

RIYADH to AMMAN (23 days)

Oasis Caravan



COUNTRIES VISITED: JORDAN, SAUDI ARABIA

INCLUDES

- Accommodation - approx. 90% simple hostels/hotels & 10% camping
- Airport Transfer on arrival
- Riyadh
- Overnight trip to The Empty Quarter
- Aseer National Park Entrance
- Jeddah
- Medina
- Madain Saleh Entrance
- Tayma - the oldest known settlement in Saudi Arabia
- Neom
- Tabuk
- Wadi Rum jeep safari
- Entry and guided tour of Petra
- Kerak Crusader Castle Entrance
- Guided walking tour of Madaba
- Meals - approx. 40%
- All transport on Oasis Expedition Truck

- Camping and Cooking equipment
- Services of Oasis Crew

EXCLUDES

- Visas
- Optional Excursions
- Flights
- Airport Taxes & Transfers
- Travel Insurance
- Meals - approx. 60%
- Drinks
- Tips

TRIP ITINERARY

DAYS 1 - 2 RIYADH

Welcome to **Saudi Arabia**. Your first day is a free day for you to arrive, check in to your hotel and introduce yourself to the local area, **Riyadh** - which means "garden" in Arabic - is now one of the richest cities in the world. You can explore the **world-class museums**, travel up the sky bridge or enjoy the many great cafes and restaurants.

You will meet your Tour Leader and your group this evening, when they arrive into the city. You may have your Pre Departure meeting this evening or tomorrow morning - you will be advised of this before you leave for your trip.

On Day 2, you'll be off early on a 4 x 4 desert safari trip into to the **Empty Quarter** where you can gaze at the awe-inspiring dunes and strain your eyes for the elusive Arabian leopard. A harsh yet romantic landscape, it's like nowhere else on earth. We return to Riyadh for a night to wash off the sand and enjoy the city lights, before we continue our journey.

DAYS 3 - 5 RIYADH TO ABHA

From a mud-brick walled oasis town along desert trading routes, **Riyadh** - which means "garden" in Arabic - is now one of the richest cities in the world. You can explore the **world-class museums**, travel up the sky bridge or enjoy the many great cafes and restaurants.

We then head up into the hills and into the cooler climate as we climb higher to get to **Abha** which will be our base for a few nights.

DAYS 6 - 10 ABHA TO JEDDAH

Abha, described as being the country's most bohemian town, it's a world away from the Saudi we've experienced so far. You can visit **Al Muftaha village**, a cultural gem famous for its **calligraphy graffiti**, and head out to explore the **hanging villages of Aseer National Park**. You might like to use your other free day to head South to the stunning **Farasan Islands**, visiting pearl merchants on land or the incredible marine life under the sea.

Our next stop is **Taif**, still up in the hills and the cooler climate. Visit the **largest souq** in Saudi Arabia and sample the fresh fruits the region is famous for. Keep a look out for the **wild baboons** that populate the roadsides as we travel to Jeddah, the most cosmopolitan, liberal city in the Kingdom.

DAYS 11 - 12 JEDDAH TO MEDINA

The city's architecture in **Jeddah** takes inspiration from Red Sea's **spectacular underwater coral**, and you can spend your time here exploring a more laid-back Saudi, the souqs or perhaps you might fancy

some scuba diving - use your free time as you choose! From here we head to **Medina**, the "**City of the Prophet**". Medina is where the founder of Islam, Muhammed, was given refuge after being forced from Mecca. While the central area of the city is off limits to non-Muslims, we are still able to visit many major sites and our guide will help explain different sections in more detail.

DAYS 13 - 14 MEDINA TO TAYMA

Today we head to explore the other Nabataean masterpiece, the incredible **Madain Saleh**, often dubbed the "second Petra", but many believe to be better than Petra. There are some great photo opportunities with the **red rock mountains** contrasted against the **black basalt**.

