Dear Traveller,

This update contains important information about your Nigeria and Cameroon visas, a reminder of vaccination requirements and some tips from previous Trans Africa travellers.

**Nigeria and Cameroon visas**

Both of these visas need to be applied for in advance of the trip. In recent years it has not been possible to apply for these visas en route as we had done previously so this is the first year we need to apply for Cameroon in advance and only the second year for Nigeria. This means the processes are very new to us, particularly Cameroon which has recently introduced a new system for applications.

Visas are valid for entry for 3 months from the date of issue. Therefore you should not start your applications before mid-November otherwise they will expire before you reach Nigeria and Cameroon.

Both these visas require a lot of essential supporting documentation, including a letter of invitation (LOI) from a host in Cameroon. Our local agent in Cameroon can supply this for a fee of £35.

We have added the above to your account so that you can pay for this online and once received we will arrange the LOI for you.

**Passport details -** please ensure we have your correct passport details that you will be using to apply for your Cameroon visa as this will appear on the LOI and must match.

Both visas can be costly and somewhat difficult to obtain although everyone successfully obtained their Nigeria visa in advance last year and we know of other independent travellers who have obtained the Cameroon visa. If you are unsuccessful in obtaining a visa or prefer not to apply, you will need to fly over and re-join the group and will be responsible for yourself and your expenses while you are away from the truck. For example, one of our last year’s travellers decided not to apply for his Nigeria visa as he was not in his country of residence and instead flew from Benin and rejoined the group in Cameroon.

If you wish you can use a visa agency such as [Travcour](https://travcour-vls.com/) in the UK or CIBT in [Germany](https://cibtvisas.de/), [Canada](https://cibtvisas.ca/), [Australia](https://cibtvisas.com.au/) and [the US](https://cibtvisas.com/) that may be able to arrange to submit your applications on your behalf.

Our next update will contain detailed information regarding filling out application forms, submitting supporting documents and attending appointments. We will also provide some of the documents you need. In the meantime, following is an outline of what is required for each visa.

**NIGERIA VISA**

Different consulates have different procedures so you should contact them directly to find out what these are. Some Nigerian Consulates outsource the appointment process to an agency. In London the agency is Online Integrated Solutions (OIS).  They are the official partner of a number of diplomatic missions and a specialist Nigerian visa and passport application agency. OIS have offices in a number of cities throughout the world. Please have a look through the following link to see if your country of residence is supported by OIS: <https://oisservices.com/> . Other countries may use an alternative agency for example in Canada the agency is VFS Global: <https://visa.vfsglobal.com/can/en/nga>

In the UK you apply online directly with the Nigerian Immigration Service. You are then required to go in person to OIS in London as your biometrics are required for the application process. This may also be the case for other countries too, so do check!  For those countries that are not supported by OIS, you will need to apply directly with the consulate.

UK: <https://oisservices.com/>

Ireland: <https://nigerianembassydublin.org/visas/visa-types/>

Australia: <https://nigeria-can.org.au/>

Germany: <https://nigeriaembassygermany.org/>

Switzerland: <https://ngembassy.info/mission/nigerian-embassy-bern-switzerland>

United States of America: <https://oisservices.com/>

Canada: <https://visa.vfsglobal.com/can/en/nga>

As an example of the visa application process, the following is a brief outline for applying for a tourist visa in the UK:

* Fill out online application form and make payment
* Print out application form, Payment and Acknowledgement slips
* Make an OIS appointment for the beginning of January (must be within 45 days of entry to Nigeria)
* Gather documents required (see below)
* Attend appointment at OIS in London
* Regular service is a minimum 5 days processing or Express service is a minimum 2 days processing

Documents required:

* Passport valid for 6 months after the end of your trip and with two blank facing pages
* 2 UK passport sized photographs (35x40mm)taken within 1 month of your OIS appointment

**We will provide you with the following:**

* TYPED LETTER OF PURPOSE: A formal typed letter stating the purpose of journey detailing plans for your visit, signed and dated.
* FULL ITINERARY: Full travel itinerary outlining your Arrival up until your Departure from Nigeria (*as before, this* *is in aid of your visa application and will not necessarily reflect your final itinerary).*
* plus your return ticket *– as you do not have a flight ticket into and out of Nigeria, we will provide you with a copy of our vehicle documents to show we are travelling overland*

