

General Trip info

Map

Trip Code: IZMRSC

Trip Length: 43

Trip starts in: Madrid

Trip ends in: Rome

Meals: 23 Breakfasts included

Accommodation: Guesthouse (2 nights), Hostel (9 nights), Hotel (30 nights), Overnight sleeper train (1 night)

Transport: Metro, Overnight sleeper train, Private Bus, Public bus, Taxi, Train, Tram

Daily Itinerary

Day 1

Madrid

Welcome to Madrid, the sassy central capital of Spain known for its elegant boulevards and expansive, manicured parks. Your adventure begins with a welcome meeting at 6 or 7 pm, depending on common area availability. After the welcome meeting, perhaps get into the mind of a Madrilenos with some tapas and Rioja.

Day 2

Madrid

Today is free for you to discover Madrid. Perhaps begin in the heart of Old Madrid with a stroll along the portico-lined Plaza Mayor. After that maybe take a break in the Real Jardin Botanico, a garden wonderland dating from the 18th century, or by sitting with a coffee in one of the atmospheric streets and squares around the famous Plaza Mayor. If you're after something a little more structured, you could join a locally-guided Urban Adventure to get a deeper insight into the city through its tapas. At night, maybe follow the crowds to Chueca, Plaza Dos de Mayo or Plaza Santa Ana, where the pulse of the city will lead you from bar to bar.

Day 3

Cuenca

Today travel by train to charming Cuenca (approximately 3 hours), located on the edge of deep gorges created by two rivers: Jucar and Huecar. On arrival, venture out on an orientation walk around this historic World Heritage-listed fortress city. The Old Town of this city is an outstanding medieval development built on steep mountainsides, with many casa colgadas (hanging houses) that are literally on the cliff edge. After the orientation walk, use your free time getting to know the city. Perhaps visit the impressive 12th-century gothic cathedral. Evening is a great opportunity to gather together with the group and enjoy a dinner and see the Old City beautifully brushed with light from a series of high-powered lamps suspended half-way up the rock.

Day 4

Valencia

Board a train east to the coastal town of Valencia (approximately 4 hours). It's known for being the Spanish gateway to the Mediterranean, with a big port, beautiful beaches, restaurants and a beach promenade along the waterfront. On arrival you are free to begin exploring at your own pace. Perhaps head to the Old Town, where you will find beautiful monuments and historical buildings, or (if weather permits) soak up some sun on the beach. The colourful stalls of the Mercado Central are a great place to grab some fresh produce to snack on during the day while you explore.

Day 5

Valencia

Enjoy another free day in Valencia. History buffs might want to check out the 13th-century Valencia Cathedral, which houses what legend says is the Holy Grail. Or maybe climb the 207 steps of the Miguelete tower for the best views of the city. After something different? The Museum of the Fallas contains a history of the Valencia Fire Festival in the form of giant papier mache figures (and entry is inexpensive, which is a bonus). To try the paella that Valencia is famous for (made with rabbit and chicken), ask your leader to point you towards the Las Arenas area for a hearty and reasonably priced lunch. Cycle paths and cheap bike hire make for another great way to explore, so active types might consider biking the park (a former river) that runs through the centre of the city.

Day 6

Barcelona

Take the train up the coast to Barcelona (approximately 4 hours), a quirky city with a ground-breaking art scene, Gothic architecture, superb dining and a non-stop nightlife. Arrive in the afternoon. Maybe wander the labyrinthine streets of the old Gothic Quarter and navigate your way through the throngs of tourists along La Rambla, Barcelona's famous tree-lined boulevard. There are plenty of museums to choose from, so perhaps spend some time in the National Art Museum of Catalonia or the Museum of City History to brush up on your local knowledge. Take the funicular to the top of Montjuic or Tibidabo for panoramic views of Barcelona and the harbour. The heart of Catalonia prides itself on being a gastronomic centre, so tonight make sure to follow your leaders advice on where to get a taste of the culinary action.

Day 7

Barcelona

You're free today to take up some of the optional activities on offer or relax. In the morning perhaps head to the stalls of Santa Catarina Market, a huge trove of local produce beneath a colourful, undulating roof. The city is famous for its architecture designed in the unique Catalan Modernista style. The master of this movement was Antonio Gaudi, whose eccentric creations are dotted all over the city. A visit to Gaudi's masterpiece, the modern basilica of La Sagrada Familia, is a must, even if it's just to see the outside. Gaudi worked on this hugely ambitious project for decades until his death and it remains under constant construction. For more insight into the artist, head to Parc Guell, a surreal landscaped area also designed by the artist.

Day 8

Barcelona

Today is free for you to enjoy as you please. Set out to discover more of Barcelona in detail. With great restaurants, art galleries, shopping and nightlife on offer, Barcelona is a world-class city exuding confidence and style through every pore. You might want to consult your Lonely Planet app to see what it suggests to do here!

Day 9

Barcelona

Today is free for you to explore at your own pace. There are plenty of optional activities to choose from. Perhaps take the funicular to the top of Montjuic or Tibidabo for panoramic views of the harbour or visit Gaudi's La Sagrada Familia Basilica – possibly the most iconic landmark in Barcelona. Speak to your leader if you're having trouble deciding where to spend your time today.

Day 10

Avignon

Take the train to Avignon in southwest France (approximately 5–6 hours). This journey is quite spectacular, so make sure you're ready for photos and try to nab a window seat. With mountain hideaways and emerald vineyards, the Mediterranean coastline folds into table-top mountains where fields of lavender and wildflower cover the landscape. On arrival into Avignon, check in to your hotel and then take a walk around a walled city that was once home to French popes for more than a century.

Day 11

Avignon

There are no scheduled activities today, so you can explore the local sites at your own pace with help from the optional activities list. Maybe comb the city's impressive collection of art, visit the grand Palais des Papes (Pope's Palace) or cross the iconic bridge of Pont St-Benezet. You could even hire a bike to see more of this picturesque valley and head to one of the city's amazing bakeries. There are also many small local bistros that serve up great regional cuisine – why not get some of your travel pals together for a French-inspired feast.

Day 12

Paris

Travel north on a train to France's cosmopolitan capital Paris (around 3–4 hours). Rich in museums, art galleries, monuments, fashion and delicious food, Paris offers a wealth of major sights and things to do. On arrival into the city, check in to the hotel and then explore at your leisure. Wandering around the Champs-Elysees, the student-filled Latin Quarter, or bohemian Montmartre will give you a good feel for the city. There is so much to do in Paris that it might be a good idea to make a plan before you arrive, so you can get to see all you want!

Day 13

Paris

Enjoy another free day to discover the pleasures of Paris at your own pace. The Tuileries, Plantes and Jardin du Luxembourg are all excellent places to enjoy a simple baguette with cheese. Or perhaps explore the world-famous Louvre, where you can see the Mona Lisa and the Venus de Milo. Maybe climb the Eiffel Tower – or take the lift – for some impressive aerial views of Paris. When night falls, Marais is a great district for trendy bars and eateries, while Bastille is well-known for its clubs.

Day 14

Paris

Another free day in Paris? Oui oui! There is still plenty to discover, including the 'other' museums like the Museum of Comparative Anatomy and Paleontology. Or maybe hit the streets for the best graffiti-viewing at Canal St Martin in the tenth arrondissement – an eclectic neighbourhood full of wonderful restaurants and artistic shops. In the evening, you could visit the quai along the left bank of Port St Bernard, which comes alive with people strolling, picnicking and dancing.

Day 15

Luxembourg City

Take the train from Paris to Luxembourg City (approximately 2 hours). One of the smallest countries in the EU, Luxembourg is full of historical charm and natural beauty. Check in to the hotel on arrival and then head out into the city's World Heritage-listed Old Town, which is perched high above the narrow valleys of the Alzette and Petrusse rivers. Stroll along the promenade of Chemin de la Corniche – said to be 'Europe's most beautiful balcony'. The rest of your day is free for you do to whatever you want. Perhaps take a guided tour of the 16th-century turreted Palais Grand-Ducal, which is home to the Grand Duke.

Day 16

Brussels

Leave Luxembourg behind and jump on a train to Brussels (around 3.5 hours), where you can explore at your own pace on arrival. Maybe wander down to the Manneken Pis (Little Man Pee) – an iconic symbol of Belgium. If you're interested in music, a must-see place is The Musical Instrument Museum. Three floors of musical instruments coming from every corner of the world and hundreds of years of musical history in one place. If you feel like a night out, Ilot Sacre is a great place to find good food and fun bars.

Day 17

Brussels

Enjoy another free day in Brussels. Perhaps visit the iconic Atomium – a silver structure built in 1958 for Brussels World's Fair. If you want to explore further afield, you could choose to take a day trip to Antwerp or Bruges. As always, chat to your leader for advice – it's why they're here!

Day 18

Amsterdam

New day, new country! Cross another border as you travel by bus to the capital of the Netherlands, Amsterdam (approximately 3 hours). The best way to get your head around this city is to do as locals do – cycle. Amsterdam is a network of canals, bridges and parks perfect for exploring on a bike. If you're an art-lover, Amsterdam is home to plenty of museums. One of its best is the Rijksmuseum, which houses one of Rembrandt's most famous works – 'The Night Watch'. Alternatively, head to the Van Gogh Museum, which comprises nearly every painting, sketch, print, etching and piece of correspondence that Vincent van Gogh ever produced, including 'Sunflowers'.

