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FES TO CAPE TOWN (23 WEEKS) TRANS AFRICA



COUNTRIES VISITED: ANGOLA, BENIN, CAMEROON, CONGO, COTE D'IVOIRE, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO, GABON, GHANA, GUINEA, GUINEA BISSAU, LIBERIA, MAURITANIA, MOROCCO, NAMIBIA, NIGERIA, SENEGAL, SIERRA LEONE, SOUTH AFRICA, THE GAMBIA, TOGO

HIGHLIGHTS

- Explore the many medinas, souks and kasbahs throughout Morocco
- Cross the vast Sahara Desert
- Enjoy Senegalese food and some of the best music in West Africa
- Meet rescued chimps at Tacugama Chimpanzee Sanctuary
- Discover Africa's best kept secrets and pristine beaches in Sierra Leone
- Navigating Kejetia in Kumasi, the largest market in West Africa
- Visit a fetish market to see the still thriving religion of Voodoo
- Travel through some of the densest jungles and toughest terrains
- Game drive by day and relax at floodlit water holes by night in Etosha National Park
- Enjoy many of the activities available in Namibia's adventure capital, Swakopmund

INCLUDES

- Accommodation - 100% camping

- Guided tour of Fes
- Guided tour of Volubilis
- Guided walk and entry to Tacugama Chimpanzee Sanctuary
- Tiwai Island Wildlife Sanctuary
- Entry into Yamoussoukro's Notre-Dame de la Paix, the world's largest basilica
- Entry into Cape Coast castle
- Kakum National Park canopy walk
- Boat trip to Ganvie Stilt Village
- Etosha National Park
- Cape Cross Seal Colony
- Cheetah Park
- Spitzkoppe Rock formations
- Sossusvlei Sand Dunes
- Fish River Canyon
- Meals - approx. 65%
- All transport on Oasis Expedition Truck
- All road tolls and ferry crossings
- Camping and Cooking equipment Services of Oasis Crew

EXCLUDES

- Visas
- 3 day lay-over costs in Accra
- Optional Excursions as listed in the Pre-Departure Information
- Flights
- Airport Taxes & Transfers
- Travel insurance (compulsory, get a quote here)
- Meals - approx. 35%
- Drinks
- Tips

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

PRE-DEPARTURE MEETING

You can plan to arrive at the campsite in Fez where the truck will be based at anytime after 11am on Day 1. We will be holding a pre-departure meeting that afternoon starting at 2pm.
The normal camp that we use is:
- Diamant Vert Bungalows, Rte Ain Chqef, Fez, 30000

We will reconfirm this in your pre-trip documentation closer to your arrival.
If you want to arrive a few days earlier and spend more time in Fez, we recommend booking a hostel/hotel in town as the location of the campsite we use is not ideal for exploring the city independently.

POST TRIP ACCOMMODATION AND AIRPORT TRANSFERS

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

FLIGHT INFORMATION

For the Trans Africa **starting in Morocco**, you will need to arrange your own flight to Fez either at least the day before the trip starts or on Day 1 early enough so that you can join the group at the campsite in time for the pre-departure meeting.

For starters further on during the trip, you will need to arrange your flights to arrive at your departure city at least the day before your trip begins.

Purchasing onward flight tickets after the end of your trip. Due to the nature of this expedition, unforeseen delays can be experienced anywhere along the route and we cannot guarantee our arrival dates at the various locations. It is therefore recommended not to purchase these until a few weeks before your arrival in Cape Town/Nairobi/Cairo or make sure you are able to change the date of your flight if necessary and check the fees for doing this.

There are many online flight search engines such as **www.skyscanner.net** or **www.ebookers.co.uk** **,** flights can also be booked direct with airline websites or through travel agencies. Please inform us of your flight details when you have them confirmed.

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

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

PASSPORTS

Your passport must be valid for at least 6 months **AFTER** your trip finishes. This is a general requirement for all of the countries we travel to on our trips.
If you have dual nationality you can only use one passport for the entire trip. It is your responsibility to ensure you have all the relevant visas you require.
Please bring 10 photocopies of your passport details to give to your tour leader.
Number of blank pages required for the trip, please use this as an approximate guide:

- Fes to Accra - 14 blank pages
- Fes to Cape Town - 26 blank pages
- Fes to Nairobi - 35 blank pages
- Fes to Cairo - 41 blank pages

You will be required to bring passport photos with you in order to obtain visas on route. We recommend 4 passport photos for UK - Ghana, 12 passport photos for UK to Cape Town, 16 for UK to Nairobi and 26 for UK to Cairo. Passport photos will need to be on a white background.
If there are any stamps in your passport linking you with an entry or visit to Israel (this could include border/immigration stamps from other countries bordering Israel), you will need to replace your passport.
Second / Concurrent Passport - An option for some nationalities, is to apply for a second or concurrent passport. This means a second valid passport of the same nationality in addition to your current one. Travelling with two valid passports for your 40 week expedition can benefit you and help to obtain visas more speedily, for instance in having one passport to send home to obtain a visa whilst travelling on the second one. Your government in your home country that issues your passports will ask for a letter detailing 'why' you need an extra passport. Please email **africa@oasisoverland.co.uk** if you wish to apply for a second passport.

VISAS

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

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

Country	British	Australia	New Zealand	South Africa	USA	Canada
Morocco	Free	Free	Free	Required	Free	Free
Mauritania	€55	€55	€55	€55	€55	€55
Senegal	Free	Required	Required	Required	N/A	N/A
The Gambia	Free	Free	Free	Required	US$100	Free
Guinea Bissau	US$80	US$80	US$80	US$80	US$80	US$80
Guinea	US$80	US$80	US$80	US$80	US$80	US$80
Sierra Leone	US$85	US$85	US$85	US$85	US$85	US$85
Liberia	US$185	US$265	US$265	US$165	US$245	US$245
Cote d'Ivoire	€58	€58	€58	€58	€58	€58
Ghana	€120	€120	€120	€120	€120	€120
Togo	US$45	US$45	US$45	US$45	US$45	US$45
Benin	€50	€50	€50	€50	€50	€50
Nigeria	US$144	US$130	US$33	US$78	US$160	US$116
Cameroon	€153	€153	€153	€153	€153	€153
Gabon	€120	€120	€120	€120	€120	€120
Rep. Congo	US$165	US$165	US$165	US$165	US$165	US$165
Dem. Rep. Congo	US$250	US$250	US$250	US$250	US$250	US$250

