

# ADDIS ABABA to ALEXANDRIA (52 days) Africa Explored - A One Off Expedition



**COUNTRIES VISITED: DJIBOUTI, EGYPT, ETHIOPIA, SUDAN**

## INCLUDES

- Accommodation - approx. 95% camping & 5% simple hostels/hotels
- Lake Nasser Ferry
- Pyramids & Sphinx day tour & guide
- Meals approx. 60%
- All Transport on Oasis Expedition Truck
- Camping and Cooking equipment
- Services of Oasis Crew

## EXCLUDES

- Visas
- Optional Excursions as listed in the Pre-Departure Information
- Flights

- Airport Taxes & Transfers
- Travel Insurance
- Meals - approx. 40%
- Drinks
- Tips

## TRIP ITINERARY

### DAYS 1 - 15 ADDIS ABABA TO DJIBOUTI

We spend a few days in the capital **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 organizing our Sudan and Egypt visas - before heading onto Harar. **Harar** surrounded by a centuries-old defensive wall is a city known for its mazelike alleys, colourful markets and Hyena Men who feed the hyenas every night just outside the city walls.

Perhaps one of the least known countries in Africa is **Djibouti**. This tiny country has many highlights. Few places have such a variety of landscapes - like salt lakes, volcanoes, sunken plains, limestone chimneys with steam coming from the top to mention a few. We will spend a week in the country exploring the countries highlights before returning to Ethiopia.

### DAYS 16 - 31 DJIBOUTI TO SUDAN

Lalibela, famous for it's 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. From here we will drive to Mekele where we will be based for a few days so you have the unique opportunity to visit one of the hottest, driest and lowest places on the planet, the **Danakil Depression**.

Passing through the **Tigray** region we will drive through the breathtaking mountain scenery of the Adwa mountains and reach the holy city of **Axumin** the far north of Ethiopia. Known for its tall, carved obelisks dating from the 12th Century have been kept alive by generations of dedicated priests who guard their precious religious and artistic artefacts. You will have a free day to explore the ancient city.

Unesco World Heritage listed, **Simien Mountains National Park**, with it's dramatic escarpments and freestanding pinnacles are characteristic of the area, they are also home to many indigenous animals, including Gelada Monkeys, Walia ibex, Lammargeyer vultures along with klipspringers and Ethiopian wolves. Hiking is a great way to enjoy the park and you will have time to do so if you wish.

Our last stop in Ethiopia, **Gondar** was the capital of Ethiopia from 1632 until 1868. We now make our way to **Sudan**.

### DAYS 32 - 38 SUDAN TO WADI HALFA

The hospitality in **Sudan** can be surprising - and is very genuine. **Khartoum** is our next stop and it has a fantastic setting on the confluence of the **Blue and White Niles**. 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 the 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 39 - 52 WADI HALFA TO ALEXANDRIA

Upon reaching **Lake Nasser** and **Wadi Halfa in Northern Sudan**, we enter Egypt and board the ferry to

Abu Simbel. 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, are just some of the ways to spend your days here. You can also join a 2 or 3 day **felucca** sail boat cruise to **Edfu and Kom Ombo** before arriving into Luxor.

You will be kept busy exploring in **Luxor** - where you can 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 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 for a couple of days or try your hand at various watersports such as snorkelling, windsurfing or scuba diving in the cool clear blue waters.

A days drive away is Cairo we will visit the great **Pyramids and Sphinx at Giza** with our **Egyptologist guide** and also the **Egyptian History Museum** in the afternoon.

Our final destination, **Alexandria** is only a short distance away, known as "The Pearl of the Mediterranean", it has an atmosphere that is more Mediterranean than Middle Eastern and definitely a fitting way to end this exploratory and challenging overland expedition.

## ESSENTIAL INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR TRIP

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### ARRIVAL & ACCOMMODATION

**Trip Joining Point:** Itegue Taitu Hotel - Addis Ababa

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

**Address:** Taitu Street, Piazza, Addis Ababa

**Telephone:** +251 11 1 560787

**Website:** [www.taituhotel.com](http://www.taituhotel.com)

**Email:** [reservations@taituhotel.com](mailto:reservations@taituhotel.com)

All prices listed are approximate and subject to limited availability.

