

NORTH & CENTRAL AMERICAN OVERLAND, (CAP)

Anchorage to Panama City 109 days, departing 22 Jul 2020



CONTENTS

- [Optional Activities](#)
- [Insurance](#)
- [Out of Office Hours Contact](#)
- [Luggage & Kit List](#)
- [Personal Medical Kit](#)
- [Passports](#)
- [Pre And Post Trip](#)
- [Accommodation And Connecting Flights](#)
- [Continuing Your Trip](#)
- [Contingency Emergency Fund](#)
- [Responsible Tourism](#)
- [Electrical](#)
- [A Few Rules](#)
- [Issues On The Trip](#)
- [Our Community](#)
- [Feedback](#)
- [Countries Visited](#)
- [Daily Itinerary](#)
- [Visa Information](#)
- [Important Notes](#)
- [Overland Lifestyle And Trip Suitability](#)
- [Tipping](#)
- [Who Travels With Dragoman?](#)
- [Accommodation On Tour](#)
- [The Kitty](#)
- [Group Size](#)
- [Our Crew And Guides](#)
- [Meals And Group Participation](#)
- [Dietary Requirements](#)

TRIP OVERVIEW

Trip Style:	Overlanding
Route:	Anchorage to Panama City
Duration:	109 days
Transport:	US style school bus, Boat, Flight
	 50%  50%
Accom:	Hotels, Hostels, Campsites, Wild camps, Homestays, Chalets

Physical Challenge:

EASY  HARD

Depending on the trip, activities may include treks of 3-4 hours at altitude or across hilly terrain, multi-day treks at sea level, horseback riding, canoeing and other adventurous activities.

Lifestyle Challenge:

EASY   HARD

This trip has a bit of everything.

[Itineraries](#)
[British Foreign Office Travel Advice and Warnings](#)
[Health](#)
[Safety & Security](#)
[Included Activities](#)

ROUTE MAP



COUNTRIES VISITED

Belize



BELIZE OVERLAND TOURS

Belize is a small English-speaking enclave on the Caribbean coast, and has its own unique culture and atmosphere. Despite its small size, there are several amazing places in Belize to visit - near the town of San Ignacio there are some of the finest Mayan ruins in Central America including the ancient cities of Caracol and Cahal Pech, as well as several flooded caves and forest to explore.

TURQUOISE SEAS & BREATHTAKING NATURAL

Canada



EXPLORE CANADA OVERLAND

The vast country of Canada has so much to offer its visitors, including exhilarating white-water rafting and adventure sports, hiking through the stunning beauty of the National Parks, majestic mountains, atmospheric forests, some fascinating historic cities, and of course the warm welcome from the famously friendly locals!

WONDERS

Off the coast is the wonderful [Caye Caulker](#), a lively island surrounded by glittering turquoise ocean which provides some of the best snorkelling and diving in the world! From here you could take a scenic flights over one of the world's most breathtaking natural wonders - The Great Blue Hole, a 300-metre-wide underwater sink hole formed into a perfect circle. Belize is a fantastic addition to our trips in Central America and a very unique place to visit!

Costa Rica



AN ADVENTURE PARADISE

Costa Rica is every outdoor-adventurist's dream, and is packed full of spectacular scenery, incredible wildlife, and fascinating culture.

Costa Rica is one of the most bio-diverse countries on Earth, and is home to many iconic animals such as hummingbirds, quetzals, tree frogs, monkeys, sloths and sea turtles. This is evident on a trek through the atmospheric cloud forests of [Monteverde](#), or on an exploration of the spectacular beaches of Manuel Antonia National Park.

EXPLORE STUNNING NATURAL SCENERY OVERLAND

Complimenting this is some of the most wonderful

WILD AND WONDERFUL CANADA

Some of the major highlights of this wonderful country include the famed and scenic Canadian National Parks of [Jasper](#), Lake Louise and [Banff](#), which all contain some excellent trekking opportunities. You can explore the history of the Klondike Gold Rush in Yukon, see the colossal Salmon Glacier near Stewart on Alaska's border, and learn all about the Aurora Borealis at the Northern Lights Centre in Waston Lake.

Canada is an incredible place to explore, and contains some of the finest outdoor wilderness on the planet!

El Salvador



OVERLANDING IN CENTRAL AMERICA'S STUNNING EL SALVADOR

El Salvador (meaning "The Saviour" in Spanish) is one of the smallest but most friendly and exciting countries in Central America - perfect for an overland adventure.

El Salvador has some stunning scenery, from the relaxed Pacific coastlines of Los Cobanos to the coffee-growing cool hills in the interior. The [Cerro Verde National Park](#) contains some of the most breathtaking volcanic scenery on the continent, and provides excellent opportunities for trekking.

With some of the most beautiful areas in the whole of Central America, El Salvador is one of the most captivating places to visit.

natural scenery, including incredible coastlines, forests, lakes and volcanoes. One of the most breathtaking sights is the active volcano of Arenal, which looms over the town of La Fortuna! Costa Rica is also home to some of the best outdoor activities in the world, with a plethora of opportunities for rafting, trekking, canyoning and horse riding throughout the country.

Costa Rica has gained a wonderful reputation for tourism in recent decades, and this reputation is certainly deserved!

Guatemala



VOLCANOES, LAKES & MAYAN RUINS

With breathtaking mountains, volcanoes and the amazing Lake Atitlan setting the landscape, Guatemala is a perfect place to get out and explore some stunning natural scenery.

The country is bursting with vibrant culture, and nowhere is this more perfectly illustrated than in the old colonial capital of [Antigua](#), not far from the modern capital of Guatemala City. A small cobblestoned city that is overflowing with historical buildings and colonial heritage, it is a stunning place to explore, full of music, galleries and restaurants, and is an excellent base to trek up some of the surrounding volcanoes.

EXPLORE LAKE ATITLAN

Lake Atitlan is one of Central America's most picturesque spots - surrounded by towering volcanoes and dotted with tiny traditional village along its coast, it is a wonderful place to take a boat trip and explore. Not far is the village of

Honduras



ONE OF CENTRAL AMERICA'S HIGHLIGHTS

Honduras is an often-overlooked country in Central America, but has some of the continent's most fantastic highlights. One of these highlights is the amazing coastline spanning hundreds of kilometres along the Pacific - with some of the whitest beaches and clearest ocean in Central America, the Bay Islands is the perfect place for snorkelling, scuba diving and relaxing on the idyllic shores. The Mesoamerican Barrier Reef is the second longest in the world, and submerged below the clear waters lie unspoilt coral and an array of colourful underwater life.

ADVENTURE TO THE MAYAN CITY OF COPÁN

Another fantastic highlight is the ruined [Mayan city of Copán](#), which was a major centre of the Classic Era between the 5th-9th Centuries CE. The site features many remarkably-preserved buildings and temples, and is especially famous

Chichastenango, with its famous, colourful and evocative local markets.

Guatemala's most famous draw is the truly incredible [ruined city of Tikal](#). The site was a major settlement of the Mayan civilisation between the 5th-9th Centuries CE, and contains some of the finest ancient ruins in the world! There are several colossal and well-preserved pyramids and temples all majestically located within the dense rainforest - it's a magical place to explore and is full of fascinating history.

A favourite of many who travel through Central America, Guatemala is a beautiful and fascinating country with an incredible density of highlights!

Mexico



DISCOVER MEXICO OVERLAND

Mexico is a country full of culture, history, and spectacular landscapes. Home to the Mayan and Aztec Empires, the architecture and legacy left behind is nothing short of magical - amongst the incredible ruins are the massive pyramids of Teotihuacan, the overgrown cities of Monte Alban and Palenque, and of course the phenomenal [Chichen Itza](#), one of the New Seven Wonders of the World.

However, although Mexico's ruins and history are a major draw, there is much more to the country. Mexico has a vibrant culture, from its famous mariachi bands, the stunning artwork of Diego Garcia and Frida Kahlo, and the unique customs and way of life of the Tzut'zil Mayan people in San Cristóbal de las Casas.

for its sculpted monuments and stelae. Away from the coastline are the fantastic mountains that soar above the country.

There is some amazing scenery in Honduras which we have the privilege to overland through, making it a marvellous inclusion in our Central American trips.

Nicaragua



NICARAGUA TOURS

The rugged beauty of Nicaragua makes it one of the most interesting places in Central America to visit.

The landscape is lined with stunning volcanoes which you can climb and explore, such as the scenic crater of Masaya and the challenging trek up Volcán Concepción on Ometepe Island. The country is full of many other outdoor activities, such as mountain biking, sandboarding, horse riding and discovering the beautiful beaches of the Pacific coast.

EXPLORE NICARAGUA'S COLONIAL HISTORY

You can also explore the incredible colonial towns of Granada and León, and their churches, cathedrals and many art galleries. Some of the continent's most ornate and beautiful colonial legacy can be found in these two atmospheric

MMMM MEXICAN FOOD...

The food of Mexico is iconic all over the world, and you'll be able to sample burritos and chili con carne alongside more unusual dishes such as mole sauce made from cocoa beans, and of course Oaxaca's favourite snack of fried grasshoppers! Mexico is also famous for tequila, made from the blue agave plants that are ubiquitous in the central regions.

If that wasn't enough, Mexico is one of the most stunning countries in the world, with the cactus-filled deserts of the north, the colossal Sumidero Canyon, the jungles of Palenque and Yaxchilan, and the pristine idyllic beaches of Tulum. Mexico is high on the list of many travellers' favourites list, and has many wonderful and varied highlights to explore!

Panama



PANAMA TOURS

Panama is the southernmost country of Central America, where the continent narrows to its tiny join with [Colombia](#) and [South America](#). This piece of geography made Panama the perfect location for the world-famous and controversial Panama Canal, which was completed in 1914 and has a massive impact on world trade and history.

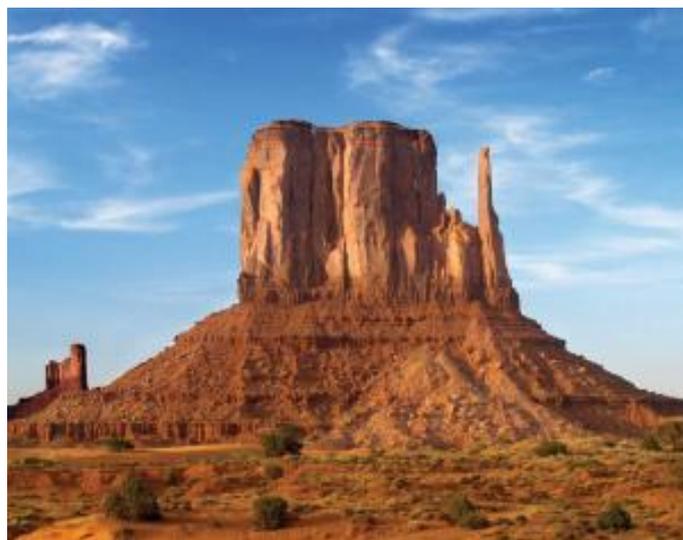
EXPLORE PANAMA CITY & ITS SURROUNDINGS

The capital of Panama City is a bustling metropolis full of culture and with a buzzing nightlife. It contains several fantastic museums and an atmospheric old town as well as the modern

towns, and they are wonderful places to spend some time.

Nicaragua is the forgotten treasure of Central America and is a perfect place to explore.

USA



THERE'S NO BETTER WAY TO SEE THE STATES THAN OVERLAND

Adventure travel in the USA is much, much more than the usual Grand Canyon, Rockies and Yellowstone tick-list. With Dragoman you'll get to see all these incredible places, but we also get off the beaten track, overnighting in an Alaskan wilderness camp, exploring the absolutely stunning Glacier National Park and spending time with the Navajo people in [Monument Valley](#) Tribal Park.

Undoubtedly the most unique element of this trip is our means of travel - Dragoman uses a specially-converted traditional [American school](#)

business centre and marina. The county also has some amazing mountainous and coastline scenery, a myriad of exhilarating outdoor activities, incredible wildlife and wonderful coffee plantations.

Panama is an excellent place to start or end your Central American adventure with Dragoman!

[bus](#) to travel through Central and North America.

TREKKING, WILDLIFE & WILD LANDSCAPES

On our trips in the USA you can go trekking through the spectacular rock formations of Zion National Park, gamble and take in a show in [Las Vegas](#), search for wild bison on Antelope Island near Salt Lake City and wild grizzly bears near Stewart, and explore the rugged coastlines and glaciers of Alaska's Kenai Fjords National Park.

The USA is a wonderful place for the outdoor explorer to travel to, and is absolutely packed with surprises and highlights.

[Back to top ^](#)

DAILY ITINERARY

Day 1: Anchorage (Wed 22 Jul)

Border information: If you are joining in Anchorage, you will most likely enter the USA at Anchorage Ted Stevens International Airport (IATA code: ANC).

There will be an important group meeting at 18:00 at the joining hotel - please look out at the hotel reception for a note from your leader with more details about this important meeting.

The rest of the day is free to explore Anchorage and its stunning surroundings. Please note that many of the options listed below will only be possible for those with extra time in Anchorage before the start of your trip with us - please contact the Sales team if you would like to book pre-tour accommodation with us to have extra time exploring Anchorage.

In Anchorage we will stay in private rooms in a centrally-located hostel.

Hotel for the night: Aviator Hotel

Aviator Hotel
239 W 4th Avenue
Anchorage
AK 99501
USA
(907) 793-5555

Activity

Approximate Cost

Visit some of Anchorage's fantastic museums, such as the Alaskan Native Heritage Centre which showcases the area's indigenous cultures, the world-class Anchorage Museum, and the fascinating Aviation Heritage Museum	USD 15
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Explore some of Anchorage's famous	Free
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parks, which are full of scenery and walking opportunities

About Anchorage:

Anchorage is Alaska's largest city, set on the shores of the Cook Inlet at the base of the Chugach Mountains. Due to its location on the globe, the airport is a major transport hub and therefore the ideal point to begin or end your exploration of Alaska, and its wonderful glaciers and lakes.

Anchorage was founded in 1914 as a frontier railway town, and steadily grew through the 20th Century as a military and aviation hub and benefitting from the discovery of oil in 1968. After undergoing a massive project to beautify the city in the 1980s, the city is very pleasant to explore and contains many fantastic parks. There are also several interesting museums to discover, reflecting the city's heritage.

Day 2 to 3: Seward, Kenai Fjords National Park

(Thu 23 Jul to Fri 24 Jul)

Today our journey begins with a short drive to the town of Seward.

Estimated Drive Time - 3-4 hours (please note that all drive times given here are the approximate number of hours that the truck will be in motion only, and does not include any time taken for coffee or lunch stops, border crossings, photo stops, activities en route, comfort breaks, shopping stops, toilet stops, etc. The times given are approximate estimates only and whilst given with the best of intentions, the drive times are heavily dependent on traffic, road conditions, weather, police roadblocks, and many other factors - flexibility is essential on any overland trip!).

On the following day you will have free time to explore Seward and take part in optional activities such as a boat trip to the nearby Kenai Fjords National Park.

In Seward we will camp near the shore.

Activity	Approximate Cost
Head on a 6-hour boat trip in the Kenai Fjords National Park, viewing the abundant wildlife, alpine and tidewater glaciers, rugged fjords and breathtaking scenery	USD 154
Trek along one of the challenging alpine trails in the mountains surrounding Seward	Free
Visit the massive Exit Glacier in the Kenai Fjords National Park, one of the largest and most accessible glaciers in Alaska	Free



Kayak out along the rugged Alaskan coastline near Seward

USD 68

About Seward:

Seward is a small fishing town on Alaska's Resurrection Bay, and our base from which to visit Kenai Fjords National Park. The quaint town was named after William Seward, the US Secretary of State under Andrew Johnson who was instrumental in arranging the purchase of Alaska from Russia in 1867. Seward is the start of the historic Iditarod Trail, a 1,600km route pioneered in the early 20th Century to transport people and goods between the port and the interior of Alaska.

About Kenai Fjords National Park:

Kenai Fjords National Park was established in 1980 and covers an area of approximately 4,600 sq km on the Kenai Peninsula near to the town of Seward. The park is named for the numerous fjords carved by glaciers moving down the mountains from the Harding Icefield, which is one of the largest icefields in North America. This field is the source of at least 38 glaciers, including the Bear Glacier and the very accessible Exit Glacier.

Taking a boat out into the fjords is definitely the best way to see the area and observe the rugged fjords and glaciers, and the area provides some great kayaking and mountain biking opportunities.

Day 4 to 6: Denali National Park (Sat 25 Jul to Mon 27 Jul)

Today we will drive to Denali National Park, the home of Denali, the highest mountain in North America.

Estimated Drive Time - 7-8 hours.

On the following day we will have an included trip into Denali National Park. We will take a shuttle bus through the park to the Eielson Visitor Centre, where we will be able to explore and enjoy some excellent hiking and wildlife viewing opportunities.

On the following day we will have a free day to further explore the National Park or take part in some of the many optional activities available here.

In Denali National Park we will camp in a well-equipped campsite.

Activity

Approximate Cost

Explore Denali National Park by taking a shuttle bus to the Toklat River, an area with excellent hiking and wildlife viewing opportunities

Included in Kitty

Head on an excellent white-water rafting trip on the Nenana River in Denali National Park

USD 100



Head on a 2-hour scenic flight around the glaciers and mountains of Denali National Park, including unparalleled views of Denali, North America's highest mountain USD 500

Head out for a fun quad-biking trip through Denali National Park USD 115

Take a mountain biking tour around the trails and old mining roads of Denali National Park, getting wonderful views of the Alaskan wilderness USD 57

About Denali National Park:

Denali National Park is dominated by the colossal mountain of Denali (also known as Mt. McKinley), which at 6,190m altitude is North America's highest peak - it is also the world's most topographically prominent mountain (i.e. it has the largest height difference between the surrounding base and the summit), and is the 3rd most isolated peak after Everest and Aconcagua. One of mountaineering's biggest challenges, climbing to the summit will be beyond our trip's ambitions, however we will get to spend lots of time exploring the incredibly scenic National Park that surrounds the mountain!

The National Park is teeming with wildlife such as moose, caribou, brown and black bears, and over 150 species of birds that flock here during the summer months. There is a beautiful mix of tundra and deciduous taiga forest to explore, with a particular highlight being the area of the Toklat River. The park also offers some incredible activities, from white water rafting to quad biking to scenic flights around the mountain!

Day 7 to 8: Denali Highway (Tue 28 Jul to Wed 29 Jul)

Today we have a short and scenic drive to our lodge along the Denali Highway, located in an area popular with wildlife spotters and fishermen.

Tonight we will camp in the grounds of an Alaskan lodge.

Estimated Drive Time - 3-4 hours.

On the following day we will head out along the river to an area deep in the Alaskan wilderness, where we will be able to head out on a trek to a nearby glacier, explore the surrounding wilderness, and then wild camp for the night.

Activity

Approximate Cost

Head deep into the Alaskan wilderness by motorised canoe for an incredible

Included in Kitty



remote overnight bushcamp

Day 9 to 10: McCarthy, Wrangell-St Elias National Park (Thu 30 Jul to Fri 31 Jul)

Today we will head back downstream from our wilderness camp to rejoin our bus. We will then drive to the historic remote outpost of McCarthy, once a thriving copper mining town and the gateway town to the stunning Wrangell-St Elias National Park.

Estimated Drive Time - 7-8 hours.

On the following day we will have free time to explore Wrangell-St Elias National Park and the historic towns of McCarthy and Kennicott. We will have the chance to take part in an abundance of optional activities such as hiking, historic mine tours, scenic flights, glacier walks and ice climbing.

In McCarthy we will camp in a very basic campsite.

