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NAIROBI TO JOHANNESBURG (94 DAYS) GRAND ADVENTURER

COUNTRIES VISITED: BOTSWANA, KENYA, LESOTHO, MALAWI, MOZAMBIQUE, NAMIBIA, RWANDA, SOUTH AFRICA, TANZANIA, UGANDA, ZIMBABWE

HIGHLIGHTS

- A safari through Lake Nakuru National Park hosting a healthy population of both black and white Rhinos
- Listening out for the groans of the hippo whilst camping on Lake Naivasha
- Trek to see the some of Africa's amazing primates; the Mountain Gorilla, Chimpanzees and Golden Monkeys
- Search for the Big 5 whilst on safari in the Maasai Mara
- Explore Zanzibar Island beaches and Stone Town's buzzing bazaar and aromatic spice market
- Visit a local school, learn local crafts and indulge in local delicacies in the villages on Lake Malawi
- View the spectacular Victoria Falls on foot, from the air, from a boat or upside down from a bungee rope.
- Take a mokoro trip into the Okavango Delta and camp out in the wilderness
- Game drive by day and relax at floodlit water holes by night in Etosha National Park
- Explore the Namib-Naukluft Park and Sossusvlei, they portray the iconic images of Namibia
- Visit Cape Agulhas, the southernmost point in Africa, the point where the Indian and Atlantic oceans meet

- Travel along the Garden Route and enjoy the vibrant coastal towns
- Hike through the dramatic coastal scenery, reefs, rivers and lush forest Tsitsikamma National Park
- Driving past deserted beaches, rugged coastline and awesome scenery to the Wild Coast
- Enjoy exploring waterfalls, rock pools, hiking or pony trekking, in the mountain kingdom of Lesotho

INCLUDES

- Accommodation - approx. 80% camping & 20% simple hostels/hotels
- Lake Naivasha
- Morning and afternoon game drives in the Maasai Mara
- Forest walk at Kakamega rainforest
- Kazinga channel boat cruise in QE National Park
- Queen Elizabeth National Park entry fee and game drive in truck
- Lake Nakuru National Park and game drive
- Giraffe Centre
- Return ferry to Zanzibar
- 4 nights accommodation on Zanzibar
- Lake Malawi village walk
- Private Game Ranch
- Overnight sleeper train from Bulawayo to Victoria Falls (if available)
- Chobe National Park - entrance & river cruise
- Etosha National Park
- Spitzkoppe Rock formations
- Cape Cross Seal Colony
- Sossusvlei Dunes
- Fish River Canyon
- Cape of Good Hope
- Cango Calcite Caves
- Ostrich farm
- Addo Elephant National Park and game drive
- Royal Natal National Park
- Meals - approx. 60%
- All transport on Oasis Expedition Truck
- Camping and Cooking equipment
- Services of Oasis Crew

EXCLUDES

- Visas
- Gorilla, Chimpanzee and Golden Monkey Trekking Permits (bookable as an Add ons)

- Serengeti & Ngorongoro Crater safari add-on
- Optional Excursions as listed in the Pre-Departure Information
- Flights
- Airport Taxes & Transfers
- Sleeping bag & camping mat
- Travel Insurance
- Meals - approx. 40%
- Drinks
- Tips

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

ARRIVAL & ACCOMMODATION

The trip starts from Wildebeest Eco Camp at approximately 8am on the morning of Day 1 of your trip.

Conveniently located in beautiful Langata it is possible to enjoy the best of both worlds - being close to major tourist attractions, Nairobi National Park and Galleria Shopping centre with good transport links to the city. The camp has large grounds, swimming pool, restaurant, bar, t.v. room, communal fire pit, WiFi and curio shop.

Trip Joining Point: Wildebeest Eco Camp - Nairobi

Start Time Day 1: 08:00

Address: 151 Mokoyeti Road West, Langata, Nairobi

Telephone: +254 (0)202 103505

Website: **www.wildebeestecocamp.com**

Email: **info@wildebeestecocamp.com**

All prices listed are subject to limited availability and to changes made by the camp. A basic breakfast is included. Additional room and tent types are available via the camp website.

Room Type	Price	Description
Dorm bed	GBP 35	Per Person, shared facilities
Single Garden Tent	GBP 50	Per Tent (for 1 person), shared facilities
Double Garden Tent	GBP 75	Per Tent (for 2 people), shared facilities
Single Cottage Room, en-suite	GBP 75	Per Room (for 1 person)

Double Cottage Room, en-suite	GBP 100	Per Room (for 2 people)

PRE-TRIP ACCOMMODATION:

We strongly recommend that you arrive at the camp at least one night before the trip starts. You can pre-book this accommodation through us if you wish, or directly with the camp. Our prices are given above, though these are subject to availability at the time of booking. We will require your flight number, arrival time, and arrival date so please ensure this information is forwarded to us as soon as you have booked your flight. Please book this service no later than 6 weeks prior to departure in case of low availability. Any room cancellations are unfortunately non-refundable.

If you are arriving early in the morning and you would like to check in immediately, you may have to reserve your room for the previous night to ensure direct check in, otherwise you may have to wait until normal check in times (usually 12pm to 2pm).

If you plan to stay elsewhere in Nairobi before the trip starts, you will miss the initial briefing and meet up with the crew the evening before departure. Please tell us where you will be staying and ensure that you are at Wildebeest Camp by 07.30am at the latest on Day 1.

AIRPORT TRANSFERS:

Airport Transfers are not included in the cost of your adventure, but we can pre-book and arrange these so that you get a friendly welcome and a smooth transfer straight to the camp when you arrive. Our famous local representative Smiley (by name and by nature!) handles these and is well known to all our crew and hundreds of our travellers over the years.

