

WINDHOEK to VICTORIA FALLS (14 days) Family Adventure



COUNTRIES VISITED: BOTSWANA, NAMIBIA, ZIMBABWE

INCLUDES

- All transport on our Oasis Overland Expedition Truck
- Arrival (Windhoek) & Departure (Victoria Falls) airport transfers
- Camping and Cooking equipment
- Services of Oasis Crew
- Approximately 80% of meals
- Accommodation/Campsites (approx. 50% hotels/lodges/permanent camps, 50% basic camping)
- Namib-Naukluft National Park and Dune 45
- Sossusvlei jeep trip
- Cape Cross Seal Colony
- Himba Village
- Etosha National Park game drives (in our vehicle)
- Rundu boat trip
- Rundu Living Museum
- Chobe National Park boat cruise

- Entry ticket to Victoria Falls (\$50/\$25)

EXCLUDES

- International Flights (available on request)
- Visa fees if required
- Optional activities (see itinerary)
- Travel Insurance (compulsory, available on request)
- Meals not indicated in the itinerary
- Drinks, snacks and other personal expenses (e.g. laundry)
- Tips for guides & drivers
- Entrance fees and activities not mentioned above
- Any other items not mentioned above

TRIP ITINERARY

DAYS 1 ARRIVE IN WINDHOEK. TRANSFER TO HOTEL

Upon arrival our staff will meet you at the airport and transfer you to your hotel for the start of your trip. The rest of the day is free for you to settle in before we have a pre-trip meeting at 6pm and introduction to our crew and the overland expedition vehicle which will be our home for the next two weeks.

No meals included today

DAYS 2 TRAVEL TO SESRIEM AND THE NAMIB NAUKLUFT NATIONAL PARK

After breakfast we will set off south to the Namib-Naukluft National Park. The drive will take us through stunning desert and mountain landscapes serving to constantly distract you from the roads! Camping that evening in a scenic location close to the dunes of Sossusvlei, within the Park boundaries which contains the worlds highest sand dunes and is home to one of the world's greatest salt pans.

Breakfast at the accommodation. Lunch and dinner eaten at the truck.

DAYS 3 DUNE 45 HIKE, 4X4 TO SOSSUSVLEI & DEADVLEI

This morning we have the opportunity to climb the massive sand dunes at Sossusvlei which are one of Namibia's main attractions and on all tourist posters. Kids can race their parents to the top where you will be met with stunning views of a 'world of sand' which stretches as far as the Atlantic, 50 miles away. The kids have the chance to whoosh back down, sliding down the sand which is always a popular choice as breakfast awaits at the bottom.

Breakfast and lunch eaten at the truck. Group meal included this evening.

DAYS 4 - 5 SWAKOPMUND 2 FREE DAYS (OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES)

After breakfast we will drive north to the west coast of Namibia, passing through stark, remote desert scenery to arrive at the oasis of Swakopmund, Namibia's favourite holiday destination. With so many family and adrenaline activities as well as the beach it is easy to see why. This coastal resort is in complete contrast to all the land-based wildlife activities when taking the kids to Namibia. It offers the opportunity for families to hop onboard a catamaran cruise to spot dolphins, flamingos and even whales from Walvis Bay further down the coast, or kayak with playful and inquisitive seals at Pelican point. Older kids will love the sand boarding, fat biking or the 4x4 or quad biking expeditions in the nearby dunes allowing them to take to the wheel and explore. If adrenaline and sports are not your cup of tea the town offers plenty to see and do as well as numerous cafes, art galleries and museums to discover. You'll have 2 free days here to participate in optional activities of your choice.

Meals and activities at your own expense in Swakopmund.

DAYS 6 SKELETON COAST SHIPWRECKS & CAPE CROSS SEAL COLONY

Leaving Swakopmund our adventure continues north along the skeleton coast to Cape Cross, a nature reserve that is renowned as one of the largest settlement of these animals in the world, the colony of Cape fur seals at Cape Cross marks the spot where the first European explorer set foot on the coast of Namibia in 1486. Kids can lose themselves in this noisy hubbub, viewing the captivating interactions of the seal colony from an extensive walkway, separated from the mass of seals by a low wall. Strolling along the breadth of the colony, they have the opportunity to pick up interesting details about the lives of the seals at information points scattered around the grounds, or gaze up at a modern replica of Diego Cao's historical cross.

Continuing in-land we continue on to our overnight camp which is a small family operated site in the middle of the Namibian desert whose efforts serve to support the local Himba people and provide schooling for the children. Whilst there we will hopefully gain the opportunity to meet some of the local tribe members to learn more about their culture, traditions and way of life in the bush.

Breakfast and lunch at the truck. Group meal included this evening.

DAYS 7 DRIVE TO ETOSHA NP. EVENING GAME DRIVE

If you have enjoyed the desert scenery and wildlife so far it is now time for a classic safari as we head north to the southern gate entrance of Etosha National Park, which is famed for offering some of the most unique game watching experiences in Africa. We will reach Etosha in the afternoon, and in the evening we'll enjoy our first game drive. Later in the evening we'll be able to watch wildlife coming to a nearby floodlit waterhole.

