



ASIA • MIDDLE EAST • AFRICA • SOUTH AMERICA

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DESERTS & GAMEPARKS

This Pre – Departure Dossier is relevant to your trip so please read it carefully – Updated: July 08
We recommend that you download a copy several weeks before your trip commences , so as to obtain the most up to date information – particularly in regards to costs and prices whilst on trip.

Victoria Falls or Harare to Cape Town – 23 / 33 days
Victoria Falls or Harare to Jo' burg – 40 / 50 days

PRE TRIP

Arrival : It is recommended to fly into Harare or Victoria Falls at least the day before your trip departs and longer in Victoria Falls if you want to go White Water Rafting (this takes an entire day), bungee jumping, or experience the Flight of Angels. Even though Day 1 of your trip a free day in Vic Falls – you may want to allow more time than this beforehand – as there are countless activities you can partake in. Make sure you allow enough time in one of the biggest and best adrenaline packed adventure Capitals of the World!!!

Travelling on a One Way ticket : With the ever increasing travel restrictions and security measures being implemented through the travel industry - we would like to offer you as much helpful and useful information as we can. If you intend to travel on a one way ticket to meet up with one of our trips or expeditions – we would recommend that you contact us at the time of paying your balance. Oasis will supply you with a letter confirming that you are travelling overland on the specified trip that you have booked – which you can take with you in case immigration at either your departure or arrival point queries the fact that you are not in possession of a return flight ticket. It is also recommended that you have a copy of your payment confirmation / receipt (that you will be sent at time of balance payment) and itinerary (found at the back of this information booklet) on hand as further proof of booking.

Pre Flight Info: For those booking their flights from the UK, the best ticket is an 'open jaw' return into Nairobi and out of South Africa or Zimbabwe. Airlines such as SAA, BA, KLM will do 'open jaws' into Nairobi and out of Cape Town, Jo' Burg or Harare. Gulf Air, Olympic, Alitalia and Air France have competitive fares all year round. Oasis do not book flights , but we can recommend [STA Travel](http://www.statravel.co.uk) – www.statravel.co.uk – 0870 1 606 070 / 599 or [Trailfinders](http://www.trailfinders.co.uk) – www.trailfinders.co.uk – 0845 058 5858. It is usually cheaper to book airline tickets through a travel agent rather than direct with the airline. Flights with airlines usually cost more and are likely to be booked up earlier for the busy months of July-August & December.

For people joining in Harare and travelling on: 33 and 50 day trips – the best ticket is an 'open jaw' return into Harare & out of Cape Town / Jo'burg , whichever city is the finishing point on your trip. You can also fly into Jo'burg and get an add – on to Harare.

For people joining in Vic Falls and travelling on: 23 and 40 day trips – the best ticket is an 'open jaw' return into either Harare or Jo'burg . You can get add-ons from Harare to Vic Falls and / or Jo'burg to Vic Falls.

NOTE: It can be cheaper to fly into Jo'burg rather than Harare or Vic Falls.

Most flights to Vic Falls these days go via Harare or Jo'burg.

All flights purchased by foreigners in Zimbabwe need to be paid for in foreign currency or using a foreign Credit Card.

The price of flights fluctuates regularly with the forever changing exchange rate

Add – Ons:

Harare to Vic Falls: 2-3 flights daily, 50 mins flying time costing approx GBP £60 – 90 if bought locally in Zimbabwe.

Jo'burg to Vic Falls: 2 flights per day (approx), 1hr 50 mins flying time costing approx GBP £ 100 – 150. It is cheaper and recommended to purchase this add-on with your International flight into Africa.

Airlines such as SAA, BA, KLM will usually do 'open jaws' on the above routes. Enquire with Gulf Air, Olympic, Alitalia and Air France, who usually have competitive fares all year round. Oasis do not book flights, but we can recommend [STA Travel](http://www.statravel.co.uk) – www.statravel.co.uk – 0870 1 606 070 / 599 or [Trailfinders](http://www.trailfinders.co.uk) – www.trailfinders.co.uk – 0845 058 5858. It is usually cheaper to book airline tickets through a travel agent rather than direct with the airline. Flights with airlines usually cost more and are likely to be booked up earlier for the busy months of July-August and December.

Pre Trip Accommodation & Airport Transfers: Unlike some of our competitors – we do not charge a booking fee for reserving pre trip Accommodation and Airport Transfers. All accommodation will be booked in either dorm facilities or on a shared twin basis (between 2 people of the same sex) – unless you are a couple or have specified what kind of room you prefer. If dorm or sharing options are not available – we will reserve you a single room at the single room rate. We will always try our best to provide the most economical option for you – whether it be by sharing a room or by splitting the cost of an airport transfer with other trip members who may be flying in at the same time.

IMPORTANT: Contact us at least **4 WEEKS IN ADVANCE** or **AS SOON AS YOU HAVE BOOKED YOUR FLIGHTS** if you would like us to pre book accommodation and / or an Airport Transfer for your arrival in either Harare / Vic Falls / Jo'Burg. We require your **FLIGHT ARRIVAL DETAILS** (Flight Number – Time /Date of Arrival) **AND ROOM REQUIREMENTS**.

FLYING INTO HARARE / VIC FALLS – AIRPORT TRANSFERS – ACCOMMODATION - SECURITY

For people arriving in Harare and travelling on: 33 & 50 day trips – Harare Airport is small and safe. English is widely spoken and signs and directions are also in English. Taxis are always available from the airport and cost about £8 to the centre of Harare.

Oasis use "The Rocks Camp" - Tel: +263 - (0)11 - 407 810 / +263 - (0)91 – 2417296 / +263 – (0)91 - 2311172 (ask for Sivvy). The camp is 12 kms from Harare centre and has dorm rooms for US\$9 per person per night or US\$20 for a single, twin or double room. They can also provide meals at reasonable prices and taxis to the centre can cost anywhere between US\$10 to \$15 per car. Our overland vehicle and crew will usually be at The Rocks Campsite a couple of days before the trip starts. **Airport / bus station transfers can be arranged for US\$10 pp. (2+ people). Both of these services are paid direct to the campsite or transfer agent in Harare. The trip will officially start at 8am from "The Rocks" on the day of departure.**

It's a **Small world backpackers** at 25 Ridge Road, Avondale costs US\$15 for a dorm room and US\$25 for a twin / double. Has swimming pool, TV lounge, fully equipped self catering kitchen and is a 10 minute walk to restaurants and cafes. They also offer an airport transfer service. Tel: +263-4-3351756.

Backpackers & Overlanders Lodge - 8km from the airport at Twentydals Road Extension - opposite Mbizi Game Park. They have dorm rooms for US\$10 p/p/night, US\$20 for a single, twin or double room or US\$6 for camping. Tel + 263-91-266616.

For people arriving in Vic Falls and travelling on: 23 & 40 Day Trips - **Victoria Falls Airport** is quite straightforward. English is widely spoken and again, signs and directions are also in English. It is a small airport about 20km from the centre of Victoria Falls Township. There is a cheap shuttle bus service from the airport at Victoria Falls into the town centre, although it is best to take a taxi (which costs about US\$10) direct to your accommodation so you can drop your luggage and put your money into a safe. Most cabs are metered. You can ask at the information desk about taxis but you will find the taxi rank immediately outside the airport front entrance. If you prefer – we can arrange to have an airport transfer waiting for your arrival into Vic. Falls – for the same cost as hailing one yourself.

We use the municipal campsite ' **Vic Falls Rest Camp**' in the centre of town. Dorm beds are available for US\$10 pp or basic chalets sleeping 2 to 5, and cost from approximately US\$15 p/p/night, but these are run on a first come first served basis. The camp has well kept facilities with grass and a great restaurant and pool.