Angola	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Namibia	N$1600	N$1600	N$1600	N/A	N$1600	N$1600
South Africa	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free
Lesotho	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free
Eswatini	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free
Mozambique	US$150	US$150	US$150	Free	US$150	US$150
Zimbabwe	US$55	US$30	US$30	Free	US$30	US$75
Botswana	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free
Zambia	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free
Malawi	US$50	US$50	US$50	N/A	US$50	US$50
Tanzania	US$50	US$50	US$50	US$50	US$100	US$50
East Africa Visa	US$100	US$100	US$100	US$100	US$100	US$100
Burundi						
Rwanda	Free	Free	Free	US$50	US$50	Free
Uganda	US$100	US$100	US$100	US$100	US$100	US$100
Kenya	US$30	US$30	US$30	US$30	US$30	US$30
Ethiopia	US$82	US$82	US$82	US$82	US$82	US$82
Somaliland	US$75	US$75	US$75	US$75	US$75	US$75
Djibouti	US$35	US$35	US$35	US$35	US$35	US$35

Sudan	US$210	US$210	US$210	US$210	US$264	US$210
Egypt	US$25	US$25	US$25	Free	US$25	US$25

For more information on other nationalities & visas checkout **www.projectvisa.com**

Please Note: Your Tour Leader will collect a USD 30 visa kitty per person at the beginning of the trip - which goes towards paying for taxis, photocopies, faxes, communication etc - when applying for a majority of visas as a group. Your Tour Leader will keep a separate account of expenses incurred and will inform the group of any surplus funds remaining at the end of the trip - or any extra that is required.

Angola

- **Southbound & Northbound trips:**

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

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.

Benin

- **Southbound & Northbound trips:**

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

Cameroon

- **Southbound:**

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

Those starting their trip in Accra - all nationalities must obtain a Cameroon visa in advance, before joining the Oasis trip. Most nationalities will need to make an online application to obtain an online visa issuance authorisation and then go in person to their nearest Cameroon Embassy or Consulate to obtain the actual visa sticker in their passport. You may need to make an appointment for this. Most visas are valid for entry for 90 days from the date of issue so you cannot apply for this visa

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

- **Northbound:**

All nationalities must obtain a Cameroon visa in advance, before joining the Oasis trip. Most nationalities will need to make an online application to obtain an online visa issuance authorisation and then go in person to their nearest Cameroon Embassy or Consulate to obtain the actual visa sticker in their passport. You may need to make an appointment for this. Most visas are valid for entry for 90 days from the date of issue so you cannot apply for this visa until approximately 6 weeks prior to your trip departure. Details for the visa application process and documents required will be emailed to you a few months before your trip departs. Cost will depend on the embassy in your home country.

Congo

- **Southbound & Northbound trips:**

All nationalities require a visa for Congo. We will obtain this visa whilst on the trip.

Cote d'Ivoire

- **Southbound & Northbound trips:**

All nationalities require a visa for Cote d'Ivoire. An online payment will be required in advance to apply for this visa and we will collect the visa whilst on the trip. Details for the visa process and application will be emailed to you before your trip departs.

Democratic Republic of Congo

- **Southbound and Northbound trips:**

All nationalities require a visa for Democratic Republic of Congo. We will apply for this visa whilst on the trip.

Gabon

- **Southbound & Northbound trips:**

All nationalities require a visa for Gabon. We will obtain this visa whilst on the trip.

Ghana

- **Southbound & Northbound trips:**

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

If you can only apply for a 3 month visa, you will have to apply close to your trip departure date to ensure it doesn't expire before you reach Ghana. Please keep this in mind if making travel arrangements before the expedition.

Depending on your nationality and the trip you have booked, you may be able to apply for a 3 month, 6 month or 1 year visa. Details for the visa process and application will be emailed to you a few months before your trip departs.

Guinea

- **Southbound & Northbound trips:**

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

Liberia

- **Southbound & Northbound trips:**

All nationalities require a visa for Liberia. We will obtain this visa whilst on the trip.

Mauritania

- **Southbound & Northbound trips:**

All nationalities require an e-visa for Mauritania. We will send you instructions on how to apply online a few weeks before your trip starts. Once your online application is approved, you will pick up the visa on arrival at the border.

Morocco

- **All trips:**

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

South African passport holders require a **visa in advance** to enter Morocco. You may be eligible to apply for an e-visa if you hold another visa, e.g. UK or Schengen. If not, you need to obtain a visa through a Moroccan embassy or consulate in your home country, before beginning the trip. Please contact your nearest consulate to find out more.

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/

Nigeria

- **Southbound trips:**

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

Those starting their trip in Accra - all nationalities must obtain a Nigeria visa in advance, before joining the Oasis trip. Most nationalities will need to make an online application and then go in person to their nearest Nigerian visa agency to submit their passport and hardcopies of their supporting documentation. You will need to make an appointment for this which must be within 45 days of entering Nigeria. Details for the visa application process and documents required will be emailed to you a few months before your trip departs. Cost will depend on the embassy in your home country.

- **Northbound trips:**

All nationalities must obtain a Nigeria visa and we will apply for this in advance during the trip.

Senegal

- **Southbound & Northbound trips:**

Passport Holders from UK, USA, Canada and most EU countries do not require a visa to enter Senegal. Australian, New Zealand and South African passport holders will need to obtain a visa in advance, and can do so at an embassy whilst on trip.

Passport Holders from other countries, will need to check the current visa requirements with the relevant consulate.

Sierra Leone

- **Trans Africa - Southbound & Northbound trips:**

All nationalities require a visa for Sierra Leone. We will obtain this visa whilst on the trip.

- **Sierra Leone Small Group Adventures:**

All nationalities require a visa and for most (including United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, European, British) we will arrange the visa for you free of charge prior to arrival. To facilitate this, our sales team will request a copy of your passport which will be used to issue your arrival visa.

Lungi Airport Security Pass:

The Lungi Airport Security Pass, officially called the "Securipass," is a mandatory fee for all passengers arriving at and departing from Freetown International Airport (FNA) in Lungi, Sierra Leone. We have included the cost of your arrival security pass in the price of your tour and proof of this will be sent to you prior to departure (your airport rep will also have a copy of this). When departing from Lungi Airport it is also necessary to pay for a second Securipass which can be paid in USD cash at $25 per person (or can be prepaid online at - https://securipass.sl/). For ease, we recommend paying in cash upon departure.

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.

Togo

- **Southbound & Northbound trips:**

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

Guinea Bissau

- **Southbound trips:**

All nationalities require a visa for Guinea Bissau. We will obtain this visa whilst on the trip.

The Gambia

- **Southbound & Northbound trips:**

Passport Holders from UK, Australia, New Zealand, Canada and most EU countries do not require a visa to enter The Gambia. USA will need to obtain a visa and can obtain one at an embassy during the trip. South Africans will need to obtain a visa in advance.

Passport Holders from other countries, will need to check the current visa requirements with the relevant consulate.

VACCINATIONS AND HEALTH

It is possible that you may require some vaccinations for your trip, depending on the areas that you are visiting. As we are not medically trained, we are unable to give detailed advice on vaccination requirements, so please use the information below as a guide only. We have worked closely with **Nomad Travel Clinics** for many years and they offer Oasis travellers a **10% discount** on vaccinations, anti- malarial drugs, first aid items, clothing and equipment, just enter discount code OASIS1000 at **Nomad Travel**. Alternatively you can check out the **fit for travel website** for more travel health information or consult a reputable travel clinic or your GP for information and advice. We suggest that you allow at least 8 weeks to get all your vaccinations.

