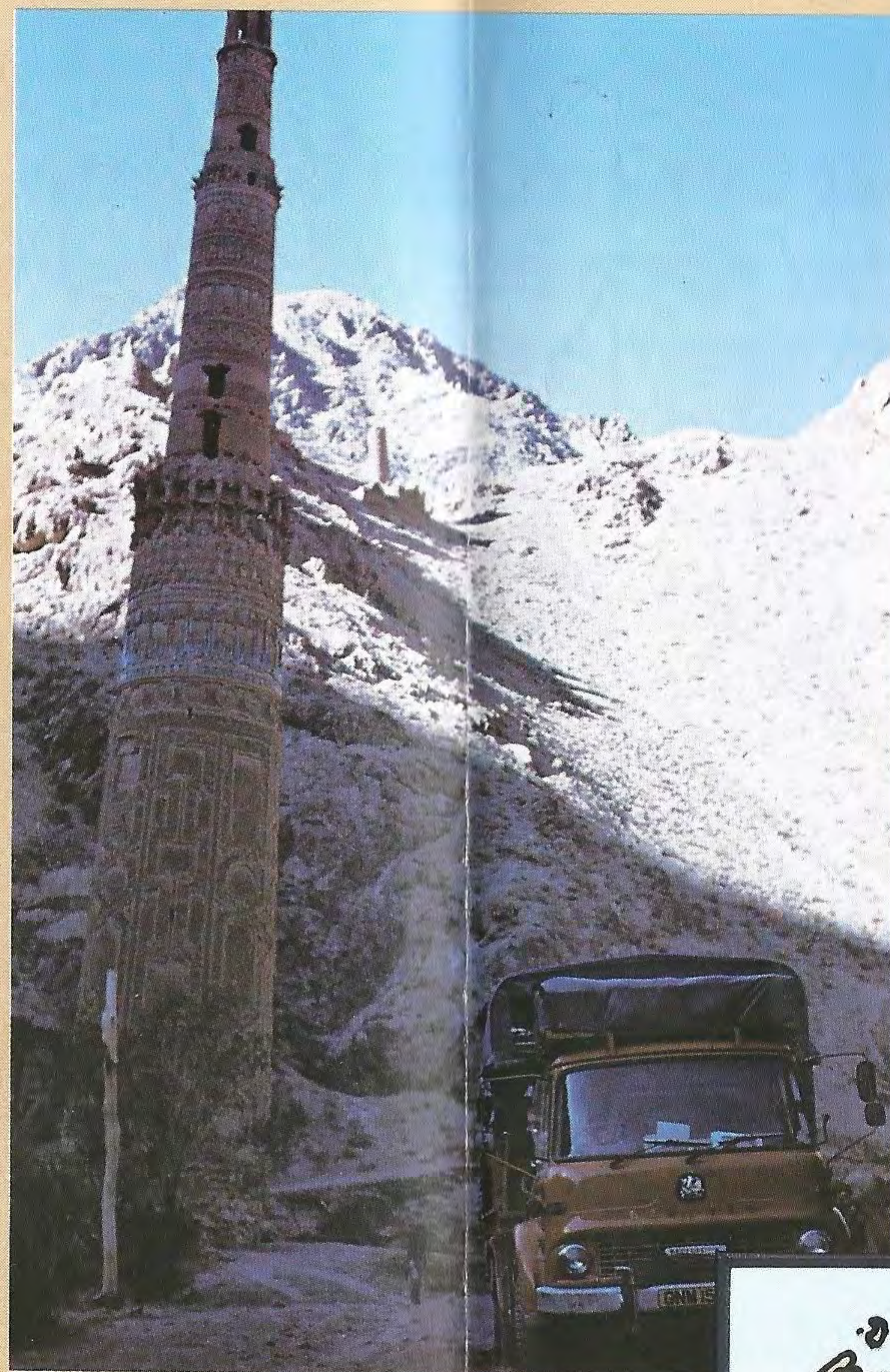
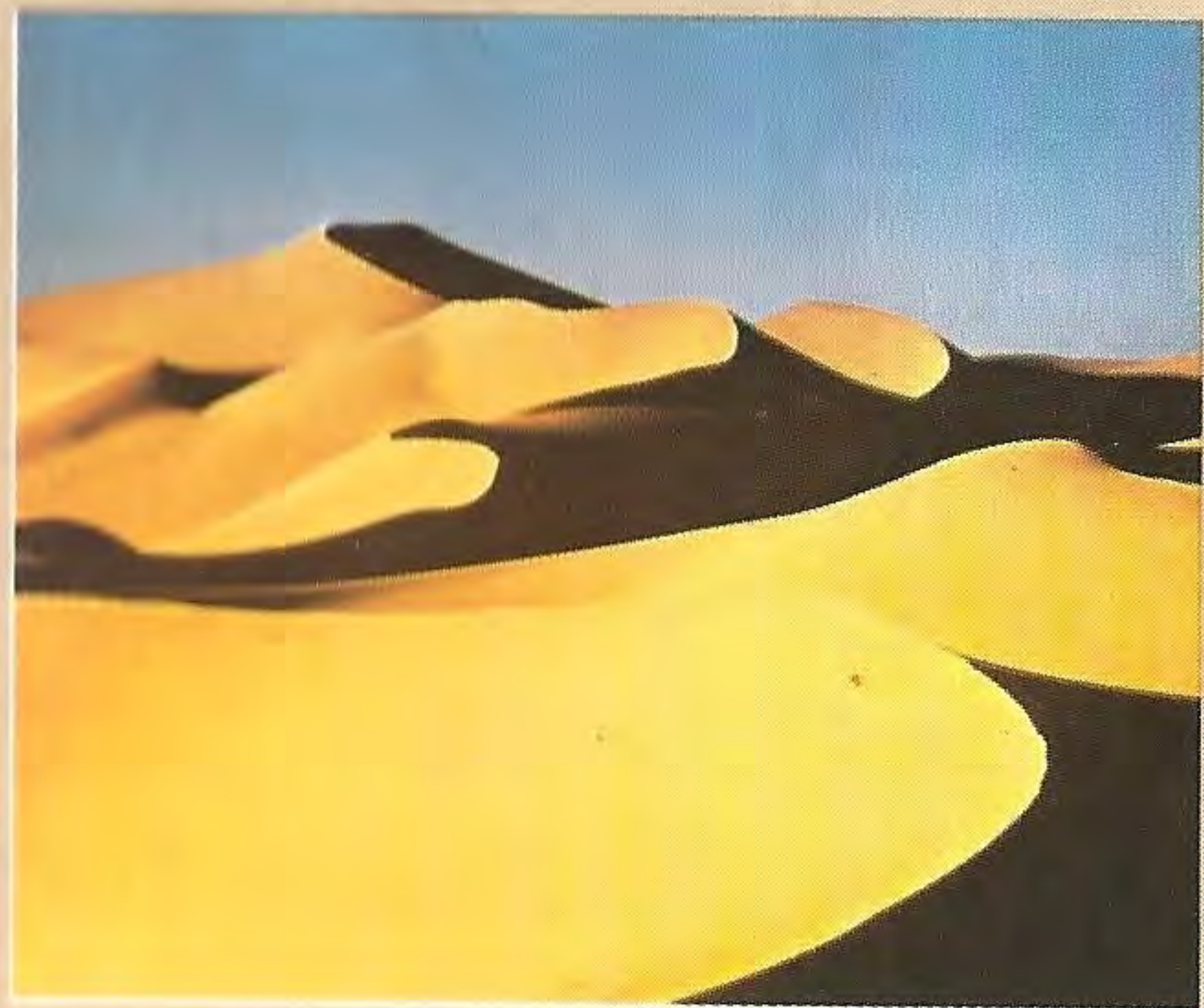
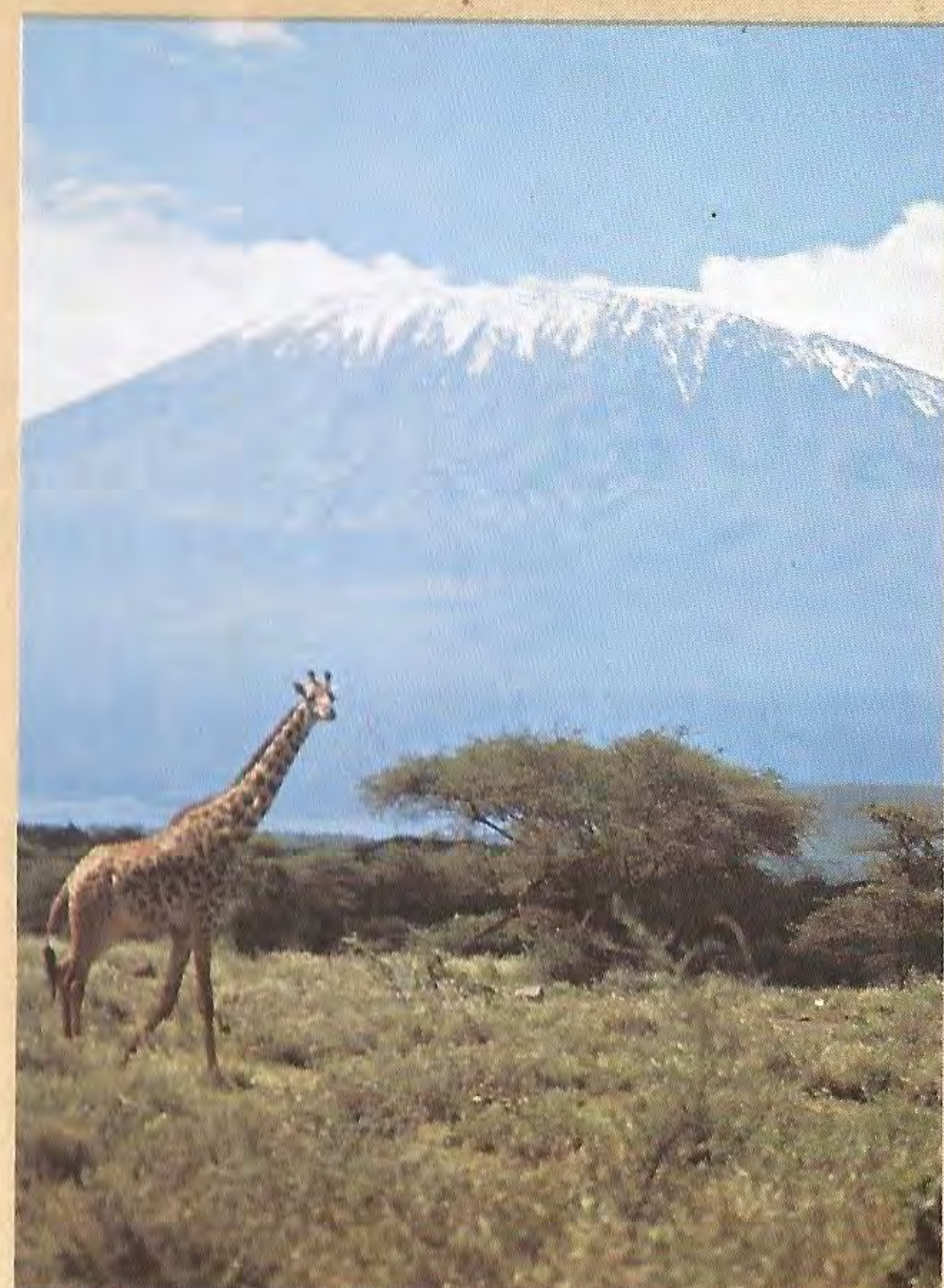
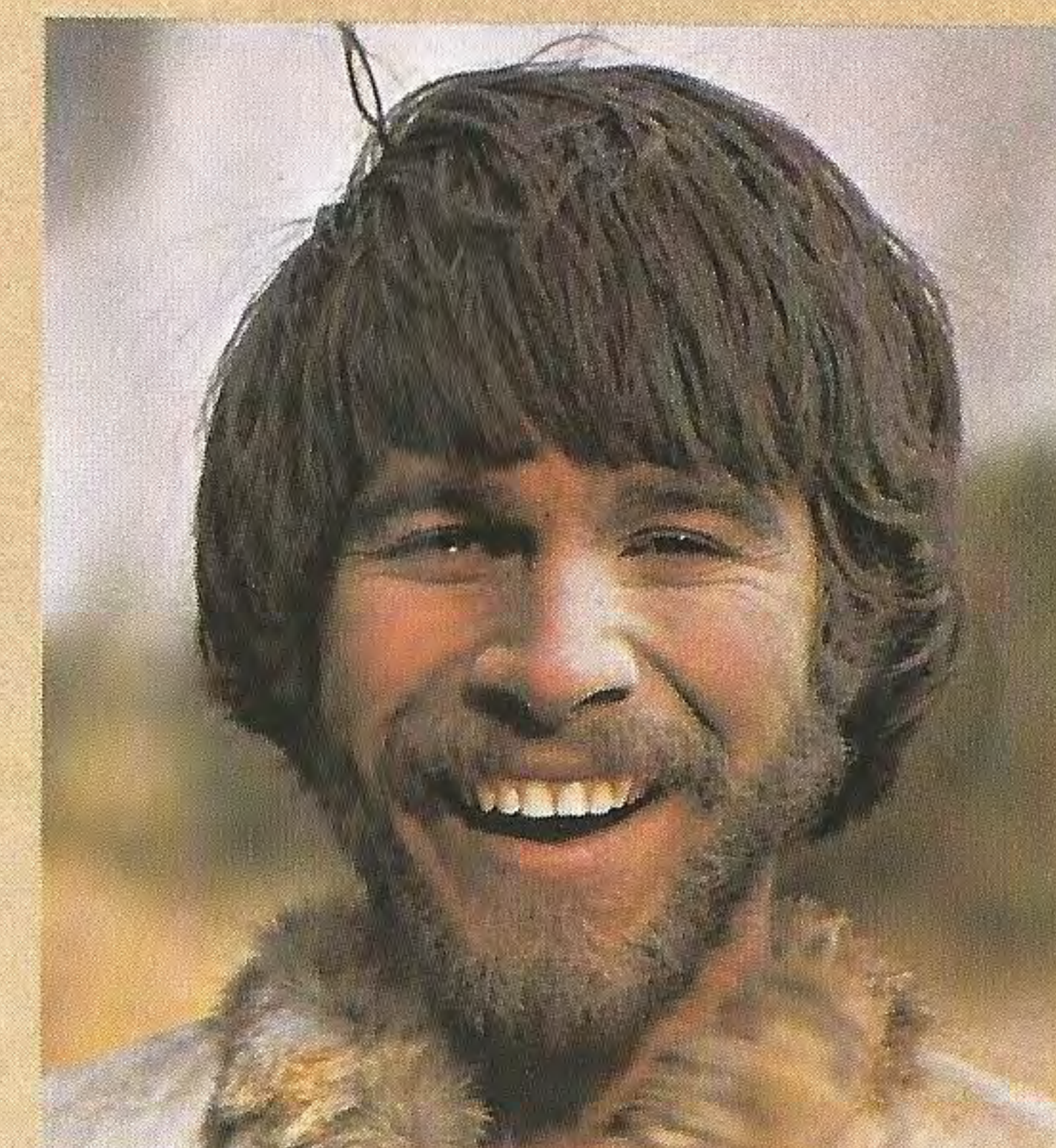
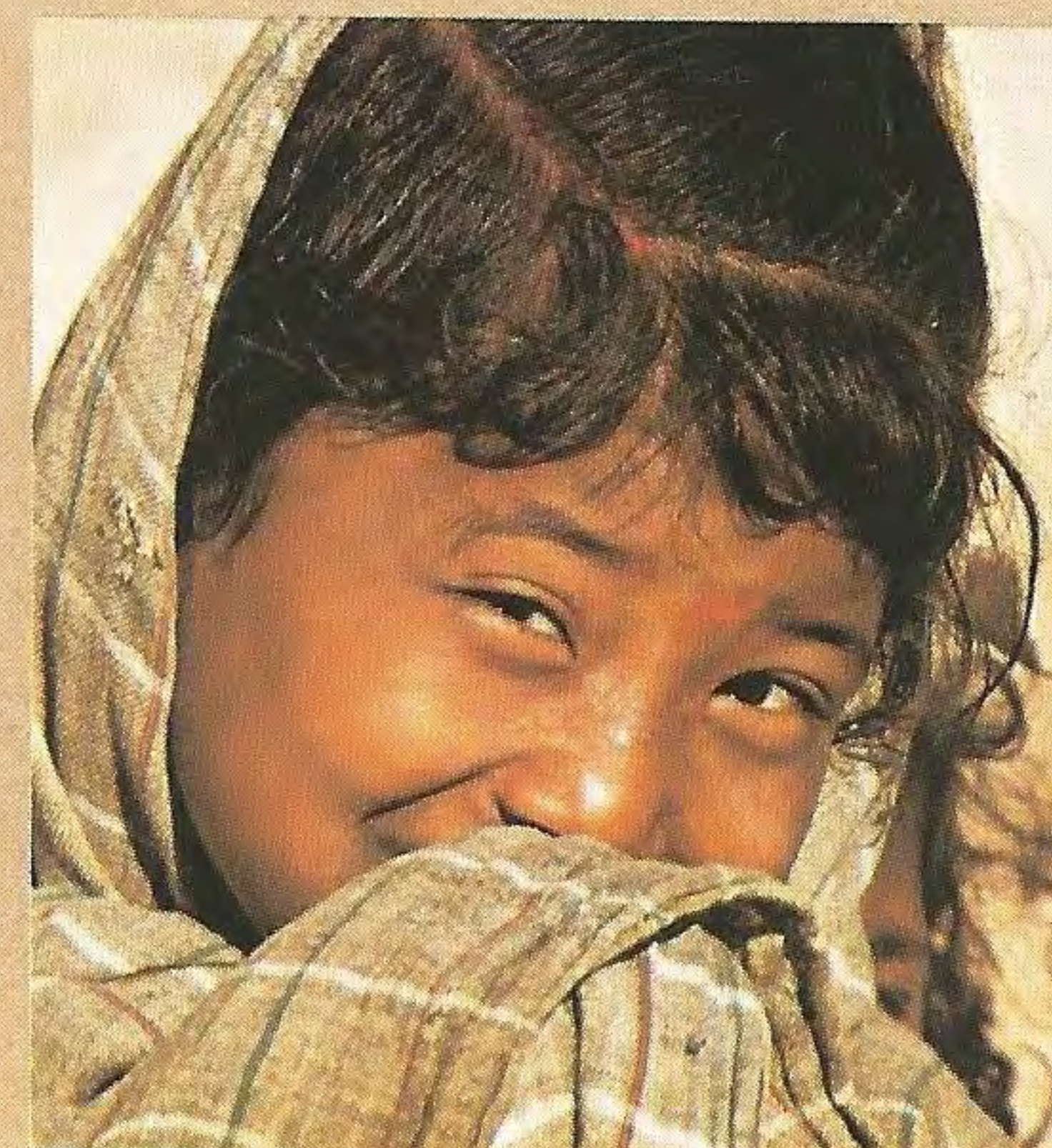
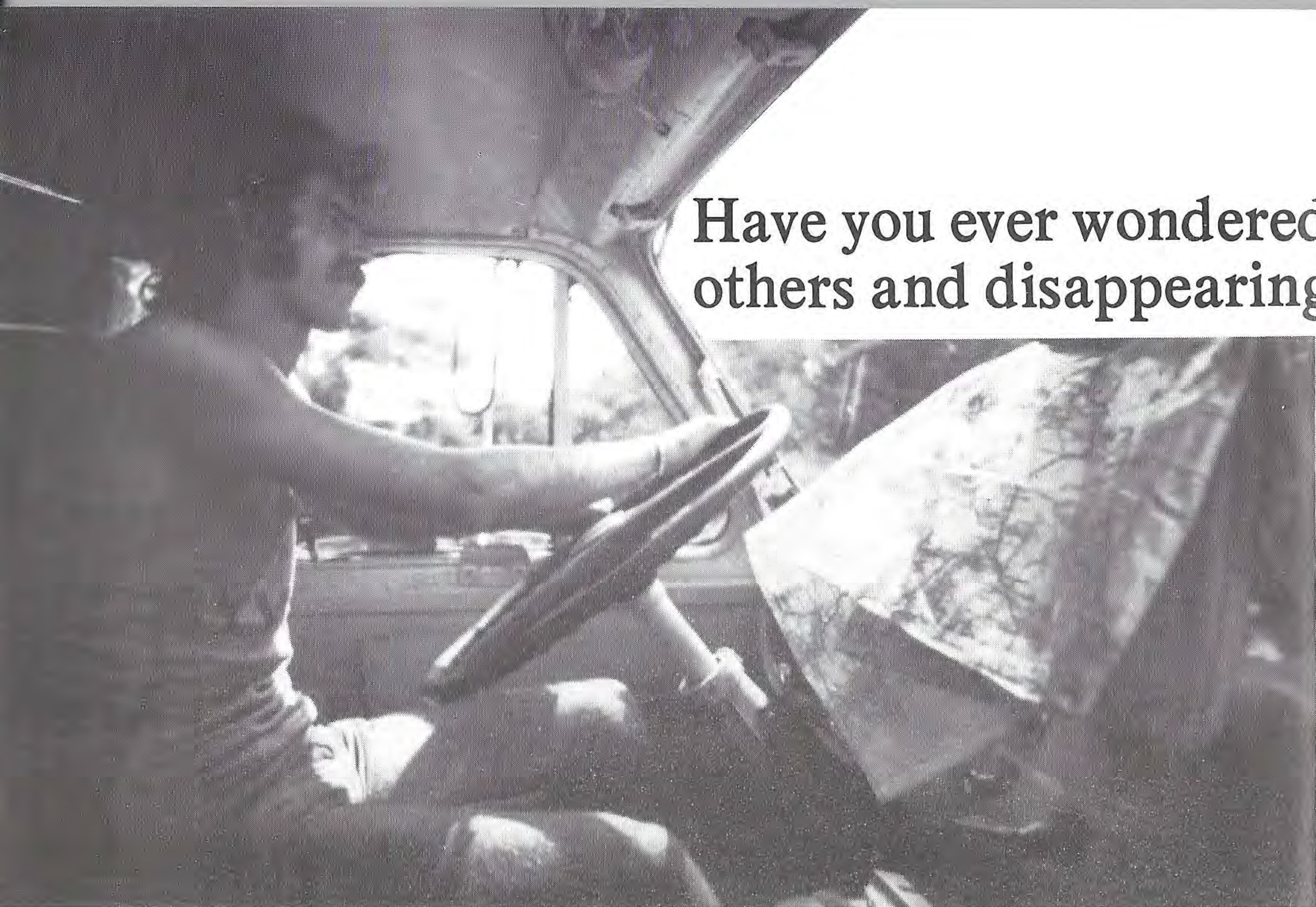




