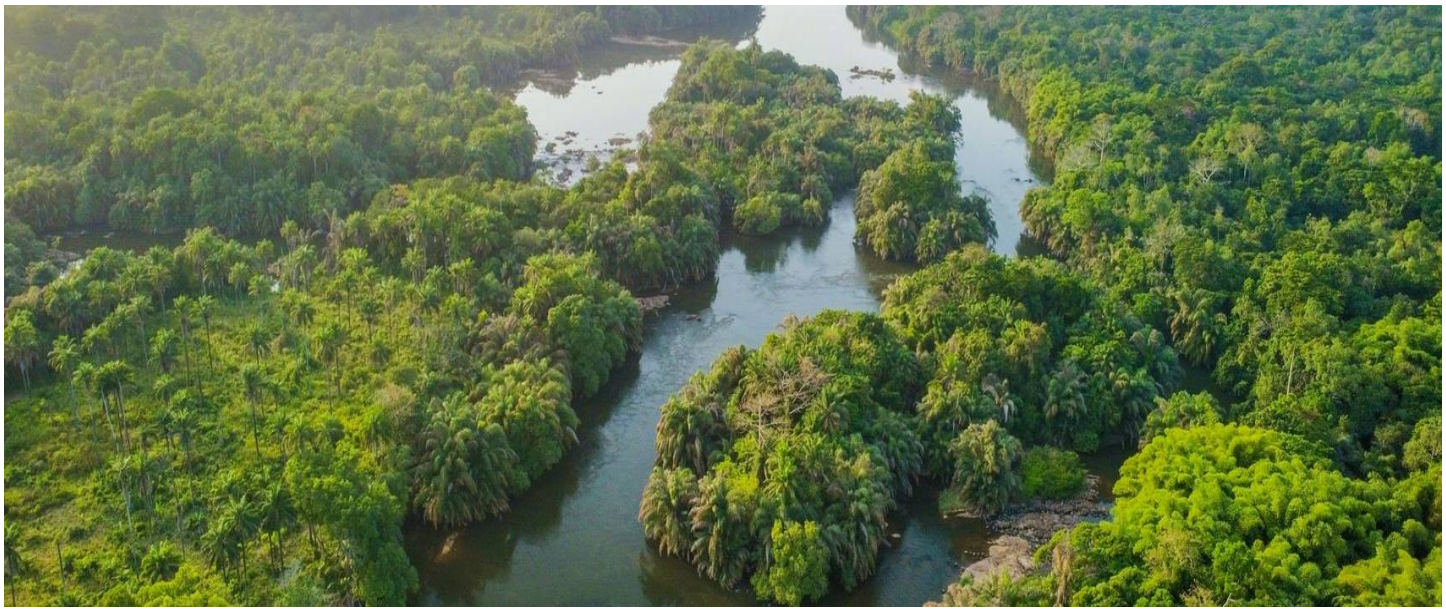
info@oasisoverland.co.uk
Tel: +44 (0)203 725 8924

# FREETOWN TO FREETOWN (11 DAYS) SIERRA LEONE ENCOUNTERS



**COUNTRIES VISITED: SIERRA LEONE**

## HIGHLIGHTS

- **Historical & Cultural Immersion:** Explore Freetown's iconic landmarks, learn traditional cooking, experience village life, and witness captivating cultural performances.
- **Nature & Wildlife Encounters:** Hike Sugar Loaf Mountain, visit the Tacugama Chimpanzee Sanctuary, be awestruck by the Wara Wara Mountains, and cruise to Tiwai Island for wildlife spotting.
- **Island Escapes:** Relax on the pristine beaches of Banana Island and Tasso Island, and unwind in tranquil coastal settings.
- **Poignant History:** Confront the sobering past at Bunce Island, the largest British slave castle on the West African coast.