Travelling onwards, we visit the oasis of **Tayma**, the **oldest known settlement** in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and possibly the entire Arabian Peninsula. The Oasis owes its existence to the natural wells that still exist today - the **Haddaj Well** apparently dates back as early as the 6th century!

DAYS 15 - 16 TABUK TO JEBEL AL LAWZ

Our next stop is **Tabuk**, an ancient stop for hajj pilgrims travelling to **Mecca**. The Ottomans controlled Tabuk and the pilgrimage routes that led here for centuries - remains such as the **old Hejaz railway** and **Tabuk Castle** serve as reminders. We'll have a free day to explore the area - be sure to visit the **souqs** for handicrafts or some good food.

We then visit **Neom**, Saudi Arabia's **futuristic mega-city**, to see if they have managed to produce artificial clouds for rain, or holographic teachers - and whether the estimated **\$500billion project** really will be worth it!

Tonight, we'll camp at **Jebel Al Lawz**, or "**Mountain of Almonds**" in Arabic. It's one of the only places in the country to receive snow and is famous for some interesting rock paintings. For the energetic amongst us there will be time to climb to the top of this particular **Jebel**.

DAYS 17 - 18 JEBEL AL LAWZ TO WADI MUSA

As we enter Jordan, we head to the bustling seaside town of Aqaba to explore the market and stock up on supplies. We leave the truck for 4 x 4s and take a jeep safari to the colourful sands of **Wadi Rum**. It was here, in his desert hideaway that **Lawrence of Arabia** organised the Arab Revolt against the Ottomans and learnt to ride camels with the best of them. Since Lawrence wrote the Seven **Pillars of Wisdom** this incredible desert landscape has become renowned for its stark geographical beauty.

We'll spend the night **gazing at the star-studded night sky in the desert**, before heading to **Wadi Musa** the next day.

DAYS 19 PETRA

We will spend 2 nights in Wadi Musa, the town that nestles above Petra, giving you a full day at **Petra**, and enough time if you wish to visit **Little Petra**. What can we say about this **Nabataean masterpiece** that has not already been stated in thousands of guidebooks? Suffice to say it is a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** and one of the new **SEVEN WONDERS OF THE WORLD**.

DAYS 20 - 21 KERAK TO DEAD SEA

Next stop is **Kerak**, where we'll visit the ancient **Kerak Crusader Castle**, one of the main highlights of Jordan. Here Crusader knights from Europe battled with the Islamic armies of Saladin.

From here we head to the **Dead Sea**, where you have the chance to cover yourself in Dead Sea mud or try to float in the salty water.

DAYS 22 - 23 DEAD SEA TO AMMAN

From the Dead Sea, we head to our final stop, **Amman**. We will stay in **Mandaba**, which has been inhabited for 4500 years. We will have a walking tour of the town and visit **St. Georges Church**, which boasts a Byzantine mosaic floor map of the holy land - the oldest in existence. There are many other archaeological sites from the Israelites and Romans as well as 6th and 7th century churches. You will have a choice of an optional city tour of Amman or a visit to **Mount Nebo**.

Your trip ends in the morning after breakfast.

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR TRIP

PRE-DEPARTURE MEETING

Day one of your trip is an arrival day, and there will usually be drinks or dinner arrangements for the evening. Please check for any notices in the reception for this.

Your Tour Leader will meet you on the morning of Day two - usually around 8:00am - at the joining hotel where 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 will **collect your Local Payment** money as well as 2 photocopies of your **passport information page, insurance policy details** with policy number and confirmation that the duration will cover you for the entire trip and a **24-hour emergency assistance** telephone number. It is essential that you attend this meeting - please let the UK office or your Tour Leader know if you are unable to do so.

POST TRIP ACCOMMODATION AND AIRPORT TRANSFERS

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

FLIGHT INFORMATION

You can arrive at your departure city either on Day one of your trip, or a day or two beforehand.