SHORTER EXPEDITIONS
and ACTION HOLIDAYS

with **ENCOUNTER
OVERLAND** Ltd.





Have you ever wondered about getting together with some others and disappearing briefly to a very different world?

If so, the details here are going to get you thinking . . . and, we hope, moving. Because here is one of the best chances you'll have to become fully involved in expeditioning.

ENCOUNTER OVERLAND has a reputation for having a lot of fun and for empathy with the delicate subtleties and harsh realities of travel in still-strange lands.

Encounter is known for combining a friendly, candid, very personal quality with a thoroughness and competence. These are the hallmarks of Encounter Overland just as much as are our trucks.

We have learned our overlanding and made our reputation in the hard school of long-range trans-continental expeditions. We started them back in 1963. And ours is a name you can see throughout 70 countries on three routes covering the lengths of Africa and South America, and in Asia to the Chinese frontier (though not yet beyond!).

BRIEF ENCOUNTERS have also been mounted very successfully; in South East Asia, including Laos and Cambodia, in Botswana, and now in the regions to which this brochure refers. The sloop 'Gypsy' was commissioned by EO in Singapore in March '77.

Not until now, however, have we sat down and used our resources and expertise to put together a carefully planned selection of these exciting shorter projects.

The aim is to find the fulfilment and fun of overlanding within the time span of someone who has a responsibility to a career—but who is going

to do something worthwhile with a small amount of hard-earned time off.

Consideration is given to distances and timing, interests and relaxation, the seasons, the red-tape and flight approaches. The vehicles with their equipment are the same as those on the Encounter Overland long-haul projects, and are prepared to the same high standard.

These Brief Encounters are not cheap and they don't look cheap. But they are excellent value. They are thoroughly costed on an inclusive basis and the cost to you covers all major aspects of the expedition. This is seen as a fundamental principle of full involvement—not of spoonfeeding.

"A change" they say "is as good as a rest." But people who join Encounter are looking for more.



THE ROOM SERVICE IS LOUSY—and there's no air-conditioned splendour, nor luxurious baths nor space-age ovens. At times on many of these trips heat and humidity will make real demands and the sole comfort is that everyone else is covered in the same mud and dust.

But Encounter Overland believes in doing things well and we're as far removed from the concept of crouching over a spluttering primus stove for light, warmth and cooking as we are from the pampered and perfumed package tour.

We can explore, and to do so there's 15 years' knowledge and experience of specialist vehicles and equipment and the way to use them to full advantage.

THE VEHICLE AND EQUIPMENT

Encounter's trucks are the latest four-wheel drive Bedfords used in conjunction with one-ton cross-country trailers. These units are meticulously prepared and modified at our own workshops to meet the exacting requirements.

The windowed top can give complete protection from wind and rain, but usually the sides are rolled open yet still provide shade, or the whole cover can be folded forward to give complete all-round vision, fresh air and sunshine—and sometimes dust.

They have comfortable high-backed coach seats and there is plenty of storage for luggage, tents, spares, etc. in the trailer. The long-range fuel tanks and water-carrying capacity give us a priceless independence from civilisation for several days.

There are two man tents with built-in groundsheets and tropical flysheets; spacious, yet simple to erect with room for the campbeds and your luggage.

We can cook inside or outside the vehicle using the four-ring gas stove and we can use the tables, domestic equipment and electric lights to prepare proper meals and maintain standards of hygiene.

We carry a professionally stocked medical kit and a comprehensive set of vehicle spares.

THE LIFE-STYLE

Usually up at dawn, we make full use of the daylight hours. En route, after breakfast, we stop at local markets to find the day's supply of fresh provisions to

supplement the food carried on the truck. The bargaining and acquiring can be an education in themselves.

With the exception of some hard days motoring when there's little of interest, the pace is relaxed bringing us to places of particular interest—vibrant, scenic or historic. Plenty to see, plenty to do—and time enough to do it. We fix a picnic lunch and once we have made camp our evening meal can be prepared at leisure.

There is silence and peace after a day's efforts, often crowned by a glowing sunset softening the hard features of wild scenery.

Evenings under canvas are relaxing, with light to read and write by—or simply sit around a campfire; and on

these warm nights many of us put up just campbeds to sleep under a canopy of stars.

There are young people from all over the world and from all walks of life and discussion is as accented as it is varied. Your involvement is needed in the running of the trip; everyone lending a hand to the main jobs, especially shopping, cooking, pitching and breaking camp.

Each Leader/Driver has been carefully selected and trained and has sound knowledge and experience of all practical aspects of expeditioning. But success does not come solely from him; rather from something that he can help find—the formula that brings together all the ingredients for an exciting and worthwhile BRIEF ENCOUNTER.



East African Safari

4 weeks Tanzania & Kenya

(Fly in — Fly out Dar es Salaam)



If one were to take a slice of each facet of Africa—the jungles, the mountains, the plains, the deserts, add a pot-pourri of the African peoples, spice it with Arab and Asian influence, edge it with an idyllic coastline and top it with the largest most spectacular skies in the world—you then have a reasonable definition of East Africa.

Descriptions can give a reader an impression, but the traveller through East Africa finds that the country slowly works its way under his skin. Seldom will other sunsets compare with the vivid and overpowering day's-end on the high plains; caged animals become dully two-dimensional when you've experienced the sight and earth-trembling roar of a lion at close

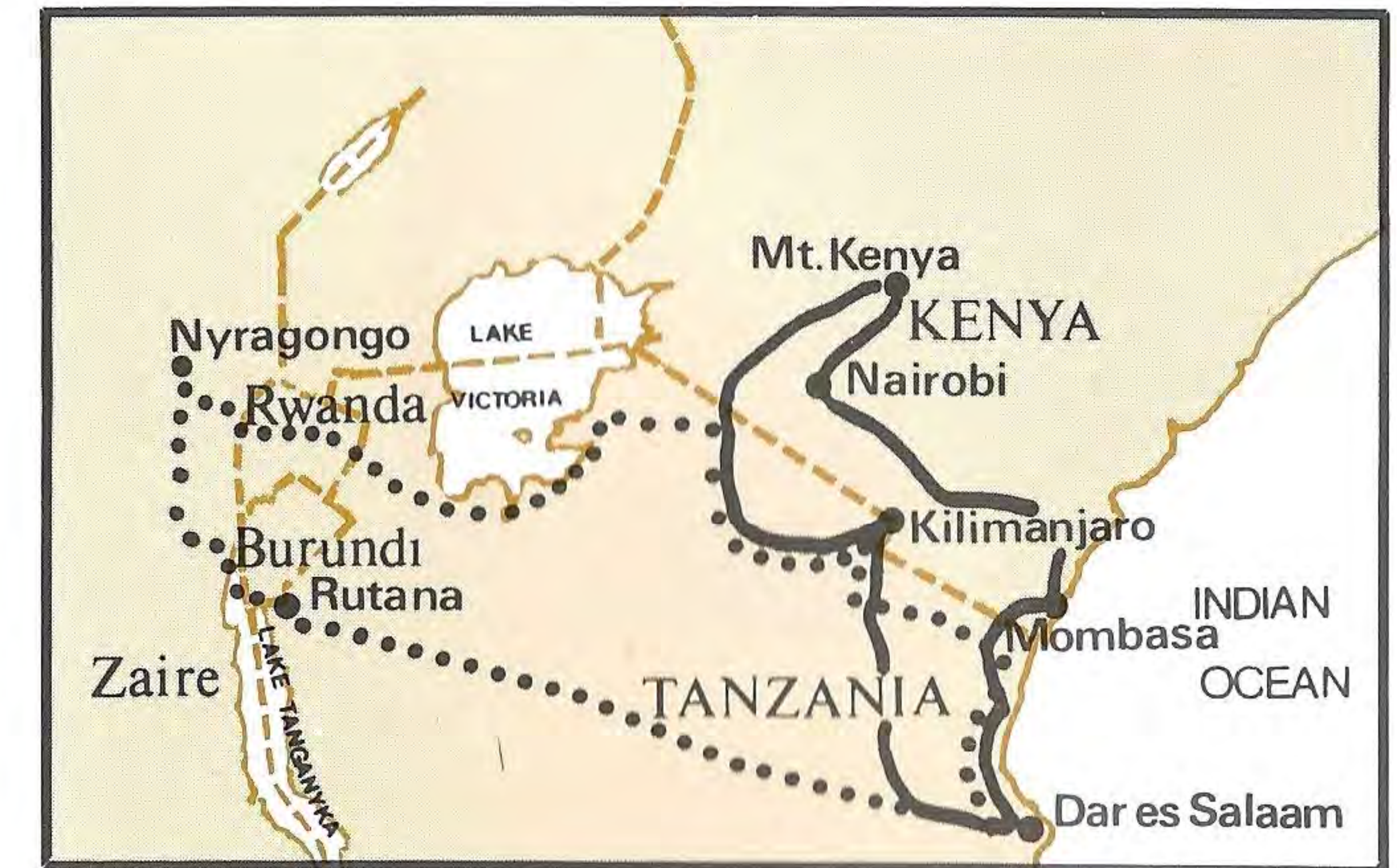


quarters in his natural habitat. From the proud independent and nomadic Masai who view civilisation with aloof disdain to the cosmopolitan capitals with their 20th century skylines, from the uncompromising cold and rock of Mount Kilimanjaro across the thorn-treed plains to the Indian Ocean, the traveller feels the pull of East Africa.