Day 19

Amsterdam

Enjoy another day to explore at your own pace in Amsterdam. You could visit Anne Frank's House – the former hiding place of the famous child diarist and seven others during WWII has been preserved as a museum. Or perhaps visit the De Waag, a 15th-century building on Nieuwmarkt square first constructed as a gate for the city's fortified walls.

Day 20

Amsterdam

With a free day, why not get to know the secrets of its food and drink? For a snack, pannekoeken will go down a treat – sometimes sweet, sometimes savoury, but always delicious! You could order some salty fries, taste some of the rich cheeses on offer, or discover their café culture. A popular activity is to bask in the glory of liquid sunshine – visit the best bars, breweries and beer halls of this brew-loving city. From a place where nuns used to brew ales, to the mothership of Dutch beer brewing – the original Heineken building – get out to see and taste the Netherlands' strong beer history.

Day 21

Berlin

Take the train to Berlin (approximately 6.5 hours). Berlin is huge, with plenty of impressive sites and a great bar scene. There's the Brandenburg Gate, remnants of the Berlin Wall, the dominating Reichstag building and popular Checkpoint Charlie. There are also a couple of unique memorials like the Jewish memorial and the Topography of Terror, both of which are well worth your time.

Day 22

Berlin

Today is free for you to enjoy as you please. Set out to discover more of Berlin in detail. Find out why locals follow the credo 'live and let live' with greater emphasis on personal freedom and a creative lifestyle than on material wealth and status symbols.

Day 23

Berlin / Overnight Train

This morning and early afternoon are yours to explore Berlin at your leisure, so perhaps wander through the Brandenburg Gate or walk past the crumbling remnants of the Berlin Wall that once divided the city. Checkpoint Charlie and its museum overlook the former border checkpoint between East and West, explaining how the city came to be split. If you're feeling energetic, maybe you'd like to cycle the city, visiting the Brandenburg Gate, Reichstag building and the sobering Holocaust Memorial. There is also some great street art in Berlin, notably on sections of the Berlin Wall and around the neighbourhoods of Mitte, Kreuzberg and Friedrichshain. In the late afternoon, board an overnight train for Krakow, Poland. Be sure to check in with your group leader about train times and where to meet your group.

Day 24

Krakow

Arrive in Krakow, your base for the next two nights. Upon arrival, store your luggage and follow your leader on an orientation walk. Step back in time as you wander the World Heritage-listed Old Town, perhaps stopping to shop for amber jewellery or local crafts in the stores. Discover Wawel Royal Castle which sits atop a hill next to the Vistula River. Check out the 13th-century town square of Rynek Glowny and get a glimpse of the impressive St Mary's Basilica. Another beautiful church is the Neo-Gothic St Francis' Basilica, which boasts some of Poland's best Art Nouveau interiors. This city is also home to the second-oldest university in Central Europe, Jagiellonian University. Among many (many) others, it counts Copernicus and Pope John Paul II among its alumni.

Day 25

Krakow

If you can tear yourself away from Krakow on your free day, why not head out to the Wieliczka Salt Mines, a network of tunnels and chambers some 135 metres below the ground. This is a salt mine that has been in operation for over 700 years. The mine has a labyrinth of tunnels, pits and chambers, all hewn by hand from solid salt, with beautifully adorned chapels and underground lakes. Don't miss a look at the elaborate salt chandeliers and carvings in the Blessed Kinga Chapel. Alternatively, you might like to take a sobering day trip out to Auschwitz and Birkenau, the sites of some of the Holocaust's worst atrocities. Perhaps end the day in one of Krakow's many cellar restaurants for a plate of pierogi and a drink.

Day 26

Prague

Take a minivan to the town of Ostrava (approximately 2.5 hours), then board the train to Prague (approximately 3 hours). After arrival and check-in at your hotel, you'll see the highlights of this beautiful city on a leader-led orientation walk. Prague's architecture can be traced from the Middle Ages through to the avant-garde of the Gehry-designed Dancing Building (also called the Fred and Ginger Building). Spend your free afternoon at Prague Castle – the biggest in the Czech Republic – where you'll find the famous St Vitus Cathedral and Golden Lane. Continue on to wander through the old Jewish Quarter to see what remains of the city's formerly significant Jewish community.

Day 27

Prague

Another day in Prague and so many possibilities. Perhaps learn how the Bohemian artists, writers, dissidents, and the Bohemian mentality shaped the nation. Don't forget to sample some of the best Czech beers and traditional and modern Czech snacks along the way. If you feel like going for a day trip out of the city, ask your leader to help you organise a trip to Kutna Hora. See the Church of Santa Barbara and Sedlec ossuary or The Church of Bones – a small Roman Catholic chapel that contain the skeletons of between 40,000 and 70,000 people. At night, Prague's Old Town comes alive with many great restaurants and pubs, some in old vaulted cellars. The nightlife in Prague is some of the best in Central Europe. Whether you're after dance clubs, beer-halls, jazz clubs or underground absinthe bars, there's something for everyone.

Day 28

Cesky Krumlov

Leave Prague and travel by bus to Cesky Krumlov (approximately 4 hours). This picturesque medieval town dates back to the 13th century and appears to be plucked straight out of a fairytale. Wander the cobbled alleyways of the Old Town and admire the buildings. A great way to discover the town is to join a tour guided by a local – you will learn about the architectural symbolism and Old Town mysteries from an expert. Climb up to the castle perched on a hill and check out its fabulous Masquerade Hall and admire the sensational views that can be seen from the tower. Weather and time permitting, your group may take a relaxing two-to-three-hour rafting or canoeing trip along the river which runs right through town.

Day 29

Vienna

Take another public bus to the cosmopolitan city of Vienna. After arrival, your leader will help you get your bearings by showing you the city centre on foot, and then you'll have a free afternoon to explore the city. Art lovers will be delighted by the vast array of museums on offer, including the Albertina, the Leopold, Kunsthalle Wien and the Museum of Modern Art. Those with an interest in 19th- and 20th-century Austrian art should visit the Belvedere Palace, home to Gustav Klimt's painting 'The Kiss'. Check out the colourful Hundertwasserhaus or admire the dome of the Secession building. Perhaps visit Hofburg Palace – once the imposing winter retreat of Habsburg royals and now the official residence of the Austrian president. No visit to Vienna is complete without attending an opera or concert. Check out well in advance what Vienna State Opera House has on offer and immerse yourself in the city's musical pedigree.

Day 30

Vienna

A free day in Vienna will give you more time to visit places you didn't manage to get to yesterday. Climb the tower of St Stephen's Cathedral, take a spin on the Prater Ferris Wheel or catch a dressage show at the Spanish Riding School. Head to the elegant Schoenbrunn Palace, which was designed by the empress Maria Theresa. Today's also the perfect opportunity to check your Lonely Planet app for a stack of recommendations to fill your time in the Austrian capital. After all this sightseeing, you might like to indulge in a traditional Viennese coffee and sachertorte this afternoon – a pastime fit for the most sophisticated of travellers.

Day 31

Budapest

Travel from Vienna to Budapest by train (approximately 3 hours). Budapest's grand architecture and boulevards evoke a bygone era, and your leader will introduce you to the stunning city by taking you on an orientation walk. With so much to see and do in your free time, why not head out to Statue Park to get an insight into the city's past or take a soak in one of the many thermal bath complexes around town. The baths feature pools of varying temperatures, and some even have whirlpools or built-in seats where you can relax or play a game of chess. Tonight, get a group of friends together for a Hungarian feast – a hearty bowl of goulash or a decadent pizza-like langos is waiting. Afterwards, why not stroll to the Jewish quarter and check out some ruin bars: unique nightlife hubs that are great for groups and feature a whole heap of weird and wonderful decor.

Day 32

Budapest

Enjoy a free day in the self-proclaimed Pearl of the Danube. Perhaps explore the historical Buda Castle and palace complex. Forget about the bustling city and lose yourself in the history of the winding streets of the Castle District, which dates back to the 13th century. In the afternoon, you could take a slow cruise along the Danube for some pretty epic views of the riverside Parliament Building, the Castle District and the bridges linking Buda to Pest. The spectacle is particularly beautiful, especially at sunset and at night.

Day 33

Bled

Buckle up for a solid day of travel into Slovenia. Take a train (approximately 8 hours) to Ljubljana, followed by a connecting bus to the town of Bled, situated at the edge of the Julian Alps. Arrive in the late afternoon and follow your leader to the shore of beautiful Lake Bled, from which many of the town's attractions can be seen and explored. For a taste of the local cuisine, some Bled cake made of vanilla, custard, cream and pastry is essential. After settling into your accommodation tonight, why not get together with your group for dinner, feasting on local specialities.