We can book accommodation for you at "**Shoestrings Backpackers / Camp**" -12 West Drive, Victoria Falls. It costs US\$10 for a dorm, US\$30 for a twin/double room. Shoestrings has a pool and one of the liveliest bars in town. The **Sprayview Hotel** on Livingstone Way is more expensive at approx US\$80 p/night. Tel. 013 - 4344. It is a five-minute walk from the town centre.

The truck will be parked at either campsite approximately 2 or 3 days before the trip begins. Our trucks are big and yellow so they are easy to spot! If you arrive early you are welcome to come and make yourself known. **The trip will officially start at 10am on Day 1** – where your crew will go through the layout and workings of the truck and help you stow your gear aboard. The rest of the day will mostly be a free day allowing you the chance to partake in some of the adrenalin racing activities on offer. We usually finish off the day by enjoying a group meal out on the town. The following day we head into Botswana and visit Chobe National Park!

Changing currency on Arrival : We advise passengers not to change Cash / TC's or use Cash / Credit Cards at either Harare or Vic. Falls airport/s. It is best to contact Oasis prior to leaving for your trip or speak to your crew on arrival in Harare or Vic Falls –and they will advise you where to exchange money for the best rates.

Our Agent in Victoria Falls is Backpackers Bazaar. They are situated opposite the Municipal Campsite in the centre of town just past the Wimpy Takeaway. Their telephone number is (013) 45828 or 44611 or 42208 or (011) 404 960. Email – backpack@africaonline.co.zw or bazaar@mweb.co.zw .If you arrive at the Falls early you can visit them and they will be able to tell you where to find the Oasis Vehicle or when it is arriving. They can also arrange accommodation and many of the activities that Vic Falls has to offer.

How to get to Victoria Falls if not flying from Harare or Jo'burg (South Africa) - There are two main options:

Train from Harare to Vic Falls via Bulawayo – This service is usually aboard an old style colonial sleeper train. Allow two to three days travelling to Victoria Falls, as you may have to book the train a day in advance to secure a seat, as it is a popular and cheap way to travel. The Railway Station is situated in the centre of Harare on the corner of Kenneth Kaunda Ave and 2nd St. Trains depart daily and run overnight from Harare to Bulawayo and onto Victoria Falls the following day. The ticket office is open daily between 8am and 1pm, 2pm to 4pm and 7pm to 9.30 pm. Expect to pay in the region of £20 to £30 for a first class sleeper compartment to Victoria Falls, with a day stopover in Bulawayo.

Bus from Jo'burg (South Africa) to Bulawayo (Zimbabwe) and then catch an overnight train to Vic Falls. This bus service is run by Translux, City to City or Greyhound, at least one of these companies goes daily. The bus travels via Bulawayo on route to Harare. You would have to change in Bulawayo with the option of either catching a local bus or Overnight train to Victoria Falls.

NOTE: Train and Bus services in Zimbabwe may be cancelled or delayed due to the current fuel shortages.

Security - can be a problem if you do not take sensible precautions. As with most major cities, Harare & Vic Falls have their share of pickpockets plus teams of youths who target tourists. Don't walk around town wearing an expensive looking wrist watch or carrying a camera. Leave your valuables, excess money, passports etc in your hotel safe. At night time always use a taxi; don't walk around the streets at night. Single women in particular need to be careful – it is better to be in a group. Use your common sense when approached by individuals on the street. This is not the way normal Zimbabweans would meet you so be wary of the many scams that are used to entice you to part with your money. Once out of the cities, people, and small towns in general, are a lot more relaxed. *The security details mentioned above should only be used as a guide and are quite common place for all major towns and cities throughout the trip.*

FLYING VIA JO'BURG – AIRPORT TRANSFERS – ACCOMMODATION - SECURITY

Flying via Jo'Burg :_Johannesburg International is a very busy and hectic airport and you may find that you will need to spend anywhere from a couple of hours to an overnight – depending on your connections. If staying overnight – an airport taxi into town costs approximately £12. We can happily arrange and Airport Transfer and Pre Trip Accommodation for you through the **Backpackers Ritz**. They are close to a number of cafes and facilities , offer self catering kitchen , pool , bar and a good atmosphere. Accommodation costs £9 / £12 / £26 for a dorm / single / twin or double room. It is situated at 1a North Rd, Dunkeld West 2196, Jo'burg. Tel +27 113257125 - email ritz@iafrica.com

Their scheduled transfers depart the airport at 8am, 10.30am, 12.30pm, 2.30pm, 5pm, 7.30pm and cost £5 pp. If you would prefer a “ Meet & Greet” service at any other time – this will cost around £12pp. For either service – you will need to call the following numbers on arrival in order to give a description of yourself (what you are wearing etc) – and to confirm the pick up point & drivers name. The driver will have a Backpackers Ritz sign. Please call : 0027 (0)11 325 7125 or 0027 (0)11 325 2520

PASSPORT & VISA REQUIREMENTS

Please bring 2 photocopies of your passport details and travel Insurance documents to give to your tour leader. You'll need at least 5 blank pages in your passport, which must be valid for at least 9 months from your departure date. If you have dual nationality you can only use one passport for the entire trip.

Visas – **The information below is to be used only as a guide – and may change without prior notice.** It is advisable to contact the relevant consul a few weeks before the trip departs to check the current visa requirement. The numbers below are for High Commissions & Embassies in London. Most nationalities will not need visas for the other countries we visit in Southern Africa. The information below is given mainly for NZ, Australian, UK, Irish, US, Canadian, South African & SOME EEC Nationalities. For further info please log onto www.embassyhomepage.com and select the relevant country you require information for – especially if enquiring from overseas. **All visas need to be paid for in US \$ Dollars cash & usually we are able to get all en route. UK Pounds Sterling are not always accepted.**

Zimbabwe - At present most European nationals including British and Irish passport holders require an entry visa which costs £40 or US\$55. Australians, New Zealanders and United States passport holders require an entry visa costing US\$30. Visas for Canadians now cost US\$65. At present – all visas are easily purchased at the border. Please be aware that there is a **departure tax of US\$30 if flying out of Zimbabwe.** You can contact the High Commission on 0870 005 6710 to check on any changes.

Botswana and Namibia - At present most nationalities do not require a visa. You can contact the Botswana High Commission on 0207 499 0031 and Namibia on 0207 636 6244 to check on the latest requirements.

South Africa - Most nationalities who travel with us do not require a visa. If in doubt call the South Africa High Commission in London on Ph: 0870 005 6974. If you do require a visa please make sure you obtain a multiple entry visa for when we re-enter South Africa from Lesotho.

Lesotho - At present most nationalities who travel with us do not require a visa. You can contact the Lesotho embassy on Ph: 0207 235 5686

LOCAL PAYMENT

Local Payment (LP) - is part of your overall tour payment and is the most economical and convenient way for Oasis to get hard currency to Africa to help run your trip. It goes towards a variety of day-to-day local costs (i.e. all meals prepared by the group – average 2 per day, campsite fees, wood, gas, charcoal and certain activities listed in the brochure) which cannot be pre-paid from the UK. Your LP contribution includes camping, accommodation & food as listed for the following period if travelling to Cape Town : 33 days / 32 nights from Harare or 23 days / 22 nights from Vic Falls. If travelling to Jo'Burg : 50 days / 49 nights from Harare or 40 days / 39 nights from Vic Falls. **It is a guaranteed amount, set before your tour departs, and unlike 'group kitty' systems - we will not ask you to contribute more once the tour is underway.**

Please note: For those on the 33 Day trip - £225 is payable to your Tour Leader on departure from Harare, or £190 in Vic Falls for those on the 23 Day trip. **CASH ONLY** is accepted and needs to be paid as - **£100 Pounds Sterling and the remaining £90 or £125 in US\$ CASH** (the exchange rate of which will be determined on the day). Another £150 will be collected in Cape Town for those continuing on the 40 or 50 Day trip to Jo'burg, - **Scottish Pounds are not accepted**

TRAVEL INSURANCE

It is a compulsory requirement that you have adequate travel insurance before you join any Oasis Trip and at the very least are insured for all necessary medical expenses and repatriation costs incurred overseas with a minimum sum insured of £500,000. We believe that your safety and holiday enjoyment are very important. It is a mistake to think that "it will never happen to me". We can arrange comprehensive travel insurance for you if you wish, please consult our website or the back of our brochure for further details.

