ENCOUNTERS TRAVEL

*Your passport to adventure*

# Deserts & Delta Family Overland

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|---|---|
| COUNTRY(IES) | Zimbabwe , Botswana , Namibia |
| TOUR TYPE | Family |
| TRANSPORT | Overland expedition vehicle, 4x4 safari vehicles, minibus |
| GROUP SIZE | Min: 8 \| Max: 10 |
| DURATION | 15 days |
| STARTS | Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe |
| ENDS | Windhoek, Namibia |
| MEALS | Breakfasts - 15, Lunches - 11, Dinners - 11 |

**TOUR ROUTE MAP** **15 Days**

**ROUTE:** **Victoria Falls** (Start) → **Chobe** → **Kasane** → **Divundu** → **Rundu** → **Etosha National Park** → **Kamanjab** → **Swakopmund** → **Bushman S Paradise** → **Dune 45 Sossusvlei** → **Windhoek** (End)

**HIGHLIGHTS**

Victoria Falls, Chobe NP, Okavango Delta, Etosha NP, Himba Tribe, Skeleton Coast

## Itinerary

### DAY 1 Arrive in Victoria Falls. Transfer to hotel

Arrive at Victoria Falls International Airport and transfer into the nearby town, gaining your first impression of one of Zimbabwe's best-known destinations. After reaching your hotel, enjoy free time to rest after the journey or explore the surroundings independently. The relaxed arrival period gives you space to settle in and become familiar with the area before the main visit to the falls and other planned activities begin.

**ACTIVITIES**

- **Arrive at Victoria Falls International Airport**
  Arrive at Victoria Falls International Airport to start your Deserts & Delta Family Overland Tour. Meet your local representative and prepare for the transfer into town.
- **Drive from Victoria Falls Airport to Victoria Falls City Hotel**
  Travel from Victoria Falls International Airport to your lodge in Victoria Falls town. Settle into your en-suite chalet at the rest camp.

- **Free Time in Victoria Falls**
  Enjoy a free evening in Victoria Falls town after checking into your lodge. You can relax by the pool, explore local shops or plan optional activities for the coming days.

| OVERNIGHT | MEALS |
| --- | --- |
| Victoria Falls Rest Camp - en-suite lodges | Breakfast |

## DAY 2 Victoria Falls

Spend time at Victoria Falls and follow the paths linking different viewpoints across the Zimbabwe side of the gorge. Water levels vary by season, but the visit reveals the immense scale of the Zambezi as it drops into the chasm below. Afterwards, enjoy some leisure time in the surrounding area with no additional organised activities, giving you a chance to rest or make your own plans.

### ACTIVITIES

- **Explore Victoria Falls**
  Visit Victoria Falls, one of the Seven Natural Wonders of the World and the largest curtain of falling water on earth. Walk along rainforest pathways to enjoy different viewpoints and feel the spray from the falls.
- **Free Time in Victoria Falls**
  Enjoy a free evening in Victoria Falls town after checking into your lodge. You can relax by the pool, explore local shops or plan optional activities for the coming days.

| OVERNIGHT | MEALS |
| --- | --- |
| Victoria Falls Rest Camp - en-suite lodges | Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner |

## DAY 3 Chobe National Park

Travel overland from Victoria Falls to Kasane and complete the border crossing into Botswana. The transfer links two major destinations in a relatively short road journey and introduces the riverine woodlands around the Chobe region. No formal sightseeing is included along the way, leaving the emphasis on reaching Kasane and preparing for the wildlife-focused activities around Chobe National Park.

### ACTIVITIES

- **Drive from Victoria Falls to Chobe (Kasane)**
  Leave Victoria Falls and cross the border into Botswana, driving to Kasane on the edge of Chobe National Park. Arrive at your campsite near the Chobe River and settle in.

### Chobe River Boat Safari

Head out by boat on the Chobe River and explore the waterways bordering Chobe National Park. The slow pace of the cruise makes it possible to watch the banks and islands for wildlife, including elephants, hippos, crocodiles and birdlife when conditions allow. The river setting provides wide views across the floodplain and offers a contrasting

safari experience to travelling through the reserve by road.

**ACTIVITIES**

- **Explore Chobe River Boat Safari**
  Take an evening boat cruise on the Chobe River, with opportunities to see elephants, buffalo and other wildlife along the banks. Enjoy sunset views and excellent photo opportunities.

| OVERNIGHT | MEALS |
| --- | --- |
| Chobe Safari Lodge - camping | Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner |

## DAY 4 Chobe to Ngepi on the Okavango River

Travel from Kasane into Namibia and make the border crossing towards the Okavango region. The surrounding scenery shifts from the wildlife-focused landscapes around Chobe to a greener river corridor characterised by wetlands, woodland and small communities. This is primarily a transfer day, allowing you to move directly between two major southern African river environments while preparing for activities in Namibia’s northeast.

**ACTIVITIES**

- **Drive from Chobe (Kasane) to Ngepi on the Okavango**
  Cross from Botswana into Namibia and drive through the Caprivi Strip to Ngepi Camp on the Okavango River. Set up camp in this remote riverside setting surrounded by wilderness.

### Ngepi Camp & Okavango River Leisure

Spend time at leisure at Ngepi Camp on the banks of the Okavango River. The unstructured period allows you to rest after travelling, watch the water and surrounding birdlife or explore nearby areas at your own pace. No specific activities are included, keeping the emphasis on the natural setting and providing a calm break before continuing through Namibia’s river-rich northeastern region.

**ACTIVITIES**

- **Free Time in Ngepi Camp**
  Settle into Ngepi Camp on the banks of the Okavango. Enjoy the relaxed atmosphere and riverside setting.

| OVERNIGHT | MEALS |
| --- | --- |
| Ngepi Camp - camping (upgrades available on request) | Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner |

## DAY 5 Safari activities at Ngepi

Spend time at leisure at Ngepi Camp on the banks of the Okavango River. The unstructured period allows you to rest after travelling, watch the water and surrounding birdlife or explore nearby areas at your own pace. No specific activities are included, keeping the emphasis on the natural setting and providing a calm break before continuing through Namibia’s river-rich northeastern region.

