



ASIA • MIDDLE EAST • AFRICA • SOUTH AMERICA

The Marsh Henstridge Somerset BA8 0TF UK

Tel + 44 (0) 1963 363400 Fax + 44 (0) 1963 363200

info@oasisoverland.co.uk • www.oasisoverland.co.uk

Emperors & Tsars

Beijing / Ulaanbaatar to Omsk / St. Petersburg

This Pre – Departure Dossier is relevant to your trip so please read it carefully – Updated: Nov 07

NEW EXPLORATORY TRIP!

The trip departing Beijing in mid August '08 is the first time Oasis have overlanded this route, *and as such is a trip of an exploratory nature.*

The Oasis Crew leading this expedition are some of our most experienced and our expedition vehicle will be equipped especially for this trip.

Please also be aware that as stated above this is an exploratory trip and as such anyone booking on this trip should expect that there will be times that things do not go according to plan and there WILL BE delays and some unexpected hassles along the way. But that's half the fun!!

You can join various shorter sections of the trip if you don't have time to do the whole thing. Dates and prices can be found at the end of this dossier.

FLIGHTS

To fly from London into Beijing & out of St. Petersburg costs around £500. Into Beijing and out of Ulaanbaatar is currently about £650. These are both 'open jaw' tickets which allow you to fly into one destination but out of another without having to purchase two single one way tickets. You may have to buy two one way tickets to fly into Ulaanbaatar and return from St. Petersburg – this costs approx £600 altogether. All these prices include tax.

If you would like any help or information regarding flights then just give the Oasis office a call.

As all the cities that we start & finish in are interesting and exciting to visit we recommend staying in each for a couple of days before and after your trip departs or arrives. If you give us your flight details we will try and match you with someone who is flying out at the same time so that you can share a taxi from the airport to the hotel.

JOINING & START DETAILS

We will send you out joining instructions approximately 8 weeks before departure dates for Beijing, Ulaanbaatar & Omsk. This will include information regarding hotels & hostels to use before and after your trip as well as where the trips will start from etc.

LOCAL PAYMENT

Local Payment is part of your overall expedition investment and is the easiest and most economical way for Oasis Overland to get hard currency to the crew to help run your trip. It goes toward a variety of day-to-day local costs which cannot be pre-paid from UK. This is payable to your tour leader on departure in US Dollars cash only, post year 2000.

Please Note: We will only accept \$100 notes that are issued on or after 2000 as older notes are more difficult to change.

The Local payment is a guaranteed amount, set before your tour departs. We will not ask you to contribute more once the tour is underway, as can happen with 'group kitty' systems.

SHORTER SECTIONS, DATES & PRICES

Beijing to Ulaanbataar (14 days) £595.00

Start: Beijing End: Ulaanbataar
11 Aug 08 24 Aug 08 *
* exploratory price: £450.00 + Local Payment US\$ 390.00

Omsk to St. Petersburg (25 days) £990.00

Start: Omsk End: St. Petersburg
25 Sep 08 19 Oct 08 *
* exploratory price: £590.00 + Local Payment US\$500.00 *

PLEASE NOTE – While the above prices are fixed, because this is an 'exploratory' trip some of the time frames and 'finish' and 'start' dates may vary by a few days. So when booking flights, especially flights at the end of a trip, please allow a few extra days in case we arrive late into a destination.

PASSPORTS & VISA REQUIRMENTS

Visas - Visas are needed by most nationalities for most of the countries we travel through and you will need to obtain some of these before the trip departs and the rest en-route. We will send you more information about your visas to approximately 8 weeks before the departure date.

Please bring 3 photocopies of your passport details page and ten (10) passport photos to give to your tour leader. You'll need at least eight (8) blank pages in your passport, which must be valid for at least nine months. If you have dual nationality you can only use one passport.

China – most nationalities require a visa for China. You need to apply in person at the China Embassy, 49-51 Portland Place, London W1B 1JL, tel: 020 7299 4049. Visas cost US\$30 for all nationalities (except US citizens – visas cost US\$100) and take at least 4 working days to issue. You can download an application form and find further details including opening days and hours on the embassy's website: www.chinese-embassy.org.uk

Mongolia – most nationalities require a visa for Mongolia. Visas cost £40 and take 2 – 4 working days to issue or on the same day for an additional £20. You can download an application form and find further details including opening days and hours on the embassy's website: www.embassyofmongolia.co.uk. The Mongolian Embassy is at 7 Kensington Court, London W8 5DL, tel: 0171 9370 150.

Russia – most nationalities require a visa for Russia. The cost of a visa for UK passport holders is currently £45 and usually takes up to 7 days to issue. The Embassy of the Russian Federation is at 5 Kensington Palace Gardens, London. W8 4QS and their website is: www.rusemblon.org.

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 also include 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 are 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 regions 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.

NOTE: If you are interested in extra insurance cover for your **photographic equipment** – please contact Oasis and we will send you out a brochure. This policy has a 28 day money back guarantee if the cover is unsuitable or you change your mind. Please be aware that a lot of Insurance policies do not include a great deal of cover for Valuables–sometimes only up to £350 combined limit for cameras & electrical. Please be aware that most home and contents insurance policies may also include cover for photographic and electrical equipment whilst abroad.

OASIS CREW & ADVENTURE TRAVEL

Adventure travel is not an exact science. It is this very unpredictability which makes it 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 in running overland trips, they are not guides as such. The diversity and extent of the history and cultures in this region are second to none. At the most important historical sites we visit, we have the benefit of locally trained guides who have spent many years and have vast experience of such sites.