Day 34

Bled

There's no better places to get active than in Bled! Today you have a free day to go for a walk along the lake in the morning, and perhaps enjoy a full-day adventure around Triglav Massive. There are many outdoor activities available here to get the blood pumping, such as rafting, caving, canoeing and swimming. Why not hire a bike and head four kilometres out of town to Vintgar Gorge, where you can take a walk through a beautiful natural canyon. Perhaps explore Bled Castle, perched atop the cliff overlooking the lake, or catch a pletna (small wooden boat) over to the island in the middle of the lake to ring the wishing bell. Your group leader will have all the options, so be sure to chat with them for their recommendations and how to book any optional activities. If you'd prefer to have a relaxing day and just enjoy the beauty of Lake Bled, find a quiet spot near the lake and spend the day reading a book.

Day 35

Venice

Travel by train through stunning scenery to one of the world's most unique cities, Venice (approximately 5.5 hours). A city of canals, Venice is built over a hundred small islands connected by 400 bridges. On arrival, head out for an orientation walk with your tour leader – the best way to see Venice is by foot – passing by the Grand Canal, Rialto Bridge, Palace of the Doge, Piazza San Marco and the Bridge of Sighs. Wander the cobblestone streets and spacious piazzas, crossing bridges and stopping for a gelato on your way, if you'd like. There are shops, markets, galleries and churches around every corner. After a pretty jam-packed few days, why not gather with your travel pals and celebrate being in Italy with a meal?

Day 36

Venice

Enjoy free time in this watery wonderland of bridges, towers, piazzas, canals, churches and gondolas – practically unchanged for 600 years – is literally sinking under the weight of its iconic sights. Take a walk around the maze of streets behind San Marco square and begin to understand the complex canal system of Venice.

Day 37

Venice

Today you are free to explore Venice at your own pace. There are only two ways to get around this city – on foot or by boat. Some of the more popular sights include Doge's Palace, the Piazza and Basilica di San Marco and the Bridge of Sighs. Maybe take the vaporetto (water bus) over to the island of San Giorgio to climb the bell tower for views over the city. Or perhaps fulfil a bucket list favourite and take journey down the Grand Canal in a Venetian gondola. It really is the perfect way for visitors to see the major canal routes from an immersive perspective. Venice is famous for its specialities of fresh lobster and squid ink spaghetti dishes, so perhaps give one of them a try this evening.

Day 38

La Spezia

Board a morning train through the scenic north of Italy to the once important naval base of La Spezia (approximately 6-7 hours). La Spezia is known mainly as the gateway to the gorgeous Cinque Terre (Five Lands). The name comes from the five tiny villages – Monterosso, Vernazza, Corniglia, Manarola and Riomaggiore – positioned on a series of coves between sheer cliffs. On arrival in La Spezia there won't be too much time to explore (that's what tomorrow is for), but after checking into your hotel perhaps get your bearings with a short walk around the pedestrian zone on Via del Prione or head out for dinner with the group.

Day 39

Cinque Terre / La Spezia

Spend today exploring winding footpaths and pastel coloured villages with your included Cinque Terre Pass. The pass gives you access to the paths and trains of the area for 24 hours. Please consult your leader on which section is right for you, as some have challenging uphill stretches, narrow paths, steep cliffs and foot bridges. It's also possible to take the train between any of the villages, or back to the group's base in La Spezia whenever you want. After working up an appetite, maybe take advantage of an optional pesto class. Focaccia is also a speciality in this area and makes a great start to lunch, if you'd prefer.

Day 40

Florence

Depart La Spezia today and catch a train to Florence (approximately 3.5 hours). On arrival, check into the hostel and go for a brief walk around the immediate area to get your bearings. Florence is one of the most culturally rich and beautiful cities in Italy, known to many as the beating heart of Tuscany. The Medicis, Leonardo da Vinci, Raphael, Brunelleschi, Machiavelli, Donatello and Michelangelo all lived in Florence at the height of their creative reign. Food is a major part of the city's identity and the optional activities on offer reflect this. Maybe explore the city's culinary history (and taste some local treats) on a Florence Foodies Walk with Urban Adventures. Carnivores might be drawn to try the Bistecca alla Fiorentina, the Florentine Beef Steak, essentially a huge T-bone steak that comes with classic sides.

Day 41

Florence

Enjoy another day in beautiful Florence. It's impossible to see everything in this Renaissance wonderland, so the best idea is to relax and pick a few things you really want to do. Maybe start with a visit to the Galleria dell'Accademia where you can see Michelangelo's famous statue of David, or perhaps stop by the Uffizi, one of the world's oldest art galleries. Active types might want to walk up to Piazzale Michelangelo, which is set on a hill on the south bank of the Arno River, to take in beautiful views of the city – a lovely way to while away the day. There are plenty of optional activities on offer during your time here, so be sure to grill your leader for the details on each so you can get a sense of what interests you.

Day 42

Rome

Take the morning train to Rome (approximately 2 hours). Join your leader on an orientation walk around the city to see icons such as the Colosseum and Arch of Constantine, the Forum (centre of ancient Rome), the Victor Emmanuel Monument, the Pantheon, the Spanish Steps, Via Dei Condotti and Piazza Venezia. Phew. After all that history it's probably time for lunch. Maybe grab a slice of the good stuff and a strong espresso at the Piazza Navona. You can spend your afternoon how you wish and there are plenty of heavy hitters to choose from. Maybe enter the Vatican and check out St Peter's Basilica. Art lovers could visit the Sistine Chapel to admire the timeless work of Michelangelo, while history buffs may enjoy a jaunt through the ancient halls of the Pantheon. Rome is packed full of trattorias that cater to every taste and budget, so this evening maybe link up with the group for dinner.

Day 43

Rome

Your adventures comes to an end today. There are no activities planned and you're free to depart the accommodation at any time after check-out. As there is so much to see in Rome, we recommend you stay a little longer to soak it up. We are happy to book additional accommodation for you (subject to availability). Please speak to an agent at the time of booking.

Additional Information

Notes for Austria

Famous for its towering alpine mountains and wonderful culture, Austria is a fantastic addition to your exploration of Europe with Imaginative Traveller. Full of fascinating history, ornate architecture and charming music, Vienna is an excellent city to discover. Once into the countryside you can really discover Austria and its incredible mountains and crisp air - here you'll find lots of adventurous activities such as rafting and canyoning, and serene natural environment for trekking and relaxation. Another incredible option in Austria is to cycle along the famous Danube River.

Austria is a member of the Schengen area - citizens of the UK, Ireland, Switzerland and all EU and EFTA countries can enter the Schengen area without a visa indefinitely. Citizens of the USA, Canada, Australia and New Zealand will not need a visa to enter the Schengen area as a tourist for a 90-day period per every 180 days. Citizens of other countries should check whether a visa is required to enter the Schengen area - if so this must be done at the embassy of the Schengen area country which would determine as being your 'main destination'.

Notes for Belgium

Belgium's stunning old city of Brussels is one of the most charming in Europe - its romantic cobbled streets are wonderful to explore, and Belgium's world-famous chocolates and beers are even more delicious when sampled in their country of origin. Whilst a delight to visit in its own right, Brussels' location makes it the perfect city to combine with Imaginative Traveller in a tour of other European towns and cities, in fascinating countries including Germany, Belgium, France, Austria and more.

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Notes for Czech Republic

The Czech Republic is a stunning and historic land in Central Europe to visit with Imaginative Traveller that is packed full of ancient castles and gothic architecture. The cobbled streets of Prague are some of the most atmospheric and exciting to explore in Europe - the city is famous for its stunning architecture, fascinating history and buzzing nightlife. The Czech

countryside is an excellent mix of pastureland and forests through which the sparkling Danube River flows. A fantastic natural highlight is the site of Teplice nad Metuji and its magical rock formations. In the south we find the picturesque bohemian town of Cesky Krumlov, famous for its incredible beers.

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Notes for France

Some of the world's finest art, restaurants, wineries and architecture can be found in the delightful country of France. Its romantic capital Paris is famous for highlights including the Louvre gallery and of course the iconic Eiffel Tower, yet France has so much more than its capital. Its alluring countryside features some of the most scenic areas in Europe offering a myriad of cycling and trekking opportunities with Imaginative Traveller. From the Dordogne or the French Riviera, to the mountains and forests of Corsica, the vineyards of the Canal du Midi, and the towering alpine mountains around Chamonix, France is a captivating place to explore, and is ideal for the active traveller.

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Notes for Germany

The German capital of Berlin has some of the most diverse sets of cultures in Europe, from its Baroque architecture to its modern art and nightclubs. As well as boasting many iconic sights such as the Brandenburg Gate and what remains of the Berlin Wall, Berlin also has a gritty and bohemian side, and a heady mix of music, art and bars. Throughout the countryside of Germany, imaginative travellers find idyllic landscapes, stunning forests and mountains, charming castles, and atmospheric university towns.

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Notes for Hungary

One of Central Europe's real gems, Hungary has a unique culture and some of the grandest architecture in the region to visit with Imaginative Traveller. Its capital, Budapest, is known as the Pearl of the Danube and is the perfect introduction to this beautiful country. Here, the banks of the river Danube are lined with elegant buildings and boulevards. Take a boat trip to see the sights or cross the Chain Bridge for views of the Parliament Building and the Castle District. In Statue Park you can find many old Communist-era monuments, and one unmissable activity is a soak in the hot thermal baths. Out of the city, Hungary contains some outstanding sites such as the Renaissance-era Hédervár Castle and the beautiful town of Gyor.