Transfer Type	Price (p/p)	Description
1 person	GBP 25	1 car. Airport transfer for a solo traveller
2 people	GBP 15	1 car. Per person for 2 people arriving together
3+ people	GBP 10	Per person for 3 or more people arriving together

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 (Smiley or Amos). **Your driver will be waiting along with all the other transfer drivers and will be holding an Oasis sign.**

If you have not arranged an airport transfer with Oasis, you can arrange a taxi from the Info desk in the airport for approx. $25 USD. The fare should be agreed before accepting the ride - usually payable in Kenyan Shillings only. It is not advisable to take the bus from the airport as this has been known to attract pickpockets.

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

Flying into Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (NBO) is quite straight forward - English is widely spoken and used for signs / directions. It is approx. 15km from the airport to the centre of Nairobi. You should change some money on arrival - we recommend at least $20 USD pp per day (excl. accomm.) before the trip begins. The rates are similar to those in town but better than at hotels, ATM machines are available in the airport. Please note if you are arriving on a Sunday then make sure you change enough money at the airport to last you for the first week of your trip as the local bureau de changes in Nairobi will be closed on a Sunday.

PRE-DEPARTURE MEETING

Your tour leader will meet you and your fellow travellers for a meet and greet at the joining hotel/camp the evening before departure; usually around 6pm, where your Tour Leader will **collect your Local Payment** money as well as 2 photocopies of your **passport information page**, **insurance policy details** with policy number and confirmation that the duration will cover you for the entire trip and a **24-hour emergency assistance** telephone number.On the morning of departure, usually around 8:00am, you will be briefed on the day to day running of the trip. There will be a notice in reception advising you of the time of the meeting, and any further information. Your Tour Leader It is essential that you attend these meetings - please let the UK office or your tour leader know if you are unable to do so.

POST TRIP ACCOMMODATION AND AIRPORT TRANSFERS

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

FLIGHT INFORMATION

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

There are many online flight search engines such as **www.skyscanner.net** 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 you have a copy of your payment

confirmation/receipt (that you will be sent at time of your balance payment) available at immigration to assist easy entry.

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

PASSPORTS

Your passport must be valid for at least 6 months AFTER your trip finishes. This is a general requirement for all of the countries we travel to on our trips.
If you have dual nationality you can only use one passport for the entire trip. It is your responsibility to ensure you have all the relevant visas you require.
Please bring 2 photocopies of your passport details to give to your tour leader.
Number of blank pages required for the trip, please use this as an approximate guide:

- Kenya - 2 blank pages
- Uganda - 1/2 blank page
- Rwanda - 1/2 blank page
- Tanzania - 1 1/2 blank pages
- Malawi - 1 blank page
- Mozambique - 1 1/2 blank pages
- Zimbabwe - 2 blank pages
- Botswana - 1/2 blank page
- Namibia - 1/2 blank page
- South Africa - 1 blank page
- Lesotho - 1 blank page

VISAS

The information below is to be used only as a guide and may change without prior notice. It is advisable to contact the relevant embassy in plenty of time before the trip departs to check the current visa requirements. It is **your responsibility** to ensure you have all the relevant visas you require**.**

Visas obtained at borders must be paid for in USD cash ONLY.

Country	British	Irish	Aust	NZ	S.Africa	USA	Canadian
East Africa Visa	US$100	US$100	US$100	US$100	US$100	US$100	US$100

Kenya	US$30	US$30	US$30	US$30	US$30	US$30	US$30
Uganda	US$100	US$100	US$100	US$100	US$100	US$100	US$100
Rwanda	Free	US$50	Free	Free	US$50	US$50	Free
Tanzania	US$50	US$50	US$50	US$50	Free	US$100	US$50
Malawi	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free
Mozambique	US$50	US$50	US$50	US$50	Free	US$50	US$50
Zimbabwe	US$55	US$55	US$30	US$30	Free	US$30	US$75
Botswana	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free
Namibia	N$1600	N$1600	N$1600	N$1600	Free	N$1600	N$1600
South Africa	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free
Lesotho	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free

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

Kenya

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

Travellers need to apply via https://www.etakenya.go.ke/en. This will take at least 3 days to process but you can apply up to 3 months in advance, so allow yourself plenty of time in case of delays. You will need to either print a copy of your eTA or download it to your mobile to present on departure at the airport and at immigration at your point of entry into Kenya. You may be denied boarding of your flight to Kenya or denied entry to Kenya if you do not have your copy of your eTA with you.

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

- try a different website browser
- check your bank has not blocked the payment

- clear your cookies (if you know how) and try again
- wait a few hours or until the next day, and try again

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

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

Botswana

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

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

Lesotho

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

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

Malawi

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

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

Mozambique

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

South African passport holders are free of charge.

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

Namibia

- **All trips:**

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

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

Rwanda

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

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

South Africa

- **All trips:**

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

Passport Holders from other countries, will need to check the current visa requirements with the relevant consulate, and whether you need to obtain the visa in advance. Those who do need a visa and are travelling on a trip that includes Lesotho or Eswatini, will need to make sure that they obtain a multiple entry visa for South Africa as you will be entering and exiting these countries from South Africa.

Tanzania

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

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

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

Uganda

Most nationalities require a visa for Uganda.

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

Zimbabwe

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

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

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

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

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

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

VACCINATIONS AND HEALTH

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

travel health information or consult a reputable travel clinic or your GP for information and advice. We suggest that you allow at least 8 weeks to get all your vaccinations.

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

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

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

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

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

TRAVEL INSURANCE

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

You will be asked to provide us with the following details 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 are happy to refer our UK based travellers to the travel insurance specialists **Campbell Irvine** who have a policy suitable for overlanding and which covers most of the adventure and sporting activities on our trips.

For further information, check out the **Travel Insurance** section of our website.

IMPORTANT INSURANCE INFORMATION FOR THOSE VISITING ZANZIBAR:
The Zanzibar Government have announced the introduction of a travel insurance policy which will be obligatory for all foreign visitors to the islands, regardless of whether travellers have their own travel insurance in place.

