your booking. If your confirmed arrangements include a flight we (or if you booked via an authorised agent of ours, that agent) will also issue you with an ATOL Certificate. If you book online, any acknowledgement of your booking request which we send to you is not a confirmation of your booking. Before your booking has been confirmed, in the unlikely event that an error has occurred we do reserve the right to make any changes or decline your booking at our discretion. We will communicate any changes to you and request your acceptance of these before issuing you with a Confirmation Invoice.

Upon receipt, if you believe that any details on your Confirmation Invoice or ATOL Certificate (or any other document) are wrong you must advise us immediately as changes cannot be made later and it may harm your rights if we are not notified of any inaccuracies in any document within ten days of our sending it out (five days for tickets).

The balance of the cost of your arrangements is due in accordance with Table 1 in clause 2 below. If we do not receive all payments in full and on time, we reserve the right to treat your booking as cancelled by you in which case the cancellation charges set out in Table 2a and 2b in clause 6 below will become payable.

For flight inclusive bookings covered by our ATOL, any money paid to an authorised agent of ours is held by that agent on behalf of and for the benefit of the Trustees of the Air Travel Trust at all times, but subject to the agent's obligation to pay it to us for so long as we do not fail financially. If we do fail financially, any money held at that time by the agent or subsequently accepted from the consumer by the agent, is and continues to be held by that agent on behalf of and for the benefit of the Trustees of the Air Travel Trust without any obligation to pay that money to us.

In the case of international payments you must ensure that the full GBP Sterling amount is received by us after all bank charges have been levied.

Thomas Cook Tours can assume no responsibility for and cannot be held liable for any wrongful, negligent or unauthorised acts or omissions of any travel agent or travel agency other than that of Thomas Cook Tours, itself, and its own employees.

## 2. DEPOSITS & BALANCES

Further to clause 1, the deposit payable and balance due date (including any surcharge where applicable) will vary depending on the holiday you book, as follows: Table 1a

Holiday	Deposit Payable*	Balance due not less than
All holidays (excluding cruise holidays and Antarctica)	£200 per person	60 days before departure
Ocean and river cruise holidays	£200 per person	120 days before departure
Holidays to Antarctica	£200 per person	180 days before departure

\*A higher deposit may be payable in certain circumstances, for example if any supplier(s) require additional payment at the time of booking / prior to the balance due date. On occasions, full payment for a service such as flights, permits or pre-purchased passes may also be required at the time of booking or prior to the balance due date. (Please note that unlike many other operators, we do not charge any transaction fees if using a credit card).

## 3. THE PRICE OF YOUR HOLIDAY

**You will be notified of the price of your holiday at the time of booking. However, we reserve the right to amend the price of unsold holidays at any time and correct errors in the prices of confirmed holidays.**

Once we have issued you with a Confirmation Invoice and a contract exists between us, we guarantee that we will not pass on any unexpected fuel surcharges or currency exchange charges which may otherwise have affected the price of your booking. This means, no matter what happens to the price of fuel or with the exchange rates we use, the price of your confirmed holiday is protected at all times. The prices shown in our brochures and our website are based on our current charges and costs but they may go up and down; we reserve the right to alter the price of any of our holidays and will advise you of the correct price prior to booking. Please call us or visit our website for the most up-to-date prices.

The price of your travel arrangements has been calculated using the rate of \$1.30 to £1 in relation to the following currencies: US\$ and £GBP.

## 4. CUTTING YOUR HOLIDAY SHORT

If you are forced to return home early, we cannot refund the cost of any services you have not used. If you cut short your holiday and return home early in circumstances where you have no reasonable cause for complaint about the standard of your holiday arrangements, we will not offer you any refund for that part of your holiday not completed, or be liable for any associated costs you may incur. Depending on the circumstances, your travel insurance may offer cover for curtailment and we suggest that any claim is made directly with them.

## 5. IF YOU CHANGE YOUR BOOKING

If after your holiday has been confirmed you wish to alter your booking, we will try to make the necessary arrangements provided we receive written confirmation of the change from the person who signed the booking form, or your travel agent, before the date on which the final balance of the cost of your holiday is due. Whilst we will do our best to assist, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to meet your requested change. Changes and transfers will be subject to an administrative fee of £25 per change per person as well as any applicable rate changes or extra costs incurred by us and any costs or charges incurred or imposed by any of our suppliers.