Room Type	Price	Description
Single / Twin / Double shared facilities	US\$13.00	Per Room, in outside building
Single / Twin / Double en-suite	US\$25.00	Per Room, in outside building
Single / Twin / Double en-suite	US\$45.00	Per Room, in main building

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**The trip starts from the Itegue Taitu Hotel at approximately 8am on the morning of Day 1 of your trip.**

The Itegue Taitu Hotel, was the first hotel built in Addis Ababa. The hotel is situated in the middle of the city in the Piazza area, amenities include a restaurant and bar, outdoor garden seating area, souvenir shop, travel agents and WiFi. The hotel is close to banks, cafes, shops, restaurants in a very popular part of the city.

**PRE-TRIP ACCOMMODATION:**

Please book this direct with the Itegue Taitu Hotel. Accommodation costs are payable direct to Itegue Taitu Hotel on arrival, in Ethiopian Birr or \$ USD.

**AIRPORT TRANSFERS:**

If you would like to arrange an airport transfer, please contact Itegue Taitu Hotel directly. Taxis are available from Bole International airport into the city centre, it is approximately 20 minutes to the hotel and should cost approx. \$10 - \$15 USD.

We recommend to change some currency into Ethiopian Birr in the airport at a bureau de change or there are ATM's - hostel rates can be low.

**PRE-DEPARTURE MEETING**

There will be a pre-departure meeting in the starting hotel the night before the start of the trip, usually around 6:00pm. There will be a notice in reception advising the exact time and here your crew will explain how the day to day running of the trip works. Your Tour Leader will **collect your Local Payment** money as well as 2 photocopies of your **passport information page, insurance policy details** with policy number and confirmation that the duration will cover you for the entire trip and a **24-hour emergency assistance** telephone number. It is essential that you attend this meeting - please let the UK office or your tour leader know if you are unable to do so.

**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**

You need to arrive at your departure city at least the day before your trip begins. Return flights must be booked for at least the day AFTER the trip is due to end. You may wish to allow some extra time to explore your arrival and departure cities (if you are joining in Victoria Falls - we suggest arriving at least 2 days before if you wish to partake in the many adrenaline activities on offer).

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 2 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:

- Cape Town to Alexandria - 19 blank pages
- Harare to Alexandria - 15 blank pages
- Harare to Kampala OR Addis Ababa to Cairo - 8 blank pages

## 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.

**Visas must be paid for in USD cash ONLY.**

Country	UK	Irish	Aust	NZ	S.Africa	USA	Canadian
Egypt	US\$35	US\$45	US\$35	US\$35	Free	US\$35	US\$35
Sudan	US\$170	US\$170	US\$170	US\$170	US\$170	US\$270	US\$170
Ethiopia	US\$60	US\$60	US\$60	US\$60	US\$60	US\$70	US\$60
East Africa Visa	US\$100	US\$100	US\$100	US\$100	US\$100	US\$100	US\$100
Kenya	US\$50	US\$50	US\$50	US\$50	US\$50	US\$50	US\$50
Uganda	US\$50	US\$50	US\$50	US\$50	US\$30	US\$50	US\$50
Rwanda	US\$50	US\$50	US\$50	US\$50	Free	US\$50	US\$50
Tanzania	US\$50	US\$50	US\$50	US\$50	Free	US\$100	US\$50
Malawi	US\$75	US\$75	US\$75	US\$75	Free	US\$75	US\$75
Mozambique	US\$100	US\$100	US\$100	US\$100	Free	US\$100	US\$100
Zimbabwe	US\$55	US\$55	US\$30	US\$30	Free	US\$30	US\$75

Botswana	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free
Namibia	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free
S. Africa	Free	Free	Free	e-visa	Free	Free	Free

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

## **Egypt**

All Nationalities require a visa for Egypt

**Starting in Cairo** - Passport Holders from UK, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, USA, Canada and most EU countries can obtain the visa at the airport on arrival. Approximate cost \$35 USD. **South Africans** will need to obtain this visa in **advance**, it is not available at the border on arrival.

**Starting in the UK or Accra for the Trans Africa and Cape Town or Nairobi for the Nile Trans Trip** - Passport Holders from UK, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, USA, Canada and most EU countries will require a visa to enter Egypt, and we will obtain this visa whilst on the trip. Approximate cost \$35 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.

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

## **Djibouti**

All Nationalities require a visa for Djibouti. We will obtain this visa whilst on the trip. Approximate cost \$95 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 Cape Town, Cairo or Nairobi for the Nile Trans trip** - All nationalities must obtain a Ethiopia 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.