## INCLUDES

- 3 nights in Freetown, 1 night in Makeni & 1 night in Tokeh hotels
- 1 night at Tacugama Eco-Lodge
- 1 night in Kabala guest-house
- 1 night at Kwaanma Eco-camp

- 1 night on Banana Island & 1 night on Tiwai Island
- All transport and transfers
- 24-hour airport arrival & departure transfer service (on tour days)
- Services of a local tour leader throughout
- All sightseeing tours as per itinerary
- Entrance fees for visits included in the itinerary
- All meals (starting with dinner on day 1, ending with breakfast on day 11)
- Sierra Leone Entry Visa & Airport Security Fee

## EXCLUDES

- International flights (available on request)
- Yellow Fever Certificate (Mandatory for entry to Sierra Leone)
- Travel insurance (compulsory, get a quote here)
- Meals not indicated in the itinerary
- Drinks, snacks and other personal expenses (e.g. laundry)
- Tips for tour leader & driver
- Any other items not mentioned above

## ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

### ARRIVAL & ACCOMMODATION

**The trip starts with a transfer from Lungi Airport in Freetown on day 1. Your first night of accommodation is included at the Barmoi Hotel (or similar).**

Hotel Barmoi in Freetown offers a delightful escape with its elegant rooms boasting balconies and stunning ocean views. Guests can indulge in delicious meals at the restaurant and bar, unwind by the outdoor pool, or stay active in the fitness center. With its serene atmosphere and convenient location near Lumley Beach, Hotel Barmoi provides a tranquil and memorable experience for both leisure and business travelers.

**Trip Joining Point: Barmoi Hotel - Freetown**

**Start Time Day 1:** You can arrive at any time on day 1.

**Address:** 75C Cape Road, Freetown, Sierra Leone

**Telephone:** +232 30 960016

**Website: https://www.hotelbarmoi.com/**

Breakfast is included in the below rates.

| Room Type | Price | Description |
|---|---|---|
| **Single Room, en-suite** | GBP 105 | Per Room (for 1 person) |
| **Double Room, en-suite** | GBP 138 | Per Room (for 2 people) |

## AIRPORT TRANSFERS:

**Airport Transfers are included** in the cost of your adventure. Your airport transfers are only included on the first and last day of the set tour itinerary, plus on any additional days if you book your hotel room with us. If you make your own arrangements for additional accommodation at either the beginning or the end of the tour then you will need to arrange your own airport transfers on these days.

Once you have processed your visa and collected your luggage, you should follow the crowds to the terminal exit to meet up with your Transfer Representative. **Your driver will be waiting along with all the other transfer drivers and will be holding an Oasis or Encounters Travel signboard.**

For any last minute requests please contact the UK office at **africa@oasisoverland.co.uk** and we will confirm the costs.

### FLIGHT INFORMATION

We want to give you as much flexibility as possible when it comes to booking your holiday with us. So, to take account of people with varying travel plans, we don't normally include international flights in the main tour price. We are however very happy to suggest flights to go with the tour. Please contact us with your preferred dates and departure airport and we'll give you a selection of airlines, times and fares to choose from.

Your airport arrival & departure transfers are included on the first and last days of the tour. Nearly all our Sierra Leone tours start and finish in Freetown. You can fly into Freetowns Lungi International Airport (FNA).

We do also sometimes advertise flight inclusive packages from selected airports. Where these are shown on our website, prices are correct at the time of quoting, but are subject to continued availability of the fare used. Prices will be reconfirmed at the time of booking, and we will also provide the flight times and airline details before tickets are issued.

### Flight CO2 Emissions:

Traveling by air is an amazing way to explore the world, but flights also contribute to carbon dioxide

(CO2) emissions that impact the environment. By considering the airline's CO2 emissions when you choose your flight, you can help minimize your travel footprint. When selecting your international flights and airline, we do therefore recommend that you try and also take into account the flight CO2 emissions. Some airlines and flight search websites (eg. Google Flights, Skyscanner) do publish this information, so you can compare between your flight options and make an informed decision. Thankfully, many airlines are working towards sustainability efforts, and choosing a greener option allows you to contribute to positive change while still enjoying your incredible adventure.

#### 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.

#### VISAS

### 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.

#### VACCINATIONS AND HEALTH

You should ensure you are fully insured for medical emergencies, including emergency evacuation and repatriation.

Recommended vaccinations and health precautions vary depending on your travel history and health conditions. It's crucial to consult your doctor or a travel clinic for the most up-to-date information on vaccinations and health advice for Sierra Leone. Ensure your routine vaccinations are up to date, including those for occupational risks, lifestyle, and any underlying health conditions.

In addition, consider the following vaccinations for Sierra Leone:

Yellow Fever: A yellow fever vaccination certificate is required for entry into Sierra Leone.
Other recommended vaccinations: Tetanus, Typhoid, Hepatitis A, Polio, Diphtheria, Hepatitis B, Rabies.
Malaria is present in Sierra Leone and anti-malarial medications are recommended.