**You will need to provide the following:**

* HOTEL RESERVATION: Evidence of accommodation in Nigeria for the complete duration of your stay, copies of confirmed hotel, guesthouse or motel booking with the name of the applicants showing on the bookings  ***-*** *as we will be camping and will not have any hotel reservations, we advise that you make online hotel bookings which you can cancel at a later date at no cost. We will supply further information, e.g. dates to book, in our next update.*
* BANK STATEMENT: A clear copy of the applicant’s full up to date bank statement showing all details including the balance, name and address **during the week of the appointment** in our centre. We will not accept online banking statements if they are not stamped or certified by your bank. The bank statement must show a minimum balance of £500.00 in credit, overdraft not included. Original must be shown at the time of appointment at the OIS Centre. - *In effect as most posted bank statements are monthly, unless you are lucky with the timing of your statement, this means you would need to get an online banking statement printed and then stamped by your bank during the week of the appointment.*
* PRE-PAID SPECIAL DELIVERY ENVELOPE: All applicants must provide a pre-paid special delivery envelope to return the passport. This can be purchased from the Post office or at the OIS centre.

The current advertised cost for the visa:

1. Online application fee – US$144
2. Biometric fee – US$90
3. OIS fee - £20 to be made by bankcard at the centre
4. Express service (Optional)- Additional £70 Postal order

There may also be other fees that are not advertised, for example a service fee to the Nigeria High Commission. Plus there are the costs of getting to and from London for your appointment.

**CAMEROON VISA**

A new application system has been introduced this year. Following is a brief outline for applying for a tourist visa in the UK:

* Fill out online application form and make payment
* If approved, you will receive an online visa issuance authorisation.
* Go to your nearest Cameroon Embassy, Consulate or High Commission for the visa to be entered in your passport and biometrics to be taken – you may need to make an appointment for this.

Documents required:

* Passport valid for 6 months after the end of your trip

**We will provide you with the following:**

* A valid round-trip air ticket *– as you do not have a flight ticket into and out of Cameroon, we will provide you with a copy of our vehicle documents to show we are travelling overland*.
* Evidence of the purpose of the visit – *we will provide a letter confirming your trip details. You can also take your Oasis Booking Confirmation to aid with this.*
* A certificate of accommodation issued by the person undertaking to host the visitor, with the signature of the mayor territorially competent or better still, a firm hotel reservation for the projected duration of stay *– we can arrange a Letter of Invitation with the appropriate signatures and stamps.*

**You will need to provide the following:**

* International vaccination certificates;
* Evidence of adequate means of subsistence – *we suggest you provide a recent bank statement*
* A document to evidence the profession of the applicant – *we suggest you take a pay slip and/or a letter from your employer*

The current advertised cost for the visa is €153.

**Vaccinations and Covid-19 Requirements**

Remember that it is recommended to be fully vaccinated against Covid-19, please see our previous update for more information about this. If you cannot get vaccinated for a medical reason, please let us know, as you will need to bring along a medical report stating why you cannot be vaccinated.

The **Yellow Fever vaccination** is considered to be valid for life. However this is not always accepted by some border officials. Some of you may have had the vaccine some time ago when it was deemed valid for 10 years and so it will show a validity of 10 years on your certificate. Border officials may take this as being out of date if you had the vaccine more than 10 years ago which could mean difficulties and delays at the border. [Nomad Travel Clinics](https://www.nomadtravel.co.uk/) can issue replacement certificates which state ‘life of person vaccinated’ and these cost £20. Please contact them directly for more details.

For other vaccinations and malaria prevention, you should speak to your doctor or a travel clinic for the most up to date advice. As we are not medical professionals, we have to be a bit careful about giving out specific medical information and advice. However, for convenience, I have copied the Vaccination and Health details from the Trans Africa Essential Information below.