You should be aware that these costs could increase the closer to the departure date that changes are made and you should contact us as soon as possible. Where we are unable to assist you and you do not wish to proceed with the original booking we will treat this as a cancellation by you. A cancellation fee may be payable.

**Transfer of Booking:** If you or any member of your party is prevented from travelling, that person(s) may transfer their place to someone else (introduced by you and satisfying all the conditions applicable to the arrangements) providing we are notified not less than 28 days before departure and you pay an amendment fee of £25 per person transferring, meet all costs and charges incurred by us and/or incurred or imposed by any of our suppliers and the transferee agrees to these booking conditions and all other terms of the contract between us. If you are unable to find a replacement, cancellation charges as set out will apply in order to cover our estimated costs. Otherwise, no refunds will be given for passengers not travelling or for unused services.

**Note: Certain arrangements may not be amended after they have been confirmed and any alteration could incur a cancellation charge of up to 100% of that part of the arrangements.**

## 6. IF YOU CANCEL YOUR BOOKING

If you or any other member of your party decides to cancel your confirmed booking you must notify us in writing. Your notice of cancellation will only take effect when it is received in writing by us at our offices. Since we incur costs in cancelling your travel arrangements, you will have to pay the applicable cancellation charges to compensate for estimated losses and expenses. These are calculated from the date we receive your written notification of cancellation and will be payable up to the maximum shown in Tables 2a and 2b below. The cancellation charges detailed below are calculated on the basis of the total cost payable by the person(s) cancelling excluding insurance premiums and amendment charges which are not refundable in the event of the person(s) to whom they apply cancelling:

**Table 2a: All holidays excluding ocean/river cruises and holidays to Antarctica**

Period before departure notice of cancellation is received by us	Cancellation Charge
More than 60 days	Deposit only
60 - 29 days	50% of holiday cost
28 - 15 days	60% of holiday cost
14 - 8 days	75% of holiday cost
7 - 4 days	90% of holiday cost
Less than 3 days	100% of holiday cost

**Table 2b: All ocean/river cruises and holidays to Antarctica**

Period before departure notice of cancellation is received by us	Cancellation Charge
Before balance due date	Deposit only
Balance due date - 90 days	50% of holiday cost
89 - 45 days	60% of holiday cost
44 - 21 days	75% of holiday cost
20 - 8 days	80% of holiday cost
7 - 4 days	90% of holiday cost
Less than 3 days	100% of holiday cost

**Note: Certain arrangements may not be amended after they have been confirmed and any alteration or cancellation could incur a cancellation charge of up to 100% of that part of the arrangements in addition to the charge above.**

We will deduct the cancellation charge(s) from any



monies you have already paid to us. You may be able to reclaim these charges (less any applicable excess) under the terms of your insurance policy.

If some, but not all party members cancel, additional charges may be payable by the remaining members, e.g. under occupancy charges or single supplements. No allowance or refund can be made for your meals, rooms, excursions etc., included in the price of your tour but not taken, nor can any refund be made for lost, mislaid, or destroyed travel tickets or vouchers.

### 7. THOMAS COOK TOURS WORRY-FREE TRIP CANCELLATION WAIVER PLAN ("CANCELLATION WAIVER")

Cancellation Waiver provided by Thomas Cook Tours: The Cancellation Waiver is provided by Thomas Cook Tours. Payment of a per person Cancellation Waiver fee provides for a full refund of all payments (including deposit), except the Cancellation Waiver fee itself, made to Thomas Cook Tours for travel arrangements in case of cancellation of your travel plans for any reason prior to the day of departure. The Cancellation Waiver fee with air only covers airline tickets you have purchased from Thomas Cook Tours.

Exception: If you originally purchased nonrefundable airline tickets, this Cancellation Waiver does not provide a refund for the airline tickets, taxes or fees, in the event of a cancellation.

The Cancellation Waiver protects you from penalties in the event you have a need to cancel your entire inclusive tour package up to the day prior to departure. The Cancellation Waiver does not indemnify you from penalties if you choose to cancel partial tour components or air. If you choose to partially cancel your tour, you will be responsible for a revision fee as well as any penalties that are incurred at the time of the cancellation.