For the latest travel health information, consult your doctor or refer to reliable sources like the CDC or WHO websites.

**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.

#### MONEY, BUDGETS AND LP

The local currency in Sierra Leone is the Leone (SLL). The Leone can fluctuate in value against the British Pound and the US dollar. You don't need to obtain Leones before your trip, as exchange facilities are available at the airport, banks, and some hotels. It's helpful to have small denomination notes and coins on hand for tips, restrooms, and small purchases. ATMs are available in major towns, and some shops accept VISA/Mastercard or Amex, but may add fees – it's wise to confirm before paying. Traveler's cheques are not recommended due to limited acceptance and potential high fees. You may find that some stores, particularly in Freetown will also accept USD.

While in Sierra Leone, you'll need money for drinks, snacks, souvenirs, tipping and personal expenses like laundry. These are generally paid for in Leones.

Personal spending needs vary, but as a guideline, we suggest budgeting at least USD 10-15 per person per day. If you plan on shopping or purchasing alcoholic drinks, you may want to allow more.

There is no local payment on this small-group tour.

Tipping in Sierra Leone is not compulsory, but it is a common practice to show appreciation for good service. While service charges are sometimes included in hotel and restaurant bills, small tips are also welcomed by staff. When tipping, consider the quality of service and the local context. A typical tip for services like baggage handling or a small act of kindness could range from 10,000 to 30,000 Leones. Remember to tip discreetly and with a smile.

It is customary to tip local guides and drivers for where good services has been received. We suggest coordinating tips as a group at the end of your tour. You should not feel obliged to tip any particular amount, and should consider your personal budget. We are often asked to provide a guide however, and can suggest that approx. USD 5-7 per person per day would be appropriate.

## ENTRANCE FEES

The price of this tour includes the cost of entrance fees to visits included in the tour itinerary. Should you wish to visit any monument that is not included in the standard tour itinerary, the entry ticket for this is not included.

## WHAT TO TAKE

**Luggage:** Suitcases, rucksacks, or fabric holdalls are all suitable for your trip to Sierra Leone, however due to the number of accommodation changes, you may find using a rucksack easier to handle. A small daypack is also recommended for carrying essentials during the day. Your main luggage will usually be left at your accommodation, and porters are often available to assist with heavier bags.

**Luggage Limits:** There are no specific luggage limits for this tour. However, airlines typically have restrictions, usually between 20kg and 25kg for checked luggage and 5kg to 10kg for carry-on luggage. Confirm with your airline before departure.

**Clothing:** Sierra Leone has a tropical climate, so pack lightweight and breathable clothing. Evenings and higher altitudes can be cooler, so bring layers for varying temperatures. Formal attire is not necessary. Long sleeves and trousers offer protection from mosquitoes and are recommended for modesty, particularly for women. While shorts and T-shirts are acceptable in tourist areas, it's best to dress respectfully and avoid overly revealing clothing. When visiting villages or religious sites, ensure your shoulders and knees are covered. We also recommend bringing along a good pair of hiking boots/shoes.

**Other items:** A light sleeping sheet or liner can provide comfort, and a light sleeping bag might be needed for cooler nights. Essentials include a sun hat, sunscreen, sunglasses, a basic first aid kit, toiletries, a small towel, a money belt, a small torch, a camera, chargers and battery packs.

## 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 or E-Sim 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**.

#### SECURITY

The UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) 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 FCDO website, or the equivalent in their home country, to familiarise themselves with local conditions and issues in the countries they plan to visit before committing to a trip with us. You can view their website here.

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

**In cities** - All major cities have their share of petty crime (just like our cities) and sensible precautions need to be taken. Wearing expensive looking jewellery or watches and carrying cameras will draw

unnecessary attention to you. Leave valuables such as passports and excess money in your hotel safe (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.

Oasis does not take responsibility for clients' personal items and we advise you to not take items of value that are not essential for the journey.

#### TRAVEL INSURANCE

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

You will be asked to provide the following details on the Traveller Information Form that you send in to us after making your booking. If you have not already done so: travel insurance name, insurance policy number & insurance emergency telephone number. You will also be required to give a copy of your policy with this information to your Tour Leader on arrival with confirmation that the policy duration is sufficient to cover you for the entire duration of your trip.  It is also wise to leave a copy of your insurance policy with a friend or relative for safe keeping.