Breakfast, lunch and dinner at the truck today.

DAYS 8 ETOSHA NATIONAL PARK

Etosha is considered by many safari aficionados as one of Africa's greatest wildlife reserves it covers 8,600 square miles, hosts a colossal salt pan (which is four times the size of Los Angeles and is so large that it can be seen from the moon!!). It is also home to 4 of the 'Big Five' (elephant, rhino, lion and leopards). Being the country's leading wildlife attraction, what better way to enjoy it than looking out from a truck as we drive along, stopping where and when is needed along the various watering holes. Kids can enjoy being David Attenborough by spotting species such as giraffes, zebra, wildebeest and elephants meandering around or even lions resting on the side of the road. With 114 different animal species and more than 300 bird species, the kids should be kept on their toes as animal spotters. Turning off the engine as needed we will have the chance to enjoy the spectacle of herds of zebra lapping, impala and many others congregating around the watering holes which during the dry season (May to October) host animal species in biblical numbers making August undoubtedly the best time for a family safari visit.

Breakfast, lunch and dinner at the truck today.

DAYS 9 HEAD TO RUNDU, VIEWS OF ANGOLAN FLOOD PLAINS AND BOAT TRIP

After a couple of days in Etosha, we again head north after breakfast towards the extreme northwest of Namibia to the south banks of the Okavango river which borders Angola. Being an administrative capital Rundu is a bustling lively town which provides a great insight into a thriving African town where we are able to stock up on provisions. Once settled in our overnight camp we aboard a cruise along the Kavango floodplain where we gain the experience of watching the sunset whilst enjoying the local bird and wildlife.

Breakfast, and lunch at the truck. Group dinner included today.

DAYS 10 MBUNZA LIVING MUSEUM. TRAVEL TO NGEPI ON THE OKAVANGO

As a communal business for the local people of the Kavango, this sustainable project means they are able to preserve their traditional culture and to generate an additional income. An essential part of the

interactive program of the Living Museum is the demonstration (and preservation) of the fishing and land cultivating culture of the Mbunza. The traditional presentation covers everything from everyday life (traditional cuisine, fire making, basket and mat weaving, etc.) to bushwalks and fishing and finally to highly specialised techniques like blacksmithing, pottery and the making of drums. As with all Living Museums in Namibia the main focus of the Mbunza Living Museum is to provide visitors with a detailed and authentic insight into the traditional, pre-colonial culture which especially appeals to the younger travellers in the group.

Following on from here we find ourselves heading to the Caprivi strip which is considered Namibia's answer to The Okavango Delta, this area offers an incredible water-based safari location. Being sandwiched between Angola, Zambia and Botswana near the tip of Zimbabwe the region is surrounded by 5 perennial rivers - Chobe, Kwando, Linvanti, Okavango and the Zambezi - which makes it a haven for elephants, hippo, crocodile and buffalo. The bird watching is also unrivalled, with the region recording an incredible 660 different species. All of which offers families an endless number of activities including game viewing by boat, sunset cruises and canoeing adventures which are also a great way to relax and reconnect. The Caprivi Strip represents the gateway into Botswana and Zimbabwe where our adventures take us onto next.

Breakfast, lunch and dinner at the truck today.

DAYS 11 FREE DAY ON THE OKAVANGO (OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES)

You have a free day today on the Okavango River where a multitude of optional activities are available. On the optional Mokoro cruise local poler guides will navigate the extensive waterways using canoes similar to their traditional Mokoros (dug out canoes). This is a great experience - and a good way to get a hippo's eye view of the surroundings.

There are also a number of other optional safaris including game walks and game drives with the specialist guides - giving you the chance to see elephant, crocodile and hippo up close and personal.

The Okavango Delta is one of the world's largest inland waterways and its calming serenity will leave those who experience it feeling supremely relaxed.

Breakfast, lunch & dinner at the truck

DAYS 12 CHOBE NATIONAL PARK, EVENING BOAT SAFARI

Leaving Namibia our journey takes us across the Botswana border into the region of Kasane located along the Chobe River. Chobe is most famous for its elephant and buffalo populations, both of which can herd in epic proportions. With an estimated 40,000 to 60,000 elephant, these gentle giants constantly surround you. We are there during the dry season when the Chobe River sees thousands lining the banks and crossing the water towards our campsite, giving the kids the chance to view them close up an unforgettable experience and a lifelong memory. Our evening river cruise provides excellent photograph opportunities and never fails to keep you captivated throughout, it really is a lovely way to see the sun setting over the horizon.

Breakfast & lunch at the truck today. Dinner at own expense

DAYS 13 OPTIONAL SAFARI, HEAD TO VICTORIA FALLS

There is the option for a final game drive into Chobe National Park early this morning (not included). Today's final drive then takes us again over a border crossing into Zimbabwe and on to our final destination, one of the seven natural wonders of the world, Victoria Falls, which statistically speaking is the world's largest waterfall. Victoria Falls known as the "Smoke that thunders" in the local Tonga language, is the largest single curtain of falling water in the world and 70% of the exquisite views are seen from the Zimbabwe rain forest, from here the falling water's impressive roar can sometimes be heard from 40 kilometres (25 miles) away. At its peak, the volume of water coming over the falls is around 150 million gallons per minute. This amount of water is just incomprehensible...a good size bath holds 40 gallons, so 1

million gallons would equate to 25,000 baths... making the high-water mark of 150 million gallons equate to 3.75 million (the entire population of Liverpool and Manchester combined) bathtubs of water thundering over the falls every single minute. That's a lot of water!