Yellow Fever - Being vaccinated against Yellow Fever and having a valid certificate and a photocopy is deemed compulsory in nearly all the countries we visit in Africa, especially at certain borders and are needed if you are entering from an infected country. You can view a list of countries requiring a certificate through the **World Health organisation**.

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

Malaria - In some of the areas we visit there is a risk of contracting Malaria. You must be aware that whatever malaria prophylactics you are taking, they only offer partial protection. They must be coupled with your own physical efforts against being bitten - which is the best prevention. Malaria-carrying mosquitoes come out at sunset so from this time you should wear long sleeves and trousers. Exposed skin, especially ankles, should have insect repellent containing 'Deet' applied to them. Your crew will advise on where the worst affected areas are on the trip. There are a number of prophylactic malaria treatments on the market & requirements change. It is also wise to take a sample of whichever prophylactic you choose, a few weeks before you leave. This way you may determine early on if you have any adverse reactions so you can change the regimen if necessary. Please consult a reputable travel clinic or GP for advice. For more information visit **www.nomadtravel.co.uk** or **www.fitfortravel.scot.nhs.uk**

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

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

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 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 - 3 per day whilst travelling and 2 whilst in towns, campsite fees, wood, gas, and certain activities listed in the brochure) which cannot be pre-paid from the UK.

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

- **Fes to Accra -** 65% $US Dollars plus 35% Euros
- **Fes to Cape Town -** 65% $US Dollars plus 35% Euros
- **Fes to Nairobi -** 80% $US Dollars plus 20% Euros
- **Fes to Cairo -** 80% $US Dollars plus 20% Euros

How to bring your currency

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

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

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

US dollars dated pre-2013 are not widely accepted in Africa so please ensure your notes are dated 2013 onward & Scottish pounds are also not accepted. The rate of exchange for small denomination $US bills are usually slightly less than larger bills, but it is still advisable to bring an assortment of both as some activities and operators will not have the facility to give large amounts of change. Your Local Payment should be paid using high denomination bills please $/€ 50s or 100s.

Spending Money

For personal spending money budget on approximately £400 per month (from Morocco to Angola) and £120 to £175 per week (from Namibia to Egypt) to cover you for some meals out, drinks, communications, souvenirs and other general spending**.**

We recommend the following to be used as a guide - including a few days layover in Accra and Cape Town:

- Fes to Accra - approx. £1200
- Fes to Cape Town - approx £2400
- Fes to Nairobi - approx £4500
- Fes to Cairo - approx £5500

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

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

Changing money

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

Credit & Debit Cards

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

Pre-Paid Travel Currency Cards

These cards are similar to normal Credit and Debit cards but they can be pre loaded with cash before

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

ATMs

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

Tipping

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

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

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

In the past we have been asked by travellers about tipping your Oasis Crew. If you choose to do this, it would be budgeted separately from the above. Our guys work very hard at making your trip a great travel experience. Working overseas can often be challenging and they are pretty much on call for

you 24 hours a day, so it's appreciated as a thank you for hard work and good service, but of course not mandatory. Our suggestion is to budget around US$1 a day.

CLIMATE

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

WHAT TO TAKE

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

Equipment	**Toiletries - Most available to buy on trip**
• **Sleeping Bag - 3 to 4 season bag, depending on season, & sleep sheet** • **Foam sleeping mat or thermarest & repair kit** • **Small day-pack or small bag to carry daily items** • **Soft rucksack or holdall (NOT rigid suitcase)** • **Water bottle - for personal use - we recommend Water-to-Go (see below Responsible Travel)**	• Soap, shampoo, toothbrush/paste, antibacterial hand wash, lip balm & moisturiser • Sun block 35 + after sun, hat & sun glasses • Tampons (can buy in most places) • Contraception
Clothes	**Personal Effects**

• **One pair of trainers or boots** • **Sandals/flip flops/jandals/thongs** • **Underwear/socks** • **T shirts/shirts** • **Shorts/swimwear** • **Jeans/trousers/jog pants/leggings** • **Skirt or dress** • **Sweat shirt/jumper** • **Jacket/fleece & waterproof jacket**	• Camera with protective case, spare batteries, film/memory card • Torch & spare batteries (head torch is best) • Travel adaptor plug/charger (for cameras & mobile phone batteries) • Money belt • Personal stereo - there is a stereo on the truck with iPod/MP3 adaptors • Towel &/or sarong
Recommended Medical Kit List	
• **Antiseptic ointment/Antihistamine cream & tablets** • **Nurofen or equivalent pain-killer** • **Eye-drops/bath** • **Anti-diarrhoea treatment** • **A couple of bandages (elasticated & triangular)** • **Medication for personal allergies/asthma etc** • **Insect repellent containing Deet**	• Some suitable antibiotics as recommended by your doctor for infected cuts or to treat severe dysentery • Rehydration sachets/vitamin tablets • Assorted plasters • 1 Course of malaria treatment • Malaria Tablets - see Vaccinations & Health section

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

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

PHOTOGRAPHY AND ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT

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

Photography - Be aware of your surroundings when taking photographs and filming. Some locations will be sensitive or have local laws banning photography. For example it is usually forbidden to use cameras at borders or around government buildings, military installations, bridges and airports or to take photos of local officials. If you do take photos or film where it is not permitted you may find

yourself being questioned by irate officials who may decide to confiscate your camera or instruct you to delete all the images/footage on your device. If in doubt ask for permission, or if there is no-one to ask use some common sense.

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

Electrical charging & power supply - It may be difficult to find a power source for charging at times, so a spare battery is a must.

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

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

Log onto**www.whatplug.net**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**

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**.

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SECURITY

All major cities have their share of petty crime (just like our cities) and sensible precautions need to be taken. Wearing expensive looking jewellery or watches and carrying cameras will draw unnecessary attention to you. Leave valuables such as passports and excess money in your hotel

safe or truck safe (we recommend carrying a copy of your passport details page at all times). You may find a simple money belt is more discreet than a bag. Always be aware of your surroundings and when approached by people you do not know, use your common sense. At night in cities it's best to use a taxi, rather than walking around the streets, single women in particular need to be careful and we would suggest that it is safer to be in a group.

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

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

As an adventure tour operator, some of our trips will travel to areas that are rarely-visited and occasionally attract negative publicity. We are not in the business of taking our travellers or indeed staff to regions that we consider dangerous and **the safety of all who travel with us is always our main priority**, but as a discerning customer we understand you will want to be aware of any risks before travelling. We liaise with the FCO on specific regions or areas as necessary, as well as monitoring open media outlets and political risk resources, and speaking to our contacts on the ground.

