7 Mar 25

Dear traveller,

First of all, many thanks for booking your upcoming Nile Trans Africa journey with Oasis Overland, I hope you are looking forward to the expedition!  This update covers details about the following:

* Itinerary updates
* Trip dates
* Pre-departure meeting
* Truck, tents and luggage
* Passports & visas
* Travel insurance

But first...

**What to expect!**

This is one of our longer and more demanding overland adventures and it’s a trip where you should expect the unexpected, with the itinerary and route often having to adapt and change while on the road. This of course means that timings are going to have to be flexible too. This could be due to the distances covered, slow visa processing, bad roads and border crossings to name just a few!

This of course means that timings are going to have to be flexible too. This is about as far away from your average holiday as you can get, as not only will you have to get stuck in (often literally!) as you help to dig the truck out when it gets bogged down (which it will!), you all get involved in the cooking and the cleaning, as well as setting up and taking down the tents. The trip will only run well if everyone approaches it with a positive attitude and enthusiasm about pitching in and helping out – the more everyone does this, the quicker and easier everything runs, and the happier everyone will be.

The section of the route between Cape Town and Nairobi generally has a better tourist infrastructure than in countries further north and for most of the trip we stay in campsites and travel on good, sealed roads. There will always be exceptions to this however so be prepared for the occasional bush camp, impassable road and itinerary adaptation, especially during new parts of the itinerary such as Mozambique. Travelling into northern Kenya and Ethiopia, we will wild camp more frequently and facilities become scarcer which means dig a hole and ‘shower in a can’ moments may happen a lot! Somaliland and Djibouti are new countries to us and furthermore, visa applications may be more complicated and overall travelling becomes more challenging.

Together with these challenges you should also expect numerous amazing moments, meeting local people, exploring stunning scenery and seeing some incredible wildlife. All in all, this is going to be a really special trip that you’ll remember forever. We hope you are thrilled to be a group member on this exciting expedition!

**Itinerary updates**

As a reminder, we made some exciting additions to our itinerary last year and yours will be the trip to include these. We now include Eswatini, the Caprivi strip in Namibia, new areas of Mozambique and Zimbabwe plus time in Zambia and Burundi.

As you will know, we are not going to be able to drive through Sudan on this trip due to the security situation there, and our itinerary from Nairobi north through Ethiopia, Somaliland and Djibouti has always therefore been described as somewhat flexible. We have firmed this up somewhat now and updated the website itinerary (the map still needs doing though). We plan to travel north through northern Kenya, then through Ethiopia, Somaliland and Djibouti as before, and then cross back into Ethiopia so that people can take an optional trip up into the Danakil Depression, and then return to Addis Ababa. We will leave the truck there and fly to Egypt (flight at your expense), to finish the trip in Egypt using local transport and hotels. Flying from Addis rather than Djibouti will be subject to us getting the necessary permissions for the truck, but is preferrable as there are more, and cheaper, flight options.

You can read more details here...

<https://www.oasisoverland.co.uk/trips/cape-town-to-cairo-23-weeks-nile-trans>

**Trip dates**

The Cape Town to Nairobi and Cairo Nile Trans trip is part of the Fes to Cairo Trans Africa Expedition which left Morocco in October 2024.

Your trip is due to start in Cape Town on the 14th April, but this is reliant on the progress made by the group travelling down from Morocco.  On previous trips, the truck and group have been on time, and all looks fine at the moment too with the group, but it is important to be aware that there could be circumstances such as slow border crossings and difficult road conditions that affect their progress. Whilst our drivers always do their best to make up time from any delays, there may be a chance of a delay in the start of your trip, but we shall keep you updated closer to the time.

We recommend not finalising your flight dates back home or onwards until at least you have reached Zimbabwe (Nairobi finishers) or Addis Ababa (Cairo finishers) on the trip.  If booking your flight before then, please make sure you are able to change the date if necessary and check the fees for doing this. Due to the nature of this expedition, unforeseen delays can be experienced anywhere along the route and we cannot guarantee our arrival dates at the various locations.

**Day 1 and the Pre-departure meeting**

We are adjusting the start of the trip slightly so that the night of Day 1 (14th April) will now be spent in Cape Town, and we will depart for Hermanus in the morning of the 15th. Your pre-departure meeting with the crew and the rest of the group will take place on the evening of Day 1 of the trip, the 14th, and not the night before on 13th.
You can check into Ashanti Lodge Backpackers Gardens at anytime after 2-3pm on the 14th April,

ASHANTI BACKPACKERS GARDENS 11 Hof Street, Gardens, Cape Town Tel: +27

<https://ashanti.co.za/accommodation/backpackers-gardens/>

**Truck, tents and luggage**

The general plan is for 2 people to share a 3 person tent. However, everyone is welcome to bring their own tent if they wish (meaning you don't need to share if you don’t want to). But if you do plan to bring your own tent, please do let us know so we can manage the number of our own tents that we bring. If you do bring your own, you will be responsible for your own tent throughout the trip (so if it needs repairs or replacing during the trip, you’ll be responsible for that, as we may not have enough spares for you). Your Tour Leader will of course assist with sourcing repairs or a new tent for you if it does come to that.

