

# ACCRA to CAIRO (31 weeks) Trans Africa



**COUNTRIES VISITED: ANGOLA, BENIN, BOTSWANA, CAMEROON, CONGO, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO, EGYPT, ETHIOPIA, GABON, GHANA, KENYA, LESOTHO, MALAWI, MOZAMBIQUE, NAMIBIA, NIGERIA, RWANDA, SOUTH AFRICA, SUDAN, TANZANIA, TOGO, UGANDA, ZIMBABWE**

## INCLUDES

- Accommodation - approx. 90% camping & 10% simple hostel/hotels
- Boat trip to Ganvie Stilt Village
- Etosha National Park
- Cape Cross Seal Colony
- Cheetah Park
- Spitzkoppe Rock formations
- Sossusvlei Sand Dunes
- Fish River Canyon
- Stony Point Penguin Colony
- Cape Agulhas
- Cango Calcite Caves
- Ostrich farm
- Garden Route

- Addo Elephant National Park - Game drive
- Lesotho
- Drakensburg Mountains
- Royal Natal National Park
- Chobe National Park
- Overnight sleeper train Vic. Falls to Bulawayo (if available)
- Private Game Ranch
- Lake Malawi village walk
- Mikumi National Park
- Return ferry to Zanzibar
- 4 nights accommodation on Zanzibar
- Marangu - the foothills of Mt Kilimanjaro
- Lake Nakuru National Park and game drive
- Lake Naivasha
- Entry into Meroe Pyramids
- Lake Nasser Ferry
- Red Sea Coast
- Pyramids & Sphinx day tour
- Meals - approx. 65%
- All transport on Oasis Expedition Truck
- All road tolls and ferry crossings
- Camping and Cooking equipment
- Services of Oasis Crew

## EXCLUDES

- Visas
- 6 day lay-over costs in Cape Town
- Gorilla Trekking Permits (bookable as an Add on)
- Optional Excursions as listed in the Pre-Departure Information
- Flights
- Airport Taxes & Transfers
- Travel Insurance
- Meals - approx. 35%
- Drinks
- Tips

## TRIP ITINERARY

### DAYS 1 - 8 ACCRA TO LOME

*West Africa is a road less travelled and still a largely undiscovered area of Africa for tourism. Please understand that the first 9 weeks of your journey will be directly through this area of the continent and although we list our intended Itinerary below, please be aware that this is a rough guide and should be treated as such.*

*Oasis Overland has run a Trans Africa Expedition virtually every year since 1997, and during this time, not one Trans Africa trip has run an identical itinerary through West Africa as far as Namibia.*

*This is due to many reasons, including availability of visas, road conditions, embassy and border closures, political unrest, elections and instability, disease outbreaks, changing government travel advice and adverse weather conditions, just to name a few. We also hear about new, exciting places that may only now be possible to visit, and so try to include some new places on each trip for that reason too.*

*Please therefore consider the itinerary shown as a guide and expect there to be some changes during your trip. This is all part of the experience of travelling through West Africa and one that makes this expedition such an epic journey that only a select few are willing to undertake.*

We will spend a number of days on the beaches near Accra where you can indulge in great seafood, and cold drinks. We will need to obtain several visas in Accra before travelling onto Togo.

## DAYS 9 - 29 LOME TO LIMBE

Travelling through **Togo and Benin** doesn't take long as they are only 50 miles wide. **Voodoo** is the main religion here, basing its beliefs in the power of the dead. You can visit an interesting **fetish market**, take a boat ride on lake Togo to Togoville, as well as sample good African restaurants in Lome the capital of Togo. We will be applying for some further visas for our onward travel in the capital.

In Benin you can take local canoes out to **Ganvie village - built on bamboo stilts on Lake Nakoue**.

Next we enter **Nigeria**, Africa's most populous country with well over 100 million people. The pace of life here tends to be more hectic than we have become used to on our overland adventure, full of hustle and bustle. Making our way east, our route will depend on whether we need to apply for any visas and which border crossing into Cameroon is open. Subject to our route, we may have the opportunity to visit a Drill Monkey and Chimpanzee rehabilitation centre, a project dedicated to rehabilitating and breeding drills, a primate closely related to baboons and mandrills, to be released back into the wild.

Moving through mountainous and lush jungle, we enter **Cameroon**. Again, depending on which route we can take, we will travel to the foothills of Mount Cameroon, to spend a few days camping near Limbe and 6 Mile Beach. From here you can choose to trek up **Mount Cameroon**, visit a chimpanzee orphanage or relax on the beach.

## DAYS 30 - 46 LIMBE TO CONGO

After chilling out on the beach, or if you were brave enough to tackle the mountain, we head inland to the capital city of **Yaounde**, where we may apply for a couple more visa's. You can sample fresh bread and amazing pastries from the countless bakeries, admire the roadside fresh flower stalls, or stock up on some supermarket treats! Bursting with art galleries, museums and various markets, this is an ideal place to restock your snack store and prepare for the demands of central Africa.

When we depart city life, to travel south on the more rugged roads! We drive through lush jungle scenery, passing the occasional waterfall, before eventually reaching the lively market town of **Ambam**. Here we can replenish our food supplies before crossing the **Ntem River** into **Gabon**, a country that consists mostly of tropical rain forest. Our next stop is the beautiful Lope National Park, home to a population of elephants, buffalo and the famous central Africa drill monkeys. After a safari through the savanna lands, we continue south along dirt and mud roads toward the **Republic of Congo**. Along this leg of the Trans Africa overland trip we may encounter some challenging road conditions and situations on the whole of the route. Team work will definitely be needed if we are to tackle what may lay ahead - from clearing paths through water logged pot holes the size of the truck to only travelling a couple of miles in a day over wet and unkempt mud roads. These are some of the best memories you will take away with you.

## DAYS 47 - 55 CONGO TO MITADI

One of the main highlights for most people who visit **Congo** is the friendliness of the people, particularly in the countryside. The open delight and welcome we receive while driving through these remote villages is really touching. While the first section of roads are rough dirt, once we reach the sealed roads it's a fast run towards the town of Dolisie.

From Dolisie we will make our way west towards the ocean city of Pointe Noire. Two contrasting areas, the African quarter - where we see traffic jams, crowded streets and a bustling Grand Marche (market), the European Quarter quite the contrast with beach side bars and restaurants, noticeably oil is the source of the wealth. You will have time to explore the cities museums, railway and cathedrals or relax on the beaches. Departing Congo a transit through Cabinda, an exclave and province of Angola will bring us into **Democratic Republic of Congo (formerly known as Zaire)**. Sandy tracks will eventually lead us into Muanda. Again tourists are foreign to this region and we attract attention everywhere we travel, dirt roads and potholes will direct us over the Congo River to the city of Mitadi and the gateway to **Angola**.

## DAYS 56 - 66 MITADI TO NAMIBIAN BORDER

Angola is still recovering from over two decades of civil war. As we travel south through the many small villages and communities - local people - especially children may never have seen a foreigner before. Military tanks litter the side of many roads in places. The country is slowly rebuilding its infrastructure and basic needs - with the capital of **Luanda** showing full sign of this slow progression. As Portuguese is the preferred language and hardly anyone we encounter will speak English - a lot of humorous improvisations with hands, face and voice are usually needed by all of us. After the southern town of **Lubango** and home to 'Christo Rei' a shrine overlooking the city as Christ the Redeemer looks over Rio, we head to the Namibian border for the next instalment of our Trans Africa overland adventure.

## DAYS 67 - 85 NAMIBIA TO CAPE TOWN

Crossing into **Namibia** and into the region of the Owambo people - we pass through the country's second largest town - Ondangwa. This town is one of the main suppliers of beer to Northern Namibia - hopefully there will be enough left for us!

We continue towards **Etosha National Park** - recognised as one of the world's greatest wildlife viewing areas. The semi desert is quite a contrast to the more fertile terrain we have been used to. Besides game drives we can also game watch by night at one of the floodlit water holes where we may well **spot Rhino, Elephant and Giraffe** among a host of other wildlife. From Etosha we visit a local **Cheetah park** before continuing on to the **Brandberg Mountains** in Demaraland.

We then travel to the stunning **Spitzkoppe Rock formations**. Known as the Matterhorn of Namibia, the **Spitzkoppe** is part of the Erongo Mt range and was formed over 100 million years ago after the collapse of a gigantic volcano. The scenery is striking from every angle - even more stunning as the granite massifs turn red at sunset.

Next stop is the world famous **Cape Cross Seal Colony**, where the sight of thousands of these mammals, as well as their accompanying pungent odour is remembered by all! The Cool Atlantic Ocean and the prominent Benguela current provide a perfect location for feeding and breeding for the Cape Fur Seal.

For the next three days, our Africa overland trip will be based in **Swakopmund** - Namibia's adventure gateway. You can choose between a variety of activities and excursions here: spend a day **deep sea fishing** for shark and **other game fish** or head out to the desert and try **quad biking and dune sledding**. You can also go **horse riding** or get a birds eye view of the dramatic coastline - either by Sky diving from 10,000 feet or take a **flight over the towering sand dunes in the area**. In Swakopmund itself you can walk along miles of deserted beaches, visit the museum or relax in a cafe.

A one day drive takes us to the **Namib-Naukluft Park**, a vast expanse of desert which contains some of the highest sand dunes in the world. At **Sossusvlei** we stop and explore this spectacular area and red dunes. Continuing south we enter the semi-desert, and wide-open countryside of cattle ranching until we arrive at one of Africa's most sensational natural features, **Fish River Canyon**. We stop here for a couple of hours to take in the awesome scenery.

A couple of hours drive away we enter South Africa and cross the **Orange River** - a rich source of diamonds. We travel south through the **Cederburg Wilderness Area**, an area of rugged valleys and peaks - before getting to our final destination on this African adventure; the vibrant and cosmopolitan city of **Cape Town**. Our accommodation here will be in a backpackers hostel.

## DAYS 86 - 91 CAPE TOWN

Cape Town is one of the favourite stops on our Trans Africa overland trip as there is plenty to do in and around **the Mother City**, from climbing up **Table Mountain** to abseiling down it, **diving with sharks** (either in ocean cages - or at the Two Oceans Aquarium), scuba diving courses, a tour to **Robben Island** or a chance to revamp your wardrobe and head out on the town to one of the many hot-spots that Cape Town has to offer. Those on the 22 week trip from the UK leave us here, whilst others will join to continue the trip to Nairobi and Cairo.

**This free time in Cape Town is at your own cost**, so you can decide what you want to do and where to stay! There may be less time here depending on any delays on the trip down from Accra.

## DAYS 92 - 100 CAPE TOWN TO FREE STATE

We depart from Cape Town taking a leisurely drive along the coastal road to the quaint coastal town of Betty's Bay in the Overberg and visit Stony Point Nature Reserve, home to a unique colony of African (Jackass) penguins. The Penguin Colony is one of only three mainland-based colonies in South Africa and for this reason it is treasured.

We overnight in Hermanus/Gansbaai and the next day there are a number of marine options- **Whale watching, Shark Cave Diving** and **Dyer Island Nature Reserve**. From here we will head for the most southern tip of Africa at **Cape Agulhas** - which is the dividing line between the warm Indian Ocean and the cooler Atlantic Ocean. The seas around Cape Agulhas are very treacherous and have caused numerous shipwrecks. To help reduce fatalities the **Cape Agulhas Lighthouse** was built in 1848 and is the 2nd oldest working lighthouse in South Africa. From August to December **Southern Right and Humpback Whales** may be spotted along the coast - as they feed in the nutrient rich waters off the southern coast.

From Cape Agulhas we pass through the **Outeniqua Mountains** to the **Little Karoo** - we will visit an **Ostrich farm** to learn more about the world's largest bird. The Ostrich has been around for 8 million years and a feather was actually discovered in King Tutankhamun's tomb in Egypt. 97% of the world's population of Ostriches lives in the Karoo.

We will also explore **Cango Calcite Caves** recognised as one of the world's finest network of Calcite caves. The bizarre formations of Stalagmites and Stalactites represent over a million years of slow formation.