Included in the price:
All game park fees, Kilimanjaro hut fees and porters. two nights Nairobi hotel and meals, Gedi ruins.

— 4 week Safari
..... 6 weeks
Source of the Nile



After a day in Dar es Salaam acclimatising and making final preparations for the safari, our route will take us north across the plateau of the Masai Steppe to the foot of Mount Kilimanjaro, its snow-capped peak dominating the plains around us.

We prepare for the ascent the following day. With a guide and porters for our stores the ascent to the summit of Africa's highest mountain (19,000 feet), takes three days and is a long, hard uphill walk as opposed to a technical climb. Each night is spent in mountain huts. Anyone who is reasonably fit can reach the top and the view as dawn spreads over the plains below is breathtaking! Two days later we are resting back at base and the following day we travel to Ngorongoro.

This amazing crater, ten miles across and almost sheer-sided, is a sheltered animal haven where time has stood still. It is Africa as it was before modern man. It contains probably the highest concentration of wildlife anywhere—zebra, elephant, rhino and buffalo graze the crater floor, while lion and leopard shelter in the trees by its lakes. From Ngorongoro we descend to the surrounding Serengeti plains—a sea of grasslands, home of the great herds of wildebeeste, gazelle and giraffe. Here too is a chance of seeing the rare cheetah as it surveys its giant larder. This open country continues across the unfenced frontier into Kenya's Masai Mara. These three reserves, Ngorongoro, Serengeti and Masai Mara, make up the great migration routes of the East African plains. Here our high, open-topped trucks really come into their own as the ideal vantage point for photograph and game-viewing.

The ground rises to the Kenyan Highlands and at the crater lake of Nakuru we can see the millions of pink flamingoes and other teeming bird-life; pelicans, maribou storks, crested crane, that frequent the lakes of the Great Rift Valley.

We cross briefly into the northern hemisphere at Thomson's Falls and will spend a day in the foothills of Mount Kenya before descending to Nairobi and all the facilities and amenities of a modern city.

From Nairobi we take the main Mombasa road and transit the Tsavo National Park to reach the Indian Ocean at Malindi. The strong influence of Arab traders is reflected in faces and dress, in sailing dhows and in the archaeological ruins at Gede and further south at Bagamoyo in Tanzania. There is a sultry tropical heat, coconut palms and white sandy beaches; time to relax before we take the coast road back to Dar es Salaam.



Source of the Nile

6 weeks Tanzania, Burundi, Rwanda & Zaire.



This is a major expedition, a daring project and one of the most adventurous Brief Encounters. It includes Burundi, a small Central African state seldom visited by outsiders, penetration of dense tropical forest, Africa's mightiest active volcano and a search for the gorillas at Kahuzi-Biega in Zaire.

There is an 800 mile approach route from Dar es Salaam on unsealed roads to the Ruwenzori Mountains. These are the fabled Mountains of the Moon—the great range that separates the East African plains from the dense, steaming jungles of Central Africa.

Here in southern Burundi, four degrees south of the equator and 4,145 miles from Alexandria is the recognised source of the Nile.

We cross the majestic hills and valleys of Burundi, covered with eucalyptus trees and banana groves and follow the edge of Lake Tanganyika to the capital of Bujumbura. We enter Zaire at Bukavu and at Kahuzi-Biega, with guides to accompany us we'll set off on foot in search of the elusive gorillas.

Leaving Kahuzi-Biega, the track along Lake Kivu is notoriously bad and driving is slow until we reach Goma and the active volcano of Nyiragongo. Much of the surrounding countryside is still devastated from the violent eruption of January 1977 and the lava flow has only recently cooled enough to allow us to hike to the lip of the new crater.

In Rwanda we wind our way over the mountains again and re-enter East Africa at the Rusumo Falls, then skirting the flat exposed southern shores of Lake Victoria, the grasslands of Serengeti lie before us.

The last challenge of our journey is the ascent of Mount Kilimanjaro. (This climb and the time we spend in Serengeti and Ngorongoro are described under the four week safari.)

There is then time to visit the Arab ruins at Bagamoyo and to ease our muscles in the Indian Ocean before returning to Dar es Salaam.

Much of this is no holiday! The comparative ease of East Africa contrasts with reaching a barely accessible region of this diverse continent.



Included in the price:
All game park fees, Kilimanjaro hut fees and porters. Kahuzi-Biega reserve, Nyiragongo volcano, beach barbecue.

Morocco 3 weeks Fly in — Fly out Malaga

Morocco—once the bridge between Europe and black Africa, coveted by empire builders from both—has clung to its ancient culture and traditions adapting only to the influences of Islam and a latter day French veneer. It is the strength and evidence of these early roots and the rich land from which they grew that makes Morocco so appealing.

On the desert's edge below the Moroccan Atlas were the great terminals of the trans-Sahara trade routes which were to breed zealous warrior-prophets to spread Islam by the sword.

From the Atlas themselves was to come the stoic Berber resistance to the foreign invaders and the dynastic rulers of the kingdom.

From the fertile coast, influenced by sea-trade, were to spring scholars and artists whose work is evident everywhere in the mathematical abstract of design and form.

We cross the Straits of Gibraltar to Ceuta and travel to Tetouan. The next day we reach Meknes—one of the four Imperial cities. This was once the capital under Moulay Ismail, the national hero and founder of modern Morocco. Nearby are the ruins of Volubilis, capital of Roman North-West Africa in the second century.

We shall stay in Fez, city of the artisans, its crowded medina of hundreds of shops spill out their wares of intricate brasswork, carpets, embroidery and hand-tooled leather into the maze-like narrow alleys. Steaming dye-pits and rank tanneries are clustered next to mosques and secluded Moorish courtyards.

From Fes the road climbs to the lakes and cedar forests of the Middle Atlas, the domain of monkeys and gazelle. We shall spend a day here on the forested alpine Mediterranean side of the Atlas before crossing to their southern slopes and a barren and stark portent of the Sahara below. Our road twists downwards through the great Todra Gorge and out onto the wide vistas of the desert.

For the next few days the desert will become the focal point of our lives—long hot dusty days, at times clear and still, at others tawdry violent and dust-clouded. There may be occasions on rough tracks when we will have to dig and push the truck out of the soft sand of a dry river bed. But the desert is never the same from hour to hour, and there is often the refreshing cool of an oasis as the sun relents at the end of the day.



The Sahara is far from being the flat expanse that many imagine. There is plenty to do and plenty to see on a selection of routes (though it should be noted that these are sometimes subject to change due to the military presence along Morocco's disputed southern border).

We cross the High Atlas to Marrakesh, part city, part oasis, with its snake charmers, musicians and storytellers—this pulsating city is the meeting place of African, Arab and Berber.

We meet the coast at Rabat and stay at Asilah with its wide Atlantic beaches before we recross the Straits to Europe.



Included in the price:
One day Berber mule trek, half day tour of Fez, barbecue party, traditional meal out, Roman Volubilis. One night hotel and meal Marrakesh.

Tunisia & Algeria

3 weeks Fly in — Fly out Tunis.



Included in the price:
Old Carthage, barbecue party,
traditional meal out (couscous!)

Maghreb, Arab for 'west', was the generic for the Arab empire's fertile territories of north-west Africa centred on the Atlas Mountains bounded by the sea and the desert. It has been fought over and settled by the Phoenicians, Romans and Turks, the Zirids who brought Islam from the East, and the French. All have left their mark.

This journey in Tunisia and Algeria is a rich opportunity to witness North Africa's long history, its colourful people and its splendid varied scenery.

Here along the Tunisian seaboard are the ruins of famous Carthage and the beaches of Djerba—legendary island of the lotus-eaters. There are crowded souks ringing to the hammers of copper-beaters and to the cries of jasmine sellers and the harangue of carpet and camel merchants.

The reverse slopes of the Atlas descend through rugged canyons to the mean scrub-land of the Sahel. Beyond are the yellow expanses of the Great Eastern Erg—one of the awesome seas of sand that blister the Sahara—and the mirages of dried salt lakes.

From Tunis we cross the Medjerda river to reach Bizerte and the quieter north coast, the area known as the 'bread basket of Rome'—which once provided grain for her vast population. This is the coral coast with some fine beaches and coves of red stag coral. Behind are the forests of cork-oak in the Kroumirie Mountains where wild boar can still be found and the art of falconry is still practised.

Crossing the border into Algeria on winding mountain roads we reach Constantine—the Emperor's city that straddles a great gorge. This elegant city, an administrative centre for over 2,000 years, gives us an insight into Algeria's past and present.

It is from here that we head south over the Atlas to descend through the spectacular canyons of El-Abiod out onto the sand sea of the Grand Erg Orientale.

In this waste are the springs and date palmeries of El Oued—'Oasis of the thousand Domes'.

At Nefta the sand gives way to the great salt lakes of central Tunisia, and it is between two of these pans that we reach the oases of Tozeur and Bled Djerid. Once relay stations for caravans, they are admired as the most beautiful of the country's oases, as producers of their most succulent dates, and for their curative thermal springs.



Forty miles north over an unmade road are the Tamerza oases; Berber strongholds where springs and waterfalls cascade out of the rocks to water the palms below and great blocks of granite perch on sheer-sided canyons.

Once back at Tozeur we head out across the baked white salt and into the shimmering mirages of Chott el Djerid, the largest of the salt lakes, to reach the western oases. We then continue on little used tracks to Matmata. Here the ground is pock-marked by craters, their walls dotted with openings which, like the fantasies of bizarre science fiction, lead to a warren of subterranean chambers and dwellings. This is the land of Ksars, fortified granaries that are market and meeting places in peacetime, where, in a maze of steps, storage room is laid on shop in a haphazard complex.

Leaving the desert to rejoin the coast we relax on the island of Djerba before continuing to the coliseum of El Djem that is larger than Rome's. The imposing ramparts of Kairouan, the old Arab religious centre and capital of the Maghreb, hold beautiful mosques, narrow streets and crowded markets. We are once again back in the tame and fertile north and on the coast near Tunis we will visit the ruins of ancient Carthage.

As our flight home banks to steer a course north, the heat-haze of the Great South hangs on the horizon.

Sahara Safari

This expedition crosses the wide sand wastes of the Northern Sahara to reach and explore the barren and forsaken mountains known as the Tassili Plateau and Hoggar Massif that form the geographical centre of the world's greatest desert.

The concrete tendrils of the great trans-Saharan highways have by-passed this region or faded into obscurity and dust far to the north.

Modern commerce has no time for history, tradition or scenery. Water is scarce through the Tassili and Hoggar and the access tracks are abominable. At times we'll be following markers and cairns and checking our direction by compass.

The rewards are many. It is a region of austere beauty and ancient rock paintings. Two thousand years ago much of the Sahara was still rich Savannah land, and, as the Tassili paintings show, inhabited by elephant, lion, hippo, rhinoceros and herds of antelope. The plateau was a great well-watered pasture in which an ancient civilisation grew and flourished around 6000 BC. They recorded their progress and history with precision on amazing cave murals.

The early ones depict a life of hunting, fishing and swimming and later on the development and herding of domestic animals. Shown too are their gods—carved in the form of man but towering high above their mortals. (It is these that current cosmic sensationalism claims as visiting spacemen.)

With the gradual dessication of the Sahara the shepherds moved away to better pastures, the last paintings show the coming of invading warriors from the north. The Tassili withered. It is now a dead colossus of twisted rock monoliths, natural colonnades and arches, on its floors arrowheads, bowls, beads and the debris of its past.





The Hoggar is living present in an equally battered lunar landscape of towering volcanic plugs and broken mountains. This is the home of the Touareg—the legendary blue men of the Sahara—who it is thought overran the Tassili. These are the proud, unchallenged rulers of the desert. See them, blue-robed and turbaned with only their eyes showing to the world. Armed with a distinctive broadsword, their robes hung with leather pouches, they glide their camels to the farthest reaches of the desert.

Tamanrasset is their oasis—a place of rest, a place for festivals and gatherings and a place of trade and tales.

The middle weeks of this expedition are in exceedingly remote regions. The desert demands respect and is hard on those who don't offer it. In return it offers some of the most awe-inspiring sights and experiences of a lifetime. Will you join us?

Our approach is over the Alps through Florence and Rome to Naples and Trapani in Sicily, from where ten days after leaving London we ship across to Tunis. We climb through the Atlas to the Algerian frontier at Tebessa and once on the far side of the mountains we are in the Sahara.

On a course due south we cross the Grand Erg Oriental to Algeria's oil fields, where oil is piped 700 miles across the desert to the coast. Here the road ends and the tracks begin as we traverse the Tassili Plateau to reach Fort Gardel and our only source of water before Djanet which with its palm groves, shade and water is the most beautiful of oasis towns. From here we will need a local guide for the three-day detour on foot to the rock paintings. It is easy to see why they were not known to the outside world until 1932.

Returning to Fort Gardel we strike out on the ill defined, sandblown route headed south-east across



one of the emptiest sections of the entire Sahara. To progress in this direction means scaling several loose escarpments and sandmatting through spreading dunes to the Hoggar. At the summit of Assekrem, Pere Foucauld, ex-legionnaire, built his hermitage, and translated the Bible into Tifilar—the language of the Touareg who came to revere him as a holy man. His library and chapel look out over the silence of desolation and emptiness.

Tamanrasset is relative luxury, some fresh food and showers and a chance to examine this Saharan crossroads, where camel caravans muster alongside giant desert trucks en route to neighbouring oases with everything from rice to razor blades.

The smooth surface of the Trans-Sahara Highway—a tenuous concrete strip that mocks the surrounding desert—is being laid north from here and will one day link West Africa with the Mediterranean.



