

March 2011
Issue 8



OneLife Adventure's newsletter brings you trip reports, equipment reviews, travellers tales and topical news from the world of vehicle dependant expedition travel.

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View from the office window

We are just back from our first show of the year – the new 4x4 adventure travel show held near Leamington Spa. It was a great show, with a strong focus on travel and we wish it well in the future. We were frantically busy and we're sorry if you were in the queue to talk with us but it was nice to see so many old friends, thanks for stopping by. We sold more spaces at the show and spaces on all the 2011 expeditions is now getting very limited, so give us a call soon and don't be disappointed. Due to demand and the political position in North Africa we are running some additional trips for 2011 – read on for more information.

Our next show is the British Indoor 4x4 Show at Bingley Hall in Staffordshire on the 19-20th March, we'll be on stand B116a. You'll catch us on the stand but I have also been asked to run a session on overland travel, where to go and what to take in the show's workshop talks – it would be great to see some friendly faces there !



We also still a couple of spaces on our Yorkshire Explorer on the 12/13th March – give us a call if you'd like to come along for these popular mini-expeditions.

News Roundup

- **OneLife Adventure appointed agents for Brittany Ferries.**

For the Pyrenees and Morocco trips the P&O Portsmouth – Bilbao service was very convenient and often cheaper than driving down via France, but in 2010 P&O decided to drop this route. We now are agents for Brittany Ferries and can offer this route along with the other crossings they offer. – there are now 5 return sailings to Spain a week, take the easy way to Spain! While all our expeditions include the Dover Calais crossing in the price, you can choose any other route, we'll make the booking for you and credit you the Dover-Calais cost – you just pay the difference.

In addition to Brittany Ferries, we are also agents for P&O, SeaFrance, Norfolk Line, Smyril Line and NorthLink. We can offer you savings from all these great companies on their web prices, and you don't have to be travelling on one of our expeditions to get these low prices ... call us the next time you want to book a ferry.

- **Troubles in North Africa**

Tunisia certainly surprised many people and the repercussions continue to roll around the Arab world. The **Libyan** civil war is causing great turmoil and concern in Tunisia, and while generally the country remains calm there its own journey to political reform has been slowed. Some travel restrictions may be implemented in the south and reluctantly we have decided to cancel our planned expedition to Tunisia in October 2011. Our plans to return to Libya in 2012 are obviously on hold until calm returns.

Algeria has also experienced some demonstrations but these remain in the North. The government here has noted the mood across North Africa and is taking steps to keep its people happy – the lifting of the state of emergency implemented in 1992 is the start of this process. The army has been active in patrolling the southern deserts and have been successful in curtailing the spate of kidnappings seen recently in neighbouring Mali and Niger. Some restrictions remain for tourist safety but the area that we'll visit in November 2011 remains secure and open.

Morocco remains calm with some peaceful protests to push for constitutional reform. Our analysis is that - unlike other countries that have seen protests - Morocco has a successful economy, an elected parliament and a reformist monarchy, making it less vulnerable to a major uprising than other countries. A Moroccan political analyst Abdelhay Moudden says "Most of what these people and organisations are calling for has been on the political scene for quite some time - political change, freedom, reform, change in the constitution,"

Our High Atlas and Western Sahara expeditions will run as planned though we continue to monitor the situation

NEW EXPEDITION DATES FOR 2011

- **New Pyrenees expedition - 12 to 23 September 2011**

As a result of having to cancel our Grand Erg Explorer to Tunisia we are going to run another Pyrenees Explorer in September. This expedition is always very popular and is normally full within 2 weeks of the dates being released. So if you were disappointed and not able to get on our August trip you have another chance with this September trip – contact us soon if you'd like to join us as we are already taking bookings.

- **Another UK Wales weekend added**

In addition we are going to run a further UK Wales Explorer on 22/23 October 2011, again call us if you'd like to join us. There are no spaces left on the June and July weekends so don't miss out on these great weekends

OneLife Adventure's OneSPOT system receives praise



With safety very much in front of our minds, new for 2010 we piloted our OneSPOT satellite tracking and messaging system. While you are away with us on your expedition, our satellite tracking system can send messages to your family and friends back home. This is a free service, part of our commitment to keep you safe and your family or friends informed while you are away with us. We can also send messages to our office and emergency services by this system. Messages to your contact contain a 'We are OK' message and our location in one of either two formats – SMS text messages to their phone or an email. The email contains a link to Google maps, your friends

can easily see where you are by clicking on the link. If they use the satellite map option and they will get a birds eye view of your position.