We spend two days winding our way along South Africa's famous **Garden Route** where there is a wealth of things to see and do. We travel through the popular resort of **Knysna**, located on a tranquil lagoon that is protected from the sea by two enormous cliffs known as 'the heads'. We visit the **Tsitsikamma Forest**, where you will be able to hike along the coast and view the crashing waves at the mouth of the scenic **Storms River**, and maybe spot **dolphins and whales** in the ocean. Optional excursions in this region include **mountain biking, black water tubing, and the mother of all bungee jumps** at Bloakrans Bridge - the highest jump in the world at 216 metres.

From the Garden Route we head inland to **Addo Elephant National Park** which has recently been extended to include part of the coast and is now home to the **BIG 7 - lion, rhino, elephant, leopard, buffalo, whale and shark!** On our game drive we hope to spot some of the many elephant that the park is famous for, which are the most southerly population in Africa.

Heading north we make our way towards the mountain Kingdom of Lesotho.

## DAYS 101 - 107 FREE STATE TO JOHANNESBURG

**Lesotho**, often referred to as 'the kingdom in the sky'. This little country is completely surrounded by South Africa and is covered by mountains from 1000m to 3000m high. The scenery here is tremendous and the mountain air crisp and fresh. Here we will see Lesotho's horsemen dressed in their blankets and gumboots trotting around the hillsides. We spend a couple of nights at **Malealea Lodge**, Lesotho's most famous countryside retreat tucked up high in the mountains. Here there are isolated waterfalls, cool rock pools ideal for swimming, and peaceful hikes in the surrounding hills. This is also a great place to try **pony trekking** - one of the best ways to enjoy the scenery is atop a sure footed Lesotho pony.

We drive through the lowlands of Lesotho and visit **Thabo Bosiu** or **Mt. Moorosi** with a local guide (time & weather permitting). This mountain stronghold was the home of Chief Moshoeshoe, the founder of the Basotho nation. We continue through Lesotho's tiny capital Maseru, and re-enter South Africa.

**Royal Natal National Park** on the edge of the **Drakensburg Mountains** has an impressive natural **Amphitheatre** of massive rock walls. The **Tugela River** plunges spectacularly over the edge of the

Amphitheatre wall, dropping around 800m through a series of five falls. There are over 130km of walking trails around the park-many of which are easy, half day strolls, through beautiful countryside of grassland dotted with patches of yellowwood forest and proteas set against the stunning backdrop of the Amphitheatre.

Heading north we pass through small towns and villages, through Afrikaaner heartland, making our way to South Africa's largest city, **Johannesburg**. Built as a result of the gold rush, the city has grown into one of the wealthiest cities in the world. We will be staying at a laid back backpackers in the suburb of Johannesburg, where you can relax by the pool.

## DAYS 108 - 116 JOHANNESBURG TO VICTORIA FALLS

From Johannesburg we travel through the North-West Province to **Botswana** and continue on the **Trans-Kalahari highway** towards Maun, the gateway to the **Okavango Delta**. Here you will have an opportunity to leave the truck to venture into the Okavango Delta. Local poler guides will navigate the extensive waterways using canoes similar to their traditional Mokoro's (dug out canoes). This is a great experience - and the best way to have a chance of seeing the elusive wildlife of this unique desert oasis. You will have a number of opportunities to go on **game walks with rangers - giving you the chance to see elephant, crocodile and hippo** up close and personal. The Okavango Delta is one of the world's largest inland waterways and its calming serenity will leave those who experience it feeling supremely relaxed. There is also the opportunity to experience the heights of African adventure travel too: see the delta from the air during an hour-long flight.

We continue heading east into the Kalahari Basin - known for its dry, desolate and expansive freedom. We spend the night on the outskirts of the **Chobe National Park** - famous for its hordes of Elephants, as well as an abundance of other wildlife. You will have a chance to spend the afternoon on the Chobe River - a less intrusive way to view game and wildlife - as well as the Namibian frontier across the river. Crossing into **Zimbabwe** - we stop for several days at one of the adventure playgrounds of the world - **Victoria Falls**.

## DAYS 117 - 128 VICTORIA FALLS TO HARARE

There is something here for everyone in **Victoria Falls**; **A day trip over the Victoria Falls bridge to view the falls from Zambia, Flight of Angels - a great way to get a birds eye view of the falls in a light aircraft or helicopter, Sunset Boat Cruises or a more sedate Canoe trip, to the adrenaline packed Gorge Swing, Abseil or a chance to experience one of the highest commercial Bungee Jumps in the world.**

After your adrenaline has been spent - We will then follow a journey that is steeped in history and say goodbye to our truck for the night as we **board the overnight train from Victoria Falls to Bulawayo**. Expect basic conditions, but the views and experience of looking out the window and watching the world go by more than makes up for it. If you look carefully you might even spot some kudu or elephant! In **Bulawayo** you have the option for a day to venture into **Matobo National Park** with a local safari company. You will have a unique chance to get out on foot to try and spot the elusive **Black Rhino - amongst other game**. There is also the opportunity to visit **Cecil Rhodes' grave and Ancient Rock Paintings**.

From Bulawayo we travel across **Mashonaland** to the **Great Zimbabwe Ruins** which was once the greatest medieval city in Sub Saharan Africa and where the name **Zimbabwe** is derived, literally meaning house of stone. We continue to Gweru where we visit a **privately run horse and game ranch** where you can go game viewing on **horseback or even take a walk with Lion Cubs!** Its our destination for the next few days and always a highlight! We make our way to the Eastern Highlands of Zimbabwe, we will either visit Chimanimani National Park or Vumba Gardens, where you have the opportunity to take a hike through the mountain wilderness area, or hiking to the nearby bridal veil falls, or simply enjoying the stunning surroundings from this sleepy village whilst strolling through the village market.

We will then make our way to the capital - **Harare**, arriving into Zimbabwe's cosmopolitan city, you can enjoy many of the sights in and around the city centre, there are many markets throughout the city from craft markets to the hectic local Mbare market, stroll through the botanical gardens, or enjoy the nightlife

in one of the many bars throughout the city.

## DAYS 129 - 135 HARARE TO LAKE MALAWI

Heading north via Harare - we cross the border into **Mozambique**. We follow the infamous '**Tete Corridor**' which was well known in the days of Mozambique's long running civil war as the 'Gun Run'. Thankfully these days things are a lot different! We continue on to the capital **Lilongwe** in the south of the country where we stop for the night. This will give you the opportunity to post gifts home or check out the local markets.

Passing through lush mountainous landscape and plantations - we soon will be following the coast of **Lake Malawi** - the country's most dominant natural feature. Camping in Malawi sums up the spirit of an Africa overland trip with Oasis. We spend 4 to 5 days at friendly laid back campsites where most people choose **to relax on the sandy beaches or try their hand at scuba diving , snorkelling or windsurfing** as we follow the lakeshore north. If you are more inclined to just relax - then there is no better place than on the shores of Lake Malawi. This really is a warm friendly country - making it easy to wander off and meet up with your local hosts in one of the many villages or schools nearby. You can view first hand the talent of the local artisans and purchase some exquisite pieces of furniture and carvings out of ebony and mahogany.

## DAYS 136 - 142 LAKE MALAWI TO ZANZIBAR BACK TO DAR ES SAALAM

The next country on our journey is **Tanzania**, and after a day and half drive we pass through the peaceful **Mikumi** National Park. African safari travel is synonymous with wildlife, and in this national park we usually see **Elephant, Giraffe, Zebra and Antelope** from the roadside. From here we continue travelling through the interesting and **mountainous hinterland** of Tanzania.

Our route north then brings us to **Dar Es Salaam** where our truck is based in a campsite on a beautiful **Indian Ocean beach**. From here you will take the ferry out to **Zanzibar Island** for four nights and venture into the narrow bustling streets of **Stone Town** and its famous **spice markets, old slave forts and dungeons**. There is also time to relax on Zanzibar's famous white beaches, scuba dive or snorkel and swim with dolphins- before returning to Dar Es Salaam.

## DAYS 143 - 150 DAR ES SALAAM TO NAIROBI

After leaving Dar Es Salaam we pass a number of small towns and villages along the way and, if we are lucky, we may see the towering peak of **Kilimanjaro**. We will stop off at Marangu where you have the opportunity to climb to Kilimanjaro base camp, or take a walk through the lush surroundings passing through coffee plantations, rivers, waterfalls, caves and visiting a local blacksmith. We then continue to Arusha, at our camp on the outskirts of **Arusha** you have the option to use a local African safari travel company to guide us through **Ngorongoro Crater** and **Manyara National Park**. In these parks you will have the opportunity to view the abundant wildlife including **Elephant, Lion, Cheetah, White Rhino, Buffalo, Hippo, Antelope, Crocodile and Pink Flamingos**. From here you can also choose to go into the **Serengeti National Park** for a day where vast herds of wildebeest roam the plains. For those who wish - there is an option to visit a local **Maasai Village** and learn about their culture and way of life.

Making our way to **Kenya** we pass through hot savannah grasslands where acacia trees provide the only shade. Various game, usually **zebra and giraffe** can be seen as we head over the border. Once in the capital **Nairobi**, we stay in a private campsite on the edge of town.

## DAYS 151 NAIROBI

Free time in Nairobi - why not get up close to Africa's tallest mammal at Langata Giraffe Centre or visit the David Sheldrick Elephant Orphanage, where Oasis sponsor Kamboyo, an orphaned elephant.

## DAYS 152 - 160 NAIROBI TO KAMPALA

In **Nairobi** you have the opportunity to visit the **Sheldrick Elephant Orphanage**, where Oasis helps



support one of the elephants (Kamboyo). A great experience to see the nursery animals come out for their daily mud bath and comical play and to see the amazing work the centre does with rescued and injured elephants and rhino. Nearby is the **Langata Giraffe Centre**, where you can learn more about these gentle and majestic creatures - hopefully getting the chance to get up close to feed them.

From Nairobi we head north into one of Africa's greatest natural features, the **East African Rift Valley**. Stretching from the Dead Sea in Jordan down to Mozambique in Southern Africa, our first view is from the top of a steep escarpment. Overland trips through East Africa will allow you to experience some of the most dramatic scenery in the world, and the Rift Valley is a definite highlight. The valley floor seems to sweep on forever and is dotted with volcanic peaks, shimmering lakes and countless springs. Our journey takes us into the heart of the Rift Valley to **Lake Naivasha**. We camp near the lakeshore where **Hippos** sometimes feed at night! Here you can walk to **Elsamere**, the house of **Joy Adamson - of Elsa the Lion and Born Free fame**, and enjoy a film of her life - and cream teas! You can also **hire mountain bikes and cycle or walk through Hells Gate National Park** - the only game reserve in Kenya in which you are permitted to do so. Or for a less active but equally enjoyable game viewing experience - visit the **Crater Lake Game Sanctuary**. Both offer excellent scenery & opportunities to spot **hyrax, abundant bird & plant life along with several types of gazelle, impala and eland**.

A further half day drive through hills covered in tea plantations and rural scenery drive brings us to **Lake Nakuru National Park** - home to a wide variety of wildlife including **Black Rhino, Hippo, Lion, Leopard, Hyena and Giraffe**. However, Nakuru is a soda lake and most famous for its pink inhabitants, a flock of **Pink Flamingos** which feed noisily along the shoreline.

A mountainous drive with spectacular scenery through the **Nandi Hills** brings us to our next stop at **Eldoret**. From here we cross into Uganda, and continue west to the capital.

Kampala has had a turbulent past, but these days it is a friendly and safe city. We have a free day to spend in local cafes and nightspots - where you can get to know the local people.

## DAYS 161 - 168 KAMPALA TO JINGA

The following day we have a long drive as we head west through swamps, patches of forest and fertile green countryside. As we travel through Uganda, we'll pass through a number of small towns and villages; Mpigi, where you will see **roadside stalls manufacturing and selling traditional musical instruments**; Kyazanga, where we can buy **fresh rotisserie and roasted meat and vegetables, as well as roasted plantain bananas**. We will also be able to make a photo stop where our route crosses the **Equator**.