Activity	Approximate Cost
Explore the stunning mountains of Wrangell-St. Elias National Park on various trekking routes	USD 80
Take a breathtaking scenic flight around Wrangell-St Elias National Park, its mountains, glaciers and icefalls	USD 120
Head out onto the Root Glacier for a day of ice-trekking and ice-climbing	USD 125
Take a guided tour of the historic mill town of Kennicott, frozen in time from when it was abandoned in 1938	USD 30
Take a kayaking trip to the base of Kennicott Glacier, taking in the spectacular views of Mt. Blackburn and the Stairway Icefall	USD 95

About McCarthy:

The historic small village of McCarthy is nestled at the base of the Wrangell Mountains and is the gateway to the spectacular Wrangell-St. Elias National Park. It was founded in the 1900s after copper was discovered in the valley - the Kennicott mining company built the nearby town of Kennicott to house the miners, and McCarthy prospered partly due to the fact that (unlike Kennicott) alcohol was legally sold

there! Within the next few years, McCarthy was a prosperous town with a school and a hospital.

After the area's copper reserves were almost used up by 1938, the town became almost abandoned - in recent decades however, the town has seen a resurgence of interest from visitors to the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park. The town has maintained its old frontier charm, and many of the old buildings, mines and artifacts have attracted tourists interested in the history and atmosphere of the area.

About Wrangell-St Elias National Park:

The incredible Wrangell-St. Elias National Park is the largest national park in the United States, some six times the size of Yellowstone. It encompasses both the Wrangell and St. Elias mountain ranges, and contains 9 of the 16 highest peaks in the United States, including Mt. Blackburn and Mt. St. Elias (which at 5,487m is the second-highest peak in both the USA and Canada).

The area contains some of the most impressive mountain and glacier scenery in Alaska - the high ground is covered with snow throughout the year round, resulting in extensive icefields and glaciers. Numerous sheep and mountain goats patrol the craggy peaks, whilst the park is also home to caribou, moose and brown and black bears.

The park is naturally the base for some excellent outdoor exploration and activities, including trekking through the hills and mountains, ice-climbing on the mighty Root Glacier, and kayaking up to some breathtaking views of the Stairway Icefall. Within the park you can also explore the historic old mining towns of Kennicott and McCarthy, which retain many of their old buildings and all of their old pioneering atmosphere.

Day 11: Tok (Sat 01 Aug)

Today we will have a scenic drive day towards the Canadian border, arriving at the small town of Tok.

In Tok we will stay in a well-equipped campsite.

Estimated Drive Time - 7-8 hours.

Day 12 to 13: Dawson (Sun 02 Aug to Mon 03 Aug)

Border information: Exit the USA at Pokar Creek, enter Canada at Little Gold Creek.

Today we will travel along the spectacular 'Top of the World Highway' to cross into Canada at North America's northernmost border. We will drive into the famous Klondike area of Canada's Yukon province and the city of Dawson, once a hive of activity for gold prospectors.

Estimated Drive Time - 7-8 hours.

On the following day we will have free time to explore the area and take part in optional activities such as taking a tour of the old gold mines, trekking up the nearby Midnight Dome, or taking in a can-can

show at the Diamond Tooth Gertie's Gambling Hall!

In Dawson we will camp in a well-equipped campsite just across the Yukon River from the town.

Activity	Approximate Cost
Enjoy a Klondike-themed cabaret show at Diamond Tooth Gertie's Gambling Hall in Dawson City	CAD 12
Trek up the Midnight Dome near Dawson for fantastic views of the Yukon River and Klondike Valley	Free
Learn all about the fascinating history of the Klondike Gold Rush on a guided tour of some the area's old gold fields	CAD 55

About Dawson:

Dawson City is a small town in the Yukon province that was the centre of the famous Klondike Gold Rush between 1896 and 1899. After word spread to San Francisco that gold had been discovered in the Klondike region, a massive migration of around 100,000 gold prospectors flooded to the area to seek their fortune. Dawson City was founded by the prospectors as their main settlement, reaching a population of 40,000 at its peak before most of the inhabitants were drawn away by reports of more gold found in Alaska in 1899.

Despite the drop in population Dawson was the capital of the Yukon province until shortly after the Second World War, when the completion of the Alaska Highway brought about a significant fall in Dawson's economy and the highway's hub at Whitehorse was deemed a more suitable location for the capital.

The town of Dawson today has many visual reminders of its gold-mining past, and it's easy to imagine its original pioneering spirit of the place with its old boardwalks and wooden buildings. No visit to Dawson would be complete without a visit to the incredible Dredge No. 4, an old behemoth of a machine that used to slowly move and mine the gold from the ground. In the tourist season a very popular stop is Diamond Tooth Gertie's, a traditional beer hall with fantastic vaudeville shows on in the evening!

Day 14: Dawson, Whitehorse (Tue 04 Aug)

Today we will drive to Whitehorse, the capital of the Yukon territory. En route we will stop for a tour of one of the incredible original mobile mining rigs near Dawson, Dredge No. 4.

In Whitehorse we will camp at a well-equipped campsite.

Estimated Drive Time - 7-8 hours.

Activity	Approximate Cost
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Visit the famous Dredge No. 4, a massive mobile gold-mining rig built in 1912 Included in Kitty

Day 15: Boya Lake (Wed 05 Aug)

Today we will drive into the province of British Columbia. We will have an included visit to the fascinating Sign Post Forest, and in the evening we have the chance to go on an optional visit to see the show at the fantastic Northern Lights Centre.

In Watson Lake we will camp at a well-equipped campsite.

Estimate Drive Time - 4-5 hours.

Activity

Approximate Cost

Visit the famous Signpost Forest near Watson Lake, and perhaps make your own sign to add to the collection! Included in Kitty

Day 16 to 17: Stewart, Hyder (Thu 06 Aug to Fri 07 Aug)

Today we will drive south through the beautiful countryside of British Columbia to the town of Stewart.

Estimated Drive Time - 8-9 hours.

On the following day we will have an included day trip over the border to Alaska and the 'ghost town' of Hyder. Here we will visit the Fish Creek Observation Site where we will hopefully spot Alaskan brown grizzlies or black bears fishing for salmon. We will also visit the huge Salmon Glacier before returning to Stewart for the night.

In Stewart we will camp at a well-equipped campsite.

Activity

Approximate Cost

Visit Fish Creek for a chance to see Alaskan Grizzly Bears fishing for salmon
(the season is usually from mid-July to early September, but please note that the dates vary every year and sightings can never be guaranteed) Included in Kitty

View the colossal Salmon Glacier from Hyder, at the southern tip of Alaska Included in Kitty

About Hyder:

Hyder is a tiny village in the southernmost area of Alaska, just opposite the Canadian town of Stewart on the other side of the Portland Canal. This tiny settlement is famous for an excellent viewing spot over the Fish Creek River, which provides some outstanding bear watching

opportunities - both grizzly bear and the black bear are commonly seen here hunting for salmon, especially during the spawning months of July to September.

Hyder is also famous as being the gateway to viewpoints of the Salmon Glacier, a mighty 25km-long natural landmark and one of the most impressive glaciers in the area.

Day 18: Hazelton, Burns Lake (Sat 08 Aug)

Today we will drive to the town of Hazelton and have an included tour of the historical Ksan Indian Village to learn all about the life and history of the Gitksan people. After our visit we will continue our drive towards the Rocky Mountains and stay at the area of Burns Lake.

We will camp at a well-equipped campsite near Burns Lake

Estimated Drive Time - 7-8 hours.

Activity

Approximate Cost

Visit the Ksan Indian Historical Village in British Columbia to learn all about the history and culture of the Gitksan people

Included in Kitty

About Hazelton:

The town of Hazelton is one of the oldest settlements in northern British Columbia, built as the gateway for the Omineca Gold Rush in 1866. The town is located in a region known as Skeena Country, which has been the home of the native Gitksan people for at least 10,000 years and today is the site of the Gitksan First Nation.

The Gitksan people are a matrilineal society with many different clans, each with their own chiefs and territories. There are approximately 5,000 Gitksan people living in the Skeena area on their traditional lands. Near Hazelton town there is a historical Gitksan village known as Ksan, which is open to visitors to learn all about the history and culture of the Gitksan community.

Day 19 to 20: Jasper (Sun 09 Aug to Mon 10 Aug)

Today we will continue our drive into the Canadian Rockies and to the town of Jasper.

Estimated Drive Time - 9-10 hours.

On the following day we will have a free day to explore the stunning Jasper National Park or take part in optional activities such as hiking, rafting, biking, or taking the Skytram up the near Whistlers' Mountain.

In Jasper we will camp at a well-equipped campsite.

Activity

Approximate Cost

Take the fantastic Skytram up Whistler's Mountain to take in the spectacular views over Jasper CAD 40

Hire mountain bikes to explore some of the awesome biking trails around Jasper CAD 32

Visit Maligne Canyon, one of the most spectacular gorges in the Canadian Rockies USD 5

Head out hiking in the forests and hills of the Canadian Rockies in Jasper National Park Free

Explore the wonderful scenery of Jasper on horseback CAD 80

About Jasper:

Jasper is the largest National Park in the Canadian Rockies, and features many towering mountains, beautiful waterfalls, hot springs, picturesque lakes, and mighty glaciers originating from the vast Columbia Ice Field.

The town of Jasper was founded in 1813 by fur traders on the confluence of the Miette and Athabasca Rivers. Its stunning natural environs led to the wider area to be established as a National Park in 1907 and a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1984. As well as the incredible scenery, the park boasts large populations of elk, caribou, moose, deer, coyotes, beavers and bears, as well many species of birds.

One of Jasper's most spectacular highlights is the huge 6km-long Athabasca Glacier, a major outflow from the Columbia Icefield located just off the Icefields Parkway (the main road between Jasper and Banff). Another fantastic attraction is the supremely picturesque Lake Louise, which is a perfect stop for some short scenic walks and boat trips. Nearby are the famous Athabasca Falls - despite only being 23m tall, the waterfalls are spectacular due to their sheer force and the volume of water crashing down.

Jasper is a centre for many excellent outdoor activities such as trekking, mountain biking and horse riding through the amazing valley landscapes. Another wonderful trip is to take the Skytram up the nearby Whistler's Mountain for breathtaking views of the area, finishing off with a dip in the outdoor Miette volcanic hot springs!

Day 21: Jasper, Banff (Tue 11 Aug)

Today we have a scenic drive along the Icefields Parkway to the town of Banff, travelling through both Jasper and Banff National Parks. En route

we will have an included visit to the Athabasca Falls and Lake Louise.

In Banff we will stay in dormitory rooms in a centrally-located hostel.

Estimated Drive Time - 8-9 hours.

Please note: At certain times of the year and the volume of tourism, we may opt to camp in Banff at a well equipped camp site

Activity	Approximate Cost
Visit the scenic and colourful Lake Louise near Banff	Included in Kitty
Drive past the mighty Athabasca Glacier, part of the vast Columbia Ice Field between Jasper and Banff	Free
Visit the Athabasca Falls near Jasper, among the most powerful and breathtaking falls in the Rocky Mountains	Included in Kitty

About Banff:

Banff, in the heart of the Canadian Rockies in the province of Alberta, is one of Canada's most popular tourist destinations. It is renowned for its impressive mountainous surroundings, hot springs, and incredible array of outdoor activities that are available year-round.

Banff was first populated after the construction of the transcontinental railway through the Bow Valley in the 1880s - some of the railway workers discovered natural hot springs on the side of Sulphur Mountain, and the area was rapidly developed as a resort and spa. Many grand hotels were built and the town grew up around the railway station to cater for the influx of visitors that flocked to Banff - the town grew and grew in popularity, and is today one of Canada's most visited towns and a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Banff is surrounded by the beautiful mountains of Rundle, Cascade, Norquay, and most notably Sulphur, up which the Banff Gondola and Skywalk offer visitors phenomenal views of the countryside and valleys surrounding the town. Sulphur Mountain is also the site of the famous Upper Hot Springs, a set of naturally-occurring outdoor hot springs with fantastic mountain views. There are also many trekking trails and some amazing white water rafting opportunities around Banff, and the area is also famous for its excellent mountain biking trails.

Day 22 to 23: Banff (Wed 12 Aug to Thu 13 Aug)

We will have two full days to explore the town of Banff, the spectacular National Park, and take part in the myriad of optional activities available here.

Activity	Approximate Cost
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Explore the wonderfully-scenic Banff National Park and see its famous lakes and walking trails	Included in Kitty
Take the gondola up to the fantastic viewpoint on Sulphur Mountain that looks out over Banff	CAD 40
Relax in the sulphuric hot springs near Banff	CAD 8
Head out on a horse riding trip through the mountains and forests near Banff	CAD 100
Hire mountain bikes in Banff to explore some of the area's numerous biking trails	CAD 20
Head out on an incredible white water rafting experience on the Kananashin or Kicking Horse River near Banff	CAD 100

Day 24: Banff (Fri 14 Aug)

Border information: If joining in Banff, you will most likely enter Canada at Calgary International Airport (IATA code: YYC).

There will be an important group meeting at 18:00 at the joining hotel - please look out at the hotel reception for a note from your leader with more details about this important meeting.

The rest of the day is free to explore Banff and its stunning surroundings. Please note that many of the options listed below will only be possible for those with extra time in Banff before the start of your trip with us - please contact the Sales team if you would like to book pre-tour accommodation with us to have extra time exploring Banff.

In Banff we will stay in dormitory rooms in a centrally-located hostel.

Hotel for the night: YWCA Banff Hotel

YWCA Banff Hotel

102 Spray Avenue

Banff

Alberta

Canada

Tel - +1 403 762 3560

Activity	Approximate Cost
Head out on a horse riding trip through the	CAD 100

mountains and forests near Banff

Take the gondola up to the fantastic viewpoint on Sulphur Mountain that looks out over Banff CAD 40

Explore the wonderfully-scenic Banff National Park and see its famous lakes and walking trails CAD 10

Relax in the sulphuric hot springs near Banff CAD 8

Head out on an incredible white water rafting experience on the Kananashin or Kicking Horse River near Banff CAD 100

Visit the Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump, used for around 5,500 years by the indigenous peoples of the plains to kill buffalo by driving them off the 11m-high cliff Free

Day 25 to 26: Glacier National Park (Sat 15 Aug to Sun 16 Aug)

Border information: Exit Canada at Chief Mountain, enter USA at Chief Mountain.

Today we will have a full day drive over the US border into the state of Montana and arrive at the eastern side of Glacier National Park, stopping en route at the fascinating Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump, a cliff that aboriginal people used for hunting for almost 6000 years.

Estimated Drive Time - 8-9 hours (please note that all drive times given here are the approximate number of hours that the truck will be in motion only, and does not include any time taken for coffee or lunch stops, border crossings, photo stops, activities en route, comfort breaks, shopping stops, toilet stops, etc. The times given are approximate estimates only and whilst given with the best of intentions, the drive times are heavily dependent on traffic, road conditions, weather, police roadblocks, and many other factors - flexibility is essential on any overland trip!).

On Day 3 we will free time to fully explore the pristine ecosystem of Glacier National Park and take some optional treks or scenic drives up the Going-to-the-Sun Road to Logan Pass and other scenic points.

In Glacier National Park we will camp in a campsite near the spectacular St. Mary's Lake.

Activity

Approximate Cost

Visit the Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump, used for around 5,500 years by the indigenous peoples of the plains to kill buffalo by driving them off the 11m-high cliff

Included in Kitty

Explore the spectacular lakes and mountains of Glacier National Park in the state of Montana

Included in Kitty

About Glacier National Park:

Glacier National Park is a large protected area in northern Montana on the border with Canada and contains countless pristine lakes and two mountain ranges (both sub-ranges of the Rockies) within its vast area, as well as areas of tundra and praries.

The park contains thousands of types of plants and hundreds of animals, including almost all its original native species - the flora in the ecosystem here is dominated by coniferous forests, including spruce, fir, pine and larch. Some of the large mammals that can be seen in the park include grizzly bears, moose, marmots, lynxes and mountain goats.

Glacier offers some wonderful trekking opportunities through its the forests, mountains and lakes. There are some incredible scenic drives through the park, especially over the Going-to-the-Sun Road that heads over the Logan Pass and crosses the Continental Divide.

Day 27 to 29: Yellowstone National Park, Grand Teton National Park (Mon 17 Aug to Wed 19 Aug)

Today we have a full day drive south into the state of Wyoming and to the famous Yellowstone National Park, home to magnificent landscapes, fantastic treks, and the incredible Old Faithful geyser.

On our first night we will stay at a Campsite on the northern edge of the park with good facilities.

Estimated Drive Time - 9-11 hours.

On Day 5 we will pack up our camp and explore Yellowstone National Park as we make our way to our camp on the southern edge of the park, where we will base ourselves for the next 2 nights.

From here we have a free day on Day 6 to fully explore Yellowstone and Grand Teton National park and take part in optional treks and other activities.

In Yellowstone National Park we will camp at a campsite in the Madison area of the park.

Activity

Approximate Cost

Drive through the stunning Grand Teton National Park in Wyoming, stopping at the picturesque Jenny Lake	Free
Explore the highlights of the famous Yellowstone National Park, including its hiking trails and the iconic geyser of Old Faithful	Included in Kitty
Take a short trek or boat ride at Jenny Lake in the heary of Grand Teton National Park	USD 15

About Yellowstone National Park:

Yellowstone National Park, located in the northwestern corner of Wyoming, was the world's first ever National Park when it was established in 1872.

The park is most famous as being the home of Old Faithful, the huge volcanic geyser that spurts thousands of litres of boiling water up to 56m in the air at semi-regular intervals of around 90 minutes throughout the day - this spectacular natural display is one of the most predictable geothermal events on the planet. As well as Old Faithful, Yellowstone contains an astonishing half of the world's geothermal features, and the highest density of geysers, hot springs, fumeroles and mud pots to be found anywhere - this is because the entire area sits atop the Yellowstone Caldera, the world's largest supervolcano which has erupted with ferocious force three times in the last two million years.

The Yellowstone region is also the largest nearly-intact ecosystem in the Earth's northern temperate zone, contains vast areas of subalpine forests and grasslands, and is home to hundreds of species of mammals, birds, fish and reptiles. As we explore the park there is an excellent chance to see moose, bison, elk and grizzly bears!

One of the most popular National Parks in the USA, Yellowstone has attracted at least two million visitors every year since the 1960s. Amongst the many activities available here are scenic drives through the mountains to the incredible geysers and waterfalls, and to explore the many trekking trails that weave through the spectacular forests.

About Grand Teton National Park:

Grand Teton National Park is just south of the world-famous Yellowstone National Park, and is named after the highest mountain in the range - the Grand Teton, which is 4,199m high and looms over the town of Jackson Hole. The first permanent settlers began arriving in the area in the late 1880s and soon after efforts began to preserve the surrounding area, leading to the establishment of Grand Teton National Park in 1929 to protect the major peaks of the Teton mountain range.

A particularly picturesque spot within the park is Jenny Lake, formed around 12,000 years ago by glacier movement. It is a fantastic spot for some scenic boat rides and short treks on our journey through the

beautiful park.

Day 30 to 31: Jackson Hole (Thu 20 Aug to Fri 21 Aug)

Today we will drive south through the stunning Grand Teton National Park and take a stop at the spectacular Jenny Lake, where we'll have some free time to explore the lake and possibly take a short boat trip. We will then continue to the beautiful town of Jackson Hole.

In Jackson Hole we will stay in quad rooms in a comfortable hostel, the following day we have a free day for activities and to explore the area.

Estimated Drive Time - 7-9 hours.