If you are arranging your own travel insurance and are considering undertaking any of the so-called 'hazardous activities', please ensure that your policy provides the appropriate cover, as some of these activities may be excluded from standard travel insurance policies. Please also be aware that the levels of cover of some policies may not fully insure you for the specific activities you may choose to undertake e.g. White Water Rafting is covered under some policies – but only up to a maximum Grade 3. In Africa - all White Water Rafting that is available is Grade 3+, so please check all of the policy details beforehand. It is essential that the travel insurance that you have arranged is designed to cover all, often hazardous activities that are on offer.

We have arranged a reasonably priced travel insurance, specifically designed for Overland Travel, through Campbell Irvine Insurance Brokers and AXA Insurers – which also provides a 24 hr worldwide emergency medical service through Specialty Assistance LTD. Due to its flexibility and the amount of hazardous activities included under the standard policy, the premiums quoted may initially appear more expensive than some other policies on offer. We are happy to email you a copy of our policy wording which includes a list of hazardous and sporting activities which are automatically covered whilst you are on your Oasis trip, as well as those subject to an extra load on the premium.

Whether you choose to take out our policy or arrange cover elsewhere, please ensure that you read the small print very carefully. Certain terms and conditions will apply to all insurance policies and we would like to draw your attention to any exclusions relating to pre-existing medical conditions (this includes allergies). Please feel free to ask for more details. It is also important that when calculating the total duration for your insurance cover that you include your outward and return flights in the overall period of travel otherwise your policy may be invalid.

Repatriation -The Oasis travel insurance is available to anybody living anywhere in the world, irrespective of their nationality. This cover extends to include worldwide repatriation back to your normal country of residence in the event of a medical emergency– providing the appropriate premium has been paid. If you are a UK resident (this includes non UK passport holders / nationalities living and working in the UK) and are planning on returning to the UK, the insurers will arrange for you to be repatriated back to the UK if you become seriously ill whilst you were travelling, as this is deemed to be your normal country of residence at the time. Special consideration will be given if you prefer to be repatriated elsewhere – as long as the expense is to be the equivalent cost of repatriation to the UK. Alternatively - if you have planned to return home directly after your trip (e.g. Australia, New Zealand, South Africa) – your insurance would provide repatriation to your ultimate destination in the event of a medical emergency – but please be aware that no medical expenses will be payable upon arrival in your normal country of residence. If you are arranging travel insurance elsewhere, please check where you may be repatriated to in an event of a medical emergency.

Payment-If you have decided to purchase your insurance via Oasis, please include the full payment of the policy you require when sending through your deposit payment and booking details. Payment can also be made at any time over the phone, by cheque made payable to: Oasis Overland Ltd or by bank transfer. **NB We can only issue travel insurance upon receiving full payment for the policy.** If you later decide that the policy does not meet your requirements, we offer a 14-day money back guarantee which allows for a full refund of the insurance premium, provided you have not travelled or submitted a claim.

Your tour leader will ask to see a copy of your insurance policy at the pre-departure meeting and you will be asked to provide the following details: 24-hour emergency medical telephone number, your policy number, confirmation that the policy duration is sufficient to cover you for the entire duration of your trip. It is also wise to leave a copy of your insurance policy with a friend or relative for safe keeping. **Our crew will collect these Insurance details solely for providing this information in the event of an emergency- and not to check all the details of the policy and/ or its content of cover are correct. For this reason, please be aware that it is your responsibility to ensure you are fully covered for the different region/s and for the activities that you choose to undertake whilst travelling with Oasis.**

It is a condition of booking with Oasis Overland – that it will not be possible for you to join the trip if you cannot produce details or information to prove you have adequate travel insurance at the start of your trip.

IMPORTANT - We strongly recommend that you take out your travel insurance at the time of booking as cover will commence for pre-departure cancellation from the date your policy is issued (all other sections of the policy will commence from the start date of your policy). This means that should you have to cancel your trip for an insured reason such as a medical emergency or bad accident preventing you from travel you may be able to claim back payment made for pre-paid trip costs and flights, subject to the standard policy terms and conditions.

OASIS CREW & ADVENTURE TRAVEL

Adventure travel is not an exact science. It is this very unpredictability which makes each expedition such a rewarding experience. Occasionally we must amend our itineraries to take into account changing local circumstances. In such situations we'll always try to minimise any disruption, but you need to bear in mind that from time to time events occur outside our control. While our crew are experienced and knowledgeable of the countries through which we travel - they are not tour, nature or wildlife guides as such. Even so - they will be more than willing to pass on any interesting and useful information that they have acquired whilst on the road. An equally rewarding way to gain an even better insight into the wildlife, cultural and historical diversity of the countries we travel through, is by talking to the local people and using local guides.

We usually have two crew whose duties are extensive and quite demanding, with challenges ranging from driving and maintaining the expedition vehicle to a very high standard, to organising visas and border crossings, arranging accommodation, pre-booking some excursions and guides, helping with shopping and cooking as well as finding the best deals, socializing and making sure everything runs as smoothly as possible.

ACCOMMODATION, FOOD & LIFE ON THE ROAD

Oasis uses roomy three-person tents but only for two people. They are specially made for us to meet the tougher conditions of an overland trip of this nature and have mosquito netting sewn into the door and windows. We spend some nights bush or desert camping and the rest of the time in campsites. Some are well equipped and managed and some are very basic.

In Swakopmund and Cape Town your LP contribution includes a couple of nights dorm accommodation at a Travellers Lodge. If you are starting your trip in Harare and finishing in either Cape Town / Jo'Burg - one night is included on either Night 32 / 49 with your trip concluding on the morning after. If you are starting your trip in Vic Falls - one night is included on either Night 22 / 39 with your trip concluding on the morning after.

At some places you can also choose to stay in private rooms, lodges and huts at your own expense. We will have some long drives of between one and two days. There are a number of places where we stay for a couple of nights i.e. Victoria Falls & Swakopmund.

In the evenings - we may stop and find a bush camp where you and your tent buddy will put up the tent, and then give a hand with getting out the tables and stools or maybe the cook awning and water containers. Some may help collect firewood or take the stored firewood from the truck. The fire grates need to be taken out, the fire lit and someone can fill the kettle and put it on for some hot drinks while the cooks prepare the evening meal. We usually cook in groups of three on a rota system. You can expect to cook every 10 days or so – depending on the number of people on tour and whereabouts you are.

When we bush camp you will need to take one of the truck shovels with you to make your own toilet pit. Make sure you dig a suitable hole away from water sources – making sure to cover it up properly afterwards. Your crew will advise in more detail the proper way to dispose of waste paper. Most nights on the trip you will be able to shower - but not all campsites on the trip will have hot showers.

Food - At breakfast we usually help ourselves to cereal, toast, hot drinks and on occasion we will splurge with a cooked breakfast. Lunch is cold and usually quick. The cook group will put out bread, tinned supplies and maybe make a salad. In the evening the cooks come into their own and this is your chance to impress or flop! Don't worry, your tour leader and other members of the group will always help and advice. When the truck is parked up for a few days – most people usually like the option to eat out at local restaurants - so we often don't cook all meals when at these locations. Meals whilst staying in Hotels / Hostels (Swakopmund, Cape Town, Jo'burg) are not included in the local payment price.