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

Please Note: Because this expedition is the first Oasis are running in this area, we regard this as an **exploratory trip** and as such **ANYONE** booking this trip should do so as well. This means that you should expect that some prices quoted for visas and excursions will be incorrect (prices go up as well as down), there will be hassles and time spent getting through borders and dealing with officialdom along the way, there will be time spent waiting to obtain visas en-route, the forecast itinerary we have set may well change (although we will endeavour to keep to the route we have set out and the timescales prescribed as closely as we can) and you definitely won't be getting a hot shower each and every night – but this should all be regarded as part and parcel of such a ground breaking and exploratory route.

ACCOMMODATION & LIFE ON THE ROAD

Accommodation - We spend around 60% of nights camping and the rest of the time in simple hotels/guesthouses. The variety is great and often a totally unique experience, including tents, hotels, simple village pensions and gers. Some are well equipped and managed and some very basic. You will need to bring along a warm sleeping bag, sleep sheet and a roll-mat. When we camp we use three-person tents, but only for two people which are specially made for us to meet the tough conditions of an expedition of this nature. All our tents have a sewn in floor and mosquito netting in the doors.

Life on the Road – A typical day on the road starts around 8.30am and finishes around 5.30pm with stops along the way for photos, activities, lunch, buying food, toilet stops etc. There are times however when we will have some long drives, so be prepared to cover big distances. Most evenings we will stop and find a bush camp and you and your tent partner will put up your tent, and then give a hand with the duty you will be rostered for, getting out the tables and stools or maybe the water containers. Some may help collect firewood or take the stored firewood from the truck. The fire grates or gas stove need to be taken out and 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 2 to 4 in a rota system and you can expect to cook about once every 7 - 10 days, depending on group size. At breakfast everyone helps themselves, usually cereal, toast and coffee (occasionally we may have a fried breakfast). If we stay in a hotel breakfast is sometimes provided. Lunch is cold and the cooking crew will put out bread, tinned food 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. We also have some quite long breaks (2 to 4 days at a time) where we are in one place, with no driving. At these places most people prefer to eat out, so we often don't cook all meals - this enables you to get out and try the local cuisine!

When we bush camp you will need to take one of the truck shovels with you to make your own toilet. Make sure you dig a suitable hole behind a bush and cover it and your toilet paper up properly afterwards, otherwise burn the paper.

OASIS OVERLAND VEHICLES & SECURITY ON BOARD

Our vehicles are designed to create more space for you compared to other overland vehicles. After all, the truck is your home for the duration of the trip! The size and horsepower of our vehicles also enables us to carry far more spares, fuel, water, and allows far more storage space for your luggage than the cramped conditions that prevail on many other vehicles. **We limit the number of passengers on each truck to 24 passengers.** A large percentage of the roads we will travel on are sealed, but there will also be times we will be travelling off road on gravel and sand pistes. Although some roads are badly potholed or gravel we are capable of cruising at 80 to 90kmh on most other roads. Our vehicles are equipped with sandmats, stereo, cool boxes, overhead lockers (for day bags and cameras etc) on board safes and comfortable coach seats.

Vehicle Equipment - All our 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 and allows easy movement - rather than the standard bus style outlay
- 12 volt cigarette socket for recharging camera / video batteries
- CD stereo with adaptors for MP3, I Pod or CD walkmans
- Inter cab buzzer for communication with the crew
- Internal & external lighting system
- Cooler boxes for food and drinks
- Onboard Library
- Camping stools & cook awning for all weather conditions
- Easy to reach overhead racking for day bags & cameras
- Lockable safe for storage of money and small valuables
- Extra storage space for excess baggage and souvenirs
- Roomy 2 person tents with sewn-in mosquito netting
- Internal underfloor storage for dried and tinned food
- External lockers for cooking equipment, tents etc
- Professionally compiled expedition Medical Kit
- Large water carrying capacity
- Extensive range of spare parts

Security - There is a lockable safe bolted onto the floor of the truck beneath a false floor. This is for your money belts, passports and smaller valuables. The company does not take responsibility for clients' personal items. 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 to your journey.

CAMERAS & PHOTOGRAPHY

Photography - Mornings & late afternoons are often best for photos, as the midday sun can be very bright & 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 & knocks. A few zip lock/ plastic bags are good items to carry for protecting your camera & 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.

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.cloctowercameras.co.uk.

Digital Cameras – If you are bringing a digital camera, it is advisable to bring a charger and spare batteries. Most towns & cities have internet cafes where you can download your photos onto a CD/ internet site. It is also advisable to bring your USB cable for your camera so you can connect your camera in the internet cafes. Also bring with you at least 2 memory cards of 512mb or higher.

Video Cameras - 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 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 110-230V 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. **Please Note:** that in some cities and towns in China normal wall sockets are 110V **not** 230V so check with the hotel staff first before plugging any appliances or chargers in.

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 and 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

Time - All countries are between 2 - 8 hours ahead of UK time. Time is something that people in Mongolia and Russia seem to have plenty of. Things that should take 5 minutes can take over an hour. Try not to speed things up as this just leads to greater frustration.

Language – Chinese, Mongolian and Russian are interesting languages to try and get our tongues around! English is not widely spoken except perhaps by a few people in the larger towns and cities. Learning some basic phrases will be rewarded when meeting local people and most guide books such as Rough Guides and Lonely Planet have sections in them dedicated to commonly used phrases and words.

Contact from home - The most reliable way to receive messages from friends & 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 check your emails 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 friends 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.