We believe that your safety and holiday enjoyment are very important. It is a mistake to think that "it will never happen to me". It is also very important that you are covered for all the activities that you may wish to undertake while on our trip. It is extremely important that you check the full extent of your cover related to 24 hour Medical Emergency Assistance. In the event of you needing medical treatment you want to know that you have the best cover available to you. Your policy should include adequate Medical Emergency and Repatriation cover as well as Cancellation, Baggage and Personal Liability cover. You need to be aware of EXACTLY what activities your policy covers you for. Please note that skiing is not usually covered in most insurance policies.

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

For further information on the insurance we offer, the activities covered and costs, check out the **Travel Insurance** section of our website. UK residents can purchase the insurance we recommend directly through Campbell Irvine.

#### RESPONSIBLE TRAVEL

### Before you go

- Remove unnecessary packaging before you go - waste disposal facilities are often stretched or non existent in the places we visit. To avoid unnecessary pollution of local water supplies take environmentally friendly toiletries with you.
- Why not invest in a wind-up or solar-powered torch or media player before you travel or at least rechargeable batteries.
- Learn some of the local language and read up on the local history/culture before you go. You'll get so much more out of your trip.
- Why not pack some pens/pencils exercise books in your rucksack and they can be donated to a local school or project while you're away. You can also purchase these items cheaply, locally which will help local businesses.
- Take a sturdy water bottle with you from home that you can re-use throughout your trip. We carry large quantities of purified water with us on our Expedition vehicles and it is much better for the environment if you drink this, rather than purchase bottled water along the way. (It also saves you money).
- **Water-to-Go**: Oasis Overland have partnered with Water-to-Go to help reduce the number of plastic water bottles consumed during a trip. Water-to-Go is a filtration system that eliminates over 99.9% of all microbiological contaminants including viruses, bacteria, chemicals and heavy metals from any non-salt water source. **Click here** and enter the code OASIS25 to purchase your Water-to-Go products at 25% discount.

**While you're travelling**

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- 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**

#### 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.

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

| | |
|---|---|
| • **Antiseptic ointment/Antihistamine cream & tablets**<br>• **Nurofen or equivalent pain-killer**<br>• **Eye-drops/bath**<br>• **Anti-diarrhoea treatment**<br>• **A couple of bandages (elasticated & triangular)**<br>• **Medication for personal allergies/asthma etc**<br>• **Insect repellent containing Deet** | • Some suitable antibiotics as recommended by your doctor for infected cuts or to treat severe dysentery<br>• Rehydration sachets/vitamin tablets<br>• Assorted plasters<br>• 1 Course of malaria treatment<br>• 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 including information to help you fill out application forms and details 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. Currently you can apply online for an e-visa or some nationalities can apply at an embassy, usually in your country of residence.  If applying at an embassy, please allow enough time for your visa process before you leave home.  Details for the visa application process and documents required will be emailed to you a few months before your trip departs.

### 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

You will be travelling within a group size ranging from 4 to 12 people, so come with an open mind and ready to make new friends! You will be accompanied on your adventure with an experienced Local English speaking guide. They are knowledgeable and passionate about all things Sierra Leone!!

### Accommodation

Our tours in Sierra Leone feature a mix of accommodations, ranging from 3-star hotels in Freetown, to local guest houses, eco-lodges and pre-erected tents in other parts of the country.
As an emerging tourism destination, not all accommodations are able to provide the same level of comfort and facliities as hotels in Europe or North America and services such as wifi may not always be available. When outside of Freetown you may experience occasional power outages and poor internet connectivity.

**Freetown, Makeni & Tokeh:**
In these locations we use comfortable 2 to 3-star accommodations with private facilities. Due to the more remote location of Makeni, you should expect a lower level of accommodation here.

**Takugama, Kabala, Boma Village, Tiwai & Banana Islands:**
In these more remote parts of the country, there are fewer accommodation options, though the accommodations we've chosen to include we believe will add to your overall experience. In Tacugama you will stay in basic but comfortable eco-lodge chalets which are located within the jungle surrounding the Tacugama Chimpanzee Sanctuary. In Kabala you will stay a local guesthouse, rooms here are clean and comfortable but basic. As part of the Heritage Trail, we have included 1 night close to Boma Village and 1 night on Tiwai Island where you will stay in tents or huts. Finally, on Banana Island you will stay at the Bafa Resort which offers pre-erected tents which straddle the edge of the forest and shore line. These tents offer basic accommodation in a truly magical location.
On Tiwai and Banana Island, toilet and shower facilities are communal. In Boma Village, due to the nature of this stay, toilet facilities are basic and will be either shared community toilets or 'bush' toilets.