**Joining in the UK or Accra for the Trans Africa trip** - Passport Holders from UK, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, Canada and most EU countries will need to obtain this visa whilst on the trip. As this visa is valid for three to six months only, and must include your entire stay in Ethiopia, obtaining it prior to the start date means it will have expired by the time we arrive into Ethiopia, 8 months later. Costs vary depending on your nationality. 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.

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

American passport holders are able to obtain visas valid for 1 to 2 years, and as such, should obtain the visa prior to travel. We can supply supporting documentation for this if necessary.

**Joining in Cape Town or Harare for the African Explored Expedition** - you will need to obtain a 6 month multiple entry visa. For Australian and New Zealand passport holders obtaining their visa in Canberra it is not possible at this stage for a 6 month visa, so you will either have to hold 2 passports or can only book on the smaller sections of this trip, please contact the embassy for up to date information [www.ethiopianembassy.net](http://www.ethiopianembassy.net)

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.

**Joining in Addis Ababa** - Passport Holders from UK, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, USA, Canada and most EU countries can obtain the visa at the airport on arrival.

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

New from 2018 - Travellers joining in Addis Ababa can now apply for the Ethiopian eVisa by following this link [www.evisa.gov.et](http://www.evisa.gov.et). The approximate cost is \$52 USD for a single entry visa valid for 30 days and \$72 USD for a single entry visa valid for 90 days.

## **Sudan**

All Nationalities require a visa in advance for Sudan. Everyone will need to send through a coloured scanned copy of the passport they will be travelling on to the office before the trip commences.

**Starting in Cairo** - passport Holders from UK, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, Canada and most EU countries will require a visa to enter Sudan, we will obtain this visa whilst in Egypt (Aswan). Approximate cost \$140 USD, (this includes an immigration registration fee of US\$60pp & a departure tax of US\$10pp).

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

**USA** passport holders starting in Cairo will need to apply for the visa before you join the trip. Oasis Overland can assist you with a letter of invitation and authorisation code through a Sudanese agent. Approximate cost is \$130 USD for the letter of invitation and authorisation code. Visa costs will depend on the embassy in your home country. On Entering Sudan you will still need to pay an additional \$70 USD (for an immigration registration fee of US\$60pp & a departure tax of US\$10pp). You will need to bring 2 recent colour passport photos on a white background along with you to apply for the registration.

**Starting in the UK or Accra for the Trans Africa and Cape Town or Nairobi for the Nile Trans Trip** - Passport Holders from UK, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, Canada and most EU countries will require a visa to enter Sudan, and we will obtain this visa whilst on the trip. Approximate cost \$140 USD, (this includes an immigration registration fee of US\$60pp & a departure tax of US\$10pp).

**USA** passport holders starting in UK, Accra, Cape Town or Nairobi as part of the Trans Africa or Nile Trans to Cairo, will need to apply for a letter of invitation and authorisation code before a visa can be granted. We can arrange a Sudanese agent to assist US citizens with your visa application whilst you are on the trip. Approximate cost \$140 USD for the visa, (this includes an immigration registration fee of US\$60pp & a departure tax of US\$10pp and an additional \$130 USD for the Letters of Invitation.

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

## **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 travellers 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 [www.nomadtravel.co.uk](http://www.nomadtravel.co.uk) or [www.fitfortravel.scot.nhs.uk](http://www.fitfortravel.scot.nhs.uk)

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

**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 if you 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 [www.nathnac.org/travel/](http://www.nathnac.org/travel/).

## 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 in **My Oasis Account** if you have not already done so: travel insurance 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.

We offer tailor made Overland Adventure Travel Insurance that covers most of the adventure and sporting activities on our trips.

For further information on the insurance we offer, the activities covered and costs, check out the **Travel Insurance** section of our website. You can purchase our insurance by logging into **My Oasis Account** and click 'Buy Insurance' or through the following **link**.



## 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, campsite/hostel fees, gas, and certain activities listed on the trip page) which cannot be pre-paid from the UK. It is a guaranteed amount, set before your trip departs, and unlike 'group kitty' systems we will not ask you to contribute more once the trip is underway.

**Please note:** Your LP is payable to your Tour Leader on the morning of departure in US\$ Dollars CASH ONLY. 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. Please do not bring all of your Local Payment in US\$100 notes and also make sure that they are post 2013 and do not have a serial number starting with CB.