ACTIVITIES

- **Free Time in Ngepi Camp**
  Settle into Ngepi Camp on the banks of the Okavango. Enjoy the relaxed atmosphere and riverside setting.

| OVERNIGHT | MEALS |
| --- | --- |
| Ngepi Camp - camping (upgrades available) | Breakfast |

## DAY 6 Okavango River at Rundu, Sunset boat trip

Drive from Ngepi to Rundu and spend the day moving through Namibia’s greener northeastern region. Once in Rundu, join a sunset cruise on the Okavango River and experience the waterways from a different perspective. Wildlife sightings depend on natural conditions, but the evening setting, riverbanks and changing light provide a relaxed end to a day that begins with straightforward overland travel.

ACTIVITIES

- **Drive from Ngepi Camp to Rundu**
  Travel along the Okavango River to the bustling town of Rundu on its southern bank. Stock up on provisions and settle into your campsite near the river.
- **Explore Okavango River Sunset Boat Trip (Rundu)**
  Embark on a sunset boat cruise along the Kavango floodplain near Rundu. Watch for birdlife and river wildlife as the colours change at sunset.

| OVERNIGHT | MEALS |
| --- | --- |
| Camp Hogo Kavango - camping | Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner |

## DAY 7 To Etosha National Park

Travel from Rundu to Etosha and enter the national park before taking part in an evening game drive. The open plains and salt-pan environment provide a distinctive introduction to northern Namibia’s major safari region. Wildlife may be observed during the drive, but sightings remain dependent on natural behaviour and environmental conditions. The day combines an overland transfer with the first scheduled game-viewing experience in Etosha.

ACTIVITIES

- **Drive from Rundu to Etosha National Park**
  Drive from Rundu towards Etosha National Park, one of Namibia's top wildlife reserves. The landscape changes from riverine countryside to drier bush as you head west.
- **Evening Game Drive in Etosha National Park**
  Head out on an evening game drive in Etosha National Park, searching for elephants, antelope and predators near the waterholes. After dark, watch animals visiting the nearby floodlit waterhole.

| OVERNIGHT | MEALS |
| --- | --- |
| NWR Namutomi Camp - camping | Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner |

## DAY 8 Etosha National Park Safaris

Head out for a full day of wildlife viewing in Etosha National Park and explore the varied habitats surrounding its famous salt pan. Travel between open plains, woodland and productive waterholes while keeping watch for the many species that inhabit the reserve. The extended safari allows time to cover several areas of the park and observe how animals use the landscape at different points during the day.

### ACTIVITIES

- **Explore Etosha National Park Safaris**
  Spend the day on safari in Etosha National Park, driving between waterholes and open plains. Look out for four of the Big Five and many other species of mammals and birds gathering around the salt pan.

| OVERNIGHT | MEALS |
| --- | --- |
| WR Halali camp - camping | Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner |

## DAY 9 Etosha to Himba Village

Head out for a morning safari in Etosha before travelling onwards to the Himba Village Camp. Wildlife sightings remain dependent on natural conditions, but the early drive provides another opportunity to experience the park before departure. After leaving Etosha, continue through rural landscapes towards the camp and shift the focus from wildlife observation to the community-based setting ahead.

### ACTIVITIES

- **Morning Game Drive in Etosha National Park**
  Enjoy a final morning game drive in Etosha as you head towards the park gate. Make the most of last wildlife sightings at the waterholes before leaving the reserve.
- **Drive from Etosha National Park to Himba Village Camp**
  Drive from Etosha National Park into a remote part of the Namibian desert to reach Ozohere Camp, which supports the local Himba community. Set up camp in this simple, family-run site.

| OVERNIGHT | MEALS |
| --- | --- |
| Ozohere Camp - camping | Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner |

DAY 10

## Cape Cross Seal Colony, Skeleton Coast

Travel from the inland landscapes around the Himba Village Camp towards Namibia’s Atlantic coast and stop at Cape Cross. Walk beside the large Cape fur seal colony and observe the animals in their natural coastal environment, with individual behaviour depending on conditions. Continue afterwards to Swakopmund, where the cooler sea air and free time on arrival provide a relaxed finish after the journey from the interior.

### ACTIVITIES

- **Drive from Himba Village Camp to Cape Cross Seal Colony**
  Travel from the Himba region westwards towards the Atlantic coast. Arrive at Cape Cross Seal Reserve on the Skeleton Coast.
- **Explore Cape Cross Seal Colony**
  Visit the Cape Cross Seal Reserve, home to one of the world's largest colonies of Cape fur seals. Walk along viewing platforms overlooking the noisy, busy habitat.
- **Drive from Cape Cross to Swakopmund**
  Drive south along the Skeleton Coast from Cape Cross to Swakopmund. The road runs between Atlantic surf and desert dunes on the way to this popular holiday town.
- **Free Time in Swakopmund**
  Arrive in Swakopmund and enjoy a free evening in this German-influenced seaside resort. You can stroll the streets, visit cafés or walk along the beach.

| OVERNIGHT | MEALS |
| --- | --- |
| Amanpuri Lodge - rooms | Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner |

DAY 11

## Free time in Swakopmund

Spend the day at leisure in Swakopmund with no included sightseeing or transfers to follow. The free time can be used for rest, independent exploration or time beside the Atlantic according to your interests. The coastal setting and compact town centre provide several possibilities, but the schedule remains deliberately open so you can enjoy a slower day at your own pace.

### ACTIVITIES

- **Free Time in Swakopmund**
  Arrive in Swakopmund and enjoy a free evening in this German-influenced seaside resort. You can stroll the streets, visit cafés or walk along the beach.

| OVERNIGHT | MEALS |
| --- | --- |
| Amanpuri Lodge - rooms | Breakfast |

DAY 12

## Swakopmund to the Desert

Travel from Swakopmund into the Namib Desert and reach Bushman’s Camp after leaving the coastal surroundings behind. Once there, take part in a guided desert walk led by local interpreters who share knowledge of the landscape, traditional survival methods and the natural environment. The activity provides a cultural and ecological introduction to the desert while keeping the focus on information supported by the scheduled experience.