VACCINATIONS AND HEALTH

It is normal when travelling in Africa to require some vaccinations for your trip, depending on the areas that you are visiting. As we are not medically trained, we are unable to give detailed advice on vaccination requirements, so please use the information below as a guide only and obtain professional advice.  We have worked closely with **Nomad Travel Clinics** for many years and they offer Oasis travellers a **10% discount** on vaccinations, anti- malarial drugs, first aid items, clothing and equipment, just enter discount code OASIS1000 at [**Nomad Travel**](http://www.nomadtravel.co.uk/). Alternatively, you can check out the [**fit for travel website**](https://www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk/home) for more travel health information or consult a reputable travel clinic or your GP practice for information and advice. We suggest that you allow at least 8 weeks to get all your vaccinations.

**Yellow Fever** - Being vaccinated against Yellow Fever and having a valid certificate and a photocopy is deemed compulsory in nearly all the countries we visit in Africa, especially at certain borders and are needed if you are entering from an infected country. You can view a list of countries requiring a certificate through the [**World Health Organisation**](http://www.who.int/ith/ITH_country_list.pdf).

**Rabies** - Vaccinations are regularly advised for all countries that we travel through in Africa - especially if time and money are not a deterrent.

**Malaria** - In some of the areas we visit there is a risk of contracting malaria. You must be aware that whatever malaria prophylactics you are taking, they only offer partial protection. They must be coupled with your own physical efforts against being bitten - which is the best prevention. Malaria-carrying mosquitoes come out at sunset so from this time you should wear long sleeves and trousers. Exposed skin, especially ankles, should have insect repellent containing 'Deet' applied to them. Your crew will advise on where the worst affected areas are on the trip. There are a number of prophylactic malaria treatments on the market and requirements change.  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. Please consult a reputable travel clinic or GP for advice. For more information visit [**www.nomadtravel.co.uk**](http://www.nomadtravel.co.uk/) or [**www.fitfortravel.scot.nhs.uk**](http://www.fitfortravel.scot.nhs.uk/)

**Dengue**- Unlike the malaria mosquito, which bites at night, the dengue carrying mosquito bites during the day. Some areas we travel to do have occasional outbreaks and it is therefore advised that you take care not to be bitten during the day as well as at night.  There is no vaccine available.

**Other vaccinations**

Other vaccinations (as well as Rabies and Yellow Fever) you may be recommended to obtain include:

* Tetanus
* Poliomyelitis
* Typhoid
* Hepatitis A
* Hepatitis B
* Diptheria

**Health**- To join our trips you should be in good general health. Your travel insurance company must be told if you have any pre-existing medical condition / allergy or if you are on any regular medication, otherwise you may not be covered under your policy for these. Our crew will need to know of any medication or conditions you may have. Please send this information to us asap so that we can take account of it and pass it onto the crew. For general health advice log onto [**www.nathnac.org/travel/**](http://www.nathnac.org/travel/).

**And lastly, some tips from our previous travellers**

Recent travellers on the Trans Africa have passed on the following information to help you plan your Africa adventure:

\* Euro cash is useful in some West Africa countries, as some places do not even change US$.

\* It was suggested that you budget for visas separately and keep visa money in a separate envelope to the rest of your cash.

\*Many travellers said that they underestimated their spending money (with drinks being a bigger expense than anticipated). In addition to our suggested spending money, some travellers recommend allowing up to £500-£1000 more, depending on the length of your trip.

\*They recommend that you buy your DEET here in the UK as you can buy mosquito repellents in some places in West Africa but they are very expensive and do not really contain any DEET content.  You can restock in Namibia and South Africa if you need to.  In South Africa you will find a brand called ‘Peaceful Night’ which our crew find effective.

\*Some of our travellers have used a free standing mosquito net and found these to be effective and allowed them to sleep under the stars.   There are several nets available but the free standing ones can be put up anywhere and you do not need to rely on needing hooks or a tree to hang it off. Here is their personal favourite. They recommend shopping around for as prices vary: [**http://www.sansbug.com/**](http://www.sansbug.com/)

You do not need to bring a net if you do not wish to as our tents have in-built mosquito netting.

\*Previous travellers have said that they underestimated how cold it could get. During this trip you will encounter extremes in weather. A few of our previous Trans Africa expeditions have encountered cold temperatures in Southern Africa, rainy seasons in West Africa and extreme heat in many places.  The general advice here is to pack for all weathers!