Thomas Cook Tours' Cancellation Waiver does not cover any single supplement charges which arise from an individual's travelling companion electing to cancel for any reason prior to departure. In this case, the single supplement will be deducted from the refund of the person who cancels. Division of this charge between the two passengers involved is solely their responsibility. If insufficient funds are deducted from the cancelling client, the travelling client will be charged the remaining portion of the single supplement.

Payment of the Cancellation Waiver Fee (if chosen) must be received by Thomas Cook Tours with your deposit. The fee is nontransferable and valid only for the individual who has chosen the Cancellation Waiver.

#### Where to Request Refunds

To request a refund under the Cancellation Waiver, please call Thomas Cook Tours and send any unused airline tickets to:

Thomas Cook Tours  
ATTN: Customer Service Department  
Unit 6-Brook Business Centre  
Cowley Mill Road  
Uxbridge, Middlesex, UB8 2FX

If cancellation occurs prior to departure, contact the Thomas Cook Tours Reservations Department. When a client cancels prior to departure, any refunds are processed through the booking agent.

#### Thomas Cook Tours Worry-Free Trip Cancellation Waiver Plan Pricing (per person)

The Cost of the Worry-Free Trip Cancellation Waiver Plan is as follows:

Land Only Clients: £150.00 per person  
Air-Inclusive Clients: £200.00 per person

Thomas Cook Tours Worry-Free Trip Cancellation Waiver Plan can only be purchased by individuals who have purchased our Flex Airfare or Instant Purchase nonrefundable air through us. Instant Purchase air and its associated taxes, fees and surcharges require full payment at time of reservation and are 100% nonrefundable.

The Cancellation Waiver offered is NOT a contract of insurance. Rather, the payment of the cancellation waiver fee merely enhances your contract terms with us in offering you a holiday package without cancellation penalties. As discussed in item 25, it is a condition of

your contract that you have adequate travel insurance in place.

### 8. IF WE CHANGE OR CANCEL YOUR BOOKING

As we plan your holiday arrangements many months in advance we may occasionally have to make changes or cancel your booking and we reserve the right to do so at any time.

Changes: If we make a minor change to your holiday, we will make reasonable efforts to inform you or your travel agent as soon as reasonably possible if there is time before your departure but we will have no liability to you. Examples of minor changes include alteration of your outward/return flights by less than 12 hours, changes to aircraft type, change of accommodation to another of the same or higher standard, changes of carriers. Please note that carriers such as airlines used in the brochure may be subject to change.

Occasionally we may have to make a major change to your confirmed arrangements. "Examples of "major changes" include the following, when made before departure:

- A change of accommodation area for the whole or a significant part of your time away;
- A change of accommodation to that of a lower standard or classification for the whole or a significant part of your time away;
- A change of outward departure time or overall length of your arrangements of twelve or more hours;
- A change of UK departure airport, as long as that change is not from one London airport to another London airport. London airports are Heathrow, Gatwick, Stansted, Luton and London City;
- A significant change to your itinerary, missing out one or more destination entirely;
- The closure of the only or all advertised swimming pool(s) at your accommodation for an extended period.

**Cancellation:** We will not cancel your travel arrangements less than 60 days before your departure date, except for reasons of force majeure or failure by you to pay the final balance. We may cancel your holiday before this date if, e.g., the minimum number of clients required for a particular travel arrangement is not reached.

If we have to make a major change or cancel, we will tell you as soon as possible and if there is time to do so before departure, we will offer you the choice of:

1. (for major changes) accepting the changed arrangements;
2. having a refund of all monies paid; or
3. accepting an offer of alternative travel arrangements of comparable standard from us, if available (we will refund any price difference if the alternative is of a lower value).

You must notify us of your choice within 7 days of our offer. If you fail to do so we will assume that you have chosen to accept the change or alternative booking arrangements.

**Insurance:** If we cancel or make a major change and you accept a refund, we will provide a full refund of your travel insurance premiums if you paid them to us and can show that you are unable to transfer or reuse your policy.

**Compensation:** If we cancel or make a major change less than 60 days before departure, we will pay compensation as detailed below. The compensation that we offer does not exclude you from claiming more if you are entitled to do so.