### ACTIVITIES

- **Drive from Swakopmund to Bushman's Camp (Namib Desert)**
  Drive south from Swakopmund into the Namib Desert to your remote campsite at Bushman's Camp. Settle into this striking desert landscape.
- **Guided Bushman's Desert Walk**
  Join an expert guide for a desert walk to discover the Little 5 and other small creatures adapted to life in the dunes. Learn how plants and animals survive in this harsh but beautiful environment.

| OVERNIGHT | MEALS |
| --- | --- |
| Bushman's Camp - camping | Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner |

DAY 13

## Namib Naukluft, Sossusvlei & Deadvlei

The journey from Bushman's Camp reaches Sesriem and the celebrated landscapes of Sossusvlei and Deadvlei. Towering red dunes surround the area, while Deadvlei's pale clay pan and ancient dead trees create a striking visual contrast. Together, these landscapes provide an extensive introduction to the distinctive desert scenery of the Namib and its dramatic natural formations.

### ACTIVITIES

- **Drive from Bushman's Camp to Namib-Naukluft National Park (Sesriem)**
  Travel deeper into the Namib-Naukluft National Park to the Sesriem area, gateway to Sossusvlei and Deadvlei. Set up camp inside the park near the towering dunes.
- **Visit Namib-Naukluft National Park (Sossusvlei and Deadvlei)**
  Explore the giant dunes and white clay pans of Sossusvlei and Deadvlei, surrounded by ancient dead trees and dramatic sandscapes. Enjoy outstanding photo opportunities and the clear desert skies at night.

| OVERNIGHT | MEALS |
| --- | --- |
| NWR Sessriem campsite - camping | Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner |

DAY 14

## Dune 45 hike, drive to Windhoek

Start with a hike on Dune 45 before beginning the long drive from Namib-Naukluft National Park to Windhoek. The climb provides one final elevated view across the desert, while the later transfer returns you to the capital through changing inland scenery. On reaching Windhoek, enjoy an unstructured period to rest, explore independently or simply settle back into the pace of the city.

### ACTIVITIES

- **Hike the Dune 45**
  Climb Dune 45 for sweeping views over the surrounding sea of sand that stretches towards the Atlantic. Run or slide back down the dune to enjoy a well-earned breakfast at the bottom.
- **Drive from Namib-Naukluft National Park to Windhoek**
  Leave the dunes behind and drive north through changing desert and mountain scenery to Windhoek, Namibia's capital. Arrive in the city and check into your hotel or lodge.
- **Free Time in Windhoek**
  Enjoy a final group evening in Windhoek, often with a meal out to celebrate the trip. You can share highlights from the past weeks and say farewell to new friends.

| OVERNIGHT | MEALS |
| --- | --- |
| Windhoek hotel/lodge - tbc | Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner |

DAY 15

## Windhoek free time and departure transfer

Transfer from your Windhoek hotel to the international airport and prepare for departure. No additional activities are planned during this final movement, allowing the focus to remain on reaching the terminal in good time. Arrival at Windhoek International Airport marks the end of the supported services after your travels through Namibia’s deserts, wildlife regions and river landscapes.

### ACTIVITIES

- **Drive from Windhoek Hotel to Windhoek International Airport**
  Transfer from your Windhoek hotel to Hosea Kutako International Airport for your departure flight. Your Deserts & Delta Family Overland Tour ends here.
- **Depart from Windhoek International Airport**
  Check in at Windhoek International Airport for your onward flight. Your Africa Family Overland Tour comes to an end as you depart Namibia.

| OVERNIGHT | MEALS |
| --- | --- |
| N/A | Breakfast |

**INCLUDED**

- All transport on our Oasis Overland Expedition Truck
- Arrival (Victoria Falls) & Departure (Windhoek) airport transfers
- Camping equipment (tents) and Cooking equipment
- Services of 2 Oasis Crew (driver & tour leader)
- Approximately 80% of meals
- Accommodation/Campsites (approx. 35% hotels/lodges/permanent camps, 65% basic camping - some upgrade options)
- Entry ticket to Victoria Falls ($50/$25)
- Chobe National Park boat cruise
- Okavango River sunset boat trip in Rundu
- Etosha National Park entry and game drives (in our vehicle)
- Cape Cross Seal Colony
- Bushman's guided desert walk
- Sossusvlei jeep trip
- Namib-Naukluft National Park and Dune 45

**EXCLUDED**

- International Flights
- Visa fees if required
- Sleeping bags and camping mats (you should bring your own)
- Optional activities (see itinerary)
- Travel insurance (compulsory, get a quote here)
- 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

## Notes

> This trip is operated by us under our specialist Overlanding 'other half', Oasis Overland.

## Tour Options

Our tours are designed to include all that you need to enjoy a really special time in the destination you're visiting. However, we do also offer some extra options to complement the tour and add some additional sightseeing or activities, or some extra time at either end of the tour.

All accommodation based options (e.g. Single supplements, extra nights, cruise upgrades) should be booked and paid for in advance so that we can make the appropriate arrangements. Other options may either be booked and paid for in advance or while you are on the tour, though we recommend booking in advance to ensure there are no issues with availability.

Many options are priced the same throughout the year, but some may incur single or high season supplements , full details are given on the tour reservation form or on request.

### Ngepi Camp Accommodation Upgrades

*Min numbers: 1*

While you are staying at the Ngepi Camp on the Okavango River, our accommodation on the trip is based on camping in our Oasis tents. However, the camp does have some really nice, and interesting Tree House and Bush House accommodation options as well. There aren't enough of these available for the whole group, but we have reserved some for families who may wish to upgrade their stay and have some more comfort for these two nights. The Treehouses are on the riverside, while the Bush Houses are set further back. Treehouses can sleep from 2 to 5 people, while Bush Huts can sleep up to 4. If you would like to upgrade your accommodation here, please get in touch and we will add this to your booking. Treehouses will be allocated on a first come first served basis. The price shown is per person, and covers 2 nights. Adults (12+) - £130 p/p | Children (4-11) - £85 p/p.