Bwindi Impenetrable Forest National Park and Mgahinga Gorilla National Park are home to several families of Highland **Mountain Gorillas**. Getting up close to these amazing creatures is a truly a once in a lifetime experience and one of the highlights of the trip. You have the [opportunity to trek to see the Gorillas](#) in Uganda (bookable as an Add on). It is estimated that only around 700 of these gentle giants remain. This mountainous area on the borders of Rwanda, Uganda and Zaire (now renamed Democratic Republic of Congo) is their only natural habitat and they are periodically threatened by poachers and political instability in the area. One permit allows you to spend about 50 to 60 minutes with one of the gorilla families. Trekking to find them in groups of 8 people can take anywhere from half an hour to 5 hours. The organisations and well-trained guides that continually monitor and protect the families are conscientious and responsible. We will base ourselves in the village of Kabale which will give you the opportunity to trek the Mountain Gorillas and visit the beautiful **Lake Bunyonyi**.

(Due to the popularity of Trekking to the Mountain Gorillas and the limited availability of obtaining Trekking Permits, we may do the Gorilla trek in Rwanda in Volcanos National Park, which may come at an additional cost - you will be advised in advance).

Passing over the mountain ranges we cross the border into Rwanda. The small, friendly town of **Musanze** is home to Musanze caves and several hiking trails, take a village tour throughout the area where you can see first hand production of local Banana beer. There will also be an opportunity to visit the **genocide memorial in Kigali**, which is a moving and humbling experience.

We then return back into Uganda and make our way towards Kampala and camp near Jinja - Uganda's



adventure playground. Here, on the edge of Lake Victoria, the Nile begins its 6700km journey to the sea. We spend the next few days downstream from the source of the Nile. This is a spectacular area, and a superb place to go whitewater rafting or kayaking. You can also organise quad biking, horse riding or a visit to a local education project.

## DAYS 169 - 177 JINGA TO ADDIS ABABA

Re-entering Kenya, we travel around the foothills of **Mount Kenya** before embarking on the next phase of our journey. This leads us into the remoteness of northern Kenya. Nomadic tribes people like the **Rendille in Marsabit & the Samburu** (cousins of the Maasai) still wear very distinctive and often elaborate dress.

As we cross into **Ethiopia** - the roads we travel on are often in mountainous areas, so travel is slow. Ethiopia has a lot more visual & indigenous history than any other sub-Saharan country.

We continue our journey north heading into the **Omo Valley**. This region is home to some of the most colourful ethnic groups in Ethiopia. The friendly **Hamar** people are noted for their ornate, interesting hairstyles and the **Mursi** people are famous for the clay lip plates and earlobe decorations. An optional day tour will take you into the **Omo National Park**.

We make our way north to the capital, Addis Ababa.

## DAYS 178 - 184 ADDIS ABABA TO BAHIDAR

We spend a couple of days in Addis Ababa where we have the chance to indulge in some authentic Ethiopian coffee or explore 'El Mercato' - one of East Africa's largest open air markets. We also spend the next few days organising our Sudanese and Egyptian visas - before heading onto **Bahir Dar** via the spectacular **Blue Nile Gorge & Falls**.

## DAYS 185 - 193 BAHIDAR TO SUDAN

Bahidar is based on the southern edge of **Lake Tana** - you can organise boat trips to some of the small islands which have **Monasteries** dating back up to 900 years, and which are still looked after by monks who live from subsistence farming, or take a trip to Blue Nile Falls. Lalibela, famous for its 11 monolithic rock-hewn churches is our next destination where you have the option of a guided tour of one of Ethiopia's holiest cities.

Gondar (the capital of Ethiopia from 1632 until 1868), we spend a few days where it is possible to organise overnight trips to the Simiens Mountains National Park - home to the Gelada Baboon, hikes are available in the area. You may also wish to arrange a trip to the holy city of **Axum** dating from the 12th Century have been kept alive by generations of dedicated priests who guard their precious religious and artistic artefacts. The border with **Sudan** is not far from Gondar and the first towns after the border are **Gedaref & Wadi Medani**.

*Note: If the security situation in Sudan has not improved, then we will adjust our itinerary in Ethiopia and then fly from Addis Ababa to Cairo (flight at your cost, budget \$200), leaving the truck behind. We will then complete the Egypt section using public transport and local hotels. We ran our 2023 departure in this way and it worked very well.*

## DAYS 194 - 200 KHARTOUM TO WADI HALFA

The hospitality in Sudan can be surprising - but very genuine. For such a poor country with so many recent problems - Sudanese people are often too willing to invite you for a meal or a cup of 'Sudanese whisky' - better known as tea! **Khartoum** is our next stop and it has a fantastic setting on the confluence of the **Blue and White Niles**. Our stay here is on the banks of the Nile at the quirky but interesting Blue Nile Sailing Club. It houses one of General Kitcheners old Gunboats, a relic from the British military campaign against the Mahdi over a century ago. For such a large city, Khartoum feels quite laid back. Here you can visit the **Hamed al Nil Tomb** or take a trip to the **daily camel market** or viewing the

confluence of the two Niles are also an interesting ways to pass the time.

The ancient **Pyramids at Meroe** lie to the north of the capital Khartoum. Our drive across the **Nubian Desert** will see us either hugging the banks of Nile as it snakes its way north or possibly experiencing the vast open desert plains which is dissected by the main train line from Khartoum - making this our only real point of reference. Whether passing through sleepy Nubian villages, resting in tea rooms, pottering around the local souqs or experiencing total isolation in the middle of the desert - a unique experience awaits you along this not so travelled route to Wadi Halfa.

## DAYS 201 - 207 WADI HALFA TO LUXOR

Upon reaching **Lake Nasser** and **Wadi Halfa in Northern Sudan**, we enter Egypt and board the ferry to Abu Simbel - our ultimate destination on our expedition. We arrive into the small village of Abu Simbel, here you will notice one of the many cultural changes on this trip - the darker Nubian people lead a more relaxed and less hectic pace of life than their Egyptian countrymen. You have the opportunity to visit **Abu Simbel** - the massive stone monuments built by the greatest of all pharaohs, Ramses II, after spending the night we will travel in convoy to the city of Aswan. Philae temple, Nubian museum, an evening boat cruise to a nubian village and walking through the colourful souk, is a great way to spend your days here. You can also join a 2 or 3 day **felucca** boat cruise to **Edfu and/or Kom Ombo** before arriving into Luxor.

## DAYS 208 - 215 LUXOR TO CAIRO

You will be kept busy exploring in **Luxor** - where we visit the **Valley of Kings and Queens**. Here, the remarkably well preserved tombs of the ancient rulers -namely Ramses II and Tutankhamun -have coloured paintings and hieroglyphics that still seem fresh even after 3000 years. **Karnak and Luxor Temples** are both in easy walking distance from our camp - as is the local souq where you can pick up the last of your souvenirs. The following day we drive out towards the Red Sea Coast. You will have time relax on the beach or try your hand at various watersports such as snorkelling, windsurfing or scuba diving in the cool clear blue waters.

Our final destination, **Cairo** is only a days drive away. Visiting the great **Pyramids and Sphinx at Giza** with our **Egyptologist guide** and also the **Egyptian Natural History Museum** in the afternoon is definitely a fitting way to end this amazing expedition.

## ESSENTIAL INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR TRIP

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### ARRIVAL & ACCOMMODATION

**Trip Joining Point:** Big Milly's Backyard - Accra

**Start Time Day 1:** 08:00

**Address:** Kokrobite, Accra North

**Telephone:** +233 249 999 330

**Website:** [bigmilly.com](http://bigmilly.com)

**Email:** [bigmilly2000@hotmail.com](mailto:bigmilly2000@hotmail.com)

All prices listed are approximate and subject to limited availability.

Room Type	Price	Description
Single with fan	US\$15.00	Per Room
Single en-suite with aircon.	US\$35.00	Per Room
Dorm	US\$10.00	Per Person

**The trip starts from Big Milly's Backyard at approximately 8am on the morning of Day 1 of your trip.**

Big Milly's Backyard is situated on the beach in Kokrobite fishing village about 15 miles west of Accra and a one hours drive from Kotoka International Airport.

The rooms are clean and bright, all have fans and are beautifully decorated with African art. Big Milly's Backyard features a restaurant, bar, a shared lounge a terrace and garden. It also offers room service.

The accommodation also offers nightclub and a 24-hour front desk. Plus there is free Wi-Fi available in all rooms.

Accra is 18 miles from Big Milly's Backyard, while Dzorwulu is 16.8 miles away. The nearest airport is Kotoka International, 20.5 miles from the accommodation, and the property offers a paid airport shuttle service.

**PRE-TRIP ACCOMMODATION:**

Please book this direct with Big Milly's Backyard. Accommodation costs for any additional nights are payable direct to Big Milly's Backyard.

**AIRPORT TRANSFERS:**

To get a taxi to/from the city centre will cost you from US\$10 - US\$15.

A taxi from Kotoka International Airport should cost around US\$30 - US\$35 depending on your bargaining skills.

Big Milly's Backyard can arrange for a local taxi to collect you for US\$25 with a friendly driver known to them. You will need to book this directly with them and they will require your flight details. You will find the driver holding up a board with your name on it as you exit customs. The advantage is they know their way home!! And you can pay the following day in any currency. All the money goes to the driver.

**PRE-DEPARTURE MEETING**

There is no pre-departure meeting before the Trans Africa; we will be sending you further pre-departure information 6 to 8 weeks before departure - including information on local payment, flights to Gibraltar / Malaga (for those starting in the UK), information on insurance and passport pages.

**POST TRIP ACCOMMODATION AND AIRPORT TRANSFERS**

Post-trip accommodation can be arranged with your tour leader during the trip or directly with the hotel on arrival. The return airport transfer can be arranged through your hotel / hostel and is not included, it is at your own expense. We regret these services cannot be arranged via the Oasis office before departure.

## FLIGHT INFORMATION

For the Trans Africa **starting in the UK**, Oasis will fly you as a group direct to Gibraltar or Malaga on Day 1, where on arrival you will be met by your Oasis Crew and join the expedition vehicle.

For **Accra starters** you need to arrive at your departure city at least the day before your trip begins.

**Purchasing return tickets to the UK or onward to India, SE Asia or Australia and New Zealand.** Airlines usually don't issue return tickets 5 or 6 months in advance - it is therefore recommended to purchase these when you arrive in either Cape Town/Nairobi/Cairo. Due to the nature of this expedition, unforeseen delays can be experienced anywhere along the route and we cannot guarantee our arrival dates at the various locations.

There are many online flight search engines such as [www.skyscanner.net](http://www.skyscanner.net) or [www.ebookers.co.uk](http://www.ebookers.co.uk), flights can also be booked direct with airline websites or through travel agencies. Please inform us of your flight details through your online account, as airport transfers can be arranged for various trips.

**One way ticket:** If you intend to travel on a one way ticket to meet up with one of our trips, without possessing an onward flight ticket - we recommend that you have a copy of your payment confirmation/receipt (that you will be sent at time of your balance payment) available at immigration to assist easy entry.

**Departure Taxes:** Please check with your Travel Agent or Airline if your flight ticket already includes a departure tax payment out of the country. If it does not - please budget for approx US\$30 to \$70 USD - to be paid in US\$ only.

## PASSPORTS

Your passport must be valid for at least 6 months **AFTER** your trip finishes. This is a general requirement for all of the countries we travel to on our trips.

If you have dual nationality you can only use one passport for the entire trip. It is your responsibility to ensure you have all the relevant visas you require.

Please bring 10 photocopies of your passport details to give to your tour leader.

**Number of blank pages required for the trip, please use this as an approximate guide:**

- UK to Cape Town - 32 blank pages
- UK to Nairobi - 39 blank pages
- UK to Cairo - 45 blank pages

You will be required to bring passport photos with you in order to obtain visas on route. We recommend 18 passport photos for UK - Ghana, 36 passport photos for UK to Cape Town/Nairobi and 40 passport photos for UK to Cairo. Passport photo's will need to be on a white background.