FEMALE TRAVELLERS & WHAT TO WEAR

People in the regions we pass through are generally conservative, especially about matters concerning sex and women and they are simply not the place to make a feminist statement. If you are not prepared to fit in with the social code of the area the chances are you will be harassed.

What to wear - Dress conservatively. Keeping your arms, shoulders and legs covered will go a long way to prevent causing offence and hassle to you. **This is true for men as well as women.** Avoid wearing tight or revealing clothing.

PERSONAL HEALTH – VACCINATIONS – MEDICAL KITS

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

Vaccinations – It is advisable to be vaccinated against Hepatitis A, Tetanus and Diphtheria. You may also be advised to be immunized against: Typhoid, Hepatitis B, Rabies, Tuberculosis, Tick Borne Encephalitis and Meningitis and sometimes Cholera and Japanese B Encephalitis are recommended. Consult your doctor or a medical clinic. If you are arriving into China from or via a country infected with Yellow Fever, you will be asked on immigration to show a yellow fever certificate.

Good clinics for vaccinations and advice are:

In London - Nomad Travellers Store and Medical Centre – Tel 0208 889 7014 (Turnpike Lane Tube) 3-4 Wellington Terrace, Turnpike Lane. They also sell medical kits and give a 10% discount on equipment and jabs to Oasis Overland clients and have stores in Bristol and Southampton as well.

Trailfinders Travel Clinic - Tel 0207 938 3999 (High St Kensington Tube) 194 Kensington High St, London.

In Scotland, Ailsa Travel Clinic at 42 Admiral St, Kinning Park, Glasgow, Tel 0141 429 0913, has been recommended by past clients. Clinics do not always give detailed medical advice over the phone. It is best to phone for their opening hours and make an appointment.

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:**

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

Whilst on included excursions and / or optionals (i.e. Ngorongoro Crater / 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 - The areas through which we travel are considered to be mostly malaria free but consult your doctor regarding the risks.

RESPONSIBLE TOURISM & OASIS

We believe travel should be a rewarding experience for you as well as the 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. A small 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* and *Mt Kilimanjaro* in Tanzania. The organization is also assisting the local *Maasai* 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, Oasis Overland appreciate that 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 running trips and supporting worthy organizations, we have developed our own practical and manageable environmental policy in which all our crew are versed and practise to a high level in both the UK and abroad.

In Luxor (Egypt) Jinja (Uganda) and Harare (Zimbabwe), Oasis is a sponsor of several independently run Children's Orphanages – caring for underprivileged youths and orphans and on this exploratory trip we will be looking to establish a similar sponsorship with one or two orphanages along the way in a couple of the countries we will be travelling through.

FOOD & DRINK

When camping we supply on average two to three meals per day. You will prepare meals in teams on a rota system and can expect to cook every seven days or so on the trip, depending on the group size. When we stay in hotels/hostels/pensions etc. breakfast is sometimes provided by the hostel, but because the vehicle is usually unable to park with us at these places it is obviously nearly impossible to provide meals off the truck.

We have not accounted for the Local Payment cost to include meals whilst we stay in hotels & hostels etc.

You will need to budget for these meals separately and on average this is around \$15 for each day of the trip. In China we will be using basic hostels & hotels about 80% of the time, other countries it will be approx. 60 / 40 camping versus hostels.

Most market and roadside stalls serve cheap healthy food and in China especially where just about anything that lives, walks (or crawls) can and is eaten in various guises. In Ulaanbaatar, the capital of Mongolia, there are many restaurants serving a great variety of food from Korean to Mongolian hot pot. Outside the city you are more likely to find yourself limited to goulash and you can also try the typically Mongolian hot, salted mares' milk! In Russian cities you can try local fare such as cold soups, pelmeni (meat dumplings) and blini (pancakes). Where necessary we purify our drinking water. Where tap water is not safe to drink, bottled water is usually available for between 30p – £1 per 1.5l. Whenever we cook there is a plentiful supply of coffee and tea and the kettle is well boiled on our gas cooker. Boiled water is always safe to drink. In most of the countries we travel through cheap local beer, wine and spirits are available.

Vegetarians / Vegans: Whilst we do our best to organise vegetarian options where possible – when we cook & eat from the truck then these meals are usually quite good, but please remember that some fellow passengers may have never cooked vegetarian food before. The Vegetarian concept, while often not new to local people & restaurants is still alien and often incomprehensible to most. If you explain that you do not eat meat you will more than likely get offered chicken or fish as a substitute! So please be aware that you will not get the variety or quality of food you are used to. Restaurants and hotels (Usually 4 and 5*) that cater particularly for tourists will usually feature a few vegetarian dishes such as Omelettes, Vegetable stews, Pasta and salad.

CURRENCY REQUIREMENTS & PERSONAL SPENDING MONEY

Tippling and Bargaining - Tipping is usually expected. 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. Keep small change on you so as not to incur a large demand when it is seen you can afford more. In China & Mongolia, most prices are negotiable, especially in markets. Many travellers find it a hassle having to bargain for everything you 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.

Things to buy - One of the highlights of any trip is the markets found along the way. There are numerous handicrafts and souvenirs to buy including clothing, silk, paintings, jewellery boxes, jade and stone carvings, tea, porcelain and pottery goods, backgammon boards, leather goods, incense, Russian dolls plus much more.....

Currency - It is best to take two thirds of your money in **US Dollars Cash** and a third in **Euro, Sterling or US Dollars Travellers Cheques**. **Make sure that all your dollar notes are in good condition. Old, torn or marked notes are often refused and all notes MUST be printed on or after year 2000. Do not bring \$100 notes unless they are in excellent condition.**

Scottish Pounds are also not accepted anywhere.