### Child Discount (6-15)

*Min numbers: 1*

This option can be selected for all children aged 6 to 15 years at the date of travel who will share a room with one or two adults.
We recommend that you contact us for a specific quote for your whole family based on the number and ages of your children, and the number of rooms you'll need.

### Child Discount (6-15)

*Min numbers: 1*

This option can be selected for all children aged 6 to 15 years at the date of travel who will share a room with one or two adults.

## Important Notes

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### Transport & 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 that on our adult group trips we use for just two people to share. 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. You will be able to split your family between one, two or more tents depending on the size and make-up of your family. If we are full though, it will not be possible to have a tent to yourself. All our camping nights are spent in organised campsites, or camping grounds at lodges. Facilities and standards at campsites vary, some are well equipped and managed and some are very basic. At certain campsites there is the opportunity to upgrade to a private room at your own expense if you are missing your bed. This will be subject to availability when you arrive. Some

**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.

**Upgrades** - While we are staying at Ngepi Camp, we will be using our Oasis tents and camping. However, there are upgrade options available to book in advance there if you would like some more comfort and to stay in one of their riverside Treehouses or Bush Huts (away from the river). Please contact us to check availability and for booking.

**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. There will be some earlier starts on long driving days.

**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 probably only once or twice 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.

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## 2 Arrival & Accommodation

**Trip Joining Point:** Victoria Falls Municipal Rest Camp - Victoria Falls

**Start Time Day 1:** Anytime on Day 1, ideally arrive at Rest Camp by 4pm so we can arrange an early evening pre-trip briefing

**Address:** 411 Parkway Drive, Victoria Falls

**Telephone:** + 263 (0)13 40509

**Website:** www.vicfallsrestcamp.com

**Email:** **reservations@restcamp.co.zw**

**PRE-TRIP ACCOMMODATION:**

Victoria Falls Municipal Camp is in the centre of town & close to cafes , restaurants and internet. The camp has a great restaurant, pool and laundry service. If you will be arriving early, you may book additional nights with the camp, either directly or through us, Prices are given below and on a room only basis and are are subject to availability at the time of booking.

*Note - we will be providing en-suite lodges for the two nights we are there at the start of the trip.*

| Room Type | Price | Description |
|---|---|---|
| Dorm | £20.00 | Per Person |
| Two person Chalet - shared facilities | £40.00 | Per Room |
| Three person Chalet - shared facilities | £50.00 | Per Room |
| Four person Chalet - shared facilities | £60.00 | Per Room |
| Two person Lodge - en-suite facilities | £80.00 | Per Room |
| Three person Lodge - en-suite facilities | £110.00 | Per Room |
| Four person Lodge - en-suite facilities | £125.00 | Per Room |
| Additional Beds (max 2) | £16.00 | Per bed |

**AIRPORT TRANSFERS:**

**Airport Transfer Costs: Included**

Your Transfer Rep. will be awaiting you as you exit Immigration at Victoria Falls airport. They will be holding a sign with your name on it.

Victoria Falls International Airport (VFA) is approx. 20kms from the centre of Victoria Falls Township. English is widely spoken and used for signs / directions. $US and South African rand are now the official currencies in Zimbabwe.

**Our Agent in Victoria Falls is Backpackers Bazaar -**

If you are arriving day or two early and would like any assistance with activities or anything else while you are in Victoria Falls, then please contact Joy at Backpackers Bazaar. They are situated opposite the Municipal Campsite in the centre of town near Shearwater Cafe. Their telephone number is (013) 45828 or 44611 or (011) 404 960. Email - **joy@backpackers.co.zw** .

After Day 1 as the arrival day, we have one whole day on Day 2 at Victoria Falls. We will visit the Falls together in the morning (your entrance ticket is included), and then the afternoon will be free. If you wish to partake in any optional excursions that will take more than an afternoon, you should arrive a day or more early. Backpackers Bazaar can assist you with arranging any activities you may be interested in.

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## 3 Pre-departure meeting

As this trip includes airport transfers and the first night of accommodation in Victoria Falls, you can arrive at any time on Day 1. However, ideally we would like everyone to arrive at the Rest Camp by 4pm that day. Our tour leader will then arrange a welcome meeting early in the evening on Day 1, and our local representative in Victoria Falls, Joy, will also come and give a briefing about Victoria Falls and what options you have for tomorrow's free time. There will be a notice in reception and on the truck 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.

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## 4 Money and Budgets

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 some of 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. MasterCard based cards may have limited access in some 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. Revolut does not work in Zimbabwe.

**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.

**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.

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 it is not mandatory. Our suggestion is to budget around US$2-5 a day for each crew member.

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## 5 Visas

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

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

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

| Country | British | Irish | Aust | NZ | S.Africa | USA | Canadian |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Kenya** | US$30 | US$30 | US$30 | US$30 | US$30 | US$30 | US$30 |
| **Tanzania** | US$50 | US$50 | US$50 | US$50 | Free | US$100 | US$50 |
| **Zimbabwe** | US$55 | US$55 | US$30 | US$30 | Free | US$30 | US$75 |
| **Botswana** | Free | Free | Free | Free | Free | Free | Free |
| **Namibia** | US$90 | US$90 | US$90 | US$90 | US$90 | US$90 | US$90 |

**Important Notes:**

Your **Kenyan eTA** must be obtained in advance from the Kenyan government website. Please allow a couple of weeks for this to come through.

Most travellers obtain their **Tanzania visa** at the border with the rest of the group - most nationalities do not need to obtain this in advance. You do not need an additional visa for Zanzibar.

To enter **Namibia** with children, you must bring an original or certified copy of each child's **birth certificate showing both parent's names.** This needs to be the full copy, not a shortened/abridged version.