If there are any stamps in your passport linking you with an entry or visit to Israel (this could include border/immigration stamps from other countries bordering Israel), you will need to replace your passport.

**Second / Concurrent Passport** - An option for some nationalities, is to apply for a second or concurrent passport. This means a second valid passport of the same nationality in addition to your current one. Travelling with two valid passports for your 40 week expedition can benefit you and help to obtain visas more speedily, for instance in having one passport to send home to obtain a visa whilst travelling on the second one. Your government in your home country that issues your passports will ask for a letter detailing 'why' you need an extra passport. Please email [africa@oasisoverland.co.uk](mailto:africa@oasisoverland.co.uk) if you wish to apply for a second passport.

## VISAS

The information below is to be used only as a guide and may change without prior notice. It is advisable to contact the relevant embassy in plenty of time before the trip departs to check the current visa requirements. It is **your responsibility** to ensure you have all the relevant visas you require. We will however provide information before the trip starts about which visas you will need to obtain in advance and which can be obtained on the way.

**Visas obtained at borders and embassies during the trip must be paid for in either USD, Euros or local currency CASH ONLY, as stipulated by the relevant immigration officials. Evisas will require payment online by credit or debit card.**

Country	British	Irish	Aust	NZ	S. Africa	USA	Canadian
<b>Spain(Shengen)</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Required	N/A	N/A
<b>Morocco</b>	Free	Free	Free	Free	Required	Free	Free
<b>Mauritania</b>	€55	€55	€55	€55	€55	€55	€55
<b>Senegal</b>	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	N/A	N/A
<b>The Gambia</b>	Free	Free	Free	Free	Required	US\$100	Free
<b>Guinea Bissau</b>	US\$80	US\$80	US\$80	US\$80	US\$80	US\$80	US\$80
<b>Guinea</b>	US\$110	US\$110	US\$110	US\$110	US\$110	US\$140	US\$110
<b>Sierra Leone</b>	US\$80	US\$80	US\$80	US\$80	US\$80	US\$80	US\$80
<b>Liberia</b>	US\$170	US\$210	US\$170	US\$170	US\$210	US\$210	US\$210
<b>Cote d'Ivoire</b>	€58	€58	€58	€58	€58	€58	€58
<b>Ghana</b>	€90	€90	€90	€90	€90	€90	€90
<b>Togo</b>	US\$45	US\$45	US\$45	US\$45	US\$45	US\$45	US\$45
<b>Benin</b>	€36	€36	€36	€36	€36	€36	€36
<b>Nigeria</b>	US\$144	US\$170	US\$130	US\$33	US\$78	US\$160	US\$116

<b>Cameroon</b>	€153	€153	€153	€153	€153	€153	€153
<b>Gabon</b>	€120	€120	€120	€120	€120	€120	€120
<b>Rep. Congo</b>	US\$165	US\$165	US\$165	US\$165	US\$165	US\$165	US\$165
<b>Dem. Rep. Congo</b>	US\$250	US\$250	US\$250	US\$250	US\$250	US\$250	US\$250
<b>Angola</b>	N/A	US\$150	US\$150	US\$150	US\$150	US\$150	US\$150
<b>Namibia</b>	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free
<b>South Africa</b>	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free
<b>Lesotho</b>	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free
<b>Botswana</b>	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free
<b>Zimbabwe</b>	US\$55	US\$55	US\$30	US\$30	Free	US\$30	US\$75
<b>Mozambique</b>	US\$150	US\$150	US\$150	US\$150	Free	US\$150	US\$150
<b>Malawi</b>	US\$50	US\$50	US\$50	US\$50	Free	US\$50	US\$50
<b>Tanzania</b>	US\$50	US\$50	US\$50	US\$50	US\$50	US\$100	US\$50
<b>East Africa Visa</b>	US\$100	US\$100	US\$100	US\$100	US\$100	US\$100	US\$100
<b>Ethiopia</b>	US\$82	US\$82	US\$82	US\$82	US\$82	US\$82	US\$82
<b>Sudan</b>	US\$210	US\$210	US\$210	US\$210	US\$210	US\$264	US\$210
<b>Egypt</b>	US\$25	US\$25	US\$25	US\$25	Free	US\$25	US\$25

For more information on other nationalities & visas checkout [www.projectvisa.com](http://www.projectvisa.com)

**Please Note:** Your Tour Leader will collect a USD 30 visa kitty per person at the beginning of the trip - which goes towards paying for taxis, photocopies, faxes, communication etc - when applying for a majority of 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.



## **Kenya**

Most nationalities will require an Electronic Travel Authorisation (eTA) to enter Kenya **which must be obtained in advance of travel**.

**East African Visa - (relevant to Grand Adventurer, Apes & Lakes, Gorillas & Gameparks, Nairobi to Kigali and the 9 week Nairobi to Cairo Nile Trans** - This covers you for entry into Kenya, Uganda and Rwanda and **is obtained as an e-visa in advance of travel**. You can apply via any of the three country websites, though the [Kenya evisa website](#) seems to provide the most efficient and quickest process. Once you leave the three countries your visa will expire, so if your itinerary will for example be re-entering Kenya again later please be aware that you may have to apply for and pay for a 2nd Kenyan eTA in enough time before you are due to enter the country.

**Kenyan eTA - (relevant to Coast to Coast, Savanna Dawn and Gameparks & Zanzibar trips)** - Kenya has introduced an Electronic Travel Authorisation (eTA) system. Travellers need to apply via <https://www.etakenya.go.ke/en>. This will take at least 3 days to process but you can apply up to 3 months in advance, so allow yourself plenty of time in case of delays. You will need to either print a copy of your eTA or download it to your mobile to present on departure at the airport and at immigration at your point of entry into Kenya. You may be denied boarding of your flight to Kenya or denied entry to Kenya if you do not have your copy of your eTA with you.

We know that the Kenyan visa websites often have issues taking payments. If your payment doesn't go through, the process will not have completed. We suggest that you:

- try a different website browser
- check your bank has not blocked the payment
- clear your cookies (if you know how) and try again
- wait a few hours or until the next day, and try again

If you are travelling on the **Trans Africa or Nile Trans expeditions** you will apply for the East Africa visa online while on the trip. Your tour leader will liaise with you about this.

## **Egypt**

Passports should be valid for at least six months after your departure from the country. Please do not bring an almost full or almost expired passport. Visa arrangements are the responsibility of the traveller, and requirements are subject to change by the local authorities.

We recommend that you contact your closest Egyptian consulate or embassy for current information for your nationality.

In general official advice is that all nationalities obtain their Egypt visas in advance, as we cannot guarantee that you can get them in the airport or land border. An online e-visa is available through [visa2egypt](#) and we recommend obtaining your visa via this method whether arriving in to Egypt by air or land if you are able. Please do not use any other website as there are many scam sites offering Egypt e-visas.

In practice however, many nationalities (including British and European, Australian, New Zealand, USA) can and do obtain their visas on arrival in Cairo airport or most land borders. The process is much quicker and simpler, the cost is currently **US\$25 p/p** and must be paid in hard currency (i.e. GBP, USD or EUR) - you'll be given change in local currency if necessary. There are no forms to fill in and you don't need to bring passport photos. Visas are issued at one of the bank desks in the immigration hall, before you get to passport control. On our small group tours, our representative will have met you by this stage and will assist with the process at Cairo Airport.

**Important Note:** Due to recent changes in the visa regime for Canadians, a visa on arrival or e-visa will no longer be possible for Canadian Citizens entering Egypt after October 1st 2023. Until further notice Canadian passport holders must obtain a visa prior to arrival, from the nearest Egyptian Consulate.

All African & Indian nationals, and some others, will need to obtain their visas in advance.

For further information on your visa requirements, please either contact us or your local Egyptian embassy/consulate.

### **Angola**

All Nationalities require a visa for Angola. We will obtain this visa whilst on the trip. Approximate cost \$150 USD.

You will need to bring 3 recent colour passport photos with a white background along with you to apply for the visa.

### **Benin**

All Nationalities require a visa for Benin. We will obtain this visa whilst on the trip. Approximate cost €36 Euro's.

You will need to bring 3 recent colour passport photos with a white background along with you to apply for the visa.

### **Botswana**

Passport Holders from UK, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, USA, Canada, South Africa and most EU countries will not require a visa to enter Botswana.

Passport Holders from other countries, will need to check the current visa requirements with the relevant consulate, and whether you need to obtain the visa in advance.

### **Cameroon**

All Nationalities require a visa for Cameroon. We will obtain this visa whilst on the trip. Approximate cost €110 Euro's.

You will need to bring 3 recent colour passport photos with a white background along with you to apply for the visa.

### **Congo**

All Nationalities require a visa for Congo. We will obtain this visa whilst on the trip. Approximate cost €115 Euro's.

You will need to bring 2 recent colour passport photos with a white background along with you to apply for the visa.

### **Democratic Republic of Congo**

All Nationalities require a visa for Democratic Republic of Congo. We will obtain this visa whilst on the trip. Approximate cost \$300 USD.

You will need to bring 3 recent colour passport photos with a white background along with you to apply for the visa.

### **Ethiopia**

Passport Holders from UK, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, USA, Canada and most EU countries will require a visa to enter Ethiopia.

**Joining in Addis Ababa** - All nationalities must apply for their Ethiopia visa online in advance at [www.evisa.gov.et](http://www.evisa.gov.et). You will receive your application approval by email and you will need to show this at the airport when you arrive in Ethiopia.

**All other joining points** - All nationalities must apply for their Ethiopia visa online and you can do this

during your trip. You will receive your application approval by email and you will need to show this at the land border when you enter Ethiopia.

A 30 day single entry visa costs \$82 USD.

### **Gabon**

All Nationalities require a visa for Gabon. We will obtain this visa whilst on the trip. Approximate cost €100 Euro's.

You will need to bring 3 recent colour passport photos with a white background along with you to apply for the visa.

### **Ghana**

All nationalities must obtain a Ghanaian visa in advance, before joining the Oasis trip. You will need to apply for this visa in your country of residence, so please allow time for your visa process before your trip commences.

Details for the visa process and application will be emailed to you a few months before your trip departs. Cost will depend on the embassy in your home country.

### **Lesotho**

Passport Holders from UK, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, USA, Canada and most EU countries will not require a visa to enter Lesotho.

New Zealand passport holders will need to make sure that they obtain a multiple entry visa for South Africa as you will be entering and exiting Lesotho from South Africa.

Passport Holders from other countries, will need to check the current visa requirements with the relevant consulate, and whether you need to obtain the visa in advance.

### **Malawi**

Passport Holders from UK, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, USA, Canada and most EU countries will require a visa to enter Malawi. Malawi has started offering an e-visa scheme and all Malawi visas should **now be obtained in advance of arrival** rather than at the border. Most nationalities can obtain their e-visa online via the [Malawi government website](#). The price for most nationalities is 50 USD, and the process should take 5 working days (though we recommend allowing more). You will need various documents from us to complete the visa application and you will therefore not apply for the visa until after you have joined the trip. Your tour leader will then assist with the visa applications. South African passport holders do not need a visa.

Passport Holders from other countries, will need to check the current visa requirements with the relevant consulate, and whether you need to obtain the visa in advance.

### **Mozambique**

Currently there is conflicting information available about the Mozambique visa however, passport holders from UK, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, USA, Canada and most EU countries should expect to require a visa. We will obtain this visa whilst on the trip - please bring 3 recent colour passport photos along with you and have digital copies of your passport and a passport photo in case they are required for your application.

South African passport holders are free of charge.

Passport holders from other countries, will need to check the current visa requirements with the relevant consulate, and whether you need to obtain the visa in advance.

### **Namibia**

Passport Holders from UK, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, USA, Canada, South Africa and most EU countries will not require a visa to enter Namibia.

Passport Holders from other countries, will need to check the current visa requirements with the relevant consulate, and whether you need to obtain the visa in advance.

### **Nigeria**

Those starting their trip in Morocco - all nationalities require a visa and we will apply for this in advance during the trip.