Activity	Approximate Cost
White water rafting near Jackson	USD 70
Drive through the stunning Grand Teton National Park in Wyoming, stopping at the picturesque Jenny Lake	Included in Kitty
Take a short trek or boat ride at Jenny Lake in the heary of Grand Teton National Park	USD 15

About Jackson Hole:

Wedge between the mountain ranges of Gros Ventre and Grand Teton in western Wyoming is the picturesque valley of Jackson Hole. The area was named after Davey Jackson, an early trapper who was the first person to spend an entire winter in the valley in the 1820s - the steep sides on all sides of the valley led early explorers to refer to the area as a 'hole'. The valley is a very scenic place for a nightstop, containing some beautiful rivers and surrounded by mountains!

Day 32: Salt Lake City (Sat 22 Aug)

Today we will drive to Utah's state capital of Salt Lake City, where we will have time for quick free exploration of the city centre and its famous Temple Square. We will then head to the nearby Antelope Island State Park, known for its abundant population of American bison and pronghorns.

In Antelope Island we will camp at a basic campsite with few facilities.

Estimated Drive Time - 5-6 hours.

Activity	Approximate Cost
Explore the rugged Antelope Island State Park and go in search of American Bison and Longhorns	Included in Kitty

About Salt Lake City:

Salt Lake City is the most populous city in Utah and the state capital. The city is probably most famous as the home and spiritual centre of Mormonism - the city was founded by the Mormon pioneer Brigham Young in 1847 as a place to settle and practice their faith away from the violence and persecution they faced within the boundaries of the original United States. The city is still the church's headquarters and the location of Temple Square, although only around half of Salt Lake City's population now identify as members of the religion.

Salt Lake City is a wonderful skiing destination in the winter, and even hosted the 2002 Winter Olympics. In the summer one of the main draws is the fabulous Antelope Island State Park, located on the Great Salt Lake just to the west of the city. The island boasts a desolate beauty and an incredible abundance of wildlife, including large populations of bighorn sheep, pronghorn, jackrabbits, and most famously its vast herds of American bison.

Day 33 to 34: Canyonlands National Park, Moab

(Sun 23 Aug to Mon 24 Aug)

Today we will have a full day drive to the town of Moab, perfectly located next to the rugged wildernesses of Arches and Canyonlands National Parks.

Estimated Drive Time - 6-7 hours.

We will spend the next day exploring and trekking in Canyonlands National Park, and taking part in some optional activities in and around Moab.

In Moab we will camp in a well equipped campsite.

Activity	Approximate Cost
Hire mountain bikes to explore the canyons around Moab	USD 40
Head on an amazing rafting trip to Fisher's Tower near Moab	USD 65
Visit the Moab Museum and the Museum of Western Film and Heritage	USD 5
Explore the phenomenal 'Islands in the Sky' region of Canyonlands National Park and walk on some of it's stunning trails	Included in Kitty
Explore the other-worldly landscapes of Arches National Park and see the iconic	Included in Kitty

Delicate Arch at sunset

About Canyonlands National Park:

Canyonlands National Park, near the town of Moab in eastern Utah, consists of countless colourful canyons, buttes, mesas and plateaus carved by two mighty rivers - the Colorado and the Green.

The park offers some of the most scenic rafting in the world, as well as many wonderful trekking and mountain biking routes. With its wonderfully coloured rocks and canyons and its primitive desert atmosphere, the area is a photographer's dream !

Day 35: Monument Valley (Tue 25 Aug)

Today we will drive to the incredible Monument Valley, the iconic landscape symbolic of the American West. On arrival we will head out on an included jeep tour of the Monument Valley Tribal Park, seeing the stunning rock formations up close and learning about the local Navajo culture.

In Monument Valley we will spend the night in a traditional Navajo 'Hogan' (an igloo-shaped dwelling of wood and earth where 6-8 people sleep together on the ground in a circle).

Estimated Drive Time - 8-9 hours.

Activity

Approximate Cost

Visit the ancient Navajo National Monument in Arizona

Free

Spend a night sleeping in a traditional Navajo hogan and take a jeep tour of the spectacular Monument Valley

Included in Kitty

About Monument Valley:

Monument Valley is one of the most famous and iconic sights of the American West - located on the Colorado Plateau at the Arizona-Utah border, the area has a unique and photogenic collection of sandstone buttes and spires with their distinctive vertical edges, vivid red colour and stratified bands in the rock.

Ever since the 1930s, the area has been used as a backdrop in many movies and other forms of media to depict a quintessential vision of the Wild West, including Easy Rider, Forrest Gump, and The Eiger Sanction.

The area is a protected Navajo Tribal Park, and is an excellent place to learn more about Navajo culture. The Navajo people were semi-nomadic from the 16th to 20th Centuries, travelling long distances to accommodate their livestock, gathering, and trading practices. A traditional dwelling is known as a 'hogan', consisting of a wood and mud constructed hut that always has its door to the east to welcome the

surise - more modern hogans can be made from modern construction techniques and many are maintained only for ceremonial purposes.

Day 36: Page (Wed 26 Aug)

Today we will continue our drive to the beautiful town of Page near the stunning Lake Powell.

In Page we will camp in a well-equipped campsite.

Estimated Drive Time - 5-6 hours.

Activity

Approximate Cost

Visit the iconic Antelope Canyon on a trip from the town of Page

Included in Kitty

About Page:

Page is a small town in northern Arizona, first constructed in 1957 to house the workers building the nearby Glen Canyon Dam. Page is near to the beautiful Lake Powell, a large reservoir on the Colorado River, and the iconic Antelope Canyon.

The Antelope Canyon is a phenomenal narrow slot canyon on Navajo land east of Page, and is one of the most photogenic locations in all of the USA! The canyon was formed by erosion of the sandstone by regular flash floods during the monsoon season - this erosion has, through the ages, made the canyon deeper and smoothed out its hard edges to form the flowing 'wave-effect' in the walls.

Day 37: Kodachrome Basin State Park (Thu 27 Aug)

Today we will drive to the wonderful Kodachrome Basin State Park, where we will have free time on arrival to explore the beautiful landscape.

In Kodachrome Basin State Park we will camp in a scenic campsite.

Estimated Drive Time - 7-8 hours.

About Kodachrome Basin State Park:

Kodachrome Basin is a State Park in southern Utah, famous for its colourful sandstone spires that have formed up to 52m tall. The name comes from a photographic expedition for the National Geographic magazine in 1948 - they named the area Kodakchrome after the brand of photographic film that they used, and this name stuck when they designated the area a State Park in 1962.

Day 38 to 39: Zion National Park, Bryce Canyon National Park (Fri 28 Aug to Sat 29 Aug)

Today we will drive to the incredible Bryce Canyon National Park, where we will have a few hours here to take some optional treks to its hoodoos (odd-shaped pillars of rock left standing from the forces of erosion). Following this, we will take a very scenic drive to the stunning Zion National Park.

In Zion National Park we will camp at a well-equipped campsite just outside the park.

On Day 16, we have a free day for exploring and activities in the Zion National Park.

Estimated Drive Time - 4-5 hours.

Activity

Approximate Cost

Visit the beautiful and scenic Bryce Canyon National Park and the nearby Kodachrome Basin State Park

Included in Kitty

Visit the spectacular canyons and rock formations of Zion National Park

Included in Kitty

Go on a horse riding trip through the magnificent Zion National Park

USD 90

Head out on some scenic trekking routes in Zion National Park

Free

About Zion National Park:

Zion National Park is a stunning area centred around the 24km-long, 800m-deep Zion Canyon in southern Utah - the park adopted the name that was given to the area by Mormon settlers that arrived in 1863. Located at the junction of the Mojave Desert, Colorado Plateau and Great Basin regions, the National Park contains a variety of ecosystems from deserts to woodlands to reddish sandstone mountains and natural rock arches - the park therefore houses an extraordinary amount of plant and animal diversity, including sacred datura, sagebrush, pine trees, mule deer, cougars and eagles.

The National Park is a spectacular natural wonderland, and has some incredible scenic drives and many trekking trails around the hills and canyons - the Angel's Landing route is one of the most popular trails, affording you breathtaking views of the Zion Canyon and the Virgin River.

About Bryce Canyon National Park:

Bryce Canyon is another awe-inspiring natural highlight of southern Utah - despite its name, it is not actually a canyon but a giant natural amphitheatre created by erosion along the eastern side of the Paunsaugunt Plateau. It has many distinctive tall rock spires called 'hoodoos' (also known as 'fairy chimneys'), formed by water erosion and frost weathering. The red, orange, and white colours of the rocks make for some awesome views from the rim.

The Bryce Canyon was named after Ebenezer Bryce, a Mormon settler who lived in the area in the 1870s. The region became a National Park in 1928, and due to its remoteness receives much fewer visitors than the nearby Zion National Park.

Day 40 to 41: Las Vegas (Sun 30 Aug to Mon 31 Aug)

This morning we will have free time to explore, trek or take scenic drives through the spectacular deserts and rock formations on Zion National Park. In the afternoon we will drive to the bustling and energetic city of Las Vegas.

Estimated Drive Time - 4-5 hours.

On the following day we will have free time to fully explore the fascinating city of Las Vegas and enjoy its world-famous all-night entertainment options, including its casinos and shows!

In Las Vegas we will stay in a local hotel.

Activity	Approximate Cost
Take a dazzling helicopter flight over Las Vegas at night	USD 124
Explore the incredible casinos and resorts of Las Vegas	Free
Visit the colossal Hoover Dam near Las Vegas, one of the most important architectural projects of the 1930s	USD 30
Visit some of the fascinating museums and exhibitions in Las Vegas, such as the Titanic Exhibit, Madame Tussauds, and the Mob Museum	USD 30
Head out on an exhilarating ATV quad biking tour of the deserts surrounding Las Vegas	USD 150
Kayak down the Colorado River to the scenic Black Canyon	USD 160
Go on a fantastic horse riding trip through the rock formations and deserts around Las Vegas	USD 130

About Las Vegas:

Las Vegas is a world-famous resort city in Nevada, internationally renowned for its casinos, shopping, dining, shows and nightlife! Billing itself as "The Entertainment Capital of the World", the city's dazzling neon lights, incredible atmosphere, wonderful casinos and shows, and incredible range of fantastic activities have made Las Vegas one of the most visited cities in the world.

The city was founded in the Mojave Desert in 1905, and rapidly grew in 1931 when Nevada legalised casino gambling and started construction on the nearby Hoover Dam - this brought many construction workers and visitors to the city, and by the mid-1940s Vegas was synonymous with lavish hotels, casinos and big name entertainment.

As well as the famous casinos and nightlife, the city boasts some fantastic museums and there are some incredible activities out in the surrounding deserts such as quad biking, horse riding, or kayaking to the iconic Hoover Dam.

Day 42 to 43: The Grand Canyon (Tue 01 Sep to Wed 02 Sep)

Today we will continue south into the state of Arizona and to one of the most spectacular highlights of the USA - the world-famous Grand Canyon. On arrival we will head up to one of the stunning viewpoints over the Grand Canyon for sunset.

Estimated Drive Time - 7-8 hours.

On the following day we will have free time to explore the Grand Canyon area and take optional treks and scenic helicopter flights over the canyon. The entrance to the Grand Canyon is included on the trip, but as there are many options once inside the National Park the day will be free to explore in your own way.

At the Grand Canyon we will camp at a well-equipped campsite in the Grand Canyon Village.

Activity	Approximate Cost
Visit some of the spectacular viewpoints over the world-famous Grand Canyon and the Colorado river	Included in Kitty
Head out on one of the incredible trekking trails around the Grand Canyon	Free
Take an unforgettable scenic helicopter flight over the Grand Canyon	USD 300

About The Grand Canyon:

The northern region of Arizona is dominated by the high deserts and coniferous forests of the Colorado Plateau. In the southwest corner of the plateau lies the phenomenal sight of the Grand Canyon, one of the

world's most famous natural wonders.

The mighty Grand Canyon is 446kms long, up to 29kms wide, and attains a maximum depth of 1,857m. The canyon has been formed over the last 5-6 million years from steady erosion of the ground rock due to the flow of the Colorado River and its tributaries - this down-cutting has gradually deepened and widened the canyon, and has exposed almost two billion years of the Earth's geological history!

The area has been inhabited by indigenous people for several thousand years, first seen by Europeans on a Spanish expedition in 1540, and was explored in more detail by various trappers, missionaries and military expeditions during the 19th Century.

In modern times, The Grand Canyon has become one of the USA's must-see highlights and one of the world's most breathtaking natural wonders, attracting a staggering 5 million visitors a year. There are a myriad of incredible viewpoints along its edge, as well as some fantastic trekking trails and opportunities for scenic helicopter flights through the canyon!

Day 44: Phoenix (Thu 03 Sep)

Today we start to drive south through Arizona to the area near Phoenix.

In the Phoenix area we will most likely stay in multi-share rooms in a hostel, if time allows we may have the opportunity to go horse riding or visit Antelope Canyon.

Estimated Drive Time - 5-6 hours.

About Phoenix:

Arizona, in the southwestern region of the United States, was the last of the 'mainland' 48 states to be admitted into the USA in 1912. The southern region of the state is famous for its desert climates and scorching hot summers, and is home to the state capital of Phoenix.

Phoenix is the 6th most populous city in the USA, and the most populous of all the state capitals. It is located in the Salt River Valley of the Sonoran Desert (also known as Valley of the Sun), and receives the most sunshine of any major city in the world (with about 3,870 hours annually). The giant Saguaro Cactus is a very common sight in the surrounding area.

Day 45: Nogales (Fri 04 Sep)

Today we will drive south to the border town of Nogales.

In Nogales we will camp in a well equipped campsite.

Estimated Drive Time - 5-6 hours.

Day 46 to 47: Mazatlán, Guaymas (Sat 05 Sep to Sun 06 Sep)

Border information: Exit USA at Nogales, enter Mexico at Nogales.

Today we will cross the border into Mexico, and over the next two days we will drive south along the Pacific coast, staying close to the towns of Guaymas and Mazatlán en route.

In Guaymas and Mazatlán we will camp in well-equipped campsites.

Estimated Drive Time - 8-11 hours each day.

About Guaymas:

Patzcuaro is a picturesque town nestled on the shores of Lago Patzcuaro and was the capital of the Purepechan Indian empire in the early Fourteenth Century. The Spanish took the city between 1522 and 1529, and they committed atrocious crimes against the Purepecha people. Today the town is tranquil with Indian markets and outdoor cafes, a far cry from its turbulent history.

Day 48 to 49: Sayulita (Mon 07 Sep to Tue 08 Sep)

Today we will drive to the surfing town of Sayulita on Pacific coast and enjoy some free time on arrival.

Estimated Drive Time - 7-8 hours.

On the following day we will have free time to explore the Playa Los Muertos beach and possibly try your hand at surfing!

In Sayulita we will stay in a basic hostel.

Activity

Approximate Cost

Try your hand at surfing at the relaxed coastal town of Sayulita

USD 20

About Sayulita:

Sayulita is a coastal town situated on the 'Riviera Nayurit', a remote area surrounded by thick jungle and stunning natural beauty that stretches from San Blas in the north to Nuevo Vallarta in the south - the remote area is surrounded by thick jungle and stunning natural beauty, and was only colonised in the late 19th Century.

Sayulita is a laid-back town with miles of beautiful sandy beaches - it is famous for its surfing, and with its consistent river mouth surf break is an ideal place for beginner and experienced surfers alike! The chilled-out town is also a fantastic base for other activities such as snorkeling, horse riding, and contains some interesting art galleries and great restaurants.

Day 50: Tequila (Wed 09 Sep)

Today we will drive to the town of Tequila, where we will have time for an optional visit to the town's famous distilleries (either today or on the following morning).

In Tequila we will stay in a basic hotel.

Estimated Drive Time - 5-6 hours.

Activity

Approximate Cost

Take a guided tour of the famous Jose Cuervo tequila distillery

MXN 180

About Tequila:

The town of Tequila, in Mexico's state of Jalisco, is of course world-famous as the birthplace of the drink that bears its name! The area has a great abundance of native blue agave plants, which had been used for centuries by the indigenous people of the region to create a fermented drink - the Spanish colonialists took this traditional beverage and distilled it, creating the spirit of tequila. Growing demand resulted in many distilleries opening up around the town throughout the 18th and 19th Centuries, and a huge spike in demand in the 1980s helped the spirit reach worldwide popularity (and infamy!).

The history and culture surrounding the drink of tequila led to the town being declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Day 51 to 52: Angahuan (Thu 10 Sep to Fri 11 Sep)

Today we drive to the town of Angahuan. This village is inhabited by the Purépecha people, who have been indigenous to the area since one thousand years before the Spanish invasion. Angahuan is the gateway to the Parícutin volcano, the only volcano in the world to have been born in modern times.

Estimated Drive Time - 5-6 hours.

On the following day we will have free time to explore the village of Angahuan or to go for optional walks around the area of the Parícutin volcano. The creation of the volcano in 1943 buried two nearby villages, and it's still possible to see the spire of the cathedral of San Juan Parangaricutiro sticking up from the lava field.

In Angahuan we will camp at a campsite near to the volcano.

Activity

Approximate Cost

Trek up the Parícutin volcano in Angahuan, the only volcano in the world to be spawned during modern times

USD 35

Explore the area of the Parícutin volcano on horseback

MXN 700

About Angahuan:

The tiny village of Angahuan is populated by the local Purépecha people, who have resided in the state of Michoacán for many centuries - the village is a typical Purépecha settlement full of wooden houses and people in colourful local dress, and is most famous as being the nearest town to the phenomenal Parícutin volcano.

First erupting in February 1943, Parícutin is famous as being the world's only example of a volcano to have been observed being born in modern times. After weeks of thunderous sounds from underground and several small earthquakes rising in intensity, a nearby cornfield suddenly swelled upwards and a fissure burst open which within hours had formed a small crater. Within 24 hours the ejected lava had formed a 50m-high cone, and by the end of the week this had reached 150m in height! Geologists from all over the world flocked to Mexico to observe the growth of the volcano, which remains the only time that a volcano's full life cycle has been documented by modern science. The volcano continued to steadily grow until February 1952, when it became dormant after reaching its final height of 424m above the valley floor.

Parícutin is a popular highlight for travellers journeying north of Mexico City. As well as being a spectacular sight and a great area for trekking, visitors can observe the half-buried town of San Juan Parangaricutiro and its old church spire poking out of the solidified lava.

Day 53 to 54: Mexico City (Sat 12 Sep to Sun 13 Sep)

Today we will have a full day drive to the massive and chaotic Mexican capital of Mexico City.

The following day we have a free day to enjoy Mexico.

In Mexico City we will stay in a good hotel in the central district of Bellas Artes.

Estimated Drive Time - 10-11 hours.

Activity	Approximate Cost
See Mexico City's famous traditional mariachi bands in the evening around Garibaldi Square	MXN 30
Explore the magnificent ancient Mesoamerican ruins of Teotihuacan near Mexico City	MXN 75
Freely explore the huge area of the Zocalo in Mexico City's centre, along with its famous Metropolitan Cathedral and the Temple Mayor (the last remains of the old Aztec capital of Tenochtitlan)	MXN 75
Visit some of Mexico City's other incredible landmarks, such as the Palacio Nacional, the Plaza de las Tres Culturas, and the Basilica de Guadalupe	Free

Explore the vast system of waterways and flower gardens at Xochimilco, possibly including a visit to the creepy Isla de las Muñecas (Island of the Dolls) Free

Visit some of Mexico City's most important museums and galleries, such as the old house of the iconic artist Frida Kahlo, the former home of revolutionary Leon Trotsky, and the Museo Dolores Olmedo art gallery MXN 250

About Mexico City:

The colossal, bustling metropolis of Mexico City is the world's largest Spanish-speaking metropolitan area, home to staggering 21 million people! Despite its size the city centre still has a charming colonial feel with a massive Spanish-built cathedral dominating the Zocalo (the main square).

