

## CAIRO TO CAPE TOWN (17 WEEKS) NILE TRANS



**COUNTRIES VISITED: BOTSWANA, EGYPT, ETHIOPIA, KENYA, MALAWI, MOZAMBIQUE, NAMIBIA, RWANDA, SOUTH AFRICA, TANZANIA, UGANDA, ZIMBABWE, SUDAN**

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Discover the rich history and fascinating culture throughout Egypt
- Camping 'under the stars' in the vast Nubian Desert in Sudan
- Visit the magnificent monasteries and rock-hewn churches located around Ethiopia
- Mountain Gorillas - Trek to see the largest living primates
- Safaris through some of East Africa's most famous National Parks
- Zanzibar Island, explore the coastal trading town of Stone Town or relax on the beautiful beaches
- Experience scuba diving, horse riding, school visits, village meals and local craft markets on Lake Malawi
- Discover the enormity of Victoria Falls
- A cruise on Chobe river - rich in wildlife
- Game drive by day and relax at floodlit water holes by night in Etosha National Park

### INCLUDES

- Accommodation - approx. 90% camping & 10% simple hostels/hotels
- Pyramids and Sphinx day tour & guide

- Lake Nasser Ferry
- Entry into Meroe Pyramids
- Lake Nakuru National Park entrance & game drive
- Return ferry to Zanzibar
- 4 nights accommodation on Zanzibar
- Lake Malawi village walk
- Private Game Ranch
- Overnight sleeper train Vic. Falls to Bulawayo (if available)
- Chobe National Park - entrance & river cruise
- Etosha National Park
- Cheetah Park
- Sossusvlei Sand Dunes
- Fish River Canyon
- Cape Cross Seal Colony
- Spitzkoppe Rock formations
- Cape Agulhas
- Meals - approx. 60%
- All transport on Oasis Expedition Truck
- Camping and Cooking equipment
- Services of Oasis Crew

## **EXCLUDES**

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- Visas
- 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. 40%
- Drinks
- Tips

## **ESSENTIAL INFORMATION**

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### **ARRIVAL & ACCOMMODATION**

**Trip Joining Point:** Havana Hotel - Cairo

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

**Address:** 26 Syria Street, Mohandiseen, Cairo

**Telephone:** +20 2 3749 0758

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

**Email:** [info@havanahotelcairo.com](mailto:info@havanahotelcairo.com)

All prices listed are approximate and subject to limited availability.

\*If you are travelling solo you can opt to reserve a shared room (usually a twin or triple) with other same sex travellers from your trip.

Room Type	Price	Description
Single en-suite	US\$60.00	Per Room
Twin en-suite *	US\$60.00	Per Room
Double en-suite	US\$60.00	Per Room
Shared - Triple en-suite *	US\$65.00	Per Room

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

This 3 star hotel is in walking distance to cafes, restaurants, supermarkets and forex bureaus / banks. The hotel has an in house cafe, bar, restaurant, laundry service, WiFi and safety deposit boxes. All rooms have a private bathroom, phone, TV and Air Conditioning. A buffet breakfast is included.

#### **PRE-TRIP ACCOMMODATION:**

You can pre-book accommodation and airport transfers through us. We will require your flight number, arrival time, and arrival date so please ensure this information is forwarded to us as soon as you have booked your flight. Please book this service as soon as you have booked your flight and no later than 6 weeks prior to departure, after which a late booking fee may apply. If you have booked through a travel agent, please contact them to request pre-trip accommodation and airport transfers.

Double, twin, and triple rooms will be provided subject to availability, where requested. However when not available we may need to book other rooming arrangements, and will fit these as closely as possible to your request. Those travelling solo will be put in shared rooms to reduce the costs to them, which may be twin/triple shares with other Oasis Overland travellers. Single rooms may be

available in some cities for solo travellers, and we will arrange this for you on request, subject to availability.

If you are arriving early in the morning and you would like to check in immediately, you may have to reserve your room for the previous night to ensure direct check in, otherwise you may have to wait until normal check in times (usually 1pm to 2pm).

Please note that on occasion we may use an alternative hotel due to limited availability, but we will inform you nearer your trip departure date if this is the case.