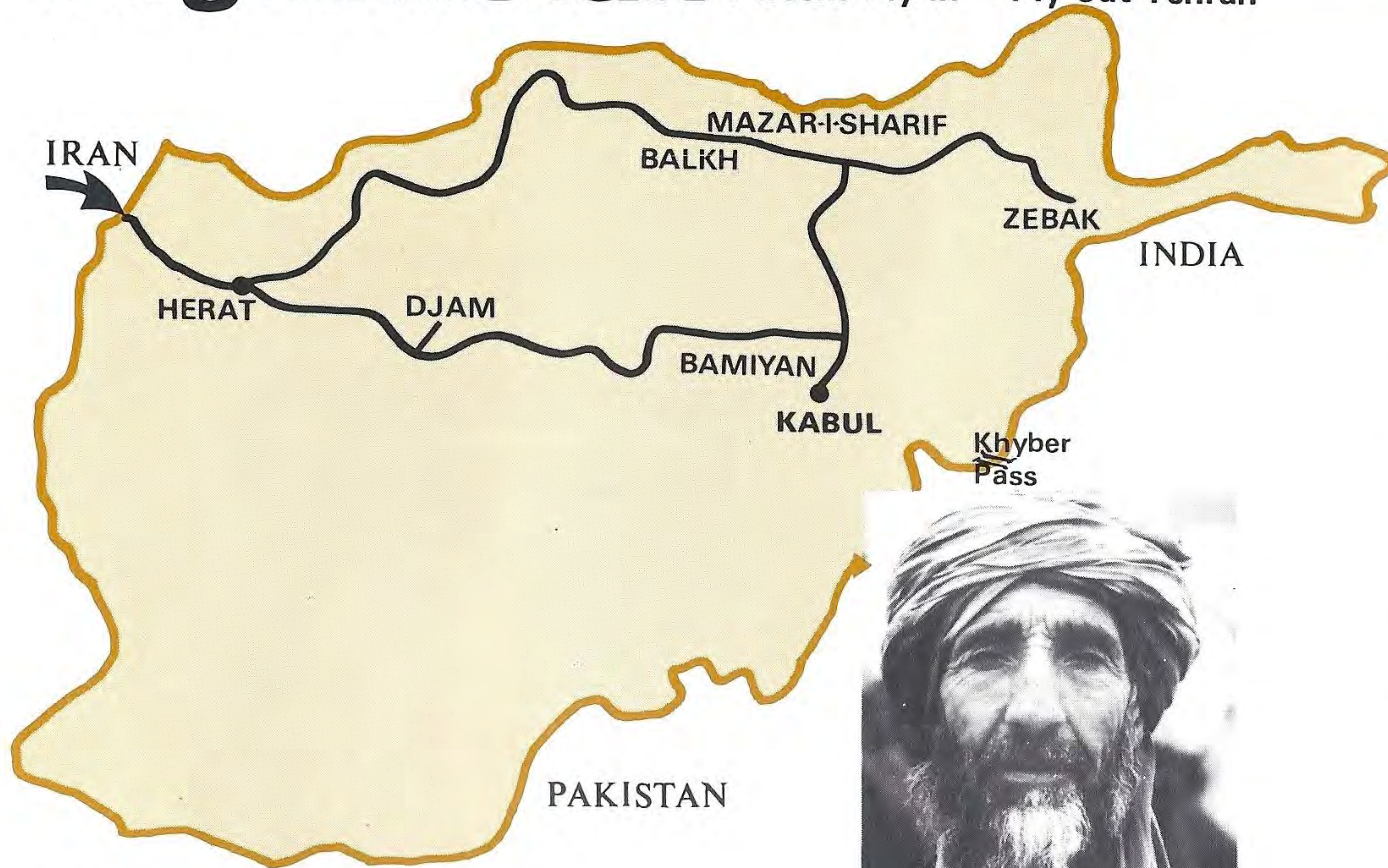
Now back in northern Algeria we follow the Atlas Mountains into Morocco; the desert is behind us and we are among the forests and lakes of the northern slopes. Life seems easy again with time in the medina of Fez and relaxing on Morocco's lazy Atlantic coast before we cross the Straits of Gibraltar to Spain. Via this land of vineyards and cypress trees we make our way back to what now seems the slightly bizarre reality of northern Europe. The desert was unhandled, uncluttered, unaffected, clear visions that haunt and stay.



Included in the price:
Tour of Florence, old Carthage, barbecue party, traditional Arab meal out, guide to Tassili Rock paintings, half day tour of Fez, Roman Volubilis, Alhambra Palace, Spanish meal out.

Afghanistan

6 weeks Fly in — Fly out Tehran



Afghanistan's mystery lies in the Hindu Kush and travellers there have always marvelled at its natural beauty. It is not hard to see why. These raw mountains hide a way of living far removed from our own. This land between the Oxus and the Indus, once invaded by the hordes of Genghis Khan, forms the crossroads of Asia.

Afghanistan has been on the overlanders' route for several years but just about every traveller uses the tarmac road through the semi-desert to south of the Hindu Kush. Very few westerners indeed have entered into these inaccessible mountains.



The approach route is by truck from Tehran through north-western Iran to Mashhad, Persia's religious centre, and from there we enter Afghanistan at Islam Qala. A comparison just of border posts indicates how different are these two countries.

Herat is Afghanistan's second city, yet it is tiny by western standards. Ponies and traps mingle with dilapidated supply vehicles which come struggling in laden with goods, animals and Afghans. Herat is a market and meeting place. Life is slow, yet its history has been a turbulent one of repeated destruction and reconstruction, to which the crumbling citadel of Alexander and the six remaining minarets of Musalla stand testimony.

Beyond Qala-i-Naw, the narrow dirt track is already hugging the mountainsides of this barren impassive landscape. Life is concentrated in the valleys, in sun-baked mud villages each serving as a local market centre, each with its chaikhanas. These chaikhanas are the traditional tea houses and resting places of weary travellers, differing little from the description of them at the time of the silk and spice trade on its 'Golden Journey to Samarkand'. In the surrounding hills nomads live in large black tents, their sheep guarded by the ever-present dogs.



The track winds down from the hillsides becoming one with dried up, rock-strewn river beds, while flowing rivers are forded or are crossed by rickety wooden bridges.

Suddenly without warning or apparent reason we enter a desert. Four-wheel drive hauls us forward through soft sand and up steep inclines. Then 40 miles later we're back among mountains, the desert gone as dramatically as it appeared.

We reach Balkh, a settlement with a glorious past, where Zoroaster preached, and first Buddhism then Islam flourished until 1220 when the city was utterly devastated by Genghis Khan.

Here is the home of Buzkashi, the furious game that is the Afghan national sport played on horseback with a goat's carcass as the 'ball'.

PAMIR RECONNAISSANCE; TREKKING/WHITE WATER RAFTING

From Mazar-i-Sharif we join the supply route from Kabul to the foothills of the Pamirs, the long mountainous finger of Afghanistan surrounded by Russia, China, India and Pakistan. We will make our base at or near Zebak. During summer months there is magnificent trekking in these hills and valleys. The snow-melt is near its maximum and there are good rivers for sensible rafting. In this pleasant rest from



our travels, a peaceful and friendly atmosphere enhances days which are active and great fun.

Our road to Kabul will take us through the tunnel of the Salang Pass (world's highest at 11,098 feet). Kabul is not only Afghanistan's capital but also the only modern city, where tall 20th century buildings nuzzle against bustling bazaars. Two craggy ranges crowned with ancient bastions divide the city, and the Kabul River flows through a narrow pass between them to meander through its heart.

We are close to the Khyber. The road descends the precipitous echoing chasm of the Kabul River Gorge and crosses the fertile Jalalabad plain to this the foot of the historic gateway to India.



Southern India

4 weeks Fly in Bombay — Fly out Madras

The sub-continent of India does not contain just a single culture. Southern India is a world apart; much less visited than the more famous centres of the north. Not surprisingly those who do go there are delighted by its difference, by its peaceful tropical sleepiness and by its sudden colour; a culture less disrupted and disturbed by foreign conquests and alien influences. No wonder travellers call this "the real India".

Water and music are everywhere in the harmony of the south. It is a land of timeless temples and sculpture, of ebony fishermen mending nets on white warm sands, of spicy hot curries and polished brass water-pots, of saris and ivory-white smiles, of rusty rickshaws, gypsies, and liquid dark eyes. Rivers abound, small ones spreading their fingers deep into the land, and huge ones sprawling into deltas.

Hills are humped high with basalt, the colour and shape of elephants' backs in the rain. Here are deep quiet forests scented with spice and wild flowers.

Her shores are long stretches of warm sands, shaded by groves of Casuarina trees whispering their secrets to the wind. There are coconut palms too, tossing wind-blown heads in a mime that the sea and air understand.

This is an ancient land, the older essence of India, where life, through cyclone and famine, is still gracious and unhurried.



Just over 30 years ago Bombay witnessed the departure of the British from Indian soil. It displays a western commercial influence of developing industries and trade outlets, yet to the unfamiliar, Bombay is an extraordinary city of six millions; a vibrant, pulsating, polyglot of India.

To the north-east are the caves at Ajanta and the related temples at Ellora. Inside these caves have been found beautiful paintings over 2,000 years old.

On the road south to Goa we visit the military hill-station of Poona. Goa, with its uncrowded sandy beaches, was the longest-held European trading concession and remained under the rule of the Portuguese until 1961. The colonial and catholic influence is still present.

Mysore, renowned for its gardens, wide streets, elegant sun-yellow buildings and the famous palace of the Maharajas, is two or three days drive from Goa. Much of the attraction and interest of the south is found outside her major centres in her villages, and soon after Mysore the road begins climbing the Kunda Hills to Ootacamund; "Ooti" to the British who used it as a cool hill retreat.

Nearby at Mudumalai we can ride through the bamboo jungles on elephant back in search of monkey, porcupine, antelope and the elusive tiger.

Kerala is India's most beautiful yet least visited state. Stretching along the idyllic south-west coast, its port of Cochin is a tropical palm studded complex of islands, still exporting exotic spices, pepper and ivory. In the Cardamom hills are lakes and forests of the Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary, where from the small

boat that plies the creeks and inlets we hope to see elephants, wild pigs, bison and perhaps even a tiger or a sloth bear.

We reach the lively state capital of Trivandrum, and the sands and gentle surf of Kovalam beach on the Malabar coast, before continuing to the very tip of India at Cape Comorin.

Tamil Nadu State is a green land of tea, rubber and pepper plantations. Madurai is a major Hindu centre and the city is dominated by a huge temple dedicated to Shiva, each of its four towers a tangled mass of brightly coloured statues.

A thousand years ago Tamil Nadu was ruled by the Pallava Dynasty. Their capital was Kanchipuram and their port Mahabalipuram, cities of silks and temples. But Mahabalipuram did not fully reflect their awesome power to the merchants of Asia who visited it. And so the Pallavas set about its glorification. From one huge piece of granite five monolith temples were hewn and a bas-relief was created. But it was at the sea shore that the Pallavas made their greatest effort. It is said that they built seven temples in a line reaching to the water's edge. But 1200 years and an avaricious sea have reduced their number to one small exquisitely shaped living temple.

Our journey ends in historic Madras, the silk and spice port, the first cantonment of the East India Company and the original port at the end of the sea lanes on a passage to India.

*** Included in the price:**
One night Bombay hotel, Ellora, Ajanta and Mahabalipuram, tours of Goa, Cochin and Madurai, wild-life boat trip, curry evening out Madras.



We return to Kabul en route to the great stone carved Buddhas of Bamiyan and the deep blue lakes of Band-i-Amir.

We shall then be setting off on the most difficult and exciting route across Afghanistan. The track twists and curls its way from Band-i-Amir across the notorious central route. We are very much alone but occasionally we are in villages or among nomads on the move. Otherwise there is only the wind, the sky and an unspoilt untouched nature; the ever-present Hindu Kush.

No ordinary vehicle can reach the lonely minaret of Djam, which stands 216 feet tall on the southern bank of the Hari Rod River. Very few westerners indeed have been in this valley.

Returning home from Tehran, memories of Afghanistan—the minaret, the lakes, the mountains and the wilderness—will seem distant and unreal.

*** Included in the price:**
Bamian Buddhas, traditional meal out, local guides as required, use of inflatables, two nights Kabul hotel and meals.

Turkey

3 weeks Fly in - Fly out Istanbul

Turkey is a land of deserted beaches, desolate plateaux, teeming modern cities and a long history. The archaeological sites include satellite ancient cities of mighty Rome and cave and underground dwellings of early persecuted Christians. Turkey presents a hot and largely unspoilt Mediterranean coastline and in contrast the rugged Taurus Mountains of the Anatolian hinterland.

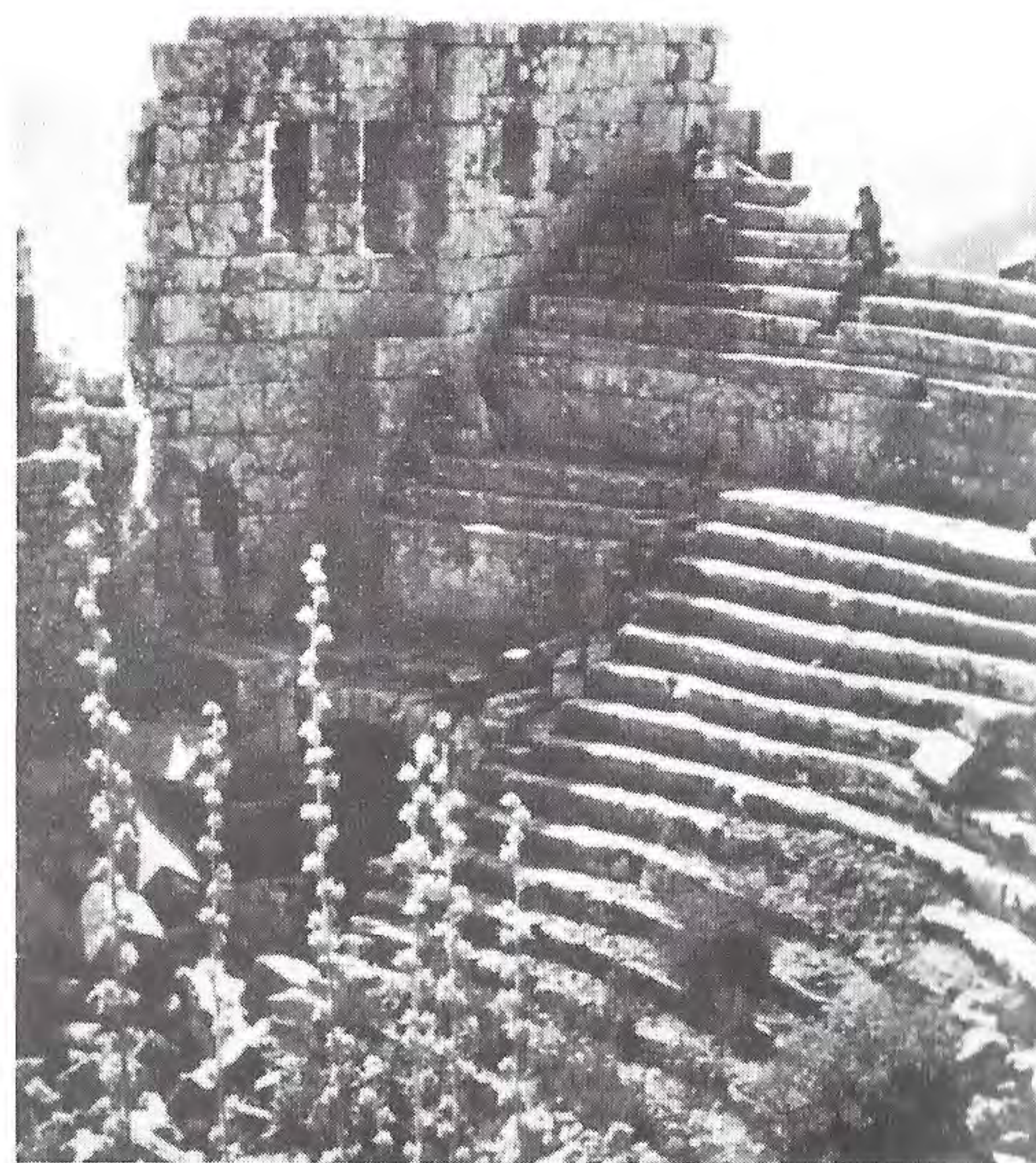
The Turks retain a traditional way of life, the pace of living is slow and the influence of the Moslem religion strong. Women are often clad in the chaderi, with only their darting eyes visible to strangers. Life seems to centre around the tea shops, with men drinking from small conical glasses and pulling on hookahs, whilst outside donkeys haul heavily laden wooden wheeled wagons.

