6 Jun 2025

Dear Oasis traveller,

We hope you are looking forward to your South America adventure with us! We are delighted that you will be joining the trip.

*Note – this update is written to cover the whole of the trip between Cartagena and Rio. As some people book the whole trip, and others do shorter sections, not everything in this document may apply to you. There is a lot to read, but it is important, so while you can skip past anything that relates to a country that you will not be visiting, please do make sure to get to the end 😊. Thank you.*

The truck is scheduled to start in Cartagena on the 2nd October, arriving in Rio in time for Carnival, before continuing north through Brazil to Manaus. We still have a handful of spaces available along the route and we are almost full between Santiago and Buenos Aires. If you have any friends or family who would like to join the trip, please do put them in touch with us.

Back here at Oasis HQ we have been working hard putting as much advance preparation in place as possible. Due to the nature of overlanding and the areas we travel through, we always advise our travellers to expect the unexpected on their trips. We will continue updating the Essential Information section of each trip page on our website as new information comes in, so please do keep an eye on this.

In the meantime, we have a few important updates for you regarding paperwork, optional add-ons including the Inca Trail and Machu Picchu and personal spending money. **In particular, we need to know as soon as possible which Inca Trail / Machu Picchu options you wish to take.**

You may notice that some of the optional add-on prices have reduced since you booked (eg. Inca Trek, W Trek). This reflects the weakened US Dollar. If you have added these already, your booking will be updated with the new prices.

But first…

**What to expect!**

This is one of the biggest overland adventures that we run and it’s an expedition where you should expect the unexpected, with the itinerary and route having to adapt at times, even whilst en route. This could be due to the distances covered, border closures and visa changes to name a few!

This of course means that timings are going to have to be flexible too. This is about as far away from your average holiday as you can get, as at times we travel to places where roads are poor, the heat is extreme or the cold is bitter, and many of you will be on the road for 3 months or more.

You may have to help carry heavy sand mats if the truck gets bogged and you all be fully involved in the cooking and the cleaning, as well as setting up and taking down the tents. The trip will only run well if everyone approaches it with a positive attitude and enthusiasm about pitching in and helping out – the more everyone does this, the quicker and easier everything runs, and the happier everyone will be. There will also be regular bush camps on this trip, which means no campsite facilities, but rather dig a hole and a ‘shower in a can’ moments will happen! Much of the time we will stay in hostels or basic hotels and standards can vary considerably. Often, we are restricted by what is available to us so you could find yourself bush camping in a remote area, setting up camp at a roadside fuel station, sleeping under canvas in a national park, sharing a dorm room in a busy city or, what will become quite a luxury, a twin/double en suite room. The percentage mix of camping to hostel/hotel accommodation (and the number of meals provided) depends on the section of the trip you are joining – have a look at your trip on our website. You will be able to upgrade the accommodation at times and choose to stay in hostels/hotels instead of camping with the group. We’ll give more information about this in future updates. But you do need to expect and be ready for basic camping without comfortable facilities and shared hostel rooms.

Together with these challenges you should also expect numerous amazing moments, meeting local people, exploring stunning scenery and seeing some of the world’s most iconic sites. All in all this is going to be a really special trip that you’ll remember forever.

*If you have any concerns or questions about how you may manage the trip, the bush camps and al-fresco toilets, the social and team-work side of things, or anything else, please do give us a call and we will be very happy to chat through these and explain more about what it will be like. For everyone’s benefit, and yours in particular, we want to make sure that everyone’s expectations are matched by the reality of the trip when you get there.*

*As noted above, this is a long and challenging trip, and to join it you need to have a good amount of self-reliance (both practical and emotional). The crew are there to help and lead the trip, and we’re confident that they and many of your fellow travellers will become good friends. But they also need to be able to give equal time to everyone, and it can cause problems if they have to devote a lot of time to individual support and making sure some people can manage the trip.*

**PAPERWORK**

So that we can book accommodation and prepare passenger manifests for border crossings etc., we need a certain amount of information in advance from everyone. This includes all your personal details, home address, emergency contacts, travel insurance details etc.

You can provide these to us by filling in this [Traveller Information Form](https://www.oasisoverland.co.uk/images/docs/traveller_info_oasis_overland.docx) which was sent to you when you booked. We are still waiting to receive quite a few of these, so would ask kindly that if you have not sent yours in yet, please do so as soon as possible. You can leave off your travel insurance & flight details if you don’t have these arranged yet (though bear in mind that cancellation cover will only kick in after your policy has been purchased).