Here's some comments from guests who piloted this in 2010

"Found the **OneSPOT** system worked really well. It was great to be able to zoom in to see exactly where you all were. I could send the Email to other members of the family so they could use it too."

"The **OneSPOT** system worked very well and it provided me with peace of mind.

I enjoyed plotting the co-ordinates on Google Earth and watching your progress,

I suppose the downside for you macho men is the nagging wife could keep an eye on you! Joking apart I feel that it was well worth the investment you made for our peace of mind in this turbulent world we live in."

"I thought the **OneSPOT** message system was both an exciting and a reassuring innovation for **OneLife**"

This system is available to all our guests for 2011 – big brother is really watching you now !



In addition to the SPOT system, in 2010 we renewed our satellite phone, which comes with us on all trips and is available for guests to use for minimal cost. The old Iridium system was expensive to run and dropped calls occasionally. The rugged Thuraya XT gives us the ability to contact anyone, anytime where ever we go with great call clarity and stability.

OneLife Adventure's charity for 2011 is the Lisa Kent Trust.



Our first charity project, started in 2005, was to put solar panels into a remote Berber village in Morocco's Jebel Sarho. This was completed in 2009 and since then we have been looking for another project. Rather than run another by ourselves it makes sound sense to support other charities with specialist's in place and projects already running. OneLife guests, Giles and Liz Tinkler, have been involved with the Lisa Kent Trust for several years as the Trust has been helping educate children in Gambia



The Lisa Kent Trust is a registered charity in both the UK and the Gambia, set up to help educate children. The Charity was founded in 2003 in memory of a family friend, who tragically died at the age of 19. The Trust, working closely with the Dept. of Education, currently manages two nursery schools and is now building a nursery and primary school in a remote area of the Gambia on land owned by the Trust – but it now needs a roof and that's were we and hopefully you, can help.

The Trust runs a sponsorship programme enabling many children the chance of an education from nursery, primary and secondary level. Sponsors are encouraged to carry on supporting throughout the child's education.

If you would like to sponsor a child at £5 pcm, which includes two sets of uniforms, books and all their teaching, please contact Julia@lisakenttrust.org
I know times are tight but this is only just over 3.5 litres of diesel or 20 km in a Land Cruiser or a massive 26 km in a Land Rover. It may not get you far but it could take a child all the way to university.

For further information on the work of the Trust, please visit their website www.lisakenttrust.org They are planning a sponsored volunteers working trip in 2011 to help further the build. If you would like to join them, please email liz@lisakenttrust.org , in addition other fundraising events are planned for 2011.