Those starting their trip in Accra - all nationalities must obtain a Nigerian visa in advance, before joining the Oasis trip. You will need to apply for this visa in your country of residence, so please allow time for your visa process before your trip commences. Details for the visa process and application will be emailed to you a few months before your trip departs. Cost will depend on the embassy in your home country.

### **Rwanda**

Passport Holders who have already obtained an **East Africa**, will not need to purchase another visa to enter Rwanda.

If you are NOT travelling on an East Africa Visa; passport holders from UK, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, USA, Canada and most EU countries will require a visa to enter Rwanda, this can be obtained on the trip at the border on arrival. Approximate cost is \$50 USD.

Passport Holders from other countries who have NOT obtained their East Africa visa, will need to check the current visa requirements with the relevant consulate, and whether you need to obtain the visa in advance.

### **South Africa**

Passport Holders from UK, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, USA, Canada and most EU countries will not require a visa to enter South Africa.

Passport Holders from other countries, will need to check the current visa requirements with the relevant consulate, and whether you need to obtain the visa in advance.

### **Sudan**

All nationalities require a visa in advance. As part of the application process, most nationalities will require a Letter of Invitation and a letter from the Sudanese Ministry of Interior which we can provide through our agent in Sudan.

In addition to the visa costs below, all nationalities will need to pay \$60 USD for an immigration registration fee and a \$10 USD departure tax whilst in Sudan. You will need to bring 2 recent colour passport photos on a white background along with you to apply for the registration.

**Starting in Cairo** - all nationalities should apply for their visa at their nearest embassy in advance of joining the trip. Approximate cost of \$210 USD includes Letter of Invitation, Ministry of Interior letter and visa fee for most nationalities and \$264 USD for US passport holders.

**Starting in the UK or Accra for the Trans Africa and Cape Town or Nairobi for the Nile Trans Trip** - we will obtain this visa whilst on the trip. Approximate cost of \$210 USD includes Letter of Invitation, Ministry of Interior letter and visa fee for most nationalities and \$264 USD for US passport holders.

Everyone will need to bring 4 recent colour passport photos on a white background along with you to apply for the visa.

### **Tanzania**

Passport Holders from UK, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, Canada and most EU countries will require a visa to enter Tanzania. The current cost is \$50 USD with the visa available on arrival at the border. Passport holders from the USA also need a visa and can obtain it on arrival, but the cost is \$100 USD. Alternatively visas are available in advance via the [Tanzanian government's e-visa website](#). South African passport holders are Free of charge.

Passport Holders from other countries, will need to check the current visa requirements with the relevant consulate, and whether you need to obtain the visa in advance.

For those travelling on the Grand Adventurer, Apes & Lakes and Gorillas, Gameparks & Zanzibar trip, the Tanzanian visa is a Single entry visa and also covers you for Zanzibar.

### **Togo**

All nationalities require an e-visa for Togo. We will apply for this online during the trip.

You will need to have a scanned copy of the first 3 pages of your passport and a scanned passport photo.

### **Uganda**

Passport Holders who have already obtained an East Africa, will not need to purchase another visa to enter Uganda.

If you are NOT travelling on an East Africa Visa; passport holders from UK, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, USA, Canada and most EU countries will require a visa to enter Uganda, this can be obtained on the trip at the border on arrival. Approximate cost is \$50 USD.

Passport Holders from other countries who have NOT obtained their East Africa visa, will need to check the current visa requirements with the relevant consulate, and whether you need to obtain the visa in advance.

### **Zimbabwe**

Passport Holders from UK, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, USA, Canada and most EU countries will require a visa to enter Zimbabwe. We will obtain this visa whilst on the trip at the border on arrival, a visa can also be obtained at the airport on arrival into Harare and Victoria Falls. Approximate cost for Australian, USA and New Zealand Passport Holders is \$30 USD, British and Irish passport holders \$55 USD and Canadian \$75 USD for a Single entry visa. South African passport holders are Free of charge.

If you are planning on going over to the Zambian side of Victoria Falls from Zimbabwe you will need to obtain a double entry visa for Zimbabwe so that you can return back to Zimbabwe after your day trip. Approximate cost for Australian, USA and New Zealand Passport Holders is \$45 USD, and British passport holders \$70 USD.

Canadians & Irish passport holders are unable to obtain a double entry Zimbabwe visa.

The visa into Zambia is called a Day Tripper visa and is available at the border and only valid for stays of less than 24 hours. The approximate cost is \$20 USD.

For those **joining in Victoria Falls** a UNI-Visa is available at the airport on arrival, which is a multiple entry visa between Zimbabwe and Zambia and costs approximately \$50 USD.

Passport Holders from other countries, will need to check the current visa requirements with the relevant consulate, and whether you need to obtain the visa in advance.

## **VACCINATIONS AND HEALTH**

It is possible that you may 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. We have worked closely with **Nomad**

**Travel Clinics** for many years and they offer Oasis travelers a **10% discount** on vaccinations, anti-malarial drugs, first aid items, clothing, and equipment, just enter discount code OASIS1000 at [Nomad Travel](#). Alternatively, you can check out the [Fit for travel website](#) for more travel health information or consult a reputable travel clinic or your GP 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](#).

**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 & 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 [Nomad Travel](#) or the [Fit for Travel](#) websites.

**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 & it is therefore advised that you take care not to be bitten during the day or at night. There is no vaccine available.

**Health** - To join our trips you should be in good general health. Your medical insurance company must be told if you have any pre-existing medical condition/allergy or are on any regular medication, otherwise you may not be covered under your policies for these. Our crew will need to know of any medication or conditions you may have, for general health advice log onto [here](#).

## TRAVEL INSURANCE

It is a compulsory requirement that you have adequate travel insurance before you join any Oasis Trip & at the very least are insured for all necessary medical & repatriation costs incurred.

You will be asked to provide the following details if you have not already done so: travel insurance company name, insurance policy number & insurance emergency telephone number. You will also be required to give a copy of your policy with this information to your Tour Leader on arrival with 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.

We believe that your safety and holiday enjoyment are very important. It is a mistake to think that "it will never happen to me". It is also very important that you are covered for all the activities that you may wish to undertake while on our trip. It is extremely important that you check the full extent of your cover related to 24 hour Medical Emergency Assistance. In the event of you needing medical treatment you want to know that you have the best cover available to you. Your policy should include adequate Medical Emergency and Repatriation cover as well as Cancellation, Baggage and Personal Liability cover. You need to be aware of EXACTLY what activities your policy covers you for. Please note that skiing is not usually covered in most insurance policies. Please note also that many of the areas we visit are not as developed as the UK and we have no control over the availability or standard of medical and repatriation services and facilities in the areas we visit and these do not form any part of our contract with you.

You should also note that passenger liability insurance covering vehicles, particularly in Third World countries, may be unavailable or inadequate; it is therefore important that your insurance cover makes sufficient provision for you and your dependents in the event of an accident.



We are happy to refer our UK based travellers to the travel insurance specialists [Campbell Irvine](#) who have a policy suitable for overlanding which covers most of the adventure and sporting activities on our trips.

Please be aware that most travel insurance policies will not cover you if you are visiting areas against government travel advice. If your trip will go through areas like this (for example, some of our Trans Africa routes through West Africa) then you may need to look at an alternative policy for these sections, for example [Battleface](#) or [SafetyWing](#).

For further information, check out the [Travel Insurance](#) section of our website.

## MONEY, BUDGETS AND LP

### Local Payment (LP)

**LP** is part of your overall trip payment and is the most cost effective and practical way to get hard currency to Africa to pay for a variety of your day to day local costs (i.e. all meals prepared by the group - 3 per day whilst travelling and 2 whilst in towns, campsite fees, wood, gas, and certain activities listed in the brochure) which cannot be pre-paid from the UK.

**Please note:** CASH ONLY is accepted and needs to be in - \$US Dollars, or a combination of \$US Dollars and Euros (as explained below). Please make sure that all your notes are in good condition. Old, torn or marked notes are often refused by the banks and we will therefore be unable to accept them either. Larger denomination notes are preferable for your Local payment. Please make sure that \$US Dollars are dated 2013 or later and do not have a serial number starting with CB. Scottish Pounds are not accepted. In general the Local Payment breakdown is as below, a precise break down will be emailed in more detail 4 to 6 weeks prior to departure.

- **UK to Accra** - 50% \$US Dollars plus 50% Euros
- **UK to Cape Town** - 50% \$US Dollars plus 50% Euros
- **UK to Nairobi** - 75% \$US Dollars plus 25% Euros
- **UK to Cairo** - 80% \$US Dollars plus 20% Euros

### How to bring your currency

Past Oasis travellers have fed back that they have felt, as a general rule it is best to bring your money as **a combination of US\$ cash and Euros cash**. It will depend on the exchange rate at the time of your trip as to which currency is better, but Euros are increasingly becoming the preferred currency in many West African nations, whilst US\$ Dollars are widely accepted from Angola all the way to Cairo. Great British pounds are also accepted in Southern Africa, and some East African countries, as well as Egypt.

Credit / Debit and Pre-paid travel currency cards are also an option if you are concerned about bringing all your money in cash - BUT DEFINITELY BRING AT LEAST 60% of your money in cash. Some travellers worry about carrying so much cash with them, however all Oasis Overland trucks are equipped with an on board safe for the security of your money and passport.

We also advise to bring £50 worth of SA Rand in Cash, as this may be needed if we arrive into Namibia or South Africa on a weekend & the banks/ATMs are closed (only if you are travelling to these countries).

US dollars dated pre-2013 are not widely accepted in Africa so please ensure your notes are dated 2013 onward & Scottish pounds are also not accepted. The rate of exchange for small denomination \$US bills are usually slightly less than larger bills, but it is still advisable to bring an assortment of both as some activities and operators will not have the facility to give large amounts of change.

### Spending Money

For personal spending money budget on approximately £300 per month (from Morocco to Angola) and £100 to £145 per week (from Namibia to Egypt) to cover you for some meals out, drinks, communications, souvenirs and other general spending.

**We recommend the following to be used as a guide - including a few days layover in Cape**

**Town:**

- UK to Cape Town - approx £2100
- UK to Nairobi - approx £3100
- UK to Cairo - approx £4300

The recommendation above is worked out on the assumption that you will be fairly budget-conscious. Remember, however, there are also other costs to bear in mind such as drinks and snacks, post trip hotel and food costs, optional side trips, your time in Cape Town, email & communications, souvenirs and other general spending. This is an estimated figure as personal spending habits and budgets differ greatly from person to person. **Budget on optional activities and visa costs separately (see visa section above & optional excursions page) and allow extra for your Local Payment contribution.**

**IMPORTANT: Contingency Fund** - It is important to bear in mind that should it not be possible to enter a certain country due to safety concerns, visa problems or political turmoil etc, and it becomes necessary to fly over a country in order to continue a trip, that all your costs for flights will be borne by you and not Oasis.

**Changing money**

Your crew will advise you where & when you can change money & with what means. It is also a good idea to have a small CASH emergency fund, to allow for the unexpected.

**Credit & Debit Cards**

If you are intending using your credit or debit card, we suggest taking more than one card with you as you may find that your card is not accepted in the first ATM you try. Visa and Maestro cards are best. **We do not recommend using MasterCard based cards in Africa as they have very limited access through large parts of Africa.** Please note that usually you will be given local currency and NOT US\$ or £GB. We recommend that you inform your bank that you will be using your card abroad to avoid it being blocked. Please see the optional excursions page for activities that can be paid for using a Credit or Debit Card. Commission rates vary between 2-8%.

**Pre-Paid Travel Currency Cards**

These cards are similar to normal Credit and Debit cards but they can be pre loaded with cash before you travel with a set amount allowing you to withdraw this cash using the card at normal ATMs. It is a more secure way to access cash on your trip, but again do not rely on these as your sole means of funds on a trip - (please refer to the ATM section). Several banks and companies now offer these cards, but be sure to look into the rates for withdrawing cash when making your decision. When using these cards abroad you will use them to withdraw the local currency from an ATM and not the currency that you loaded onto the card.