Spending money - For personal spending, budget on £100 - £140 per week to cover you for some meals out, drinks, local crafts and souvenirs. Of course this varies person-to-person depending on how much you eat out, drink, and how many souvenirs you buy. **Budget on optional side trips separately.**

Please Note!! If you do not bring enough cash you may struggle to change traveller's cheques in many places we visit.

CHINA & RUSSIA: It is easy to get local currency from ATM machines in China and Russia, but usually only in the larger towns and cities. A credit card is useful for emergency spending and is accepted in most shops in the larger cities and it is also possible to withdraw US \$ cash from over the counter at some banks, although this can be time consuming and expensive. However, cards are virtually useless outside of large cities.

MONGOLIA: There are only a handful of ATMs in Ulaanbaatar and these should not be totally relied upon. Credit cards and travellers' cheques are completely useless outside the capital so you will need US dollars cash while we are travelling the rest of the country. There is a secure safe for money on board the truck.

OPTIONAL EXCURSIONS

As a guide to help you budget, below are some approximate prices of most of the side activities and optional extras you can do: (Guide only as prices and exchange rates can change)

NB. There are many Monasteries, Palaces and Museums that you can visit during the trip which either charge no entrance fee or up to £2 or £3. Not all places of interest costing less than £3 are listed below.

The \$ to £ rate below is done at a rate of 1.9

	(GB£)	(US\$)
China		
Cable Car, Mutianyu	£4	\$7.60
Great Wall, Mutianyu	£3	\$5.70
Eastern Qing Tombs	£4	\$7.60
Mongolia		
Museum of Mongolian History	£2	\$3.80
Victims of Political Persecution Museum	£1	\$1.90
Winter Palace of Bogd Khan	£2	\$3.80
Mongolian National Modern Art Gallery	£1	\$1.90
Charge to take camera into Ulaanbaatar museums	£2.60	\$5
Charge to take video cameras into Ulaanbaatar museums	£5.30	\$10
Mongolian language lessons	£2.60 / hr	\$5 / hr
Tsetserleg-Museum of Arkhangai Aimag	£2	\$3.80
Fishing permit, Lake Khovsgol	£5	\$9.50
Horse riding (incl. guide), Khovsgol	£11 / day	\$20 / day
Amarbayasgalant Khiid	£2	\$3.80
Russia		
Lake Baikal		
1 day shore dive	£45	\$85.50
2-3 day boat-based diving safari	£68 / day	\$130 / day
2 night Family stay – Listvyanka: includes accommodation in traditional wooden house, 2 meals per day, Limnological Museum, guided walk, Russian sauna. Price depended on group size	£90 - £150	\$170 - \$285
Optional forest trek	£35	\$67
2 night Family stay – Bolshoe Goloustnoe: includes accommodation in traditional wooden house, 3 meals per day, lunch in fisherman's house, guide, village walk, walk to Ushkani Cape, Russian sauna. Price dependent on group size	£110 – £225	\$209 - \$428
Irkutsk museums.	£1 - £2	\$1.90 – US\$3.80
Art galleries & museums in Tomsk, Omsk, Yekaterinburg, Kazan, Vladimir & Suzdal	£1 - £2	\$1.90 – \$3.80
Moscow		
The Kremlin Museum & Pushkin Fine Arts Museum (each)	£6	\$11.50
The Armoury	£6	\$11.50
St. Basils Cathedral	£2	\$3.80
State History Museum	£3	\$5.70
Tretyakov Gallery	£5	\$9.50
Boat ride on Moscow river	£4	\$7.60
Novgorod - one hour river cruise	£2	\$3.80
St.Petersburg		
The Hermitage	£10	\$19
Russian museum	£6	\$11.50
Museum of Ethnography	£5	\$9.50
Dostoevsky Museum	£2	\$3.80

River boat cruises	from	£3	\$5.70
Ballet tickets		£3 - £80	\$5.70 – \$152
Trans-Siberian railway from Irkutsk to Krasnoyarsk, 2 nd Class		£100	\$190

International Student Cards – In some of the countries we visit you can save up to 50% on entrance charges.

Meals not included – we recommend you allow approximately £8 - US\$15 per day for meals that are not included in the trip price.

PLEASE 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.

ACTIVITIES & HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDED

- Gobi Desert
- Gurvan Saikhan National Park
- Yolyn Am Gorge
- Khongoryn Els Sand Dunes
- Bayanzag 'Flaming Cliffs'
- Kharkhorin (Karakorum)
- Erdene Zuu Monastery
- Tsetserleg
- Tsenher Hot Springs
- Khorgo Volcano
- Terkhin Tsagaan Lake
- Lake Khovsgol (time & weather permitting)
- Uran Uul Volcano
- Lake Baikal
- Ulan-Ude
- Tuva - the geographical centre of Asia (time permitting)
- Yekaterinburg
- Perm-36 (ex labour camp & museum)
- Nizhny Novgorod
- Volgograd - formerly known as Stalingrad (time permitting)
- Suzdal City (fairytale setting & scenery)
- Moscow
- Novgorod
- St. Petersburg

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 and camping in the heat of deserts, cold of mountains and at altitude, so bring clothes for all climates; rough stuff is best. You can get laundry done along the way. For good advice and stock of outdoor equipment plus a 10% discount to Oasis clients Oasis recommend Lockwood Outdoor Shop in Leamington Spa (www.lockwoods.com you can shop online or call 01926 339388) and Nomad Travel Store in London (www.nomadtravel.co.uk or call 0208 8897014).