The city was originally founded with the name of Tenochtitlan in 1325 CE by the Aztec civilisation. The original location was on a small island in an inland lake, so chosen as it was said the Aztecs' principal god, Huizilopochtli, marked the site to the people with a vision of an eagle eating a snake on top of a cactus (an image which can still be seen on Mexico's flag!). By the arrival of the Spanish in 1519, the Aztec Empire spanned between the Pacific and the Caribbean and stretched as far south as Guatemala. The conquistador Hernán Cortés arrived in 1519 and brutally invaded the city in 1521, whereupon the Spanish built over the Aztec temples, proclaimed the city as the capital of New Spain and renamed the city "Mexico" as they found it easier to pronounce.

Little of the Aztec city remains today, except the small site of the Temple Mayor and its museum next to the cathedral on the Zocalo. There are endless sights and highlights to discover in Mexico City, including the colonial palaces and churches of the historical centre and the artistic district of Bellas Artes, the incredible art galleries and countless museums, the wonderful music and food, and the stunning and peaceful Xochimilco floating gardens and Chapultepec Park (with the world-class Anthropological Museum in its leafy grounds). Nearby to the city is the site of Teotihuacan, one of the largest and most spectacular Pre-Colombian cities in Central America.

Day 55: Mexico City (Mon 14 Sep)

Border information: if joining in Mexico City, you will most likely enter Mexico at Mexico City Benito Juárez International Airport (IATA code MEX).

There will be an important group meeting at 18:00 at the joining hotel - please look out at the hotel reception for a note from your leader with more details about this important meeting.

The rest of the day is free to explore Mexico's incredible capital and to take part in some optional activities. Please note that many of the

options listed below will only be possible for those with extra time in Mexico City before the start of your trip with us - please contact the Sales team if you would like to book pre-tour accommodation with us to have extra time exploring Mexico City.

In Mexico City we will stay in a good hotel in the central district of Bellas Artes.

Hotel for the night: Marlowe Hotel

Marlowe Hotel

Av. Independencia 17

Cuauhtémoc, Centro

06050 Mexico City

Tel - +52 555 521 9540

Activity

Approximate Cost

See Mexico City's famous traditional mariachi bands in the evening around Garibaldi Square

MXN 30

Freely explore the colossal Chapultepec Park, one of the world's largest urban green spaces and a cultural hotspot where you can often see the pole-swinging 'Volador' dancers

Free

Visit some of Mexico City's most important museums and galleries, such as the old house of the iconic artist Frida Kahlo, the former home of revolutionary Leon Trotsky, and the Museo Dolores Olmedo art gallery

MXN 250

Explore the vast system of waterways and flower gardens at Xochimilco, possibly including a visit to the creepy Isla de las Muñecas (Island of the Dolls)

Free

Freely explore the huge area of the Zocalo in Mexico City's centre, along with its famous Metropolitan Cathedral and the Temple Mayor (the last remains of the old Aztec capital of Tenochtitlan)

MXN 75

Explore the magnificent ancient Mesoamerican ruins of Teotihuacan near Mexico City

MXN 75

Visit the beautiful Palacio de Bellas Artes and see it's immense murals by world-famous Mexican artists such as Diego

MXN 70

Riviera

Day 56 to 57: Oaxaca (Tue 15 Sep to Wed 16 Sep)

Today we head to the wonderful laid-back colonial town of Oaxaca, famous for its cuisine and indigenous cultures.

Estimated Drive Time - 7-8 hours (please note that all drive times given here are the approximate number of hours that the truck will be in motion only, and does not include any time taken for coffee or lunch stops, border crossings, photo stops, activities en route, comfort breaks, shopping stops, toilet stops, etc. The times given are approximate estimates only and whilst given with the best of intentions, the drive times are heavily dependent on traffic, road conditions, weather, police roadblocks, and many other factors - flexibility is essential on any overland trip!).

On the following day we will have an included guided visit of the ruined Zapotec city of Monte Alban, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. In the afternoon we will have free time to further explore the area's highlights.

In Oaxaca we will stay in a good hotel.

Activity	Approximate Cost
Visit the splendid Baroque Dominican church of Santo Domingo in Oaxaca's colonial centre	MXN 50
Take a guided tour around the ruined Zapotec capital of Monte Alban near Oaxaca	Included in Kitty
See the incredible Tree of Tule, which with a circumference of 42 metres has the widest trunk in the world	Free
Visit the remarkably well-preserved Zapotec ruins of Mitla near to Oaxaca	MXN 64
Learn all about the history and cultures of Oaxaca at the incredible Museum of Cultures, one of the best regional museums in Mexico	MXN 64

About Oaxaca:

Oaxaca is one of Mexico's most beautiful old colonial towns. The Spanish founded the town in 1521 in a valley largely populated by native Zapotec and Mixtec people, and its magnificent arcades and

colourful markets are still populated by their descendants who come to sell their colourful woven blankets and shawls in the central square. The incredible old colonial churches, cobbled streets and superb array of museums earned the city UNESCO World Heritage status in 1987.

Also honoured by UNESCO are the nearby ruins of the ancient Zapotec city of Monte Albán - founded as early as 500 BCE, Monte Albán reached the height of its regional dominance between 100 BCE and 300 CE, becoming the most important city in the Oaxacan highlands and having high-level contacts with the city of Teotihuacan (near modern-day Mexico City). By the end of the 6th Century, the city became largely abandoned due to a loss of political influence. This unique site is full of some amazing buildings, ball courts and magnificent tombs, and a lot of finely-worked gold jewelry was found in the city.

Day 58 to 60: San Cristóbal de las Casas (Thu 17 Sep to Sat 19 Sep)

Today we have a full day drive to the stunning old colonial town of San Cristóbal de las Casas, one of Mexico's most beautiful towns. and well known as the heart of the indigenous Tzotzil Maya culture.

Estimated Drive Time - 12-14 hours.

On the following day we will have a free day for exploration and to take part in some optional activities such as taking a tour to the fascinating Maya village of San Juan Chamula, or exploring the nearby Lagunas de Montebello National Park.

On the next day we will have an included boat trip down the phenomenal Sumidero Canyon, viewing its colossal cliffs from the base and searching for the resident wildlife.

In San Cristóbal de las Casas we will stay in a good hotel in the centre.

Activity	Approximate Cost
Head on a boat trip along the breathtaking Sumidero Canyon	Included in Kitty
Visit the atmospheric Tzotzil Mayan villages of San Juan Chamula and Zinacantan	MXN 250
Head out on a mountain biking tour through the cloud forests and highlands surrounding San Cristóbal de las Casas	MXN 450
Learn all about the traditional medicines of the Mayan people at the award-winning Mayan Medicine Museum	MXN 55

Take a day trip to explore the idyllic national park of Lagunas de Montebello, home to pine forests, Mayan ruins, and many beautiful lakes

MXN 480

See the incredible showcase of handwoven fabrics from throughout Central America at the Mayan World Textiles Centre

MXN 52

Explore the wonderful botanical gardens of Orchideas Moxviquil, and discover its collection of over 400 species of native plants and orchids

MXN 50

About San Cristóbal de las Casas:

San Cristóbal de las Casas is the cultural centre of the Chiapas region of Mexico, and lies in a valley in the beautiful Central Highlands of the state. The town itself contains some wonderful old colonial buildings and is famous for its amber jewelery. The surrounding area has many Tzotzil Indian villages, where many inhabitants still follow ancient traditions and beliefs juxtaposed with more modern culture and Christianity.

There are some excellent activities available here, with one big highlight being a scenic boat trip through the awe-inspiring Sumidero Canyon - formed over the last 35 million years, this incredible narrow canyon has a deep river running all the way through it and towering cliffs up to 1000m high on either side!

Day 61: Frontera Corozal (Sun 20 Sep)

Today we will have a full day drive to the remote town of Frontera Corozal, on the Guatemalan border. En route, we may have time for an optional stop at the stunning waterfalls of Agua Azul.

In Frontera Corozal we will camp in the grounds of a hotel.

Estimated Drive Time - 9-10 hours.

Day 62: Yaxchilan, Palenque (Mon 21 Sep)

Today we will have an included guided visit to the remote ancient Mayan city of Yaxchilán, which is only accessible via a boat trip down the river. After our visit we will drive to the village of Palenque.

In Palenque we will camp in the grounds of a hotel located within the national park.

Estimated Drive Time - 4-5 hours.

Activity

Approximate Cost

Take a boat trip out for a guided tour of the stunning and remote Mayan ruins at Yaxchilán

Included in Kitty

About Yaxchilan:

Yaxchilan, meaning 'green stones' in the Mayan language, is an ancient Mayan city located on the bank of the Usumacinta river in the Lacanja region. Yaxchilan was an important city-state from the 1st Century CE until the 9th Century CE and dominated over smaller nearby sites such as Bonampak. The city had a major rivalry with the nearby Mayan city now known as Piedras Negras, and there is evidence of warring with Tikal and Palenque during its past.

The site is particularly known for its well-preserved sculptured stone lintels set above the doorways of the main structures. These lintels, together with the stelae erected before the major buildings, contain hieroglyphic texts describing the dynastic history of the city. The site contains impressive ruins, with palaces and temples bordering a large plaza upon a terrace above the Usumacinta River. There are no roads to the site, and we will need to take an hour-long boat ride from Frontera Corozal to explore the incredible area.

About Palenque:

Palenque is a small town in the far west of the Yucatán peninsula, deep in the hot and humid forests. It is the site of some of the most impressive Mayan ruins in all of Mexico, in one of the most atmospheric settings!

Although some of the oldest ruins date as far back as the 2nd Century BCE, the city-state of Palenque reached its height in around the 7th Century CE before declining a few generations later and being abandoned and enveloped by the forest. The city was a mid-sized settlement and much smaller than the huge sites of Tikal, Chichen Itza and Copán, but it contains some of the finest architecture, sculptures and bas-relief carvings ever found across the Mayan world. The hieroglyphic inscriptions found here have allowed archaeologists to construct a detailed history of the city, its rulers, and its complicated rivalries with neighbouring states - the famous tomb of Pachal the Great was found in the Temple of Inscriptions and replicated in the small museum nearby.

Palenque is a marvellous site to explore - whilst walking amongst the ruins it is quite often possible to hear a variety of bird song and the eerie calls of the Howler monkeys echoing from the jungle around us, which gives an added dimension to this magnificent archaeological site.

Day 63: Palenque (Tue 22 Sep)

Today we will have an included guided visit to the incredible Mayan ruins of Palenque, which rise out of the thick jungle surrounding them. In the afternoon we will have free time to go on a jungle tour, visit the on site museum, or travel to the nearby waterfall of Misol Ha.

Activity

Approximate Cost

Take a fascinating guided tour around the magnificent ruined city of Palenque deep in the Mexican jungle, including time to freely explore the excellent on-site museum

Included in Kitty

Day 64: Mérida (Wed 23 Sep)

Today we will drive to the beautiful and artistic colonial town of Mérida, the capital of the Yucatan state.

In Mérida we will stay in a colonial hotel in the heart of the city.

Estimated Drive Time - 10-11 hours.

Day 65: Chichen Itza, Tulum (Thu 24 Sep)

Today we will have an early start to drive to the world-famous Mayan ruins of Chichen Itza, one of the New Seven Wonders of the World - we have an included guided tour around this spectacular site before continuing our drive to the stunning coastal village of Tulum.

In Tulum we will camp in a basic campsite near to the Mayan ruins.

Estimated Drive Time - 4-5 hours.

Activity

Approximate Cost

Visit the spectacular Chichen Itza Mayan ruins on a guided tour, one of the New Seven Wonders of the World centred around the world-famous pyramid of El Castillo

Included in Kitty

Take a swim in the stunning natural cenote of Ik Kil near the ruins of Chichen Itza

USD 6

About Chichen Itza:

The world-famous ancient Mayan site of Chichen Itza is one of the major highlights of Central America. The ancient Mayan city, dominated by the iconic El Castillo pyramid, was built between the 8th and 11th Centuries CE and became a major regional capital during this time, dominating political and cultural life in the lowlands of northern Yucatán. It exhibits numerous architectural styles inspired by many different areas of Central America, and is thought to have been the home to one of the most diverse populations in the Mayan world.

Chichen Itza was one of the largest Maya cities, with a relatively dense cluster of well-preserved buildings in the core linked by paved causeways called 'sacbeob'. The colossal pyramid of El Castillo dominates the area known as The Great North Platform - it houses a huge staircase to an upper crypt housing a throne in the shape of a jaguar, painted red and inlaid with eyes and spots of pure jade. The steps up the exterior of the pyramid famously project a serpent-shaped

shadow every spring and autumn equinoxes, thought to be a representation of the Mayan feathered serpent-god Kukulcan.

Nearby there is a Great Ball Court, once used to play a unique ancient game similar to basketball but using knees and elbows to strike the ball. Nearby to this is the Sacred Cenote, otherwise known as the 'well of sacrifice', which offered up treasures of jade, copper and gold as well as many human and animal bones when it was excavated. There are many other fantastic areas of the site to be explored, including the Temple of the Warriors and the Group of a Thousand Columns.

In 2007 the phenomenal Mayan site was declared one of the New 7 Wonders of the World after a worldwide vote.

About Tulum:

Spectacularly located atop a cliff over the dazzling Caribbean Sea, the ruined Mayan port of Tulum is a fantastically atmospheric and photogenic spot. One of the most well-preserved archaeological sites in Central America, Tulum was one of the most recently built Mayan settlements - it reached its height between the 13th and 15th Centuries CE and was still active 70 years after the start of the Spanish occupation of Mexico, eventually succumbing to diseases carried by the new settlers.

The compact site is centred around El Castillo (a 7.5m-tall pyramid), with the beautiful Temple of the Frescoes and the Temple of the Descending God being some of the more famous highlights. The stunning site sits on the clifftop overlooking the white beach, the palm trees and the turquoise sea. Nearby there are some wonderful beaches and some famous 'cenotes' (natural sinkholes) that visitors can explore.

Day 66: Tulum (Fri 25 Sep)

This morning we visit the Tulum ruins, one of the last cities built by the Maya and one of the best preserved coastal Maya sites. We will have a free afternoon to explore the beaches or take part in some optional activities.

Activity	Approximate Cost
Explore the phenomenal clifftop Maya-Toltec ruins at Tulum, wonderfully located right on the Caribbean coast	Included in Kitty
Go on a scuba diving trip through the ocean reefs near Tulum, or to some of the area's natural cenotes	USD 100
Hire snorkel gear on the beautiful beaches of Tulum	USD 10
Head out to explore some of the incredible	MXN 100

cenotes (natural water-filled sinkholes)
near Tulum

Day 67 to 69: Caye Caulker (Sat 26 Sep to Mon 28 Sep)

Border information: Exit Mexico at Subteniente López, enter Belize at Santa Elena.

Today we will travel south across the border to Belize City, where we board a speed boat to the island paradise of Caye Caulker.

Estimated Drive Time - 7-8 hours.

We will have two full days of free time to explore and enjoy the many optional activities available here, such as snorkelling, diving or taking a scenic flight over the phenomenal Great Blue Hole.

In Caye Caulker we will stay in a local hotel.

Activity	Approximate Cost
Take a scenic flight over the phenomenal natural Great Blue Hole off Caye Caulker	USD 260
Head out to the stunning coral reefs off Caye Caulker on a snorkelling trip	USD 60
Head out on a fantastic scuba diving trip through the colossal coral reefs off the Caribbean island of Caye Caulker (there are many different options and sites available)	USD 65 - 260
Hire sea kayaks to explore the deserted mangroves of Caye Caulker's North Island	USD 20
Go on a half-day fishing trip in the idyllic blue ocean near Caye Caulker	USD 250

About Caye Caulker:

The Cayes of Belize are a group of idyllic islands off the coast in the Caribbean Sea - many of these are a short boat ride away from the mainland, and all are stunning places to visit. One of the most popular cayes to visit is Caye Caulker, a laid-back limestone coral island that measures 8kms from north to south. All the action happens on the south side, where there is a superb mix of bars and restaurants all with that unmistakable Caribbean charm.

There are many activities available on Caye Caulker, most notably boat, snorkel and scuba diving trips through the startlingly blue waters and incredible coral reefs of the surrounding oceans. You may

also choose to explore the islands mangroves by kayak, visit some of the other cayes, or head out on an unforgettable scenic flight over the famous Great Blue Hole.

Day 70 to 72: San Ignacio (Tue 29 Sep to Thu 01 Oct)

Today we will head back to the mainland and rejoin the bus in Belize City. We then have a short drive to the village of San Ignacio, home to Belize's best archaeological sites and adventure activities!

Estimated Drive Time - 3-4 hours.

We will have two full days to take part in the many optional activities available in San Ignacio, including trekking, caving, biking, and exploring the excellent Mayan ruins in the area.

In San Ignacio we will stay in a forest eco-lodge.

Activity	Approximate Cost
Head on a horse riding trip around San Ignacio	USD 85
Visit the Actun Tunichil Mukwal Cave, a Mayan archaeological site that includes ceramics, stoneware, and skeletal remains such as the famous 'Crystal Maiden'	USD 95
Take a full day tour to the remote ruins of the ancient Mayan capital of Caracol, once twice the size of the modern Belize City	USD 110
Visit the stunning ruins of Cahal Pech, atop a hill overlooking the southern outskirts of San Ignacio	BZD 30
Explore the ancient ruins of Xunantunich, Belize's most-visited Mayan site and home to the mighty El Castillo pyramid	BZD 10
Learn about local herbs and plants on a medicinal jungle trail en route to a release program for Green Iguanas near San Ignacio	BZD 12

About San Ignacio:

San Ignacio is a beautiful town in Belize, close to the Guatemalan border. There are many optional activities in the area such as horse riding, mountain biking and canoeing - however, one of the best and

most unique activities here is to head out on a caving trip through some of the incredible caves in the forests surrounding the town.

Close to San Ignacio are some incredible and rarely-visited Mayan sites, including Cahal Pech, Caracol and Xunantunich.

Day 73: Tikal (Fri 02 Oct)

Border information: Exit Belize at Benque Viejo del Carmen, enter Guatemala at Melchor de Mencos.

Today we will have a short drive across the Guatemalan border to the phenomenal Mayan ruins of Tikal, where we have an included guided tour.

In Tikal we will camp at a basic campsite close to the ruins.

Estimated Drive Time - 4-5 hours.

Activity

Approximate Cost

Enjoy a guided tour of the phenomenal Mayan ruins of Tikal, one of the greatest ancient sites in the world

Included in Kitty

About Tikal:

Tikal is the site of a phenomenal ruined Mayan city, atmospherically located in the dense rainforests of northern Guatemala. Mainly built between the 2nd and 10th Centuries CE, Tikal was one of the most powerful kingdoms of the ancient Mayans - the city-state conquered much of the surrounding area and dominated the economy, politics, military, and culture of the Yucatán peninsular during this time.

Knowledge of the site was never totally lost amongst the native Guatemalans, but Tikal came to the world's attention again when German expeditions were guided there in the 1850s. Tikal is one of the most spectacular and well-understood Mayan ruins due to the amount of artefacts and murals found there - a complete lineage of the dynastic rulers has been constructed from the information discovered there, as well as a detailed history of the complex relationships with rival states such as Teotihuacan, Copán and Caracol.

On a visit there, we are able to explore the old religious centre and even climb up some of the iconic pyramids to get an unrivalled view of the area below!