**ATMs**

These are available in most major cities along our route and allow you to withdraw local currency only. We discourage you from relying on your ATM card as a primary source of funds in case it is lost/stolen/ swallowed, or the machine isn't working. In some destinations we probably won't even see a bank or ATM for days on end. Even where do find them, they cannot always be relied upon - things change, and ATMs don't always work! Besides memorising your PIN, it is also important to be aware of your daily withdrawal limit and bank withdrawal costs.

**Tipping**

Is often expected and relied upon. It is often more than a reward for services well done, but, as wages are extremely low, it is an accepted means of supplementing an income. If you would like to leave a tip for any activity/individual, you could organize this as a group and give a tip at the end. A recommended amount for restaurants is usually 10% of your total bill and similar for activities. Some countries also add an extra Government tax on restaurant bills.

Because it can be difficult to know what to tip, and because it has such importance in some areas both economically and culturally, there may be times and activities for which your crew will make it clear what level of tipping is 'customary/expected'. They may also be quite enthusiastic or assertive in encouraging you to take account of these suggestions. This is motivated by the knowledge of how important tipping can be, and the offence or confusion that can be caused when local people are tipped poorly. In the end, tipping remains at the discretion of the individual, but our crew will continue to advise on normal or average rates, and we would ask you to carefully consider the economic or personal impact of being seen as 'under tipping'. We know that many who travel with us are on a tight budget, but ask you to consider that those we work with locally may also face financial hardship, and also work very hard to try to give you unrivalled service/ experiences.

As a very rough guide, we would suggest that you budget for an amount equal to 10% of the local payment for your trip, plus 10% of the cost of any of the listed optional excursions that you wish to do. The amounts you end up tipping may vary from a rigid 10%, but hopefully this will help you budget in general.

In the past we have been asked by travellers about tipping your Oasis Crew. If you choose to do this, it would be budgeted separately from the above. Our guys work very hard at making your trip a great travel experience. Working overseas can often be challenging and they are pretty much on call for you 24 hours a day, so it's appreciated as a thank you for hard work and good service, but of course not mandatory. Our suggestion is to budget around US\$1 a day.

## CLIMATE

Rain is a regular occurrence in Morocco with chilly night time temperatures - especially in the desert. Most days are nice and sunny - and it only gets warmer as we head south. From Mali to Nigeria it is quite humid during the day and we may hit 'short' rains in Central Africa (Cameroon to Angola). In Southern Africa - November to March the weather is hotter and there is summer rainfall, although this is very intermittent when it may not rain for months, or it can rain for a day at a time. In East Africa (Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania) the 'short' rains are around November. The 'rains' usually last for one or two hours each day followed by hot sunny weather. Nights can be surprisingly cold at higher altitude in western Uganda, Ngorongoro Crater & the Rift Valley. Ethiopia, Sudan and Egypt can be very hot (35C+). [View Trans Africa Climate Chart](#)

## WHAT TO TAKE

The less you take the less you have to pack, wash & lug home & you can always pick up extras along the way. Most people make the mistake of bringing too much gear. Clothes washing or laundry facilities will be available at least once a week. You will be travelling in the heat & camping in the cold, so bring clothes for all climates; rough stuff is best. Pack according to season: allowing for extremes in temperature (from the constant baking heat in the dry season to the cold and occasional frost overnight in the south). Make sure that you bring your gear in a traditional soft sided 70 - 90L rucksack or holdall - suitcases are not suitable. **Remember baggage is limited to 20kg per person plus one day bag.**

### Equipment

- Sleeping Bag - 3 to 4 season bag, depending on season, & sleep sheet
- Foam sleeping mat or thermarest & repair kit
- Small day-pack or small bag to carry daily items
- Soft rucksack or holdall (NOT rigid suitcase)
- Water bottle - for personal use - we recommend Water-to-Go (see below Responsible Travel)

### Toiletries - Most available to buy on trip

- Soap, shampoo, toothbrush/paste, antibacterial hand wash, lip balm & moisturiser
- Sun block 35 + after sun, hat & sun glasses
- Tampons (can buy in most places)
- Contraception

### Clothes

### Personal Effects

- One pair of trainers or boots
- Sandals/flip flops/jandals/thongs
- Underwear/socks
- T shirts/shirts
- Shorts/swimwear
- Jeans/trousers/jog pants/leggings
- Skirt or dress
- Sweat shirt/jumper
- Jacket/fleece & waterproof jacket
- Camera with protective case, spare batteries, film/memory card
- Torch & spare batteries (head torch is best)
- Travel adaptor plug/charger (for cameras & mobile phone batteries)
- Money belt
- Personal stereo - there is a stereo on the truck with iPod/MP3 adaptors
- Towel &/or sarong

### **Recommended Medical Kit List**

- Antiseptic ointment/Antihistamine cream & tablets
- Nurofen or equivalent pain-killer
- Eye-drops/bath
- Anti-diarrhoea treatment
- A couple of bandages (elasticated & triangular)
- Medication for personal allergies/asthma etc
- Insect repellent containing Deet
- Some suitable antibiotics as recommended by your doctor for infected cuts or to treat severe dysentery
- Rehydration sachets/vitamin tablets
- Assorted plasters
- 1 Course of malaria treatment
- Malaria Tablets - see Vaccinations & Health section

Even though our trucks are equipped with a comprehensive medical kit, we advise you to bring a small personal medical kit as our truck kit is not for general everyday use. It will also be your responsibility to carry your kit on included excursions and optional activities as some local operators may not have medical kits to hand.

**What to wear** - Keeping your arms, shoulders and legs covered will go a long way to prevent causing offence and hassle to yourself. This is true for men as well as women (especially in Morocco, Mauritania, Sudan, Egypt and predominantly Muslim countries). Avoid wearing tight or revealing clothing, but generally on beaches you can wear what you like. Attitudes range from fairly liberal in such places as the Red Sea coast, to fairly conservative in some of the small towns. Cities and large towns are also fairly relaxed, but outside these areas dress conservatively.

## **PHOTOGRAPHY AND ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT**

**Cameras (incl. Digital & Video Cameras)** - An easy to use 'point and shoot' will get you some good photos. For memorable shots, it may be worthwhile investing in an SLR camera, but be sure to get some practice in before the trip! Most towns and cities have internet cafes where you can download onto CD/ internet sites - but don't rely on it. Internet speeds can be slow for uploading photos to social media or the Cloud.

**Photography** - Be aware of your surroundings when taking photographs and filming. Some locations will be sensitive or have local laws banning photography. For example it is usually forbidden to use cameras at borders or around government buildings, military installations, bridges and airports or to take photos of local officials. If you do take photos or film where it is not permitted you may find yourself being questioned by irate officials who may decide to confiscate your camera or instruct you to delete all the images/footage on your device. If in doubt ask for permission, or if there is no-one to ask use some common sense.

**Drones** - As the use of drones becomes more common, countries throughout the world are gradually updating their laws and restrictions on usage. The specific regulations will vary from one country to another, so do check the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office advice for the latest information. As with cameras, use your common sense if you do use a drone and avoid operation in sensitive areas. If you plan to bring a drone on your trip with us please contact us first to ensure there will be a suitable place to store it while on your trip.

**Electrical charging & power supply** - It may be difficult to find a power source for charging at times,

so a spare battery is a must.

Consider a 12V in-car charger (our vehicles are equipped with a couple of 12 volt cigarette lighter charger sockets - truck trips only) or bring along your 230V mains charger and travel adaptor plug for use at some of the hotels, hostels and campsites we stay at.

NOTE: 12V - 230V inverters cannot be used on our vehicles because of the power drain they cause.

Log onto [www.whatplug.net](http://www.whatplug.net) for information regarding the different electrical plugs and voltage used in each country.

## CONTACTING HOME

The internet and WiFi are available in many towns / cities you will visit. Do bear in mind that the connections can be unreliable and will not always be as fast as you are used to at home. If a lot of people try to use the internet at the same time the speed will be slower still, especially if trying to make Skype calls or upload photos / videos. During periods of the trip where we are wild camping, internet will be less common.

Some travellers choose to take an unlocked mobile phone with them and buy local SIM cards in each country, allowing them to use mobile data. If you particularly want or need regular internet access this may be a good option. Telephone calls can be expensive usually £1 to £5 for a three minute call.

**Online Diaries** - A great variety of free "travel blogs" are now available online, they are a good way of keeping relatives and friend up to date with what you are doing and a good place to upload photos, collecting messages as well as keeping a record for yourself.

## RESPONSIBLE TRAVEL

### Before you go

- Remove unnecessary packaging before you go - waste disposal facilities are often stretched or non existent in the places we visit. To avoid unnecessary pollution of local water supplies take environmentally friendly toiletries with you.
- Why not invest in a wind-up or solar-powered torch or media player before you travel or at least rechargeable batteries.
- Learn some of the local language and read up on the local history/culture before you go. You'll get so much more out of your trip.
- Why not pack some pens/pencils exercise books in your rucksack and they can be donated to a local school or project while you're away. You can also purchase these items cheaply, locally which will help local businesses.
- Take a sturdy water bottle with you from home that you can re-use throughout your trip. We carry large quantities of purified water with us on our Expedition vehicles and it is much better for the environment if you drink this, rather than purchase bottled water along the way. (It also saves you money).
- Water-to-Go: Oasis Overland have partnered with Water-to-Go to help reduce the number of plastic water bottles consumed during a trip. Water-to-Go is a filtration system that eliminates over 99.9% of all microbiological contaminants including viruses, bacteria, chemicals and heavy metals from any non-salt water source. Click [here](#) and enter the code OASIS15 to purchase your [Water-to-Go](#) products at 15% discount. Water-to-Go will then donate a further 15% to Oasis Overland Charity projects.

### While you're travelling

From experience gained in running trips, we have developed our own practical and manageable environmental policy which all of our crew practice on the trips we operate, and they will share this information with you at the start of your trip. We welcome your input on this, plus any new ideas you may have, to improve our existing procedures. As a guide here's a few tips to bear in mind.

- Don't waste water. It is a scarce resource in many of the places our trips visit. On all our Ultimate and Overland Expeditions we carry large quantities of purified water with us. We encourage you to refill your own water bottles from this supply, rather than purchase bottled water along the way-much more environmentally friendly and saves you money.
- Never buy endangered species or endangered habitat products. Apart from the fact of it being illegal it also encourages the trade to continue.
- Look after and preserve the areas we visit. Be careful about stepping on coral reefs or trekking on undesignated tracks.
- Buy locally made crafts and products helping to support the local economy.
- Don't feel when bargaining that you have to get the cheapest price possible just for the sake of it. Pay what the item is worth to you & don't worry about what someone else has paid.
- Try the local food and drinks - this will help to support local farmers and food sellers. Sitting in a local cafe is also a great way to meet local people.
- Dispose of litter appropriately on your trip. This includes cigarette butts. Not only does litter look unsightly it can be lethal to wildlife.
- Where any toilet facilities exist, however unsavoury they might seem to you, they should be used. Where they do not, always bury your waste and make sure it is never near (at least 30m) a water source.
- When game viewing do not encourage your guides to get too close to the wildlife so that their natural behaviour is impeded.
- Respect local customs, traditions and beliefs of the people in the different regions that you travel through.
- Do not take photos of people, ritual events or special places unless you have asked first. Dress appropriately according to local codes and show respect around religious festivals.
- Recycling is almost non-existent in many of the areas and countries we visit - we do the best we can with limited resources & space on our vehicles.
- For books dedicated to travelling more responsibly & ethically see: [www.tourismconcern.org.uk](http://www.tourismconcern.org.uk)

**Community Projects** - Oasis are active in raising awareness and providing support to a number of projects and local schools where we believe we can make a positive difference. More information on the [projects we support](#).

## SECURITY

All major cities have their share of petty crime (just like our cities) and sensible precautions need to be taken. Wearing expensive looking jewellery or watches and carrying cameras will draw unnecessary attention to you. Leave valuables such as passports and excess money in your hotel safe or truck safe (we recommend carrying a copy of your passport details page at all times). You may find a simple money belt is more discreet than a bag. Always be aware of your surroundings and when approached by people you do not know, use your common sense. At night in cities it's best to use a taxi, rather than walking around the streets, single women in particular need to be careful and we would suggest that it is safer to be in a group.

