4th April 2025

Dear Oasis Traveller,

It’s not long now until your Exploratory Trans Africa Expedition begins!

This update includes:

* Joining in Cape Town and flying on a one way ticket
* Local Payment, luggage, document copies and visas reminder
* Camping and upgrades
* Taking time out from the trip and leaving early
* Passenger liability insurance
* FCDO travel advisories and travel insurance
* Keeping in touch

Your crew for this trip are Steve and Jordan. Steve is a skilled overland driver, mechanic and tour leader and has led expeditions all over the world. Having started out over 30 years ago, he has run more Trans Africa expeditions than we can remember and is a bit of a legend on the road! Jordan is new to Africa but is an experienced tour leader and logistics co-ordinator, organising trips and leading groups in South East Asia and Japan. Jordan and Steve are looking forward to meeting you in Cape Town and leading you on an incredible journey to Accra and Fes!

Remember this is the first time we will be travelling in a northerly direction along this route and as such the expedition is an Exploratory one.

**STARTING IN CAPE TOWN**

**Trip Joining Point:**

Ashanti Gardens Backpackers Hostel - Cape Town

Address: 11 Hof Street, Gardens, Cape Town, 7441

Telephone: +27 (21) 423 8721

<https://ashanti.co.za/accommodation/backpackers-gardens/>

Email: info@ashanti.co.za

*Please book any pre-trip accommodation directly with Ashanti Backpackers.*

The trip starts from Ashanti Backpackers at approximately 8am on the morning of Day 1 of your trip. There will be a pre-departure meeting here the night before and there will be a notice in reception advising the exact time (normally 6pm). Here Steve and Jordan will explain how the day to day running of the trip works as well as completing some paperwork. It is important that you attend this meeting so please let us know if you are unable to do so. You may wish to book pre-trip accommodation at Ashanti to make things easier.

If you need to contact your crew once you are in Cape Town, for instance if your flights are delayed and you think you won’t be there on time or in an emergency, you can Whatsapp Jordan on +447742719008. Please remember to tell him who you are! Please also hold off contacting him until at least a couple of days before your trip starts as he will be working on the truck and trip preparations and not available before then.

Our UK 24 hour emergency number if you can’t reach your crew is +44 203 633 3041.

If you haven’t already, please email us your flight arrival and pre-trip accommodation details so we know who is arriving when.

**Local Payment**
Remember to have your local payment ready to pass onto Jordan at the start of the trip. Please note: CASH ONLY is accepted and needs to be in $US Dollars or a combination of $US Dollars and €uros as below. Make sure that all your notes are in good condition as old, torn or marked notes are often refused by the banks and therefore we are unable to accept them either. Please make sure that $US Dollars are dated 2013 or later and do not have a serial number starting with CB. Please also bring larger denomination ($50/$100) notes where possible.

Cape Town to Fes – US$2400 LP to paid as as US$1650 + €700

Cape Town to Accra – US$1300 LP to be paid all in US$

Many Oasis travellers order currency online and pick it up at an airport foreign exchange desk just before flying out. This means you don’t have to carry a lot of cash with you for long, and you will get a much better rate by ordering cash in advance rather than just buying it at the airport. Travelex have exchange shops in most airports, but do check your particular airport and terminal for the best option (and make sure you know if you need to go to their land-side or air-side shop).

**Document copies**

Please don’t forget to bring with you on the expedition, the document copies listed in our previous update. This will save you a lot of hassle finding printing and copying facilities en route!

If you haven’t already, please send us electronic copies of your passport, yellow fever certificate etc. asap. It is important for the crew to have access to these and it is much easier for them to organise all their files and records now than while already en-route.

**Luggage reminder**

Please remember that 80 litre (100ltr max) backpacks and holdalls are the best form of carrying your luggage which will be stored under your seat, along with a small day pack (40ltr max). Backpacks and holdalls that have a rigid frame as well as suitcases are impractical on the truck and should not be brought. Due to low numbers we do have plenty of space on the truck from Cape Town at least, but if you bring excess luggage above the recommended amount be aware you may need to post some home if we fill up later on in the route.

**One-way flight letter**

Sometimes immigration officers or airline check in staff may question why you only have a one-way ticket. We have therefore prepared a template letter which you can amend and print out to explain your onward travels with us.