Day 74 to 75: Poptún (Sat 03 Oct to Sun 04 Oct)

Today we have a short drive to the small town of Poptún, stopping in the colonial town of Flores en route. We will arrive at our fantastic eco-lodge near Poptún and have a free afternoon.

Estimated Drive Time - 3-4 hours.

On the following day we will have free time to take part in the many

optional activities offered at our eco lodge.

In Poptún we will camp at an eco-lodge on a working Guatemalan ranch.

Activity	Approximate Cost
Trek out to the incredible River Cave near Poptún, walking through the stunning Guatemalan rural landscape and exploring the underground rivers by candlelight	GTQ 115
Stay at a wonderful eco-lodge on a working Guatemalan farm near Poptún	Included in Kitty
Take a day tour out to the nearby Mayan ruins of Ixcun, the comprehensive museum of Dolores and the beautiful waterfall of Mopan	GTQ 150

Day 76 to 77: Rio Dulce, Livingston (Mon 05 Oct to Tue 06 Oct)

Today we will have a short drive to Rio Dulce in Guatemala's beautiful central region. On arrival we will have a free afternoon to take part in some optional activities.

Estimated Drive Time - 3-4 hours.

On the following day we will have an included boat trip to the village of Livingston on the Caribbean coast, before returning to Rio Dulce.

In Rio Dulce we will stay in an eco-lodge.

Activity	Approximate Cost
Enjoy a beautiful boat ride down the Rio Dulce to the Caribbean town of Livingston	Included in Kitty
Take a kayak out to explore the beautiful waters around Rio Dulce at sunrise	GTQ 150
Explore deep into the Guatemalan rainforest on foot and trek on the canopy bridges near Rio Dulce	GTQ 135

About Rio Dulce:

Located in central Guatemala, the stunning river of Rio Dulce flows through dense forests and jungle that comes right down to the water's edge. A boat trip along the river is truly special, with dense foilage and tropical birds nesting in the trees and flying overhead. The river arrives

at the Caribbean coast in the small and isolated village of Livingston - with no roads connecting it to the rest of the country, the village has developed its own unique character and laid-back feel.

Day 78: San Andres Itzapa (Wed 07 Oct)

Today we will drive day to San Andres Itzapa, a small village located in the mountains around Antigua. We will spend one night at the community centre of Manos Amigas, run by the Italian NGO 'Mani Amiche' in support of local women who have been abandoned and abused, and who are staying in the centre with their children.

In San Andres Itzapa we will stay in dormitories at the community centre (please note that there is no option to upgrade to private accommodation here).

Estimated Drive Time - 7-8 hours.

Activity

Approximate Cost

Spend a night at the Manos Amigas community project, a centre which has been set up to support local women and their children

Included in Kitty

About San Andres Itzapa:

San Andres Itzapa is a small village tucked away on the mountains around Antigua, Guatemala. It is the location of one of our supported community projects, Manos Amigas, that works with women and children who have been victims of violence or abandoned. The centre creates a safe space to build their lives while benefitting from some of the health and education projects run by the organisation, such as professional training in craftwork, social sanitary projects, medical and dental treatment, and promotion of sustainable farming practices.

Day 79 to 80: Panajachel, Lake Atitlan, Chichicastenango (Thu 08 Oct to Fri 09 Oct)

Today we will spend the morning at the Manos Amigas project before heading off on a short drive to Panajachel, situated on the shores of the beautiful Lake Atitlan.

Estimated Drive Time - 3-4 hours.

On the following day we will have free time to enjoy some optional activities such as a boat on the lake out to some of the small local villages along the shoreline. If possible, we will include a visit to the famous Chichicastenango Market during these days, depending on the weekday. *Please note that the market is only open on Thursdays and Sundays so you may not be able to visit during your trip.*

In Panajachel we will stay in a nice local hotel.

Activity	Approximate Cost
Head out on a boat trip to visit the traditional Mayan villages dotted along the coast of Lake Atitlan	USD 30
Take a tour through the spectacular highlands surrounding Lake Atitlan and Panajachel, visiting picturesque villages and hot springs	USD 45
Visit the bewildering Mayan markets at Chichicastenango, taking in the incredible sights, smells, and atmosphere (provided it is running while we are in the area)	Included in Kitty

About Panajachel:

The beautiful sparkling waters of Lake Atitlan can change colour from emerald and azure to lapis and olive, all in one day. The lake is perfectly set amongst forest-clad hills with three volcanic peaks on its far shores, making it one of the most scenic lakes in the world! All around the lake's edge are small villages where the local Indian life has changed little for hundreds of years - the people from each village have their own typical dress, and make all the textiles themselves in designs passed down through generations. The largest settlement of Panajachel is an ideal base to explore the lake and its villages - you can walk to the nearest village, Santa Catarina Palopo, where you can watch the women weaving their huipiles, or perhaps take a boat to the further villages of Santiago Atitlan or San Pedro la Laguna. Santiago is known for its colourful markets, whereas San Pedro has a very tranquil atmosphere.

About Chichicastenango:

Chichicastenango is a small village that has perhaps the most colourful markets in all of Guatemala - everywhere you look, your eyes are met by stalls of multi-coloured textiles, local people in their multi-coloured clothes, and by the colours of the fresh produce in the vegetable market. The amazing sights, sounds and smells all contribute to the heady atmosphere of the markets, and its the ideal place to get a slice of local life and pick up all those souvenirs!

Day 81: Antigua (Sat 10 Oct)

Today we will have a short drive to the magnificent city of Antigua, a UNESCO World Heritage Site situated 60 kms from Guatemala City.

The rest of the day is free to explore the beautiful colonial city and its dramatic surroundings.

In Antigua we will stay in a delightful colonial hotel.

Estimated Drive Time - 3-4 hours.

About Antigua:

Antigua is the commonly-used name for Antigua Guatemala, the old colonial capital founded in its present location in 1543 with the original name of Santiago de los Caballeros. The delightful historic city boasts a wealth of well-preserved colonial buildings in a Spanish Baroque style, so much so that the whole historical centre has been granted UNESCO World Heritage status. Antigua is also exquisitely located in the central highlands of Guatemala, surrounded by the towering volcanoes of Fuego, Agua and Acatenango.

Antigua is only a short distance from the modern capital of Guatemala City, and remains the cultural centre of the country - its old buildings and cobbled streets juxtapose wonderfully with its lively mix of Indian markets, indigenous marimba music and many bars and restaurants, creating a fantastic and unforgettable atmosphere. There are also countless optional adventure activities to be enjoyed here, including a possible excursion to the nearby active Pacaya Volcano.

Day 82: Antigua (Sun 11 Oct)

Border information: if joining in Antigua, you will most likely enter Guatemala at Guatemala City La Aurora International Airport (IATA code: GUA).

There will be an important group meeting at 18:00 at the joining hotel - please look out at the hotel reception for a note from your leader with more details about this important meeting.

The rest of the day is free to explore the beautiful colonial city and its dramatic surroundings, and to take part in some optional activities. Please note that many of the options listed below will only be possible for those with extra time in Antigua before the start of your trip with us - please contact the Sales team if you would like to book pre-tour accommodation with us to have extra time exploring Antigua.

In Antigua we will stay in a delightful colonial hotel.

Hotel for the night: Posada La Merced

Posada La Merced

7a Avenida Norte 43

Antigua

Guatemala

Tel - +502 7832 3197

Day 83: Cerro Verde National Park (Mon 12 Oct)

Today we will cross the border into El Salvador and drive to the stunning Cerro Verde National Park, where we will be surrounded by awe-inspiring volcanoes and countryside. In the morning we will have will take a guided trek up the nearby Santa Ana volcano (approximately 4 hours).

In Cerro Verde National Park we will camp with basic facilities.

Border information: Exit Guatemala at Ciudad Pedro de Alvarado,

enter El Salvador at La Hachadura.

Estimated Drive Time - 9 hours (please note that all drive times given here are the approximate number of hours that the truck will be in motion only, and does not include any time taken for coffee or lunch stops, border crossings, photo stops, activities en route, comfort breaks, shopping stops, toilet stops, etc. The times given are approximate estimates only and whilst given with the best of intentions, the drive times are heavily dependent on traffic, road conditions, weather, police roadblocks, and many other factors - flexibility is essential on any overland trip!).

About Cerro Verde National Park:

The centrepiece of El Salvador's Cerro Verde National Park is the towering peak of Cerro Verde, an extinct volcano which last erupted around 2,500 years ago. On the top of its crater there is one of the few cloud forests in the country, located at 2,030 meters above sea level. Cerro Verde, along with the volcanoes of Santa Ana and Izalco, form one of the most impressive landscapes in El Salvador. These volcanoes can be viewed from lookout points inside National Park, and there are some wonderful treks enabling you to see some fantastic views of northern El Salvador.

Day 84 to 85: Suchitoto (Tue 13 Oct to Wed 14 Oct)

After our trek up the volcano, we will take a short drive to the beautiful town of Suchitoto, where we will have a free afternoon to explore the town, with its cobbled streets and whitewashed houses, and to learn about the incredible work of the Dragoman-supported community centre in which we stay.

In Suchitoto we will stay in dormitory rooms at the Centro Arte Para La Paz community centre, which runs many programs for the local communities to build cultural identity, unity, teaching skills, self-sufficiency, environmental equality and a culture of peace.

Estimated Drive Time - 4-5 hours.

On Day 4 we will have a day to explore Suchitoto, have a guided walking tour of the town, head out on a sunset boat trip or take a day trip to San Salvador.

About Suchitoto:

Suchitoto is a reminder of El Salvador's past - a beautiful colonial town with painted houses and cobbled streets, it is a world away from modern El Salvador. The town overlooks the lake of Embalse Cerrón Grande, which is a haven for migrating birds, particularly falcons and hawks.

Day 86 to 87: Copán (Thu 15 Oct to Fri 16 Oct)

Border information: Exit El Salvador at Anguiatú, enter Guatemala at Anguiatú. Exit Guatemala at El Florido, enter Honduras at El Florido.

Today we will have a full day drive to return to Guatemala and then onwards to Honduras, arriving at the small village of Copán.

Estimated Drive Time - 8-9 hours.

On the following day we will have an included guided visit to the spectacular Mayan ruins of Copán, followed by a free afternoon to explore some of the other highlights in the area.

In Copán we will stay in a local hotel.

About Copán:

The ancient ruins of Copán are the southernmost of the great Mayan sites for which Central America is famed. The area was populated by Mayans coming from the region of Tikal, and the city flourished as a major Classic period kingdom between the 5th and 9th Centuries CE. Copán developed a distinctive sculptural style, and the site is unique due to the 21 columns that have been found there that are heavily carved with reliefs depicting the passage of time and the lives of the Royal families. There are also a number of small pyramid-shaped temples and excavated vaults to explore on our visit there.

Day 88 to 90: Roatán (Sat 17 Oct to Mon 19 Oct)

Today we will take a short drive to the town of San Pedro Sula and board a short local flight to Roatán, the largest of the famous tropical Bay Islands. On arrival we will transfer to the area of the West End Bay, where we base ourselves for our stay.

Estimated Drive Time - 4-5 hours.

On the following 2 days we will enjoy lots of free time to take part in the wealth of optional activities available on Roatán, and of course to relax and swim on the stunning Caribbean beaches here!

In Roatán we will stay in a local hotel near the beach.

About Roatán:

Roatán is the largest of the Bay Islands, the famous islands in the Caribbean off the coast of Honduras and one of Central America's most scenic spots. This archipelago of coral islands set in the sparkling Caribbean is known for its laid-back atmosphere, and the culture of the seafaring islanders is very distinct from that of the mainland. The scuba diving and snorkelling around the reefs is said to be some of the best in the world and extremely good value, and there are a wealth of activities available here such as kayaking and simply relaxing on the superb beaches.

Day 91: Lake Yojoa (Tue 20 Oct)

Today we will start early to transfer back to Roatán's airport and catch our flight back to the mainland, rejoining the Dragoman Bus! We will then continue our journey east through Honduras to the beautiful countryside of Lake Yojoa

In Lake Yojoa we will camp for the night in the grounds of a lodge

and brewery.

Estimated Drive Time - 3-4 hours.

Day 92: Somoto (Wed 21 Oct)

Today we will cross the border into Nicaragua, we will head to the Somoto Canyon and stay in cabins near a village community.

In the morning we will have an included half day canyoning experience, or alternatively for those who wish a farm and village tour.

Approximate drive time - 364km / 8hrs

About Somoto :

The Somoto Canyon had not been explored systematically until a group of scientists from the the Czech republic and Nicaragua "discovered" the canyon in 2004. The canyon is believed to have formed 5 to 13 million years ago.

Day 93 to 94: León (Thu 22 Oct to Fri 23 Oct)

This morning we will enjoy our canyon tour and then drive to the university town of León.

Estimated Drive Time - 212km / 4hours.

On the following day we will have free time to explore the town's wonderful colonial architecture or to take part in the many optional activities available here.

In León we will stay in a centrally-located hotel.

About León:

The original town of León was founded by the Spanish in 1524, but was moved to its current location in 1610 after the original site suffered from a series of earthquakes - the ruins of the original site (now known as León Viejo) can be visited and are one of Nicaragua's most incredible historical sites. The city has an abundance of old colonial buildings and an extraordinary array of old churches, including the Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption of León, a Baroque-era cathedral that is the largest in Central America and has a very distinctive style. As well as this fantastic heritage, the city is a lively university town, and has a bewildering choice of optional activities available in the surrounding volcanic countryside - as such it is a fantastic stop on our trips through Nicaragua

Day 95 to 96: Granada, Masaya National Park (Sat 24 Oct to Sun 25 Oct)

Today we will take a short drive to Nicaragua's oldest city of Granada, a beautiful town which oozes with colonial charm! En route we will have an included visit to the traditional markets in the small town of Masaya, and witness the incredible active caldera of the nearby Masaya volcano (if its volcanic activity isn't too high).

Estimated Drive Time - 4-5 hours.

On the following day we will have free time to explore the historic streets of Granada's old town, or take part in some of the myriad of optional activities that are available here.

In Granada we will stay in a centrally-located hostel, which has a mixture of private and dormitory rooms.

About Granada:

Granada is the oldest European-built city in the Americas, having been founded in 1524 - it was named after its counterpart in Spain, in honour of the recapture of the city from the Islamic Moors by the Catholic monarchy in 1492, which marked the end of the Moorish occupation of Spain. Being an important economic centre, the city saw many battles from English, French, Dutch and American pirates looking for supremacy over the area. Following Nicaragua's independence, the city entered into a bitterly-fought rivalry with León over which city should be the capital of the new country - in the end a compromise was agreed and the new city of Managua was constructed mid-way between the two!

Granada is a fantastic place to visit and explore, and has many exciting optional activities within reach.

About Masaya National Park:

In the stunning volcanic landscapes between León and Granada lies the incredible sight of the Masaya caldera. Formed by an eruption around 2,500 years ago and growing larger ever since, the caldera is a massive crater with a glowing red lava fire at the bottom, with pungent sulphurous fumes being almost continuously pumped out. It is a 'sub vent' into the colossal Las Sierras shield volcano that covers a wider area, and volcanic rocks and ashes still cover the area surrounding the caldera giving the place a very haunting atmosphere!

Day 97 to 98: Ometepe Island (Mon 26 Oct to Tue 27 Oct)

This morning we drive to the small town of San Jorge on the shores of Lake Nicaragua, Central America's largest lake. Here we will board a ferry to the stunning volcanic island of Ometepe, where we base ourselves in the port village of Moyogalpa and enjoy free time to explore on arrival.

Estimated Drive Time - 2-3 hours.

On the following day we will have free time to explore and take part in optional activities such as the challenging trek to the summit of the Concepción volcano that dominates the island, or seeing some of the mysterious ancient petroglyphs that are dotted through the landscape.

On Ometepe we will stay in a small local hotel.

About Ometepe Island:

The serene island of Ometepe is beautifully located in the middle of Lake Nicaragua and is formed of the volcanoes Concepción and Madera, which rise from the lake. The name of the island literally

means "two volcanoes" in the Nahuatl language, from "ome" (meaning two) and "tepetl" (meaning mountain). The island's wonderful hourglass shape is home to great beaches, deep jungles, beautiful lakes and fantastic waterfalls, which are wonderful to explore on some treks around the island. For the fit and the daring, you can even try to trek to the summit of Concepción itself!

Ometepe has some unique petroglyphs dotted throughout the island, traces of the mysterious Niquirano civilisation that once occupied the island - the oldest of these date back to around 300 BCE, and many can be seen on your explorations of the island.

Day 99 to 100: La Fortuna (Wed 28 Oct to Thu 29 Oct)

Border information: Exit Nicaragua at Peñas Blancas, enter Costa Rica at Peñas Blancas.

Today we will take an early morning ferry back to San Jorge and drive to La Fortuna in Costa Rica, a stunning town under the shadow of the mighty Arenal volcano.

Estimated Drive Time - 4-6 hours.

On the following day we will have a free day to take optional treks through the incredible surrounding volcanic landscapes or forest canopies, or get involved in many different adventure activities such as zip-lining, white-water rafting, and canyoning. La Fortuna is also famous for its outstanding hot springs, which we will have the opportunity to visit.

In La Fortuna we will stay in excellent cabanas outside of town.

About La Fortuna:

The small town of La Fortuna is dominated over by the huge conical volcano of Arenal. The town was founded in the 1930s, and was renamed to "La Fortuna" (meaning "fortune") in 1968 when the previously dormant volcano unexpectedly erupted and engulfed nearby villages - the current name was given to it to mark the good fortune that it was not also buried by the eruption. Between 1968 and 2010 Arenal was one of the world's most active volcanos, and could be relied upon to erupt on most days - however in 2010, the volcano suddenly stopped erupting and has been dormant once more since then!

La Fortuna is a beautiful and serene town, with the mighty volcano as its iconic backdrop. It is one of Costa Rica's most popular spots, and visitors are absolutely spoiled for choice when it comes to optional activities - there are forest treks to the 70m-high Catarata de la Fortuna waterfalls, whitewater rafting trips, zip-lining, canopy walks, horse riding, amongst many other options. After all this activity, you can enjoy a relaxing evening at one of the area's excellent volcanic hot springs.

Day 101 to 102: Monteverde (Fri 30 Oct to Sat 31 Oct)

Today we will leave our overland vehicle behind and transfer by taxi and boat into the dense cloud forests and coffee plantations of Monteverde, a stunning area offering an incredible diversity of flora and fauna.

Estimated Drive Time - 3-4 hours.

On the following day we will have an included guided walk on the trails of the Monteverde Cloud Forest National Reserve, followed by a free afternoon to visit some of the town's highlights or enjoy some adventurous activities such as canyoning or horse riding.

In Monteverde we will stay in a local hotel.

About Monteverde:

Monteverde and the cloud forests which surround it are considered one of the top destinations to visit in Costa Rica, and certainly one of the top eco-tourism destinations in the world. The bulk of Monteverde's rainforest and cloud forest can be found in the Reserva Biológica Bosque Nuboso Monteverde, which attracts huge numbers of naturalists each year and the area is one of the best in Central America to try to spot the indigenous birdlife such as the Resplendant Quetzal.

The cool hills of the area is perfect for the growing of coffee, Costa Rica's most famous export - it is possible to visit several plantations around Monteverde to learn more about the process of coffee cultivation. The beautiful rich cloud forests are also perfect for trekking, canopy walks, and other activities such as zip-lining through the valleys and treetops!

Day 103 to 104: Manuel Antonio National Park (Sun 01 Nov to Mon 02 Nov)

Today we will continue by taxi to the small town of Tilarán, where we will rejoin our overland vehicle and drive to the spectacular beaches of Manuel Antonio National Park on the Pacific coast.

