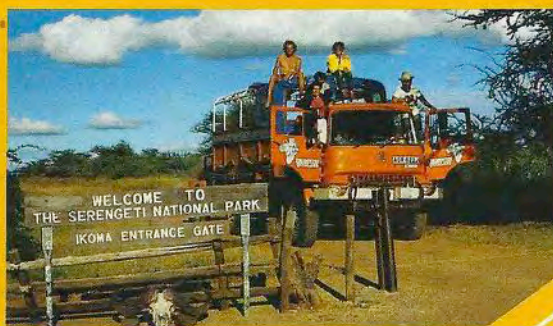
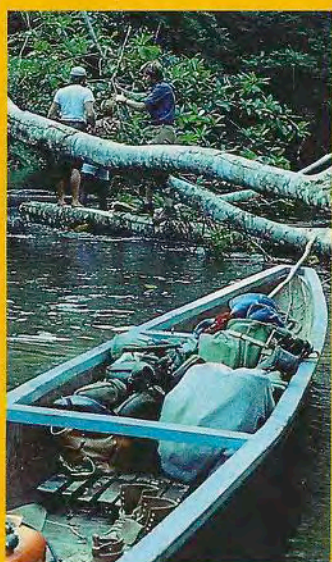
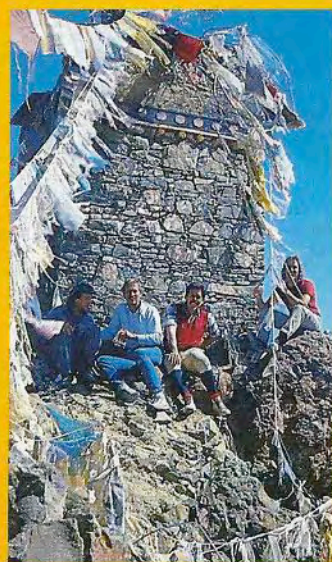


ENCOUNTER OVERLAND

ASIA • AFRICA
SOUTH AMERICA



Sundowners

88/89

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Dates and Prices 1988-89



ASIA

BRIEF ENCOUNTERS

Nepal, The Ganges and Rajasthan p.10

India the magnificent – at its most exciting, colourful and thought provoking.

Kathmandu – Bombay		24 days
1988	7 Oct – 30 Oct	\$1150 AUS
	25 Nov – 18 Dec	\$1150 AUS
	16 Dec – 8 Jan	\$1150 AUS
1989	24 Feb – 19 Mar	\$1215 AUS
	14 Apr – 7 May	\$1215 AUS
	6 Oct – 29 Oct	\$1215 AUS
	24 Nov – 17 Dec	\$1215 AUS
	15 Dec – 7 Jan	\$1215 AUS

Bombay – Kathmandu		24 days
1988	6 Dec – 29 Dec	\$1150 AUS
	21 Dec – 13 Jan	\$1150 AUS
1989	8 Feb – 3 Mar	\$1215 AUS
	8 Mar – 31 Mar	\$1215 AUS
	10 May – 2 Jun	\$1215 AUS
	20 Dec – 12 Jan ('90)	\$1215 AUS

Goa & South India p.11

Tropic sea breezes, rhythmic pounding of waves on sandy beaches, winding roads over jungly hillsides. The South – the other India.

Bombay – Madras		24 days
1988	1 Nov – 24 Nov	\$1130 AUS
	20 Dec – 12 Jan	\$1130 AUS
1989	10 Jan – 2 Feb	\$1205 AUS
	21 Mar – 13 Apr	\$1205 AUS
	31 Oct – 23 Nov	\$1205 AUS

Madras – Bombay		24 days
1988	26 Nov – 19 Dec	\$1130 AUS
1989	11 Feb – 6 Mar	\$1205 AUS

Sun Kosi River Expedition p.12

The most thrilling white water in Nepal. Shooting the rapids of the Himalaya snow-melt. The incredible rafting expedition down from mountain torrent to lowland jungle.