In addition, to enter **Namibia** and **Botswana**, **if you will be you will be travelling as a solo parent with one or more children**, then there is a very important additional requirement you need to be ready for. At both the Botswana and Namibia borders you will be asked to show an **Affidavit** signed by the child/children's other parent confirming that they give you authority to travel with the children without them being present.
This affidavit should have the children's names, dates of birth and passport details on, the second parent's name, address, contact number and signature, AND should be signed and stamped by a local police station or lawyer. Please ensure you bring a copy of this with you, and also send us a scanned copy before the trip departs, or you may not be allowed to enter the country.

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

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## 6 Booking & Payment

If you would like to book a place on this tour, please complete the online reservation form on our website (via the Dates & Prices tab on the tour page). You may make a deposit or full payment online, or just hold a reservation if you prefer (full payments are due 8 weeks before departure). We will then contact you with more details about how to complete your booking. Payments may be made by debit or credit card (subject to a card processing fee), or by making a bank transfer, or posting us a cheque/bank draft. Full details will be provided in your booking confirmation email. Please contact us if you would like any more information or have any questions before making a booking.

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## 7 Financial Security

We are a UK registered company and are committed to providing our customers with financial protection to provide peace of mind and to allow you to book with confidence.
We have therefore partnered with Trust My Travel Ltd., which provides financial protection services to over 2000 partners around the world. Funds paid to us by our customers are protected via an Insurance policy held by Trust

My Travel. Each traveller and the description of services sold is declared against Trust My Travel's insurance policy directly against our financial failure. In the event of our insolvency, you will be refunded for any unfulfilled products and/or repatriation to the UK (where applicable). Please see our website or booking conditions for more information.

## 8 Responsible Tourism

It is impossible not to have an impact on the local environment, cultures and eco-systems when you travel. However, it is very possible to try and ensure that these impacts are as limited, or positive as possible. We are committed to ensuring that we try to leave our host countries in a better state than we found them and encourage and assist our travellers to help us with this.
The following are a few simple tips that require very little effort on your part but which will help ensure that any effect you have on the locations you visit is positive rather than negative.

- Don't prejudge: Things in different countries will almost certainly be different. That doesn't make them worse or inferior, just different.
- Communicate: Don't expect locals to speak your language. Take the trouble to learn a few words or phrases of the local language. Don't worry about sounding silly. Most locals are patient and accommodating and appreciate you making the effort to communicate in their language.
- Conserve energy: Be careful not to waste valuable resources. Use local resources sparingly. Switch off lights, air-conditioning and fans when you leave the hotel room and don't waste water. Remove superfluous packaging. Many countries have far less efficient waste disposal systems than ours. Remove packaging from newly acquired items before leaving home.
- Don't litter: No matter how untidy or dirty the country you're travelling in may look to you, avoid littering, as there is no need to add to the environment's stress. Many of the countries we visit have a tough challenge dealing with rubbish and waste. Please consider taking home as much plastic waste as you can (e.g. water bottles).
- Choose environmentally friendly products: By using environmentally friendly (bio degradable) sun creams, shampoos and detergents you can help reduce pollution.
- Respect local customs and traditions: As you are a guest in these countries, you should also comply with the local customs. If you are friendly and well mannered, the locals will reciprocate and it will only enhance your experience. It's important to follow dress and behaviour guidelines especially when visiting religious or sacred sites (your tour leader will advise you how best to do this).
- If a client commits an illegal act the client may be excluded from the tour and Encounters Travel shall cease to have responsibility to/for them. No refund will be given for any unused services.

All porters are employed and equipped following guidelines set by the International Porter Protection Group (IPPG).

## 9 Follow Us Online

You can stay in touch with us online by following us on Facebook and Twitter. We post updates on relevant travel news in our destination countries, special offers and discounts and other interesting travel related news and information.

www.facebook.com/encounterstravel

https://x.com/encounterstravl (yes, without the 'e')

## 10 Travel Insurance

Travel insurance is compulsory on all of our tours and needs to cover personal accident & liability, medical expenses and repatriation, travel delay & abandonment. We also strongly recommend that you take out cover against cancellation and lost/stolen baggage. Personal medical insurance does not normally provide sufficient cover and is generally not suitable for travel on our tours. You will not be able to join your tour if you have not provided us with details of your insurance or if you arrive without cover in place (no refunds will be due in this event).

Considering travel insurance for your trip? World Nomads Travel Insurance offers coverage for more than 150 adventure activities as well as emergency medical, lost luggage, trip cancellation and more.

If your tour includes car hire, or if you plan to arrange a hot air balloon flight locally or do some scuba diving during your tour, you should check the small print in your policy to make sure these are covered (these are covered in our policy). Please also check the maximum altitude that you will be reaching and that full cover including emergency evacuation is provided up to this altitude.

If you are taking expensive camera gear or other electronic equipment with you then please check the coverage and the fine print of your policy to ensure that you have sufficient cover.

*IMPORTANT: We must have your travel insurance details (policy number and type of insurance) before you depart or you may not be allowed to join the tour. If you haven't told us already, please let us know the details when you can. You should take a paper copy of your insurance policy with you as you may be asked to show this at the start of the tour.*

**Covid-19**

**Before purchasing any travel insurance, please check the coverage provided for situations related to Covid-19, and for the rules about government travel advice. Your normal policy may not be suitable.**

## 11 Before you travel

It is important when considering and preparing to travel anywhere in the world that you have a good understanding of the country you are visiting, its laws and customs, and the possible risks and situations that may occur. This includes specific risks related to your itinerary (eg. does it involve water & can you swim, are you fit enough for the activities included), as well as more general risks such as terrorism and natural disasters.

General details and links to more information about health risks, visa requirements, money, and travel insurance are given in these tour notes. We recommend that you re-read all these before your departure as well as the small print of your travel insurance policy so you know exactly what is covered and what is not.

You should take copies of your important travel documents with you and ideally also store them online securely as a backup. Make sure that you have given us your emergency contact details and told that person where and when you are travelling. Ensure you take enough money with you and that you have access to emergency funds.