Accommodation costs are payable direct to your Tour Leader on arrival in Egyptian Pounds, £GB or \$US.

## **AIRPORT TRANSFERS:**

**Airport Transfer Costs:** Approximately \$35 USD

On arrival into Cairo airport you will be met by a local representative who will take you to the group joining Hotel. The driver will have your name on a sign with Oasis Overland. Transfer costs are per person and are payable to your Tour Leader on arrival in Egyptian pounds, £GB or \$US. Contact details of your transfer representatives will be provided a few weeks before your trip departure.

Flying into Cairo International Airport (CAI) can be a culture shock as there are not many signs or directions. As a majority of flights arrive here very early in the morning - it is made a lot easier by having a transfer rep. meet you on arrival. It is approx 25kms from the airport to the centre of Cairo. Whilst at the airport you should change some cash into Egyptian Pounds in the main foyer of the airport. The rates are the same as in town but better than at hotels.

## **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:**

- Cairo to Nairobi (or v.v) - 10 blank pages
- Cairo to Cape Town (or v.v) - 20 blank pages
- Nairobi to Cape Town (or v.v) - 10 blank pages

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.

**You shall also need passport photos for this trip, please use the below as a guide;**

- Cairo to Nairobi (or v.v) - 4 passport photos
- Cairo to Cape Town (or v.v) - 8 passport photos

- Nairobi to Cape Town (or v.v) - 4 passport photos

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

Country	UK	EU	Aust	NZ	S.Africa	USA	Canadian
Egypt	US\$25	US\$25	US\$25Irish	US\$25	Free	US\$25	US\$25
Sudan	US\$210	US\$210	US\$210	US\$210	US\$210	US\$264	US\$210
Ethiopia	US\$82	US\$82	US\$82	US\$82	US\$82	US\$82	US\$82
Djibouti	US\$35	US\$35	US\$35	US\$35	US\$35	US\$35	US\$35
Somaliland	US\$75	US\$75	US\$75	US\$75	US\$75	US\$75	US\$75
Kenya	US\$30	US\$30	US\$30	US\$30	US\$30	US\$30	US\$30
East Africa Visa (covers Uganda & Rwanda)	US\$100	US\$100	US\$100	US\$100	US\$100	US\$100	US\$100
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
Burundi							
Tanzania	US\$50	US\$50	US\$50	US\$50	Free	US\$100	US\$50

Malawi	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free
Zambia	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free
Namibia	N\$1600	N\$1600	N\$1600	N\$1600	Free	N\$1600	N\$1600
Botswana	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free
Zimbabwe	US\$55	US\$55	US\$30	US\$30	Free	US\$30	US\$75
Mozambique	US\$150	US\$150	US\$150	US\$150	Free	US\$150	US\$150
South Africa	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free
Eswatini	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free
Lesotho	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free

For more information on other nationalities & visas check out [Project Visa](#).

## Kenya

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

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 your trip travels from Kenya to Uganda and Rwanda and then returns to Kenya, your eTA will still be valid for entry when you return.

If you are travelling on the Trans Africa or Nile Trans expeditions you will apply for your eTA whilst on the trip.

## **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](http://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.

## **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.

## **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.

## **Malawi**

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

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**

- **All trips:**

Most nationalities require a visa costing 1600 Namibian Dollars. This is a new requirement and we expect to be able to obtain the visa at the border.

You can check your nationality at <https://eservices.mhaiss.gov.na/>

## **Rwanda**

Most nationalities require a visa for Rwanda. However, Commonwealth citizens can obtain a free visa on arrival into Rwanda.

We recommend that all travellers who are travelling to both Uganda and Rwanda should apply for an East Africa visa which will cover you for both countries. You must apply for this through the first country you will be entering. So if you will enter Uganda first, apply through this website: <https://visas.immigration.go.ug/>. If you will enter Rwanda first, apply through this website: [https://irembo.gov.rw/user/citizen/service/dgie/request\\_a\\_visa](https://irembo.gov.rw/user/citizen/service/dgie/request_a_visa) (scroll down to 'Immigration and Emigration' and select 'Visa application')

## **South Africa**

- **All trips:**

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. Those who do need a visa and are travelling on a trip that includes Lesotho or Eswatini, will need to make sure that they obtain a multiple entry visa for South Africa as you will be entering and exiting these countries from South Africa.

