

Please note that this document is not yet final and may contain errors.

Risks, Insurance and Disclaimer

Below you will find an analysis of the risks you face when embarking on the trip, the measures we will take to reduce them, our responsibilities, as well as the role of insurance.

This is a serious expedition. Risk and uncertainty cannot entirely be avoided; nasty things can, and do, happen. Let our misfortunes be the result of taking calculated risks, and being unlucky, not the result of carelessness. It's worth taking the time to think these issues through.

By agreeing to come on the trip, you state that you acknowledge and understand the risks.

We have made reference here to the *World Nomads Standard Plan* insurance policy, which as of January 2012 costs \$187 US for a US citizen for a period of three months. You may of course find cheaper by shopping around. Suitable medical insurance, which includes medical air evacuation is a requirement for the trip. Trip Cancellation/Interruption protection (that includes protection against bankruptcy of the tour operator) is probably a good idea too. Check the wording of your policy carefully, you can also ask others what they have found in the Soviet Truck *logistics* forums.

We don't expect any major incidents, but better safe than sorry.

Personal Security

This section covers petty crime, assaults, being taken hostage, caught in a conflict etc.

Our guides will establish contact with embassies and local police for guidance in issues of personal security on entering a country, and again as deemed necessary. Advice may include specific regions/neighborhoods to avoid, things to look out for, and behavioural habits that may serve to reduce the likelihood of an incident. We will make sure all passengers have been made aware of the relevant information.

Unless truly exceptional circumstances arise, we will not be travelling in areas where the [British Foreign & Commonwealth Office \(FCO\)](#) advises 'against all travel.' We may travel in areas where the FCO 'advises against all but essential travel,' but only after researching the current local security situation and taking special precautions. Our planned route passes through two such areas (as of the current FCO travel advice, Jan 2012): the North Ossetia, Karachai-Cherkessia and Kabardino-Balkaria regions in the Northern Caucasus, and the Oblasts (Provinces) of Osh and Jalal-Abad in western Uzbekistan. See the maps below, taken from the FCO website.



The *World Nomad Standard Plan* covers a security consultant for seeking information on a missing person or kidnapping cases, and an emergency evacuation (see the section SECURITY EVACUATION in the *description of coverage* of the *World Nomads* policy). Soviet truck will do what it reasonably can to assist travellers in difficulty, but will not be responsible for any monetary damages or compensation in such cases.

Theft

To reduce the risk of theft of the vehicle (and it's contents) we take the follow measures:

- Secure exterior locks (including window locks), replacing originals if deemed inadequate.
- An immobiliser or hidden kill switch.
- An alarm to detect intruders.
- A GPS tracking system with notification via SMS.
- A safe, for valuables such as cash, passports, documents etc.

Reasonable measures will be taken to ensure all security systems remain in functioning order and used properly.

In the event of the theft or damage to personal belongings, Soviet Truck will not be liable, but your insurance may be. See the BAGGAGE AND PERSONAL EFFECTS LOSS section in the *description of coverage* of the *World Nomad* policy.

In the event of the theft of the truck that makes continuation of the trip impossible, see below.

Medical Issues

Our staff will employ the following measures to promote good health during the trip:

- Taking reasonable care in selecting and filtering drinking water, and making sure it is available to travellers in adequate quantities (taking special caution in remote areas).
- Taking reasonable care to use hygienic techniques in the preparation and storage of food, providing healthy foods, and making sure they are available to travellers in adequate quantities.
- Making sure facilities are available for personal hygiene, although whilst in remote areas travellers may sometimes need to use water sparingly whilst showering.
- Doing what we can to minimise exposure to extremes of temperatures.

A note: travellers may want to check to ensure they have had a Diphtheria/Tetanus/Polio vaccine (see <http://www.traveldoctor.co.uk/vaccines.htm> for more information).