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.

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:

- Jordan - 1 blank page
- Saudi Arabia - 1 blank page
- United Arab Emirates - 1/2 blank page
- Oman - 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.

Country	British	Irish	Aust.	NZ	S.Africa	USA	Canadian
Jordan	Incl.	Incl.	Incl.	Incl.	Incl.	Incl.	Incl.
Saudi Arabia	US\$117	US\$117	US\$117	US\$117	US\$117	US\$117	US\$117
U.A.E	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free
Oman	US\$52	US\$52	US\$52	US\$52	US\$52	US\$52	US\$52

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

Jordan

Passport holders from the UK, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, USA, Canada, South Africa and most EU countries can obtain the visa on arrival in Jordan. The visa costs 40 JOD and is valid for 30 days.

Overland Tours - we will apply for a Jordan Wanderer Pass for anyone travelling through Jordan on an overland tour. This pass includes your entry visa as well as entrance fees to many sites in Jordan. We will email you the relevant details before your trip departs. Please make sure you print this information before travelling; if you forget it and have to buy another visa at the border, it will be at your own cost.

Small Group & Family Tours - Passports should be valid for at least six months after your departure from the country. Please do not bring an almost full or almost expired passport. Visa arrangements are the responsibility of the traveller, and requirements are subject to change by the local authorities.

To promote tourism to the country, the Jordanian government has designed the Jordan Pass. This provides adults of most nationalities with a free single entry Jordan visa (for stays of 3 nights or more), a discounted package of entrance fees, and free digital brochures for the various sites in Jordan. Please check the Jordan Pass tour note for more information.

Double or multi entry visas for Jordan are no longer available and you will need to arrange two visas if you are doing a combination tour (eg. with Egypt and/or Israel) that visits Jordan more than once. Exceptions may occur if you are crossing to and from Israel via the King Hussein Bridge - please contact us for details.

If you wish to arrange your visa separately in advance, or if your stay will be shorter than four days/3 nights, then a visa fee of 40JD (approx. USD 57) will be due.

Families with children under 12 are recommended not to purchase the Jordan Pass for the children as entrance fees are not charged in Jordan for children under 12. Instead, the adults should purchase a Jordan Pass and we will arrange a free visa for the children which you will receive when we meet you on arrival into Amman airport.

Other nationalities may require a visa prior to arrival and to obtain this in advance, please contact your local Jordanian embassy or consulate or a visa agency for details. In addition, if you plan to enter Jordan via the southern Wadi Araba crossing (Eilat-Aqaba) or the Allenby Bridge/King Hussein border with Israel in the north, you will need to obtain your Jordan visa in advance as these are not available on arrival at the border.

Saudi Arabia

Passport Holders from the UK, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, USA, Canada, South Africa and most EU countries are now able to obtain an E-Visa online from <https://www.visitsaudi.com/en>.

Visas cost 300 SAR plus 140 SAR for health insurance, which works out about US\$117 - although VAT and payment processing fees are not included. The visa is valid for 3 months.

Please make sure you bring your E-Visa on the trip to show immigration.

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 www.nomadtravel.co.uk. 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 some countries we visit, 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 http://www.who.int/ith/ITH_country_list.pdf

Rabies - Vaccinations are regularly advised for many countries that we travel through - 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.

Opiates and Prescription Medicines in the Middle East - Please note that all opiates and their derivatives are highly illegal in the U.A.E. Any products containing opiates, such as codeine or co-codamol

are illegal and if you are found in possession of them without having sought approval before you travel, you may be arrested as a drug-trafficker. You can apply to bring in prescription medication using this form: <https://www.mohap.gov.ae/en/services/Pages/361.aspx> and approval usually takes around 5 days. Ensure that all personal medication is clearly labelled. If you are travelling with prescribed medicines you will need to have a copy of the signed doctor's prescription with you. A full list of banned medications is available from the U.A.E. Ministry of Health.