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Notes for Italy

Once the centre of the Roman Empire, Italy is home to some of the greatest treasures of the ancient world. An adventure tour here could find you walking the Amalfi Coast with Imaginative Traveller, exploring the Colosseum in Rome and the ruins of Pompeii, climbing Mt Vesuvius or Mt Etna, cycling the stunning coast of Sardinia or meandering the canals of Venice. From classic archaeological sites to nature reserves, fishing villages, secluded islands, towering mountains, and stunning coastal scenery, Italy has it all. Take a wine-tasting tour, sample some traditional Umbrian cuisine, enjoy delicious Sicilian specialities and indulge in a glass of prosecco on the dramatically beautiful Amalfi Coast.

Italy is a member of the Schengen area - citizens of the UK, Ireland, Switzerland and all EU and EFTA countries can enter the Schengen area without a visa indefinitely. Citizens of the USA, Canada, Australia and New Zealand will not need a visa to enter the Schengen area as a tourist for a 90-day period per every 180 days. Citizens of other countries should check whether a visa is required to enter the Schengen area - if so this must be done at the embassy of the Schengen area country which you would determine as being your 'main destination'.

Notes for Luxembourg

Tiny Luxembourg is a very worthwhile stop on your explorations through Europe - full of the old-world romance of Paris or Bruges, the city is listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site and is dominated over by its fairytale castle atop a cliff. Very close to the city, you'll find yourself in peaceful meadows and forests admiring the outstanding view. Constantly coming near the top of world lists for quality of life, Luxembourg is definitely worth a look with Imaginative Traveller.

Luxembourg is a member of the Schengen area - citizens of the UK, Ireland, Switzerland and all EU and EFTA countries can enter the Schengen area without a visa indefinitely. Citizens of the USA, Canada,

Australia and New Zealand will not need a visa to enter the Schengen area as a tourist for a 90-day period per every 180 days. Citizens of other countries should check whether a visa is required to enter the Schengen area - if so this must be done at the embassy of the Schengen area country which you would determine as being your 'main destination'.

Notes for Netherlands

The Netherlands is a paragon of liberalism, innovation and free thinking - and nowhere is this exemplified more than in the magnificent capital of Amsterdam. An incredible maze of canals and bridges, the best way to explore is just as the locals do - by bicycle with Imaginative Traveller. There are a wealth of museums and galleries, such as the Rijksmuseum, the Van Gogh Museum and Anne Frank's House. The Netherlands is definitely a must-do on your explorations of Europe!

The Netherlands is a member of the Schengen area - citizens of the UK, Ireland, Switzerland and all EU and EFTA countries can enter the Schengen area without a visa indefinitely. Citizens of the USA, Canada, Australia and New Zealand will not need a visa to enter the Schengen area as a tourist for a 90-day period per every 180 days. Citizens of other countries should check whether a visa is required to enter the Schengen area - if so this must be done at the embassy of the Schengen area country which you would determine as being your 'main destination'.

Notes for Poland

Poland is a wonderful destination to discover with Imaginative Traveller on a trip through Central Europe. With a unique history and spirit, the country has been at the crossroads of European history for over thousand years and has a rich heritage to be explored. The medieval city of Krakow is one of Europe's highlights, with one of the largest squares in the world, many sights to see, and a buzzing nightlife. The countryside is full of beautiful scenery, including small rural villages and rolling mountains.

Poland is a member of the Schengen area - citizens of the UK, Ireland, Switzerland and all EU and EFTA countries can enter the Schengen area without a visa indefinitely. Citizens of the USA, Canada, Australia and New Zealand will not need a visa to enter the Schengen area as a tourist for a 90-day period per every 180 days. Citizens of other countries should check whether a visa is required to enter the Schengen area - if so this must be done at the embassy of the Schengen area country which you would determine as being your 'main destination'.

Notes for Slovenia

The tiny country of Slovenia is dominated by the towering mountains of the Julian Alps and Mount Triglav. Slovenia's countryside is a marvellous array of alpine scenery, stunning lakes and sweeping forests to visit

with Imaginative Traveller. The capital of Ljubljana is one of the most laid-back cities in Europe, and is a fantastic gateway to the rest of this wonderful country. The famous lakes of Bled and Bohinj are small enclaves of paradise, with a charming slow-paced atmosphere and unbeatable scenery. Slovenia is perfect for cycling, and the country is packed full of other excellent activities such as trekking, skiing, caving and canyoning!

Slovenia is a member of the Schengen area - citizens of the UK, Ireland, Switzerland and all EU and EFTA countries can enter the Schengen area without a visa indefinitely. Citizens of the USA, Canada, Australia and New Zealand will not need a visa to enter the Schengen area as a tourist for a 90-day period per every 180 days. Citizens of other countries should check whether a visa is required to enter the Schengen area - if so this must be done at the embassy of the Schengen area country which you would determine as being your 'main destination'.

Notes for Spain

Spain is a country full of history and culture - so much more than its coastal beach resorts in the south. The country is packed full of incredible architecture, world-class art, and unbeatable music and culture to visit with Imaginative Traveller. Spectacular landscapes are abound across the country, from the rugged hills and picturesque olive groves of Andalucia to the sweeping golden beaches and colourful fishing ports of the Basque region. Spain's culinary traditions are some of the best in the world, and its buzzing cities of Madrid, Barcelona, Seville and Granada are brimming with history, atmosphere, sights and nightlife.

Spain is a member of the Schengen area - citizens of the UK, Ireland, Switzerland and all EU and EFTA countries can enter the Schengen area without a visa indefinitely. Citizens of the USA, Canada, Australia and New Zealand will not need a visa to enter the Schengen area as a tourist for a 90-day period per every 180 days. Citizens of other countries should check whether a visa is required to enter the Schengen area - if so this must be done at the embassy of the Schengen area country which you would determine as being your 'main destination'.

Important Notes

The routes, activities and places visited as described in these trip notes are intentions and are meant as a rough guide only.

These trip notes have been compiled to help you prepare for your journey once you have booked. They include the full itinerary and dates, and information about kit lists, meeting hotels, insurance, vaccinations, visas, and other information that will help you get ready for your trip.

These notes are updated regularly, so please ensure you have an up-to-date version of these trip notes.

The planned route and itinerary is the intention, but exact night stops and inclusions cannot be guaranteed. It occasionally happens that there must be a change to our planned itinerary - this may be for a variety of reasons, such as climatic, road or bureaucratic conditions. By their very nature, adventure travel needs to be approached flexibly and some regions can be unpredictable. Some Imaginative Traveller journeys go through off the beaten track areas, which often have poor infrastructure and less stringent safety standards than we are used to at home.

Our Groups

Our groups are made up of people from around the world and are usually an interesting mix of nationalities and ages. On average there is a pretty even split, males to females and between solo travellers, couples and small groups of friends. We believe that adventure travel should be open to as many people as possible and so although some trips have a minimum age limit, as long as you are fit, healthy and passionate about travel, we are happy to take you. One of the highlights of group travel is the camaraderie and friendships that are formed along the way, and as well as the variety of people that you will meet.

The maximum group size depends on the operator and the style of transport, but will usually be a maximum of 15-16 or up to 21-22 on our overland journeys.

Accommodation

Imaginative Traveller trips are designed for shared accommodation, whether staying in hotels, hostels, homestays or campsites, and therefore do not involve a single supplement. Single travellers will share with people of the same sex for the duration of the trip and those that book together will usually be able to share accommodation.

The type, variety and standard of accommodation will vary greatly depending on what options are available in the region you are travelling; hotels can vary from very basic rooms without electricity or running water to high standard hotels with good facilities! Generally in hotels most rooms will be twin-share. Hostels, gers and yurts are nearly always multi-share.

Many trips will feature a stay in a local homestay or community tourism initiative, allowing us to experience a slice of local life in the areas we travel through. On our overland trips, we will sometimes camp in campsites ranging from rather basic or even wild camps to those with excellent facilities, including swimming pools, restaurants and bars.

Dietary Requirements

If you have any dietary requirements please tell us at the time of booking and also remind your leader at your welcome meeting. Our crew will try to cater for any particular dietary requirement or food intolerance whenever possible.

Health

You need to be in good physical health in order to participate fully in our trips. When selecting your trip

please make sure you have read through the itinerary carefully and assessed your ability to cope with the style of travel on that trip. We are always happy to give extra advice if you have additional concerns. Please note that if, in the opinion of our leader, you are unable to complete the itinerary without undue risk to yourself and/or the rest of the group, Imaginative Traveller or our partner operators reserve the right to exclude you from all or part of the trip.

You should consult your doctor for up-to-date medical travel information prior to travel, particularly if you have a pre-existing medical condition. We also advise you to declare any pre-existing medical conditions to your travel insurers upon purchase.

Altitude

Imaginative Traveller offers some trips that travel to above 2,800m altitude above sea level - it is imperative at high altitudes to drink lots of water to stay hydrated, be careful not to get burned by the sun, and try not to exert yourself too much. Some pre-existing medical conditions are known to severely worsen at high altitude and be difficult to adequately treat on the ground, leading to more serious consequences. It is imperative that you discuss your pre-existing medical condition/s with your doctor. We understand certain medications are reported to aid acclimatising to high altitude; please discuss these options with your doctor.