Finally, you should read through and stay updated with the current official government travel advice for your destination. We are registered partners with the UK Foreign Office's 'Travel Aware' campaign which provides further useful and invaluable information.

travel aware
gov.uk/travelaware

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## 12 Reduce Plastic Waste with Water-to-Go Filter bottles

Traveling responsibly means minimizing plastic waste, but staying hydrated on the go is essential. At Encounters Travel we are committed to reducing single-use plastics, which is why we've partnered with Water-to-Go. Their portable filtration system removes over 99.9% of contaminants from any non-saltwater source, turning even questionable water sources into safe drinking water.

Given that tap water is un-safe to drink in many of the countries in which we operate, we recommend purchasing a Water-to-Go bottle prior to departure. This will help you avoid the use of single use plastic bottles and keep you hydrated on the go.

Save big! Get a huge 25% off your Water-to-Go bottle and other Water-to-Go products (such as filters, lids, and carriers). Use code **ENCOUNTERS25** at checkout (valid in the UK, USA and Canada).

**How Water-to-Go Technology works:**

- Their reusable, BPA free water bottles contain their own unique 3-in-1 filtration technology effectively providing clean safe drinking water from any non-salt water source around the world.
- Three different (1 traditional and 2 nano) technologies are combined in one filter cartridge to remove up to 99.9999% of microbiological contaminants in water.

**The three technologies used in a Water-to-Go filter are:**

- Mechanical filtration – A tiny pore size, so small contaminants can’t fit through.
- Electrical – A positive charge reduces the pore size even further and attracts contaminants like a magnet, trapping them inside the filter.
- Activated Carbon – Unlike most carbon based filters, instead of using adhesives to glue the carbon particles together, (which vastly reduces the carbon’s efficiency) it is contained within the membrane, helping to reduce contaminants whilst eliminating bad tastes and odours. Try filtering water from your tap at home and taste the difference!

**Water-to-Go filter bottles deliver safe, healthy water worldwide**

- Water-to-Go filters remove bacteria, viruses, waterborne disease, protozoa, heavy metals such as lead as well as harmful chemicals.
- Their filters remove Chlorine and Fluoride from tap water.
- The filter will eliminate harmful contaminants from the water but allow beneficial minerals such as sodium and magnesium to pass through leaving you with the healthiest water possible.

- Water-to-Go filters have been independently tested against internationally recognised standards by industry specialists including The London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (UK), BCS Laboratories (USA), Bangalore Test House (India) and IMI (China).

**Use Water-to-Go products and you'll be healthier, wealthier and helping to make the world a better place!**

- Depending on filter size, each Water-to-Go filter is able to replace 260 or 400 single-use plastic water bottles!
- They ensure you have access to safe water anywhere in the world without ever having to buy environmentally damaging bottled water.
- Their water bottles deliver safe, clean drinking water at just 5p per litre.
- The filter membrane is biodegradable and the shrouds are recyclable.
- The water bottles are used and approved by everyone from backpackers to commuters, gym users to expecting mums. Perfect for everyday, outdoor and travel.

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## 13 Private & Tailor-made Tours

While our group departures offer a fantastic way to explore with like-minded travellers, we understand that some guests prefer a more exclusive experience. Most of our group tours can be booked on a private basis, allowing you to enjoy the same expert-led routes with your own dedicated party. The primary advantage of choosing a private arrangement is the flexibility it provides; we can easily customise the itinerary to include your preferred style of accommodation or adjust the pace to suit your needs. Private tours can be run on the same start days as our group tours, or on other dates. However, some activities within our trips are restricted to particular days of the week - we will advise you on anything like this that we need to work around. Pricing will be based on the number of travellers in your party, and any customisations you may like to make.

For those seeking something truly unique, our specialist sales team is available to collaborate with you on a completely tailor-made tour, designed from the ground up to match your specific interests, accommodation level and requirements.

To request a quotation for a private or tailor-made tour, please contact us.

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## 14 Health and Vaccinations

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

Recommended vaccinations and other health protection measures vary according to the country you are visiting and where you are travelling from. We recommend you contact your GP/medical practitioner or a travel clinic for current information on vaccinations needed for your destination. You should ensure that you are up to date with vaccines and boosters recommended for your normal life at home, including for example, vaccines required for occupational risk of exposure, lifestyle risks and underlying medical conditions. In addition, additional courses or boosters normally recommended for the countries in this region are:

South Africa: Additional vaccinations: Hepatitis A. Malaria map. Yellow Fever certificate: Required if arriving from or having transitted through an infected area.

Namibia: Additional vaccinations: Hepatitis A, Tetanus, Typhoid. Malaria map. Yellow Fever certificate: Required if arriving from an infected area.

Botswana: Additional vaccinations: Hepatitis A, Tetanus, Typhoid. Malaria map. Yellow Fever certificate: Required if arriving from or having transitted or travelled through an infected area.

Zimbabwe: Additional vaccinations: Hepatitis A, Tetanus, Typhoid. Malaria map. Yellow Fever certificate: Required if arriving from or having transitted through an infected area.

Zambia: Additional vaccinations: Hepatitis A, Tetanus, Typhoid. Malaria map. Yellow Fever certificate: Required if arriving from or having transitted through an infected area.

Malawi: Additional vaccinations: Hepatitis A, Tetanus, Typhoid. Malaria map. Yellow Fever certificate: Required if arriving from or having transitted through an infected area.

Tanzania: Additional vaccinations: Diphtheria, Hepatitis A, Tetanus, Typhoid. Malaria map. Yellow Fever certificate: Required if arriving from or having transitted through an infected area.

Kenya: Additional vaccinations: Diphtheria, Hepatitis A, Poliomyelitis, Tetanus, Typhoid. Malaria map. Yellow Fever certificate: Required if arriving from an infected area.

Uganda: Additional vaccinations: Diphtheria, Hepatitis A, Tetanus, Typhoid, Yellow Fever. Malaria map. Yellow Fever certificate: Required if arriving from an infected area.

Sudan: Additional vaccinations: Diphtheria, Hepatitis A, Tetanus, Typhoid, Yellow Fever. Malaria map. Yellow Fever certificate: Required if arriving from or having transitted through an infected area. A certificate may also be required for those departing Sudan.