These rules can change without notice, so if you have any queries it is advisable to check travel advice provided by the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office, which provides specific information for each country on the latest requirements.

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 & at the very least are insured for all necessary medical & repatriation costs incurred.

You will be asked to provide the following details in [My Oasis Account](#) if you have not already done so: travel insurance name, insurance policy number & insurance emergency telephone number. You will also be required to give a copy of your policy with this information to your Tour Leader on arrival with confirmation that the policy duration is sufficient to cover you for the entire duration of your trip. It is also wise to leave a copy of your insurance policy with a friend or relative for safe keeping.

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

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

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

MONEY, BUDGETS AND LP

Local Payment (LP)

LP is part of your overall trip payment and is the most cost effective and practical way to get hard currency to the Middle East to pay for a variety of your day-to-day local costs (i.e. all meals prepared by the group, campsite fees, gas, and certain activities listed in the brochure) 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 they have felt, as a general rule, it is best to bring your money in cash as a combination of GBP or Euros and US dollars. Pre-paid travel currency cards are also an option if you are concerned about bringing all your money in cash but we advise bringing at least 50% of your money in cash. 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.

US dollars dated pre-2006 are not generally accepted so please ensure your notes are dated 2013 onward possible and are in a clean condition with no writing on the notes. Scottish pounds are usually not accepted.

Spending Money

We believe you should allow US\$350 per week to cover costs such as meals out (on average 40% are supplied), soft drinks and beers, email and communications, souvenirs and other general spending. Personal spending habits and budgets differ greatly from person to person. Budget on optional activities and visa costs separately (see visa section above) and allow extra for your Local Payment contribution.

As this is a new trip, we are uncertain of the exact costs for any optional excursions. After our first departure we will update the details to include prices and options for you, but for now we suggest you budget an extra \$150 per week for excursions. If you are interested in scuba diving from Jeddah, please add on another \$100 (approximate cost for 2 dives).

Changing money

Change your money only at banks, hotels, airports or official exchange 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 and 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 and Debit Cards

Mastercard and American Express have limited access through parts of the Middle East. 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.

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. Pre-paid cards that use Visa are preferable to Mastercard, which can be difficult to use.

ATMs

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

Tipping

Is often expected and relied upon. It is often more than a reward for services well done, but, as wages are extremely low, it is an accepted means of supplementing an income. If you would like to leave a tip for any activity/individual, you could organise 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

You will experience a variety of climates and weather conditions in the Middle East. At times it can be **very hot**, with temperatures reaching 40°C or higher in the deserts across the region. On the other hand, it can get **very cold**, dropping below 0°C or lower in the mountains of Oman. Though much of the trip will pass through dry areas where rainfall is rare, you will also travel in regions that can have rainfall year-round or at times even snow. So it is important to bring suitable clothing and camping equipment for all conditions.

WHAT TO TAKE

The less you take the less you have to pack, wash & lug home & you can always pick up extras along the way. Most people make the mistake of bringing too much gear. Clothes washing or laundry facilities will be available at least once a week. You will be travelling in the heat & camping in the cold, so bring clothes for all climates; rough stuff is best. Pack according to season: summer is very hot in places & winter can be very cold with the occasional frost overnight. Make sure that you bring your gear in a traditional soft sided 70 - 90L rucksack or holdall - suitcases are not suitable.