Life on the barren central plateaux is hard; a dry dusty summer and a cruel winter, facts revealed in local faces. As these desolate areas yield to the fertile coastal regions, introvert people and reserved nomads give way to fishermen and friendly villagers.

On this Brief Encounter in Turkey we experience its many different facets. Our purpose is to relax on its beaches as well as to explore its cities, to visit reminders of its past and to cross its rugged hinterland.



Our starting point, Istanbul, straddles Europe and Asia, but is essentially Asian in character. A huge sun sinking behind the domes of the Blue Mosque, Bosphorus steamers pushing columns of black smoke into the orange haze, the clamour and clatter of the bazaar and the battling of old American jalopies in the streets all form part of the atmosphere and feeling of this bustling city.



Bargains are not easy to find, but leather coats, onyx and sometimes jewellery can be purchased relatively cheaply. The modern Constantinople forms our introduction to Turkey.

We follow the main Asian highway to Ankara, leaving Istanbul via the newly constructed Bosphorus bridge. Ankara, the capital of Turkey, is not of great interest to us as it is a modern westernized city. Leaving Ankara and the main highway we head south-east to the valley of Cappadocia in central Turkey. Here the underground cities of Kaymakli and Derinkuyu and the caves gouged out of the lunar landscape at Goreme provided shelter for early persecuted Christians. The crazy shaped exteriors hide ancient churches, their cave walls decorated with ikons.

We continue southwards across the barren Anatolian Plateau until we begin descending towards the coast through the Taurus Mountains. Dramatically the landscape changes and we are travelling through deep gorges and ravines. The temperature rises as we come down.

Mersin is our first coastal town and from here we follow the sea towards Antalya. On the way we can visit the crusader castle at Anamur, with its medieval walls, battlements and towers standing proud and

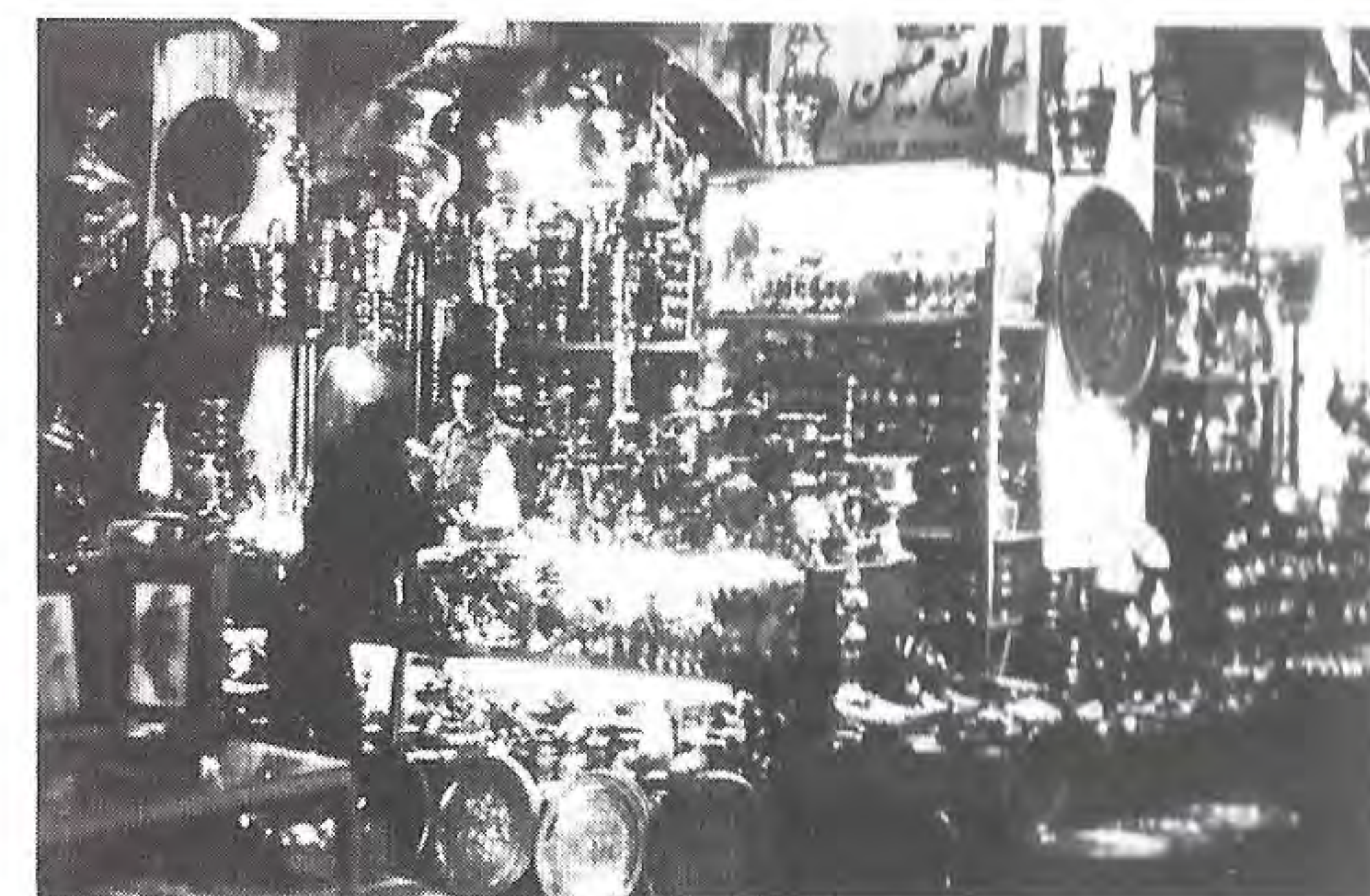


silent on the seashore. Near Antalya lie the ruins of Side, a Roman slave port. The remains of this ancient town are still in evidence and close by at Aspendos is the largest and best preserved of Turkey's amphitheatres. Sightseeing, relaxation and even the local disco are all part of the scene. Antalya itself has a fine castle and a few miles inland is the ancient cliff-top city of Thermessos.

The next section of the journey is along probably the most deserted and beautiful coastline of the entire Mediterranean. We travel over dirt roads, climbing steep hills and descending rapidly to the sea again, visiting small fishing villages, spending time simply relaxing and swimming in the clear water. Thus we pass through Kas, Fethiye and Mugla and so reach Ephesus.

Ephesus was the capital of the Roman province of Asia Minor and a major seaport. The remains rank among the finest examples of their colonial era. The mosquitos, which drove out the Romans, have themselves now retreated, and the sea has withdrawn three miles leaving flat sandy beaches.

We follow the east coast to the Aegean Sea and stop at the ruins of Troy before crossing to Gallipoli. We are again in Istanbul at the end of our journey as the big yellow sun slides behind the Blue Mosque.



*** Included in the price:**
One day tour of Istanbul including Topkapi and Aya Sofia, Ephesus, Goreme, Side, Aspendos, barbecue party, traditional meal out.

Central America

The eight countries of Central America have a character and unity that sets them apart from the continental behemoths to the north and south.

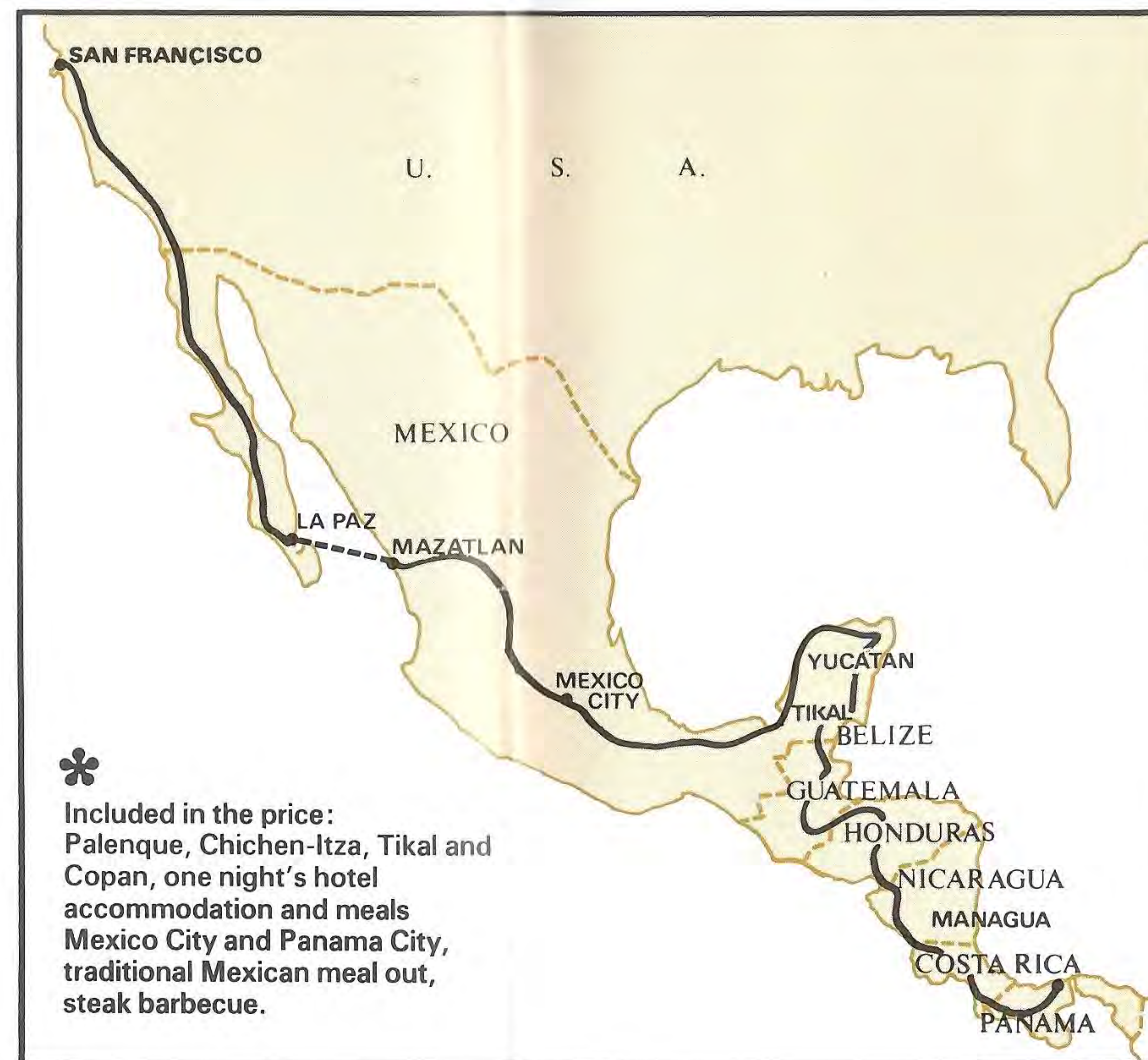
This land from the Rio Grande to the Panama Canal is thick jungles, open deserts, active volcanoes and mountain passes, soothing Caribbean beaches and dusty plains. Spread throughout these are the remains of two of the world's greatest ancient empires. The Aztec and Mayan cultures are both mystical and unfathomable, their surviving ruins are a magnificent and chilling reminder of the superpowers they once were. Today their descendants keep to themselves, bypassed by progress since the onslaught of the Conquistadores; tatters of their cultures showing through in the customs and trappings of their isolated market towns.

This Brief Encounter between San Francisco and Panama will follow the gradual transformation from desert to tropics, sharing in the subtle twists that Central America imparts to it; travelling the length of Baja California the wild 'tail' of Mexico—and detouring into the Yucatan Peninsula to its great archaeological sites.

A small tough overland bus is used on this journey; its high cruising speed cutting down the timings on long open roads, the good road conditions of Central America no longer meriting the use of four-wheel drive. The equipment is the same as that used on our other safaris and expeditions, and the same concepts and standards of planning and preparation are applied.



7 weeks San Francisco to Panama, also vice versa
California, Mexico, Belize, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama,
(these trips are sometimes planned to co-ordinate with EO. South America Expeditions)



From San Francisco on Highway 101, south through Los Angeles and San Diego we cross into Mexico at Tijuana into the narrow arm of Baja California that is rainless, hot desert. The land has a wild beauty of open skies, sea and parched earth, thundering bore-holes and giant cacti.

The overnight ferry from the tip brings us to the mainland and following the now somewhat pot-holed Pan Am Highway we reach Mexico City, at 7,000ft the largest, highest and most modern of Central America's capitals.

We cross the narrow neck of Mexico to the Gulf at Vera Cruz, the town founded by Cortez in 1519 when he first landed in the Americas and we enter the dense forests of the Yucatan Peninsular. At Palenque is the most exquisite achievement of the Mayas, the 'Temple of Inscriptions', famous for its bas-reliefs, and more recently for the controversial 'spaceman' carving in the crypt of the Sun God. Chichen-Itza the

Maya/Toltec city to the north is known for its places of bloody ritual and sacrifice.

From Quintana Roo we enter Belize (formerly British Honduras) and the Caribbean port of Belize City. There are rough dirt roads and choking jungles as we enter Guatemala to reach Tikal, the most impressive of Mayan ruins. Here the central acropolis has been cleared, but pyramids and monuments remain scattered throughout the jungle.

This is also a land of beautiful lakes and colourful Indian markets. On Sundays the Quiche Indians, descendants of the Mayas, gather from the hills to Chichicastenango for their involved ceremonies and assemblies that involve Christianity in a pre-Columbian ritual. Indian men in embroidered jackets and gay woven sashes and women in red and black huipiles sell intricate woollen bags and panajachel shirts, earthenware and clay ornaments and wide, flowing ponchos.

We find the steepest roads of all of Latin America clinging to the precipitous slopes of Lake Atitlan, the most beautiful of the hundreds of lakes and the only home of the 'poc', a large flightless grebe. The lake is surrounded by purple highlands and green hills that reflect in its waters in ever changing hues.

A rough, hilly track brings us to the Honduran frontier and Copan—the oldest Mayan site, set in tranquil wooded surroundings. Little architecture remains, but Copan is fascinating for its remarkable carved figures (Stelae) on which the passage of time was recorded.

Following the descent to the hot coastal plains beyond Tegucigalpa, the small and friendly capital, we climb into the dry, hilly countryside of Nicaragua.

Managua the capital, suffered horribly in the earthquake of 1972—its second total destruction this century. It is now to be re-sited and what little remains is but an attempt at mere survival among the ghosts of the original city.

The warm, murky waters of Lake Nicaragua are inhabited by fresh water sharks, and on its edge is Volcan Santiago where we can drive across the lava flow and up to the brink of its large and still active crater.