## **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.

## Uganda

Most nationalities require a visa for Uganda.

Those who are travelling to both Uganda and Rwanda should apply for an East Africa visa which will cover you for both countries. You must apply for this through the first country you will be entering. So if you will enter Uganda first, apply through this website: <https://visas.immigration.go.ug/>. If you will enter Rwanda first, apply through this website

[https://irembo.gov.rw/user/citizen/service/dgie/request\\_a\\_visa](https://irembo.gov.rw/user/citizen/service/dgie/request_a_visa) (scroll down to 'Immigration and Emigration' and select 'Visa application')

## 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

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 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 several 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 [Fit for Travel](#).

**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.

## TRAVEL INSURANCE

It is a compulsory requirement that you have adequate travel insurance before you join any Oasis trip and at the very least are insured for all necessary medical and 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.

### **IMPORTANT INSURANCE INFORMATION FOR THOSE VISITING ZANZIBAR:**

The Zanzibar Government have announced the introduction of a travel insurance policy which will be obligatory for all foreign visitors to the islands, regardless of whether travellers have their own travel insurance in place.

1. The insurance policy is sold by Zanzibar Insurance Corporation.
2. The cost is US\$44 per person.
3. The insurance requirement comes into force on 1st October 2024.
4. The policy must be purchased online at [visitzanzibar.go.tz](https://visitzanzibar.go.tz) and purchases can be made from 1st September 2024.
5. Payment can be made online by debit or credit card.

6. On completion of the purchase, visitors will receive a QR code. The policy documents will be sent to your registered email address.

7. The policy document and QR code must be presented on in Zanzibar. Entry will be refused without this documentation.

To ensure you have a smooth entry, please ensure the above policy is purchased in advance of your arrival.

## **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 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	Toiletries - Most available to buy on trip
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sleeping Bag - 3 to 4 season bag, depending on season, &amp; sleep sheet</li> <li>• Foam sleeping mat or thermarest &amp; repair kit</li> <li>• Small day-pack or small bag to carry daily items</li> <li>• Soft rucksack or holdall (NOT rigid suitcase)</li> <li>• Water bottle - for personal use - we recommend Water-to-Go (see below Responsible Travel)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Soap, shampoo, toothbrush/paste, antibacterial hand wash, lip balm &amp; moisturiser</li> <li>• Sun block 35 + after sun, hat &amp; sun glasses               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tampons (can buy in most places)</li> <li>• Contraception</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Clothes	Personal Effects
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One pair of trainers or boots</li> <li>• Sandals/flip flops/jandals/thongs</li> <li>• Underwear/socks</li> <li>• T shirts/shirts</li> <li>• Shorts/swimwear</li> <li>• Jeans/trousers/jog pants/leggings</li> <li>• Skirt or dress</li> <li>• Sweat shirt/jumper</li> <li>• Jacket/fleece &amp; waterproof jacket</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Camera with protective case, spare batteries, film/memory card               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Torch &amp; spare batteries (head torch is best)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Travel adaptor plug/charger (for cameras &amp; mobile phone batteries)               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Money belt</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Personal stereo - there is a stereo on the truck with iPod/MP3 adaptors               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Towel &amp;/or sarong</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Recommended Medical Kit List	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Antiseptic ointment/Antihistamine cream &amp; tablets</li> <li>• Nurofen or equivalent pain-killer</li> <li>• Eye-drops/bath</li> <li>• Anti-diarrhoea treatment</li> <li>• A couple of bandages (elasticated &amp; triangular)</li> <li>• Medication for personal allergies/asthma etc</li> <li>• Insect repellent containing Deet</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some suitable antibiotics as recommended by your doctor for infected cuts or to treat severe dysentery <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rehydration sachets/vitamin tablets <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assorted plasters</li> <li>• 1 Course of malaria treatment</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>• Malaria Tablets - see Vaccinations &amp; Health section</li> </ul>
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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

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 issues in the countries they plan to visit before committing to a trip with us. You can view their website [here](#).