Equipment

- Sleeping Bag - 3 to 4 season bag, depending on season, & sleep sheet
- Foam sleeping mat or thermarest & repair kit
- Small day-pack or small bag to carry daily items
- Soft rucksack or holdall (NOT rigid suitcase)
- Water bottle - for personal use - we recommend Water-to-Go (see below Responsible Travel)

Clothes

- One pair of trainers or boots
- Sandals/flip flops/jandals/thongs
- Underwear/socks
- T shirts/shirts

Toiletries - Most available to buy on trip

- Soap, shampoo, toothbrush/paste, antibacterial hand wash, lip balm & moisturiser
- Sun block 35 + after sun, hat & sun glasses
- Tampons (can buy in most places)
- Contraception

Personal Effects

- Camera with protective case, spare batteries, film/memory card
- Torch & spare batteries (head torch is best)
- Travel adaptor plug/charger (for cameras &

- Shorts/swimwear
- Jeans/trousers/jog pants/leggings
- Skirt or dress
- Sweat shirt/jumper
- Jacket/fleece & waterproof jacket
- mobile phone batteries)
- Money belt
- Personal stereo - there is a stereo on the truck with iPod/MP3 adaptors
- Towel &/or sarong

What to wear - Keeping your arms, shoulders and legs covered will go a long way to prevent causing offence and hassle to yourself. This is true for men as well as women; please make sure you have long sleeved shirts and covered shoes. Shorts may not be acceptable in some areas for males or females. Avoid wearing tight or revealing clothing and women may be required to wear head scarves and covered shoes at times. On some beaches you can wear what you like, whereas at some others, or at certain swimming holes, you'll need to go swimming covered up. Attitudes range from fairly liberal in some cities, to extremely conservative elsewhere.

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
- Re-hydration sachets/vitamin tablets
- Assorted plasters
- 1 Course of malaria treatment
- Some suitable antibiotics as recommended by your doctor for infected cuts or to treat severe dysentery
- 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.

WHAT TO EXPECT

LIFE ON THE ROAD

Oasis Tour Leader

We have one Tour Leader on this trip whose duties are extensive & quite demanding. From organising accommodation, meals, travel arrangements, pre-booking some excursions and guides, to finding the best deals, socializing & making sure all runs as smoothly as possible. While your leader is experienced and knowledgeable about the regions that we travel through they are not tour guides as such. The diversity and extent of the history and cultures in this region is vast. In most historical areas we visit there are trained guides, who offer their services; they have spent many years, and have vast experience at particular sites.

Accommodation

We use a mixture of local hotels and guesthouses along the way using shared rooms (between 2 people of the same sex from your trip) unless you are a couple or you have requested a specific type of room. It must be remembered that the Hotels we use are an integral part of Peru & Bolivia and can suffer from common problems that can affect all levels of hotels such as, electrical failure, plumbing faults and other technical difficulties and hot water may occasionally be temperamental if a lot of people are using the showers at the same time. This is a possibility throughout all classes of hotels. On our **Family Trips** we use shared rooms, usually with parents in one room and children in another, though we can make amendments to this if requested. Large family and interconnected rooms are not very common in South America; most rooms are singles, twins or doubles.

During the four days Inca Trail hike we camp. Tents are provided and sleeping bags can be hired (see Inca Trail section for more information on the various hikes).

Transport

We use a mixture of public / local buses and trains, comfortable overnight sleeper coaches, private charter vehicles, boat and several internal flights (on some trips) between cities, allowing you more time to explore.

Meals

Most breakfasts are included whilst on tour plus many other meals on activities such as the Inca Trek and the Salar de Uyuni. Please check your itinerary for a day by day breakdown. We find that most people appreciate sampling the culinary tastes of South America and class this as one of their favourite pastimes. This is why we do not include every meal - allowing each person the chance to try out some of the local cuisine from markets, restaurants & cafes. At times your Tour Leader may organize a group meal - which is another good way to sample some of the local and international delicacies.

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, due to the high cost and scarcity of these specialised and often imported foods.

Remember 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.

Distance and Time 'En Route'

Peru is a large country, and on this trip there is a lot of ground to cover. There are a few long drives, but the transport is clean, comfortable and safe, and we make sure that after a long drive we stay in the same place for a few days, for example in Arequipa and Cusco. We also make comfort stops and stop off at sites of interest along the way, where possible, so you don't feel too rushed, even on travel days.

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.

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