Morocco: Additional vaccinations: Hepatitis A, Tetanus, Typhoid. Malaria not normally present. Yellow Fever certificate not required.

Tunisia: Additional vaccinations: Hepatitis A, Tetanus, Typhoid. Malaria not normally present. Yellow Fever certificate not required.

The above information can change at short notice. For up to date health information & vaccination requirements we recommend that you contact your medical practitioner or a travel clinic.

**Malaria**: Vaccinations are not available against Malaria, which is a disease transmitted by mosquitoes that can be very serious and sometimes fatal. You should avoid mosquito bites by covering up bare skin with clothing such as long sleeves and long trousers and applying insect repellents to exposed skin. When necessary, sleep under a mosquito net. Mosquitoes are most active during and after sunset. You should consult with your GP/medical practitioner/travel clinic about the most appropriate malaria prophylactic medication to take for the regions you are visiting.

**Yellow Fever:** This disease is spread by infected mosquitoes that bite during the day. A Yellow Fever Certificate of vacinnation is often required as a condition of entry depending on which country you are arriving from, or that you have travelled or transitted through recently (including connecting flights with stopovers of over 12 hours). You can view this US CDC information about where the virus is present and follow the links to further information detailing which countries need you to have a Yellow Fever vaccination as part of their entry requirements. Please ensure you have this certificate organised in advance and with you and to hand during the trip.

Please inform us of any pre-existing conditions such as diabetes or asthma and any prescription medicine you may be taking. We also need to know about any food allergies or physical disabilities that you may have.
If you are travelling on an Overland tour or your trip includes wildlife safaris then please bear in mind that you may be travelling on bumpy roads and/or rough ground for several hours at a time. This can be very uncomfortable or painful if you have a bad back, and make such conditions worse. Please contact us if you have any concerns.

**Health Declaration:** As many of our Africa tours travel through very remote regions, where medical facilities are limited, we are asking all of our travellers 65 years and over who are joining one of our Africa Overland Adventures to complete the attached medical questionnaire. The information provided to Encounters Travel and our local operational partners will be held to the strictest confidence and will be used only to the extent to provide necessary emergency medical care and/or evaluate physical health and fitness for travel.

We will request this from you approximately 30 days before your trip starts, so that your GP can sign your form based on your current health conditions. Please don't submit this several months in advance, as it is important for us to know you are fit for travel just before the trip departs.

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## 15 Passports and Visas

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. Encounters Travel will not be held responsible if travellers are denied entry because they are not in possession of the relevant visas. We therefore recommend you re-check requirements with the relevant embassy/consulate around 4 weeks before travel.

You should also be in possession of a valid onward or return flight ticket, or proof of other means of transport enabling you to leave the country that your tour passes through or finishes in. In addition you should carry proof of sufficient funds to cover you during your time in the country (eg. credit card).

Should your tour be re-entering a country, please ensure that you have a multiple entry visa that allows this. Some countries have a visa on arrival service which can be more convenient and cheaper. However, for peace of mind and to speed up the border crossing process, Encounters Travel advises that you to get your visas prior to your trip if possible.

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## 16 Tipping

In general tipping in restaurants is expected and is around 10% for good service, more if you have received exceptional service, and, feel free not to tip at all if you received poor service. Tipping taxi drivers etc is really at your own discretion and not always expected. If in doubt please ask your guides. It is expected to tip porters and car guards etc. Ask your guides how much is appropriate in local currency. The recommended amount for Serengeti and Masai Mara guides is around USD5-7 per client per day.

Our guides do work hard but they are also paid at (and often above) industry levels for this work. Our Crew can be tipped if you feel that they have done a good job and/or gone above and beyond the call of duty. The best way to arrange tips is to elect one person in the group to collect the money. On Small Group & Shoestring tours we recommend around USD 3-5 per person per day per guide as a fair tip. On longer Overland tours we recommend USD1-2 per day per person, per guide as a fair tip. So if you have 2-crew on a tour, we would recommend that 2

envelopes are used and each crew member's name written on one. Place what you feel is fair into each envelope and the elected person can give these to the crew at the end of the tour. If you do not feel that the crew deserve a tip, please, do not tip them. You must remember that tipping is only for exceptional service and is not at all compulsory or expected.

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## 17 Meals on Overland tours

Due to the nature of the overland trip, the majority of your meals will be cooked by our crew and eaten beside the vehicle. Meals will not normally be eaten within the accommodation. The reason we run our trips in this way is that we feel it fits in better with this type of trip and it also helps to keep our prices competitive with other companies offering similar tours.

**Breakfast:** As breakfast is served very early in the morning (if there is driving or activities to be done) it is a simple but filling breakfast: Tea and coffee, breads and spreads, cereals, yoghurts, fruits and on occasion, when there is time for a later breakfast, we'll will serve a hot breakfast of scrambled eggs, porridge, bacon or beans.

**Lunch:** Lunch is generally served at a picnic spot next to the road en route to a destination. As the tour leaders only have approximately 45 minutes to get everyone off the truck, prepare lunch and then get everyone back on the truck again, lunches consist of sandwiches and salads (rice salad, pasta salad, tuna salad and green salad) which are quick and easy to prepare but which are quite filling. They do have meal plans which they should stick to, to ensure that there is variety on a day to day basis.

**Dinner:** This is when your crew get time to prepare a delicious meal and they focus on a substantial protein, vegetable and carbohydrate dinner. We serve traditional cuisine consisting of braais (BBQ), potjie (stew), bobotie (mince), spaghetti and fish and chicken dishes. All meals (on both accommodated and camping tours) that are included in the itinerary are prepared at the full service adventure truck. This is a unique adventure in itself where you get to dine under the stars with your new found friends and experience the real sights and sounds of Africa!

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## 18 International Flights and Airport Transfers

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

The vast majority of our tours are designed such that you can arrive and depart at any time on the first and last days of the set tour itinerary, with your arrival and departure airport transfers included in the tour price. However, on our **Overland tours,** you should not arrange your onward international flights or other travel for the day the tour is due to end (unless the final day does not involve any travelling and finishes after breakfast). Similarly, many of our Overland tours depart their first port of call on the first morning, and you will therefore need to plan for any flights to arrive at least one day beforehand.