1. The insurance policy is sold by Zanzibar Insurance Corporation.
2. The cost is US$44 per person.
3. The insurance requirement comes into force on 1st October 2024.
4. The policy must be purchased online at visitzanzibar.go.tz and purchases can be made from 1st September 2024.
5. Payment can be made online by debit or credit card.
6. On completion of the purchase, visitors will receive a QR code. The policy documents will be sent to your registered email address.
7. The policy document and QR code must be presented on in Zanzibar. Entry will be refused without this documentation.

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

MONEY, BUDGETS AND LP

Local Payment (LP)

LP is part of your overall trip payment and is the most cost effective and practical way to get hard currency to Africa to pay for a variety of your day to day local costs (i.e. all meals prepared by the group, campsite/hostel fees, gas, and certain activities listed on the trip page) which cannot be pre-paid from the UK. It is a guaranteed amount, set before your trip departs, and unlike 'group kitty'

systems we will not ask you to contribute more once the trip is underway.

Please note: Your LP is payable to your Tour Leader on the morning of departure in US$ Dollars CASH ONLY. Make sure that all your notes are in good condition. Old, torn or marked notes are often refused by the banks and we will therefore be unable to accept them either. Please do not bring all of your Local Payment in US$100 notes and also make sure that they are post 2013 and do not have a serial number starting with CB**.**

How to bring your currency?

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

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

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

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

Spending Money

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

Changing money

Change your money only at banks, hotels, airports or forex bureaus. It is illegal to change money on the street, as these people will normally be opportunistic thieves or undercover police. Your crew will advise you where & when you can change money & with what means. It is also a good idea to have a small CASH emergency fund, to allow for the unexpected.

Credit & Debit Cards

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

Pre-Paid Travel Currency Cards

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

ATMs

These are available in most major cities along our route and allow you to withdraw local currency only. We discourage you from relying on your ATM card as a primary source of funds in case it is lost/stolen/swallowed, or the machine isn't working. In some destinations we probably won't even see a bank or ATM for days on end so having hard currency to exchange is essential. Besides memorising your PIN, it is also important to be aware of your daily withdrawal limit and bank withdrawal costs. Please note that although Zimbabwe’s currency is US Dollars it is not currently possible to obtain USD cash from ATMs or banks due to the country’s cash shortage.

Tipping

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

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

budget, but ask you to consider that those we work with locally may also face financial hardship, and also work very hard to try to give you unrivalled service/ experiences.

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

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

CLIMATE

In East Africa (Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania) the year is loosely divided into the 'short' rains (November) and the 'long' rains (March to May). The 'rains' usually last for one or two hours each day followed by hot sunny weather. Nights can be surprisingly cold at higher altitude in western Uganda, Ngorongoro Crater & The Rift Valley.

In Southern Africa (Malawi, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Namibia and South Africa) the 'dry' season is April to October when the nights can be quite cold, particularly in June and July when it is very cold at night. Day temperatures are very pleasant at this time, usually mid 20s (°C). From November to March the weather is hotter and there is summer rainfall, although this is very intermittent when it may not rain for months, or it can rain for a day at a time. **View African Climate Chart**

WHAT TO TAKE

The less you take the less you have to pack, wash & lug home & you can always pick up extras along the way. Most people make the mistake of bringing too much. 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: summer is very hot in places & winter can be very cold with occasional frost overnight in the south. (May to Aug can be very cold in Southern Africa). Make sure that you bring your gear in a 70-90L rucksack or holdall - suitcases are not suitable.

Equipment	Toiletries - Most available to buy on trip

• **Sleeping Bag - 3 to 4 season bag, depending on season, & sleep sheet** • **Foam sleeping mat or thermarest & repair kit** • **Small day-pack or small bag to carry daily items** • **Soft rucksack or holdall (NOT rigid suitcase)** • **Water bottle - for personal use - we recommend Water-to-Go (see below Responsible Travel)**	• Soap, shampoo, toothbrush/paste, antibacterial hand wash, lip balm & moisturiser • Sun block 35 + after sun, hat & sun glasses • Tampons (can buy in most places) • Contraception
Clothes	**Personal Effects**
• **One pair of trainers or boots** • **Sandals/flip flops/jandals/thongs** • **Underwear/socks** • **T shirts/shirts** • **Shorts/swimwear** • **Jeans/trousers/jog pants/leggings** • **Skirt or dress** • **Sweat shirt/jumper** • **Jacket/fleece & waterproof jacket**	• Camera with protective case, spare batteries, film/memory card • Torch & spare batteries (head torch is best) • Travel adaptor plug/charger (for cameras & mobile phone batteries) • Money belt • Personal stereo - there is a stereo on the truck with iPod/MP3 adaptors • Towel &/or sarong
Recommended Medical Kit List	
• **Antiseptic ointment/Antihistamine cream & tablets** • **Nurofen or equivalent pain-killer** • **Eye-drops/bath** • **Anti-diarrhoea treatment** • **A couple of bandages (elasticated & triangular)** • **Medication for personal allergies/asthma etc** • **Insect repellent containing Deet**	• Some suitable antibiotics as recommended by your doctor for infected cuts or to treat severe dysentery • Rehydration sachets/vitamin tablets • Assorted plasters • 1 Course of malaria treatment • Malaria Tablets - see Vaccinations & Health section

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

PHOTOGRAPHY AND ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT

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

Photography - Be aware of your surroundings when taking photographs and filming. Some locations will be sensitive or have local laws banning photography. For example it is usually forbidden to use cameras at borders or around government buildings, military installations, bridges and airports or to

take photos of local officials. If you do take photos or film where it is not permitted you may find yourself being questioned by irate officials who may decide to confiscate your camera or instruct you to delete all the images/footage on your device. If in doubt ask for permission, or if there is no-one to ask use some common sense.

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

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

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

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

Log onto**www.whatplug.net**for information regarding the different electrical plugs and voltage used in each country.