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

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

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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.

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.

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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** or **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 yaou 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.

Addis Ababa / Djibouti to Cairo flights (or v/v): If we are not able to travel through Northern Ethiopia and/or Sudan then we may need to leave the truck in Addis Ababa or Djibouti and fly from there to Cairo (or vice versa). We will advise before or during the trip if this is the case, and which date and time to book the flight. This flight will be an additional cost for you to book and pay directly.

PASSPORTS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Local Payment (LP)

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

Please note: CASH ONLY is accepted and needs to be in $US Dollars. Please make sure that all your notes are in good condition. Old, torn or marked notes are often refused by the banks and we will therefore be unable to accept them either. Larger denomination notes are preferable for your Local payment. Please make sure that $US Dollars are dated 2013 or later and do not have a serial number starting with CB. Scottish Pounds are not accepted.

How to bring your currency

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

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

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

US dollars dated pre-2013 are not widely accepted in Africa so please ensure your notes are dated 2013 onward & Scottish pounds are also not accepted. The rate of exchange for small denomination $US bills are usually slightly less than larger bills, but it is still advisable to bring an assortment of both as some activities and operators will not have the facility to give large amounts of change. Your Local Payment should be paid using high denomination bills please $50s or 100s.

Spending Money

For personal spending money budget on approximately £400 per month (from Ghana to Angola) and £120 to £175 per week (from Namibia to Egypt) to cover you for some meals out, drinks, communications, souvenirs and other general spending**.**

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

- Accra to Cape Town - approx £1400
- Accra to Nairobi - approx £3400
- Accra to Cairo - approx £4400

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

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

Changing money

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

Credit & Debit Cards

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

Pre-Paid Travel Currency Cards

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

ATMs

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

Tipping

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

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

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

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

CLIMATE

Rain is a regular occurrence in Morocco with chilly night time temperatures - especially in the desert. Most days are nice and sunny - and it only gets warmer as we head south. From Mali to Nigeria it is quite humid during the day and we may hit 'short' rains in Central Africa (Cameroon to Angola). In

Southern Africa - November to March the weather is hotter and there is summer rainfall, although this is very intermittent when it may not rain for months, or it can rain for a day at a time. In East Africa (Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania) the 'short' rains are around November. The 'rains' usually last for one or two hours each day followed by hot sunny weather. Nights can be surprisingly cold at higher altitude in western Uganda, Ngorongoro Crater & the Rift Valley. Ethiopia, Sudan and Egypt can be very hot (35C+). **View Trans Africa Climate Chart**

WHAT TO TAKE

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

Equipment	**Toiletries - Most available to buy on trip**
• **Sleeping Bag - 3 to 4 season bag, depending on season, & sleep sheet** • **Foam sleeping mat or thermarest & repair kit** • **Small day-pack or small bag to carry daily items** • **Soft rucksack or holdall (NOT rigid suitcase)** • **Water bottle - for personal use - we recommend Water-to-Go (see below Responsible Travel)**	• Soap, shampoo, toothbrush/paste, antibacterial hand wash, lip balm & moisturiser • Sun block 35 + after sun, hat & sun glasses • Tampons (can buy in most places) • Contraception
Clothes	**Personal Effects**
• **One pair of trainers or boots** • **Sandals/flip flops/jandals/thongs** • **Underwear/socks** • **T shirts/shirts** • **Shorts/swimwear** • **Jeans/trousers/jog pants/leggings** • **Skirt or dress** • **Sweat shirt/jumper** • **Jacket/fleece & waterproof jacket**	• Camera with protective case, spare batteries, film/memory card • Torch & spare batteries (head torch is best) • Travel adaptor plug/charger (for cameras & mobile phone batteries) • Money belt • Personal stereo - there is a stereo on the truck with iPod/MP3 adaptors • Towel &/or sarong
Recommended Medical Kit List	

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

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

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

PHOTOGRAPHY AND ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT

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

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

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

Electrical charging & power supply - It may be difficult to find a power source for charging at times, so a spare battery is a must.

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

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

Log onto **www.whatplug.net** 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.

SECURITY

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

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

certain areas a roster may be drawn up for the group to share the task of guarding and keeping

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

As an adventure tour operator, some of our trips will travel to areas that are rarely-visited and occasionally attract negative publicity. We are not in the business of taking our travellers or indeed staff to regions that we consider dangerous and **the safety of all who travel with us is always our main priority**, but as a discerning customer we understand you will want to be aware of any risks before travelling. We liaise with the FCO on specific regions or areas as necessary, as well as monitoring open media outlets and political risk resources, and speaking to our contacts on the ground.

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

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

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Gorilla, Chimpanzee and Golden Monkey Trekking Permits

On our trips to Rwanda & Uganda, the opportunity of being up close and personal with a family of Chimpanzees or highland Mountain Gorillas, or Golden Monkeys has to be classed as one of the most amazing wildlife encounters in Africa. You may see a variety of monkeys, birds and buffalo on the hike as well.

Gorilla Trek - 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. 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 for cancellation, no show or non allowance to trek.

Chimpanzee Trek - This trek is normally done in Kalinzu Forest Reserve and tends to be a little less strenuous than the Gorilla trek. However, it will still take 3-4 hours, possibly an hour or two longer, depending on the location of the chimpanzees. You are accompanied by a tracker/guide and an armed park ranger. Again you get a maximum of 1 hour in close proximity with the animals. There are several habituated chimpanzee families, and a maximum of 18 permits issued each day, in groups of 6. This means that not everyone in our group will be able to do the trek, and so these permits are on a first come first served basis, as well as subject to local availability. There are no refunds or transfers for cancellation, no show or non allowance to trek.

Golden Monkey Treks - This option is available while you are in Musanze in Rwanda, and is the easiest of the three options as the Golden Monkeys keep to a lower altitude than the gorillas. After a briefing at the park offices, you'll take a short hike, and as normal have about an hour around the animals (the whole trek can last from one to around 4 hours in total depending on the monkeys' location). You will normally see a large number of individuals and be able to watch them play, eat, and swing in the trees and bamboo. There are two habituated troops of around 80 monkeys, and 16 permits available per troop. Permits are on a first come first served basis, as well as subject to local availability. There are no refunds or transfers for cancellation, no show or non allowance to trek.

How to request a Permit - In order for us to arrange your Permit for any of these treks, it is important 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 Permit(s) to your trip at the time of making your reservation or contacting your travel consultant. To secure availability, we make reservations many months in advance (sometimes as early as 6 months for some dates).

The cost of securing a the permits in advance through our local partners is payable in full at the time of booking. The price incorporates the permit cost (paid to the relevant wildlife authorities locally), guides & guards, any transport required and admin/bank & card fees/insurance and communication costs incurred.

Due to the popularity of these treks 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 (we will need a copy of your passport before we can issue the permits)

- 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.

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.