We also need a copy of everyone’s passport identity page. If you have not sent this to us yet, please do so as soon as possible. This can be a scan, or a photograph taken with your phone (please make sure there are no reflections or fingers covering parts of it and everything is clearly legible).

**ADD-ONS**

There are several add-ons available for you to choose from during this trip. These are listed below.

Several of these require advance booking and payment for us to secure permits. **Please let us know urgently** if you wish to trek the Inca Trail or take the train to Machu Picchu. There has been a recent change in ticketing requirements which means we need to act soon to arrange these. Please see further details below.

* **ECUADOR**

If you are starting or finishing your trip in Quito, we have three **Galapagos islands** trips that you can do before or after your overland trip.

A local trip leader or specialist naturalist guides are used to lead the activities and visits. Accommodation is in mid-range hotels on the islands, with travel to the various sites done by minivan/minibus or by boat. Some trips may also add a domestic flight connection between some of the islands.

Galapagos trips before you join in Quito:

[GALAPAGOS ESSENTIALS - 5 DAYS - FROM £1849](https://www.oasisoverland.co.uk/trips/galapagos-essentials-5-days?utm_source=Newsletter%20-%20Oasis%20Overland&utm_medium=Newsletter%20-%20Oasis%20Overland&utm_campaign=Newsletter%20-%20Oasis%20Overland) 12th to 16th Oct

[BEST OF THE GALAPAGOS - 5 DAYS - FROM £2229](https://www.oasisoverland.co.uk/trips/best-of-the-galapagos-5-days?utm_source=Newsletter%20-%20Oasis%20Overland&utm_medium=Newsletter%20-%20Oasis%20Overland&utm_campaign=Newsletter%20-%20Oasis%20Overland) 13th to 17th Oct

[GALAPAGOS UNCOVERED - 8 DAYS - FROM £3599](https://www.oasisoverland.co.uk/trips/galapagos-uncovered-8-days?utm_source=Newsletter%20-%20Oasis%20Overland&utm_medium=Newsletter%20-%20Oasis%20Overland&utm_campaign=Newsletter%20-%20Oasis%20Overland) 11th to 18th Oct

Galapagos trips after you finish in Quito:

[GALAPAGOS ESSENTIALS - 5 DAYS - FROM £1849](https://www.oasisoverland.co.uk/trips/galapagos-essentials-5-days?utm_source=Newsletter%20-%20Oasis%20Overland&utm_medium=Newsletter%20-%20Oasis%20Overland&utm_campaign=Newsletter%20-%20Oasis%20Overland) 26th to 30th Oct

[BEST OF THE GALAPAGOS - 5 DAYS - FROM £2229](https://www.oasisoverland.co.uk/trips/best-of-the-galapagos-5-days?utm_source=Newsletter%20-%20Oasis%20Overland&utm_medium=Newsletter%20-%20Oasis%20Overland&utm_campaign=Newsletter%20-%20Oasis%20Overland) 27th to 31st Oct

[GALAPAGOS UNCOVERED - 8 DAYS - FROM £3599](https://www.oasisoverland.co.uk/trips/galapagos-uncovered-8-days?utm_source=Newsletter%20-%20Oasis%20Overland&utm_medium=Newsletter%20-%20Oasis%20Overland&utm_campaign=Newsletter%20-%20Oasis%20Overland) 25th to 1st Nov

* **PERU – Classic Inca Trail trek (£745) and trips by train to Machu Picchu (£425)**

We will base ourselves in Cusco for 6 days giving us enough time for people to do the **Inca Trail trip**and to visit **Machu Picchu**, regarded by many to be the highlight of their South America tour. There are several treks which you can take to Machu Picchu. These are all available as Optional Add Ons which you can add to your booking.   
We always plan to organise the [**Classic Trail**](https://www.oasisoverland.co.uk/classic-inca-trail-information) trek for those choosing the trek option, but great alternative Inca Trail treks, like the [**Lares**](https://www.oasisoverland.co.uk/lares-inca-trail-information) or **[Salkantay](https://www.oasisoverland.co.uk/salkantay-inca-trail-information)** can be arranged when the Classic is not available or by your choice (these must be pre-arranged at time of booking, so if you want to do these, tell us now). These alternatives mean that you still get to visit Machu Picchu.   
If you do not want to trek, then you can remain in Cusco for a couple more free days, and then we offer an option to visit **Machu Picchu by train** instead. This must also be booked in advance.