CONTACTING HOME

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

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

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

RESPONSIBLE TRAVEL

Before you go

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

While you're travelling

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

- Don't waste water. It is a scarce resource in many of the places our trips visit. On all our Ultimate and Overland Expeditions we carry large quantities of purified water with us. We encourage you to refill your own water bottles from this supply, rather than purchase bottled water along the way- much more environmentally friendly and saves you money.
- Never buy endangered species or endangered habitat products. Apart from the fact of it being illegal it also encourages the trade to continue.
- Look after and preserve the areas we visit. Be careful about stepping on coral reefs or trekking on undesignated tracks.
- Buy locally made crafts and products helping to support the local economy.
- Don't feel when bargaining that you have to get the cheapest price possible just for the sake of it. Pay what the item is worth to you & don't worry about what someone else has paid.

- Try the local food and drinks - this will help to support local farmers and food sellers. Sitting in a local cafe is also a great way to meet local people.
- Dispose of litter appropriately on your trip. This includes cigarette butts. Not only does litter look unsightly it can be lethal to wildlife.
- Where any toilet facilities exist, however unsavoury they might seem to you, they should be used. Where they do not, always bury your waste and make sure it is never near (at least 30m) a water source.
- When game viewing do not encourage your guides to get too close to the wildlife so that their natural behaviour is impeded.
- Respect local customs, traditions and beliefs of the people in the different regions that you travel through.
- Do not take photos of people, ritual events or special places unless you have asked first. Dress appropriately according to local codes and show respect around religious festivals.
- Recycling is almost non-existent in many of the areas and countries we visit - we do the best we can with limited resources & space on our vehicles.
- For books dedicated to travelling more responsibly & ethically see: **www.tourismconcern.org.uk**

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

SECURITY

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

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

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

On board the truck - Each vehicle is fitted with a hidden, lockable safe to be used for money, passports and important documents. Group members will be responsible for the safe and Oasis Overland cannot accept any liability for clients' personal or monetary contents kept in the safe or on

board the truck. We advise you to not take items of value that are not essential for the journey. In certain areas a roster may be drawn up for the group to share the task of guarding and keeping the vehicle secure.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Gorilla, 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.

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.
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- 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**

WHAT TO EXPECT

LIFE ON THE ROAD

The Oasis truck will be your new home giving you a comfortable, secure base with which to experience your trip. As part of the 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.

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

Camping - 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.

Lodges / Hostels - At some locations we will stay in lodges and hostels that are small, locally run establishments. The accommodation will vary depending on the rooming available, from dormitory style rooms, to twins/doubles or triple rooms. Upgrades may be available on arrival, but cannot be reliably pre-booked. Please refer to the individual trip inclusions for the percentage break up of your accommodation.

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 / 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.

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

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.

TRIP ITINERARY

Nairobi to Lake Naivasha and the Masai Mara

After loading the truck with all our gear, we depart Nairobi this morning and head north into one of Africa's greatest natural features, the **East African Rift Valley**. Stretching from the Dead Sea in Jordan down to Mozambique in Southern Africa, our first view is from the top of a steep escarpment. Overland trips through East Africa will allow you to experience some of the most dramatic scenery in the world, and the Rift Valley is a definite highlight. The valley floor seems to sweep on forever and is dotted with volcanic peaks, shimmering lakes and countless springs. Our journey takes us into the heart of the Rift Valley to **Lake Naivasha.** We camp near the lake shore where **Hippos** sometimes feed at night! Here you can walk to **Elsamere,** the house of **Joy Adamson - of Elsa the Lion and Born Free fame,** and enjoy a film of her life - and cream teas! You can also **hire mountain bikes and cycle or walk through Hells Gate National Park** - the only game reserve in Kenya in which you are permitted to do so.

Or for a less active but equally enjoyable game viewing experience - visit the **Crater Lake Game Sanctuary**. Both offer excellent scenery and opportunities to spot hyrax, abundant bird and plant life along with several types of gazelle, impala and eland.

Next we head to one of Africa's most famous wildlife reserves, the **Masai Mara**. Famous for its dense concentration of animals and birds, and for its important place in the annual wildebeest migration (July to October), you will have a great chance to see lions, elephants, buffalo, leopards, cheetahs and also rhino if you are lucky. We include a morning and afternoon safari, while an additional evening safari may be available to arrange locally on our arrival day if we have made good time.

Kakamega Rainforest and Jinja

After leaving the Masai Mara, we drive west to the **Kakamega Rainforest**, a remnant of the ancient rainforest that stretched across Central Africa. This is a real contrast to other wild areas we'll visit, and the forest is home to various mammals including colobus and Debrazzar monkeys, pottos, bush pigs and giant forest hedgehogs, as well as a great selection of colourful birdlife. A guided walk in the forest is included here.

Next, we make our first border crossing as we cross from Kenya into Uganda and continue on to camp near **Jinja - Uganda's adventure playground.** Here, on the edge of **Lake Victoria,** the Nile begins its 6700km journey to the sea. We spend the next few days a little downstream from the source of the Nile. This is a spectacular area and a superb place to go **whitewater rafting or kayaking.** You can also organise **quad biking, horse riding or a visit to a local education project.**

Masaka, Kalinzu Forest Reserve & Kazinga Channel

Departing Jinja, we travel southwest through lively towns and lush countryside, crossing the **equator** en route to the fertile **Masaka region** near the western shores of **Lake Victoria**. Here we slow the pace with a walk through the rolling green hills, following red-clay paths between **banana groves** and **coffee plantations**. This gentle stroll offers an authentic glimpse into rural life and the traditions of the **Baganda people**, brought to life through warm local encounters.

From Masaka we continue west across central Uganda's ever-changing landscapes, passing vibrant trading centres before descending into the dramatic **Rift Valley**. As we near **Queen Elizabeth National Park**, the horizon opens wide, marking our arrival at the gateway to the **Kazinga Channel**. An included **boat safari** carries us along this natural waterway linking **Lakes Edward and George**, home to one of the world's densest **hippo populations**. **Nile crocodiles** bask on the banks while **elephants** and **buffalo** cool at the water's edge, all framed by spectacular scenery and abundant birdlife.