VISAS - MOROCCO TO GHANA

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

Visas obtained at borders and embassies during the trip must be paid for in either USD, Euros or local currency CASH ONLY, as stipulated by the relevant immigration officials. Evisas will require payment online by credit or debit card.
You should also budget an additional amount of USD 200-400 to allow for express issuing fees or payments to local fixers as these are sometimes required to enable us to obtain some visas in certain locations.

Country	British	EU	Aust	NZ	S. Africa	USA	Canadian
Morocco	Free	Free	Free	Free	Required	Free	Free
Mauritania	€55	€55	€55	€55	€55	€55	€55
Senegal	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	N/A	N/A
The Gambia	Free	Free	Free	Free	Required	US$100	Free
Guinea Bissau	US$80	US$80	US$80	US$80	US$80	US$80	US$80
Guinea	US$150	US$100	US$100	US$100	US$100	US$185	US$100

Sierra Leone	US$85	US$85	US$85	US$85	US$85	US$85	US$85
Liberia	US$205	US$185	US$265	US$265	US$165	US$265	US$265
Cote d'Ivoire	$130	$130	$130	$130	$130	$130	$130
Ghana	$260	$260	$260	$260	Free	$260	$260

For more information on other nationalities & visas checkout **www.projectvisa.com**

Please Note: Your Tour Leader will collect a USD 30 visa kitty per person at the beginning of the trip - which goes towards paying for taxis, photocopies, faxes, communication etc - when applying for a majority of visas as a group. Your Tour Leader will keep a separate account of expenses incurred and will inform the group of any surplus funds remaining at the end of the trip - or any extra that is required.

Ghana

- **Southbound & Northbound trips:**

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

Depending on your nationality and the trip you have booked, you may be able to apply for a new e-visa - we will provide updates on this before departure.

VISAS - GHANA TO SOUTH AFRICA

The information below is to be used only as a guide and may change without prior notice. It is advisable to contact the relevant embassy in plenty of time before the trip departs to check the

current visa requirements. It is **your responsibility** to ensure you have all the relevant visas you require**.** We will however provide information before the trip starts about which visas you will need to obtain in advance and which can be obtained on the way.

Visas obtained at borders and embassies during the trip must be paid for in either USD, Euros or local currency CASH ONLY, as stipulated by the relevant immigration officials. Evisas will require payment online by credit or debit card.
You should also budget an additional amount of USD 200-400 to allow for express issuing fees or payments to local fixers as these are sometimes required to enable us to obtain some visas in certain locations.

Country	British	Irish	Aust	NZ	S. Africa	USA	Canadian
Ghana	€120	€120	€120	€120	€120	€120	€120
Togo	US$45	US$45	US$45	US$45	US$45	US$45	US$45
Benin	€36	€36	€36	€36	€36	€36	€36
Nigeria	US$144	US$170	US$130	US$33	US$78	US$160	US$116
Cameroon	€153	€153	€153	€153	€153	€153	€153
Gabon	€120	€120	€120	€120	€120	€120	€120
Rep. Congo	US$165	US$165	US$165	US$165	US$165	US$165	US$165
Dem. Rep. Congo	US$250	US$250	US$250	US$250	US$250	US$250	US$250
Angola	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Namibia	N$1600	N$1600	N$1600	N$1600	N/A	N$1600	N$1600
South Africa	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free

Important Note: We will obtain most of these visas en-route, after you have already started your trip with us. Prices above are for the visa fee itself and are subject to change. When visas are obtained at embassies along the way, often you may also need to pay an additional fast processing charge, or local admin fee, or other fees charged by the embassy or local fixers we may use to get the visa over the line promptly. These extra costs can be necessary to avoid us having to wait for up to a week or more for a visa to be processed, and can apply especially to Nigeria and DRC visas, but also some others. Please budget an additional USD 200-300 to cover these extra costs.

For more information on other nationalities & visas checkout **www.projectvisa.com**

Please Note: Your Tour Leader will collect a USD 30 visa kitty per person at the beginning of the trip - which goes towards paying for taxis, photocopies, faxes, communication etc - when applying for a majority of visas as a group. Your Tour Leader will keep a separate account of expenses incurred and will inform the group of any surplus funds remaining at the end of the trip - or any extra that is required.

Angola

- **Southbound & Northbound trips:**

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

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.

Benin

- **Southbound & Northbound trips:**

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

Cameroon

- **Southbound:**

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

Those starting their trip in Accra - all nationalities must obtain a Cameroon visa in advance, before joining the Oasis trip. Most nationalities will need to make an online application to obtain an online visa issuance authorisation and then go in person to their nearest Cameroon Embassy or Consulate to obtain the actual visa sticker in their passport. You may need to make an appointment for this. Most visas are valid for entry for 90 days from the date of issue so you cannot apply for this visa before the November prior to your trip departure. Details for the visa application process and documents required will be emailed to you a few months before your trip departs. Cost will depend on

the embassy in your home country.

- **Northbound:**

All nationalities must obtain a Cameroon visa in advance, before joining the Oasis trip. Most nationalities will need to make an online application to obtain an online visa issuance authorisation and then go in person to their nearest Cameroon Embassy or Consulate to obtain the actual visa sticker in their passport. You may need to make an appointment for this. Most visas are valid for entry for 90 days from the date of issue so you cannot apply for this visa until approximately 6 weeks prior to your trip departure. Details for the visa application process and documents required will be emailed to you a few months before your trip departs. Cost will depend on the embassy in your home country.

Congo

- **Southbound & Northbound trips:**

All nationalities require a visa for Congo. We will obtain this visa whilst on the trip.

Democratic Republic of Congo

- **Southbound and Northbound trips:**

All nationalities require a visa for Democratic Republic of Congo. We will apply for this visa whilst on the trip.

Gabon

- **Southbound & Northbound trips:**

All nationalities require a visa for Gabon. We will obtain this visa whilst on the trip.

Ghana

- **Southbound & Northbound trips:**

All nationalities must currently obtain a Ghanaian visa in advance, before joining the Oasis trip. You will need to apply for this visa in your country of residence, so please allow time for your visa process before you leave home. A new e-visa system is being implemented in 2026 but we have not tested this yet for overland entries.

Depending on your nationality and the trip you have booked, you may be able to apply for a 3 month, 6 month or 1 year visa. Details for the visa process and application will be emailed to you a few months before your trip departs.

Namibia

- **All trips:**

Most nationalities require a visa costing 1600 Namibian Dollars. This is a relatively new requirement and you must apply in advance. You can apply for a full holiday visa (requires more info to be submitted but quicker at border), or for a visa on arrival (still needs applying for in advance, but the process is completed at the border). Apply here - https://eservices.mhaiss.gov.na/

Nigeria

- **Southbound trips:**

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

Those starting their trip in Accra - all nationalities must obtain a Nigeria visa in advance, before joining the Oasis trip. Most nationalities will need to make an online application and then go in person to their nearest Nigerian visa agency to submit their passport and hardcopies of their supporting documentation. You will need to make an appointment for this which must be within 45 days of entering Nigeria. Details for the visa application process and documents required will be emailed to you a few months before your trip departs. Cost will depend on the embassy in your home country.