Period before departure a significant change or cancellation is notified to you (or your travel agent)	Compensation change or per person (excluding infants)
60 days or more	£0
59 - 45 days	£20
44 - 30 days	£30
Less than 30 days	£50

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** We will not pay you compensation in the following circumstances:

- where we make a minor change;
- where we make a major change or cancel your

- arrangements more than 60 days before departure;
- where we have to cancel your arrangements as a result of your failure to make full payment on time;
- where the change or cancellation by us arises out of alterations to the confirmed booking requested by you;
- where we are forced to cancel or change your arrangements due to Force Majeure (see clause 12).

Please note: where accommodation with a higher price than the original accommodation is offered by us and accepted by you, the difference in price will be deducted from any compensation payable. In no case will we pay compensation if accommodation is offered by us and accepted by you with a higher price than that originally booked in the same location where no additional payment is made by you.

If we become unable to provide a significant proportion of the services that you have booked with us after you have departed, we will make alternative arrangements for you at no extra charge and, if appropriate in all the circumstances, will pay you reasonable compensation.

### 9. PASSPORTS, VISAS AND HEALTH REQUIREMENTS

It is your responsibility to check and fulfill the passport, visa, health and immigration requirements applicable to your booking and that no personal circumstances such as a criminal offence or travel to another country will affect your entry into the country you're visiting, and that you have the required vaccinations to gain entry to any country which you are visiting. We can only provide general information about this. You must check requirements for your own specific circumstances with the relevant Embassies and/or Consulates and your own doctor as applicable. Requirements do change and you must check the up to date position in good time before departure.

Most countries now require passports to be valid for at least 6 months after your return date. If your passport is in its final year, you should check with the Embassy of the country you are visiting. For further information contact the Passport Office on 0300 222 0000 or visit [www.gov.uk/browse/abroad/passports](http://www.gov.uk/browse/abroad/passports)

Special conditions apply for travel to the USA, and all passengers must have individual machine readable passports. Please check [www.usembassy.org.uk](http://www.usembassy.org.uk) For European holidays you should obtain a completed and issued form EHIC prior to departure.

Up to date travel advice can be obtained from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, visit [www.fco.gov.uk](http://www.fco.gov.uk)

Non British passport holders, including other EU nationals, should obtain up to date advice on passport and visa requirements from the Embassy, High Commission or Consulate of your destination or country(ies) through which you are travelling.

We do not accept any responsibility if you cannot travel, or incur any other loss because you have not complied with any passport, visa, immigration requirements or health formalities. Further, we are not liable to you for any illness or discomfort you suffer through failure to have required vaccinations or to follow medical advice. You agree to reimburse us in relation to any fines or other losses which we incur as a result of your failure to comply with any passport, visa, immigration requirements or health formalities.

### 10. SINGLE TRAVELLER OCCUPANCY

Our holidays are advertised on a per person basis based on two persons sharing a room therefore the price when occupied by one person is higher than when two persons share the cost of the room. It is not our intention to penalise anyone who is under occupying the accommodation we provide and we certainly do not make additional or excessive profit from these sales: the price we charge merely reflects the real cost to us. If a hotel is able to offer accommodation designed for single occupancy only, we will normally charge a reduced supplement, considerably smaller than the one we apply when a single traveller occupies a double room. Allocation of rooms is at the discretion of each individual hotel and not something that we can influence.

## 11. DEALING WITH COMPLAINTS

We will make every effort to make your holiday as enjoyable and trouble free as possible. Most problems can be sorted out straight away if we know about them. If you have a complaint, you must advise our representatives straight away and the supplier of the service(s) in question. If you don't complain at the time this may affect your ability to claim compensation. You may also contact us directly using the emergency telephone number enclosed with your travel documents. That number will put you in touch with one of our employees who will take all reasonable steps to help you.

If the problem cannot be resolved and you wish to complain further, you must write to us within 28 days of your return from holiday to: Customer Services Department, Thomas Cook Tours, Unit 6, Cowley Mill Road, Brook Business Centre, Uxbridge, Middlesex, UB8 2FX, quoting your booking reference number and all other relevant information. Please keep your letter concise and to the point. This will assist us to quickly identify your concerns and speed up our response to you. Failure to follow the procedure set out in this clause may affect ours and the applicable supplier's ability to investigate your complaint, and will affect your rights under this contract.