Climatic variations can be quite dramatic in some of the countries we will be travelling through. Beijing in August is hot and humid. Mongolia is known as the 'Land of Blue Sky' as it has over 260 sunny days per year. Summer temperatures in the Gobi desert can reach 40 degrees. August rains further north make things a little cooler and greener and trail roads turn into mud! The rains also bring biting insects so don't forget your repellent. The autumnal colours of Russia are stunning and the first snow doesn't usually arrive until late October but be prepared for cold weather. **So bring clothes for all seasons.**

Personal Effects

- Sleeping Bag; 4 season
- Sleeping mat / Therm-a-rest
- Small day-pack or bag to carry your daily items
- Hat and sun-glasses
- Money belt or pouch to hold your passport and cash etc.
- Reading Books
- Camera & protective case, spare batteries, all the film / memory cards you think you will need & a dust proof bag
- Personal Walkman - there is a stereo on the truck with a CD / I Pod / MP3 adaptor
- Torch and spare batteries (head torch is best)
- Multi adaptor travel plug

Clothes

- Warm clothes
- Winter jacket (Gore-Tex or similar)
- Sweat shirt / jumper
- Jeans
- Sandals / flip flops / jandals / thongs
- Shirts (to cover shoulders) & T shirts
- Skirts / long trousers (to cover knees)
- Swimsuit
- Cool clothes
- Underpants
- Shorts
- Walking Boots & Socks

Toiletries - Most toiletries are available.

- Toothbrush, toothpaste, dental floss.
- Shampoo and conditioner
- Moisturiser
- Soap (in a container)
- Towel
- Tampons (enough for the trip)
- Contraception
- Razors

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.

GENERAL READING – MAPS – GUIDE BOOKS

Guide Books –

- Lonely Planet guide books include China, Mongolia and Russia & Belarus
- Rough Guides also publish a guide to China
- Bradt Guides titles include Mongolia and Great Wall of China with Beijing and Northern China
- Odyssey have a very good informative guide to China plus Moscow, St. Petersburg & the Golden Ring
- Lonely Planet & Rough Guides also produce various phrase books which are useful including Mandarin, Mongolian & Russian

Maps –

- Collins and the National Geographic Society both publish maps of China
- ITMB Publishing have a good map of Mongolia
- Cartographia publish a map of Russia
- For combined China & Mongolia maps, try Freytag Bernt's Road Map or Reise Know-How Verlag's China East & Mongolia.

General Reading -

- The First Emperor of China – Jonathan Clements
- Wild Swans – Jung Chan
- Inside the Red Mansion – Oliver August
- Mao Zedong: The Rebel Who Led a Revolution – Flora Geyer
- Hearing Birds Fly: A Nomadic Year in Mongolia – Louise Waugh
- Genghis Khan and the making of the modern world - Jack Weatherfield
- Eagle Dreams: Searching for legends in Wild Mongolia - Stephen J. Bodio
- Women of Mongolia - Martha Avery
- Among The Russians - Colin Thubron
- Reeling In Russia - Fen Montaigne
- In Siberia – Colin Thubron

25% DISCOUNT on Footprint travel books.

Simply go to www.footprintbooks.com and enter the code: 'Oasis', for your order. 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 – call us for details

Check out our website and click onto “USEFUL LINKS” - Heaps of informative links concerned with all things travel – even where to find an ATM overseas!

Also check out “OASIS IN THE MEDIA“ for a preview of what your trip with Oasis could offer. Various articles, diaries and photos from past trips .

Do you have a query that needs answering – have a look in “FAQ’s” or Take a peek at our unique truck layout in “Expedition Vehicles”

Keep your eyes peeled in “SPECIAL OFFERS “updated regularly with adventure packed money savers.

Itinerary - Beijing to Ulaanbaatar, Omsk & St. Petersburg

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

Week One - China

Beijing to Erenhot. The trip leaves Beijing on day one so, for those of you joining here we recommend flying in a few days early to see all the main sights & relax. Recommended places to visit include: **Tian'anmen Square** - the largest square in the world, the **Forbidden City**, a superbly preserved section of the **Great Wall**, as well as the largest sacrificial complex in the world, the **Temple of Heaven**.

On leaving Beijing we visit two UNESCO world heritage sites - the **Eastern Qing tombs** and the **Great Wall at Mutianyu**. The Eastern Qing tombs 125kms north of Beijing are China's largest grouping of imperial tombs housing 5 emperors, 14 empresses and 136 imperial consorts. Walking around these tombs is an unforgettable experience. The Great Wall was begun over 2000 years ago and stretches for over 6,700 kms. The 2250m long granite section of wall at **Mutianyu** dates from the Ming dynasty and is far less commercialised than other sections and is notable for its numerous Ming guard towers and striking views. The wall here is also equipped with a cable car. We continue heading north towards Mongolia traversing **Inner Mongolia** to **Erenhot**.

Week Two - Mongolia: Gobi Desert & Ulaanbaatar

Mongolia - known as the 'Land of the Eternal Blue Sky' is six times larger than the UK and has a population of only 2.7m. It offers a unique combination of primordial landscapes and nomadic culture, still relatively untouched by mass tourism.

We begin our journey across Mongolia in the **Gobi Desert**, which covers one third of the country. Contrary to expectation most of the Gobi consists of stony, scrubby wasteland; sand dunes only covering about 3%. The desolate landscape is home to a wide variety of wildlife - **gazelle, khulan (wild ass), Bactrian (two-humped) camels, takhi (Mongolian wild horse), rare saiga antelope and the world's only desert bear - Gobi bear** (estimated to only be about 30 remaining). The Gobi scenery is awe-inspiring but transport and infrastructure are sparse and water, of course, is scarce & it is the driest, hottest and harshest region in the country, but home to some spectacular sights. Crossing this region we will visit the highlights of the **Gurvan Saikhan National Park: Yolyn Am, Khongoryn Els and Bayanzag**.