There's an exciting option to trek into the **Kalinzu Forest Reserve** in search of habituated **chimpanzees** (best pre-booked to guarantee availability). Alternatively, enjoy a **village walk** or a **morning game safari** in the park.

Finally, leaving the forest behind, we climb toward **Kabale**, aptly nicknamed the **"Switzerland of Africa."** The scenery transforms into a breathtaking panorama of **terraced hills** and **emerald tea plantations** clinging to the mountainsides, delivering crisp air and stunning views throughout this beautiful high-altitude corner of Uganda.

Gorilla Trekking, to Kigali

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

If permits are limited, we may adjust the itinerary slightly to spend an extra day here to give everyone in the group the opportunity to see the gorillas.

After our latest forest adventure, we pass through mountain ranges and cross the border into Rwanda and continue to the capital, Kigali. Here we can visit the **genocide memorial**, which is a moving and humbling experience.

Kigali to Musanze

Leaving Kigali we head up into the hills and the small, friendly town of **Musanze** which is home to Musanze caves and several hiking trails. You can take a village tour through the area and see first-

hand production of local Banana beer. As Musanze is the gateway to **Volcanoes National Park**, there is also the opportunity to take a guided trek to see the famous **Golden Monkeys**. Permits for this trek should be booked in advance as an add-on to guarantee availability.

Lake Mburo, Kampala & Sipi Falls

We are back on the road today as we leave Rwanda and drive back through Uganda towards **Lake Mburo**. This park provides a unique safari experience, distinct from other national parks in Uganda. Its compact size means it's easy to explore, and its varied landscapes support a wide range of wildlife species. It is also one of the Ugandan parks to offer adventurous **night game drives**, which you will have the option to take. Starting at around 6.30-7pm and taking 2-3 hours, you can explore the savannah plains with an experienced ranger guide, using spotlight torches to view nocturnal animals, such as leopards, white tailed mongoos, bush baby, bush pigs, genet cats, hippos feeding as well as other animals like impalas, waterbucks, zebras, elands, giraffes and topi among others. A morning safari into the park is also available the next day.

From Lake Mburo we drive on to Uganda’s capital, **Kampala**. Kampala has had a turbulent past, but these days it is a friendly and safe city. We have a free evening to spend in local cafes and nightspots where you can get to know the local people.

Then we head north to see the spectacular **Sipi Falls.** There are three waterfalls here on the Sipi River as it cascades into the Kyoga Basin from the slopes of Mount Elgon. The highest is just under 100m and there is an exciting abseiling option available here.

Lake Nakuru, to Nairobi

After leaving Uganda and crossing back into Kenya, we travel **to Lake Nakuru National Park** - home to a wide variety of wildlife including **Black Rhino, Hippo, Lion, Leopard, Hyena and Giraffe**. However, Nakuru is a soda lake and most famous for its pink inhabitants, a flock of almost a **million Pink Flamingos** which feed noisily along the shoreline. We include a half day game safari here, and you have the option to add more activities as well.

Finally, we head back to Nairobi, arriving late afternoon. If your trip finishes here, you can fly out this evening, if you have a late evening flight.

Nairobi

Welcome to Nairobi! Today you. are introduced to the truck and all our camping & kitchen equipment etc., to get ready for the journey ahead. We will also get up close to Africa's tallest mammal when we visit the Langata Giraffe Centre in Nairobi. There is also free time available to visit Nairobi National Park, and the David Sheldrick Elephant Orphanage, where we sponsor one of the orphaned elephants. You could also visit the Karen Blixen museum, which sits within the Danish Author's former 6,000 acre coffee farm.

Nairobi to Arusha and the Serengeti

We depart Nairobi early in the morning and immediately find ourselves in hot savannah grasslands with acacia trees providing the only shade. Various game, usually zebra and giraffe can be seen as we head south and cross the border into Tanzania. We spend the night at Meserani Snake Park, on the route from Arusha to the Serengeti.

Over the next 3 days you can take our optional Add-on to enjoy a safari into the **Serengeti National Park** and **Ngorongoro Crater.** These areas are one of the world's great wildlife hotspots, and you are sure to see a huge variety of different game species including **Elephant, Lion, Cheetah, White Rhino, Buffalo, Hippo, Antelope, Crocodile and Pink Flamingos** as well as vast herds of **wildebeest** roaming the plains.

For those who don't want to add this safari experience onto the trip, there are options to visit the **Snake Park**, visit a local **Masai Village** to learn about their culture and way of life. You can also arrange day trips into the Serengeti or Ngorongoro Crater (bear in mind these will involve a lot of travel time to and from the park, and therefore much more limited time actually on safari).

Arusha to Marangu and Bagamoyo Beach

After leaving Arusha we pass a number of small towns and villages along the way and, if the weather is clear, we may see the towering peak of **Kilimanjaro**. We will stop off for a couple of nights at the village of **Marangu** where you have the opportunity to climb to Kilimanjaro base camp, or take a walk through the lush surroundings passing through coffee plantations, rivers, waterfalls, caves and visiting a local blacksmith.

Leaving Marangu, a day's drive brings us to the coast and some welcome time on a beautiful Indian Ocean Beach at **Bagamoyo** before we continue to **Dar Es Salaam**. The truck will be based here for 4 nights while the group heads to Zanzibar.

Zanzibar Island

We leave the truck and tents behind this morning and take the ferry from Dar es Salaam to **Zanzibar** for our included four night stay on the island. During our time there we'll visit the bustling streets of **Stone Town** and its famous **spice markets, old slave forts and dungeons**. We'll also spend 3 nights relaxing on Zanzibar's famous white beaches, where there are many options available locally to arrange scuba diving, snorkelling, and dolphin boat trips.