Please note that we offer an Alternative Dispute Resolution service through our ABTA membership. Please see clause [23] for further details. You can also access the European Commission Online Dispute (ODR) Resolution platform at <http://ec.europa.eu/consumers/odr/>. This ODR platform is a means of registering your complaint with us; it will not determine how your complaint should be resolved.

## 12. BEHAVIOUR

All guests staying with us are expected to conduct themselves in an orderly and acceptable manner and not to disrupt the enjoyment of other guests. If in our opinion or in the opinion of any hotel manager or any other person in authority, your behaviour or that of any member of your party is causing or is likely to cause distress, danger or annoyance to any of our other guests or any third party or damage to property, or to cause a delay or diversion to transportation, we reserve the right to terminate your booking arrangements with us immediately. In the event of such termination our liability to you and/or your party will cease and you and/or your party will be required to leave your accommodation or other service immediately. We will have no further obligations to you and/or your party. No refunds for lost accommodation or any other service will be made and we will not pay any expenses or costs incurred as a result of termination. You and/or your party may also be required to pay for loss and/or damage caused by your actions and we will hold you and each member of your party jointly and individually liable for any damage or losses caused by you or any member of your party. Full payment for any such damage or losses must be paid directly to the hotel manager or other supplier prior to departure from the hotel. If you fail to make payment, you will be responsible for meeting any claims (including legal costs) subsequently made against us as a result of your actions together with all costs we incur in pursuing any claim against you. We cannot be held responsible for the actions or behaviour of other guests or individuals who have no connection with your booking arrangements or with us.

## 13. EVENTS BEYOND OUR CONTROL

Except where otherwise expressly stated in these booking conditions we will not be liable or pay you compensation if our contractual obligations to you are affected by any event which we or the supplier(s) of the service(s) in question could not, even with all due care, foresee or avoid. These events can include, but are not limited to war, threat of war, civil strife, terrorist activity and its consequences or the threat of such activity, riot, the act of any government or other national or local authority including port or river authorities, industrial dispute, lock closure, natural or nuclear disaster, fire, chemical or biological disaster and adverse weather, sea, ice and river conditions and all similar events outside our or the supplier(s) concerned's control. Advice from the Foreign Office to avoid or leave a particular country may constitute Force Majeure. We will follow the advice given by the Foreign Office.

## 14. OUR RESPONSIBILITY FOR YOUR HOLIDAY

1. We will accept responsibility for the arrangements we agree to provide or arrange for you as an "organiser" under the Package Travel, Package Holidays and Package Tours Regulations 1992 as set out below. Subject to these booking conditions, if we or our suppliers negligently perform or arrange the services which we are obliged to provide for you under our contract with you, as set out on your confirmation invoice, we will pay you reasonable compensation. The level of such compensation will be calculated taking into consideration all relevant factors such as but not limited to: following the complaints procedure as described in these conditions and the extent to which ours or our employees' or suppliers' negligence affected the overall enjoyment of your holiday. Please note that it is your responsibility to show that we or our supplier(s) have been negligent if you wish to make a claim against us
2. We will not be responsible or pay you compensation for any injury, illness, death, loss, damage, expense, cost or other claim of any description if it results from:
  - a. the act(s) and/or omission(s) of the person(s) affected;
  - b. the act(s) and/or omission(s) of a third party unconnected with the provision of the services contracted for and which were unforeseeable or unavoidable; or
  - c. unusual or unforeseeable circumstances beyond ours or our supplier(s) control, the consequences of which could not have been avoided even if all due care had been exercised; or
  - d. an event which either ourselves, our employees, agents or suppliers and subcontractors could not, even with all due care, have foreseen or forestalled.
3. We limit the amount of compensation we may have to pay you if we are found liable under this clause as follows:
  - a. **loss of and/or damage to any luggage or personal possessions and money**, the maximum amount we will have to pay you in respect of these claims is an amount equivalent to the excess on your insurance policy which applies to this type of loss per person in total because you are assumed to have adequate insurance in place to cover any losses of this kind.
  - b. **Claims not falling under (a) above and which don't involve injury, illness or death** the maximum amount we will have to pay you in respect of these claims is twice the price paid by or on behalf of the person(s) affected in total. This maximum amount will only be payable where everything has gone wrong and you or your party has not received any benefit at all from your booking.
  - c. **Claims in respect of international travel by air, sea and rail, or any stay in a hotel**
    - i. The extent of our liability will in all cases be limited as if we were carriers under the appropriate Conventions, which include The Warsaw/Montreal Convention (international travel by air); The Athens Convention (with respect to sea travel); The Berne/COTIF Convention (with respect to rail travel) and The Paris Convention (with respect to hotel arrangements). You can ask for copies of these Conventions from our office. Please contact us. In addition, you agree that the operating carrier or transport company's own 'Conditions of Carriage' will apply to you on that journey. When arranging transportation for you, we rely on the terms and conditions contained within these international conventions and those 'Conditions of Carriage'. You acknowledge that all of the terms and conditions contained in those 'Conditions of Carriage' form part of your contract with us, as well as with the transport company and that those 'Conditions of Carriage' shall be deemed to be included by reference into this contract.
    - ii. In any circumstances in which a carrier is liable to you by virtue of the Denied Boarding Regulation 2004, any liability we may have to you under our contract with you, arising out of the same facts, is limited to the remedies provided under the Regulation as if (for this purpose only) we were a carrier.