Please check the Accommodation tab on the tour page or download these Tour Notes for details of the normal hotels used. On our group tours, these hotels may change from time to time for other properties of a similar standard. If you would like to guarantee a particular hotel, please request a tailor-made tour.

Accommodation is based on twin, triple or double en-suite rooms/cabins with air conditioning. All couples will be given a private double room/cabin. Triple cabins are not available on Nile cruise boats.

Please check the Single Room Supplement option for details on room sharing options and charges for solo travellers on this tour.

**Transport**

Our trips feature a mix of different transport options. We want you to feel like you’re really experiencing the country you’re travelling through, but at the same time we want you to finish journeys refreshed enough to enjoy the next stage of the tour. In Sierra Leone road journeys will be in minivans appropriate to the final group size. As we include a number of island visits on this tour (Banana Island, Tiwai Island, Bunce Island and Tasso Island) our itinerary will also feature a number of boat/ferry journeys. When visiting Banana Island and Tiwai Island, you will travel in smaller

speedboats and whilst visiting Bunce and Tasso Islands, you'll travel onboard larger boats, which may be shared with other passengers.

**Vegetarians / Vegans / Coeliac / Gluten & Lactose intolerance**

Our Tour Guides will always do their best to cater for any dietary requirement or intolerance whenever possible. However we don't 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. Remember that when eating out in local restaurants & hotels sometimes being vegetarian or food allergies / intolerances 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.

**LIFE ON THE ROAD**

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

Itinerary

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

Expedition Vehicle

For most of your trip the Oasis expedition truck will be your new home - giving you a comfortable & secure base with which to experience your trip. We use purpose built truck's which have been converted especially for this expedition, which pass through all types of terrains from soft sand, mud,

rock and potholed roads to tarseal. It is reassuring to know that these vehicles can handle the tough conditions that they are put through. The truck is equipped with all the equipment we may need en route, including a professionally compiled expedition Medical Kit, large water & fuel carrying capacities, an extensive range of spare parts and the kitchen sink, (well almost!) so all you need is your sleeping bag, a roll mat and your own personal gear!

Seatbelts

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

Accommodation

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

During the day

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

Meals & cook groups

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

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

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

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

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

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

In the evenings

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

Oasis Crew

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

Adventure travel can be unpredictable and occasionally our crew may have to amend the itinerary to take into account changing local circumstances or because of a delay at a border or because of circumstances outside our control. This can all lead to additional work and commitment for our crew who will do all they can to minimize any disruption to the trip. While our crew are essentially on call

24 hours a day 7 days a week, it has to be remembered that no one is actually expected to work these hours, so at Oasis we are realistic that within a trip there will be times when our crew need 'down time' and a chance to relax and 'let their hair down' as well. They are only human!

Itinerary Changes

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

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

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

## TRIP ITINERARY

### Arrive in Freetown. Transfer to city centre hotel by boat

Upon arrival at Lungi International Airport (FNA), you'll be greeted by the warm hospitality of Sierra Leone. Our friendly representatives will be waiting to meet you upon arrival.

From there, you'll embark on a scenic boat journey across the beautiful Sierra Leone River to Freetown, the vibrant capital city. This ferry ride offers stunning views of the coastline and a chance to get a first glimpse of this captivating country. The remainder of the day is free for you to settle in and begin exploring this West African capital.

*(Dinner)*

Overnight: Hotel Barmoi (or similar)

### Full day exploration of Freetown and evening cooking class

This morning, embark on a captivating exploration of Freetown, a city steeped in history and brimming with vibrant culture. Your journey begins at the esteemed Old Fourah Bay College, perched

atop Mount Aureol. Founded in 1827, it holds the distinction of being the oldest Western-style university in Sub-Saharan Africa. Wander through its historic halls, where generations of scholars have pursued knowledge, and learn about its profound impact on education across the continent.

Next, descend into the heart of Freetown, where the iconic Cotton Tree stands tall. This majestic tree has witnessed centuries of history, serving as a symbol of hope and freedom since the arrival of freed slaves in the late 1700s. Pause for a moment of reflection at the nearby Peace and Cultural Monument, a poignant tribute to Sierra Leone's resilience in overcoming conflict and striving for unity.