Yellow Fever

A valid international certificate of vaccination against Yellow Fever is required in many countries. You may need to present this on arrival at the airport or border crossing. Some countries will refuse entry if you are unable to present your certificate - please see each country's note above for details. It's also quite common for your home country to request a Yellow Fever certificate on your arrival back home.

It is your responsibility to check with your doctor well in advance of leaving home about the Yellow Fever requirements for the countries you'll be visiting.

Malaria and other mosquito-borne diseases

Some areas we travel to have the risk of contracting malaria. If this applies to your trip, please get expert advice before travelling about types of malaria pills and take them as instructed. Recommended types do change from time to time and from area to area. Consult your GP / travel clinic for the most up-to-date requirements and to find the right option for you. If advised by your doctor to take a course of anti-malarial tablets, please complete the course as instructed as malaria can often manifest itself upon your return home if the course is not followed.

Other mosquito-borne diseases such as Dengue Fever, Chikungunya and Zika are continuing to spread and becoming a bigger problem around the world. Bite prevention is vital to avoid contracting any of these diseases as there are no vaccines or specific treatments available. Health professionals have issued warnings for pregnant women travelling to areas affected by the Zika virus.

The mosquito usually bites between the hours of dusk and dawn and so covering up by wearing long-legged and long-sleeved clothing, preferably light coloured and buttoned at the wrists, can help. Do not sleep without closing windows, use a mosquito net where possible and use mosquito repellent applied directly to your skin or soaked into your clothing.

Vaccinations

Recommended vaccinations and other health protection vary according to different regions and recent bulletins issued by health authorities. It is essential to get the latest advice on the region(s) you are planning to travel in so please check with either your doctor or travel clinic in good time before you travel.

We also recommend you check out any specific health advice for the country you are travelling to either via your GP or the following websites: www.nathnac.org or www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk

In the UK, we have been working with Nomad Travel for many years and their website has comprehensive,

up-to-date vaccination and health information. You will receive a 10% discount off all vaccinations given at Nomad Travel clinics.

Activities

Included activities are listed in the day-to-day itinerary, all other activities are optional and at your own expense. If you choose not to participate in the included activities on this itinerary, the cost will not necessarily be refunded; this is something you will need to check with your leader.

A selection of optional activities is listed in the day-to-day itinerary. This list is designed to be a helpful guide as to what is commonly available in each location, and is neither an exhaustive list, a guarantee that the activity is available, or an endorsement or recommendation. Please note that certain activities may not be available on your particular visit if they are overbooked, underbooked, out of season, or for any other reason - the list of activities is made according to our latest information and in the best faith, but please be aware that things may change between our last visit and your arrival. Please also note that it may not be possible to do all the activities listed in the time available at each destination, and it is recommended to give yourself extra time in your joining or ending city if you would like to participate in some optional activities there.

If you do any optional activities, you do so at your own risk and it must be clearly understood that your participation is your own decision and does not form part of your contract with Dragoman. You may be required to sign/complete a waiver form or optional activity form for some optional activities.

Insurance

It is a condition of booking that you have comprehensive travel insurance. Without evidence of valid travel insurance you will not be allowed to start the trip. This can be arranged by Imaginative Traveller through our website or by contacting our team of travel consultants.

If you prefer to arrange your insurance independently, it should have a minimum medical (including repatriation) cover of £2,000,000. We recommend that any policy also has a minimum level of cover for Personal Liability of £2,000,000 and for Cancellation and Curtailment of £5,000. Cover for loss of baggage, personal effects, money and other inclusions are down to personal choice although please bear in mind that personal effects are more likely to go missing whilst travelling and you should ensure that your policy is adequate to cover the value of your personal effects e.g. cameras, tablets, phones etc. Please note that Imaginative Traveller and our partner operators are not responsible for your personal effects and are not insured for their loss.

If you prefer to arrange your insurance independently, it should cover you for any activities that you may wish to participate in, such as white-water rafting, trekking, horse-riding, etc. and the 24-hour Emergency Assistance Company must be experienced in handling situations in developing countries if applicable (e.g. they have the ability to arrange repatriation from remote areas such as the Sahara or trekking in the Andes). If you are travelling to high altitude (such as embarking on a trek to the summit of Kilimanjaro), please make sure that this is also covered.

Please double check if you have annual travel and/or credit card policies to ensure they have the cover you require, as many of these policies are not suitable with adventure travel to remote areas. Many credit card medical insurance policies are not valid for travelling outside your country of residence or outside the EU.

Please also check the age limits on any policy you wish to take out and make sure that you thoroughly inform the insurance company of any pre-existing conditions.

Passports

Check that your passport will still be valid for 6 months after the end of the trip - this is important as some countries WILL refuse entry to anyone whose passport is due to expire. A temporary or emergency passport is not valid on our trips. You will need to provide us with your passport details prior to departing for your trip. If you change your passport please remember to inform us.

Pre and Post Trip Accommodation and Transfers

At Imaginative Traveller we believe you should make the most of the places you visit, so if you would like to see more of the joining or finishing point cities, why not book additional accommodation to extend your stay? We can take away the hassle of time zones and language barriers by making the booking for you. This accommodation is only available at the joining or finishing city of your trip, immediately before or after the trip you are travelling on. Please note our rates do not reflect last minute walk-in rates or internet specials.

We can also book arrival airport transfers for you as long as we have your flight arrival details. These are normally payable in cash upon arrival; however we do have pre paid transfers in a few destinations.

Please contact our reservations team for details of the accommodation and transfers that we can offer, as not all hotels offer this service.

Responsible Tourism

Imaginative Traveller is committed to ensuring that we have a positive impact on local communities and that we implement policies to minimise any negative impact on the local environment. We recognise that we are guests of local communities and strive to make them benefit directly from our visit. You can find full details of Imaginative Traveller's responsible tourism policy on our website.

Issues on the trip

While we always endeavour to provide the best possible holiday experience, due to the nature of travel and the areas we visit sometimes things can and do go wrong. Should any issue occur while you are on your trip, it is imperative that you discuss this with your group leader or our local partner straight away so that they can do their best to rectify the problem and save any potential negative impact on the rest of your trip.

We recognise that there may be times when your group leader may not be able to resolve a situation to your satisfaction. If this is the case please contact our customer relations department on

customer-relations@imtrav.net

You may also choose to provide details in your feedback questionnaire which we ask you to complete at the end of your trip, but we do ask you to be aware that it is very difficult for us to provide any practical help after the trip is complete.

Feedback

After your travels, we want to hear from you! We rely on your feedback. We read it carefully. Feedback helps us to understand what we are doing well and what we could be doing better, and it allows us to make improvements for future travellers.

Trip Suitability

At Imaginative Traveller, we want you to enjoy your trip to the fullest extent possible, so we ask you to take a moment to read through the following information and make sure you're fully aware of the kind of trip you will be joining.

Imaginative Traveller trips and adventure travel in general can be quite demanding and there are risks and hazards that are inherent in such trips. Long driving days can sometimes be uncomfortable and tiring. Many of the places we visit are off the beaten track and so do not have the infrastructure that we are accustomed to in western society. Accommodation can vary greatly in standards and when wild camping on an Overland trip we rely entirely on our own provisions.

You will have the opportunity to take part in many exciting activities and excursions, some of which are included whilst others are optional (i.e. hiking the Inca Trail, trekking to see Mountain Gorillas) these require a certain level of fitness, so it's important that you read through the trip notes thoroughly and make your own conclusions as to whether you feel that you are fit and healthy enough to enjoy this trip to its fullest. Some activities may have higher risks than you are used to and you must judge whether or not you wish to, or have the physical ability to take part. All travellers are also required to carry their own bag and lift it into storage areas, get on and off public transport or if on an Overland trip - be able to manage the 2-foot step on and off the Overland truck.

Weather conditions in certain areas can also make physical activity more challenging. This also applies to our trips that travel at altitude.

It is extremely rare for us to have to refuse anyone a space on our trips for medical reasons. If at the time of booking you have any concern at all about a medical condition that may prevent you from participating fully in the trip, please let your travel agent or Imaginative Traveller know as soon as possible. If upon disclosure, our operator is of the opinion that the trip is not suitable for you, then we reserve the right to cancel your booking or alternatively to limit your participation in certain activities.

Whilst we don't want to put anyone off experiencing one of our trips, we ask that you read through the trip notes for the trip you have selected carefully and realistically self assess your ability to complete the trip as described. Please consult with your Dr and/or us if you have any doubts.

A positive attitude and an open mind are just as important as your ability to get involved and fully participate on your group trip.

Booking Conditions

Valid from 1st May 2019
(updated on 23 April 2019)

Terms Used

1. a) These conditions apply to all tours sold by or through Imaginative Traveller (hereinafter called 'Imaginative Traveller'), but operated by Intrepid Travel Group UK Ltd.

Imaginative Traveller is a trading name for Dragoman Overseas Travel Ltd. The "Company", is Dragoman Overseas Travel Ltd. a company registered in England with limited liability. Registered office: Camp Green, Debenham, Suffolk, IP14 6LA. UK Reg. Number: 2732524. Dragoman Overseas Travel Ltd. is a UK based company and all contracts are subject to English law. Dragoman Overseas Travel Ltd is a member of The Dragoman Travel Ltd Group of Companies. The tours described are sold by Imaginative Traveller as an agent. They are operated on the ground by Intrepid Travel Group UK Ltd.