- iii. When making any payment, we are entitled to deduct any money which you have received or are entitled to receive from the transport provider or hotelier for the complaint or claim in question.
4. It is a condition of our acceptance of liability under this clause that you notify any claim to us and our supplier(s) strictly in accordance with the complaints procedure set out in these Booking Conditions.
5. Where any payment is made, the person(s) receiving it (and their parent or guardian if under 18 years) must also assign to ourselves or our insurers any rights they may have to pursue any third party and must provide ourselves and our insurers with all assistance we may reasonably require.
6. Please note, we cannot accept any liability for any damage, loss or expense or other sum(s) of any description which on the basis of the information given to us by you concerning your booking prior to our accepting it, we could not have foreseen you would suffer or incur if we breached our contract with you; or (b) any business losses.
7. We will not accept responsibility for services or facilities which do not form part of our agreement or where they are not advertised in our brochure. For example any excursion you book whilst away, or any service or facility which your hotel or any other supplier agrees to provide for you.

## 15. CONDITIONS OF SUPPLIERS

Many of the services which make up your holiday are provided by independent suppliers. Those suppliers provide these services in accordance with their own terms and conditions which will form part of your contract with us. Some of these terms and conditions may limit or exclude the supplier's liability to you, usually in accordance with applicable International Conventions. Copies of the relevant parts of these terms and conditions are available on request from ourselves or the supplier concerned.

## 16. DELAYS AND OTHER TRAVEL INFORMATION

If you or any member of your party misses your flight or other transport arrangement, it is cancelled or you are subject to a delay of over 3 hours for any reason, you must contact us and the airline or other transport supplier concerned immediately.

The Package Travel Regulations 1992 provide that in the event that you experience difficulties on the occurrence of circumstances described in clauses 13 (3) (a) (b) (c) of these Booking Conditions, we will provide you with prompt assistance. Where you experience a delay which is not owing to any failure by us, our employees or sub-contractors, this prompt assistance is likely to extend to providing help in locating refreshments, accommodation and communications but not paying for them. Any airline or other transport supplier may however pay for or provide refreshments and/or appropriate accommodation and you should make a claim directly to them. Subject to the other terms of these conditions, we will not be liable for any costs, fees or charges you incur in the above circumstances, if you fail to obtain our prior authorisation before making your own travel arrangements.

Under EU Law, you have rights in some circumstances to refunds and/or compensation from the airline in cases of denied boarding, cancellation or delay to flights. Full details of these rights will be publicised at EU airports and will also be available from airlines. If the airline does not comply with these rules you should complain to the Civil Aviation Authority at [www.caa.co.uk/passengers](http://www.caa.co.uk/passengers). Reimbursement in such cases is the responsibility of the airline and will not automatically entitle you to a refund of your holiday price from us. If, for any reason, you do not claim against the airline and make a claim for compensation from us, you must, at the time of payment of any compensation to you, make a complete assignment to us of the rights you have against the airline in relation to the claim that gives rise to that compensation payment. A delay or cancellation to your flight does not automatically entitle you to cancel any other arrangements even where those arrangements have been made in conjunction with your flight.

We cannot accept liability for any delay which is due to any of the reasons set out in clause 12 of these Booking Conditions (which includes the behaviour of

any passenger(s) on any flight who, for example, fails to check in or board on time).