Harare to Great Zimbabwe

Leaving Harare we make our way through rural farmland and villages before starting to climb up into the **Eastern Highlands of Zimbabwe**, where we visit **Chimanimani.** Here you have the opportunity to take a hike through the mountain wilderness area, or hike to the nearby **Bridal Veil Falls**, or simply enjoy the stunning surroundings from this sleepy village whilst strolling through the village

market.

Our next stop is then at the **Great Zimbabwe Ruins,** the site of what was once the greatest medieval city in Sub Saharan Africa and where the name **Zimbabwe** is derived**,** literally meaning house of stone.

Great Zimbabwe to Bulawayo

We drive across **Mashonaland** to **Gweru**, where we visit a privately run horse and game ranch where one of the various options available is to game viewing on horseback. After a couple of enjoyable nights here, we move on and enter Matabeleland and the town of **Bulawayo**. You have the option of an exciting day's venture from here into **Matobo National Park** with a local safari company. You will have a unique chance to get out on foot to try and spot the elusive **Black Rhino - amongst hordes of other game**. This is one of the few places in Africa that this type of safari is available. There is also the opportunity to visit **Cecil Rhodes' grave and Ancient Rock Paintings.**

Bulawayo to Victoria Falls

If we can, then from Bulawayo we like to follow a journey that is steeped in history and say goodbye to the truck for a night and take **the overnight train from Bulawayo to the mighty Victoria Falls.** However, in recent years the service has been unreliable at best, and not suitable for us to use. Your crew will update you whether we think we can include this on your trip. If we can, then expect basic conditions, but the views and experience of looking out the window and watching the world go by more than make up for it.
Alternatively we will drive from Bulawayo to Victoria Falls, arriving late in the afternoon. For some, **Mosi oa Tunya - The Smoke That Thunders**, is the highlight of their African safari. From the main road, in the bush 20kms away, a cloud of mist and spray can be seen against the blue sky. As you get closer, a low rumble like thunder can be heard. When you arrive it is a surprise to discover the enormity of Victoria Falls. One mile wide and hurling over 5 million cubic metres of water a minute into the Zambezi Gorge this sight is breath taking at any time of year. The water levels vary hugely depending on the time of year, but it is always an amazing spectacle - in fact it can actually be better when there is a little less water, as there is less spray blocking the falls from view.
The Gorge below the falls is also the setting for one of the most adrenaline fuelled **grade 5 white water rafting rivers in the world**. But there is also plenty to do here for the less active too. Why not take a **day trip over the Victoria Falls bridge to view the falls from Zambia,** take the **Flight of Angels -** a great way to get a birds eye view of the falls in a **microlight or helicopter,** enjoy a civilised **afternoon tea at the Victoria Falls Hotel,** join a **Sunset Boat Cruise** or a more sedate **Canoe trip.** For those who want to make the most of the **adrenaline activities,** get your fix with the **Gorge Swing, Abseil or** 'enjoy' one of the highest commercial **Bungee Jumps** in the world.

Victoria Falls

You have another free day in Victoria Falls today to enjoy all the activities on offer. Any travellers starting their trips in Victoria Falls will also join the group today.

Maun to Etosha National Park

Travelling west we enter **Namibia** and continue toward **Etosha National Park** - recognised as one of the worlds greatest wildlife viewing areas. The semi desert is quite a contrast to the more fertile terrain we have been used to, and the desert elephants that make their home here are a famous highlight. The night sky ablaze with shooting stars and the warm glow of our campfire makes for unforgettable camping experiences. Besides game drives done on our truck, we can also game watch by night at one of the floodlit water holes where we may well **spot Rhino, Elephant and Giraffe** among a host of other wildlife.

Etosha to Spitzkoppe

From Etosha we drive to the **Brandberg Mountains in Demaraland,** a huge granite outcrop and home to the famous White Lady rock painting, an important and striking piece of Damara and Bushman rock art. We will aim to make a bush camp amidst the stunning **Spitzkoppe Rock formations.** Known as the Matterhorn of Namibia - the Spitzkoppe is part of the Erongo Mt range and was formed over 100 million years ago after the collapse of a gigantic volcano. The scenery is striking from every angle - even more stunning as the granite massifs turn red at sunset.

Spitzkoppe to Swakopmund and the Namib Desert

We leave the towering granite peaks of **Spitzkoppe** and travel west toward **Namibia's Atlantic coast**, where red desert sands meet the cold surf of the **Skeleton Coast**. This starkly beautiful route takes us past **salt pans**, shipwreck-scarred shores and open desert scenery before reaching **Swakopmund**, a seaside town known for its **German colonial architecture**, palm-lined streets and adventurous spirit. Along the way, stop at **Cape Cross Seal Colony**, where the cool **Benguela Current** supports thousands of **Cape Fur Seals** gathered along the rocky coast.

Spend three days in **Swakopmund** with time to enjoy the town or join optional adventures in the surrounding dunes and ocean, from **quad biking**, **sandboarding** and **horse riding** to **sea kayaking**, **deep-sea fishing**, **scenic flights** or **skydiving**. Those after a slower pace can visit the **museum**, stroll the misty beaches or relax in local cafes and bakeries.

We then leave the **Atlantic** behind and journey south-east into the **Namib Desert**, crossing the **Tropic of Capricorn** and the dramatic **Kuiseb and Gaub passes** on the way to our desert camp.

Sossusvlei, Deadvlei & Fish River Canyon

A one day drive takes us to the **Namib-Naukluft Park**, a vast expanse of desert which contains some of the highest sand dunes in the world. At **Sossusvlei** we stop and explore this spectacular area and red dunes, including the iconic Dune 45, which we climb before breakfast one morning. We can also visit the stunning scenery of Deadvlei, where 800 year old black preserved trees stand out in huge contrast to the orange sands and blue sky behind them.