**VISAS**

**Namibia visa**

Namibia introduced visas for most nationalities this month, including UK, USA and Canada. We will apply for the Visa on Arrival and there are two options for this – applying at the border or submitting your application online in advance. We intended to complete the whole process at the border however we have been advised that we should start the application online in advance to avoid long queues and delays at the border. We will send an email next week with instructions on how to apply and with any supporting documents you may need.

**Other visas**

Hopefully you all have your Ghana visa and Cameroon e-visa issuance now. As previously mentioned, we may try to obtain the Cameroon visa sticker at various embassies en-route or just present our visa issuances at the border as we did on our current southbound trip. All other visas will be applied for en-route, either online via the country’s e-visa website or at Embassies and Consulates along the way or at the border. It’s not unusual to have to try for some visas in more than one city and we may have to make alterations to our itinerary in order to obtain certain visas. As an example, we will now be travelling to Windhoek for a few days in order to apply for visas. We will need to be flexible in how long we stay there depending on how long the visas take to issue.

Your Tour Leader will collect a USD 30 (Cape Town to Fes) or USD15 (Cape Town to Accra) visa kitty per person at the start of the trip, which goes towards paying for taxis, photocopies, communication etc. when applying for visas as a group. Your Tour Leader will keep a separate account of expenses incurred and will inform the group of any surplus funds remaining at the end of the trip, or any extra that is required.

**CAMPING, ACCOMMODATION and UPGRADES**

As you will have seen on our website, you will be camping during your trip. There will be a lot of wild camping as well as some designated campsites and the occasional hostel/budget hotel. Sometimes the campsite we are staying at will also have an accommodation block, chalets, safari tents or other types of rooms available for people to stay in. When we arrive at these, you are welcome to upgrade your camping to stay somewhere and enjoy a bit more comfort. The tour leader will credit the cost of your camping towards your room booking IF the property allows them to do this. This is normally, but not always possible and you may need to pay the full cost of your new arrangements.

If you choose to stay somewhere else entirely, away from the rest of the group, then you will need to cover the full cost of this yourself.

**TAKING TIME OUT FROM THE TRIP**

Quite often on our much longer trips, people will take a few days away from the truck and group to do their own thing. This is perfectly fine and we will accommodate this as best we can. We will ask you to sign a simple bit of paperwork saying you are leaving the trip voluntarily, with a proposed place and date of return. You can stay in touch with the crew while you are away and liaise with them and with our head office about when you will re-join.

However, please bear in mind that we need to leave promptly on days we depart a location and if you are not there when we are scheduled to leave, you may be left behind and would need to cover any costs for re-joining yourself.

Also, our overland schedules are flexible, and we will not always be able to give exact dates for you to meet up again. You must be prepared to be flexible with this, and to cover all your costs for accommodation and transport yourself while you are away from the group. The crew need to put the arrangements of the group on the truck first and won't be able to re-arrange the trip schedule to accommodate your plans.  You will also not be due any refund of either the main trip price or the local payment if you spend time away from the truck and group.

**PASSENGER LIABILITY INSURANCE**

As a company we do our best to have the best possible level of insurance in place to protect our travellers and our operations. That includes a comprehensive tour operators liability insurance policy which protects all of our trips. We also try to obtain passenger liability insurance to cover our liability for your time on the vehicle itself, including any accidents. However, as we make clear in our booking conditions, this type of insurance is not always available or adequate in some countries.

We have done extensive research over the last couple of years through insurance companies and brokers both here in the UK and in several different African countries, and unfortunately there simply is not any passenger liability insurance cover available at all now to purchase in advance for most of North and West Africa. We should have coverage for South and East Africa in place. However, the main policy that used to provide cover for overland companies like us before Covid is simply not available anymore. We will attempt to purchase insurance at each border we cross, and sometimes this is possible (albeit with a very low level of cover), but this will not be available everywhere. As a responsible operator we wanted to bring this to your attention before the trip starts. Be assured though that our main liability policy is in place for you.

**TRAVEL INSURANCE AND GOVERNMENT TRAVEL ADVICE**

As previously mentioned in our first email, the British Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) as well as governments of other countries aim to provide advice and security information for their citizens and this advice could affect your travel insurance policy. For example, if the FCDO is advising against ‘all or non essential travel’ to a particular country or specific area of it, most travel insurance companies will not cover the policy holder for travel through that area.

Remember to check that your personal travel insurance is valid for travel through each and every country on the expedition.   Please also check the **cover will continue after you have been through any countries that currently have travel restrictions in place.**  We have been informed that some travel insurance companies will void a policy if you go against the British FCDO advice.