**Airport Transfers:**

Arrival and departure airport transfers are included on most of our Small Group, Shoestring (excluding the 5 & 6-

day Garden Route tours where Airport Transfers are not included, however a pickup from a Central Cape Town location is included on day 1 of the tour) and Tailor-made tours but available as extra options on all our African Overland tours, as long as you have accommodation booked with us on that day. If you add extra accommodation before and/or after the tour that you do not book with us, then you will also need to arrange your own airport transfers.

On our **Sebatana Package**, airport transfers for arrival and departure are included, however these transfers operate on a schedule, so a short wait may be required after landing before the transfer departs to the accommodation. To coincide with the transfer departures, your arrival flight should land in Johannesburg before 11am on day 1 and depart after 6pm on day 8. If your flights arrive/depart outside of these times, we would recommend adding an additional night to your trip.

**Departure Taxes:** Various countries may require that you pay an Airport Departure Tax when departing on an international flight. Please note that all departure taxes must be paid in hard cash currency and US Dollars are normally the best currency to use for this. Departure taxes can vary from US$10 - US$60 depending on the departure point.

**Flight inclusive packages:** We do also sometimes advertise flight inclusive packages from selected airports. Where these are shown on our website, prices are correct at the time of quoting, but are subject to continued availability of the fare used. Prices will be reconfirmed at the time of booking, and we will also provide the flight times and airline details before tickets are issued.
Flight inclusive prices are based on the cheapest Economy ticket class available which is generally non-refundable and non-changeable unless the flight is cancelled for reasons such as Covid-19, in which case the airlines are more flexible. More flexible ticket options, as well as Premium Economy and Business Class tickets are available on request for an additional supplement. Any changes made to flight inclusive bookings will be subject to the airline rules on your ticket.

**Flight CO2 Emissions:**

Traveling by air is an amazing way to explore the world, but flights also contribute to carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions that impact the environment. By considering the airline's CO2 emissions when you choose your flight, you can help minimize your travel footprint.

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

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## 19 What to take

**LUGGAGE ALLOWANCES:** Most international airlines restrict you to between 20kg and 23kg per person of luggage to go in the hold of the plane. Domestic flights often have smaller allowances around 15kg. As airline rules vary we recommend that you take no more than 20kg of luggage if your tour just includes international flights, and no more than 15kg if there are any domestic flights included in your itinerary. Please ask us for details if you are unsure about luggage allowances on your tour. Any excess baggage fees will be your responsibility to cover. Most

airlines allow between 5kg and 10kg for hand luggage so we suggest that you take no more than 5kg unless you have confirmed that your airline(s) will allow more than this.

**OVERLAND AND SAFARI TOURS:** Please keep in mind that these are adventure tours in an adventure vehicle (truck or 4x4) and luggage should not include any solid Samsonite style suitcases. On our accommodated overland tours most of our trucks have lockers for the luggage (locker sizes: 37,5 cm high, 32 cm wide, 80 cm deep). Only a soft bag will fit in these lockers. A suitcase is far more difficult to store and make secure in our vehicle and this is part of the reason we ask for a backpack or tote bag to be used as your luggage. The other reason is that you need to walk from the truck to the accommodation and often over sand or uneven terrain.  Your luggage on our Overland tours is limited to ONE backpack and ONE daypack weighing no more than 20kg. As a general rule, if you cannot lift your own luggage - you've got too much stuff! Most people make the mistake of bringing too many clothes. A quick reminder - **suitcases are not suitable on our overland tours** – especially huge Samsonite-style cases! **Small** wheeled cases are OK for safari tours.

**SUGGESTED PACKING LIST:** Kit for all weather conditions including: • 2/3 shorts/skirts • 1 jacket/anorak • Tracksuit/pullover • 2 pairs of long pants/jeans • 2 pairs of walking shoes/boots/trainers • 1 pair of sandals • 3 or 4 T-shirts/short sleeve shirts or sundresses • 2/3 Long Sleeve Shirts • Smart casual change of clothes • Swimwear • Underwear & socks • Sun Hat – preferably that covers the back of your neck. • Raincoat • Kikoi/sarong

Your clothing should be easy to wash and dry and should preferably not need ironing. Avoid synthetics, which can be very uncomfortable in hot weather. Many people underestimate how cold Africa can be – remember that jersey/jacket! There are also nights that are warm but you must still wear clothes that cover arms and legs from mosquitoes. Take a set of casual but smart clothes for the occasional evening out in a restaurant or club. If you wear glasses (or contacts) it is also advisable to bring a spare pair.

While on wildlife safaris it is important to wear dull coloured clothing - olive, mushroom, brown, khaki, stone are ideal.
You should avoid white (stands out too much), black or blue (attracts tsetse flies), and camouflage (illegal in many countries for civilians)

**Additional Items:** • Towel & facecloth • Baby wipes/ Wet Wipes • Personal toiletries • Sleeping bag • Torch & enough spare batteries • Camera & spare batteries and memory cards • Water bottle. (A 2-litre Coke bottle works well...) • Penknife • Insect and Mosquito repellent • Suntan lotion, sun block & after sun lotion • Sunglasses • Watch • Biodegradable laundry detergent • Passport (plus a copy of your passport & visas) • Extra passport photos • Vaccination certificate • Money • Travel plug • Neck pillow • Small sewing kit • Plastic bags • Clothes line and pegs • Small scrubbing brush • a small padlock for your luggage locker in the truck • Small basic First Aid kit (painkillers, band aids, after-sun lotion, eye drops, anti-diarrhoea tablets etc.)

**DAY PACKS:** Please check the itinerary for your specific tour if you will need a little daypack. For example on our Cape Town to Vic Falls overland tour you will need a smaller bag, big enough to bring basic equipment (toiletries and clothes) for 2 nights. The daypack is for your Okavango Delta Excursion, where you cannot bring your entire luggage.