Estimated Drive Time - 5-6 hours.

On the following day we will have an included guided walk through some of the beautiful trails within park, learning all about its flora and fauna and immersing ourselves in the idyllic landscape. We will have free time in the afternoon to take part in some optional activities or relax on the wonderful beaches.

In Manuel Antonio we will stay in a hostel near the beach, with a mixture of private rooms and dormitories.

About Manuel Antonio National Park:

Manuel Antonio National Park is one of Central America's most spectacular spots - stunning sandy beaches between the calm ocean waters and lush rainforests, complete with lots of walking, paddle-boarding, fishing and boating opportunities. There are plenty of animals to spot in the area, such as capuchin monkeys, iguanas, coatis and

sloths - the park is a vertiable paradise, and it's possible to find some beautiful secluded beaches despite it being one of Costa Rica's most visited places.

Day 105 to 106: Boquete (Tue 03 Nov to Wed 04 Nov)

Border information: Exit Costa Rica at Paso Canoas, enter Panama at Paso Canoas.

Today we will drive across the Panama border into the Chiriqui highlands, arriving at the town of Boquete.

Estimated Drive Time - 3-5 hours.

On the following day we will have a free day to take part in some of the many optional outdoor activities which the town is famous for, including the opportunity to take the strenuous trek to the 3,478m summit of Volcán Barú, the highest point in Panama.

In Boquete we will stay in a local hostel, with a mixture of private rooms and dormitories.

About Boquete:

Boquete is a picturesque small town in the stunning green hills of western Panama, close to the Costa Rican border. Its cool climate attracts many visitors, and its incredible forest scenery is some of the most beautiful in Panama. The area has gained a fantastic reputation for exciting outdoor activities such as rafting and forest treks, and is the base for a challenging day-trek up to the summit of Volcán Barú, Panama's highest peak at 3,475m - on a rare clear day it is possible to see the Pacific Ocean and the Caribbean Sea at the same time from the summit!

Day 107: Panama (Thu 05 Nov)

Today we will continue to Chagres National Park and explore the Grandfather of the Panama Canal: the Camino Real, a cobblestoned road from the Caribbean to the Pacific through the rainforests of Panama, established as the transport route of Gold and Silver by Spanish conquistadors in the 16th Century. The Camino Real was rediscovered only recently, and we will visit and stay overnight at a community, which worked together with researcher Christian Strassnig to identify the original route of the Camino Real in the jungle.

At Alajuela Lake we take a dugout boat to observe remains of the Camino Real at the lakeshore, then we arrive at the community and we are warmly welcomed by the people who are inspired with perspective of sustainable development through community tourism at the Camino Real. We have a typical Panamanian lunch and see then a presentation of authentic Panamanian folklore. In the morning we will undertake a hike the Camino Real, see the original cobblestone and be fascinated by stories of the mule trains, gold and pirates.

Estimated Drive Time - 6-7 hours.

About Panama:

PANAMA TOURS

Panama is the southernmost country of Central America, where the continent narrows to its tiny join with [Colombia](#) and [South America](#). This piece of geography made Panama the perfect location for the world-famous and controversial Panama Canal, which was completed in 1914 and has a massive impact on world trade and history.

EXPLORE PANAMA CITY & ITS SURROUNDINGS

The capital of Panama City is a bustling metropolis full of culture and with a buzzing nightlife. It contains several fantastic museums and an atmospheric old town as well as the modern business centre and marina. The county also has some amazing mountainous and coastline scenery, a myriad of exhilarating outdoor activities, incredible wildlife and wonderful coffee plantations.

Panama is an excellent place to start or end your Central American adventure with Dragoman!

Day 108: Panama City (Fri 06 Nov)

After early morning coffee you can go for an optional bird-watching hike on a trail with plenty of tropical birds (free with local guides). At return to community we have a hearty breakfast. We will then take a hike on the trail. Afterwards it is time to say good-bye and we return by boat to our Overland Bus.

We will then drive to the Miraflores Visitor Centre at the world-famous Panama Canal, learning all about its controversial history and incredible role in shaping trade and world politics in the 20th century. After our included visit we will complete the drive to the capital, Panama City.

In Panama City we will stay in a local hotel in the Bella Vista district.

Estimated Drive Time - 2 hours.

About Panama City:

The bustling modern Panamanian capital has a long history - the original city was founded in 1519 by Spanish conquistadors, acting as an important stopover for the ships taking gold and silver from the Americas to Spain. It was also a base for several expeditions to explore and conquer areas of South America. This original city was burned down in 1671 by the Welsh pirate Henry Morgan, one of the most infamous and ruthless pirates operating on the Spanish Main. The city was rebuilt in 1673, just 8kms from the original settlement, around which the modern metropolis has evolved - the ruins of the original city are known as Panama Viejo, and can still be visited today.

[Panama](#) is perhaps most famous for the Panama Canal, located near to the capital. The 78km-long canal links the Atlantic and Pacific oceans via a narrow section of the Isthmus of Panama, allowing ships to pass between the oceans without having to traverse around the entire continent of South America. Completed by an American-led team in 1914, the canal has had a massive and controversial effect on worldwide trade, maritime, and international politics - in fact Panama owes much of its independence from Colombia to the USA backing

separatist rebels in return for an agreement that they could set up a US-administered zone along the new canal they would build, a deal which caused a lot of tension between the USA and Panama throughout the 20th Century, with Panama only gaining full control over the canal in 1999.

Day 109: Panama City (Sat 07 Nov)

Border information: if you are finishing in Panama City, you will most likely exit Panama at Panama City Tocumen International Airport (IATA code: PTY).

Today is the end day for passengers finishing their trip in Panama City. Please note there is no accommodation included on the trip tonight - please contact the Dragoman Sales team if you are interested in booking extra nights of accommodation in order to fully explore and take part in some of the optional activities listed below.

If you are continuing on to Cartagena with Dragoman, then your leader will assist you with airport transfers for your included flight - you will spend this night in a hotel in either Panama City or Cartagena (depending on the flight times and availability).

IMPORTANT NOTES

The routes, activities and places visited described in these trip notes are intentions and are meant as a rough guide only.

These trip notes have been compiled to help you prepare for your journey once you have booked. They include the full itinerary and dates, and information about kit lists, meeting hotels, insurance, vaccinations, visas, and other information that will help you get ready for your trip.

We update these notes regularly, so please ensure you have an up-to-date version of these trip notes.

We intend to follow the planned route but exact night stops and inclusions cannot be guaranteed. It sometimes happens that we decide to make a change to our planned itinerary. This may be for a variety of reasons - climatic, road or bureaucratic conditions may demand it. By their very nature, overland itineraries need to be flexible and the regions that we are travelling through are often unpredictable. We run adventure journeys in off the beaten track areas, which often have poor infrastructure. You should expect that some of these areas do not adhere to 'Western' safety standards.

ALTITUDE WARNING

Warning - this trip goes above 2800m.

Please note that this trip spends time above 2800 metres/9200 feet where it is possible for travellers to experience some adverse effects on your health due to the altitude, potentially including Acute Mountain Sickness (AMS), High Altitude Cerebral Edema (HACE) and High Altitude Pulmonary Edema (HAPE).

Because of this it is very important that you make yourself aware of the cause and effects of travelling at altitude and monitor your health during this trip.

[For further information please click here to download our AMS information sheet](#) or refer to the following website: www.high-altitude-medicine.com

Your leader will also hand you a copy of the AMS information sheet during your trip as well as holding a

short meeting prior to travelling to altitudes above 2800m/9200ft for the first time.

If you are starting your trip in a destination above 2800m/9200ft we strongly advise reading this information prior to arrival.

Some Travel Insurance companies will stipulate a maximum altitude limit. Please ensure that you are covered and if necessary pay the additional premium of extended cover.

PHYSICAL PREPARATION

PHYSICAL PREPARATION FOR NORTH AMERICA

North America is a diverse continent, from the cold wilderness of Alaska to the baking deserts of California. You should therefore be prepared for the full gambit of climates. There will be time for hiking and other activities such as horse riding, and you will need to be reasonably fit.

Overland travel can be demanding - long, rough travel days, dusty conditions can be challenging to some. You will need to be fit enough to help every day with the camp chores (cooking, washing up, general camp set up) as well as putting up and taking down your own tent. There are some long driving days and some early morning starts.

The step up into the overland vehicle, while not overly high can become tiring and you need to judge yourself to be physically fit enough to haul yourself up and down the step at least 8-10 times a day. The North America trip is primarily camping based so you need to be prepared to go for a number of days without the luxury of a real bed.

We will be travelling to areas in remote locations where medical assistance will not be available. If you have a medical condition such as a heart condition that would put you at risk, we would suggest that this is not the trip for you. Also, please be aware that should an emergency occur, there is likely to be a considerable delay in accessing medical care, and by joining our trip you accept this risk.

PHYSICAL PREPARATION FOR CENTRAL AMERICA ITINERARIES

Central America is diverse continent so you should therefore be prepared for the adventure. There will be time for hiking and other activities such as horse riding, and you will need to be reasonably fit to participate in everything on offer.

Overland travel can be demanding - long, rough travel days, dusty conditions can be challenging to some. You will need to be fit enough to help every day with the camp chores (cooking, washing up, general camp set up) as well as putting up and taking down your own tent. There are some long driving days and some early morning starts.

The step up into the overland vehicle, while not overly high can become tiring and you need to judge yourself to be physically fit enough to haul yourself up and down the step at least 8-10 times a day. The Central America trips have a good range of hotel accommodation mixed up with camping so that life is not too rough.

We will be travelling to areas in remote locations where medical assistance will not be available. If you have a medical condition such as a heart condition that would put you at risk, we would suggest that this is not the trip for you. Also, please be aware that should an emergency occur, there is likely to be a considerable delay in accessing medical care, and by joining our trip you accept this risk.

VISA INFORMATION

Many countries that we visit on our travels will require visas to enter. Some are best obtained before you leave home, and others can be obtained en-route. Whilst the ultimate responsibility for obtaining visas is yours, we will endeavour to assist you wherever possible.

The visa requirements for your trip vary depending on where you are from and where you are going. The

information provided is given in good faith and we do try to keep the visa information as up to date as possible. Please read the information very carefully to make sure everything is clear and you aware of what you need to do. Please also be aware that rules surrounding visas do change, often suddenly, and without prior warning. This is why it is important that you also double-check the information we provide for yourself.

For visas that are needed in advance, you may wish to submit the applications directly to the relevant embassy or consulate. If you require any supporting documentation for your visa applications, Dragoman will obtain this on your behalf as part of your trip price - we will contact you to request additional information in order to make this application for you.

However, for trips that involve multiple visas, you may find it beneficial to use a specialist visa agency to assist you with your applications. While this does sometimes increase the cost, it usually makes the process much easier for you.

As you will often need to submit your passport together with your applications, we recommend that you avoid making any travel plans in the weeks leading up to your departure.

Most countries require that your passport is valid for at least 6 months after travel.

For trips that are not yet guaranteed, you may find yourself in the position whereby you will need to start the visa application process prior to your trip being guaranteed - in this situation we still advise you **not** to purchase flights until your trip is guaranteed. However, you **can** start your visa application process, ensuring that when applying for your visas or letters of invitation that you allow several days before and after your entry into the country to allow for delays, availability of flights, etc.

PANAMA

Citizens of the UK, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, USA, Canada and all EU countries **will not** need a visa to visit Panama as a tourist for up to 180 days. Certain nationalities will need to buy a tourist card on arrival at the border for USD5.

Citizens of other countries should check with the relevant consulates as to whether a visa is required. If a visa is required, you will need to obtain it **in advance**.

USA

Citizens of Canada **will not** need a visa to visit the USA as a tourist for up to 90 days.

Citizens of the UK, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan and most EU countries are part of the USA's Visa Waiver Scheme - this means that you **will not** need a visa to visit the USA as a tourist for up to 90 days, but you **will** need an ESTA Electronic Authorisation if arriving to the USA by air or cruise ship. This must be arranged **online** and **in advance** - please go to <https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov/esta/>, apply and pay the appropriate fee for your nationality. Please note this also applies to the same nationalities that are simply transiting through an airport within the USA, as well as those visiting as a tourist. You **will not** need the ESTA if you are entering by land from Canada or Mexico.

Citizens of other countries should check with the relevant consulates as to whether a visa is required. If a visa is required, the most appropriate visa will be the B-1/B-2 visa for temporary visitors, and you will need to obtain it **in advance**.

Please note that if you have travelled to Iran, Sudan, Iraq or Syria since March 2011, or hold dual-nationality with one of these countries, then you will not be eligible for an ESTA and must instead apply for a visa. There are some exceptions to this, please see the following link for more details - <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2016/01/251577.htm>.

COSTA RICA

Citizens of the UK, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, USA, Canada and all EU countries **will not** need a visa

to visit Costa Rica as a tourist for up to 90 days.

Citizens of other countries should check with the relevant consulates as to whether a visa is required. If a visa is required, you will need to obtain it **in advance**.

A valid yellow fever vaccination certificate is required from travellers coming from [areas with risk of yellow fever transmission](#) (including transiting through an airport in an area of risk).

BELIZE

Citizens of the UK, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, USA, Canada and all EU countries **will not** need a visa to visit Belize as a tourist for up to 30 days.

Citizens of other countries should check with the relevant consulates as to whether a visa is required. If a visa is required, you will need to obtain it **in advance**.

A valid yellow fever vaccination certificate is required from travellers coming from [areas with risk of yellow fever transmission](#) (including transiting through an airport in an area of risk).

CANADA

Citizens of the USA **will not** need a visa to visit Canada as a tourist for up to 180 days.

Citizens of the UK, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, most EU countries, South Korea and Japan are part of Canada's Visa Waiver Scheme - this means that you **will not** need a visa to visit Canada as a tourist for up to 180 days, but you **will** need an eTA Electronic Travel Authorisation if arriving to Canada by air. This must be arranged **online** and **in advance** - please go to <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/visit/> , apply and pay the appropriate fee. Please note this also applies to the same nationalities that are simply transiting through an airport within the Canada, as well as those visiting as a tourist. You **will not** need the eTA if you are entering by land from the USA (the mainland or Alaska).

Citizens of other countries should check with the relevant consulates as to whether a visa is required. If a visa is required, the most appropriate visa will be the Temporary Resident Visa, and you will need to obtain it **in advance**. Please note that several Eastern European nationalities will need a visa.

MEXICO

Citizens of the UK, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, USA, Canada and all EU countries **will not** need a visa to visit Mexico as a tourist for up to 180 days.

Citizens of other countries should check with the relevant consulates as to whether a visa is required. If a visa is required, you will need to obtain it **in advance**. Citizens of Russia, Ukraine and Turkey will need to apply for an Electronic Authorisation before travel.

NICARAGUA

Citizens of the UK, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, USA, Canada and all EU countries **will not** need a visa to visit Nicaragua as a tourist for up to 90 days. All visitors will need to buy a tourist card on arrival at the border for USD10.

Citizens of other countries should check with the relevant consulates as to whether a visa is required, and whether it will be necessary to obtain it in advance.

A valid yellow fever vaccination certificate is required from travellers coming from [areas with risk of yellow fever transmission](#) (including transiting through an airport in an area of risk).

HONDURAS

Citizens of the UK, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, USA, Canada and all EU countries **will not** need a visa

to visit Honduras as a tourist for up to 90 days.

Citizens of other countries should check with the relevant consulates as to whether a visa is required. If a visa is required, you will need to obtain it **in advance**.

A valid yellow fever vaccination certificate is required from travellers coming from [areas with risk of yellow fever transmission](#) (including transiting through an airport in an area of risk).

FLYING TO CENTRAL OR SOUTH AMERICA VIA THE USA OR CANADA

If your flight to Central or South America goes via the USA, then you **must** obtain an Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA) before travel (except for citizens of Canada, who will not require this). Citizens of the UK, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan and most EU countries are part of the USA's Visa Waiver Scheme and are eligible to obtain an ESTA.

An ESTA must be obtained **online** and **in advance** via the following link and paying the appropriate fee - <https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov/esta/> - please note that you will be denied boarding your flight if you do not have this arranged.

If you are not eligible for an ESTA, then you will have to obtain a B-1/B-2 visa for temporary visitors, and you will need to obtain it **in advance**. In this case it would be advisable to book flights that do not go via the USA.

Please note that if you have travelled to Iran, Sudan, Iraq or Syria since March 2011, or hold dual-nationality with one of these countries, then you will not be eligible for an ESTA and must instead apply for a visa. There are some exceptions to this, please see the following link for more details - <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2016/01/251577.htm>.

Similarly, if your flight to Central or South America goes via Canada, then you must obtain a Canadian Electronic Travel Authorisation (eTA) before travel (except for citizens of the USA, who will not require this). Citizens of the UK, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, most EU countries, South Korea and Japan are part of Canada's Visa Waiver Scheme and are eligible to obtain an eTA.

An eTA must be arranged **online** and **in advance** - please go to <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/visit/> , apply and pay the appropriate fee.

If you are not eligible for an eTA, then you will have to obtain a Temporary Resident Visa, and you will need to obtain it **in advance**. In this case it would be advisable to book flights that do not go via Canada. Please note that several Eastern European nationalities will need a visa.

EL SALVADOR

Citizens of the UK, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, USA, Canada and all EU countries **will not** need a visa to visit El Salvador as a tourist for up to 90 days. Certain nationalities will need to buy a tourist card on arrival at the border for USD10.

Citizens of other countries should check with the relevant consulates as to whether a visa is required. If a visa is required, you will need to obtain it **in advance**.

A valid yellow fever vaccination certificate is required from travellers coming from [areas with risk of yellow fever transmission](#) (including transiting through an airport in an area of risk).

GUATEMALA

Citizens of the UK, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, USA, Canada and all EU countries **will not** need a visa to visit Guatemala as a tourist for up to 90 days.

Citizens of other countries should check with the relevant consulates as to whether a visa is required. If a visa is required, you will need to obtain it **in advance**.

A valid yellow fever vaccination certificate is required from travellers coming from [areas with risk of yellow fever transmission](#) (including transiting through an airport in an area of risk).

PERSONAL SPENDING

NORTH AND CENTRAL AMERICA CURRENCIES AND CASH

It is not really worth trying to buy local currencies before you travel. Do also bear in mind that many countries have strict regulations about the amount of their own local currency you are allowed to import - if you are found with amounts in excess of the allowed amounts, it may well be confiscated!

For obvious security reasons we hesitate to recommend you bring lots of cash with you, a sensible mix of cash and cheques and ATM cards is best. However, most of our past passengers have said they wished they had been told to bring more cash. Apart from the convenience of being able to change money in many more places, you will sometimes get a much better exchange rate for cash. ATMs are everywhere through North and Central America so it is very easy to withdraw cash as you go, and throughout this region the US Dollar is king.

PERSONAL SPENDING - NORTH AND CENTRAL AMERICA

Based on the range that previous travellers have spent on trips in North and Central America, we recommend you allow between USD20 and USD40 per day.

This will cover individual expenses such as drinks, meals whilst out and also when staying in hotels, souvenirs, tips, and personal permits.

WHAT ELSE YOU NEED TO KNOW

Overland Lifestyle and Trip Suitability

Dragoman was founded in 1981, and has had many years of experience of leading overland trips across 4 continents. Overlanding is all about sharing a great travelling experience with like-minded people. On your trip you'll travel in one of Dragoman's purpose-built iconic expedition vehicles on an off the beaten track adventure along rugged roads, experiencing the sights, sounds and smells of the world up-close. Your journey will be overland, sometimes across vast distances, so some long days spent driving are inevitable - but these will be interspersed with breaks of a day or two at a destination or activity. On an overland journey, you are more than just a passenger and everyone gets involved setting up camp - we supply the tent but it's up to you to pitch it! As part of your trip, you will be assigned a truck job which could be collecting firewood or water, luggage loading, organising food, stores, etc.