1. b) The "Client", "you" and "your" is all persons named on the booking (including anyone who is added or substituted at a later date) or any of them, as the context requires.
2. c) "Us", "We", "Our" below in the Intrepid Travel Group UK Ltd. Booking Conditions refers to Intrepid Travel Group UK Ltd.
3. d) The "lead name" is the person who makes the booking on behalf of everyone travelling on the booking. The lead name must be at least 18 at the time of booking.
4. e) A "tour" is any expedition, safari, tour, trip or combination of sectors which you book through us as an agent located in the UK and which is operated by Intrepid Travel Group UK Ltd. A "flight inclusive tour" is any tour which includes international flights booked through us at the same time as the rest of the tour arrangements.
5. f) "Force majeure" is a situation beyond the control of the Company or the supplier of the service(s) affected and the consequences of which could not have been avoided even if all reasonable measures had been taken. Such events may include, whether actual or threatened, war, riot, civil strife, terrorist activity, industrial dispute, natural or nuclear disaster, adverse weather or road conditions, fire, bureaucratic obstacles, changes in schedules or mode of transport by ferry companies, airlines, bus or train operators and all similar events outside our control.
6. g) The Contract. The contract is the contract between you, (the client), and the Intrepid Travel Group UK Ltd. as outlined in clause 1 below of the Intrepid Travel Group UK Ltd. Booking Conditions

Intrepid Travel Group UK Ltd. Booking Conditions

1. The contract

All bookings are made with Intrepid Travel Group UK Ltd (**us/we**), trading as Intrepid Travel. By booking a trip with Intrepid, you are deemed to have agreed to these Booking Conditions (which constitutes the entire agreement between you and us) and your booking will be accepted by us on this basis. The services to be provided are those referred to in your booking confirmation invoice.

Your booking is made in the first instance through Imaginative Traveller, who are the agent in the contract.

2. Validity

Dates and itineraries are valid until 31 December 2019. Beyond 31 December 2019 dates and itineraries are indicative only.

3. Deposit requirement

You are required to pay a non-refundable deposit of £200 per person per trip for your booking to be confirmed. If your booking is made within 56 days of the departure date then the full amount is payable at the time of booking.

Please note that different deposits amounts are required for selected trips including Polar and Adventure Cruising bookings as follows:

- If you book 181 days before the departure date or earlier, you must pay a deposit of 20% of the land cost of the tour. The balance of the tour must be paid no later than 181 days before the departure date, otherwise we are entitled to treat the booking as cancelled by you In which case the cancellation charges shown in clause 4 will be payable.
- If you book your tour less than 181 days before the departure date, you must pay the full tour cost at the time of booking.

4. Acceptance of booking and final payments

If we accept your booking we will issue a confirmation invoice. A contract will exist between us from the date we issue the confirmation invoice or if you book within 30 days of departure the contract will exist when we accept your payment. Please refer to your booking confirmation invoice for details regarding final payments.

Payment of the balance of the trip price is due 56 days before the departure date. Please note that full payment is required earlier for Polar and Adventure Cruising bookings (see 3. above). If this balance is not paid on or before the due date we reserve the right to treat your booking as cancelled.

Payments for international flights (to and from the land tour) are not included in the land cost. The international flight element must be paid in full at the time of booking.

5. Prices & surcharges

Our trip prices are subject to variable and seasonal pricing, both of which are standard practice within the travel industry. This means our trip prices may vary at any time in accordance with demand, market conditions and availability. It is likely that different passengers on the same trip have been charged different prices. Your best option if you like the price you see is to book at that time. Once you have received a quote the price will be locked in provided you pay the required deposit prior to the quote's expiry. Any reduced pricing or discounts that may become available after you have paid your deposit will not apply. If you wish to cancel your booking to take advantage of a cheaper price, full cancellation conditions apply. The most up to date pricing is available on our website. Prices are based on currency exchange rates as of June 2018; note that prices may vary depending on which currency the booking is made. We reserve the right to impose surcharges up to 56 days before departure due to unfavourable changes in exchange rates, increases in airfares or other transportation costs, increases in local operator costs, taxes, or if government action should require us to do so. In such instances, we will be responsible for any amount up to 2% of the trip price and you will be responsible for the balance. If any surcharge results in an increase of more than 10% of the trip price you may cancel the booking within 14 days of notification of the surcharge and obtain a full refund. Should the cost of your trip decrease by more than 2% due to the changes mentioned above then any refund due will be paid to you. Please note that travel arrangements are not always purchased in local currency and some apparent changes have no impact on the cost of your travel due to contractual and other protection in place. Air Passenger Duty is included in the price of your air inclusive trip. Please note that a surcharge may be applied to all purchases made by credit card.

6. Your details

In order for us to confirm your travel arrangements you must provide all requested details with the balance of the trip price. Necessary details vary by trip; they include but are not limited to full name as per passport, date of birth, nationality, passport number, passport issue and expiry date and any pre-existing medical conditions you have which may affect your ability to complete your travel arrangements. On some more demanding trips we also require you to complete and forward a Self-Assessment form. Failure to provide requested details may result in additional charges or non-refundable cancellation of your trip.

7. Cancellation by the traveller

If you cancel some or all portions of your booking cancellation fees will apply. A cancellation will only be effective when we receive written confirmation of the cancellation.

If you cancel a trip:

- 56 days or more prior to departure, we will retain the deposit;
- between 31 and 55 days prior to departure, we will retain the deposit or 50% of the total booking cost; whichever is greater, and
- 30 days or less prior to departure, we will retain 100% paid by you in connection with the booking.

Note that different cancellation conditions including higher charges apply to some styles of trips and additional services including Polar and Adventure Cruising bookings.

Days % charge

181 or more Loss of deposit

180 or less 100%

Your booking consultant will advise if differences apply and details can be found in the Essential Trip Information relating to your trip.

You are strongly advised to take out cancellation insurance at the time of booking which will cover cancellation fees. Depending on your reason for cancellation and your travel insurance terms these charges may be recoverable under your insurance policy.

If you leave any trip for any reason after it has commenced we are not obliged to make any refunds for unused services. If you fail to join a tour, join it after departure, or leave it prior to its completion, no refund will be made.

The above cancellation fees are in addition to fees which may be levied by accommodation providers, travel agents or third party tour and transport operator fees, including

- Cancellation fees for air tickets issued by or on behalf of Imaginative Traveller or Intrepid will apply as determined by Airline Tariff Regulations and will vary depending on the type of ticket issued. This can be as much as 100% after purchase. In addition, Imaginative Traveller cancellation charges may apply.
- Hotels, transfers and other add ons will incur cancellation charges depending on circumstances but may be up to 100%.

8. Cancellation by us

Our trips are guaranteed to depart once they have one fully paid traveller unless minimum group size specifically states otherwise. We may cancel a trip at any time prior to departure if, due to terrorism, natural disasters, political instability or other external events it is not viable for us to operate the planned itinerary. If we cancel your trip, you can transfer amounts paid to an alternate departure date or receive a full refund. In circumstances where the cancellation is due to external events outside our reasonable control refunds will be less any unrecoverable costs. We are not responsible for any incidental expenses that you may have incurred as a result of your booking including but not limited to visas, vaccinations, travel insurance excess or non-refundable flights.

9. Booking amendments

If you wish to transfer from one trip to another or transfer your booking to a third party you must notify us at least 56 days prior to the proposed departure date more (181 days or more for Polar trips to the Arctic or Antarctic). A fee of £125 per person per change will apply (in addition to any charges levied by hotels, ground operators or airlines). If you notify us less than 56 days (181 days for Polar trips to the Arctic or Antarctic) prior to the proposed departure date the refund policy applicable to cancellations will apply. Transfers to a third party are only permitted where the transferee meets all the requirements in relation to the trip, and transfers to another departure can only be made to a departure within the current validity period.

Amendments to any other arrangements made in conjunction with your trip will incur a £75 administration fee per booking per change. This fee is in addition to any charges levied by hotels, ground operators or airlines. No amendments are permitted to your booking within 10 days of departure.

10. Inclusions

The land price of your trip includes:

- all accommodation as listed in the Essential Trip Information
 - all transport listed in the Essential Trip Information
 - sightseeing and meals as listed in the Essential Trip Information
 - the services of a group leader as described in the Essential Trip Information

11. Exclusions

The land price of your trip does not include:

- international or internal flights unless specified
- airport transfers, taxes and excess baggage charges unless specified
- meals other than those specified in the Essential Trip Information
- Visa and passport fees
- travel insurance
- Optional activities and all personal expenses

12. Age & Health requirements

Minimum Age: For the majority of our trips the minimum age is 15 at the time of travel. All travellers under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a legal guardian, or in lieu of a legal guardian, by an escort over the age of 18, appointed by their legal guardian. The legal guardian or their designee will be responsible for the traveller under the age of 18's day to day care. If a legal guardian elects to designate an escort in their lieu, they will be required to complete and sign a relevant document, to delegate their authority.

Please note we cannot guarantee triple or adjoining rooms for families; accompanying adults may be required to share with others in the group on a twin share basis.