Yolyn Am is an impressive, steep, thick-walled gorge in the middle of the desert which, for most of the year has a thick layer of ice. The gorge is home to a variety of animals and birds, including Argali (wild sheep) and vultures. In complete contrast we will also visit **Khongoryn Els - the 'Singing Dunes'** - some of the largest and most spectacular dunes in Mongolia. These dunes are up to 300m high, 12km wide and about 100km long. The climb to the top of the dunes is not easy but you will be well-rewarded with spectacular views. There will be an opportunity here to go camel riding, hiking and stay in local **Ger accommodation**.

We will also visit **Bayanzag** or 'flaming cliffs'. First excavated in 1922, it is renowned worldwide for the number of dinosaur bones and eggs found in the area. The area is a classic desertscape of rocks, red sand, scrub and awesome emptiness.

We then head north for a break in the country's capital **Ulaanbaatar**. Here there is a complete mix of cultures - crimson-robed monks, smart-suited businesspeople and nomads from the steppes. The city offers a variety of museums, monasteries, temples, art galleries and cultural shows to visit.

Those on the 14 day trip finish here in Ulaanbaatar whilst others join us to carry on to Omsk & St. Petersburg

Week Three - Mongolia: Kharkhorin

Next we will stop at **Kharkhorin (Karakorum)** the capital of the **Mongol Empire** before **Kublai Khan** (Ghengis' grandson) moved it to what is now Beijing. Built by **Ghengis Khan** about 800 years ago, Kharkhorin was abandoned and then destroyed in 1388. The remains were used to help build the nearby **Erdene Zuu Monastery** in the sixteenth century - the first Buddhist monastery in Mongolia. At its peak there were up to 1,000 monks in residence. Like Kharkhorin the monastery was eventually abandoned and vandalised by invading Manchurians. Attempts at restoration were begun in the late eighteenth century but destruction came again with the Stalinist purges and an unknown number of monks were either killed or shipped off to Siberia. Despite everything however, the monastery still retains much of its former glory.

Week Four- Tsetserleg to Russian border

From here we enter into the **Arkhangai** region and some of Mongolia's most stunning scenery. The area's capital **Tsetserleg** is ringed by scenic mountains, the streets are tree-lined and there are some good restaurants and an interesting museum. In this region we will visit **Tsenher Hot Springs, Khorgo volcano and Terkhin Tsagaan Lake** - one of the most beautiful lakes in a country full of beautiful lakes, surrounded by extinct and craterous volcanoes. From here we continue our journey north to **Lake Khovsgol** - the world's second-largest lake (13km long and 36 km wide). (time & weather permitting)

This sparkling alpine lake is set amidst mountains, pine forests, interspersed with lush meadows. Here there is an opportunity to hike, kayak or horse ride and we may be able to visit the **Tsaatan nomads** whose lives revolve around their reindeers.

Leaving the tranquillity of the lake we begin our journey to the Russian border. En route lies the extinct volcano of **Uran Uul and Amarbayasgalant Khiid** - the country's most intact architectural complex, built in the early eighteenth century by the Manchu emperor Yongzheng. (time permitting)

Week Five – Russia: Siberia, Lake Baikal

We enter **Russia**, the world's largest country, in **Siberia**. Despite its history of banishment and cruelty and preconceptions of a harsh, unforgiving climate Siberia has a wealth of natural and cultural attractions to offer visitors. Our first point of call is **Lake Baikal** - the world's deepest lake, which also contains nearly one fifth of the planet's unfrozen fresh water and has its own unique species of wildlife including **nerpa (fresh water seals)**. In winter the lake is frozen and used as a road by trucks and cars alike. At **Ulan-Ude** there is an opportunity to visit the local **datsans** (Buddhist temples) and to see forgotten '**Hun**' temples. From Ulan-Ude we head to **Irkutsk** on the western shore of the lake with its brightly painted shutters and log houses decorated with wooden lacework. Irkutsk is known as the Paris of Siberia. From here there are opportunities to stay with a local family in one of the lake-shore villages or organise diving trips to discover the lake's underwater life.

Week Six - Siberia

If time permits, we detour from the main track and visit **Tuva**, the geographical centre of Asia and an area of outstanding natural beauty. **Khoomei (Tuvan throat singing), khuresh (Tuvan wrestling) and shamanism** make this area a fascinating place to visit.

Tomsk - our next port of call, with its wooden-lace architecture and thriving student population is an interesting, vibrant city to visit. Its then onto **Omsk**, where despite its industrial suburbs the centre is architecturally interesting and has some great restaurants and we spend a couple of days here to relax and check out the sights!

Those on the 45 day trip from Beijing finish here in Omsk, whilst others join us to carry on to St. Petersburg.

Week Seven – The Urals

Leaving Siberia, we enter the **Urals** - the division between Europe and Asia. **Yekaterinburg**, the region's economic and cultural capital has a bloody history, from the execution of **Tsar Nicholas II** and his family in 1918 to the high profile Mafia killings in the 1990s. The city museums are also a good place to view examples of the Urals mineral wealth. Moving on to the town of Perm, **Perm-36** was, from 1946-1988, a harsh labour camp for political prisoners and is now a sobering & fascinating museum. The Urals themselves offer a variety of options for outdoor activities.