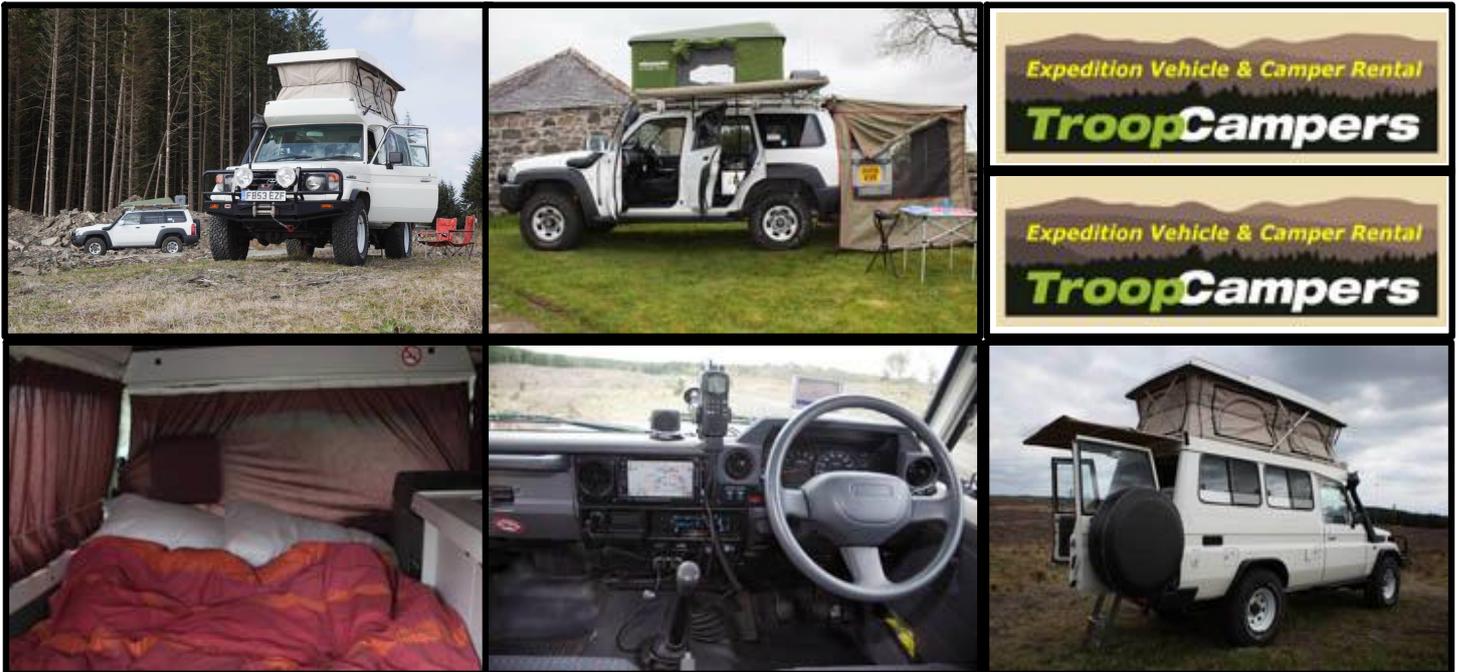


To help further we are holding a sale of the very last of our great Land Rover GEAR TREK expedition shirts – we only have a few left in small and XL sizes, all on sale at £45 a shirt inc postage and packing. All proceeds will go to the Trust to help get that roof on –

we'll keep you updated on progress but contact us now to get one of the last of these fantastic expedition shirts on your back and help a child get a roof over their head.

OneLife Adventure and TroopCampers now offer expedition vehicle hire

You all probably got friends who'd love to travel in their own fully prepared expedition 4x4 but don't have one, well now they can. In conjunction with TroopCampers we can now offer non 4x4 owners the chance to join any of our expeditions in a fully fitted and equipped vehicle, chuck a sleeping bag in and you're ready to go. Hire charges are very reasonable, and OneLife will provide you with a training package to help you drive and live out of one of these great vehicles. More details and the complete specifications are available here www.troopcampers.com/. Both Nissan Patrol and Toyota Land Cruisers are available so don't dream about it, come and live it with OneLife



FEATURED EXPEDITION



- **Sahara Occidental Explorer - Western Sahara**

We start our 2011 foreign expeditions back in Western Sahara, sandwiched between Morocco and Mauritania. We were the first UK company to explore this destination last year and despite a YouTube clip stating that there was absolutely nothing to see, there is in fact there is a lot to see, provided you get off the only major road in the country – the one the YouTube'r was driving on!

We started off in the Anti Atlas, following some of the small pistes in the bottom of 100m gorges south to the start of the edge of the desert proper. The As Saquia Al Hamra is an ancient dry river bed up to 2 km across, great driving. We only scratched the surface on our first trip and there's a lot more to see here, there will be some long days but some surprises such as the massive Sabkhat Aridal with its fossil coral beds and petrified forest. We found flint tools and ostrich shells left by previous travellers thousands of years before us, migrating birds from Africa on their own expedition back to a European summer, ducks and geese resting on desert pools and some stunning gorges in the Anti Atlas. Add some great beach drives, flamingo's and turtles -- actually there was a lot to see..... We are going back to Western Sahara in 2011, 31st March to 16th April and we only have 2 spaces left so if you fancy a break away from the wet and grey UK skies call us to reserve your place

OneLife Adventure 2011 diary

Expedition	Country	Dates	Meet
UK Explorer	UK	12 – 13 March	Yorkshire
British Indoor 4x4 Show Bingley Hall, Staffordshire	UK	19-20 th March	Stand B116a
Sahara Occidental Explorer	Western Sahara	31 March – 16 April	Tarifa
High Atlas Explorer	Morocco	10 – 26 May	Tarifa
UK Explorer	UK	11 – 12 June	Wales
UK Explorer	UK	2 – 3 July	Yorkshire
Pyrenees Explorer	Spain	8 – 19 August	San Sebastian
UK Explorer	UK	3 – 4 September	Yorkshire

Pyrenees Explorer	Spain	12 – 23 September	San Sebastian
UK Explorer	UK	22 – 23 October	Wales
Tanezrouft Explorer	Algeria	13 Nov – 8 December	Marseille

Full *

For more information or to make a booking, call us or visit our website

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www.onelifeadventure.co.uk

We look forward to seeing you in 2011 and discussing your plans for 2012

Paul

Anne

If you have any comments or don't wish to receive this newsletter, please email us: info@onelifeadventure.co.uk