Variations: A minimum age of 18 applies to many Overland adventures, while a lower minimum age applies to Family trips and Short Break Adventures. Please check with your consultant at the time of enquiry. All bookings for our Family trips must include a child under the age of 18.

Maximum Age: For the majority of our trips we have no upper age limit though we remind you that our trips can be physically demanding and passengers must ensure that they are suitably fit to allow full participation. We are able to provide details on mandatory health requirements; however, we are not medical experts. It is your responsibility to ensure that you obtain proper and detailed medical advice at least two months prior to travel for the latest health requirements and recommendations for your destination.

You must be older than 18 years and younger than 30 years on day 1 of your trip to travel on our 18 to 29s Adventures.

Pre-existing medical conditions: If at the time of booking or at any time before departure you have a medical condition that may prevent you from participating fully in the trip, or may affect others on the trip, you must let us know as soon as possible. You will be required to provide evidence that this condition has been disclosed to your travel insurance company.

13. Small groups & combination trips

At times we can have groups with small numbers of travellers. Many of our trips are designed to fit with other departures to create a longer "combination" trip; this means that some of your group may have already been travelling together for some weeks when you commence your trip. If you would like to know how many people are booked on your trip or any combination trip it is part of please ask prior to making your booking.

14. Passport and visas

You must carry a valid passport and have obtained all of the appropriate visas, permits and certificates for the countries which you will visit during your trip. Your passport must be valid for 6 months beyond the duration of the trip. It is your responsibility to ensure that you are in possession of the correct visas, permits and certificates for your trip; please refer to the Essential Trip Information for details. We are not responsible if you are refused entry to a country because you lack the correct passport, visa or other travel documentation.

15. Travel insurance

Travel insurance is mandatory for all our travellers and should be taken out at the time of booking. Your

travel insurance must provide cover against personal accident, death, medical expenses and emergency repatriation with a recommended minimum coverage of US\$200,000 for each of the categories of cover. We also strongly recommend it covers cancellation, curtailment, personal liability and loss of luggage and personal effects. You must provide your travel insurance policy number and the insurance company's 24 hour emergency contact number on the first day of your trip; you will not be able to join the trip without these details. We also require evidence that any medical conditions have been disclosed to your travel insurance company prior to the start of the trip. If you have travel insurance connected to your credit card or bank account please ensure you have details of the participating insurer, the insurance policy number and emergency contact number with you rather than the bank's name and credit card details.

16. Flexibility

You appreciate and acknowledge that the nature of this type of travel requires considerable flexibility and you should allow for alternatives. The itinerary provided for each trip is representative of the types of activities contemplated, but it is understood that the route, schedules, itineraries, amenities and mode of transport may be subject to alteration without prior notice due to local circumstances or events.

17. Change of itinerary

While we endeavour to operate all trips as described we reserve the right to change the trip itinerary. Please refer to our website before departure for the most recent updates to your itinerary.

Before departure: If we make a major change we will inform you as soon as reasonably possible if there is time before departure. The definition of a major change is deemed to be a change affecting at least one day in five of the itinerary. When a major change is made you may choose between accepting the change, obtaining a refund of money paid on the land portion of the trip only or accepting an alternative tour offered.

After departure: We reserve the right to change an itinerary after departure due to local circumstances or events outside of our control. In such emergency circumstances the additional cost of any necessary itinerary alterations will be covered by you. Please note we are not responsible for any incidental expenses that may be incurred as a result of the change of itinerary such as visas, vaccinations or non-refundable flights.

18. Authority on tour

Our group trips are run by a group leader. The decision of the group leader is final on all matters likely to affect the safety or well-being of any traveller or staff member participating in the trip. If you fail to comply with a decision made by a group leader, or interfere with the well-being or mobility of the group, the group leader may direct you to leave the trip immediately, with no right of refund. We may also elect not to carry you on any future trips booked. You must at all times comply with the laws, customs, foreign exchange and drug regulations of all countries visited, and you also agree to travel in accordance with our responsible travel guidelines.

19. Acceptance of risk

You acknowledge that the nature of the trip is adventurous and participation involves a degree of personal risk. You will be visiting places where the political, cultural and geographical attributes present dangers and physical challenges greater than those present in our daily lives. We use information from government foreign departments and reports from our own contacts in assessing whether the itinerary should operate. However it is also your own responsibility to acquaint yourself with all relevant travel information and the nature of your itinerary. You acknowledge that your decision to travel is made in light of consideration of this information and you accept that you are aware of the personal risks attendant upon such travel.

20. Limitation of liability

1. We will accept liability for the negligence of our staff or agents causing death or physical injury to persons or loss or damage to personal property only to the extent it is obliged under the applicable law. Our obligations, and those of our suppliers providing any service or facility included in your holiday, are to take reasonable skill and care to arrange for the provision of such services and facilities. This acceptance of liability is subject to clause c. below.
2. In other circumstances we are responsible to you for the proper performance of this contract. This acceptance of liability is subject to clause c. below.
3. We shall not be liable for any damage or loss if the failure to carry out the contract is:
 - attributable to you.
4. Except in cases involving death, injury or illness, any liability covered under clause b. above is limited to a maximum of 3 times the price paid. In the case of damaged property the liability is limited to a maximum of the value of the property equal to the amount paid by or on behalf of the owner of the property. In all cases the Company specifically excludes all liability for indirect or consequential loss or expense including loss of profits and in all cases our liability will be limited in accordance with and/or in an identical manner to the terms of the companies that provide the transportation for your travel arrangements.
5. Where your trip arrangements involve travel by air, rail or sea, or hotel accommodation, the compensation is limited by the following international conventions respectively: Warsaw Convention as amended 1955, Bern Convention 1961, Athens Convention 1974 and Paris Convention 1962. We are to be regarded as having all benefit of any limitation of right to claim or compensation contained in these or any conventions..
6. our acceptance of liability in clauses a and b above is subject to assignment by you of your rights against any agent, supplier or sub-contractor which is in any way responsible for the unsatisfactory arrangements or your death or personal injury.
7. Flight Notice, Flight Information and EU Blacklist.

This is a notice required by European Community Regulation (EC) No.889/2002. This notice cannot be used as a basis for a claim for compensation, nor to interpret the provisions of the Regulation or the Montréal Convention, and it does not form part of the contract between the carrier(s), us and you, nor part of a claim. No representation is made by the carrier(s) or us as to the accuracy of the contents of this notice.

Air carrier liability for passengers and their baggage:

This information notice summarises the liability rules applied by Community air carriers as required by Community legislation and the Montréal Convention.

Compensation in the case of death or injury: There are no financial limits to the liability for passenger injury or death. For damages up to 100,000 SDRs (approximately £80,000 / €120,000) the air carrier cannot contest claims for compensation. Above that amount, the air carrier can defend itself against a claim by proving that it was not negligent or otherwise at fault.

Advance payments: If a passenger is killed or injured, the air carrier must make an advance payment, to cover immediate economic needs, within 15 days from the identification of the person entitled to compensation. In the event of death, this advance payment shall not be less than 16000 SDRs (approximately £13,000 / €19,300).

Passenger delays: In case of passenger delay, the air carrier is liable for damage unless it took all reasonable measures to avoid the damage or it was impossible to take such measures. The liability for passenger delay is limited to 4150 SDRs (approximately £3,300 / €5,000).

Baggage delays: In case of baggage delay, the air carrier is liable for damage unless it took all reasonable measures to avoid the damage or it was impossible to take such measures. The liability for baggage delay is limited to 1000 SDRs (approximately £800/€1,200).

Destruction, loss or damage to baggage: The air carrier is liable for destruction, loss or damage to baggage up to 1000 SDRs (approximately £800) In the case of checked baggage, it is liable even if not at fault, unless the baggage was defective. In the case of unchecked baggage, the carrier is liable only if at fault.

Higher limits for baggage: A passenger can benefit from a higher liability limit by making a special declaration at the latest at check-in and by paying a supplementary fee.

Complaints on baggage: If the baggage is damaged, delayed, lost or destroyed, the passenger must write

and complain to the air carrier as soon as possible. In the case of damage to checked baggage, the passenger must write and complain within seven days, and in the case of delay within 21 days, in both cases from the date on which the baggage was placed at the passenger's disposal.

Liability of contracting and actual carriers: If the air carrier actually performing the flight is not the same as the contracting air carrier, the passenger has the right to address a complaint or to make a claim for damages against either. If the name or code of an air carrier is indicated on the ticket, that air carrier is the contracting air carrier.

Time limit for action: Any action in court to claim damages must be brought within two years from the date of arrival of the aircraft, or from the date on which the aircraft ought to have arrived.

Basis for the information. The basis for the rules described above is the Montreal Convention of 28 May 1999, which is implemented in the Community by Regulation (EC) No. 2027/97 (as amended by Regulation (EC) No. 889/2002) and national legislation of the Member States.

In accordance with EU directive (EC) no. 2111/2005, Article 9, we are required to bring to your attention the existence of a 'Community list' which contains details of air carriers that are subject to an operating ban within the EU Community. The Community list is available for inspection at www.air-ban.europa.eu. In accordance with EU Regulation 2111/2005 we are required to advise you of the actual carrier operating your flight/connecting flight/transfer. We do this by listing carriers to be used or likely to be used on our confirming documents. The airline may use wide and narrow-body jets. Any changes to the actual airline after you have received your tickets will be notified to you as soon as possible and in all cases at check-in or at the boarding gate.