Note - a new e-visa system is being implemented - we will advise you before your trip starts if this should be usable for your trip.

- **Northbound trips:**

All nationalities must obtain a Nigeria visa in advance, before joining the Oasis trip. Most nationalities will need to make an online application and then go in person to their nearest Nigerian visa agency to submit their passport and hardcopies of their supporting documentation. You will need to make an appointment for this which must be within 45 days of entering Nigeria. Details for the visa application process and documents required will be emailed to you a few months before your trip departs. Cost will depend on the embassy in your home country.

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.

Togo

- **Southbound & Northbound trips:**

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

VISAS - SOUTH AFRICA TO KENYA

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

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

Country	British	EU	Aust	NZ	S. Africa	USA	Canadian
South Africa	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free
Lesotho	Free	Fee	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free
Eswatini	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free
Mozambique	US$150	US$150	US$150	US$150	Free	US$150	US$150
Zimbabwe	US$55	US$55	US$30	US$30	Free	US$30	US$75
Botswana	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free
Namibia	N$1600	N$1600	N$1600	N$1600	Free	N$1600	N$1600
Zambia	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free
Malawi	US$50	US$50	US$50	US$50	Free	US$50	US$50
Tanzania	US$50	US$50	US$50	US$50	Free	US$100	US$50

East Africa Visa	US$100	US$100	US$100	US$100	US$100	US$100	US$100
Burundi	US$90	US$90	US$90	US$90	US$90	US$70	US$90
Rwanda	Free	US$50	Free	Free	US$50	US$50	Free
Uganda	US$100	US$100	US$100	US$100	US$100	US$100	US$100
Kenya	US$30	US$30	US$30	US$30	US$30	US$30	US$30

For more information on other nationalities & visas checkout **www.projectvisa.com**

Please Note: Your Tour Leader will collect a USD 30 visa kitty per person at the beginning of the trip - which goes towards paying for taxis, photocopies, faxes, communication etc - when applying for a majority of visas as a group. Your Tour Leader will keep a separate account of expenses incurred and will inform the group of any surplus funds remaining at the end of the trip - or any extra that is required.

Kenya

Most nationalities 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.
Note - You can enter Kenya if you have an East Africa Visa issued from Uganda or Rwanda. However, you can no longer obtain an East Africa visa if you are entering Kenya as your first country of the three.

Note - In addition to your Kenya eTA, you also need to apply and pay for a compulsory travel insurance policy issued by the Kenyan authorities. This is **in addition** to any other travel insurance policy you may hold. This must be purchased in advance of arrival, either as part of your eTA application or separately through this website - https://insurance.ecitizen.go.ke/dashboard/travel

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.

Lesotho

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

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

Malawi

Passport Holders from UK, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, USA, Canada and most EU countries now 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

Most nationalities require a visa costing 1600 Namibian Dollars. This is a relatively new requirement and you must apply in advance. You can apply for a full holiday visa (requires more info to be submitted but quicker at border), or for a visa on arrival (still needs applying for in advance, but the process is completed at the border). Apply here - 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, who need a Rwanda visa, or who are returning from Rwanda back into Uganda, should apply for an East Africa visa which will cover you for multiple stays in 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 (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.

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 Trans Africa, Grand Adventurer, Apes & Lakes and Gorillas, Gameparks & Zanzibar trip, the Tanzanian visa is a Single entry visa and also covers you for Zanzibar.

Note - In addition to your Tanzania visa, you also need to apply and pay for a compulsory travel insurance policy issued by the Tanzanian authorities. This is **in addition** to any other travel insurance policy you may hold. If you are arriving into Tanzania via Zanzibar first, you should apply here https://inbound.visitzanzibar.go.tz/ (the policy will also cover you through your time in mainland Tanzania). If you are arriving into Tanzania via a land border or flying into Dar es Salaam, you should apply here - https://inbound.nicinsurance.co.tz/apply (the policy will also cover you on 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 multiple entries into 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 (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. An e-visa is also now available from https://www.evisa.gov.zw/

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.

Burundi

Most nationalities require a visa for Burundi. We will obtain this visa whilst on the trip.

VACCINATIONS AND HEALTH

It is possible that you may require some vaccinations for your trip, depending on the areas that you are visiting. As we are not medically trained, we are unable to give detailed advice on vaccination requirements, so please use the information below as a guide only. We have worked closely with **Nomad Travel Clinics** for many years and they offer Oasis travelers a **10% discount** on vaccinations, anti-malarial drugs, first aid items, clothing, and equipment, just enter discount code OASIS1000 at **Nomad Travel**. Alternatively, you can check out the **Fit for travel website** for more travel health information or consult a reputable travel clinic or your GP for information and advice. We suggest that you allow at least 8 weeks to get all your vaccinations.

Yellow Fever - Being vaccinated against Yellow Fever and having a valid certificate and a photocopy is deemed compulsory in nearly all the countries we visit in Africa, especially at certain borders and are needed if you are entering from an infected country. You can view a list of countries requiring a certificate through the **World Health Organisation**.

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

Malaria - In some of the areas we visit there is a risk of contracting Malaria. You must be aware that whatever malaria prophylactics you are taking, they only offer partial protection. They must be coupled with your own physical efforts against being bitten - which is the best prevention. Malaria-carrying mosquitoes come out at sunset so from this time you should wear long sleeves and trousers. Exposed skin, especially ankles, should have insect repellent containing 'Deet' applied to them. Your crew will advise on where the worst affected areas are on the trip. There are a number of prophylactic malaria treatments on the market & requirements change. It is also wise to take a sample of whichever prophylactic you choose, a few weeks before you leave. This way you may determine early on if you have any adverse reactions so you can change the regimen if necessary. Please consult a reputable travel clinic or GP for advice. For more information visit Nomad Travel or the Fit for Travel websites.

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

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

WHAT TO EXPECT

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.

Because we will be cooking communally in a shared outdoor kitchen, it is hard, if not impossible, to prevent against some cross contamination. So, if you have severe allergies to certain food products you must tell us as soon as possible so that we can consider the implications and advise you further. 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.

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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!

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TRIP ITINERARY

Fes to Marrakech

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

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

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

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

We begin our journey in **Fes** in the north of Morocco where our Trans Africa Crew will greet you. After an introductory meeting we take an included city tour through Fes's huge old bazaar with its narrow winding alleys crammed with craft workshops, restaurants, food stalls, mosques, dye pits and tanneries.