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.

**In cities** - 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 members 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 the vehicle secure.

## 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 \$40 US pp (dependent on the number of people trekking). Please note that transportation to the trek start point will be included in the permit price from 2025.

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

## **Serengeti & Ngorongoro Crater 3 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. This add-on needs to be booked and paid for in advance, so that we can have all the appropriate arrangements ready and in place for you. Once requested and paid for, this option cannot be refunded or exchanged.

For this safari you shall be collected in 7 seat safari vehicles, early in the morning from Meserani Snake Park, where you will be staying on your Oasis trip. You will then be driven into the Serengeti and enjoy an afternoon game drive en-route to the Seronera area in the heart of the park where you will camp and stay overnight at Seronera campsite.

The following morning you will have an early wake up & breakfast, before heading out to do an early morning game drive. After lunch, another game drive follows as you head towards the rim of the Ngorongoro Crater and overnight at the Simba campsite.

The following morning we start early again and have a full morning exploring the Ngorongoro Crater, the largest intact caldera in the world. We will descend the forested crater rim into the central plains which teem with possibly the highest concentration of wildlife in all of Africa. Excellent sightings of a huge range of species are guaranteed. After a picnic lunch, we will then leave the park and drive back to re-join the truck.

If you choose not to take this option, you can remain behind at the Snake Park. From here various activities are available in the local area, including visits into the Snake Park itself, visits to Masai villages, or day trips into the Serengeti (you won't see nearly as much on these day trips though as you will spend a significant portion of the day just driving there and back).

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. You will take your Oasis tent and your camping gear with you. A minimum of 4 travellers is required for this safari to operate. 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. The order of the arrangements and campsites used is also subject to change.

**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 our after your trips with us.

## **TRAVEL INSURANCE**

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

You will be asked to provide the following details on the Traveller Information Form that you send in to us after making your booking. 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. UK residents can purchase the insurance we recommend directly through [Campbell Irvine](#).

## 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 OASIS25 to purchase your Water-to-Go products at 25% discount.

## While you're travelling

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## **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.

## TRIP ITINERARY

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### Cairo to Luxor

The first part of our day is spent in **Cairo** visiting the great **Pyramids and Sphinx at Giza** with our **Egyptologist guide**, and also the **Egyptian Museum**. We then drive 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. We end our first few days in the city of **Luxor** where the **Valley of Kings and Queens and Karnak and Luxor Temples** will keep us busy exploring for a few days more.

### Luxor to Abu Simbel

Here in **Luxor** - you have the opportunity to visit the **Valley of Kings and Queens**, the remarkably well preserved tombs of ancient rulers such as Ramses IV 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 an array of souvenirs.

A half day drive further south brings us to **Aswan**. Here you will notice the first of many cultural changes on this trip. The darker Nubian people in Aswan lead a more relaxed and less hectic pace of life than their Egyptian countrymen. We base ourselves here for a few days to finalise our Sudanese visas if we haven't already done them in Cairo and in which time you can choose to join a 2 or 3 day **felucca** boat cruise to **Edfu and/or Kom Ombo**. From Aswan we drive to Abu Simbel where there is the opportunity to visit the massive stone monuments built by the greatest of all pharaohs, Ramses II.

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### **Abu Simbel to Meroe**

From Abu Simbel we take a ferry across **Lake Nasser** to the border with Sudan. This can be a long border crossing but once the formalities have been dealt with, we drive to the friendly town of **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! From Wadi Halfa we board our expedition vehicle for our drive across the **Nubian Desert**. Our route will see us either hugging the banks of Nile as it snakes its way south 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.

*Note: If the security situation in Sudan has not improved, then we will overfly from Cairo to Addis Ababa (flight at your cost, budget \$200) after completing the Egypt section using public transport and*

*local hotels. We will then join our overland truck in Addis and adjust our itinerary in Ethiopia. We ran our 2022/23 Trans Africa expedition in this way and it worked very well.*

## **Meroe to Khartoum**

The ancient **Pyramids at Meroe** lie to the north of the capital Khartoum. **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. In our few days here you can visit the **Hamed al Nil Tomb** or take a trip to the **daily camel market**. Viewing the confluence of the two Niles is also an interesting way to pass the time.