Like all great adventures, the more you put in the more you'll get out!

We are looking forward to welcoming you on one of our overland journeys, but before we do there are a few things we would like to draw to your attention.

[Back to top ^](#)

Who Travels with Dragoman?

Our groups are made up of people from around the world, and are always an interesting mix of nationalities and ages. On average there is a pretty even split between males to females, and between solo travellers, couples and small groups of friends. We believe that overlanding should be open to as many people as possible, and so although we have a minimum age limit of 18 (or 7 on our Family Trips), as long as you are fit, healthy and passionate about travel, we are happy to take you, whatever your age is. One of the wonderful aspects of group travel is the camaraderie and friendships that are formed along the way, and the variety of people that you will meet.

[Back to top ^](#)

Group Size

The maximum group size we take on our overland journeys ranges from 19 to 22 depending on the geographical location; however the average number of passengers is more likely to be around 16.

Please note that there is an overlap of 2 trips in Cuzco and during the Inca Treks. This means a group starting a trip in Cuzco will embark on the Inca Trail at the same time as a group finishing in or travelling through Cuzco. In practical terms this means there could be more than 22 group members in Cuzco and on the Inca Trail at the same time.

Please note that there is also an overlap of 2 trips in Zanzibar. This means a group starting a trip in Nairobi, for example, will visit Zanzibar at the same time as a group starting their trip there. In practical terms this means there could be more than 22 group members in Zanzibar at the same time.

Please also note that on some departures there may be more than one truck doing the same route. This means that you will be in the same hotel or campsite as another Dragoman group on some days. To ensure that you are not always at the same place at the same time as another group, your itinerary will most likely be slightly altered from the itinerary advertised in these trip notes.

Our Crew and Guides

Our crew are passionate about travel and are always up for adventure. It takes someone special to become a Dragoman leader. Our crew undergo the most intensive training program of all the overland companies, spending 8 weeks learning the ropes at our base in Suffolk, UK, and then up to 6 months on the road as a trainee. Our crew are trained to manage and operate the trip safely and efficiently and their duties include: planning the trip according to the itinerary, driving and maintaining the truck, securing services of local guides, general logistics, health and safety, liaising with bureaucracy, dealing with issues where needed and offering advice and support to our customers. In addition they have a basic knowledge of the places visited and will be able to offer suggestions of things to do and see. Dragoman endeavours to provide the services of experienced crew, however, due to the seasonality of travel, situations may arise where your tour leader is new to a particular region or training other crew, new to the area.

On all Dragoman overlanding trips, we usually have 2 western crew but please be aware that there may be times when one crew member has to leave the trip due to unforeseen circumstances such as visa issues, illness of a group member, etc. On some of our trips we have 1 western crew and 1 local driver instead of 2 western crew. On trips south of Nairobi in East and Southern Africa we will also have an African camp master/cook who is in charge of running the camp and organising all of the meals. Their knowledge of the local produce makes shopping at the markets great fun and you will learn how to prepare and cook some unusual dishes.

On the majority of our trips in Ethiopia, Sudan, Central Asia, China and South East Asia, in addition to our crew we will have a local guide on board who will travel with us for the entire duration of our time within one country. In these cases, the local guide becomes a third crew member and is able to offer their local knowledge as well as an insight into their country and the lives of the local people.

In most other areas of Africa, the Americas, India and Turkey, in addition to our crew we will employ local guides in specific locations of interest (for just a few hours up to a few days).

Your crew have a duty of care to all members of the group and therefore they have the authority to ask you to leave the trip if you require serious medical assistance, you are behaving in an anti-social manner or refuse to comply with local laws and customs. In all matters relating to the trip, the leader's decision will be final and we appreciate your respect of this.

Accommodation on Tour

Dragoman's overland trips are designed for shared accommodation, whether camping or staying in hotels or hostels, and therefore do not involve a single supplement. Whilst our crew will do their best to accommodate couples travelling together in twin rooms, all our travellers should expect to stay in multi-share accommodation when staying in hostels, gers or yurts.

The type, variety and standard of accommodation will vary greatly depending on what options are available at the time; hotels can vary from very basic rooms without electricity or running water to high

standard hotels with good facilities! Generally in hotels most rooms will be single sex, twin-share, but in South America many rooms are triple/quad-share. Hostels, gers and yurts are nearly always multi-share and may be mixed sex.

The campsites will range from rather basic to those with excellent facilities, including swimming pools, restaurants and bars. In some cases it may also be possible to upgrade locally to bungalows, lodges or even tree-houses. One of the highlights of overlanding is that in more remote areas we wild camp away from the tourist crowds. Occasionally on some of our trips we are able to stay in villages or local homestays allowing us to get close to the indigenous population and ensuring that our money stays within the local community.

[Back to top ^](#)

The Kitty

In addition to the trip price on our overlanding trips, you will also be required to pay a kitty specified for your trip (please note that there is no kitty on our Family Trips). The kitty is payable in installments at the start of each section of the trip for combination trips, and in full at the start of the trip for individual trips. Each customer joining a trip pays their kitty into a central fund. The fund is managed by the Dragoman crew and the kitty accounts can be viewed by all throughout the trip.

The kitty covers all things that the whole group does, such as:

- Hotel accommodation and campsite fees
- Meals whilst camping (not whilst staying in hotels)
- Activities listed as included (e.g. National Park or historical site entrances, excursions, etc.)

The kitty system is unique to overlanding and allows us to have flexibility and transparency on our trips. You can see exactly how your money is being spent and ensure that you are getting the best value by buying locally. It also helps to keep the costs competitive and save on administration costs so that we can pass the saving on to you. Dragoman makes NO PROFIT on kitties, as they are the group's fund. If there is money left in the kitty at the end of your trip, then this is divided between the group and you receive a refund.

Once you book your trip it is very important that you check our website on a regular basis and just before departure for any changes to the kitty amount. We constantly update the kitty prices on our website and the kitty advertised in the brochure is an estimate at the time of printing. Prices can go up or down with no notice, and exchange rate fluctuations will affect costs.

The kitty is payable in full at the start of your trip (in instalments at the start of each individual trip on combination trips). Alternatively you can pay in advance via a bank transfer 3-4 weeks before the start of your trip - please see https://www.dragoman.com/files/Dragoman_Kitty_Document.pdf for more details - this information sheet will also be sent in your booking confirmation upon booking a trip and can be found on www.dragoman.com/overlanding/planning-your-trip/money. Please also note that prepayment is not available for our trips to West Africa, Iran, Tajikistan, Pakistan, Alaska and any trip in Africa north of Nairobi.

If you are bringing the kitty out in cash, please ensure your USD notes (EUR notes if your trip goes through West Africa) are clean and undamaged and **no more than 8 years old**. If needed, your tour leader will be able to accept some of the kitty in local currency, and they will let you know the exchange rate locally. In most destinations you can withdraw local currencies from ATM machines, using either a cash passport or a credit/debit card. However, please bear in mind that most cards have a maximum withdrawal amount per day, local ATMs may run out of cash, and your bank could block the card despite you warning them of your travel plans, so it could be impractical to try to get the entire kitty out from an ATM.

We cannot accept traveller's cheques on our trips.

[Back to top ^](#)

Meals and Group Participation

On an overland journey you are more than just an individual passenger - you're part of the team. You are expected to pitch in to set up camp, shop for food, cook and generally help out. As part of your trip you will be assigned a truck job which could be collecting water and firewood, sweeping out the truck, loading the back locker, etc. While camping on overland journeys, the meals are included in the kitty. This means that you will have to work together to cook for everyone in your group. You will be divided into smaller units of 3-4 people and take it in turns to cook for the whole group according to a rota system. When it is your group's turn to cook you will have to plan the meal, shop for the ingredients in local markets or supermarkets and then prepare the meal for the whole group. The secret to cooking for 20+ people using a basic camping kitchen is to keep it simple! (On trips south of Nairobi we have a cook on board the truck; however you will still be required to help them to prepare meals).

An example of a typical camp breakfast might be toast with spreads, fruit and cereal as well as tea and coffee. When time allows it will also be possible to serve something hot such as eggs or pancakes. Lunch is almost always a sandwich heaped high with healthy salad and assorted fillings, with fruit to follow. Dinner might be a BBQ, risotto or pasta dish and there is always the chance to try some local cooking. Generally our passengers find the more they put into a trip, the more they benefit from it.

[Back to top ^](#)

Dietary Requirements

If you have any dietary requirements please tell us at the time of booking and tell your crew at your welcome meeting. Our crew will try to cater for any particular dietary requirement or food intolerance whenever possible. However, it must be remembered that it may not always be possible and the variety of dishes may be severely limited in comparison to those available to others. If there is anything in particular you require in your diet, that you would miss from home, or because of an allergy would miss out on, it would be best to bring this with you. Depending on your particular requirements, you may need to allow yourself some extra spending money to allow you to purchase extra food items.

[Back to top ^](#)

Itineraries

Our itineraries are developed and published with the best of intentions, however travel in more remote areas of the world is unpredictable - borders can close, there can be extreme adverse weather, strikes or maybe mechanical issues that affect the running of your trip, but equally due to the nature of our trips we can often spontaneously include a local festival or event into the itinerary. This being said, the safety of our passengers, leaders and operators is a priority for us. With this in mind we monitor world events very closely. By the very nature of the adventure travel that we take, there are risks and hazards that are inherent in our itineraries. We make operational decisions based on informed advice from a number of sources, including the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office travel advice, reports from other travel companies and local suppliers, leaders' reports from off the road and local contacts we have built up over many years of experience.

[Back to top ^](#)

British Foreign Office Travel Advice and Warnings

Dragoman follows the British Foreign Office Travel advice when deciding where and where we are unable to travel. We will base our decisions on itineraries and alterations to published routes based on their advice rather than the advice of other governments. We will advise you of any significant changes in advice before travel or whilst you are overseas.

However, we recommend you check the latest travel advisories from your own government for the country you are travelling to before you book and prior to departure. If there are any travel warnings present for the region you will travel to, as well as considering whether you are happy to travel despite the warning you must also check to ensure that it is not invalidating your travel insurance. Here are a few useful addresses:

UK - www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice

Australia - <http://www.smartraveller.gov.au/>

New Zealand - <http://www.safetravel.govt.nz/>

United States - <https://travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/country.html>

Canada - http://www.voyage.gc.ca/countries_pays/menu-eng.asp

We also recommend that you check out the UK Travel Aware website before you travel at <https://travelaware.campaign.gov.uk/>. This website offers straightforward travel advice, top tips, and up-to-date country information to help you plan a safe trip.

[Back to top ^](#)

Health

You need to be in good physical health in order to participate fully in our trips. When selecting your trip please make sure you have read through the itinerary carefully and assessed your ability to cope with our style of travel. To help you assess if this trip is suitable, please refer to the physical rating. The ratings for each trip are a good indication of how challenging they are and in some cases you should be prepared for some long driving days and possibly limited facilities. We are always happy to give extra advice if you have additional concerns. Please note that if, in the opinion of our leader, you are unable to complete the itinerary without undue risk to yourself and/or the rest of the group, Dragoman reserves the right to exclude you from all or part of the trip without a refund.

You should consult your doctor for up-to-date medical travel information prior to travel, particularly if you have a pre-existing medical condition. You must also declare any pre-existing medical conditions to your travel insurers upon purchase and provide evidence to us prior to departure that your pre-existing medical condition has been declared to your insurers. Failure to do so will mean that you are unable to join the trip.

Extreme Environments

There may be periods of time within your trip when you meet extreme conditions, such as extreme heat, extreme wind, extreme cold, extreme humidity, extreme altitude, extreme crowds etc. Whilst our crew will let you know at the time when you are likely to meet these conditions, please ensure that you have read through the trip notes carefully and researched the local weather conditions at the time and that you feel that you are fit enough to cope with these conditions. If you have any doubts at all, please contact us to discuss your concerns prior to booking, and when on trip, if you find that the local conditions are causing you concern at any time, please be sure to let your trip leader know so that appropriate precautions can be discussed.

[Back to top ^](#)

Altitude

Some pre-existing medical conditions are known to severely worsen at high altitude and be difficult to adequately treat on the ground, leading to more serious consequences. It is imperative that you discuss your pre-existing medical condition/s with your doctor. We understand certain medications are reported to aid acclimatising to high altitude; please discuss these options with your doctor. For trips that travel to areas of high altitude, the tour leader will issue you with a self-assessment altitude questionnaire which allows you to monitor how you are coping with the altitude and informs you of danger signals so that you can report these as soon as possible, either to the tour leader or a medical professional.

[Back to top ^](#)

Yellow Fever

A valid international certificate of vaccination against Yellow Fever is required in many countries. You may need to present this on arrival at the airport or border crossing. Some countries will refuse entry if you are unable to present your certificate. It's also quite common for your home country to request a Yellow Fever certificate on your arrival back home.

It is your responsibility to check with your doctor well in advance of leaving home about the Yellow Fever requirements for the countries you'll be visiting.

Malaria & other mosquito-borne diseases

There is a risk of contracting malaria in some areas which we travel through. If your trip goes to a areas with malaria it is always best to get expert advice before travelling about the types of malaria pills available, whether they are recommended, and take any that are prescribed as instructed. Consult your GP or travel clinic for the most up-to-date requirements.

Other mosquito-borne diseases such as yellow fever, dengue fever, chikungunya and Zika are continuing to spread and are becoming a bigger problem around the world. Mosquito bite prevention is vital to avoid contracting any of these diseases, as there are no vaccines or specific treatments available. Health professionals have issued warnings for pregnant women travelling to areas affected by the Zika virus. For more information about Zika please visit:

- WHO: www.who.int/en/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/zika-virus
- Center for Disease Control and Prevention: www.cdc.gov/zika

The Anopheles mosquitoes that transmit malaria usually bite between the hours of dusk and dawn, whereas the Aedes mosquitoes that transmit yellow fever, dengue fever, chikungunya and Zika bite both during the day and the night. To prevent being bitten, it is recommended to cover up by wearing long-legged and long-sleeved clothing, preferably light-coloured and buttoned at the wrists. Do not sleep without closing your windows, tent door, etc. and use a mosquito net in hotels or if sleeping outside where there are mosquitoes present. Use mosquito repellent applied directly to your skin or soaked into your clothing. Treating clothes and mosquito nets with a Permethrin solution also provides significant protection. It should be available at most travel stores. Mosquito coils are useful on still nights and in hotel rooms, but cannot be used inside the tents. For more advice on how to avoid bites please see: www.travelhealthpro.org.uk/factsheet/38/insect-and-tick-bite-avoidance

[Back to top ^](#)

Vaccinations

Recommended vaccinations and other health protections vary according to different regions and recent bulletins issued by health authorities. It is essential to get the latest specific health advice on the regions and countries you are planning to travel in, so please check with either your doctor or travel clinic in good time before you travel. The following websites are also a helpful resource:

www.nathnac.net and www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk

In the UK, we have been working with Nomad Travel for many years and their website has comprehensive, up-to-date vaccination and health information. You will receive a 10% discount off all vaccinations given at Nomad Travel clinics.

[Back to top ^](#)

Safety & Security

At Dragoman your safety is of paramount importance and we will do our best to ensure that your travel with us is safe and trouble-free, but we do ask that you take that little bit of extra care whilst you are away and to understand about the nature of this style of travel.

Of course we want you to have an enjoyable time, but you must also remember that part of the enjoyment of travel is experiencing a different way of life and cultures. This may also mean experiencing different safety and hygiene standards than those you are normally used to.

Therefore, please take note of the following safety tips and follow any local safety advice or briefings delivered by our crew or any third-party suppliers we use during your trip.

[Back to top ^](#)

Transport Safety

- Our own vehicles have fully-fitted seat belts; make sure you always belt up.
- If you find a safety belt inoperable or missing on one of our vehicles, please inform the crew immediately.
- Unfortunately, we cannot guarantee that other vehicles we may use or recommend in some countries will be fitted with seat belts on every seat as it is not a legal requirement in much of the world.

- Please remain seated on board vehicles at all times when the vehicle is in motion.
- Never place luggage in the aisles or foot wells.
- Ensure you know where your nearest Emergency exit is; this may be a designated emergency exit, a window, a door, or a roof hatch.
- Check the location of the fire extinguisher and first aid kit.
- Follow any safety instructions provided by the crew/driver.
- Our vehicles are fitted with roof seats which can be used in certain conditions, such as when driving at low speeds, off main tarmac roads, etc. The roof hatches can only be opened and the roof seats used with the express permission of the crew and you must never sit in the roof seats without seat belts.

Road Safety

- Traffic in some countries travels on the opposite side of the road to what you may be used to, so ensure you look both ways before crossing the road.
- In many countries vehicles do not automatically stop at crossings and driving styles may be very unpredictable, so please remain very vigilant when near roads and vehicles.
- Crash helmets are often not provided with mopeds and motorbikes overseas – we do not recommend you hire these vehicles.

[Back to top ^](#)

Fire & Other Safety - Hostels/Hotels/Homestays

- Ensure you know where your nearest fire exit is and check to ensure that it is operative.
- Check the location of the nearest fire extinguisher.
- Study the fire instructions in your room if available.
- Identify how to raise the alarm if a fire occurs.
- If a fire occurs, leave immediately; do not stop to collect your effects.
- Proceed to an assembly point well away from the building.
- Electrics in hotels in many of the places that we visit will not be up to the same standards as at home. Please ensure that you check rooms, especially bathrooms and are aware of any issues that look unsafe. If in doubt inform the crew who will endeavour to sort the situation out if possible.
- Staircases and stairwells are often built to a very different design than under western building standards. There may be no guard rails, be excessively steep, have dangerous gaps between the stairs and the wall, etc. At all times be aware and take appropriate and prudent care.
- We often stay in homestays and farmstays. These may range from a traditional yurt through to a tree house or a town house. As these are traditional homes, they may well not adhere to our western standards of safety and so it is important that you make yourself aware of potential risks.
- If in doubt please inform the crew of any safety issues with the hotels/hostels or homestays.

Fire Safety - Campsites

- Ensure you know where the nearest source of water or fire extinguisher is.
- Know how to raise the alarm.
- Extinguish all camping fires fully before retiring to bed.
- Observe any regulations regarding fires and bushfires in dry conditions.
- Identify how to raise the alarm if a fire occurs.
- If a fire occurs, leave immediately; do not stop to collect your effects.
- Proceed to an assembly point away from the tented accommodation/affected campsite.

Other Campsite Safety & Security

- Familiarise yourself with the campsite and any known hazards.
- Group the tents around our vehicle wherever possible.
- No open flames, smoking or flammable liquids in or near the tents.
- Ensure the cooking area is well away from the tents.
- Ensure all water for cooking and drinking is purified first.

- Ensure any soil toilets are a minimum of 50m away from the tents and the cooking area.
- All food waste should be burned or buried a minimum of 100m away from the site.
- Ensure local advice is followed concerning any wildlife in the area.
- Keep valuables locked in the vehicle.
- Be aware of any local security issues that might be important.
- Do not set out tents close to perimeter fences which may be a security risk.
- Be aware of the security arrangements and local guards for campsite and if in doubt ask them where and where not to pitch tents.
- If in doubt please inform the crew of any safety issues with campsite.
- When wild camping, ensure that you do not wander away from the camp alone. If you do leave camp, ensure that you have notified the leader or other members of the group.