Our first stop after we get on the road will then be at the Roman City of **Volubilis**, a remarkably well-kept reminder of the Roman presence in North Africa 2000 years ago. From there we head north to visit **Chefchaouen** - set in a fertile valley of the surrounding Rif Mountains - where we will camp on a ridge overlooking this picturesque town with its white roofs, blue alleyways and narrow streets. You can wander around this relaxed town and even visit one of the old hammam bath houses.

We'll then head South West along the coast past the old capital of Rabat to Casablanca, and on from there to another of Morocco's Imperial Cities, Marrakech, our base for the next few days. Here you will have plenty of time to look around the city including the famou Djemâa-el-Fna. This square is alive with activity through the day - from storytellers, snake charmers, water sellers and musicians. A nightly ritual sees hundreds of food stalls transform the square into one of Africa's largest local eating areas - the aromatic smells of fresh local food is fit for locals and tourists alike.

Marrakech to Western Sahara

After leaving Marrakech, the fishing port of **Essaouira** is our last major stop in Morocco. While in Essaouira you can take advantage of the often windy conditions to try some surfing, kite surfing or windsurfing, or explore the streets of the old town, now a UNESCO World Heritage Site. We then head south following the rugged Atlantic coastline towards Mauritania and the Sahara Desert. This journey will take a few days where we will be camping in the wild, and with no light pollution an abundance of stars can be seen in the night skies. Driving through **Western Sahara** will then be our first real time spent away from popular touristy areas and we may only see a handful of other travellers.

Western Sahara to Dakar

On this leg of our Africa overland trip, after crossing into **Mauritania** we travel east along the desert road to the town to Atar on the Adrar Plateau. From here you have the opportunity to explore the surrounding area by 4x4 vehicle.

Leaving Atar, we pass small isolated villages surrounded by the vast desert and herdsman migrating with their camels in search of water. With very infrequent traffic on the roads and no food crops being grown, one wonders how tough it is to live in such harsh desert conditions.

We reach the capital, **Nouakchott**, where we spend a couple of days obtaining visas and re-organising the truck and life in general after our dusty desert travels. It is quite incredible to think that slavery was only abolished here in 1980 and it is rumoured that it still continues in some outlying areas.

South of Nouakchott, we will take 1 of 2 borders crossing into **Senegal**, the infamous and hectic Rosso border, crossing the Senegalese river by boat, or travel through a remote border - Diama, passing along the piste through Diawling National park (weather permitting).

We enter sub Saharan Africa by crossing the Senegal River and continue into **St Louis**, West Africa’s first French settlement and from where French colonialists conquered the interior. Senegal has a very different feel to the west Saharan countries we have just come from. We begin to be exposed to West Africa's vibrant food and music culture, colourful fashion and markets. We will start getting used to bad roads, 'interesting' local driving styles and a mixture of modern West African cities as well as some fly blown and remote border posts and villages.

The city of St Louis, is located at the mouth of the Senegal River and is an interesting place to visit. We will spend a couple of nights near town camping within the national park 'Langue de Barbarie', well known for its fauna rich with various species of birds. You can take a pirogue trip and bird watch, relax and swim on the sandy beach, try your hand at fishing and much more.

Our Overland route through Senegal we will visit Lake Retba (or Lac Rose as it is known by locals) where you can float in the pink lake. Its salinity content compares to that of the Dead Sea and during the dry season it exceeds it. From here you may have the opportunity to visit **Dakar**. Like any large city in the world Dakar has its undesirables so compared to the laid back country side and small towns that we are more familiar with, in large cities we learn to take care and go out and explore in pairs.

Dakar to Tiwai Island Wildlife Sanctuary

Continuing south, we will visit **The Gambia**, the smallest country on the continent (mainland) of **Africa**. We will take the truck across the Gambia River by ferry and base ourselves near the capital city, Banjul. Banjul sits on an island where the Gambia River meets the Atlantic Ocean. You can visit the lively, open air street market, wander the streets passing colonial buildings, visit nearby beaches or take a river boat trip.

Re-entering **Senegal**, we will cross into the southern Casamance region and will stop at the town of Ziguinchor to obtain a visa for Guinea-Bissau, before spending a day on the pristine coastal beaches of Senegal. Here you have the opportunity to swim, take a bike ride, fish or wandering through the nearby villages.

Guinea-Bissau, considered one of the world's poorest and most fragile countries, has a population of less than 2 million. In the 19th century, it was colonized as **Portuguese Guinea** and the official language is Portuguese. Still bearing the scars of the civil wars of 1997-8, Bissau is an interesting city to explore and as it's less frequented by tourists, the people are very welcoming and intrigued by our presence.

Depending on weather and road conditions we will travel to Parque Nacional de Cantanhez where you can arrange optional trekking trips into the rainforest in search of chimpanzees and other wildlife.

Leaving Guinea-Bissau, we travel east towards the Guinean border and will start to encounter challenging roads. **Guinea Conakry** (as it is usually called in West Africa) is a country that very few travellers ever visit and is one of the proudest in West Africa. Its people have stood together and survived the always difficult post-colonial era of independence without resorting to tribal conflicts or civil war. The first colony to gain independence from France, they stated they preferred ‘freedom in poverty, than prosperity in chains’.

We can appreciate Guinea’s spectacular tropical forests and waterfalls as we cross the **Fouta Djalon plateau** and the beautiful hilly hinterland over the next few days.

Next we enter **Sierra Leone**, famous for its diamonds and infamous for its disastrous civil war, which it fortunately recovered from after many years. However, its roads are still abysmal so it can be slow going on our drive to the coast. Camping on the coast south of **Freetown**, we can enjoy its serene palm fringed beaches and remoteness. Nearby is the **Tacugama Chimpanzee Sanctuary** which cares for around 100 injured or orphaned chimpanzees. The reserve has an incredible story, starting in 1988 with the first rescue of a baby chimpanzee, surviving the civil war and growing to become Sierra Leone’s primary conservation organisation. We include a tour of Tacugama where you can see the resident rescued chimps and discover their individual personalities as well as learning more about this characterful species.

It is likely we will be obtaining visas in Freetown and you may also have time to explore the city markets and museums or a boat trip out to the nearby Banana Islands.

Travelling further south towards **Liberia** you have the option to visit the **Tiwai Island Wildlife Sanctuary** home to 11 species of primates as well as the rare and elusive pygmy hippo. You can explore the island by foot or dugout canoe, enjoying the river and forest wildlife.

Tiwai Island Wildlife Sanctuary to Accra

The roads from the east of Sierra Leone to the border of **Liberia** are generally in a poor state. Passing through the jungle and continuing our journey that few other travellers get to take, we make

our way to **Monrovia**. Despite the ravages of the past, Liberia is full of hope and energy and the city is becoming a thriving capital and moving on. Entering Liberia we notice another change in people and culture, especially the language! For the first time in two months of our Africa overland travels, we are in a country where English is the main language. The people in Monrovia are welcoming and pleased to see tourists coming to explore their city. We may have to apply for a visa here, so will be situated in and around the area for a couple of days, including a trip out to **Kpatawee waterfalls**, considered one of Liberia's most beautiful spots.