## **Khartoum to Addis Ababa**

From Khartoum we drive south-east through the towns of **Wadi Medina and Gedaref**, on our way to **Ethiopia**. Many of 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. In the towns of 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.

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.

Our route to **Addis Ababa** takes us via **Lake Tana** and the spectacular **Blue Nile Gorge and Falls**. From **Bahir Dar** 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. A couple of days drive brings us to the capital Addis - where we have the chance to indulge in some authentic Ethiopian coffee or explore 'El Mercato' - one of Africa's largest open air markets.

## **Addis to Eldoret**

After a couple of days in Addis we continue our journey south heading into the **Omo Valley**. This little visited 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 then travel through one of Africa's greatest natural features - the **East African Rift Valley**. Overland trips through East Africa will allow you to experience absolutely spectacular scenery first hand, and the Rift Valley is a definite highlight. Stretching from beyond the Dead Sea in Jordan down to Mozambique in Southern Africa - the valley floor seems to sweep on forever and is dotted with

volcanic peaks, shimmering lakes and countless springs.

The north of Kenya is very remote and Nomadic tribes people like the **Rendille and Borena in Marsabit** and the **Samburu** (cousins of the Maasai) still wear very distinctive and often elaborate dress. We pass the foothills of Mount Kenya before tackling some mountainous driving through the Nandi Hills - taking us via **Eldoret** before continuing into **Uganda**.

### **Eldoret to Kabale**

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. 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.

### **Kabale to Nairobi**

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

Re-entering Kenya, we travel through the heart of the Rift Valley - with views from atop a steep escarpment opening up some of the most dramatic scenery in the world. Hills covered in tea plantations and rural scenery lead 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 almost a **million Pink Flamingos** which feed noisily along the shoreline. A further half-day drive brings us 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 antelope and a variety of plains animals

A few hours drive brings us to the capital Nairobi.

## **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.

## **Nairobi to Arusha**

We depart Nairobi early morning and immediately find ourselves in hot savannah grasslands with acacia trees providing the only shade. Various game, usually zebra and giraffe can be seen as we head south and cross into Tanzania - where we camp on the outskirts of Arusha town.

Here you have the option to use a local African safari travel company to guide us through the **Ngorongoro Crater** and **Serengeti National Park**. You'll head down into the spectacular Ngorongoro Crater. On the crater floor 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 go into the Serengeti 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.

## **Arusha to Dar Salaam**

After leaving Arusha 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. A days drive brings us to Dar Es Salaam where our truck is based for around 4 nights in a campsite on a beautiful **Indian Ocean beach**. From here we take the ferry out to **Zanzibar** for four full days, 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.

## **Dar es Salaam to Lake Malawi**

After meeting the Zanzibar ferry we begin the journey through the interesting and **mountainous** hinterland of Tanzania. In the afternoon, after negotiating some appalling roads, 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. Passing through lush mountainous landscape and plantations - we enter **Malawi** which is dominated by its huge fresh water lake.

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 south. 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 firsthand the talent of the local artisans and purchase some exquisite pieces of furniture and carvings out of ebony and mahogany.

## **Lake Malawi to Harare**

From here we continue on to the capital **Lilongwe** in the south of the country where you can check out the local markets.

Our African Overland trip leaves Lilongwe to cross into Mozambique and head for Zimbabwe. 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 enter **Zimbabwe** and travel via 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.

## **Harare to Great Zimbabwe**

Leaving Harare we make our way to the **Eastern Highlands of Zimbabwe**, where we visit Chimanimani, and 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. **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 is where we stop next to view this ancient city.

### **Great Zimbabwe to Bulawayo**

We drive across **Mashonaland to Gweru**, here we visit a privately run horse and game ranch where you can go game viewing on horseback. Its our destination for the next few days. Next we enter Matabeleland and the town of **Bulawayo**.

### **Bulawayo to Victoria Falls**

You have the option of leaving the truck 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 hordes of other game**. There is also the opportunity to visit **Cecil Rhodes' grave and Ancient Rock Paintings**. 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 Bulawayo to the mighty Victoria Falls**. 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! When you get there **the mighty Victoria Falls await**.