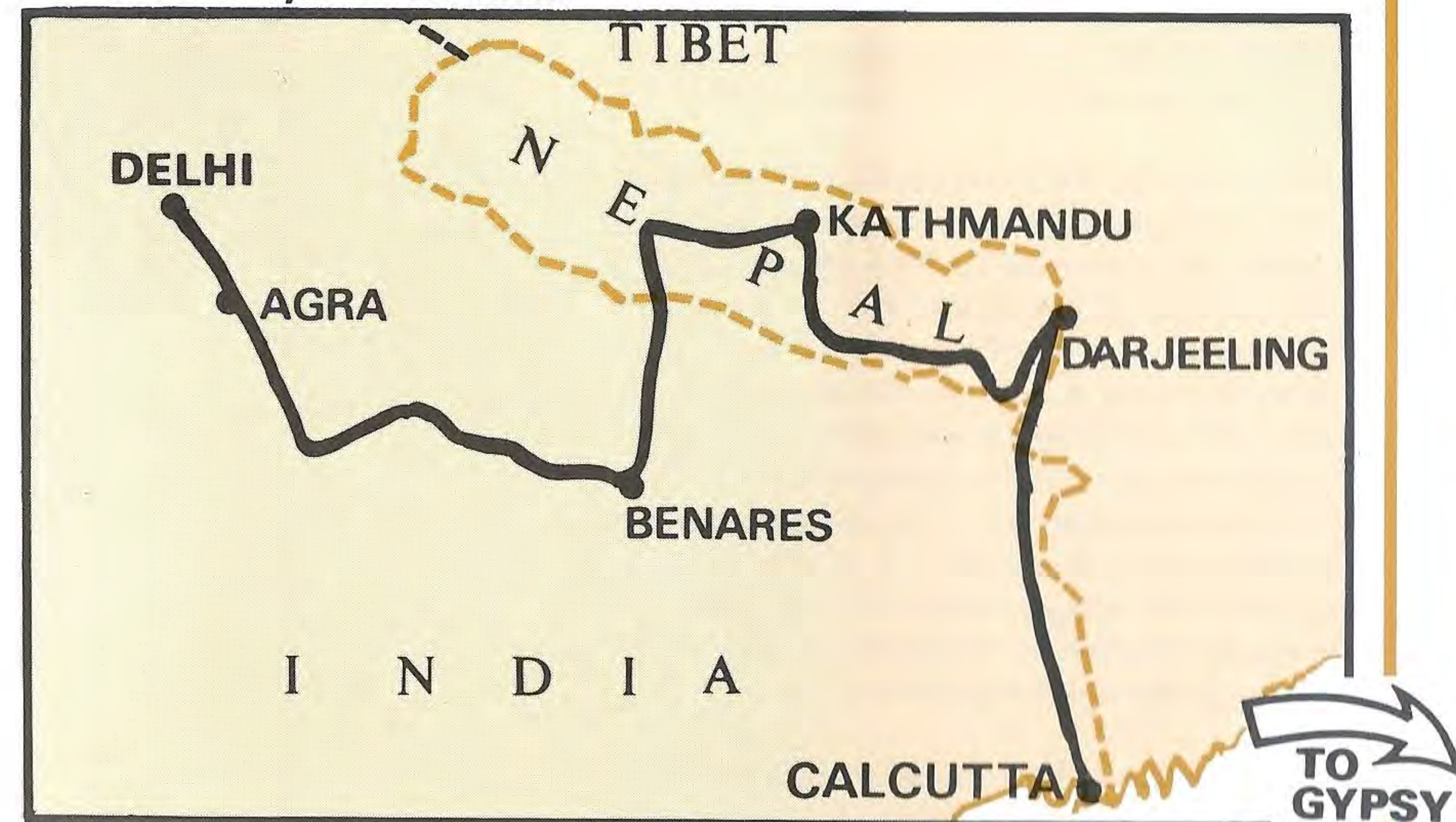
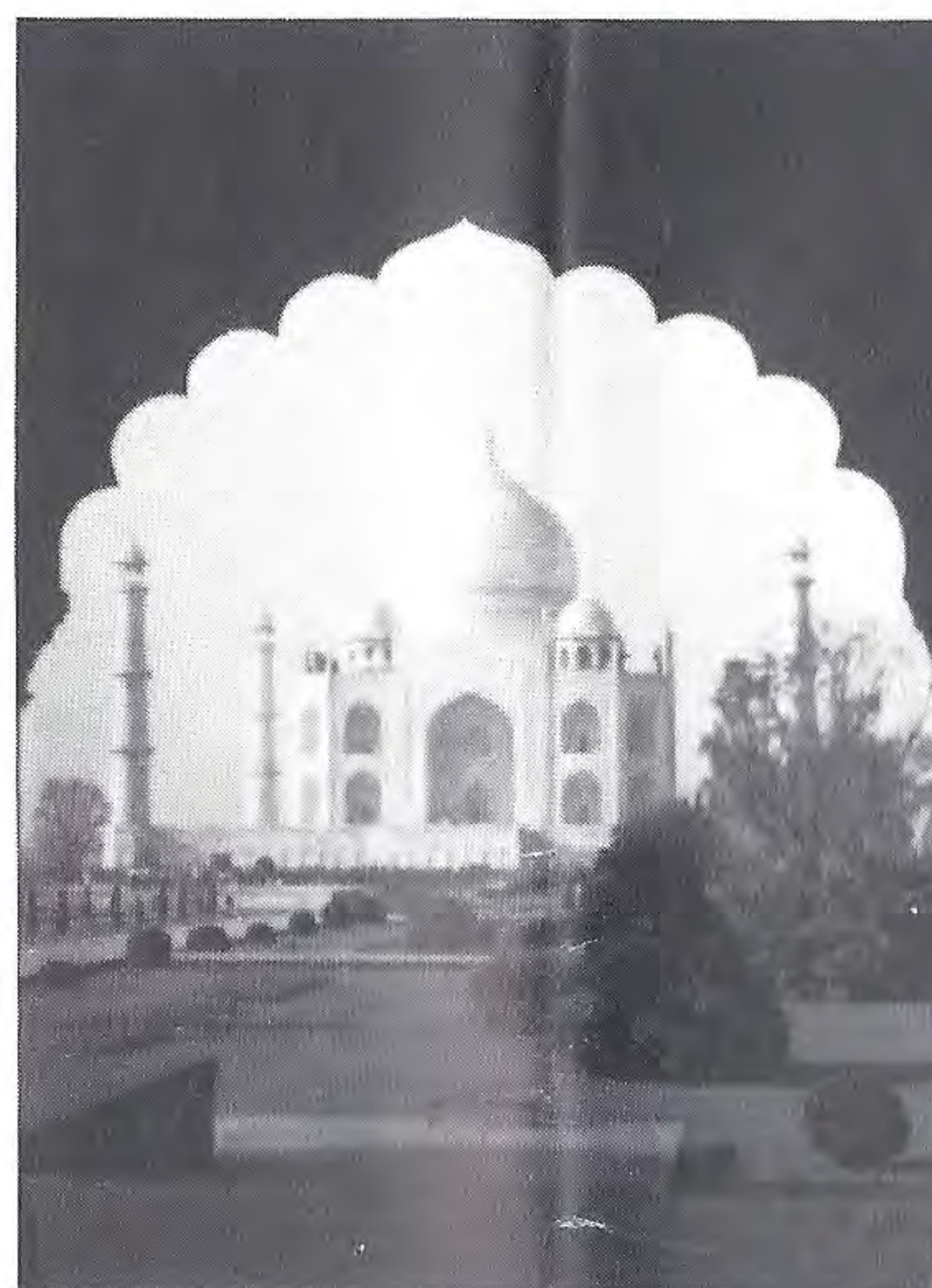
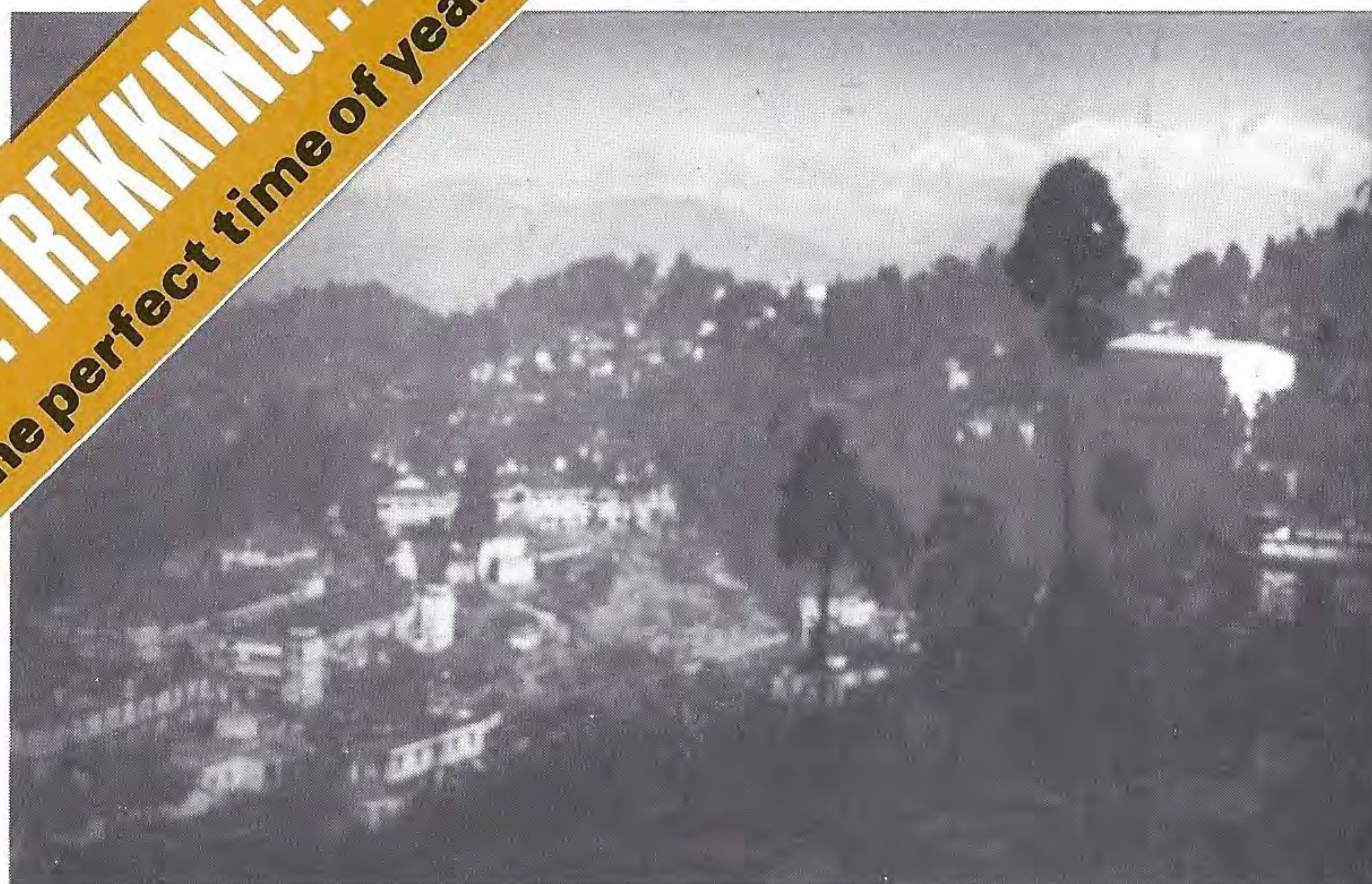
We leave this dry, hot land for the 'garden of America'—the thinnest part of the isthmus that is Costa Rica and Panama—mist-shrouded highlands, pleasant greenery and cool rivers. Finally we reach Panama City—one of the crossroads of the world.



Northern India Nepal and Darjeeling

4 weeks Fly in Delhi - Fly out Calcutta
2 weeks Fly in Kathmandu - Fly out Calcutta

TREKING
at the perfect time of year



Delhi, the capital of India, is a city of two minds; New Delhi with its open-plan streets, western hotels and elegant government buildings and in stark contrast there is the old city, a confusion of streets, people, trading, poverty and tradition. Here is one of the massive red forts of the Moghuls, the Jama Masjid Mosque, the President's Palace (formerly Viceregal Lodge) and the wide malls of Lutyen's showpiece of the British Raj.

120 miles south is Agra, city of the Taj. Built by Shah Jahan in 1648 the Taj Mahal is a love monument to his wife (the Taj Mahal is a tourist cliché precisely because it is of such unsurpassed beauty, and so many superlatives have been written about it, that the more words written the less one tends to believe them). The old emperor, Shah Jahan, imprisoned by his son in the nearby Moghul fort, would gaze on his Taj across the wide bend of the Yamuna River and remember.

Beyond Agra lies Fatehpur Sikri, capital of Moghul India for 16 years, then abandoned—which is how we find it.

As we make our way east along the tree-lined Indian by-ways we find the temples of the Kama Sutra at Khajuraho, their walls sculptured with ideas on fornication as difficult to perform as they are to imagine.

We continue now across the rolling hills south of the Ganges Plain, through villages and past cross-roads with sleepy shacks and the whispering aroma of brewing char and baking chapattis, to the splendour and confusion of Benares. The oldest living city in the world, Benares is the religious centre of the Hindu faith. At first light men and women flock in tens of thousands to pay homage to Mother Ganga, the most holy of all rivers, and to pray in her waters. They come to die here and be burnt on her shores; that the ashes may be washed by her current and the soul cleansed. At dawn the huge and perfect orb of the sun appears majestically above the horizon, as some vengeful god, to fire the city and the river in a flood of heat and light. By midday the mass of shrines, temples and palaces are cowering from the heat and the alleyways to the river are almost deserted.

Clearing a path through the bullock carts and bicycles on the edge of the city we turn north towards Nepal. From this road across the flat paddy fields is our first view of the distant Himalayas, a line of white peaks discernable in the haze. On entering Nepal the road twists and climbs through the Himalayan foothills reaching 8,000 feet and descending towards Pokhara the lake-side town beneath Annapurna.

Kathmandu must surely be one of the world's friendliest cities, mystical yet vibrant, Buddhism blends with Hinduism, overlanders, hippies and

jet-setters mingle with refugees from Tibet, with Sherpas from the hills and with Gurkhas from the valleys. In small restaurants, on bicycles, in chai and pie shops, around pagodas and stupas, and in Hindu temples, the friendly Nepalese and the Himalayan backdrop make this a travellers' paradise.

Leaving Kathmandu we use the Raj path (the original sinuous road into Nepal built in the 1950's) to head south back over the passes, and then, turning east we follow the lateral road through the lowland 'terai'. For more than 200 miles this road follows the base of the eastern Himalaya crossing the rivers that have been the glaciers and torrents from the cwms and icefields. This road re-enters India and crossing and re-crossing the narrow-gauge railway it climbs up through the tea estates to Darjeeling.

6 Days Trekking....

Darjeeling is situated at 7,146 feet on a ridge above the Ranjit River, commanding one of the most beautiful views; the hillside is sprinkled with bungalows and the Himalayan giants tower above. It is from here that we will organise our trek. Kanchenjunga (28,208 feet) dominates the mountain vista from Darjeeling and it is towards this peak that we shall be walking. Trekking from here is less common and the trails less crowded than in Nepal, but the scenery and views are just as staggering. In fact many of the high altitude Sherpas, so vital to the

major Himalayan expeditions, come from here. On arrival in Darjeeling we will have a day to prepare for the trek, finalising details, conferring with our sidhar and distributing loads between porters. The trek will take six days and we will be walking up from rice terrace through forest and out onto rock face and ravine. The daily distance covered will be just over ten miles, so that anyone reasonably fit will face no great difficulties. The highest point of our trek will be Sandokphu at 12,000 feet and it is from here we will get our most magnificent views of Everest, Lhotse and Kanchenjunga.

Leaving Darjeeling and the Himalayas we return to the Indian Plains crossing West Bengal to Calcutta, Kipling's "City of Dreadful Night". Daily a tide of teeming humanity streams across the giant girdered span of the Howrah Bridge. Bustees, Calcutta's horror of shanty towns, crowd once-gilded imperial buildings in a sea of awful urban poverty; that is the world's conscience?

✿ Included in the price:

Four weeks:

Tour of Delhi with son-et-lumiere or Red Fort, Taj Mahal, Fatehpur Sikri, Khajuraho Temples, Benares river boats and tour of city.