**On board the truck** - Each vehicle is fitted with a hidden, lockable safe to be used for money, passports and important documents. Group member will be responsible for the safe and Oasis Overland cannot accept any liability for clients' personal or monetary contents kept in the safe or on board the truck. We advise you to not take items of value that are not essential for the journey. In certain areas a roster may be drawn up for the group to share the task of guarding and keeping

**FCO Advice** - The UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) offer country-specific advice, regarding not only security but also entry regulations, local laws and customs and health. We strongly recommend all travellers visit the FCO website, or the equivalent in their home country, to familiarise themselves with local conditions and potential issues in the countries they plan to visit before committing to a trip with us. You can view their website [here](#).

As an adventure tour operator, some of our trips will travel to areas that are rarely-visited and occasionally attract negative publicity. We are not in the business of taking our travellers or indeed staff to regions that we consider dangerous and **the safety of all who travel with us is always our main priority**, but as a discerning customer we understand you will want to be aware of any risks before



travelling. We liaise with the FCO on specific regions or areas as necessary, as well as monitoring open media outlets and political risk resources, and speaking to our contacts on the ground.

In some rare cases, our trips may have to travel through areas against which the FCO either 'advise against all but essential travel' or 'advise against all travel'. When our trips travel through these areas we will carry out all due diligence and notify you in advance. This advice can change without notice. In these instances you will need to ensure you have full and comprehensive travel insurance that includes cover for these areas – some policies will exclude them. We are able to provide additional cover, if required, at additional cost. It may also be required that you read and sign a short information sheet confirming you have been advised of the risks and agree to travel contrary to the FCO advice.

If you have any questions at all about the safety or security of your trip, please do not hesitate to contact us and we will be happy to discuss your trip in more detail.

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

### **Gorilla Trekking Permit**

On our trips to Rwanda & Uganda, the opportunity of being up close and personal with a family of highland Mountain Gorillas, has to be classed as one of the most amazing wildlife encounters in Africa. You may see a variety of monkeys, chimpanzees and buffalo on the hike as well. Accompanied by park rangers, you will track these rare, gentle giants who live on the forested slopes of the Virunga Mountains or Bwindi Impenetrable Forest National Park. Full payment is required at the time of booking and is subject to availability. Once requested your permits cannot be refunded or exchanged.

**Trekking the Gorillas** - The trek to find the Gorillas can take several hours and you will need to be in reasonable physical shape. For much of the trek you will be in high grass or thick vegetation & it could well rain, so wear protective clothing (to prevent being scratched) & waterproofs as well as good walking boots or shoes. Once your guide has located the Gorilla family you will be permitted to view them for strictly 1 hour. A maximum of one group of eight people per day are able to visit each Gorilla family. Your group will be accompanied by a tracker/guide & an armed park ranger. Time passes quickly when you are with your Gorilla family so remember to put away your camera and enjoy the experience for what it is rather than through your viewfinder. If we view the Gorillas from Uganda there is the opportunity to paddle out onto Lake Bunyoni in canoes and visit some of the nearby islands, or hire mountain bikes to visit nearby villages & schools. From Rwanda there will also be an opportunity to visit the genocide memorial in the capital Kigali, which is a moving and humbling experience. Please bear in mind that Mountain Gorillas are wild animals and as such there is no guarantee that you will see them. That said however, we have never had this happen on previous trips. For the protection of the Gorillas, if you are ill on the day of the trek you will not be permitted to trek (this decision is made by the rangers and wildlife authority staff alone), if there are permits and time allows with our itinerary, it may be possible to trek the following day at very little or no extra cost - this will be dependent on receiving permission from the local authorities and regulations at the time. There are no refunds or transfers under ANY circumstance for cancellation, no show or non allowance to trek.

**How to request a Gorilla trekking permit** - In order for us to confirm your Gorilla Permit, it is essential that you notify us of your interest in trekking at the same time as making your booking. This can be done by just adding the Gorilla Permit to your trip at the time of booking. Once requested your permits cannot be refunded or exchanged. We make reservations many months in advance (sometimes as early as 6 months for some dates).

The cost of securing a Gorilla Trekking Permit in advance through our local sources is payable in full to Oasis overland at the time of booking. Once requested your permits cannot be refunded or exchanged. This cost incorporates the permit cost (paid to the relevant wildlife authorities locally) and service/bank fees/transport/communication costs incurred by our local agent in order to secure your permit in advance.

Due to the popularity of trekking to the Mountain Gorillas and the limited availability of obtaining trekking permits, the Wildlife Authority responsible for organizing the permits require the following details before confirmation is granted;

- Your full passport details

- Guarantee of Full payment

**Please note:** Please be aware that before your departure, the cost of the trekking permit may change. This may be due to currency fluctuations & / or price increases by the local wildlife authority. Transport from our base in either Uganda or Rwanda to the starting point of your trek is not included in the above permit cost - which will account to an average of \$30 US pp (dependent on the number of people trekking)

**Just add this on to your trip when booking!**

### **Serengeti & Ngorongoro Crater 2 1/2 day / 2 night Safari**

On your Oasis Overland trip through Tanzania, you have the opportunity to go on a guided safari in the world renowned Serengeti National Park & Ngorongoro Crater Conservation Area.

You can either add this to your booking in advance of your trip or you can pay directly to the local operator, the decision is yours!

Once requested and paid for, this cannot be refunded or exchanged.

For this safari you shall be collected in 7 seat safari vehicles, in the afternoon from Meserani Snake Park, where you will be staying on your Oasis trip. You will then be driven to Karatu, where you shall have an overnight stay and dinner at either Kudu Campsite or Flamingo Campsite.

The following morning you will have an early wake up & breakfast, before heading out to do a morning game drive in the Ngorongoro Crater. The group will then enjoy a picnic style lunch in the Ngorongoro Crater, before heading on to an afternoon's game drive in the Serengeti. You will then be taken to the Seronera Campsite, for your evening meal and where you will be camping overnight.

On the final day of this excursion you will have another early breakfast to give you the maximum morning game drive through the Serengeti. There will then be a packed lunch before heading back to Meserani Snake Park, where you will re-join your truck and your Oasis trip.

**Please note:** The above safari is fully inclusive of all meals while on safari, transport in purpose built safari vehicles with maximum 7 people plus a driver/guide, park entrance and conservation fees to Ngorongoro Crater and the Serengeti, as well as camp fees at Karatu and inside the Serengeti.

Please be aware that up to 2 months before your departure the cost of this Add On could change. This would only be due to currency fluctuations or price increases by the Tanzania Parks Authority.

**Just add this on to your trip when booking!**

### **African Wildlife and the Migration**

**Wildlife** - View a [chart](#) detailing what animals you may see in the various gameparks and reserves we visit between Nairobi and Johannesburg.

**The Migration** - The '[Great Wildebeest Migration](#)' has to be one of the most impressive wildlife spectacles in the animal kingdom. For those lucky enough, this once in a lifetime experience can be viewed in the surrounds of The Serengeti National Park/Ngorongoro Conservation Area of Tanzania and the Maasai Mara of Kenya and can be done before or after your trips with us.

## **WHAT TO EXPECT**

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## **LIFE ON THE ROAD**

Firstly expect the unexpected! If you are looking for a set itinerary where everything runs smoothly, then this is not the kind of trip for you. Our itineraries can change due to local circumstances, and in such situations we'll always try to minimise any disruption, but bear in mind that from time to time events happen outside our control. It is this very unpredictability which makes each expedition different, exciting and one of the most adventurous things that you will possibly ever do! As part of this adventure you will be expected to have an active involvement in the day to day running of the trip, be part of the group and get stuck in and help with various tasks, whether it's cooking meals over open fires, pitching your tent or keeping the truck clean and tidy.

### **Itinerary**

Because Oasis Overland do not operate normal 'package holidays' the itineraries given cannot be guaranteed to run exactly as outlined. However, it is rare that we have to make major changes and in the event that we do this will be discussed with you either before or during the trip. It is important to bear in mind that should it not be possible to enter a certain country due to safety concerns, visa problems or political turmoil etc, and it becomes necessary to fly over a country in order to continue a trip, that all costs for flights will be borne by you and not Oasis. Should it not be possible for an Oasis trip to begin from a scheduled starting city due to border closures, civil unrest etc, Oasis will make all reasonable efforts to begin the trip from an alternative location. However, all additional costs that you may incur in travelling to the alternative location will be paid by you or your insurance company and not Oasis.

### **Expedition Vehicle**

For most of your trip the Oasis expedition truck will be your new home - giving you a comfortable & secure base with which to experience your trip. We use purpose built truck's which have been converted especially for this expedition, which pass through all types of terrains from soft sand, mud, rock and potholed roads to tarseal. It is reassuring to know that these vehicles can handle the tough conditions that they are put through. The truck is equipped with all the equipment we may need en route, including a professionally compiled expedition Medical Kit, large water & fuel carrying capacities, an extensive range of spare parts and the kitchen sink, (well almost!) so all you need is your sleeping bag, a roll mat and your own personal gear!

### **Seatbelts**

All Oasis Overland trucks are fitted with seatbelts. For your own safety and security we recommend that travellers wear these at all times whilst the vehicle is moving. Our overland trucks in Africa also have a 'beach area' which is a chill out zone to be used when the truck is not moving.

### **Accommodation**

Oasis uses roomy three-person tents but only for two people. They are specially made for us to meet the tougher conditions of an overland trip and have mosquito netting sewn into the door and windows. Tents are shared (between two people of the same sex from your group unless you are a couple). We spend some nights bush or desert camping and the rest of the time in campsites. Facilities and standards at campsites vary, some are well equipped and managed and some are very basic. At bush camps you will be living off the truck, so there will be no showers or en-suite facilities! At certain campsites there is the opportunity to upgrade to a private room at your own expense if you are missing your bed.

### **During the day**

As a guide, driving days normally start at about 8am and finish at about 5pm, with stops for lunch and buying food, seeing local sights etc. We won't be driving every day, although there are times when we will drive for two, but we will then stop for a few days and you will have free time to explore, meet local people, do some optional activities or just relax and do your own thing. Expect to sometimes get dusty & dishevelled during the day and although you will be able to shower most nights (except at bush camps), not all camps will have hot showers.

### **Meals & cook groups**

When 'on the road' or camping, we usually cook using gas or over open fires in a rota system and you can expect to cook in a group of two or three people approximately once every ten days depending on the number of people on trip and whereabouts you are. Your cook group will have to decide on what to cook, utilise stocks from the truck stores and locally obtain ingredients from markets, shops etc. and rustle up a meal. But don't worry if you're not a Gordon Ramsay as the rest of the group and the Tour leader usually lend a helping hand. Here is an idea of what to expect at meal times:

**Breakfasts:** Usually simple - we help ourselves to cereal, toast, hot drinks and on occasion we will splurge with a cooked breakfast.

**Lunch:** Cold and usually quick. The cook group will put out bread, tinned supplies and maybe make a salad.

**Dinner:** Cooks come into their own in the evening, and will always attempt to cook up some delights. When the truck is parked up for a few days in a town or city most people usually like the option to eat out at local restaurants - so we often don't cook all meals when at these locations.

**Vegetarians / Vegans / Coeliacs / Gluten & Lactose intolerance** - Our Tour Leaders will always do their best to cater for any dietary requirement or intolerance whenever possible. However we do not cater for fussy eaters. It must be remembered that the variety of dishes available may not be the same as available to meat eaters. If there is anything in particular you require in your diet or because of an allergy or would miss from home, it would be best to bring these with you, as these cannot be purchased with normal Local Payment funds due to the high cost of these specialised and often imported foods.

Remember that when eating out in local restaurants & hotels that vegetarianism or food allergies / intolerance's, are still not widely known about or understood by many local people. i.e Vegetarians or Vegans will often be offered fish or chicken in error. Most large towns and cities, or areas used to tourists, will often have more choice but please be aware that it will probably not be as varied as you are used to when eating out at home.