Vegetarian / Vegans - Our crew will always do their best to cater for Vegetarians or Vegans when the group are cooking but it must be remembered that the variety of dishes available may not be the same as available to meat eaters.

OASIS OVERLAND VEHICLES & SECURITY ONBOARD

Security - There is a lockable safe bolted onto the floor of the truck beneath a false floor. This is for money belts, passports and smaller valuables. The company does not take responsibility for clients' personal items or monetary contents. In certain areas a roster will be drawn up to guard the vehicle. A money belt that can be concealed is better than a bum bag or wallet that hangs from the neck. We advise you do not take items of value that are not essential for the journey.

All our 4 x 2 vehicles are equipped for your comfort with the following:

- Comfortable coach seats with headrests & removable seat bases with 3 foot deep compartments – which means easy access to your baggage – even whilst driving !!!
- Large internal floor area which is more communal & allows easy movement - rather than the standard bus style layout
- 12 volt cigarette socket for recharging camera / video batteries
- Internal & external lighting system
- Onboard stereo with adaptors for MP3, I Pod, CD walkmans
- Onboard Library
- Inter cab buzzer for communication with the crew
- Cooler boxes for food and drinks
- Easy to reach overhead racking for day bags & cameras
- Lockable safe for storage of money and small valuables
- Professionally compiled expedition Medical Kit
- Roomy 2 person tents with sewn-in mosquito netting
- Large water carrying capacity
- Internal underfloor storage for dried and tinned food
- External lockers for cooking equipment, tents etc
- Camping stools & cook awning for all weather conditions
- Extensive range of spare parts
- Extra storage space for excess baggage and souvenirs

CAMERAS – PHOTOGRAPHY - ELECTRICAL

Photography - Mornings and late afternoons are often best for photos, as the midday sun can be very bright and lead to a washed-out look. A polarizing filter or lens hood will help to prevent this. It is advisable to have a good all-round carry case to protect your camera from dust and knocks. A few zip lock / plastic bags are good items to carry for protecting your camera and changing film in dusty / sandy conditions.

SLR Cameras - An easy to use instamatic will get you some good shots. If you want something really memorable it may be worthwhile investing in a SLR camera. An 80 to 210 / 300 zoom will get you some good people / wildlife shots. In most of the countries we visit it can be difficult to buy film and often it may be old, out of date and expensive.

Take slightly more film than you think will be necessary for the entire trip. You can usually sell unused film.

We can recommend **Clock Tower Cameras** for second hand cameras and lenses. They have good quality equipment and give a guarantee with most purchases. For advice and mail order call **Paul** or **Eddy** on **01273 706010** or visit their website: www.cloktowercameras.co.uk.

Digital & Video Cameras – If you are bringing either, it is advisable to bring a charger and spare batteries (see below). Most towns and cities have internet cafes where you can download onto CD/ internet sites. It is also advisable to bring your USB cable for your camera so you can connect your camera in the internet cafes. It is also recommended that you bring at least 2 memory cards of 512mb or higher as places where your cards can be burned onto disk are few and far between.

Chargers - You should bring at least one spare battery with you, as purchasing spares on route may be expensive and difficult and there will be times on the tour when you will not be able to charge from the mains supplies for several days at a time. It is worthwhile considering purchasing a spare battery even if you bring an in-car charger with you, so as you will always have a battery charged and ready to go. Our vehicles are equipped with 12 volt cigarette lighter charger sockets, so it is worth while thinking about purchasing an in-car charger – however these can be expensive. If you decide not to purchase an in-car charger bring your normal 230V mains charger as well as a travel adaptor plug as you'll come across virtually every type of socket ever invented plus a few others and at some of the hotels, hostels, restaurants and campsites we use, you can charge from their mains supply.

Electricity – log onto www.kropla.com for information regarding the different electrical plugs and voltage used in each country.

It is forbidden in all the countries we visit to take photos of anything military. Bridges, border posts and airports are also sensitive, so be careful or be prepared to have your film or possibly your camera confiscated by irate officials. Please act with discretion and respect when taking photos of people (especially Muslim women) - if in doubt it is always better to ask first before you snap a way! It is also advisable to be sensitive when poverty, deprivation or disadvantaged living may be apparent. Taking these kind of photos may send out a misconstrued message to the locals and may cause an uncomfortable or hostile atmosphere for yourself and others.

LOCAL COMMUNICATION & CONTACT FROM HOME

Language - English is spoken fairly widely in all the countries we visit. Because most African countries have so many languages they have in many cases adopted the languages of their former colonial rulers as the common national language. Radio and newspapers are usually in English.

Online Diaries – A great variety of free “travel blogs” are now available online, they are a good way of keeping relatives and friend up to date with what you are doing and a good place to upload photos, collecting messages as well as keeping a record for yourself, (a great one is www.bugbitten.com). Most towns and cities have internet facilities, so you can update them regularly.

Contact from home - The most reliable way to receive messages from friends and family is via email, which is quite common place now in main areas that we visit – but the efficiency or speed in connection is never a guarantee!! You will usually be able to email every couple of days.

When it comes to postage - the Poste Restante mailing service is still operated by the main post offices in main towns. Post Offices are open Monday to Friday and will usually hold mail for collection for approx 4 weeks. You may also be charged about US\$1 to collect a letter and approx US \$5 - \$10 for a parcel. However, in most countries the post office service is free. **PLEASE NOTE: Do not** send anything material or of major value and allow a minimum of 3 weeks for the mail to arrive. For collection of mail – a passport or some form of ID will need to be shown.

Alternatively, you can use the mail holding service operated by American Express and their agents if you are a client or have purchased Amex TC's. Ask for a book of holding addresses in Africa .

For Poste Restante at the following locations – address mail following the details below – using your full name that appears on your passport:

BLOGGS Joe	BLOGGS Joe
Poste Restante,	Poste Restante
GPO,	Main Post Office
Victoria Falls,	Cape Town,
ZIMBABWE	SOUTH AFRICA

PERSONAL HEALTH - VACCINATIONS - MEDICAL KITS - MALARIA INFO

Health and Hygiene on the trip – To join the expedition you should be in good general health. Your crew will talk to you about general hygiene, cooking, washing cutlery, cleaning etc. We purify our drinking water where necessary. We must be told if you have any pre-existing medical condition / allergy or if you are on any regular medication.

Vaccinations - Being vaccinated against Yellow Fever and having a valid certificate and a photocopy is deemed compulsory – especially as it is required at certain borders upon entering Zimbabwe. It is also advisable to be vaccinated against Typhoid, Tetanus, Polio, Hepatitis A and Meningitis. Consult your doctor about the necessity of having Hepatitis B and Rabies shots.

Try to allow six weeks to get all your vaccinations done. Your doctor will advise the best order in which your shots should be given. If you are registered with a local GP / clinic - most will administer vaccinations free of charge if they have the vaccination stock available – or else you will only need to pay for cost of the prescription. If you are not registered with a GP there are a number of medical centres which can help you. However, some can be quite expensive so it is worth hunting around. More information on vaccinations needed : www.fitfortravel.scot.nhs.uk

In London we recommend the Nomad Travellers Store and Medical Centre. They can be contacted on 0208 889 7014 and are across the road from Turnpike Lane tube. They will also give Oasis clients a **10% discount** on vaccinations, medical kits , clothing and camping equipment . They also have stores in Bristol and Southampton. Log onto www.nomadtravel.co.uk for more information – and enter code **Oasis1000** to validate your discount

In Scotland, Ailsa Travel Clinic, 42 Admiral St., Kinning Park, Glasgow. Tel. 0141 429 0913 has been recommended to us by past clients.