### **Victoria Falls**

For some, **Mosi oa Tunya - The Smoke That Thunders**, is the highlight of their African safari. From the main road, in the bush 20kms away, a cloud of mist and spray can be seen against the blue sky. As you get closer, a low rumble like thunder can be heard. When you arrive it is a surprise to discover the enormity of Victoria Falls. One mile wide and hurling over 5 million cubic metres of water a minute into the Zambezi Gorge this sight is breathtaking at any time of year. The Gorge is the setting for one of the most adrenaline fuelled **grade 5 white water rafting in the world**. There is something here for everyone. Why not take a **day trip over the Victoria Falls bridge to view the falls from Zambia**, take the **Flight of Angels** - a great way to get a birds eye view of the falls in a **microlight or helicopter**, **enjoy a civilised afternoon tea at the Victoria Falls Hotel**, **join a Sunset Boat Cruise or a more sedate Canoe trip**. For those who want to make the most of the **adrenaline activities**, get your fix with the **Gorge Swing, Abseil or 'enjoy' one of the highest commercial Bungee Jumps in the world**.

### **Victoria Falls to Maun**

Our overland trip continues from Zimbabwe into **Botswana**, spending 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.

We then head south into the Kalahari Basin - known for its dry, desolate and expansive freedom. 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**.

### **Maun to Brandberg Mountains**

Travelling west we enter **Namibia** and continue toward **Etosha National Park** - recognised as one of the worlds greatest wildlife viewing areas. The semi desert is quite a contrast to the more fertile terrain we have been used to. The night sky ablaze with shooting stars and the warm glow of our campfire makes for unforgettable camping experiences. 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.

### **Brandberg to Swakopmund**

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.

## Swakopmund to Fish River Canyon

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.

## Fish River Canyon to Cape Town

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 on our way to the most southern tip of Africa at **Cape Agulhas**, it is the dividing line between the warm Indian Ocean and the cooler Atlantic Ocean. Our final destination for this amazing expedition is the vibrant and cosmopolitan city of Cape Town. Our accommodation here will be in a backpackers lodge.

There is so much to see and do in Cape Town and we recommend if you have the time to stay a few extra days and explore the area.

## OPTIONAL EXCURSIONS

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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.

### TANZANIA

Title	From Price
Maasai Village Walk / Camel Ride – Each	US\$7
Meals on Zanzibar – Per Day, From	US\$15
Snorkelling – Mnemba Atoll Marine Reserve	US\$85
Cultural Tours of Marangu Area – From	US\$15
1 Day Walk to Mandara Hut – From	US\$130
Dhow Sunset Cruise – From	US\$25
Diving at Local Reefs – From	US\$70
Diving Mnemba Atoll Marine Reserve (1 / 2 Dives), from	US\$85
Prison Island Trip	US\$25
Snorkelling at Local Reefs	US\$40

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Title	From Price
Spice Tour	US\$25
Swim with Dolphins	US\$35

## EGYPT

Title	From Price
3 Day 2 nights Felucca Trip Sailing Down the Nile	US\$45
Accomm in Cairo – Twin / Double room (before / after trip) p/p, from	US\$30
Entrance to Mummy Room in Egyptian Museum	US\$16
Entrance to Luxor Temple	US\$14
Entrance to Luxor Museum	US\$17
Entrance to Karnak Temple	US\$10
Cairo Tower	US\$13
Balloon Flight over the Nile & Luxor	US\$90
Aswan High Dam/Philae Temple includes entrance,guide & transport	US\$40
Valley of the Kings & Workers Tour – Entry & Guide	US\$34
Tombs of the Nobles – Aswan	US\$7
Tomb of King Tutankhamen (when open)	US\$17
Nubian Village Dinner	US\$12
Kitchener Island / Elephantine Island	US\$7
Karnak Temple Sound & Light Show	US\$15
Guided Tour & Entrance to Abu Simbel	US\$20

## ETHIOPIA

Title	From Price
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
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

Title	From Price
Axum – Transport to and from, guide and entrance fees	US\$200
Axum – Accommodation – Per Night – From	US\$10
Addis Ababa Entry into Museums – From	US\$8
Omo Valley – Tribal Village Visits	US\$100