Continuing south we enter the semi-desert, and wide-open countryside of cattle ranching until we arrive at one of Africa's most sensational natural features, **Fish River Canyon**. We stop here for a couple of hours to take in the awesome scenery. We'll then continue and cross the border into South Africa and also cross the **Orange River** - a rich source of diamonds.

Orange River to Stellenbosch

We travel south through the **Cederburg Wilderness Area**, an area of rugged valleys and peaks before getting to winelands and farms of Stellenbosch. We'll spend a night here and you can take a very educational (and enjoyable!) guided tour around some of the wineries in the region, tasting as you go.

Stellenbosch to Cape Town

Our journey to Cape Town finishes with a short drive from Stellenbosch into the city, where we stay in a backpacker hostel. There is plenty to do in and around **Cape Town**, from climbing up **Table Mountain** to abseiling down it, **diving with sharks** (either in ocean cages - or at the Two Oceans Aquarium), a tour to **Robben Island** or head out on the town to one of the many hot spots that Cape Town has to offer.

Cape Town

A free day to explore Cape Town at your own pace, from Table Mountain and Robben Island to shark diving and vibrant nightlife.

Cape Town to Little Karoo

We depart from Cape Town taking a leisurely drive along the coastal roads to the Cape of Good Hope, a rocky headland at the southern end of the Cape peninsula. Here you have a chance to walk up to the upper lighthouse, or take a ride on the Flying Dutchman Funicular for some spectacular views. After visiting the Cape we follow the coastline on to our next stop.

We overnight in Hermanus/Gansbaai and the next day there are a number of marine options - **Whale watching, Shark Cave Diving** and **Dyer Island Nature Reserve**. From here we will head for the most southern tip of Africa at **Cape Agulhas -** which is the dividing line between the warm Indian Ocean and the cooler Atlantic Ocean. The seas around Cape Agulhas are very treacherous and have

caused numerous shipwrecks, to help reduce fatalities the **Cape Agulhas Lighthouse** was built in 1848 and is the 2nd oldest working lighthouse in South Africa. From August to December **Southern Right and Humpback Whales** may be spotted along the coast - as they feed in the nutrient rich waters off the southern coast.

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

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

Little Karoo to Addo National Park

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

From the Garden Route we continue along the coast and in the summer months (October to March) there will be an opportunity to stop at one of the beaches we pass before we head inland to **Addo Elephant National Park** which has recently been extended to include part of the coast and is now home to the **BIG 7 - lion, rhino, elephant, leopard, buffalo, whale and shark!** On our game drive we hope to spot some of the many elephant that the park is famous for, which are the most southerly population in Africa.

Lesotho

Our route continues to the border of **Lesotho**, often called **"the kingdom in the sky."** Completely surrounded by **South Africa**, this little country is covered by mountains from **1,000m to 3,000m high** , offering tremendous scenery and crisp, fresh mountain air. Here you'll see **Lesotho's horsemen** dressed in blankets and gumboots trotting across the hillsides.

We spend a couple of nights at **Malealea Lodge**, Lesotho's most famous countryside retreat, tucked high in the mountains. Surrounded by isolated **waterfalls**, cool **rock pools** ideal for swimming and peaceful **hiking trails**, it's also a wonderful place to try **pony trekking** atop a sure-footed **Lesotho pony**.

We then drive through the lowlands and visit **Thaba Bosiu** or **Mt. Moorosi** with a local guide, time and weather permitting, the mountain stronghold of **Chief Moshoeshoe**, founder of the **Basotho**

nation. Finally, we pass through Lesotho's tiny capital, **Maseru**, before re-entering **South Africa**.

Royal Natal National Park to Johannesburg

The **Royal Natal National Park** on the edge of the **Drakensburg Mountains** has an impressive natural **Amphitheatre** of massive rock walls**.** The **Tugela River** plunges spectacularly over the edge of the Amphitheatre wall, dropping around 800m through a series of five falls. There are over 130km of walking trails around the park-many of which are easy, half day strolls, through beautiful countryside of grassland dotted with patches of yellowwood forest and proteas set against the stunning backdrop of the Amphitheatre.

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

Wild Coast to Cintsa

Leaving **Addo Elephant National Park**, we embark on a long journey north-east along the rugged and remote **Wild Coast** to the quaint seaside village of **Cintsa**. Set on the banks of the **Cintsa River** and estuary, this tranquil haven is surrounded by lush **indigenous forest** and rich **birdlife**. A free day lets you enjoy unspoilt stretches of **white-sand beach**, canoe up the river, explore the many local **hiking trails**, try **horse riding**, and much more.

Mikumi to Malawi

We depart **Mikumi** and head south on a significant journey toward the **Malawi border**, travelling through the dramatic landscapes of the **Southern Highlands** and winding past tea plantations and the spectacular **Iringa mountains**.

After completing border formalities, we descend the steep, winding escarpment of the **Rift Valley**, catching our first glimpses of the shimmering waters of **Lake Malawi**. Our journey brings us to the golden sands of **Chitimba**, a tranquil beach paradise nestled at the base of the **Livingstonia mountains**, where we enjoy a welcome break for a day.

Lake Malawi to Lilongwe

After time spent relaxing by the lake in **Chitimba**, we continue south along the scenic shores of **Lake Malawi**, following the **Rift Valley** floor with mountains rising to the west. The journey takes us past lakeside villages, local markets and stretches of clear blue water before reaching the white sands of **Kande Beach**. This relaxed lakeside setting is a perfect place to slow down, swim in the lake, enjoy optional water activities or simply unwind on the beach.

We then reluctantly leave **Lake Malawi** behind and travel south to **Lilongwe**, Malawi's capital. Here, you can explore the local markets, experience the city's everyday energy and enjoy a final taste of Malawi before the journey continues onward.