• **Clinics and doctors don't usually give detailed advice over the phone. It is best to check opening hours and visit them in person.**

Medical Kits - We carry professionally compiled medical kits with emergency First aid material and antibiotics. However, the crew is not entitled to recommend or prescribe any medicine and we advise a health check with your GP and Dentist before you start your journey.

Personal Medicines – Even though our trucks are equipped with a comprehensive medical kit - it is not for general everyday use. Therefore we advise you bring along your own small medical kit to include:

- Antiseptic ointment
- Antihistamine cream and tablets
- Nurofen or equivalent pain-killer
- Eye drops/bath
- Anti-diarrhoea treatment
- Sun block 35 + / after sun / moisturiser / lip balm
- Assorted plasters
- 1-2 Sterile Syringes
- 1 course of malaria treatment (cure)
- Some suitable antibiotics as recommended by your doctor for infected cuts and to treat severe dysentery
- A couple of bandages (elasticated and triangular)
- Medication for personal allergies / asthma etc
- Insect repellent containing Deet
- Rehydration sachets / Vitamin Tablets

Whilst on included excursions and / or optionals (i.e. Okavango Delta Safari) – it is recommended and your responsibility to have a personal medical kit available in case of an emergency. Our Truck Medical Kit is for use solely whilst on the truck and cannot be carried on excursions / optionals. Please be advised that some local operators may not have medical kits on hand.

Malaria - Some GPs are quite well versed in tropical medicine, vaccination requirements and malarial prevention. However, many are not! If you are not happy with the information your doctor has provided, you can contact the Nomad Clinic above or other reputable clinics in your area. There are a number of prophylactic malaria treatments on the market and requirements change. Also, a particular regimen might suit you better than another. It is also wise to take a sample of whichever prophylactic you choose, a few weeks before you leave. This way you may determine early on if you have any adverse reactions so you can change the regimen if necessary. Nomad Travel Clinic has a basic pamphlet on the different options of Malaria Prophylaxis treatments you can take. Either contact them directly or give us a call and we can send you one out.

For general health advice – log onto the official World Health Organizations website www.who.org or The National Travel Health Network - nathnac.org/travel/index.htm. A good all round website is - www.fitfortravel.scot.nhs.uk. They have offer advice regarding Malaria and other health related topics including maps of specific regions & countries.

In some of the areas we visit, e.g Vic Falls – there is a risk of contracting Malaria. You must be aware that whatever malaria prophylactics you are taking, they only offer partial protection. They must be coupled with your own physical efforts against being bitten – which is the best prevention. Malaria-carrying mosquitoes come out at sunset so from this time you should wear long sleeves and trousers with some sort of footwear and socks. Light colours don't tend to attract as much heat as dark colours – hopefully making you less attractive to mosquitoes and keeping you bite free. Exposed skin, especially ankles, elbows, wrists, neck and ears should have insect repellent applied to them. The liquid or spray-on types tend to be best, and should contain 'Deet'. Everyone will agree that the one of the best feelings after a long day is to finally get clean. Even though applying 'Deet' or some other mozzie spray may not be the nicest feeling – it is far more useful than applying perfumed deodorants / aftershaves which mozzies love. Your crew will advise on different methods of prevention and where the worst affected areas are on the trip.

RECOMMENDED READING – GUIDES – MAPS – GENERAL

- Log onto www.tourismconcern.org.uk – a small range of books dedicated to travelling more responsibly and ethically.

Guide Books:

- **Lonely Planet** – concise info on all areas.
- **Healthy Travel Africa** is also interesting.
- **Rough Guide and Footprints** - detailed info on all areas

General Reading:

- **Harvest of Thorns** - Shimmer Chinodya
- **Songs to an African Sunset** - Sekai Nzenza
- **Intrepid Africa** – Short stories by La Belle Aurora
- **Selous Scouts** - Ron Reid Daly
- **To Free Namibia: The Life of the First President of Namibia** - Sam Nujomo

- **Maps** - **Michelin 746** – A good map of East and Southern Africa

- **Dispatches from a fragile Continent** - Blaine Harden
- **Banana Sunday - Datelines from Africa** - Chris Munion
- **The Scramble for Africa** - Thomas Pakenham
- **Fantastic Invasion, Dispatches from Africa** – Patrick Marnham
- **Dorris Lessing** - has written a number of excellent novels based in Southern Africa
- **A good man in Africa & An Icecream War** – William Boyd
- **Cry of the Kalahari** – M & D Owens
- **Malaria Dreams** - Stuart Stevens
- **Lost World of the Kalahari** – Laurence van der Post
- **Land Mammals of Southern Africa.**
- The publishers **Heinemann** have an African writers series.

25% DISCOUNT on Footprint travel books

Simply go to www.footprintbooks.com and enter the code: 'Oasis' in the Offer Code. Prices exclude postage and packaging.

10% DISCOUNT on Lonely Planet guide books

To claim the discount - customers need to call 020 7841 9111 (between 8am and 5pm, Mon-Fri) and Quote: OASO02
This entitles the caller to 10% off any purchase over £10 with free postage and packaging in the UK. Terms and Conditions apply.

RECOMMENDED CLOTHING & EQUIPMENT

The less you take the less you have to pack, wash and lug home and you can always pick up extras along the way. You will be travelling in the heat, lazing on beaches and camping in the cool, so bring clothes for all climates; rough stuff is best. Clothes washing and / or laundry facilities will be available at least once a week.

Suggested List - Pack according to season: summer, very hot in places; winter, can be very cold with occasional frost overnight in the south.

Clothes

- One pair of trainers or boots
- Jacket
- Jogging pants or Leggings
- Jeans / Pants
- Shorts
- Underwear
- Cool clothes
- Sandals / flip flops / jandals / thongs
- Skirt or dress
- Shirts / T shirts
- Sweat shirt / jumper / Fleece
- Swimsuit

- Socks

Toiletries - Most toiletries are available to buy whilst on trip

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Toothbrush, toothpaste, dental floss • Moisturiser & Sunblock 35 + • Towel and / or Sarong (easier to dry than a towel – females may want to use it to cover up in such areas as Stonetown -Zanzibar for cultural sensitivity reasons) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shampoo and conditioner • Soap (and container) • Tampons (can buy in most places) / Contraception • Antibacterial hand wash • Razor |
|--|---|

Personal Effects - See Personal Health Section for recommended Personal Medicines / Kit

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sleeping Bag; 2 to 4 season bag, depending on season. • (May to August can be very cold at night in Southern Africa) • Sleeping mat / thermarest & repair kit / Alarm Clock • Small day-pack or bag to carry your daily items • Hat and sun-glasses • Camera in a protective case, spare batteries, all the film / memory cards you will need and a dust proof / ziplock bags. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Money belt or pouch to hold your passport, vaccination certificates and travellers cheques • Reading books • Torch and spare batteries (head torch is best) • Personal Walkman - there is a stereo on the truck with a CD/ I Pod / MP3 adaptor • Rucksack or kit bag to carry your luggage in • Multi Mains Travel Adapter Plug |
|---|--|

The easiest and best way to travel is as lightly as possible, taking just what is necessary. Most people make the mistake of bringing too much luggage.

RESPONSIBLE TOURISM & OASIS

We believe travel should be a rewarding experience for yourself as well as the local people we encounter, and that preserving the natural state and beauty of the areas we pass through is essential. For this reason Oasis supports Tourism Concern – a voluntary and charity based organization. Their aim is to educate travellers on positive and negative effects that tourism has on local communities. Part of your trip payment is donated to Tourism Concern – who use such donations for organizing and facilitating new or current projects here in the UK and abroad. Many projects that have been highlighted include the establishing of Porters rights in such tourist hubs as *The Inca Trail* to *Machu Picchu* in Peru and *Mt Kilimanjaro* in Tanzania. The organization is also assisting the local *Maasai* in Kenya with continuing a traditional way of life after being displaced from their homes in order to make way for the Serengeti National Park. For more information regarding the role of Tourism Concern and its involvement with other projects around the world – please log on to their website www.tourismconcern.org.uk We feel our support is part of an important initiative – also supported by other organizations such as Earth Watch, Raleigh International and STA Travel.