## RWANDA

Title	From Price
Golden Monkey Trekking, from	US\$120
Donation to Kigali Genocide Memorial	US\$10
Genocide Memorial – Audio Headset	US\$20
Mount Bisoke Hike – From	US\$95
Musanze Cave Tour	US\$30

## 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
Tandem Kayaking	US\$160
Transport to Gorilla Trek (Included from 2025)	US\$40
VCD / DVD of the Rafting / Kayaking	US\$45
Whitewater Rafting – White Nile	US\$140
Quadbiking – 1 to 4 Hours, from	US\$50
Chimpanzee trek, including transport min. 4	US\$125

## SOUTH AFRICA

Title	From Price
Robben Island Boat Trip, Guided Tour of Island	US\$25
Historical Cape Town Tour	US\$20
Wine Tour – Stellenbosch area, incl. lunch	US\$50

Title	From Price
Cable Car to Table Mountain – Return	US\$23

## NAMIBIA

Title	From Price
Quadbiking – 2hrs	US\$55
Sandboarding – Lying Down / Standing Up, from	US\$45
Visiting Tame Cheetahs + Feeding	US\$10
Various Desert Tours, from	US\$65
Township Tour	US\$45
Tandem Skydive	US\$220
Paragliding	US\$115
Horse Riding	US\$60
Game Fishing – 1 Day	US\$120
Dolphin Cruise	US\$65

## ZIMBABWE

Title	From Price
Entrance to Victoria Falls – Zambia	US\$30
Gorge Swing (solo/tandem), from	US\$100
Jet Boating	US\$115
Cooking Experience, Half Day – Harare	US\$20
Harare City Walking Tour	US\$Donation
Bridal Veil Falls – Entry	US\$10
Chimanimani National Park – entrance fee, guide & transport, from	US\$30
Bungee Jump off Victoria Falls Bridge (111m)	US\$160
Entrance to Victoria Falls – Zimbabwe	US\$50
Flying Fox / Gorge Swing x 2 / Zipline Adrenaline – 1/2 Day or Full Day, from	US\$155
Game Drive – Gweru	US\$25
Helicopter Flight over Victoria Falls – 15/30 mins, from	US\$170
Matobo National Park – 1 Day Guided Rhino Walk / Jeep Tour	US\$115

Title	From Price
Horse Riding – Victoria Falls, from	US\$100
Microlite Flight over Victoria Falls – 15/30 mins (takes place in Zambia) from	US\$185
Raft & Riverboard Combo – Zambezi	US\$190
Souvenir Trip T–Shirt, from	US\$20
Sundowner Cruise incl. Drinks & Snacks	From US\$65
White Water Rafting – High water (1/2 day)	US\$120
White Water Rafting – Low Water (Mid July to Mid Dec)	US\$120
Zambezi Canoe Trip – Full Day	US\$150
Zipline – Victoria Falls (solo/tandem) from	US\$74
Bridge Swing – Victoria Falls (Solo)	US\$160
Bridge Swing – Victoria Falls (Tandem)	US\$240
Bungee Jump / Bridge Slide / Bridge Swing Combo	US\$210

## **SUDAN**

Title	From Price
Archaeological Permits – Per Site	US\$10

## **KENYA**

Title	From Price
Boat Trip, Lake Naivasha	US\$25
Crater Lake walk, includes entry, lunch & guide (min 4 people) – Naivasha	US\$80
Elsamere Visit	US\$12
Hells Gate National Park (entry and bike hire – min 3 people)	US\$57
Giraffe Centre – Nairobi	US\$10
Return Transport to Elephant Orphanage – Per Car (Max 4 People)	US\$25
Sheldrick Elephant Orphanage – Entrance	US\$6

## **MALAWI**

Title	From Price
Snorkel Lake Malawi, from	US\$25
Scuba Diving – From	US\$35

Title	From Price
Village Tour / Dinner	US\$10

## BOTSWANA

Title	From Price
Okavango Delta / 1 Night Mokoro Trail	US\$175
Flight Over the Delta by Plane – Min 5 People	US\$150

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.

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:** 18-05-2026