Two weeks and four weeks:

Two nights accommodation Kathmandu, Darjeeling trekking permits, guides and porters, one night accommodation Calcutta and curry evening out.

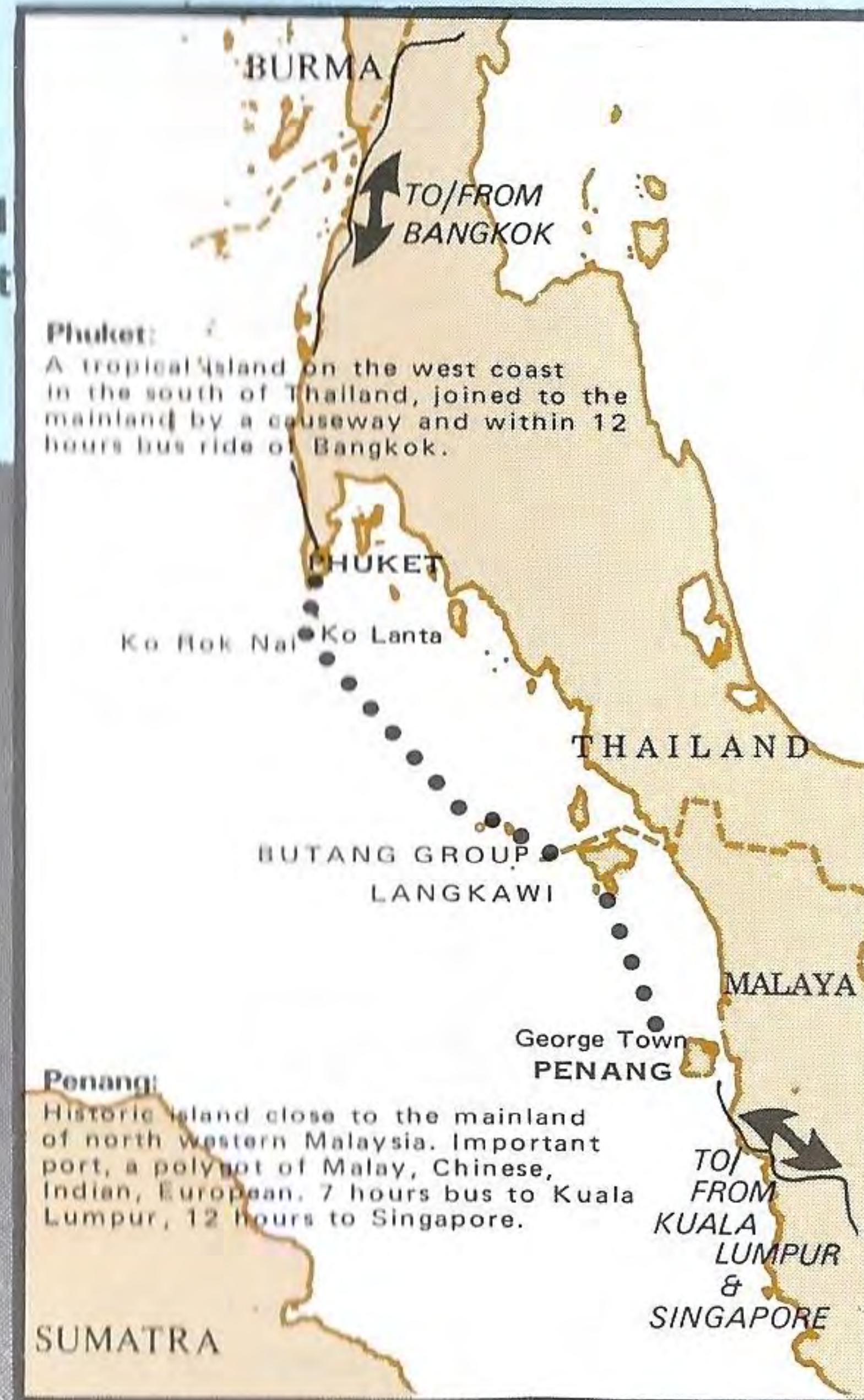
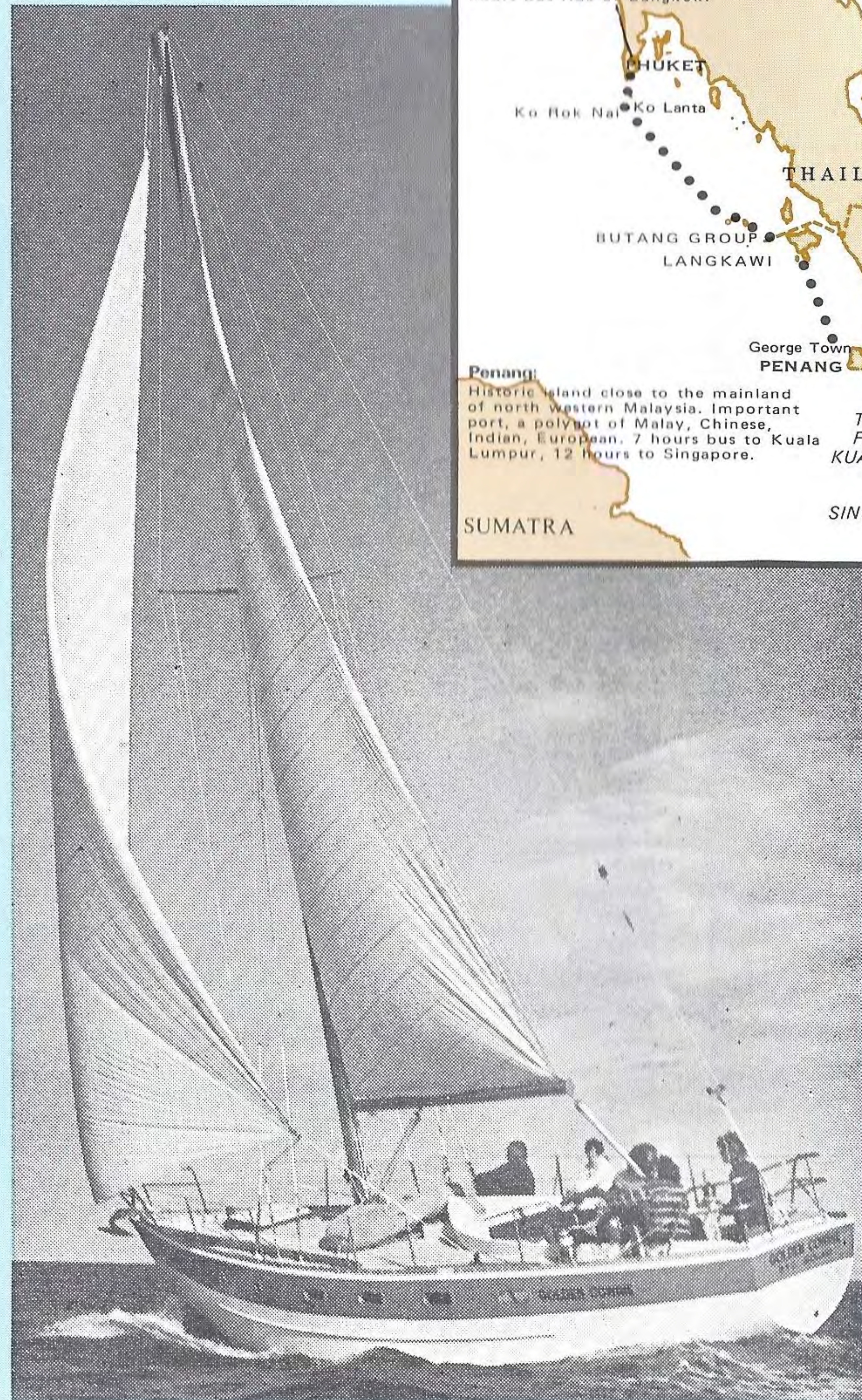
Coral Island Safari

2 weeks voyage from Phuket to Penang in the Andaman Sea between Thailand & Malaysia.

The route is studded with barely inhabited coral islands, white sand beaches, swaying coconut palms and jungle shores alive with monkeys and multi-coloured birds. The water is azure blue and glass clear to 60 feet.

Corny?—no, absolutely true.

* Included in price — One night Patong Beach Bungalows, Phuket, Thai 'Bon Voyage' meal, desert island barbecue, individual port entry dues Penang, one night accommodation Cathay hotel Penang and Chinese meals.



The yacht GYPSY

She is a 38ft flush decked sailing sloop, built in 1975 to a modern proven design with South East Asian cruising specifically in mind. She has a comprehensive sail wardrobe, winches, electronic navigational equipment and two-way radio, a 47 hp Perkins marine diesel engine with 100 hrs of fuel and modern electrical system including generator.

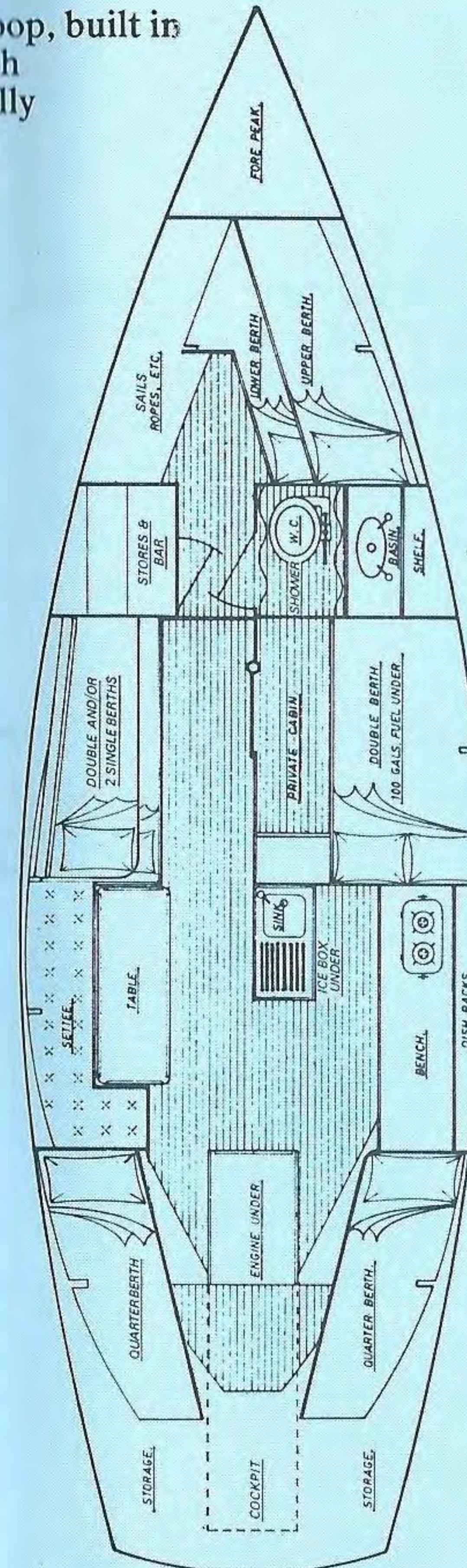
Below she is pleasantly appointed, light and airy with good ventilation. Nine berths include two convertible to double. There are 130 gallons of fresh water, a marine flush toilet and a saltwater shower.

The galley has a gimble cooker, ice box and sink. The dining area is cushioned sofas and a rosewood table. Stereo equipment is aboard (and maritime customs law allows us a certain amount of duty free liquor and cigarettes).

The cockpit seats eight plus helmsman and there is sunbathing space on deck.

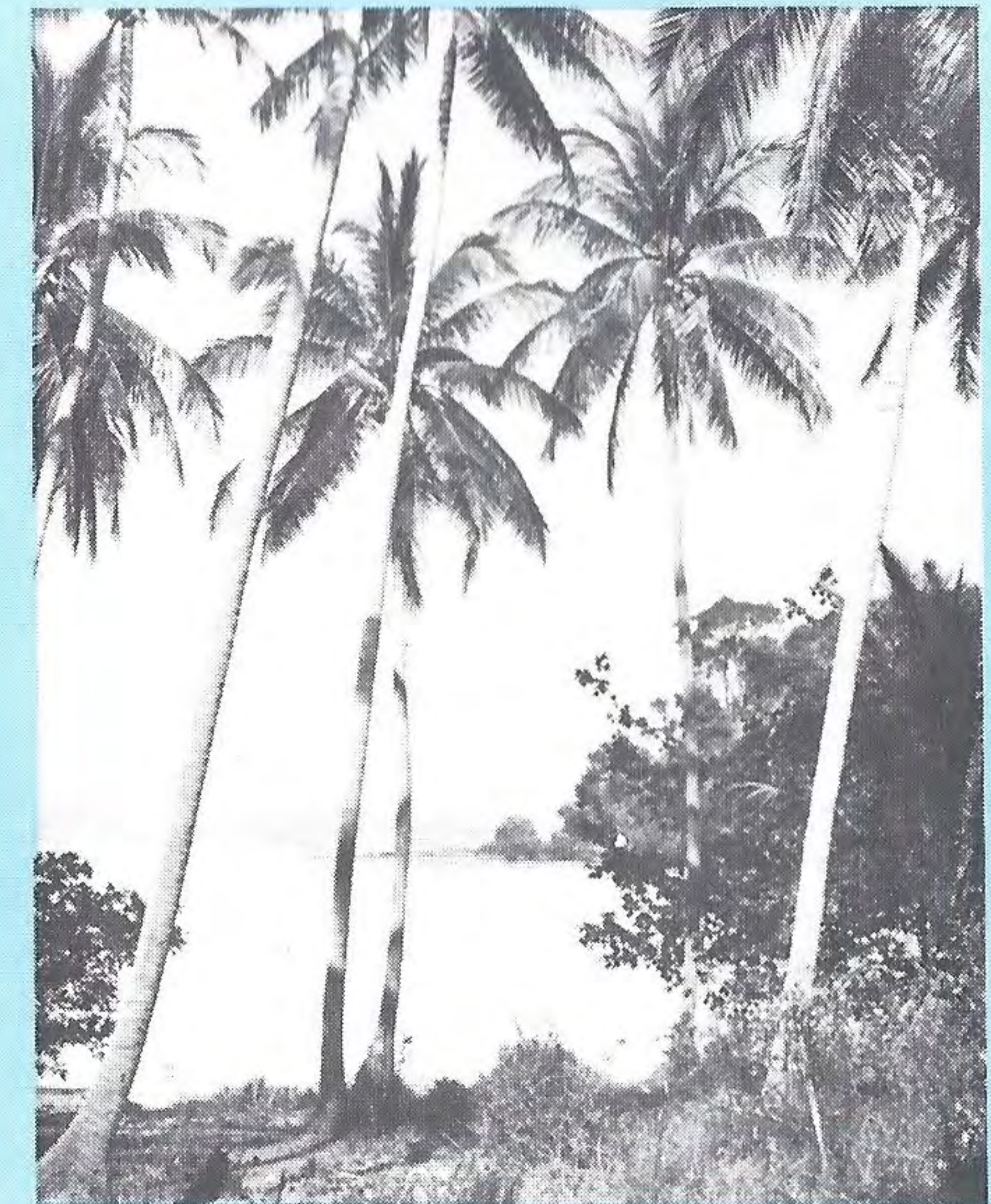
Simple skin-diving equipment is aboard.

Safety equipment includes a certified ocean survival raft and buoyancy aids, etc., to international safety standards.



The sea is usually smooth or light, though squalls raise moderate to rough seas for brief periods; or the sky may blacken in minutes and a deluge descend from one of the short but intense tropical storms. Seasickness can strike anyone, but we've found its effects are short-lived under these conditions.