As a young company, everyone at Oasis appreciates we are fortunate to have the opportunity to operate trips in many developing countries of the world. We also hope that through travelling with us you will benefit from a raised awareness of the many environmental and social issues that concern the areas through which we travel. From experience gained in running trips, we have developed our own practical and manageable environmental policy which all our crew practice on the trips we operate. Detailed information on Responsible Tourism with Oasis will be passed on to you throughout your trip.

Oasis also provides aid to a number of charities and local schools in which we believe our regular support can make a positive difference. If you are interested in joining us in the support of any of these organizations– log on to their websites and see how you can make a difference.

In Luxor - Egypt, Oasis is a sponsor of this independently run charity *Sunshine Project International*. This is a childrens home – caring for abandoned and orphaned children and also providing much needed respite care. Recommended donations from abroad are bed sheets / pillow cases / clothing etc. Such things as pens, pencils, stationery are readily available to buy in Egypt – and a lot cheaper as well. For more information – please log onto www.sunshine-international.org.uk.

In Jinja – Uganda, Oasis is involved with organisation called *Soft Power Education*. People on our trips to Uganda have the opportunity to donate their time and energy to support this outstanding drive to provide education and stability to the lives of many local children. For more information – please log onto www.softpowereducation.com.

In Harare – Zimbabwe, The *Hupenyu Hutsua Childrens Home* is a new project that Oasis is associated with – assisting the locally funded childrens home with donations of food on a monthly basis. The home does not have a website and has no funding or assistance from abroad which is why Oasis aims to visit the home on trips to Zimbabwe. Your crew will advise you on an appropriate donation the home may need.

In Nairobi – Kenya. Oasis also helps sponsor **Kamboyo**, one of the many orphaned elephants at the **David Sheldrick Elephant Orphanage**. The centre was established in 1977 and can be easily visited before or after your trip. For more information please log onto: www.sheldrickwildlifetrust.org

In Cuzco – Peru, Oasis are helping with a financial donation to *Pachamama's Children*, a new project to help restore a school and bring back education to the children of the Chinchasuyo community, near Cuzco.

CURRENCY REQUIREMENTS & PERSONAL SPENDING MONEY

For personal spending money budget on about £100 to £140 per week to cover you for visa's ,some meals out, (on average 2 meals per day are supplied, sometimes this is 1/day and others 3/day), drinks, communications and local crafts and carvings- which if you plan on buying a lot along the way you will need more. There are also other costs to bear in mind such as pre / post tour hotel and food costs, optional side trips etc. This is an estimated figure as personal spending habits and budgets from person to person differ greatly. **Budget on optional activities separately (please see list overleaf) and allow extra for your Local Payment contribution. Please also remember that all visa's need to be paid for in \$US Cash ONLY!**

It is best to bring your money as 1/3 US\$ cash, 1/3 £GBP cash and 1/3 in US\$ or £GBP Travellers Cheques (TC's). We also advise to bring £50 worth of SA Rand in Cash – this may be needed if we arrive on a weekend and the banks / ATM's are closed. **US dollars dated pre-1999 are not accepted in Africa so please ensure your notes are dated 2000 onward.** Please Note – the rate of exchange for T/Cs and small denomination \$US bills is usually slightly less than larger bills, but it is still advisable to bring an assortment of both. Notes must be clean with no rips or tears. **Scottish pounds are not accepted in Africa.**

Credit Cards (CC's), especially Visa, may only be used to pay for some activities in Victoria Falls (please see list overleaf), Botswana, Namibia and South Africa. From Botswana down - both Maestro debit cards and Credit Cards can be used at ATM machines to withdraw local cash as long as you have a valid PIN number. Credit Cards can also be used to advance money in banks – but usually only in countries south of Zimbabwe - BUT THIS CAN TAKE SEVERAL HOURS and usually you will only be given local currency, not US\$ or £GBP. Also small towns and branch banks often won't accept cards and if computer systems go down there have been times when for a few days even main banks won't accept cards. **Do not rely on credit cards completely – they should be classed as emergency money and not your only means of obtaining funds.** In some destinations - we probably won't even see a bank/ATM for days on end. Your crew will advise you where and when you can change money and with what means.

Check out "USEFUL LINKS" on the homepage of our website. www.visa.com or www.mastercard.com are two such sites which give you an idea of locations around the world operating cash machines for the card issuer. Please only use as a guide – information provided and the successful operation / usage at the stated ATM machines and locations is not guaranteed. If you are planning to use a CC it is still advisable to bring your money as ½ US\$ & £GBP cash and ¼ as T/C's - with the remaining portion for CC.P Be aware that the maximum withdrawal limit from most bank machines is usually US\$300 – US\$500 per day, and this will be given in the local currency of the country you are in - never in US\$ / GBP £. *We recommend you tell your bank that you will be using your card abroad to avoid it being blocked.*

Please be aware that the use of TC's / CC's in Africa can incur fee's of up to 2 – 8 % . The breakdown of money above should only be used as a guide, recommended from past clients and trips. The use of TC's overseas can be frustrating but at the same time worthwhile – as they can be replaced in an incidence of loss or theft.

If you are approached by people on the street who want to change money with you **DO NOT DO SO** as it is **totally illegal**, and these people are often professional thieves or undercover police. Change your money only at the banks, hotels or forex bureaux. When in Zimbabwe – your crew will advise you where to exchange money for the best rates.

Tipping & Bargaining - Most prices are negotiable, especially in markets. Many travellers find it a hassle having to bargain for everything they wish to buy, but prices are usually inflated so if you are not happy, move on to another place. You are under no obligation to buy so don't be intimidated. Tipping is expected and relied upon. It is often more than a reward for services well done, but, as wages are extremely low, it is an accepted means of supplementing an income. Tips should be at least 10% and keep small change on you so as not to incur a large demand when it is seen you can afford more. Please note that some countries charge an extra Government tax.

Things to Buy - Stone carvings and batiks in Zimbabwe. South Africa has a multitude of crafts from stone statues through to wooden carvings and basket ware. Swaziland is particularly renowned for good quality wood carvings, screen prints and leather goods, and Lesotho for its woollen blankets and hats. These are just some of the things you can purchase. Some people spend no more than £20 or £30 on African crafts while others may decide to take home a hundred pounds worth. It is also worth taking any shoes or clothes you no longer use as these can be bartered in exchange for most goods. It is possible to post things home from Harare, Vic Falls and South Africa.

Become part of the "**Souvenir Alert**" Campaign – and think before you buy. Tempted to buy exotic wildlife souvenirs on holiday – check that you may not be breaking the law and endangering wildlife. Your souvenirs may be confiscated by customs on your return. www.ukcites.gov.uk

POST TRIP - ACCOMMODATION & TRANSFER COSTS IN CAPETOWN & JO'BURG

- Your Oasis Crew can reserve Post Trip Accommodation whilst you are travelling – at any of the recommendations below. All prices listed for Airport transfers are dependant on the number of people (Max 4) and the time of the transfer.