Food Safety

- Make sure your food has been thoroughly cooked.
- Hot food should be hot, cold food should be cold.
- Avoid any uncooked food, except fruit and vegetables (notably those you can peel or shell yourself).
- In many countries you should only drink bottled water or purified water and ensure any seal is intact when purchasing bottles.
- On the Dragoman vehicles we have a tank of drinking water that is kept purified by the crew.
- Avoid ice in drinks as this can cause upset stomachs in hot climates.
- Make sure you wash your hands in antibacterial product when preparing and/or eating food.
- Many of the restaurants that you will eat in, either as a group or as individuals, will NOT have the same standards of food hygiene as we have in the western world. Unfortunately this is a reality of life in these regions. Therefore please think carefully about where you eat, what food you order and be aware of the risks.

[Back to top ^](#)

Personal Safety

One of the real advantages of overland travel is that the vehicle provides a very real level of security when travelling. There is no doubt that a properly-equipped overland vehicle, with safes, fully lockable doors and windows is an obvious advantage when travelling in much of the world. Generally speaking, you will not be travelling on local public transport and will have the added security of travelling in a group with experienced crew on-hand to offer advice. We have come up with a few pointers that we recommend you follow:

- Follow the crew's specific safety advice in each destination.
- Always remain aware and vigilant, and stay away from situations where you do not feel comfortable.
- Avoid carrying too much money.
- Always avoid carrying your passport, driving licence, air tickets, and other valuable items around with you unless this is essential. Instead, keep valuables such as this locked away in the truck's safe, or the safety deposit box in the room or reception of the hotel/hostel.
- If you are carrying cash, cards or valuables, use a money belt or neck wallet which are more easily concealed and more difficult to pickpocket.
- Do not take any valuable jewellery, watches, etc. away with you in the first place.
- Avoid walking in poorly lit areas.
- If possible avoid walking around on your own; it is always safer to explore with others.
- Always try to walk with confidence and purpose, which will help you avoid looking like a lost tourist!
- Take special care when walking to avoid spraining or twisting your ankle on potholes, cobbles and uneven ground.

[Back to top ^](#)

Activity Safety & Optional Activities

You will have the opportunity to take part in many exciting activities and excursions, some of which are included (e.g. hiking the Inca Trail, trekking to see Mountain Gorillas, visiting the Taj Mahal, etc.), whilst others are optional (e.g. white water rafting in Uganda, zip-lining in Costa Rica, etc.). Some of these activities require a certain level of fitness, so it's important that you read through the trip notes thoroughly and make your own conclusions as to whether you feel that you are fit and healthy enough to enjoy this trip and its activities to their fullest.

Some activities may have higher risks than you are used to and you must judge whether or not you wish, or have the physical ability, to take part.

Please note that riding helmets are mandatory for all optional and included horse riding activities. This is an insurance requirement.

Optional activities mentioned by Dragoman are not included in the trip price or kitty, and do not form part of your contract with Dragoman. As such you accept that any assistance given by Dragoman crew members or local representatives in arranging optional activities does not render us liable for them in any way. The Dragoman crew are assisting you in arranging these activities for your added enjoyment whilst on your trip. The operators of these services and optional extras are local suppliers who contract directly with the client 'on the road', subject to and in accordance with their own terms and conditions. Dragoman accepts no liability for any action or activity undertaken by the client which is arranged independently of Dragoman while on tour. Crew may take part in an optional activity but do so as private individuals and not as company representatives.

Please use your own good judgement when selecting an activity in your free time.

Ensure that you use the appropriate equipment on optional activities, including life jackets, helmets, etc. This is especially important on activities such as horse riding, white-water rafting, etc.

Always ensure that your travel medical insurance covers you for all included and optional activities that you wish to participate in.

[Back to top ^](#)

Included Activities

Included activities are listed in the day-to-day itinerary, all other activities are optional and at your own expense. If you choose not to participate in the included activities on this itinerary, the cost will not necessarily be refunded; this is something you will need to check with your leader.

[Back to top ^](#)

Optional Activities

A selection of optional activities is listed in the day-to-day itinerary. This list is designed to be a helpful guide as to what is commonly available in each location, and is neither an exhaustive list, a guarantee that the activity is available, or an endorsement or recommendation. Please note that certain activities may not be available on your particular visit if they are overbooked, underbooked, out of season, or for any other reason - the list of activities is made according to our latest information and in the best faith, but please be aware that things may change between our last visit and your arrival. Please also note that it may not be possible to do all the activities listed in the time available at each destination, and it is recommended to give yourself extra time in your joining or ending city if you would like to participate in some optional activities there.

Prices listed are for entrance only and do not include transport costs to and from the sites or local guides unless indicated - again, these prices are displayed according to our latest information and in the best faith, but prices do fluctuate due to exchange rates, season, numbers of participants, and simple increases from the operator - any prices listed are a guide only and certainly cannot be guaranteed.

Optional activities are not necessarily endorsed or recommended by Dragoman nor included in the price of this trip. If you do any optional activities, you do so at your own risk and it must be clearly understood that your participation is your own decision and does not form part of your contract with Dragoman. You may be required to sign/complete a waiver form or optional activity form for some optional activities.

[Back to top ^](#)

Insurance

It is a condition of booking that you have comprehensive travel insurance. Without evidence of valid travel insurance you will not be allowed to start the trip.

We recommend that any policy has a minimum medical (including repatriation) cover of £5,000,000. We recommend that any policy also has a minimum level of cover for Personal Liability of £2,000,000 and for Cancellation and Curtailment of £5,000 (or the full cost of your trip). Cover for loss of baggage, personal effects, money and other inclusions are down to personal choice although please bear in mind that personal effects are more likely to go missing whilst travelling and you should ensure that your policy is adequate to cover the value of your personal effects e.g. cameras, tablets, phones, ipods, etc. Please note that Dragoman is not responsible for your personal effects and is not insured for their loss. Please note that you should be insured for trip postponement or cancellation purposes immediately upon paying a deposit.

Whatever policy you choose, you must ensure that it is designed for adventure/overland travel and make sure it covers any activity that you intend to undertake (whether included or optional). As such it must cover you for adventure activities such as white water rafting, trekking, horse-riding, etc., and that the 24-hour Emergency Assistance Company must be experienced in handling situations in developing countries - for example, that they have the ability to arrange repatriation from remote areas such as the Sahara or if you were trekking in the Andes. On activities or side trips that are not recommended by us, please ensure you are happy with the safety of the activity before participating.

Please note that in the case of credit card travel insurance we will require details of the participating insurer, the insurance policy number and emergency contact number prior to travel rather than just the bank's name and credit card details. It is up to you to ensure that these policies have the cover you require, as many of these policies are not able to cope with adventure travel to remote areas and many are not valid for travelling outside your country of residence or outside the EU.

[Back to top ^](#)

Our Liability Insurance

Dragoman has comprehensive passenger vehicle liability protection and tour operator insurance. These policies have total indemnities of £5,000,000 and £10,000,000 per incident respectively. This is in addition to local vehicle insurance and your personal travel insurance.

[Back to top ^](#)

Out of Office Hours Contact

We have an out of office hours number you can call which should only be used once you have left your home country to start the trip and in the event of a real emergency. Should you need to call the number, we will do what we can to help but please bear in mind that real progress or action may not be possible until normal office hours. If you can not get through please leave a message with you name, reference number, contact details and a message with the help that you need and we will get back to you.

If your flight is delayed or cancelled, please let us know and then make your way to the joining hotel as instructed in these trip notes. If you cannot get through leave a message and a contact number as these will be regularly checked and the crew informed if necessary.

Out of hours Number: +44 (0) 7985 106564

[Back to top ^](#)

Luggage & Kit List

Although you will not have to carry your main bag for long distances, you will need to help load and unload them onto the truck. For this reason we recommend that you use a backpack or soft bag rather than a heavy suitcase. During your trip your main luggage will be kept in the truck's back locker which will be inaccessible during a drive day, so you will also need a small daypack. This can be used to carry your camera, water bottle and other personal effects for daily use. Please be aware that due to the constant dust and vibrations your luggage bag will be subject to extreme wear and tear.

The size of baggage that can be brought on this tour is limited by the locker space on the truck. We recommend that your bag be no larger than a large rucksack with a capacity of about 80 litres (approximately 70cm high, 40cm wide, and 40cm deep). The weight limit for luggage on all trucks is a maximum of 20kg.

Your clothes and equipment should be appropriate for the conditions you are travelling in, which will vary depending on which part of the world you're heading to. On overland trips, Dragoman will provide all camping equipment apart from sleeping bags and ground mats, so you'll need to bring those with you if your trip includes camping nights.

Think about the climate and altitude of the areas you'll be travelling to - there's nothing worse than being cold at night so it's worth investing in a decent sleeping bag if it's likely to get cold. And remember that even when it's warm during the day, it can often get cold at night, particularly in desert regions.

For a general idea of what you need, this list provides a guide:

General

- Sleeping bag, sleeping bag liner, sleeping mat and small pillow - if your trip includes camping nights
- Sandals or flip flops
- Comfortable walking shoes
- Sun hat and sunglasses
- Waterproof jacket
- Warm sweater or fleece
- Swimwear
- Comfortable travelling clothes and a set of casual but smart clothes for evenings out
- If visiting places of worship on the trip, men should bring a pair of full length trousers and women should bring a skirt that covers their knees and a scarf
- Towel - quick dry, lightweight travel towels are best
- Toiletries including bio degradable wet wipes, sanitary products, hand gel, sun cream and insect repellent
- Day pack - essential for keeping things handy when on the truck, on short hikes, walking around cities, etc
- Assorted dry bags - to protect your kit from dust and damp
- Pouch or money belt
- Water bottle (at least 1 litre) - we carry drinking water on all of our trucks and actively encourage our customers to use the water supplied. Whilst away from the truck we encourage the use of a filter water bottle and we are able to offer Dragoman customers a 25% discount on Water to Go bottles and filters using the code DRAGOMAN25 on the link <https://www.watertogo.eu/dragoman>
- Head torch with spare batteries and bulbs
- Camera with spare battery and extra memory cards
- Electrical accessories such as charger, power bank, adapter, etc
- Carbon monoxide detector
- A good book, a diary or notebook and pen, a fun game for travel days
- Personal medical kit - see notes below

Cold weather

For trips going through mountainous areas, deserts, high altitude regions and Patagonia, you should be prepared for cold weather, especially at night. Ensure you bring:

- 3/4 or 4/5 season sleeping bag with liner - see note on sleeping bag ratings below
- Thermal base layers
- Winter jacket
- Hat, gloves and scarf
- Warm socks

Hot weather

For trips going through tropical areas you should be prepared for hot and humid weather. Ensure you bring:

- Loose fitting clothes with long sleeves and legs
- Mosquito repellent
- Mosquito net – not essential as our tents have mosquito netting but can be handy for hotels and hostels or sleeping under the stars

Trips with trekking

For trips including treks, ensure you bring:

- Lightweight walking clothes suitable for the general climate
- Waterproof trousers
- Sturdy walking boots
- Walking stick(s) – not essential but can help in steep terrain; sticks can generally be hired or purchased en route

[Back to top ^](#)

Sleeping Bags

A sleeping bag's rating typically indicates the lowest temperature at which it will keep the average sleeper warm enough to sustain them but not necessarily make them warm enough to feel comfortable. For example, with a 0°C bag, you should be able to stay in 0°C temperature but you will not necessarily be able to sleep comfortably.

For European sleeping bags there are the following standards:

- The upper limit is the highest temperature at which a 'standard' adult man is able to have a comfortable night's sleep without excess sweating.
- The comfort rating is based on a 'standard' adult woman having a comfortable night's sleep.
- The lower limit is based on the lowest temperature at which a 'standard' adult man is deemed to be able to have a comfortable night's sleep.
- The extreme rating is a survival-only rating for a 'standard' adult man. This is an extreme survival rating only and it is not advisable to rely on this rating for general use.

The transition zone, in between the comfort and lower temperature, is usually considered as the best purchase guideline.

Personal Medical Kit

All of our trucks have a standard motorist's first aid kit on board for use in emergency situations only. The first aid kit is in compliance with UK standards for first aid provision within motor vehicles, and contain supplies to treat road side injuries. We do not carry prescription medications, therefore in addition to this we recommend that you purchase your own personal medical kit.

In the UK we have teamed up with Nomad Travel Stores and Clinics to produce travel medical kits. They have been designed in conjunction with the truck kits and contain everything you would need for any minor incidents and health issues. For more details please visit their website:

Global Survival Kit - <http://www.nomadtravel.co.uk/p/2712/Global-Survival-Kit>

Ultimate Medical Kit (POM) - [http://www.nomadtravel.co.uk/p/2909/Ultimate-Medical-Kit-\(POM\)](http://www.nomadtravel.co.uk/p/2909/Ultimate-Medical-Kit-(POM))

[Back to top ^](#)

Passports

Check that your passport will still be valid for 6 months after the end of your trip - this is important as some countries WILL refuse entry to anyone whose passport is due to expire. A temporary or 'visitor's' passport is not valid on our trips. You will need to provide us with your passport details prior to

departing for your trip. If you change your passport, please remember to inform us as soon as possible - however, please be aware that changing your passport can cause big problems if you need to apply for visas or permits (such as the Inca Trail or Gorilla Trekking) in advance.

[Back to top ^](#)

Pre and Post Trip Accommodation and Airport Transfers

At Dragoman we believe you should make the most of the places you visit, so if you would like to see more of the joining or finishing point cities, why not book additional accommodation to extend your stay? Dragoman can take away the hassle of time zones and language barriers by making the booking for you. This accommodation is only available at the joining or finishing city of your trip, immediately before or after the trip you are travelling on.

While Dragoman is happy to assist with booking your pre and post trip accommodation, it is important that you understand that you may be able to book your own room at a cheaper rate directly through the hotel or on the internet. Our additional accommodation prices are based on the hotel's rate plus an administration fee. Please note our rates do not reflect last minute walk-in rates or internet specials.

We can also book arrival airport transfers for you as long as we have your flight arrival details. These are normally payable in cash upon arrival; however we do have pre-paid transfers in a few destinations.

Please contact our reservations team for details of the accommodation and transfers that we can offer, as not all hotels offer this service.

[Back to top ^](#)

Continuing Your Trip

Having an amazing trip and met a great group of people? Having too much fun to go home yet? If you're on one of our trips and decide that you would like to continue with us, then why not speak to your trip leader who can advise you of the cost and availability of continuing your journey.

[Back to top ^](#)

Contingency Emergency Fund

Sometimes, civil or political unrest, or reasons beyond Dragoman's control (e.g. a natural disaster), can mean that an itinerary is disrupted and we have to make a contingency plan. This may involve hiring alternate transport or even the whole group flying over an area. Although Dragoman will help organise travel arrangements, in circumstances outside Dragoman's control you will be required to contribute the additional costs involved and therefore we ask you to bring along a 'Contingency Fund' of USD400. In almost all cases trips run smoothly and this fund is therefore never used. We also recommend that you take along an internationally recognised credit or charge card with a decent limit in case of emergencies, such as medical treatment en route, or even the need to be repatriated; though these occurrences are rare. Remember that travel insurance policies usually only refund you for expenses after you have already paid out.

[Back to top ^](#)

Responsible Tourism

Dragoman is committed to ensuring that we have a positive impact on local communities and that we implement policies to minimise any negative impact on the local environment. We are dedicated to making sure that we adopt a responsible attitude to the areas through which we travel and believe that our trips should benefit the local people and their environment. Dragoman recognises that we are guests of local communities and strive to make these communities our partners, so that they benefit directly from our visit. You can find full details of Dragoman's Responsible Tourism policy from the link below:

<https://www.dragoman.com/about-us/responsible-travel/policy-and-guidelines>

[Back to top ^](#)

Water

The sale of bottled water contributes to an enormous environmental problem around the world. In

addition to the water in the bottle, the production of a 1 litre plastic bottle takes 2 litres of water and 200ml of oil. A large proportion end up in limited landfill or discarded in waterways and natural environments.

Please avoid the purchase of bottled water by using the chemically sterilised water stored in the purpose-built storage tank on your overland vehicle. You are free to refill your bottle as many times a day as you like. You are helping the environment and your pocket!

[Back to top ^](#)

Electrical Equipment

Your vehicle will be usually equipped with a 12-Volt socket, so to charge your iPod, MP3 player, camera, laptop and mobile phone you will need a DC 12V adapter - the type that can be used from a cigarette lighter in your car. Please be aware that only one piece of equipment can be charged at a time and it will not be allowed if there is a risk of running the vehicle's batteries low. Batteries may also be recharged from hotel room wall sockets and the majority of the campsites we stay at have electricity points, so please bring along your normal charging adapters as well. You will need to ensure that you have the correct country adapter for your specific charger.

For mobile phones, please note that most countries in the Americas operate at 850 MHz and 1900 MHz which is not the same frequencies used in Europe, Africa, Asia and Australia. Most modern tri-band and quad-band mobile phones will be able to operate on these frequencies but please check your mobile phone specifications before travelling to ensure that you'll be able to use your phone in the Americas.

[Back to top ^](#)

A Few Rules

It is one of our core values to treat all people we encounter with respect, including the local people who make our destinations so special. We have therefore set down a number of rules to which our customers must adhere.

Engaging in commercial or exploitative sexual activities, committing acts of violence or threatening violence towards local people, other group members or any member of our staff is not allowed. Any customer engaging in such activities will be required to leave the trip immediately with no refund of the trip price.

You must at all times comply with the laws, customs, foreign exchange and drug regulations of all countries visited and conduct yourself in accordance with our responsible travel policy. Any customer found contravening such laws or regulations will be required to leave the trip immediately with no refund of the trip price.

Although we are aware that in some parts of the world taking, carrying or selling drugs, carrying weapons, or engaging in commercial or exploitative sexual activities may be legal, it is not acceptable for Dragoman customers and our tour leaders have the right to ask you to leave the trip immediately with no refund of the trip price if you are found to be engaging in such activities.

[Back to top ^](#)

Issues on the Trip

While we always endeavour to provide the best possible holiday experience, due to the nature of travel and the areas we visit sometimes things can and do go wrong. Should any issue occur while you are on your trip, it is imperative that you discuss this with your group leader or our local partner straight away so that they can do their best to rectify the problem and save any potential negative impact on the rest of your trip.

We recognise that there may be times when your group leader may not be able to resolve a situation to your satisfaction. If this is the case please contact our customer relations department on

customer-relations@dragoman.co.uk.

You may also choose to provide details in your feedback questionnaire which we ask you to complete at the end of your trip, but we do ask you to be aware that it is very difficult for us to provide any practical help after the trip is complete.

[Back to top ^](#)

Tipping

Tipping is entirely voluntary. The Dragoman crew may be travelling with you for many weeks and usually they become good friends with most members of the group. It is sometimes easy to forget that they do work hard to ensure that you do have a great trip. If you feel you would like to tip them, they certainly would appreciate it.

On a number of our trips, we also use a local guide as well as our own Dragoman crew. These guides live and travel with you through their home country and it is usual to tip them when they leave. We recommend USD 1 to USD 4 per person per day, but check with your crew for an appropriate amount.

[Back to top ^](#)

Feedback

After your travels, we want to hear from you! We rely on your feedback. We read it carefully. Feedback helps us to understand what we are doing well and what we could be doing better, and it allows us to make improvements for future travellers.

[Back to top ^](#)

These trip notes have been compiled to help you prepare for your journey, once you have booked. They include the full itinerary and dates, information and kit lists, meeting hotels, insurance, vaccinations, visas, and other information that will help you get ready for your trip.

Please ensure you have an up to date version of these Trip Notes

These trip notes were printed on 21/01/2020