**Travel insurance that includes cover for areas the FCDO advises against travel to**

If you already have travel insurance and it doesn’t cover areas with travel advisories in place, [SafetyWing’s Nomad Insurance](https://safetywing.com/nomad-insurance?selectedPlan=NOMAD_INSURANCE_ESSENTIAL) can offer a policy for your time in each of them. As these areas can change at short notice, you can take out this cover during the trip, as and when needed. If you haven’t yet purchased a travel insurance policy for your trip, or wish to cancel and change your existing policy, you can also get cover through Safety Wing Insurance for the whole trip. Please see our previous update for further details about cover and exclusions.

As always, and whichever insurance policy you take out, please read the policy carefully – it’s always a long read with a lot of small print but it’s important and your responsibility to know what you are covered for and that it will be adequate for the trip you are undertaking.

**More on Government Travel Advice**

It’s important to remember that the advice for the different countries and areas in which we operate trips is forever changing and we are constantly reviewing information as it comes to hand.  Oasis Overland have been travelling through these areas for over 20 years and have gained a lot of experience and knowledge. We have local contacts in many areas and others who travel these routes (which may be companies and/or individuals) readily share information.

First and foremost, the safety of our clients and crew is paramount and we take it very seriously. Our local contacts on the ground can inform us should an area become unsafe, often more quickly than the FCDO. One of the advantages of travelling overland in our own expedition vehicle and being flexible is that we can change our itinerary on the rare occasions this is needed. When this is not possible, then the group need to fly over at their own expense but this is rare.

Current areas on our route with advisories in place are listed below. Your crew will advise you of these before arrival and ask you to sign some paperwork just to confirm that you have been given information about the advice:

[Angola (Cabinda)](https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/angola)

The FCDO is advising against ‘all but essential travel’ to the province of Angola (Cabinda) which is a relatively short drive of one day between Congo and DRC.  This is nothing new, and all our trips through Cabinda have been issue free so far. However, if you wish to fly over this section, you can do so from Luanda in Angola to Pointe Noire or Brazzaville in Congo (depending on the route).

[Cameroon](https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/cameroon)

The FCDO is advising ‘against all travel’ within 40km of the Nigerian border. We pick a border crossing with the shortest affected route and with the best situation on the ground at the time. If you wish to fly over this section, you will be able to do so from Douala in Cameroon and re-join the expedition vehicle in Nigeria or Benin, depending on our route.

[Nigeria](https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/nigeria)

The FCDO is advising against ‘all but essential’ travel to areas of southern Nigeria. Our route may take us on a short transit (approximately 50km) through one of these. If you wish to fly over this section, there are flights within Nigeria or from Cameroon to Benin where you can re-join.

[Cote d’Ivoire](https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/cote-d-ivoire)

The FCDO is advising against ‘all but essential’ travel to an area of 20km from the Liberia/Cote d’Ivoire border. This is a short drive on our way towards Monrovia. If you wish to fly over this section, there are flights from Abidjan in Cote d’Ivoire to Monrovia in Liberia.

[Western Sahara](https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/western-sahara)

The FCDO is advising against ‘all travel’ to an area of approximately 30km north of the Western Sahara/Mauritania border. This is a short drive as we transit from Mauritania to Morocco. If you wish to fly over this section, there are flights from Nouakchott in Mauritania to Casablanca in Morocco where you can re-join the expedition vehicle.

**KEEPING IN TOUCH**

It is possible to buy local Sim cards for your mobile phone very cheaply. Please make sure that your phone is unlocked. Sim cards work on a top up basis and top up cards are readily available. Please be aware that Micro sims are difficult to obtain outside of big cities with posh phone shops and you’ll be even more unlikely to find a Nano sim. But regular sims are available pretty much everywhere!  If your phone is compatible, you can also buy eSims in advance. This is a good option now, though they may not work in every country.

We can offer a 10% discount on [Airalo e-sims](https://www.airalo.com/) if you purchase them through us. These do not cover all countries on the route, but can be useful. Please get in touch if you would like to purchase one of these.

WiFi is available in some of the properties and areas that we visit – but the efficiency or speed in connection is never a guarantee! Prices can range considerably, from free WiFi to up to £4 pounds per hour.

Please prepare your family for the fact that you may have significant stretches of time where you will not be in contact – generally this means you are having fun!