Week Eight - Volga region

We now enter the **Volga region**, the heartland of Russia, named after the magnificent Volga River (the longest river in Europe) that dominates the region. **Kazan**, the capital of **Tatarstan**, declared a UNESCO World Heritage site in 2000 is home to an impressive **Kremlin** and an array of other resplendent buildings. River cruises are also possible here.

Nizhny Novgorod, sometimes called Russia's third capital is one of Russia's most dynamic provincial capitals and is the birth place of **Maxim Gorky**. It was also the home of **Andrei Sakharov**, awarded the Nobel Peace prize in 1975. The **Sakharov Museum** provides a fascinating view of his life. From Nizhny Novgorod it may also be possible to visit **Volgograd** - formerly known as **Stalingrad** and the site of World War II's longest and most humanly costly battle. One million Russian soldiers alone lost their lives. The city is dominated by its memorial to this bloody battle - the centrepiece is a 72 metre statue of Mother Russia.

Week Nine - The Golden Ring

Leaving the Volga Region we enter the **Golden Ring** - so-called for its wealth of architectural and artistic riches, housing some of Russia's oldest cities and prettiest villages. **Vladimir** has some fine examples of Russia's most formative architecture, along with some interesting museums. **Suzdal**, has federal protected status. As a result its dome-spotted skyline, set amongst luscious meadows alongside the gently meandering **Kamenka River** make it an almost fairytale setting. A wealth of architectural sites avail themselves to visits, whilst the rolling hills and beautiful countryside are ideal for outdoor activities including horse riding and mountain biking.

Week Ten - Moscow, Novgorod and St. Petersburg

Next it's onto Moscow, which makes for a fascinating city to visit - the diversity of its population and the richness of its culture ranges from the traditional to the bohemian. Highlights include the **Kremlin, Red Square, St. Basil's Cathedral, the Armoury and Pushkin and Tretyakov galleries**. We spend several days here to experience this amazing city before continuing.

Novgorod is a beautiful town of solid old churches, peaceful tree-lined streets & a magnificent Kremlin full of historic treasures. In complete contrast to the previous few days, it has a laid-back atmosphere & is surrounded by beautiful countryside.

St. Petersburg, our final destination, is a real high-point to end our trip - the birthplace of **Russian ballet**, home to literary and musical legends and a wealth of museums and mansions culminating in the breathtaking **Hermitage and imperial palaces**. River and canal cruises are a pleasant way to view the city and St Petersburg has a reputation of being the best place in Russia for eating out. It's also a good place to stock up on last minute souvenirs before you return home.

Kind Regards - The Team at Oasis

Please contact us if you have any questions. HAPPY TRAVELS!!

BOOKING CONDITIONS

THE SILK ROAD EXPLORATORY, IS OPERATED & BOOKINGS ARE ACCEPTED BY : OASIS EXPEDITIONS LTD AND SUBJECT TO THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS.