### How to bring your currency?

Past Oasis travellers have fed back that, as a general rule it is best to bring your money in **US\$ dollars cash**, although you could also bring a combination of US\$ & £GB if British pounds are your home currency. It will depend on the exchange rate at the time of your trip as to which currency is better, but we suggest that US\$ are the preferred option for East Africa, whilst £GB can also be easily exchanged in Kenya, Tanzania and Southern Africa. PLEASE NOTE YOU SHOULD DEFINITELY BRING AT LEAST 50% of your money in cash. You will need to pay for your visas and many of the optional excursions using cash and there will be times when you need cash to change into local currency. Some travellers worry about carrying so much cash with them, however all Oasis Overland trucks are equipped with an onboard 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).

**Make sure that all your notes are in good condition. Old, torn or marked notes are often refused by the banks and shops. Please ensure your notes are dated post 2013 and do not have a serial number starting with CB.** Scottish pounds are also not accepted.

Please remember that Visas need to be paid for in US\$ CASH ONLY!

### Spending Money

From past trips and traveller feedback £100 to £145 per week should cover costs such as some meals out (on average 2 per day are supplied), soft drinks and beers, email & communications, souvenirs and other general spending. Personal spending habits & budgets differ greatly from person to person. Budget on **visa costs** (see visa section above) and **optional activities** separately (see optional excursions page) & allow extra for your **Local Payment** contribution.

### Changing money

Change your money only at banks, hotels, airports or forex bureaus. It is illegal to change money on the street, as these people will normally be opportunistic thieves or undercover police. 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

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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 so having hard currency to exchange is essential. Besides memorising your PIN, it is also important to be aware of your daily withdrawal limit and bank withdrawal costs. Please note that although Zimbabwe's currency is US Dollars it is not currently possible to obtain USD cash from ATMs or banks due to the country's cash shortage.

### **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**

Daytime temperatures in Egypt and Sudan can exceed 35C, with nights dropping to 3 or 4C (especially in the desert areas). Daytime temperatures in Ethiopia are cooler due to the altitude - especially in the highlands (Gondar, Lalibela) where it can get chilly especially at night.

In East Africa (Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania) the year is loosely divided into the 'short' rains (November) and the 'long' rains (March to May). 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.

In Southern Africa (Malawi, Zimbabwe, Botswana and South Africa) the 'dry' season is April to October when the nights can be quite cold (May to August usually being the coldest months). From 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. [View African 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

- 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

### Personal Effects

- 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.

## 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

### EGYPT

Title	From Price
Nubian Village Dinner	US\$12
Philae Temple - Entry, Taxi & Boat to Island from	US\$10
Kitchener Island / Elephantine Island	US\$6
Giza Pyramids Sound & Light Show, incl transport, & entrance	US\$35
Hurghada-Quad bike safari	US\$50
Hurghada-Full day snorkelling	US\$45
Valley of the Kings & Workers Tour - Entry & Guide	US\$34
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 Kom Ombo Temple	US\$4
Entrance to Edfu Temple	US\$11
Balloon Flight over the Nile & Luxor	US\$90
Camel ride at the Pyramids from	US\$3
Cairo Free Day - City Tour (incl Citadel, Moh'md Ali Mosque, Coptic Museum &	US\$35

<b>Title</b>	<b>From Price</b>
entrances) (Min 2 pax) from	
Aswan High Dam/Philae Temple includes entrance,guide & transport	US\$40
3 Day 2 nights Felucca Trip Sailing Down the Nile	US\$45

## **SUDAN**

<b>Title</b>	<b>From Price</b>
Meroe Pyramids entrance	US\$20
Boat trip on the Nile	US\$15
Archaeological Permits - per site	US\$10

## **ETHIOPIA**

<b>Title</b>	<b>From Price</b>
Simean Mountain Trek, includes transport, guide, food & entrances, per day - from	US\$70
Lalibela Rock Churches Permit plus guide	US\$55
Hyena feeding in Harar	US\$10
Fasilidas Castles and Compound - Gondar	US\$10
Entry into Churches in Mekele - each, from	US\$5
Axum Churches & Archaeological Sites Permit including guide	US\$35
Addis Ababa entry into museums, from	US\$8
3 Day Danakil Depression Safari - from	US\$300

## **DJIBOUTI**

<b>Title</b>	<b>From Price</b>
Walking tour of Djibouti - 2 hours	US\$25
Hiking the Mountains of Arta	US\$60

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:** 30-10-2020