### **In the evenings**

When at a bushcamp or campsite where you and your tent buddy will put up the tent, and then lend a hand with getting out the tables, stools, firewood and water containers. The fire grates need to be taken out, the fire lit and someone can fill the kettle and make hot drinks while the cook group prepares the evening meal. Then just sit back & chill and enjoy the rest of your evening!

### **Oasis Crew**

We usually have two crew whose duties are extensive and quite demanding, with challenges ranging from driving and maintaining the expedition vehicle to a high standard, to organising visas and border crossings, arranging accommodation, pre-booking some excursions and guides, helping with shopping and cooking as well as finding the best deals, socializing and making sure everything runs as smoothly as possible. While our crew are usually experienced and knowledgeable they are not tour guides as such. Our trips pass through many countries and our tour leaders cannot be expected to have detailed knowledge of each country's history, flora and fauna and archaeological sites. Even so - they will be more than willing to pass on any interesting and useful information that they have acquired whilst on the road. A rewarding way to gain a better insight into the wildlife, cultural and historical diversity of the countries we travel through is by reading guide books as well as talking to the local people and using local guides.

Adventure travel can be unpredictable and occasionally our crew may have to amend the itinerary to take into account changing local circumstances or because of a delay at a border or because of circumstances outside our control. This can all lead to additional work and commitment for our crew who will do all they can to minimize any disruption to the trip. While our crew are essentially on call 24 hours a day 7 days a week, it has to be remembered that no one is actually expected to work these hours, so at Oasis we are realistic that within a trip there will be times when our crew need 'down time' and a chance to relax and 'let their hair down' as well. They are only human!

## **Itinerary Changes**

Due to the unpredictable nature of this expedition - it is not always possible to follow the exact itinerary as set out below. We will always endeavour to visit all the places listed, and often more that are not. All the information regarding the itinerary is given in good faith and is subject to change, dependent on local political or country instabilities, weather, security & road conditions etc. Any major itinerary changes will be decided by the crew & company directors and will be discussed with the group beforehand whenever possible. It is also possible that the expedition may arrive later than specified into Cape Town/Nairobi or Cairo.

It is important to bear in mind that should it not be possible to enter a certain country due to safety concerns, visa problems or political turmoil etc, and it becomes necessary to fly over a country in order to continue a trip, that all your costs for flights will be borne by you and not Oasis.

If we do have to fly over a particular area or country we will endeavour to take in other places of interest if time permits. While Oasis Overland will cover all ground and transport costs, we have not taken the cost of flights into our pricing structure. Therefore any flights will have to be paid for by each individual.

Optional Excursions are paid for on the day and organised during your trip, so you can decide whilst travelling which activity you may want to do. Prices listed are only a guide and may be dependant on fluctuating exchange rates and minimum numbers. Please see below for more details.

## **OPTIONAL EXCURSIONS**

### **TOGO**

<b>Title</b>	<b>From Price</b>
Fetish Markets - Lome	US\$10

### **CAMEROON**

<b>Title</b>	<b>From Price</b>
Climbing Mount Cameroon - 3 Days, from	US\$150

### **GABON**

<b>Title</b>	<b>From Price</b>
Lope National Park - Forest Walk	US\$50
Lope National Park - River Safari	US\$50

### **NAMIBIA**

<b>Title</b>	<b>From Price</b>
Dolphin Cruise	US\$65

<b>Title</b>	<b>From Price</b>
Game Fishing, 1 Day	US\$120
Quad Biking, 2hrs - Swakopmund	US\$55
Sandboarding - Lying Down / Standing Up, from	US\$45
Tandem Skydive	US\$220
Visiting Tame Cheetahs + Feeding	US\$10
Township Tour	US\$45
Scenic Flight over Sossusvlei - min 5 people	US\$390
Paragliding	US\$115
Horse Riding	US\$60
DVD of Skydive , DVD + photo's, from	US\$80

## **SOUTH AFRICA**

<b>Title</b>	<b>From Price</b>
Accommodation whilst in Cape Town - per day, from	US\$25
Cable Car to Table Mountain - return	US\$23
Robben Island Boat Trip, Guided Tour of Island	US\$25
Car Hire - per day - Cape Town, from	US\$25
White Shark Cage Diving	US\$200
Meals whilst in Cape Town - per day, from	US\$25
Wine Tour - Stellenbosch area, incl. lunch	US\$50
Abseil Table Mountain	US\$80
Apartheid Museum - Johannesburg	US\$7
Black Water Tubing 1/2 day	US\$50
Cango Caves Adventure tour upgrade	US\$6
Guided Bridge Walk - Bloukrans Bridge	US\$15
Highest Bungee in the World - Bloukrans Bridge	US\$85
Horse Ride - Royal Natal National Park - from	US\$22
Johannesburg City Tour	US\$45

Title	From Price
Local Township Tours	US\$35
Quad Biking 2 hours - Tsitsikamma	US\$55
Sea Kayaking	US\$24
Soweto Township Tour	US\$40
Tree Top Canopy Walk	US\$50
Tsitsikama National Park Entrance	US\$16
Waterfall Zip Lining in Tsitsikamma Forest	US\$40

## ZIMBABWE

Title	From Price
Zipline - Victoria Falls (solo/tandem), from	US\$74
Zambezi Canoe Trip - Full Day	US\$150
White Water Rafting - Low Water (mid July to mid Dec)	US\$120
White Water Rafting - High water (1/2 day)	US\$120
Sundowner Cruise incl. Drinks & snacks, from	US\$65
Raft & Riverboard DVD	US\$40
Raft & Riverboard Combo - Zambezi	US\$190
Photos on CD / Video of Bungee, from	US\$20
Microlite Flight over Victoria Falls - 15/30 mins (takes place in Zambia), from	US\$185
Flying Fox / Gorge Swing x 2 / Zipline Adrenaline - 1/2 Day or Full Day, from	US\$155
Entrance to Victoria Falls - Zimbabwe	US\$50
Bungee Jump off Victoria Falls Bridge (111m)	US\$160
Bridge Slide - Victoria Falls (solo)	US\$45
Bridge Slide - Victoria Falls (tandem)	US\$70
Bridge Swing - Victoria Falls (solo)	US\$160
Bridge Swing - Victoria Falls (tandem)	US\$240
Bungee Jump / Bridge Slide / Bridge Swing	US\$210
Bridal Veil Falls, entry	US\$10



Title	From Price
Chimanimani National Park - entrance fee, guide & transport, from	US\$30
Cooking experience, half day - Harare	US\$20
Harare city walking tour	US\$Donation
Game Drive - Gweru	US\$25
Great Zimbabwe Ruins	US\$20
Matobo National Park - 1 Day Guided Rhino Walk / Jeep Tour	US\$100
Mule Drawn Carriage ride	US\$30
Horseback - Game Ride - Gweru, from	US\$30

## BOTSWANA

Title	From Price
Okavango Delta / 1 Night Mokoro Trail	US\$160
Flight Over the Delta by Plane - min 5 people	US\$100

## LESOTHO

Title	From Price
Malealea Village Choir	US\$7
Overnight Hikes with packhorses from	US\$70
Overnight Pony Treks from	US\$100
Pony Trekking - Lesotho, various rides available per hour from,	US\$25
Various Guided Walks - per hour	US\$5

## MALAWI

Title	From Price
Scuba Diving, from	US\$35
Village Tour / Dinner	US\$4

## TANZANIA

Title	From Price
1 Day walk to Mandara Hut, from	US\$130
Cultural Tours of Marangu area, from	US\$15
Dhow Sunset Cruise, from	US\$25
Diving at Local Reefs, from	US\$70
Diving Mnemba Atoll Marine Reserve (1 / 2 Dives), from	US\$85
Maasai Village Walk / Camel Ride - each	US\$7
Meals on Zanzibar - per day, from	US\$15
Prison Island Trip	US\$25
Snorkelling - Mnemba Atoll Marine Reserve	US\$85
Snorkelling at Local Reefs	US\$40
Spice Tour	US\$25
Swim with Dolphins	US\$35

## KENYA

Title	From Price
Giraffe Centre - Nairobi	US\$10
Return Transport to Elephant Orphanage - Per Car (Max 4 people)	US\$25
Sheldrick Elephant Orphanage - Entrance	US\$6
Crater Lake - entry & guide (Min 4 people)	US\$47
Elsamere Visit	US\$12
Giraffe Centre	US\$10
Hells Gate National Park (entry and bike hire - min 3 people)	US\$57
Return Transport to Elephant Orphanage - Per Car (Max 4 people)	US\$25
Sheldrick Elephant Orphanage - Entrance	US\$6

## UGANDA

Title	From Price
Horseriding - 2 to 3 Hours, from	US\$50
Jinja Sunset Cruise	US\$45
Mountain Bike Hire - 1 to 4 Hours, from	US\$35
Pygmy Island Day Trip on Lake Bunyoni	US\$25
Soft Power Education - Volunteer Day	US\$25
Quadbiking - 1 to 4 Hours, from	US\$50
Tandem Kayaking	US\$160
Transport to Gorilla Trek	US\$30
VCD / DVD of the Rafting / Kayaking	US\$45
Whitewater Rafting - White Nile	US\$140
Chimpanzee trek, including transport min. 4	US\$125

## RWANDA

Title	From Price
Donation to Kigali Genocide Memorial	US\$10
Genocide Memorial - Audio headset	US\$15
Golden Monkey Trekking, from	US\$120
Mount Bisoke Hike, from	US\$95
Musanze Cave Tour	US\$30

## ETHIOPIA

Title	From Price
Addis Ababa entry into museums, from	US\$8
Omo Valley - tribal village visits	US\$100
Simean Mountain Trek, includes transport, guide, food & entrances, per day - from	US\$70
Lalibela Rock Churches Permit plus guide	US\$55
Fasilidas Castles and Compound - Gondar	US\$10

Title	From Price
Boat Trip on Lake Tana including entrance to monasteries & guide, from	US\$20
Blue Nile Falls - entry, from	US\$15
Axum Churches & Archaeological Sites Permit including guide	US\$35
Axum - Transport to and from, guide and entrance fees	US\$200
Axum - Accommodation - per night, from	US\$10

## EGYPT

Title	From Price
Valley of the Kings & Workers Tour - Entry & Guide	US\$34
Tombs of the Nobles - Aswan	US\$5
Solar Boat Museum at Giza Pyramids Plateau	US\$10
Kitchener Island / Elephantine Island	US\$6
Karnak Temple Sound & Light Show	US\$15
Guided tour & Entrance to Abu Simbel	US\$20
Giza Pyramids Sound & Light Show, incl transport, & entrance	US\$35
Entrance to one of the Pyramids at Giza, from	US\$7
Entrance to Mummy Room in Egyptian Museum	US\$16
Entrance to Luxor Temple	US\$11
Entrance to Luxor Museum	US\$17
Entrance to Karnak Temple	US\$14
Entrance to Edfu Temple	US\$11
Balloon Flight over the Nile & Luxor	US\$90
Aswan High Dam/Philae Temple includes entrance,guide & transport	US\$40
3 Day 2 nights Felucca Trip Sailing Down the Nile	US\$45

## SUDAN

Title	From Price
Boat trip on the Nile	US\$15

Title	From Price
Archaeological Permits - per site	US\$10

We feel that having optional excursions gives a greater degree of flexibility and independence to our group members; independence to decide how much your spending budget can afford; flexibility to decide when and what time of day or with whom to visit a particular site, rather than for example, with the whole group at a pre-ordained time. If you decide not to join a popular excursion, you will have free time to relax or wander off to a market, village or beach, depending on where we are.

You pay for the optional excursions to the local operator, ensuring the money stays with that operator in the local community and this ensures as well, that you are paying the true price for any optional excursions you want to do. This also applies to accommodation costs before and after the trip. Please note that the prices of optional excursions quoted are approximate as local prices can and do change. Please see the relevant trip page for the Optional excursions you can do on that trip and a list of prices.

Notes downloaded on: 20-04-2024