Through Mozambique

From **Lilongwe**, our journey crosses into **Mozambique** as we transit the historic **Tete Corridor**. Once a volatile route during the civil war, known as the **"Gun Run,"** it is now a peaceful stretch of road that carries us through the country over a couple of days and nights. We spend another day and night in and around **Tete**, soaking up the change of scenery and pace, before continuing on toward the border with **Zimbabwe** and the next chapter of our adventure.

Harare

We leave **Mozambique** behind and travel into **Zimbabwe**, heading for **Harare**, the country's lively and cosmopolitan capital. Those starting their journey here join the group this evening, while travellers continuing south have time to settle into the rhythm of the city. Spend the following day exploring **Harare** at your own pace, from the colour and energy of **Mbare market** to local craft stalls, leafy streets and relaxed cafes. For a quieter break, visit the **botanical gardens**, while those wanting a livelier atmosphere can experience the restaurants, bars and nightlife of the **city centre**. **Harare** offers an easy introduction to **Zimbabwe**, blending modern city life with local culture and everyday bustle. For travellers ending their trip here, the journey finishes after breakfast, while the rest of the group prepares to continue deeper into **Zimbabwe**.

Victoria Falls to Chobe National Park and on to Maun

We have time this morning for a final look at **Victoria Falls** before crossing into **Botswana** and travelling to **Kasane**, set on the banks of the **Chobe River**. This riverside town is the gateway to **Chobe National Park**, famous for one of the highest concentrations of **elephants** in Africa. In the late afternoon, enjoy an included **sunset boat cruise** along the **Chobe River**, a classic water-based safari that brings us close to wildlife gathering at the river's edge. Look for **elephants** crossing the channels, **hippos** resting in the water, **crocodiles** on the banks and colourful **birdlife** as the sun begins to drop. The cruise ends with a spectacular **African sunset** over the river, one of the most memorable moments of the journey. We then head south through the **Kalahari Basin**, crossing wide open plains toward the **Makgadikgadi Salt Pans**, one of the largest salt flats on Earth, before continuing to **Maun**, the gateway to the **Okavango Delta**.

Okavango Delta

From **Maun**, we have the chance to explore the **Okavango Delta**, a vast inland oasis of **lily-filled channels**, floodplains and wildlife-rich islands. Optional tours include a two-day adventure by traditional **mokoro**, guided by locals through quiet waterways, followed by **guided walks** offering the chance to spot **elephants**, **hippos**, **crocodiles** and other wildlife. For a wider perspective, take an optional **scenic flight** from **Maun** to see the delta's winding channels and open plains from above.

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.

TANZANIA

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

RWANDA

Title	From Price
Genocide Memorial – Audio Headset	US$20
Donation to Kigali Genocide Memorial	US$10
Mount Bisoke Hike – From	US$95
Musanze Cave Tour	US$30

KENYA

Title	From Price
Nairobi National Park entry fee (required if you are visiting the elephant orphanage)	US$80
Elsamere Visit	US$12
Boat Trip, Lake Naivasha	US$25

Title	From Price
Crater Lake walk, includes entry, lunch & guide (min 4 people) – Naivasha	US$80
Hells Gate National Park (entry and bike hire – min 3 people)	US$57
Return Transport to Elephant Orphanage – Per Car (Max 4 People)	US$25
Sheldrick Elephant Orphanage – Required Donation	US$20

UGANDA

Title	From Price
Horseriding – 2 to 3 Hours, from	US$50
Queen Elizabeth National Park – daytime game drive	US$30
Queen Elizabeth National Park – night–time game drive	US$40
Kalinzu Forest Reserve guided forest nature or birdwatching walk (includes entry fee)	US$60
Lake Mburo park entry fee	US$40
Lake Mburo game drive / guided walk / night safari	US$30
Jinja Sunset Cruise	US$45
Mountain Bike Hire – 1 to 4 Hours – From	US$35
Pygmy Island Day Trip on Lake Bunyoni	US$25
Tandem Kayaking	US$160
VCD / DVD of the Rafting / Kayaking	US$45
Whitewater Rafting – White Nile	US$140
Quadbiking – 1 to 4 Hours, from	US$50

SOUTH AFRICA

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

BOTSWANA

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

NAMIBIA

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

ZIMBABWE

Title	From Price
Entrance to Victoria Falls – Zambia	US$30
Gorge Swing (solo/tandem), from	US$100
Bridal Veil Falls – Entry	US$10
Chimanimani National Park – entrance fee, guide & transport, from	US$30
Cooking Experience, Half Day – Harare	US$20
Harare City Walking Tour	US$Donation
Bungee Jump off Victoria Falls Bridge (111m)	US$160
Entrance to Victoria Falls – Zimbabwe	US$50
Flying Fox / Gorge Swing x 2 / Zipline Adrenaline – 1/2 Day or Full Day, from	US$155
Game Drive – Gweru	US$25
Helicopter Flight over Victoria Falls – 15/30 mins, from	US$170
Matobo National Park – 1 Day Guided Rhino Walk / Jeep Tour	US$115
Horse Riding – Victoria Falls, from	US$100
Jet Boating	US$115
Microlite Flight over Victoria Falls – 15/30 mins (takes place in Zambia) from	US$185
Raft & Riverboard Combo – Zambezi	US$190
Souvenir Trip T–Shirt, from	US$20

Title	From Price
Sundowner Cruise incl. Drinks & Snacks	From US$65
White Water Rafting – High water (1/2 day)	US$120
White Water Rafting – Low Water (Mid July to Mid Dec)	US$120
Zambezi Canoe Trip – Full Day	US$150
Zipline – Victoria Falls (solo/tandem) from	US$74
Bridge Swing – Victoria Falls (Solo)	US$160
Bridge Swing – Victoria Falls (Tandem)	US$240
Bungee Jump / Bridge Slide / Bridge Swing Combo	US$210

MALAWI

Title	From Price
Snorkel Lake Malawi, from	US$25
Village Tour / Dinner	US$10
Scuba Diving – From	US$35

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: *05-08-2026*