Immerse yourself in the nation's captivating past at the Sierra Leone National Museum. Explore fascinating exhibits showcasing the country's diverse cultural heritage, from traditional masks and intricate carvings to historical artifacts that tell the story of Sierra Leone's journey through time. Continue your exploration at the Peace Museum, a testament to the power of reconciliation and the enduring human spirit. Discover inspiring stories of individuals and communities working together to build a brighter future after years of civil war.

Venture into the heart of the city's colonial past with a visit to the Gate Way to the King's Yard. This historical landmark offers a glimpse into the era when Freetown served as a key trading post and a refuge for freed slaves. Then, prepare to be swept away by the vibrant energy of Big Market, a bustling hub of local life. Wander through its labyrinthine alleys, where vendors proudly display their wares, from colorful fabrics and fragrant spices to fresh produce and handcrafted souvenirs.

As lunchtime approaches, savor the authentic flavors of Sierra Leone at Way Li Restaurant. Meaning "sweet" in the Fullah language, Way Li offers a delectable array of traditional dishes, each bursting with unique flavors and spices.

After lunch, you'll have a chance to see the impressive State House, the official residence and workplace of the President of Sierra Leone. Originally known as Fort Thornton, this stately building has played a significant role in the country's political history. Next, proceed to the Parliament Building, a striking architectural landmark constructed with assistance from Israel. Embark on a guided tour through its grand halls, including the well of parliament, and gain insights into Sierra Leone's democratic processes.

As evening descends, prepare for a truly immersive cultural experience. Head to Treat Food Concept, a culinary haven founded by Susan Senesi, a passionate chef and champion of women's empowerment. Join Susan for a hands-on home cooking class, where you'll learn the art of preparing authentic Sierra Leonean dishes from scratch. Under her expert guidance, you'll chop, stir, and simmer, discovering the secrets behind the country's rich culinary traditions. As you create your own delicious meal, Susan will share fascinating stories and insights into the cultural significance of each dish. Finally, gather around the table and savor the fruits of your labor, enjoying a delightful dinner filled with flavor, conversation, and the warmth of Sierra Leonean hospitality.

*(Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)*

Overnight: Hotel Barmoi (or similar)

**Hike Sugar Loaf Mountain and visit Tacugama Chimpanzee Sanctuary**

Towering over Freetown is Sugar Loaf Mountain, a lush forested peak that forms a dramatic backdrop to the city. Reaching 727 meters above sea level, this natural wonder is part of the Western Area Forest Reserve, a protected area that provides a haven for diverse flora and fauna. We'll take a hike up Sugar Loaf mountain this morning, which generally takes 3 to 4 hours. We recommend bringing along good hiking shoes/boots for this hike as the terrain can be steep in parts. Once you reach the top, you'll be rewarded with beautiful views of the surrounding landscape.

Later, venture to the Tacugama Chimpanzee Sanctuary, nestled in the rainforest just 40 minutes from Freetown. Established in 1995, this sanctuary is dedicated to rescuing and rehabilitating orphaned and abandoned chimpanzees. Observe these incredible primates in their semi-wild habitat within the 100-acre reserve as they swing through the trees, play, and socialize. Learn about the sanctuary's conservation efforts and the importance of protecting these endangered animals.

For a truly unforgettable experience, you'll spend the night in one of Tacugama's eco-lodge chalets. These basic but charming chalets are nestled amongst the trees, offering a unique opportunity to immerse yourself in the rainforest and fall asleep to the sounds of nature. Wake up to the calls of the chimpanzees and enjoy breathtaking views of the surrounding landscape.

*(Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)*

Overnight: Tacugama Eco Lodge Chalets

**Explore Makeni before experiencing traditional village life in Rogbonko village**

After breakfast overlooking the lush rainforest, bid farewell to the chimpanzees of Tacugama and embark on a journey to Makeni, a bustling city in the heart of Sierra Leone. As you travel through the countryside, observe the changing landscape, from rolling hills and verdant fields to vibrant villages and bustling market towns.

Upon arrival in Makeni, we'll have a city tour that unveils the unique character of this regional hub. Explore its lively markets, where vendors offer a colorful array of goods, from fresh produce and aromatic spices to handcrafted jewelry and traditional textiles and discover historical landmarks that tell the story of Makeni's past.