Sailing in this part of the world has long periods of little to do interspersed with moments of intense activity. Plenty of time to read, chat and soak up the sun, and the chance to learn and feel the thrill and pleasure of ocean cruising.



THE POINT

- * learning the ropes of ocean-going sailing and experiencing the thrill of sail power.
- * a near-unique chance to live among the hard-to-reach island essence of S.E. Asia.
- * to be aboard transport—beautiful in itself— on a very different section of your globe-trotting way (missing out an uninteresting mainland straddled by a tense border situation).

BOOKING AND JOINING SHIP

Please Note: Advertised sailing dates are not necessarily exact and sailing may take place at any time during the subsequent four days.

If you wish to reserve a berth while you are in South East Asia:—

IN PENANG

Contact our Shipping Agents:

Sri Mutiara Shipping and Trading Enterprise,
25 Leboh Light, Georgetown, Penang, Malaysia.

IN PHUKET:—

Please enter requested details in the book on display at the reception of Patong Beach Bungalows, Patong Beach, Phuket, Thailand.

THE VOYAGE

There will be nine of us, including the skipper and one permanent crew, with time to relax but also with a lot to do and a demanding vessel to sail and navigate.

Using the outboard powered dinghy we can reach deserted coves for snorkling and beaches for swimming. And when anyone wants a job, there are plenty keeping the yacht shipshape. Food is simple and good, with a strong eastern flavour, and you'll have to help prepare it.

Nights will usually be spent at anchor, though some night sailing in ideal conditions may be undertaken. Warm nights in south eastern Asia will probably be one of your most beautiful memories of unreality.

Days are usually hot and protection under the awning soon becomes preferable to the direct mid-day sun.

The climate varies little from season to season, with the light to moderate monsoons blowing from the north-east from November to March and the south-west from May to September.

Kashmir Christmas

2½ weeks Fly in Delhi — Fly out Srinagar



Included in the price:
Agra, Fatehpur Sikri, Christmas party, New Year party, tour of old Srinagar, one day pony trekking and transport to ski slopes.

'Apollo Eleven', 'Young Good Luck', and 'Montreal' are three Kashmiri houseboats moored in the shallow still waters of Dahl Lake. They are in the traditional style of the floating pleasure domes of the British Raj, fashionable luxurious retreats from the heat of India's plains. They are unique; stately vessels, with carved verandahs, sitting in a steep-sided Himalayan basin. Their spacious living-rooms are furnished and fitted with mountain sandalwood, walnut and Kashmiri carpets, and they are heated with hissing log stoves. The Indian and European meals are prepared and served by our host and his family. Each boat has three bedrooms with a bathroom attached.

What a fabulous way to spend the Christmas season which has always been well celebrated here! The old knowing Kashmiri hospitality kindles the party atmosphere of our traditional Christmas.

Lake transport is by shikara, the Kashmiri gondolas propelled by heart shaped paddles. From other shikaras traders ply their handicraft, leather goods, furs, carpets, hand painted papier-mache trinkets, Tibetan antiques and precious stones, amongst the finest in Asia. Shops in Srinagar town have fitting names, Cheerful Chippendale, Honest Injun, Savilaroy and the Try Out Tailors are but a few.

Beyond the head of the lake is Gulmarg at 8,700ft, where there is a facility for both skiing and pony trekking. There is a 500 metre chair-lift and a 200 metre T-bar. Equipment is available for hire and prices are reasonable. Winter days are usually bright with fine views of the Karakoram Range. There are

trekking and walking possibilities and with a charcoal burning clay firepot in the shikara it is not too cold to paddle through the backwater villages of the lotus lakes.



So as not to miss the most famous sights of India and so that we can all be friends by Christmas, Encounter has included (at no extra cost) five days sightseeing before going to Kashmir. We will spend a night in Delhi, visit the Taj Mahal at Agra and the dead Moghul city at Fatehpur Sikri before going into Rajasthan to see the amber palace at Jaipur.



Midnight Sun

4 weeks ex-London.
Norway, Sweden and Finland.

Europe is not usually our stamping ground, but in June we set off for Lapland to celebrate the summer solstice, Mid-Summer Night in the land of the midnight sun. Northern Scandinavia is both beautiful and deserted and this Brief Encounter to the North Cape will take us into the Arctic Circle in the months when the sun never sets; at midnight it sits obstinately on the horizon undecided whether to create day or night.

This is the land of the myths and legends of Trolls and Vikings, of misty forests and silent lakes. And the thunderous Norse Gods? Do they still look down from their windswept crags and glaciers to keep a watchful eye on the fjords and hamlets below, where their taciturn blond descendants besport themselves in an uncomplicated harmony of toil, sauna and schnapps?



We take the overnight ferry to Bergen in Norway and travel inland to Lillehammer—Pier Gynt's town in the central valley, from where we turn into the hills towards Sweden. We are suddenly in a land of foaming rivers and mirror lakes, small mountain farms and traditional stave churches.

We turn north along the west coast of the Gulf of Bothnia, a coastline of tall forests and waterfalls set in wild and unspoilt nature.

At the head of the gulf we cross into northern Finland and the Arctic Circle. This is the Lapland of loneliness, where summer is perpetual light and winter a long night of dark cold; the forgotten corner of Europe where reindeer herds, moving across barren tundra, are followed by nomadic Lapp families, where grey, distant names like Lake Inari appear out of the past to jog memories and fade back into the mists.

At the Cape, Europe's northernmost point and 350 miles inside the Arctic Circle, is the famous viewpoint on top of the 1,000 feet high black granite cliff that faces north to the night sun and the frozen wastes.

The Arctic highway takes us back along Norway's west coast to the Lyngen Glacier and Tromsø with its Arctic Museum, and to Trondheim—the Viking stronghold. The road winds around steep-sided fjords, ferries across narrow inlets and picks an erratic path through this glacier-slashed land.

Days are sun-bathed and relaxed in the bright clear warmth of the scenery, and our campsites are among trees near water, cooking over open fires in the pastel twilight of endless, tranquil evenings.

From Oslo we ship across to Denmark on our way home through Germany and Belgium.



Included in the price:
Mid-summer night's barbecue and carousel, Trondheim Museum.

THE IMPORTANT RED TAPE

THE COST



The fact is that the cost of a Brief Encounter is shared and that it covers all expenses of a well-planned project. You know the actual cost and you know that you and your personal spending money won't get caught up in sometimes bottomless miscellaneous 'kitties'. This concept of 'inclusiveness' is not spoon-feeding; it is a fundamental principle of full participation.

Remember, the cost of a Brief Encounter covers all the following expenses throughout the journey:

- * Administration and 'count-down' costs—our involvement in helping you to set off smoothly.
- * Transport costs—everything related to the high standard of vehicle preparation—and taxes, tolls, maintenance, spares, repairs.
- * Top quality camping equipment; including big two-man tents and campbeds and all the cooking and domestic equipment to make life as comfortable, convenient and healthy as possible.
- * All accommodation.
- * Special extras as shown in project details.
- * Food, three meals daily, usually prepared ourselves and occasionally (as specified) at pleasant restaurants.
- * And, perhaps most valuable of all, the involvement of a highly able expedition leader fully supported from an experienced base, and with the authority to implement flexible ideas.



JOINING

To join a Brief Encounter you should book as early as possible. You should first carefully read the booking form and return the completed portion together with the required deposit. Cheques should be made payable to Encounter Overland Ltd or you travel agent, who will promptly acknowledge your booking and confirm that a place is available. All payments will be receipted. In the event of your booking not being accepted, your deposit would be returned immediately.

N.B.

Each heading below is discussed in pre-departure details received by members of each expedition.

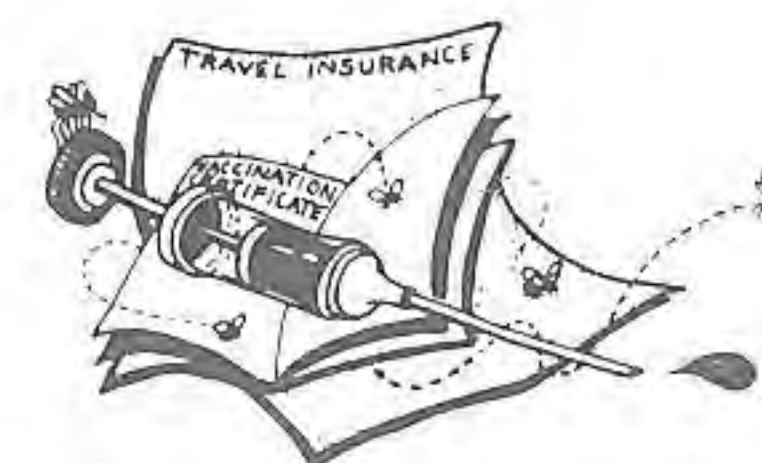
The cost of obtaining any visas and of personal insurance and vaccination is not covered in the quoted price.

PASSPORTS



Passports must be valid for the duration of the expedition and have several blank pages for visas and border stamps. As a general rule any VISAS should be obtained prior to departure. The pre-departure details will tell you how these are obtained.

INSURANCE & MEDICAL



Everyone must have individual PERSONAL TRAVEL INSURANCE. Various policies are available, but whatever policy you arrange it must meet the minimum specifications of the personal policies we arrange with recommended underwriters. Such a policy is probably the best way to deal with this. You are strongly recommended to make sure that your policy provides for medical repatriation, cancellation and curtailment and baggage. Anyone with family commitments must also be satisfied that they are responsibly provided for. (Full details can be supplied.)

Participation in most of these projects requires vaccination. Smallpox and cholera are often required as is TABT (inoculation against typhoid, paratyphoid and tetanus). For most expeditions you are also recommended to have a Gamma Globulin injection against hepatitis immediately before setting off.

POST



Projects of longer than one month have at least one planned mail pick-up point en route. These will be supplied with our approximate dates of arrival.

PERSONAL EQUIPMENT



Without doubt the easiest and best way to travel is as lightly as possible, taking just what is necessary. This can and must be contained in three pieces of luggage:

1. a medium-sized suitcase, canvas bag or rucksack;
2. an airline type hold-all;
3. a sleeping-bag roll.

A clothing list is supplied which might include a few things you haven't thought of, but no vast outlay in a new wardrobe is necessary! When you pack, however, you must obviously reflect the type of climatic conditions to be encountered.

There is no particularly vital **photographic advice** to give except that it is usually best to set off with all the film you expect to need. Once used, it will survive perfectly until developed on your return home.

RECOMMENDED READING



We'll let you have a list of books we've found of particular interest. And if there is a '1,000 page classical tome' you have always meant to read—you could probably get it read on the trip.

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS



If you play a musical instrument, do think about bringing it along. It adds a lot to the fun—particularly around a campfire in the evening. But if it's especially large, delicate or expensive, please contact us first!

CONNECTING TRAVEL



Although most of these expeditions set off from the UK or are planned with flight approaches ex-London, many of our expedition members join from other countries. We recommend that you should discuss any aspect of connecting travel that concerns you with the organizers or agents of Brief Encounters who are experts in this whole field.



ENCOUNTER OVERLAND

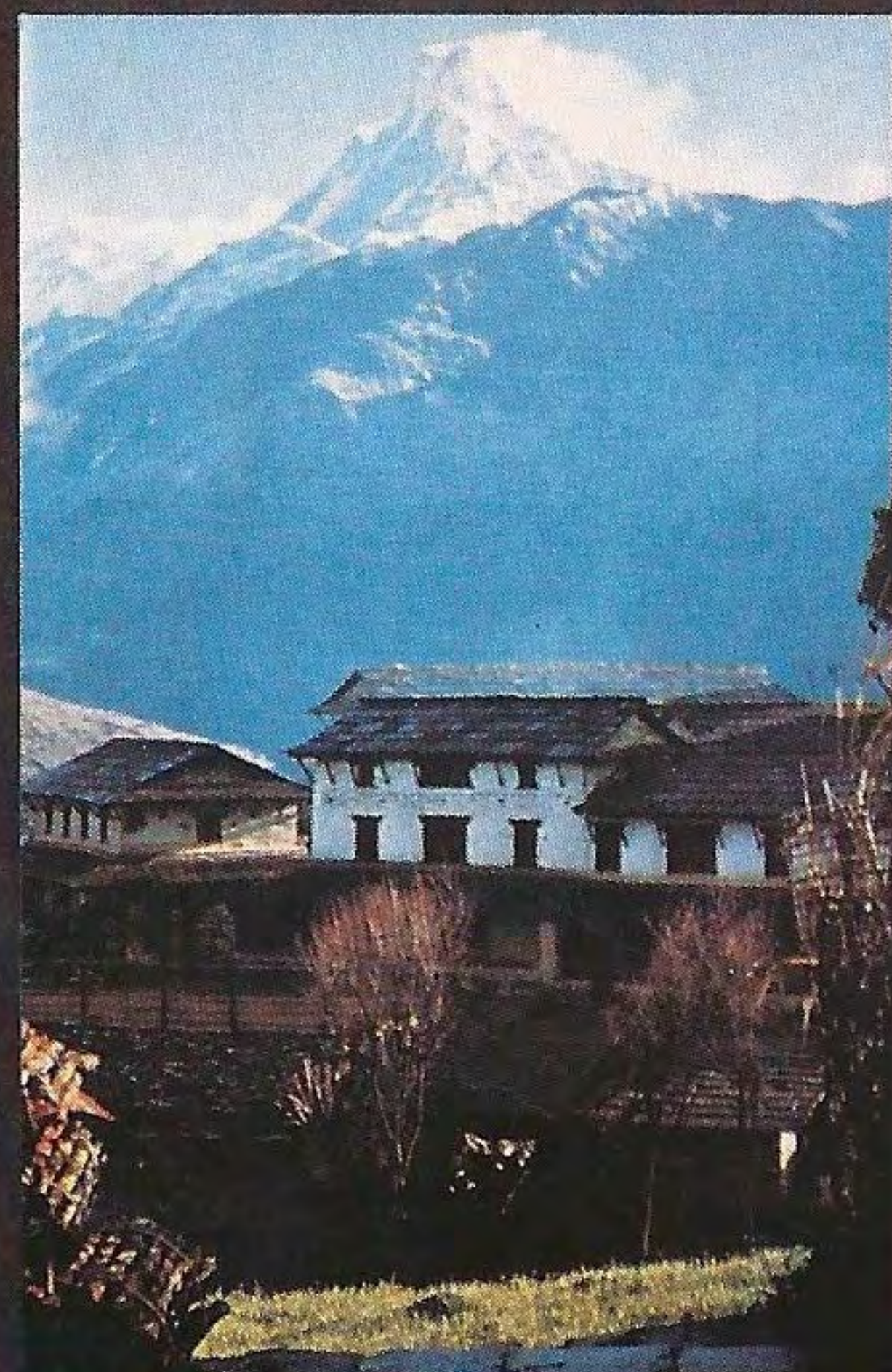
ENCOUNTER OVERLAND is the originator of trans-continental expeditions by truck across Asia, Africa and South America—these journeys are from 11 to 16 weeks. The detailed information of these major expeditions is contained in the full colour 32 page dossier available free on request.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Fully equipped overland expedition vehicle units can be made available for suitable projects planned in conjunction with special interest groups. Specialist equipment including inflatables (powered or unpowered), canoes, climbing equipment, etc. can also be made available. Planning for such projects needs to start six to nine months in advance. Encounter Overland is equipped and qualified to undertake projects of this nature in most parts of the world.

Book through:

BRIEF ENCOUNTERS



Encounter Overland

280 Old Brompton Road
London SW5

01-370 6845