The rain forest surrounding it, which has constant rain 24/7 from the never-ending spray of the Falls, has a unique ecosystem. It is a botanists dream and bird lovers' paradise. There are species here that don't occur anywhere else, and families are strongly recommended to look just a little beyond the 2 km pathway and the numerous viewpoints towards the overgrowth to try and spot them. One of the great things about the falls is that the area has not become over commercialised. In fact, once you are standing by the Falls your view will not be much different to that of David Livingstone's who first saw the Falls in 1855. Following our visit to the falls our journey ends (for now at least!!) The ultimate experience to end the trip.

Breakfast and lunch at the truck. Group dinner included today.

DAYS 14 VICTORIA FALLS FREE TIME AND DEPARTURE

You have the day free to explore this natural wonder at your leisure until your departure flight. There are a range of optional adventure activities to enjoy, such as white water rafting, bungee jumping, gorge swing or evening horse riding. If you're looking to relax, there are various craft markets and coffee shops to enjoy. An airport transfer to Victoria Falls international airport is included. Extra nights can be added here if you wish.

Breakfast at the truck today

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR TRIP

PRE-DEPARTURE MEETING

As this trip includes airport transfers and the first night of accommodation in Windhoek, you can arrive at any time on day 1. Your tour leader will arrange a welcome meeting early in the evening on Day 1, and a more extensive pre-trip briefing in the morning of Day 2. There will be a notice in reception advising you of the time of the welcome meeting which we will finalise after knowing everyone's flight times. Your Tour Leader will collect 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.

FLIGHT INFORMATION

You should aim to arrive in Windhoek ideally before 5pm on Day 1 so that you can transfer to the hotel, check in and meet the rest of the group before settling down for the night. We will be departing Windhoek early on Day 2.

Return flights can be booked for anytime on Day 14, though you may wish to allow some extra time to explore Victoria Falls as there are many activities on offer and we will only have had a short time to view the Falls on Day 13.

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. We are not able to book flights from the UK ourselves. 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.

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:

- Zimbabwe - 2 blank pages
- Botswana - 1/2 blank page
- Namibia - 1/2 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.

Arrival visas must be paid for in USD cash ONLY.

Country	British	Irish	Aust	NZ	S.Africa	USA	Canadian
Zimbabwe	US\$55	US\$55	US\$30	US\$30	Free	US\$30	US\$75
Botswana	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free
Namibia	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free

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

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.

Namibia

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

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.

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 [Nomad Travel](#) or [Fit for the Travel](#) website.

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 [here](#).

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 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.

MONEY, BUDGETS AND LP

There is no Local Payment on this trip. The whole trip price is paid before you travel. You will however need some spending money during the trip...

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 Zimbabwe 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 on a weekend & the banks/ATMs are closed.

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 2006 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%. It can therefore be helpful to obtain an online account from one of the new 'starter banks' such as Revolut, Monzo, Starling etc. as they often offer much more competitive rates for spending abroad.

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\$2-5 a day.

CLIMATE

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 can get 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

- 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)

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

Clothes

- 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

Personal Effects

- 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
- 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

- A couple of bandages (elasticated & triangular)
- Medication for personal allergies/asthma etc
- Insect repellent containing Deet
- 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

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

This tour has been designed to stay in a wide range of different accommodations to provide you with a

good experience of exploring Africa in different ways.

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.

Hotels / Permanent Camps - This tour also stays in a few higher standard lodges or permanent camps. These are very comfortable with good facilities, en-suite bedrooms and sometimes beautiful settings.

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 three or four people approximately two or three times on the trip, 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. Several group meals at local restaurants are also included on this trip.

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 the set budget 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.

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.

OPTIONAL EXCURSIONS

NAMIBIA

Title	From Price
Dolphin Cruise	US\$65
Horse Riding	US\$60
Game Fishing, 1 Day	US\$120

Title	From Price
Paragliding	US\$115
Quadbiking - 2hrs	US\$55
Sandboarding - Lying Down / Standing Up, from	US\$45
Tandem Skydive	US\$220

NAMIBIA - OKAVANGO

Title	From Price
Mokoro trip - 2.5hrs	US\$17
Mokoro trip - half day	US\$36
Mahango game drive	US\$34
Boat cruise drive	US\$16
Guided walk drive	US\$16
Full day Delta experience (morning Moroko, lunch, afternoon game drive)	US\$67

BOTSWANA

Title	From Price
Chobe morning game drive	US\$55

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. If you decide not to join a popular excursion, you will have free time to relax or wander off to a market, village or beach, depending on where we are.

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: 09-05-2024