21. Optional activities

Optional activities not included in the trip price do not form part of the trip or this contract. You accept that any assistance given by your group leader or local representative in arranging optional activities does not render us liable for them in any way. The contract for the provision of that activity will be between you and activity provider.

22. Claims & complaints

If you have a complaint about your trip please inform your group leader or our local representative at the time in order that they can attempt to rectify the matter. If satisfaction is not reached through these means then any further complaint should be put in writing to us within 30 days of the end of the tour. If we can't resolve your complaint, go to www.abta.com to use ABTA's simple procedure.

23. Severability

In the event that any term or condition contained in these Booking Conditions is unenforceable or void by operation of law or as being against public policy or for any other reason then such term or condition shall be deemed to be severed from this contract or amended accordingly only to such extent necessary to allow all remaining terms and conditions to survive and continue as binding.

24. Photos and marketing

You consent to Intrepid or Imaginative Traveller using images of you taken during the trip for advertising and promotional purposes in any medium we choose. You grant us a perpetual, royalty-free, worldwide, irrevocable licence to use such images for publicity and promotional purposes.

25. Privacy policy

Any personal information that we collect about you may be used for any purpose associated with the operation of a Trip or to send you marketing material in relation to our events and special offers. The information may be disclosed to our agents, service providers or other suppliers to enable us to operate the

Trip. We will otherwise treat your details in accordance with our privacy policy (available for viewing on our Website).

26. Financial protection

The Package Travel, Package Holidays and Package Tours Regulations 1992 & the and The Package Travel and Linked Travel Arrangements Regulations 2018 (what about the 2018 Regs???) require us to provide security for the monies that you pay for the package holidays booked from us and for your repatriation in the event of our insolvency.

We, Intrepid Travel Group UK Ltd., will provide you with financial protection for any ATOL protected air package or flight that you buy from us (through our agent Imaginative Traveller) by way of our Air Travel Organiser's Licence number 6352 administered by the Civil Aviation Authority ('CAA').

When you buy an ATOL protected flight or flight inclusive holiday from us you will receive an ATOL Certificate for Intrepid Travel Group UK Ltd. This lists what is financially protected, where you can get information on what this means for you and who to contact if things go wrong.

Imaginative Traveller will provide you with financial protection for any ATOL protected air package or flight that you buy from Imaginative Traveller, where Imaginative Traveller are providing the flight and packaging it with an Intrepid Travel Group UK Ltd. tour, by way of Dragoman Overseas Travel Ltd Air Travel Organiser's Licence number 4157 administered by the Civil Aviation Authority ('CAA'). In this case you will receive an ATOL Certificate for Dragoman Overseas Travel Ltd (Imaginative Traveller). This lists what is financially protected, where you can get information on what this means for you and who to contact if things go wrong.

Further, The Association of Bonded Travel Organisers Trust Limited (ABTOT) provides financial protection under ABTOT Combined and The Package Travel and Linked Travel Arrangements Regulations 2018 for Dragoman Overseas Travel Ltd. (Imaginative Traveller), and in the event of their insolvency, protection is provided for the following:

- non-flight packages – land Only Intrepid Travel Group UK Ltd. tour sold via the Imaginative Traveller
- flight inclusive packages that commence outside of the EU, which are sold to customers outside of the EU

ABTOT Combined cover provides for a refund in the event you have not yet travelled or repatriation if you are abroad. Please note that bookings made outside the EU are only protected by ABTOT when purchased directly with Dragoman Overseas Travel Ltd, (Imaginative Traveller).

In the unlikely event that you require assistance whilst abroad due to Dragoman Overseas Travel Ltd, (Imaginative Traveller) financial failure, please call the 24/7 helpline on 01702 811397 and advise you are a customer of an ABTOT protected travel company.

In addition, we, (Intrepid Travel Group UK Ltd.) or the suppliers identified Imaginative Traveller 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, (Intrepid Travel Group UK Ltd.) nor Imaginative Traveller the supplier are able to do so for reasons of insolvency, an alternative ATOL holder may provide you with the services you have bought or a suitable alternative (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).

When you buy an ATOL protected flight or flight inclusive holiday, all money accepted from you by a travel agent (Imaginative Traveller) acting as our agent 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. If we do fail, any money held at that time by the agent, or subsequently accepted from you 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.

When you buy arrangements other than an ATOL protected flight or flight inclusive holiday, all money

accepted from you by a travel agent acting as our agent is held by that agent on our behalf at all times.

We (Intrepid Travel Group UK Ltd.) will provide you with financial protection for any package holidays you buy from us that do not include travel by air by way of a bond held by ABTA. For further information, visit the ABTA website at www.abta.com. If you book arrangements other than an ATOL protected flight or a package holiday, the financial protection referred to above does not apply.

The price of all ATOL-protected flight inclusive Packages 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 the advertised prices.

We, (Intrepid Travel Group UK Ltd.) are a Member of ABTA, membership number Y0766. We are obliged to maintain a high standard of service to you by ABTA's Code of Conduct."

For further information visit the ATOL website at www.atol.org.uk, the ABTOT website at www.ABTOT.com, or the ABTA Website at www.abta.com

27. Applicable law

The laws of the United Kingdom govern these Booking Conditions to the fullest extent allowable. Any disputes in connection with a trip or these Booking Conditions must be initiated in the courts of the United Kingdom.

28. Registered address for Intrepid Travel Group UK Ltd.

4th Floor, Piano House, Brighton Terrace, Brixton, London, United Kingdom, SW9 8DJ.

Package Travel and Linked Travel Arrangement Regulations 2018

Package Travel Protection

The combination of travel services offered to you is a package within the meaning of the Package Travel and Linked Travel Arrangements Regulations 2018.

Therefore you will benefit from all EU rights applying to the packages. Intrepid Travel Group UK Ltd. will be fully responsible for the proper performance of the package as a whole.

Additionally, as required by law, both Intrepid Travel Group UK Ltd. and Dragoman Overseas Travel Ltd. (Imaginative Traveller) have protection in place to refund your payments and, where transport is included in the package, to ensure your repatriation in the event that it becomes insolvent.

Key rights under the Package Travel and Linked Travel Arrangements Regulations 2018

- Travellers will receive all essential information about the package before concluding the package travel contract.
- There is always at least one trader who is liable for the proper performance of all the travel services included in the contract.
- Travellers are given an emergency telephone number or details of a contact point where they can get in touch with the organiser or the travel agent.
- Travellers may transfer the package to another person, on reasonable notice and possibly subject to additional costs.

- The price of the package may only be increased if specific costs rise (for instance fuel prices), and if expressly provided for in the contract, and in any event not later than 20 days before the start of the package. If the price increase exceeds 8% of the price of the package, the traveller may terminate the contract. If the organiser reserves the right to a price increase, the traveller has a right to a price reduction if there is a decrease in the relevant costs.
- Travellers may terminate the contract without paying any termination fee and get a full refund of any payments if any of the essential elements of the package, other than the price, has changed significantly. If before the start of the package the trader responsible for the package cancels the package, travellers are entitled to a refund and compensation where appropriate.
- Travellers may terminate the contract without paying any termination fee before the start of the package in the event of exceptional circumstances, for instance if there are serious security problems at the destination which are likely to affect the package.
- Additionally, travellers may at any time before the start of the package terminate the contract in return for an appropriate and justifiable termination fee.
- If, after the start of the package, significant elements of the package cannot be provided as agreed, suitable alternative arrangements will have to be offered to the traveller at no extra cost. Travellers may terminate the contract without paying any termination fee, where services are not performed in accordance with the contract and this substantially affects the performance of the package and the organiser fails to remedy the problem.
- Travellers are also entitled to a price reduction or compensation for damages or both where the travel services are not performed or are improperly performed.
- The organiser has to provide assistance if the traveller is in difficulty.
- If the organiser or the retailer becomes insolvent, payments will be refunded. If the organiser or, where applicable, the retailer becomes insolvent after the start of the package and if transport is included in the package, repatriation of the travellers is secured.
- Intrepid Travel Group UK Ltd. has taken out insolvency protection with ABTA, 30 Park Street, London, SE1 9EQ. Phone 020 3117 0599 – lines are only open between 09:30-16:30 Monday to Friday
- Dragoman Overseas Travel Ltd. (Imaginative Traveller) has taken out insolvency protection with The Association of Bonded Travel Organisers Trust Limited (ABTOT), 117 Houndsditch, London, EC3A 7BT, United Kingdom, phone 020 7065 5311 (during office hours), helpline 01702 811397 (24/7). Travellers may contact this entity or, where applicable, the competent authority (The Insolvency Service, website: <https://www.gov.uk/the-insolvency-service>, email: insolvency.enquiryline@insolvency.gsi.gov.uk, phone: 0300 678 0015) if services are denied because of Dragoman's or Intrepids insolvency.

A copy of The Package Travel and Linked Travel Arrangements Regulations 2018 may be found on: www.legislation.gov.uk/ukSI/2018/634