Reaching the border with Ivory Coast, more commonly known in its French form, **Cote d'Ivoire**, we then continue our adventure towards the city of **Yamoussoukro**. Built by President Boigny, one of the classic 'Big Man' dictators it was an expensive and vane project to glorify himself with six lane highways leading nowhere and a huge Basilica built to copy St. Peter's in Rome.

A further day's drive away is **Abidjan**, one of West Africa's modern cities with skyscrapers and flashy restaurants. However, it very much has the feel of having seen better days and as with so many cities, ostentatious wealth mixes side by side with abject poverty.

Our Africa overland adventure now heads east to the frontier with Ghana and back to English again. Making our way towards the coastline of Ghana we will spend a couple of days **relaxing on palm-fringed beaches** near Cape Coast. From here we will visit the castles of **Elmina and Cape Coast**, where thousands of slaves passed through the 'Door of no Return'. We will also stop at **Kakum National Park** where you have the opportunity to embark on a canopy walk or trek through the nature trails in the forest.

Kumasi is the capital city of the **Ashanti Region** and our next stop. You will have the opportunity to visit one of the largest markets in West Africa, Kejetia Market, stalls sell everything from glass beads and live chickens to Ashanti sandals. Kumasi is also known as a centre for Ashanti culture where you can visit the National Cultural Centre offering craft workshops and dance performances.

A day's drive takes us to the capital, Accra.

Accra

We have three free days and nights in **Accra** to provide a welcome break for both the crew and the group after 11 weeks on the road together. This time also gives us a buffer in our schedule in case of unforeseen delays on the route so far.
You may wish to remain at Cape Coast for a couple of days, or explore Accra independently. You could also take a day trip out to the nearby Boti Waterfalls and Aburi Botanical Gardens.
This free time in Accra is at your own cost, so you can decide what you want to do and where to stay!

Accra to Lome

We will spend a number of days on the beaches near Accra where you can indulge in great seafood, and cold drinks. We will also use this time to obtain several visas in Accra before we set off and head

to the Wli Waterfalls, considered the highest and most spectacular falls in West Africa. A range of hiking options are available here to get up close to both the lower and upper sections of the falls, while you look out for the thousands of fruit bats that nest high on the nearby cliffs. Leaving here, cross the border and travel on into **Togo**.

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

Lome to Yaounde

During our crossing of **Benin** we pass Ouidah, on the Atlantic coast. Once a port for the slave trade, the ‘Door of No Return’ is a memorial to those who boarded slave ships, never to return. Next we head towards Cotonou and can take local canoes out to **Ganvie village - built on bamboo stilts on Lake Nakoue**.

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

Moving through mountainous and lush jungle, we enter **Cameroon**. Again, depending on which route we can take, we may be able to travel to the foothills of Mount Cameroon and spend a few days camping near Limbe and 6 Mile Beach. From here you could choose to trek up **Mount Cameroon**, visit a chimpanzee orphanage or relax on the beach. Or, our route may take us more directly to the capital **Yaounde**. Here we can restock and recuperate, taking in the city’s sites, museums and galleries and enjoying freshly baked produce at one of the many bakeries. You can also admire the roadside fresh flower stalls and stock up on some supermarket treats and snacks from the many markets.

Yaounde to Gabon and Congo

When we depart city life in Yaounde, we prepare for more rugged roads again! We drive through lush jungle scenery, passing the occasional waterfall, before eventually reaching the lively market town of **Ambam**. Here we can replenish our food supplies before crossing the **Ntem River** into **Gabon**, a country that consists mostly of tropical rain forest. Our next stop is the beautiful Lope National Park, home to a population of elephants, buffalo and the famous central Africa drill monkeys. After a safari through the savanna lands, we continue south along dirt and mud roads toward the **Republic of**

Congo. Along this leg of the Trans Africa overland trip we may encounter some of the most challenging road conditions and situations on the whole of the route. Team work will definitely be needed if we are to tackle what may lay ahead - from clearing paths through water logged pot holes the size of the truck to only travelling a couple of miles in a day over wet and unkempt mud roads. These are however some of the best memories you will take away with you.

Note: Entry into Gabon will be subject to the required border crossings being open. If we cannot enter, we will skirt Gabon and travel further through the Republic of Congo to Brazzaville (including an opportunity nearby to see lowland gorillas), before arriving in Pointe Noire.

Congo to Mitadi

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

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

Mitadi to the Namibian Border

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

Namibia to Cape Town

Crossing into **Namibia** and into the region of the Owambo people - we pass through the country's second largest town - Ondangwa. This town is one of the main suppliers of beer to Northern Namibia

- hopefully there will be enough left for us!

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

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

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

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

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

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

Cape Town

Your trip will finish after breakfast today and you can plan to fly out at any time. Or, as Cape Town is such an incredible city, plan to add a few days to see and enjoy some more of its attractions.

OPTIONAL EXCURSIONS

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.

GHANA

Title	From Price
Elmina Castle – entry and guide	US$10

SOUTH AFRICA

Title	From Price
Robben Island Boat Trip, Guided Tour of Island	US$25
Cable Car to Table Mountain – Return	US$23

NAMIBIA

Title	From Price
Sandboarding – Lying Down / Standing Up, from	US$45
Dolphin Cruise	US$65
Game Fishing – 1 Day	US$120
Quad Biking, 2hrs – Swakopmund	US$55
Tandem Skydive	US$220
Visiting Tame Cheetahs + Feeding	US$10
Township Tour	US$45
Scenic Flight over Sossusvlei – min 5 people	US$390
Paragliding	US$115
DVD of Skydive , DVD + photo's, from	US$80
Horse Riding	US$60

MOROCCO

Title	From Price
Windsurfing in Essaouira – 2 hours	US$72
Horse Riding in Essaouira	US$29
Hammam – Moroccan Bath House	US$16
Dinner and Moroccan Entertainment in Fes	US$26

SENEGAL

Title	From Price
2 hour Pirgue trip, from	US$6

SIERRA LEONE

Title	From Price
Tacugama Chimpanzee Reserve –	US$25
Tiwai Island Guided Walks – from	US$5
Tiwai Island Scenic Canoe River Trip – from	US$6

LIBERIA

Title	From Price
Museum entries, from	US$10

CAMEROON

Title	From Price
Climbing Mount Cameroon – 3 Days, from	US$150

GABON

Title	From Price
Lope National Park – Forest Walk	US$50
Lope National Park – River Safari	US$50

TOGO

Title	From Price
Fetish Markets – Lomé	US$10

We feel that having optional excursions gives a greater degree of flexibility and independence to our group members; independence to decide how much your spending budget can afford; flexibility to decide when and what time of day or with whom to visit a particular site, rather than for example, with the whole group at a pre-ordained time.

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: *08-11-2026*