Next, we'll venture off the beaten path to the charming village of Rogbonko, a hidden gem nestled amidst the tranquil countryside. Here, you'll have the opportunity to experience authentic rural life in Sierra Leone. Receive a warm welcome from the village chief and engage in a traditional ceremony to pay your respects to the local customs.

Immerse yourself in the daily rhythms of village life, participating in hands-on activities that offer a glimpse into the local culture. Learn the art of traditional cooking, using fresh ingredients and time-honored techniques to create flavorful Sierra Leonean dishes. Discover the intricate skill of basket weaving, crafting your own unique souvenir to take home. Engage with the friendly villagers, as you

gain a deeper understanding of their way of life.

As the sun begins to set, bid farewell to the welcoming community of Rogbonko and return to Makeni where you'll spend the night.

*(Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)*

Overnight: Royal Hotel (or similar)

**Visit the Wara Wara Mountain in Kabala. Evening cotton weaving experience and cultural dance performance**

After breakfast, prepare to be awestruck by the natural wonder of the Wara Wara Mountains. Your journey takes you to Kabala, a town nestled amidst a landscape of breathtaking beauty. As you approach, the majestic Wara Wara Mountains rise before you. These imposing rock formations, sculpted by centuries of erosion, inspire awe and wonder. Explore the surrounding landscape, where hidden waterfalls cascade down rocky slopes and lush valleys cradle traditional villages. Hike through the foothills, breathing in the fresh mountain air and marveling at the panoramic vistas that unfold before you.

In the afternoon, delve into the rich cultural heritage of Kabala with a visit to a local cotton weaver. Witness the intricate process of transforming raw cotton into vibrant textiles, a tradition passed down through generations, maybe even try your hand at the loom.

We'll return to our hotel for dinner before a vibrant folklore and cultural dance performance. The rhythmic beats of traditional drums will fill the air as dancers, adorned in colorful costumes, tell stories of ancient legends and celebrate the spirit of Sierra Leone.

*(Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)*

Overnight: Weindays Guesthouse (or similar)

**Join the Heritage Trail with a stop in Boma Village, learn about the legend of a local giant and stay in an Eco-Camp**

Today's journey takes you to Kabala, where the mighty Sewa River meets the Waanje, forming the Kittam River that eventually flows into the Atlantic. From there, you'll embark on a heritage trail, venturing deep into the heart of Sierra Leone's cultural heritage. Your destination is the unique village of Boma, situated along the Moa River near Nainiati (Sand Island).

Boma stands out among the villages on the heritage trail because it's led by a female chief. Legend has it that a genie prophesied Boma would only prosper under a woman's leadership. You'll have the chance to experience the daily life of this fascinating community, witnessing their dances and rituals firsthand.

Your visit to Boma includes an encounter with local folklore at the grave of a "giant," where you'll hear the captivating story of an ancient war between giants and dwarves. You'll also stand in awe of the Boma Cotton Tree, a towering symbol of the village's harmonious relationship with nature. This majestic tree, the last of its kind in the surrounding area, is believed to protect Boma from strong winds and storms.

Immerse yourself in the tranquility of rural life as you spend the night at Kwaanma Eco-Camp ("Far Away"). This unique accommodation allows you to connect with nature and experience the serenity of the Sierra Leonean countryside.

*(Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)*

Overnight: Kwaanma Eco-Camp

**Hike to a mystical village, encounter local legends. Cruise to Tiwai Island for pygmy hippo & chimpanzee spotting**

After breakfast, embark on a scenic walk to the neighboring village of Nainiahun, meaning "Sand Village." Your journey will take you along winding bush trails, through verdant rice paddies, and past fragrant cocoa and kola nut plantations. Along the way, you'll cross clear streams and observe the local way of life, gaining insights into the daily rhythms of rural Sierra Leone.

Nainiahun is known for its artisanal diamond mining, which draws together people from the Temne and Mende tribes, hoping to strike it rich in the surrounding swamps. Here, you'll visit "Kote Wulehun" (Large Stone Village), a fascinating cultural heritage site shrouded in mystique. Legend has it that during tribal wars, community members would seek refuge among these massive rock formations, where they could become invisible at will.

Before entering this mystical place, you'll remove your shoes as a sign of respect. Venture into the heart of Kote Wulehun, home to porcupines, bats, and other wildlife. Protected by traditional decree, this area serves as a testament to the community's commitment to conservation through their cultural beliefs. Listen as the Nainiahun elders share captivating stories of elves, invisibility spells, and powerful rituals. They will then perform a libation pouring ceremony, offering blessings for your onward journey.