The carrier(s), flight timings and types of aircraft shown in this brochure or on our website and detailed on your confirmation invoice are for guidance only and are subject to alteration and confirmation. We shall inform you of the identity of the actual carrier(s) as soon as we become aware of it. The latest flight timings will be shown on your tickets which will be despatched to you approximately two weeks before departure. You should check your tickets very carefully immediately on receipt to ensure you have the correct flight times. If flight times change after tickets have been despatched we will contact you as soon as we can to let you know. Please note the existence of a "Community list" (available for inspection at [http://ec.europa.eu/transport/air-ban/list\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/transport/air-ban/list_en.htm)) detailing air carriers that are subject to an operating ban with the EU Community.

This brochure is our responsibility, as your tour operator. It is not issued on behalf of, and does not commit the airlines mentioned herein or any airline whose services are used in the course of your travel arrangements. Please note that in accordance with Air Navigation Orders in order to qualify for infant status, a child must be under 2 years of age on the date of its return flight.

### 17. SPECIAL REQUESTS

Any special requests must be advised to us at the time of booking e.g. diet, room location, a particular facility at a hotel etc. You should then confirm your requests in writing. Whilst every effort will be made by us to try and arrange your reasonable special requests, we cannot guarantee that they will be fulfilled. The fact that a special request has been noted on your confirmation invoice or any other documentation or that it has been passed on to the supplier is not confirmation that the request will be met. Failure to meet any special request will not be a breach of contract on our part unless the request has been specifically confirmed in writing. We do not accept bookings that are conditional upon any special request being met.

### 18. DISABILITIES AND MEDICAL PROBLEMS

We are not a specialist disabled holiday company, but we will do our utmost to cater for any special requirements you may have. If you or any member of your party has any medical problem or disability which may affect your stay, please provide us with full details before we confirmed your booking so that we can try to advise you as to the suitability of your chosen arrangements. We may require you to produce a doctor's certificate certifying that you are fit to participate in the tour. Acting reasonably, if we are unable to properly accommodate the needs of the person(s) concerned, we will not confirm your booking or if you did not give us full details at the time of booking, we will cancel it and impose applicable cancellation charges when we become aware of these details.

### 19. CONSUMER PROTECTION

The Package Travel, Package Holidays and Package Tours Regulations 1992 require us to provide security for the monies that you pay for the package holidays you book with us.

For holidays that include any flight, we provide this security by way of a bond held by the Civil Aviation Authority under ATOL number 4832. When you buy a flight-inclusive holiday from us you will receive an ATOL Certificate. This lists the flight, accommodation, car hire and/or other services that are financially protected, where you can get information on what this means for you and who to contact if things go wrong. For further information, visit the ATOL website at [www.atol.org.uk](http://www.atol.org.uk). The price of our flight inclusive arrangements includes the amount of £2.50 per person as part of the ATOL Protection Contribution (APC) we pay to the CAA. This charge is included in our advertised prices. Not all holiday or travel services offered and sold by us will be protected by the ATOL Scheme. ATOL protection extends primarily to Customers who book and pay in the United Kingdom.

We, or the suppliers identified on your ATOL Certificate will provide you with the services listed on the ATOL Certificate (or a suitable alternative). In some cases, where neither we nor the supplier are able to do so for reasons of insolvency, an alternative ATOL holder may provide you with the services you have bought (at no extra cost to you). You agree to accept that in those circumstances the alternative ATOL holder will perform those obligations and you agree to pay any money outstanding to be paid by you under your contract to that alternative ATOL holder. However, you also agree that in some cases it will not be possible to appoint an alternative ATOL holder, in which case you will be entitled to make a claim under the ATOL Scheme (or your credit card issuer where applicable).

If we, or the suppliers identified on your ATOL certificate are unable to provide the services listed (or a suitable alternative, through an alternative ATOL holder or otherwise) for reasons of insolvency, the Trustees of the Air Travel Trust may make a payment to (or confer a benefit on) you under the ATOL scheme. You agree that in return for such a payment or benefit you assign absolutely to those Trustees any claims which you have or may have arising out of or relating to the non-provision of the services, including any claim against us, the travel agent (or your credit card issuer where applicable). You also agree that any such claims may be re-assigned to another body, if that other body has paid sums you have claimed under the ATOL scheme.