Cape Town - We use The Backpack, situated at 74 New Church Street, Cape Town. Tel. +27(0) 21 423 4530 www.backpackers.co.zw They do airport pickups from £9 with accommodation costing approx £8 per night for a dorm room, and from £25 in a single and £30 in twin or double room. They offer a vibrant atmosphere , lively bar and café , self catering facilities and a pool overlooking Table Mt. You can contact them on backpack@backpackers.co.za or accommodation@backpackers.co.za if you would like any further information. **Room and transfer costs are paid directly to the hostel.**

Jo' Burg – We use The Backpackers Ritz. They are close to a number of cafes and facilities , offer self catering kitchen , pool , bar and a good atmosphere. Accommodation costs £9 / £12 / £26 for a dorm / single / twin or double room. It is situated at 1a North Rd, Dunkeld West 2196, Jo'burg. Tel +27 113257125 - email ritz@iafrica.com

Their scheduled transfers depart The Ritz at 7am, 9.30am, 11.30pm, 1.30pm, 3.30pm, 6.00pm and cost £5 pp. If you would prefer a "Meet & Greet" service at any other time – this will cost around £12pp. For either service – please organize direct through the backpackers.

IMPORTANT: Contact us at least **4 WEEKS IN ADVANCE** or **AS SOON AS YOU HAVE BOOKED YOUR FLIGHTS** if you would like us to pre book accommodation and / or an Airport Transfer for your arrival in either Cape Town or Jo'Burg . We require your **FLIGHT ARRIVAL DETAILS** (Flight Number – Time /Date of Arrival) **AND ROOM REQUIREMENTS.**

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

As a guide to help you budget, below are some approximate prices of some of the most popular side activities you can do.

Please use this info & activities list as a guide only - as prices, local taxes, exchange rates and forms of payment accepted locally can and do change regularly. NB: Some activities also will charge more if a minimum number of people hasn't been met for that particular activity (usually a min. 4 people required – sometimes 2).

Most activities have to be paid for in Cash or TIC's. TIC's / CC's can incur fee's of approx 2 - 8 %.

TIC's will usually be accepted for main activities in: Zimbabwe (Gweru & Vic Falls), Botswana, Swakopmund and Cape Town

CC's will usually be accepted for most activities at Vic Falls (marked with an *) and also activities in Botswana and Namibia.

Zimbabwe	(US\$)
One day guided walking/jeep safari in Matopos National Park	\$70
Great Zimbabwe Ruins	\$15
<u>Gweru</u>	
Lion walk	\$45
Game Ride by Horseback – Day / Sunset	\$25 / 30
Elephant ride – ½ hr / 1 hr	\$25 / 40
Elephant Swim	\$25
Fishing (including guide and equipment)	\$20
Game - night drive	\$15
Lion breeding program and Lion Cub feeding / viewing - each	\$10
Lion Stalking	\$120
<u>Victoria Falls</u>	
Raft and Riverboard Combo / Tandem Kayaking - each (*)	\$165
Full day White Water Rafting (*)	\$140
Abseil / Gorge Swing / Highwire Adrenaline Day – Full Day (*)	\$115
Gorge Swing only (*)	\$75
Bungee Jump off Vic Falls Bridge - 3 RD highest in the world – 111mtrs (*)	\$90
Photos on CD / Video of your jump (*)	\$15 / 40 each
Flight over Falls (Microlight plane / Helicopter – both 15 / 30 min) (*)	\$100/ 200 – 100/ 200
Flight over Falls (Fixed wing plane – 25/40 mins / ultralight plane - 15/25 mins)	\$85 / 105 – 105 / 185
Zambezi Canoe trip ½ day / Full day	\$85 / 105
Jet Boating	\$90
Sundowner or Sunrise Cruise including drinks	\$40
Entrance to the Falls – Zimbabwe / Zambia	\$20 / 10
Souvenir Trip T-Shirt – approx (depending on design and detail)	\$20

Botswana	(US\$)
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Okavango Delta 3 Days/2 nights Mokoro Trail		\$140
Flight over the Delta by plane	from	\$75
Chobe River Cruise / Game Drive		\$18 / 20

Namibia	(US\$)
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Skydive (tandem)		\$250
Scenic Flight over Sossusvlei – 2hr15min		\$220
1 Day Game Fishing in Swakopmund (depending on weather and sea conditions)		\$95
Paragliding – 50 mtrs solo		\$140
Quad biking		\$70
Dolphin Cruise		\$64
Video of Skydive		\$45
Horse Riding (1 1/2 hrs)		\$56
Sand boarding – lying down / standing up		\$32 / 40

South Africa	(US\$)
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Wine Tour, one day including lunch and wine.		\$45
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Optional Activities in Cape Town – you can undertake a variety of activities and adventures which can be booked at the Travel Centre - situated in the hostel where we stay. Your crew will also have more information about these activities.

White Shark Cave Dive – Ocean Dive		\$200
Tandem Paragliding from Lions Head		\$150
1 day introduction SCUBA Dive (includes 2 Dives - Hire of wetsuit and Eqpmt)		\$100
Learn to Surf - 1 day tuition including lunch		\$80
Diving with Ragged toothed Sharks in the Two Oceans Aquarium in Cape Town		\$65
3 Hour Table Mountain Guided Bike Ride.		\$60
Learn to Surf – half day tuition		\$60
Abseil down Table Mountain		\$45
Car Hire – Small 4 seat economy car - per day	from	\$45
Local Township Tours	from	\$45
Robben Island Boat trip including guided tour of island and Nelson Mandela's prison		\$28
2 Hour sunset Sea Kayaking (depending on Sea and Wind Conditions)		\$27
Ocean going boat trips	from	\$20
Self ride mountain Bike Hire	from	\$20 per day
Cable Car (return) to Table Mountain		\$19
Whale watching	from	\$18
Two and a half hour Historical Cape Town tour on foot		\$18
Mountain Bike Hire in various locations	from	\$5/hr

• **Activities if continuing to Jo'burg**

3 day trip into Kruger Nat. Park (incls, entrance, meals, accom & transport)		\$450
Highest Bungee Jump in the world (216m) at Bloukrans Bridge		\$95
Tree top Canopy walk		\$60
Ziplining in Tsitsikamma Forest		\$50
Quad biking in Forest		\$45
Gold Reef City 1/2 Day Tour		\$47
Soweto Township Tour		\$40
Jo' Burg 1/2 Day City Tour		\$40
Bridge Swing (Flying Fox!)		\$25
Guided Bridge Walk		\$9
Apartheid Museum (plus various other museums)		\$4

Lesotho	(US\$)
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Mountain Bike Hire	from	\$18
Pony Trekking	from	\$18

IMPORTANT NOTE: We list the activities above for your information only. They are not necessarily endorsed or recommended by Oasis or our staff. If you undertake any activity it must be clearly understood that to do so is your own decision and is done entirely at your own risk and does not form any part of your contract with Oasis Overland. **You must check that you are insured before you do these activities.**

DESERTS & GAMEPARKS ITINERARY

23 / 33 Days - Victoria Falls or Harare to Cape Town OR 40 / 50 Days Victoria Falls or Harare to Jo' Burg

Those people on the 33 & 50 day trips read from here

Please note that our itineraries are not set in stone and can be subject to change.

Days 1 to 3 Harare, the capital, of Zimbabwe is where our trip commences and we have a fairly short 5 hour drive to **Gweru**. From here we visit a **privately run horse and game ranch** where you can go **game viewing on elephant and horseback**. There is also the chance to go **walking with lion cubs** that are up to 10 months old, which is always a thrill and a big highlight!

Days 4 to 10 From Gweru we then travel to the **Great Zimbabwe Ruins**, once the greatest medieval city in Sub-Saharan Africa and from where the name Zimbabwe is derived. **Bulawayo** is where you have the option of leaving the truck for a day and use a local safari company to venture into **Matopos National Park**, where you may well see the elusive **Black Rhino amongst hordes of other game**. There is also the opportunity to visit **Cecil Rhodes's grave and Ancient Rock Paintings** before catching a sleeper train (if available) to rejoin the truck at one of the adventure playgrounds of the world - **Victoria Falls**.