1. A deposit of ££200 / £400 is payable at the time of booking. The deposit is non refundable unless Oasis Expeditions is unable to offer the client a place.
 2. The balance of the trip price is due no later than 10 weeks before the date of departure. If the full payment is not received ten weeks prior to departure Oasis Expeditions may deem the booking cancelled and the deposit forfeited.
 3. Cancellation of a booking must be notified in writing & when received by Oasis Expeditions the deposit is forfeited. The client acknowledges that payment for the trip is an intrinsic part of the trips income and contributes towards the overall costs of equipment, vehicle running costs, staff administration etc & Oasis Expeditions will have incurred a large part of its costs before the actual departure date. A cancellation received less than ten weeks before departure will incur the following charges (these are calculated from the day written notification is received by Oasis or their agent as a percentage of the total trip price):
 - a) 10 weeks & more days before departure - retention of deposit only.
 - b) 10 weeks – 56 days before departure - 40% of total amount
 - c) 55 - 28 days before departure - 80% of total amount
 - d) Less than 28 days before departure - 100% of total amount
 4. A booking is made in the name of the client and is not transferable to another person. If the client wishes to transfer a booking to another trip operated by Oasis Overland or Oasis Expeditions this can be done at a cost of £50. Notification must be received in writing no less than ten weeks before original trip departure date. Transfer requests received less than ten weeks before departure will be treated as a cancellation and subject to the charges above.
 5. The trip cost and local payment cover transport, accommodation, meals, national parks and excursions as specified in this brochure as well as the repair and replacement of camping equipment including stools, cooking equipment & utensils. The tour leader has sole responsibility for the local payment. Oasis Expeditions guarantees not to increase the trip price once the deposit has been received.
 6. The client undertakes to comply with the laws and regulations, whether in respect of health, immigration, currency exchange control or any other matter of all the countries visited during the expedition.
 7. The client undertakes to obtain a valid passport and have enough blank pages in the passport for the trip.
 - 7.a. Oasis Expeditions undertakes to make all reasonable efforts to assist the client in obtaining visas for the trip, both in United Kingdom and in countries through which we pass, but not outside these areas, and cannot guarantee visa prices and availability of visas.
 8. Oasis Expeditions reserves the right to deviate from the advertised expedition route if in their reasonable opinion such deviation is necessary for the safety or wellbeing of any or any one of the members of the expedition or for the satisfactory progress of the expedition. In the event of it becoming necessary to fly over a country or countries in order to satisfactorily and safely continue the expedition, all costs of client's flights will be borne by the client.
 9. Oasis Expeditions accepts no responsibility for matters arising out of political disputes, border closures, epidemics, natural disasters, climate, armed robbery, terrorism etc. Should it become necessary to abandon an expedition because of such an event Oasis Expeditions will be entitled to retain such monies received as is necessary to cover costs incurred. Any excess will be refunded.
 10. The client accepts that owing to the nature of countries visited, all expeditions involve an element of personal risk and are of a potentially hazardous and unpredictable nature. In many countries visited the basic infrastructure, such as roads, is very poor and therefore less safe than that familiar to people from many western countries. In particular, lack of road markings or warning signs, unmarked speed bumps, seasonal flooding of roads and bridges, local vehicles which are poorly maintained and driven and which are hazardous to other road users etc. are factors beyond the control of Oasis Expeditions. The client accepts that in some areas we have no choice but to drive 'off road', and that this involves personal risk when the expedition vehicle can be negotiating rough terrain.
 - 10.a. The client accepts that local emergency facilities are usually of a very limited nature. Hospitals outside of large cities often have no accident and emergency facilities and emergency transport facilities can be non-existent.
 11. In many countries we visit, the local vehicle accident insurance includes either very limited passenger liability or none at all. Oasis Expeditions have passenger liability insurance for some countries through which we visit but the client acknowledges that in many countries through which we travel the expedition vehicle does not have the benefit of passenger liability insurance. The client agrees to indemnify Oasis Expeditions against any claim or demand made in respect of any accident, personal injury or loss of life caused to, contracted or suffered by the client during the course of the expedition.
 12. Code of Conduct:- If the tour leader considers the actions or conduct of any client is likely to prejudice the safety or wellbeing of all or any members of the trip or satisfactory progress of the trip then he/she shall be entitled to order the client to leave the trip immediately with no refund of the trip price or local payment and all liability and responsibility that Oasis Expeditions may bear to the client will immediately cease, including any provision for alternative transport.
 13. Oasis Expeditions reserves the right to make alterations to an expedition without notice including alterations to the itinerary.
 14. In the unlikely event of Oasis Expeditions cancelling an expedition, before departure, all trip costs paid to Oasis will be refunded in full. This will be the full extent of Oasis Expeditions liability.
 15. In the event of any person leaving the expedition of their own accord or in extenuating circumstances being asked to leave by the tour leader, that person will be liable for their own maintenance and expenses and have no claim against Oasis Expeditions whatsoever.
 16. The decision of the tour leader will be final on all matters relating to the satisfactory progress, organization and wellbeing of the expedition. Clients must comply with all reasonable requests of the tour leader. If in the opinion of Oasis Expeditions Tour Leaders or directors, the health or conduct of a client at any time before or after departure appears likely to endanger the safe, comfortable or happy progress of a trip, the client may be excluded from all or part of the trip without refund or recompense. In the case of ill-health Oasis Expeditions may make such arrangements as it sees fit and recover the costs thereof from the client. If a client commits an illegal act the client may be excluded from the trip & Oasis Expeditions shall cease to have responsibility to/for them. No refund will be given for any unused services.
 17. Oasis Expeditions reserves the right to decline any booking at its discretion.
 18. The information given in the brochure and other literature supplied is given in good faith but no warranty is given that it is correct.
 19. No servant, agent or authorized representative of Oasis Expeditions has authority to commit Oasis Expeditions to any liability whatsoever and Oasis Expeditions will not be bound by any statement or representation unless it is in writing and signed by one of the directors.
 20. Clients should purchase travel insurance no later than at the time the balance is due in order to cover themselves for their own cancellation or curtailment of their travel plans. It is the client's responsibility to arrange suitable adventure travel insurance with benefits that include cover for any hazardous activities they intend to pursue, as well as personal accident, medical expenses, repatriation and loss and damage to personal effects. The policy must include minimum cover of £500,000 for emergency medical and repatriation expenses. A copy of the client's travel insurance must be shown to the tour leader at the pre-departure meeting three weeks before the start of the expedition. In the event that a client does not have suitable travel insurance they will not be allowed to join the trip, without purchasing insurance through Oasis on the day of departure.
 21. Clients accept that any personal possessions such as valuables, cameras or any monies that is carried on Oasis' own vehicles or any other form of transport or that is left in accommodation provided by Oasis or its suppliers during a trip are carried at the clients own risk. Oasis does not accept responsibility for clients personal or valuables that are lost, damaged or stolen during the course of a tour.
 22. Clients must reimburse Oasis Expedition for any expenses incurred by Oasis Expeditions on behalf of the client. In particular, this applies to non-compliance with Booking Conditions numbered 6, 7, 8 and 16.
 23. Clients accept that the prices quoted for optional activities are approximate as local prices can and do change. Any of the optional activities listed are not necessarily endorsed or recommended by Oasis Overland. Clients also accept that they undertake any activity at their own risk & their participation is their own decision & does not form any part of their contract with Oasis Overland. Oasis does not take responsibility for cancellations, unreliability of services or safety of operators, agents or contractors.
 24. Complaints procedure: If a client has a complaint they should first inform the tour leader so that they may rectify the matter. If this fails contact Oasis Expeditions in the UK and we will deal promptly with your complaint. On completion of an expedition complaints must be received within 14 days so they can be effectively dealt with. In the event of a claim for compensation, the client agrees that any such claim must be received by Oasis at its UK office within 30 days of the completion date of the trip.
- All information in this Dossier has been compiled with reasonable care and is published in good faith. On most trips Oasis Expeditions own expedition vehicle is used. Where stated, locally arranged transport including jeeps, trains, ferries and river craft is used. Where Oasis Expeditions own vehicle is not used, the client agrees that the obligation of Oasis Expeditions to the client is to select normally competent, independent sub-contractors to provide such transport and any other services related to the trip and to exercise reasonable care in selecting such suppliers to provide these services.***