We are also a member of ABTA (ABTA Number W050X). If your holiday does not include flights ABTA will financially protect your holiday in the same way.

### 20. ADVANCE PASSENGER INFORMATION

A number of Governments are introducing new requirements for air carriers to provide personal information about all travellers on their aircraft to the Authorities before the aircraft leaves the UK. The data will be collected either at the airport when you check in or in some circumstances when, or after you make your booking. Accordingly, you are advised to allow extra time to check in for your flight. Where we collect this data, we will treat it in accordance with our privacy policy.

### 21. FOREIGN OFFICE ADVICE

You are responsible for making yourself aware of Foreign Office advice in regard to the safety of the countries and areas in which you will be travelling and to make your decisions accordingly. The Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO) provides travel advice on destinations, which includes information on passports, visas, health, safety, security and more. Please visit [www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice](http://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice). Advice from the Foreign Office to avoid or leave a particular country may constitute Force Majeure. (See clause 12).

### 22. LAW AND JURISDICTION

These Booking Conditions and any agreement to which they apply are governed in all respects by English law. We both agree that any dispute, claim or other matter which arises between us out of or in connection with your contract or booking will be dealt with under the ABTA Arbitration Scheme or by the Courts of England and Wales only. You may however, choose the law and jurisdiction of Scotland or Northern Ireland if you live in those places and if you wish to do so.

### 23. ACCURACY OF PRICES AND INFORMATION

We endeavour to ensure that all the information and prices both on our website and in our brochures are accurate, however occasionally changes and errors occur and we reserve the right to correct prices and other details in such circumstances. You must check the current price and all other details relating to the arrangements that you wish to book before your booking is confirmed.

### 24. ABTA

We are a Member of ABTA, membership number W050X. We are obliged to maintain a high standard of service to you by ABTA's Code of Conduct. We can also offer you ABTA's scheme for the resolution of disputes which is approved by the Chartered Trading Standards Institute. If we can't resolve your complaint, go to [www.abta.com](http://www.abta.com) to use ABTA's simple procedure. Further information on the Code and ABTA's assistance in resolving disputes can be found on [www.abta.com](http://www.abta.com)

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### 25. INSURANCE

The Cancellation Waiver offered in item 7 is NOT a contract of insurance. Rather, the payment of the cancellation waiver fee merely enhances your contract terms with us in offering you a holiday package without cancellation penalties. As such, it is a condition of your contract with us that you have adequate travel insurance in place. You must be satisfied that your insurance fully covers all your personal requirements including cancellation charges, pre-existing medical conditions, medical expenses, repatriation, helicopter rescue and air ambulance in the event of accident or illness. The insurance cover should extend for the planned duration of the holiday and at least an additional day. Details of a policy suitable to cover the arrangements you book are available by contacting us as detailed below. If you choose to travel without adequate insurance cover, we will not be liable for any losses howsoever arising, in respect of which insurance cover would otherwise have been available. The insurance policy and the receipt of premiums paid there under should be provided to us prior to departure. If you join the holiday without adequate insurance you may not be allowed to continue on the holiday, with no right to refund. If circumstances give rise to a claim the client will forthwith pursue his remedies under such policy(ies). We will also ask you for details of the name, address and telephone numbers of their next of kin or persons to be notified in the event of an emergency. We act as an Introducer Appointed Representative for the purposes of your travel insurance, appointed by Global Travel Insurance Services Ltd who are authorized and regulated by the Financial Services Authority whose status can be checked on the FSA Register by visiting [www.fsa.gov.uk/register](http://www.fsa.gov.uk/register) or by contacting the FSA on 0845 606 1234. Contact Details: Address for correspondence: The Turret, 25 Farncombe Road, Worthing, West Sussex BN11 2AY, Telephone: 01903 235042 Fax: 01903 211106 Email: [info@globaltravelinsurance.co.uk](mailto:info@globaltravelinsurance.co.uk) Website: [www.globaltravelinsurance.co.uk](http://www.globaltravelinsurance.co.uk). Beyond providing this information, we are not allowed to assist you in any way in the arrangement of your travel insurance or give any advice.

### DATA PROTECTION & PRIVACY POLICY

Visit <http://www.thomascooktours.com/privacy> for complete information.



To book, please call **0800 060 8099** or  
pop into your local travel agent.

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