



ASIA • MIDDLE EAST • AFRICA • SOUTH AMERICA

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SOUTHERN EXPLORER

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.

Cape Town to Jo' Burg – 15 days

PRE TOUR

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.

For those booking their flights from the UK, the best ticket is an 'open jaw' return into Cape Town and out of Jo'burg. Airlines such as SAA, BA, KLM will do 'open jaws on this route. Gulf Air, Olympic, Alitalia and Air France have competitive fares all year round. Oasis do not book flights, but we can recommended [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 . We require your **FLIGHT ARRIVAL DETAILS** (Flight Number – Time /Date of Arrival) **AND ROOM REQUIREMENTS.**

FLYING INTO CAPE TOWN - AIRPORT TRANSFERS - ACCOMMODATION - SECURITY

It is recommended to fly into Cape Town at least the day before your trip departs and longer if you would like to do any of the ½ or 1 day excursions available from this cosmopolitan city (i.e. Table Mountain, Whale watching, Wine tour etc).

Flying into Cape Town – is quite straightforward, with taxis always available to the city centre for approx £10. You can change money at all of the banks and forex bureaux.

Cape Town - We use [The Backpack](http://www.backpackers.co.zw), 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.

There are many basic hostels and hotels in the centre of both Cape Town & Jo'burg - but these can be unreliable to pre-book. Good guidebooks will point you in the right direction as well as give you a wide choice. Your crew will be staying at the above hostel before the trip departs. **The tour will officially start at 8am on the day of departure – Day 1.** Your tour leader will meet you the night before departure and there will be a notice in the reception advising you of this and of any changes.

Security - can be a problem if you do not take sensible precautions. As with most major cities, Cape Town & Jo'burg 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 South Africans would meet you so be wary of the many scams that are used to entice you to part with your money. *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.*

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 2 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 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.

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 - 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 - 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 a total of 15 days / 14 nights to Jo'Burg. 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.**

CASH ONLY is accepted and needs to be as - £ Pounds Sterling or the equivalent in \$USD (*the exchange rate of which will be determined on the day*) - 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

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 insure everything runs as smoothly as possible.

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 a 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.

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 most of our time in established campsites – some of which are well equipped and managed and some are very basic. On night 14 in Jo'burg your LP contribution includes a nights dorm accommodation at a Travellers Lodge - with your trip concluding 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. Malaelea , Royal Natal .

In the evenings - 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 trip and whereabouts you are. 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 advise. 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 (Cape Town, Jo'burg) are not included in the local payment price.

Vegetarians / 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
- Extra storage space for excess baggage and souvenirs
- Easy to reach overhead racking for day bags and 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 under floor 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

CAMERAS & PHOTOGRAPHY

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.clocktowercameras.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.

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.

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.

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 – You will only need a Yellow Fever Vaccination certificate if you are coming from an infected area. It is 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 & doctors don't usually give detailed advice over the phone. It is best to check opening hours & 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 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 advise – 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.

For those travelling on the 14 day trip from Cape Town, we do not visit any malaria areas, although you should be aware that if you visit Kruger National Park, or other areas in South Africa you may need Malarial prophylactics. 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 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.

Most people make the mistake of bringing too much luggage – travel as lightly as possible, taking just what is necessary.

Clothes

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

Toiletries - *Most toiletries are available to buy whilst on trip.*

- 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 Stone Town - Zanzibar for cultural sensitivity reasons)
- Razors
- Shampoo and conditioner
- Soap (and container)
- Tampons (can buy in most places) / Contraception
- Antibacterial hand wash

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

- 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.
- Reading books
- Money belt or pouch to hold your passport, vaccination certificates and travellers cheques
- 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
- Multi Mains Travel Adaptor Plug

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 an 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 can be 1 / day and at other times 3/day), drinks, communications and local crafts and carvings. 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 differ greatly from person to person. **Budget on optional activities separately (please see list overleaf) and allow extra for your Local Payment contribution.**

Credit Cards, US\$ and £ cash as well as T/C's are all readily exchangeable and easy to use in South Africa. Its best to bring a mixture of all these, so as you are not reliant on any one. If you plan to use a C/C, it is a good idea to bring 2 cards in case one is kept by an ATM. **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. **Scottish pounds are not accepted in Africa.** 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 not be your only means of obtaining funds.** It is worth checking with your bank about much you can withdraw each day and what the charges are.

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\$ cash and ¼ as T/C's - with the remaining portion for CC. 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 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.

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 - South Africa has a multitude of crafts from stone statues through to wooden carvings and basket ware 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 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 JO'BURG & HARARE

- Your Oasis Crew can reserve post tour accommodation whilst on trip – 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.

Jo'burg - we stay at 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 ARRANGE AN AIRPORT TRANSFER FOR YOUR ARRIVAL INTO CAPE TOWN. WE WILL NEED 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 and CC's will usually be accepted for main activities in South Africa.

South Africa	(US\$)
Wine Tour, one day including lunch and wine.	\$45

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 Cage 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 \$17
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

3/4 day Kruger Nat. Park trip (inclds entrance, meals, accom & transport) – Post Trip	\$450 / \$510
Highest Bungee Jump in the world (216m) at Bloukrans Bridge	\$90
Tree top Canopy walk	\$60
Gold Reef City or Pretoria City 1/2 Day Tour - each	\$55
Ziplining in Tsitsikamma Forest	\$50
Quad biking in forest	\$45
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\$)
Mountain Bike Hire	from \$17
Pony Trekking	from \$17

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**

ITINERARY

SOUTHERN EXPLORER - 15 Days - Cape Town to Jo'burg

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

Days 1 to 3 Our first stop out of Cape Town 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 world's largest bird, as well as have the opportunity to ride one!

Days 4 to 7 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 8 to 11 Driving north for a day, 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 and time and weather permitting we then visit **Thabo Bosiu** with a local guide. This mountain strong-hold was the home of Chief Moshoeshoe, the founder of the Basotho nation.

Days 12 to 15 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 on several game drives - by and night and hopefully get to spot some of the abundant wildlife that lives there.

Kind Regards - The Team at Oasis

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