Finally, for all those visiting Machu Picchu there is also the option to buy a ticket to hike up the summit next to Machu Picchu, Huayna Picchu. Tickets and payment of £75 are required in advance.   
For more information, go to the trip page on our website, click on the ‘Essential Information’ tab, and then the ‘Additional Information’ section.

**Please let us know urgently which of these options you would like to take (or neither).** The authorities in Peru have just changed the rules about ticketing. While there were lots of permits available when we checked earlier this week, the new rules require everyone to enter Machu Picchu through the main gate, meaning trekkers need to pay a second entry ticket (included in our price), which means tickets will sell out faster.

So, please let us know as soon as possible which option you would like so that we can get everything booked in for you. We will need a deposit payment (£200 for the train option, £400 for the trek) and your passport copy to get your permits issued.

***What to do now…*** *- Tell us as soon as possible whether you want to do the Classic Inca Trek, one of the other treks, visit Machu Picchu by train or none of these options.   
- We will send you an updated invoice with the deposit amount (non-refundable) for the trek or train, payable on receipt please. Send us your passport copy.  
- If you want to add the hike up to Huayna Picchu, please also let us know and we will invoice you for payment.  
- Note – Permits are non-refundable once issued.*

* **CHILE – W Trek - £1060**

While we are in Argentina, we spend several days in Puerto Natales, right next to Torres del Paine National Park.

While you are there, there is an option available to do the W Trek priced at £1060 per person. This covers a 4 day/3 night W-Trek arranged by our local partners there, as well as a night at their accommodation in Puerto Natales before and after the trek. We have a maximum of 16 places reserved to do the trek with them.

These places are on a first come first served basis. The W Trek is one of the world’s most famous treks, and is a challenging walk with some tricky terrain and steep ascents and descents. You do not need to be a specialist or experienced hiker to complete the trek, but you do need to be in moderate to good health with a decent level of fitness. You will be carrying your own backpack with your sleeping bag and mat (available to rent, though you will have your own for the trip anyway) and clothes for the trek. The four hiking days are approx. 18km (7-8hrs), 14.5km (6.5hrs), 20.3km (9hrs) and 11km (3.5hrs).

For more detailed information about the W Trek arrangements, inclusions/exclusions etc., go to the trip page on our website, click on the ‘Essential Information’ tab, and then the ‘Additional Information’ section.

If you do not want to do the trek, then you can remain in Puerto Natales and take day trips into Torres del Paine National Park from there. We include an entry ticket for you in our trip price. This would include being able to do the famous Base of the Towers trek together with the W Trek group on their first day (but returning back to Puerto Natales afterwards). All these day trips can be arranged while you are in Puerto Natales – there is nothing you need to do now.

***What to do now…****- Tell us as soon as possible if you want to do the W Trek (if you haven’t already).*

*- So that we can confirm camping spots, permits and accommodation for you, there will be a non-refundable £500 deposit payable now. The remainder will be payable with your main trip balance payment.*

* **BRAZIL – Rio accommodation and Sambadrome ticket**

For those whose trip finishes in Rio, you may wish to add our accommodation package there with us so that you can stay together with the rest of your group and enjoy the city and the Rio Carnival parades and events. We will also be booking tickets for the Sambadrome so that everyone can visit together. We will visit on one of the Special Group parade evenings, featuring 6 of the very best Samba schools in Rio. We will include further details about these and how to book them in our next update.

**OPTIONAL EXCURSIONS AND PERSONAL SPENDING MONEY**

We are continuing to update the Optional Excursion costs shown on our website. However, we know that some costs have increased since we last did this, and there may be activities that are no longer available or have changed.

In addition, please bear in mind recent global price increases and fluctuations in currency exchange rates. As such we would suggest budgeting at the higher end of our spending money suggestions, found in the Essential Information for each trip. This especially applies to time in Argentina and Chile, where prices have soared recently. Personal spending money can vary so much between travellers but we hope this helps you to plan. We always recommend having a contingency fund and it’s always worth having a bit extra as a buffer for those ‘must buy’ purchases you may find en route!

Please remember that our personal spending money suggestions do not include paying for Optional Excursions or visas, nor your Local Payment, therefore these should be accounted for separately.