For some **Mosi oa Tunya 'The Smoke That Thunders'** is the highlight of their trip. When you first see Victoria Falls you are surprised at its enormity – over one mile wide and hurling over 5 million cubic metres of water a minute into the **Zambezi Gorge** below, this is the setting for the most awesome **grade five white water rafting in the world**. There is something here for everyone, **from grade 5 white water rafting and canoe trips, the Flight of Angels or a Sunset Cruise, to one of the world's highest commercial Bungee Jumps, plus jet boating, gorge swings, abseiling and a whole lot more!**

Those people travelling on the 23 & 40 Day Itineraries read from here – please follow days that are underlined

For those joining in Victoria Falls we spend the first day at Victoria Falls.

Days 11 to 16 or **Days 1 to 6** After your adrenaline has been spent we head into **Botswana** where **Chobe National Park** is our first stop. Here it is possible to take a cruise on the **Chobe River** - a less intrusive way to view wildlife, particularly the **hordes of elephants**. Next we drive to Maun and it is from here that we organise our trip into the **Okavango Delta**. You will have the chance to go on a **3 day Mokoro** (dug out canoe) trip, usually 2 people per Mokoro with guides poling you around silently. This is the best way to explore these extensive waterways of this unique desert wetland. You will also have the chance to **take several game walks where Elephants, Crocodile and Hippo are often seen**. The Okavango Delta is one of the worlds largest wetlands and its serenity and quietness seems to have a calming effect on those who experience it. Another great way to take in the vastness and scale of the delta is by experiencing an over flight – one of the best ways to spot herds of wildlife which otherwise may seem elusive

Days 17 to 21 or **Days 7 to 11** Heading west, we now cross into **Namibia** for a two day drive to **Etosha National Park**. On the way we usually bush camp for a night in the expansive freedom of this semi desert area. The night sky ablaze with stars and the warm glow of our camp fire makes this an unforgettable camping experience. Etosha is recognised as one of the world's greatest wildlife viewing areas and here we can also **game watch by night at one of the floodlit watering holes as well as go on several game drives**, hoping to spot some of the many and varied wildlife from **elephant, giraffe and zebra to rhino & leopard**.

Days 22 to 28 or **Days 12 to 18** From Etosha we visit a local **Cheetah Park** before continuing on to the **Brandenberg Mountains in Demaraland** and the **Skeleton Coast Recreational Area**. We then visit either the world famous **Cape Cross Seal Colony** where thousands of these mammals - and their accompanying odour pervade the coastline or one of Namibia's most famous sites, the stunning **Sptizkoppe Rock** formations, before making our way to **Swakopmund** where we spend three days. You now have the choice of a load of activities to indulge in, **including quad biking, dune sledding, deep sea fishing, sky diving, horse riding or a desert flight**. Swakopmund is also great place to relax in one of its colonial German café's or interesting museums.

Days 29 to 33 or **Days 19 to 23** A one day drive takes us to the **Namib-Naukluft Park**, a vast expanse of desert which contains some of the **highest sand dunes in the world**. At **Sossusvlei** we have a chance to explore this vast sand desert. We are also lucky enough to experience either sunrise or sunset from atop **Dune 45**. Continuing south we enter the semi-desert, until we arrive at one of Africa's most sensational natural features, **Fish River Canyon**. We camp next to this massive gorge, where you can hike along the canyon rim and soak up the sun and fabulous scenery. A few hours drive away we cross the **Orange River** and enter **South Africa** and near **Stellenbosch** visit one of the historic **Cape Wineries** before reaching the vibrant, jumping city of **Cape Town**. There is plenty to do in and around Cape Town, **from climbing Table Mountain to abseiling down it, shark diving (in ocean cages - or at the Two Oceans Aquarium), great shopping and nightlife, scuba diving courses, a tour to Robben Island the list goes on!** For those people who have onward travel from Cape Town - there are very good, reliable and frequent coach and train services to just about anywhere in South Africa.

The trip includes one night's camping in a travellers lodge on Night 32 from Harare and Night 22 from Vic Falls and concludes on the following morning.

Those people travelling on the 23 & 33 day trip finish here in Cape Town.

Days 34 to 43 or **Days 24 to 33** After a few days to experience and see what Cape Town has to offer, our first stop is the most southern tip of Africa at **Cape Agulhas**. Here **Southern Right and Humpback Whales** may be spotted along the coast. We then travel inland through the **Outeniqua Mountains** to the **Little Karoo**, where we visit the **Cango Caves** recognised as amongst the worlds finest network of Calcite caves. We also visit an **Ostrich farm** to learn more about the worlds largest bird, as well as have the opportunity to ride one!

We spend the following two days winding our way along South Africa's famous **Garden Route**, visiting **Tsitsikamma Forest**, where you will be able to hike along the coast and maybe spot **dolphins and whales** in the ocean. Optional excursions in this region include **mountain biking, ziplining and the mother of all bungee jumps** at Bloakrans Bridge - the biggest in the world at 216 metres. We continue along the coast and stop at South Africa's surfing mecca, **Jeffrey's Bay** and in the afternoon we reach **Addo Elephant National Park** which has recently been extended to include part of the coast and is now home to the **BIG 7 - lion, rhino, elephant, leopard, buffalo, whale and shark!** Driving to the beautiful and remote **wild coast**, where the inhabitants are mainly the **Xhosa people** who herd their goats and cattle across the endless pastureland and live in rural settlements of brightly painted kraals, we enjoy 2 nights next to the Indian Ocean.

Days 44 to 50 or **Days 34 to 40**. Driving north for a day out of South Africa we enter the mountain kingdom of **Lesotho** - often referred to as 'the kingdom in the sky'. The scenery here is tremendous and we spend two nights at **Malealea Lodge**, Lesotho's most famous countryside retreat tucked up high in the mountains. There are isolated waterfalls, cool rock pools ideal for swimming, and peaceful hikes in the surrounding hills. This is also a great place to try **pony trekking**. Driving down through the lowlands we then visit **Thabo Bosiu** (time & weather permitting) with a local guide. This mountain stong-hold was the home of Chief Moshoeshoe, the founder of the Basotho nation. We re-enter South Africa and spend the night camping in the **Golden Gate National Park on the edge of the Drakensburg Mountains**. This is an area of massive sandstone rock formations and the park gets its name from the green grasslands, caves and cliffs set against a backdrop of golden rocks that are illuminated to their best at sunset. We enter the **Drakensburg Mountains** (which today are a **UNESCO world heritage sight** for their outstanding natural beauty) and spend the next couple of days exploring the **Royal Natal National Park**, a dramatic region of the Drakensburg beneath the famous Amphitheatre - a massive wall of rock with over 4kms of sheer cliff face.

Johannesburg is a short drive away and is one of the wealthiest cities in the world, we arrive here in the afternoon and stay in a backpackers lodge for the night. There is plenty to do and see here - a 'must do' activity is a tour of **Soweto**, where in this sprawling township, modern African culture is at its most vibrant and intense and you can visit one of the local **shabeens (pubs)**, talk to local families and drop into the **former home of Nelson Mandela**. You can also visit the powerful **apartheid museum**, take a tour down a **700ft goldmine at Gold Reef City** or visit South African breweries. There is also the option of organising a 3 day safari into the world famous **Kruger National Park** which is only about a 6hr drive from Jo'burg, you will camp in the park, go several game drives – by day and night and hopefully get to spot some of the abundant wildlife that lives there.

The trip includes one night's accommodation in a travellers lodge on Night 49 from Harare and Night 39 from Vic Falls and concludes on the following morning.

Please contact us if you have any questions - Happy Travels!!!!

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Kind Regards - The Team at Oasis