After this enchanting encounter, enjoy a delicious meal prepared with locally sourced ingredients, savoring the flavors under the shade of swaying palm trees. Replenished and refreshed, continue your journey on foot to the banks of the Moa River. Here, a boat awaits to transport you to the secluded paradise of Tiwai Island.

As the day progresses, embark on a captivating boat ride upriver, keeping your eyes peeled for the elusive pygmy hippopotamus. Return as the sun dips below the horizon, painting the sky with vibrant hues. Throughout your boat trip, soak in the spectacular scenery of Tiwai Island and the neighboring mainland. Observe playful monkeys leaping through the trees, identify some of the 135 bird species that call this area home, and watch for the occasional crocodile basking in the sun.

In the late afternoon, venture into the depths of the rainforest with experienced guides to track chimpanzees and observe endangered monkey species in their natural habitat. This immersive experience offers a rare glimpse into the rich biodiversity of Tiwai Island and the importance of conservation efforts to protect this fragile ecosystem.

*(Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)*

Overnight: Tiwai Island

**Travel from Kent Beach to Banana Island. Explore the island and spend time relaxing on the beach**

Leaving the wildlife haven of Tiwai Island, your journey continues to the captivating Banana Island. You'll first travel to Kent Beach, where a boat awaits to transport you across the shimmering waters to this idyllic island. Step ashore and discover a unique blend of history and natural beauty.

Banana Island offers a glimpse into the past, with remnants of Portuguese infrastructure from the 1800s and a rich cultural heritage shaped by the Krio people, descendants of freed slaves who settled here. Explore the vibrant local communities, where you'll encounter warm hospitality and a fascinating blend of traditions.

Your destination on Banana Island is Bafa Resort, a secluded haven nestled amidst lush greenery and pristine beaches. This eco-friendly resort provides a tranquil escape, allowing you to unwind and immerse yourself in the island's serene atmosphere. Accommodation here is in pre-erected teepee style tents.

*(Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)*

Overnight: Tents at Bafa Resort

**Leave Banana Island, time to relax at River No. 2**

After a week of adventure and cultural immersion, it's time to unwind and soak up the sun at River No. 2. Depart Banana Island and head to this picturesque coastal destination, where golden sands and crystal-clear waters await.

Here, you have the option to simply relax and bask in the warmth of the tropical sun, or embark on a leisurely stroll along the pristine beach. Take a refreshing dip in the ocean, feel the soft sand between your toes, and let the tranquil atmosphere wash away any lingering stress.

Later, you'll check in to the Estuary Resort, your haven for the night. This charming resort offers comfortable accommodations and a relaxed ambiance, perfect for unwinding after a busy week of exploration.

*(Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)*

Overnight: Estuary Resort (or similar)

### Explore the sober history of Bunce Island before visiting the idyllic Tasso Island

Today, you'll delve into a poignant chapter of Sierra Leone's history with a visit to Bunce Island. Departing from Tokeh, you'll embark on a boat journey that takes you along the scenic Sierra Leone River to this once-infamous site.

Bunce Island holds a somber significance as the largest British slave castle on the West African Rice Coast. Established around 1670, this fortified trading post served as a major hub for the transatlantic slave trade. For over a century, tens of thousands of African captives were held here in horrific conditions before being transported across the Atlantic to North America and the West Indies. Walk through the ruins of the castle, where the stark remnants of slave quarters, dungeons, and trading houses paint a vivid picture of the island's dark past. Reflect on the profound human impact of the slave trade and its enduring legacy.

After your visit to Bunce Island, a wave of emotions likely washing over you, a change of scenery awaits. You'll journey to Tasso Island, a tranquil paradise offering a stark contrast to the somber history of Bunce Island. This idyllic island is known for its pristine beaches, lush vegetation, and laid-back atmosphere. Relax on the sandy shores, swim in the turquoise waters, and soak up the tranquility of this tropical haven. It's the perfect place to reflect on the day's experiences and find solace in the beauty of nature.

*(Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)*

Overnight: Hotel Barmoi (or similar)

### Transfer back to Lungi Airport for departure

Today you'll have free time in Freetown until transferring to the sea-coach for your transfer back to Lungi Airport. *(Breakfast)*

## 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.

### SIERRA LEONE

| Title | From Price |
|---|---|

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:*** *11-11-2026*