Routine checkups and precautionary measures in government-run hospitals may be covered in part or in full by reciprocal health agreements, but not for citizens of the USA. They costs are unlikely to be covered by travel insurance, but are likely to be fairly inexpensive.

We have taken the following measures to prepare for medical emergencies:

- One of our staff is thoroughly trained in First Aid, and has spent time in a hospital emergency department.

- We carry a well-equipped first aid box on the truck.
- We carry a list of reliable hospitals in the areas we are travelling to.
- We require everyone travelling with us to have suitable medical insurance.

Travel insurance will pay for treatment of sicknesses or injuries sustained during the trip, and you should also check that yours covers medical evacuation by air, if required. See the MEDICAL EXPENSE BENEFIT, EMERGENCY EVACUATION and VISITOR TO BEDSIDE sections in the *description of coverage* of the World Nomad policy.

In the event a traveller requires a hospital stay, we will assign a member of our staff to stay with them in the hospital, until they can rejoin the trip or fly home.

Vehicle Integrity

All vehicles will be thoroughly tested to comply and exceed local technical standards. In particular, the following areas will be subject to special scrutiny:

- Chassis integrity and vehicle loading (to be within manufacturers limits)
- All elements of the braking systems.
- Steering linkages/Suspension/Wheel bearings.
- Interior fittings (risk of injury in the event of an accident)
- Lighting

Fire extinguishers will be present in the vehicles. We will carry out regular checks and maintenance to minimise the risk of break-downs. At least one member of the staff will have thorough mechanical knowledge of the vehicle, and we will carry common spares.

Driving

Our drivers hold current licences for the vehicles they will be driving. In addition, we will adhere to UK regulations concerning maximum driving hours, except as required due to exceptional circumstances. There will be more than one member of staff able to drive each vehicle, so as to avoid fatigue and provide redundancy.

We will remain alert to local driving hazards, and in general, do all we reasonably can to ensure road safety. In remote areas, we may drive in convoy, if deemed necessary, to reduce the risk of being stranded in the event of a breakdown.

Trouble with the Law

Soviet Truck cannot provide indemnity from the law. If a traveller gets into trouble, the staff will do what they reasonably can to assist, although such aid is provided entirely at our discretion.

Other

In the event travellers choose to engage in activities with third-party providers, particularly in the case of extreme sports, the traveller engages in a contract with the provider that is independent of their relationship with Soviet Truck.

Soviet truck disclaim all liability to theft or damage of personal belongings, inconvenience caused to the traveller, medical expenses, damages and other compensation to the full extent permitted under UK law.

If you have to Cancel/Interrupt your Trip

Reasons could include:

- You plans have changed and you don't feel like going anymore.
- Your passport is lost/stolen.
- You have to cancel due personal circumstances beyond your control.

If you cancel more than 60 days before the first meeting in Lvov, you will receive \$800 back from the \$1000 deposit.

Once we within 45 days of the trip, regardless of the reason, we will refund you:

- 0% of the visa processing fees (\$500), if it has already been paid. This cost would have already been paid regardless of your presence on the trip.
- 0% of our your contribution towards fuel and vehicle maintenance: these will have to be paid regardless of your presence on the trip. \$560 USD non-refundable.
- 100% of your remaining food and activities budget. If you are not present, we will not incur these costs. \$820 USD x fraction of trip remaining, based on expected length of trip.
- 50% of the remaining \$1870, that goes towards staff salaries and other costs. $$(1870 \times 0.50)$ USD x fraction of trip remaining, based on expected length of trip.

That is, \$1735 USD x fraction of trip remaining.

If you have taken out suitable travel insurance, and you can show them that you are canceling/interrupting the trip due to one of the cases you are insured against (injury, theft of passport, an ill relative etc.), they will likely compensate you for the remainder of the trip that you were not able to take part in. See the section TRIP CANCELLATION & INTERRUPTION in the *World Nomads* policy.

Information to follow shortly about what happens if the entire trip is cancelled or cut short, or if Soviet Truck declares bankruptcy.