The truck you’ll be travelling on is a little different to those shown on our website. It has forward and rear facing seats (not inward) and large, clear, opening glass windows, not the roll up type. There no lockers under the seats, instead there is one large luggage store at the back. Please note that although the truck is roomy with lots of storage areas, there is a limit to space for your personal luggage as we carry food stocks, kitchen equipment, spare parts and tools etc.  So, 80 litre (100ltr max) backpacks and holdalls are the best form of carrying your luggage which will be stored in the luggage locker, along with a small day pack (40ltr max). Backpacks and holdalls that have a rigid frame as well as suitcases are impractical on the truck and should not be brought. If you bring excess luggage above the recommended amount then you will need to post it home from Cape Town.

**Passport pages**

You will require the following number of **blank pages** for the expedition. Please use this as an approximate guide and aim to have some spare pages for good luck.

Cape Town to Cairo - 15 blank pages
Cape Town to Nairobi -   10 blank pages

You will also need passport photos for this trip, please use the below as a guide:

* Cape Town to Nairobi (or v.v) - 4 passport photos
* Cape Town to Cairo (or v.v) - 8 passport photos
* Nairobi to Cairo (or v.v) - 4 passport photos

**Visas**

We plan to obtain all visas en-route during the trip so there is nothing you need to do at this stage. There will be various e-visas to apply for once you join.

**Travel Insurance**

The British Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) as well as governments of other countries aim to provide advice and security information for their citizens.  This advice can affect many travel insurance policies that travellers purchase prior to travel. This means that at times if the FCDO is advising against “all or non essential travel” to a particular country, most travel insurance companies will not cover the policy holder for travel through that country or a specific area of a country highlighted by the FCDO. The advice for the different countries and areas through which we operate trips is forever changing and we are constantly reviewing information as it comes to hand.

Each individual traveller needs to check that their own personal travel insurance (if you have already purchased travel insurance), is valid for travel through each and every country on the expedition.   Please also check the **cover will continue after you have been through any countries en route that currently have travel restrictions in place.**  We have been informed that some travel insurance companies will void a policy if you go against any of the British FCDO advice.

We will update you in our upcoming emails on the areas that the FCDO have travel advisories in place on our intended route.

**Travel insurance that includes cover for areas the FCDO advises against travel to**

If you already have travel insurance and it doesn’t cover areas with travel advisories in place, SafetyWing’s Nomad Insurance can offer a policy for your time in each of them.  As these areas can change at short notice, you can take out this cover during the trip, as and when needed.  You will need to create an account on the [SafetyWing Nomad Insurance website](https://safetywing.com/nomad-insurance) and purchase a policy for a minimum of 5 days each time.

If you haven’t yet purchased a travel insurance policy for your trip, or wish to cancel and change your existing policy, you can also get cover through Safety Wing Insurance for the whole trip. Their insurance is specifically designed for long-stay travellers and digital nomads, so can work well (and be cost effective) for a trip like this, though the level of coverage (payout amounts) are not as high as other insurance providers. Again, you can arrange this online through their website.  Please note that they do not include cover for cancellation, for example, if you incurred cancellation fees because you cancelled your trip due to illness.  Please also note that if you wish to do White Water Rafting, Tandem Skydiving or Quad Biking, these are not covered. If you wish to do any of these activities and you have the Safety Wing insurance, you will need to find additional cover.

As always, and whichever insurance policy you take out, please read the policy carefully – it’s always a long read with a lot of small print but it’s important and your responsibility to know what you are covered for and that it will be adequate for the trip and activities you are undertaking. You should also check the coverage provided for Covid-19 and ensure you are covered for both medical treatment and quarantine costs related to Covid.

Every safe and reasonable effort will be made by us to drive all the way to Addis Ababa (with the option to fly over areas) so as to keep the continuity of the trip.  If we have no choice but to fly over a section of the trip we will endeavour to take in other places of interest if there is any time available.  While Oasis will cover all ground transport costs, we have not taken the cost of flights or you re-joining the expedition vehicle into our pricing structure.  Therefore, should a flight over any country (eg. Sudan) or section become necessary the flight and re-joining costs will have to be paid for by each individual. For this reason we suggest allocating emergency funds to be kept in reserve for the entirety of the trip.

If you are not intending on travelling with us on this departure after all, please do let us know as soon as possible.

Look out for a final update from us in the next few weeks with some final details and crew contacts to help you with your pre trip preparations!