Ex Kathmandu		10 days
1988	18 Oct – 27 Oct	\$680 AUS
	1 Nov – 10 Nov	\$680 AUS
	15 Nov – 24 Nov	\$680 AUS
	22 Nov – 1 Dec	\$680 AUS
	6 Dec – 15 Dec	\$680 AUS
1989	31 Jan – 9 Jan	\$720 AUS
	14 Feb – 23 Feb	\$720 AUS
	7 Mar – 16 Mar	\$720 AUS
	21 Mar – 20 Mar	\$720 AUS
	11 Apr – 20 Apr	\$720 AUS
	17 Oct – 26 Oct	\$720 AUS
	31 Oct – 9 Nov	\$720 AUS
	14 Nov – 23 Nov	\$720 AUS
	21 Nov – 30 Nov	\$720 AUS
	5 Dec – 14 Dec	\$720 AUS

Everest Base Camp p.12

Gradually from foothills to the mountain of mountains by the least used route.

Ex Kathmandu		28 days
1988	24 Oct – 20 Nov	\$2075 AUS
	21 Nov – 18 Dec	\$2075 AUS
	12 Dec – 8 Jan	\$2075 AUS
1989	6 Feb – 5 Mar	\$2195 AUS
	13 Mar – 9 Apr	\$2195 AUS
	17 Apr – 14 May	\$2195 AUS
	23 Oct – 19 Nov	\$2195 AUS
	20 Nov – 17 Dec	\$2195 AUS
	11 Dec – 7 Jan ('90)	\$2195 AUS

Himalayan Challenge p.13

What it says it is. The challenge of rafting Nepal's mighty Sun Kosi for some 200 kms then trekking to the base camp of the world's number one peak – yes, Everest.

Ex Kathmandu		34 days
1988	18 Oct – 20 Nov	\$2560 AUS
	15 Nov – 18 Dec	\$2560 AUS
	6 Dec – 8 Jan	\$2560 AUS
1989	31 Jan – 5 Mar	\$2710 AUS
	7 Mar – 9 Apr	\$2710 AUS
	11 Apr – 14 May	\$2710 AUS
	17 Oct – 19 Nov	\$2710 AUS
	14 Nov – 17 Dec	\$2710 AUS
	5 Dec – 7 Jan ('90)	\$2710 AUS

Nepal 'Dekho' p.14

A short but special trek – wild white water, wildlife and the lowdown on the Kathmandu valley. The fabulous facets of Nepal. (P.S. Dekho – Hindi verb meaning to see or enquire.)

Ex Kathmandu		14 days
1988	17 Oct – 30 Oct	\$1085 AUS
	7 Nov – 20 Nov	\$1085 AUS
	28 Nov – 11 Dec	\$1085 AUS
	19 Dec – 1 Jan	\$1085 AUS
1989	23 Jan – 5 Feb	\$1150 AUS
	20 Feb – 5 Mar	\$1150 AUS
	13 Mar – 26 Mar	\$1150 AUS
	3 Apr – 16 Apr	\$1150 AUS
	9 Oct – 22 Oct	\$1150 AUS
	6 Nov – 19 Nov	\$1150 AUS
	27 Nov – 10 Dec	\$1150 AUS
	18 Dec – 31 Dec	\$1150 AUS

Mountain & River p.14

Trek into the midst of the spellbinding peaks of the Annapurna. Raft the Trisuli river to the lowlands and the Wildlife Sanctuary of the Royal Chitwan National Park.

Ex Kathmandu		21 days
1988	10 Oct – 30 Oct	\$1550 AUS
	7 Nov – 27 Nov	\$1550 AUS
	28 Nov – 18 Dec	\$1550 AUS
	19 Dec – 8 Jan	\$1550 AUS
1989	23 Jan – 12 Feb	\$1645 AUS
	20 Feb – 12 Mar	\$1645 AUS
	13 Mar – 2 Apr	\$1645 AUS
	3 Apr – 23 Apr	\$1645 AUS
	24 Apr – 14 May	\$1645 AUS
	9 Oct – 29 Oct	\$1645 AUS
	6 Nov – 26 Nov	\$1645 AUS
	27 Nov – 17 Dec	\$1645 AUS
	18 Dec – 7 Jan ('90)	\$1645 AUS

Annapurna Trek p.14

Breathtaking mountain views and friendly villages, moderately strenuous days and lazy evenings with our sherpas around campfires.

Ex Kathmandu		10 days
1988	15 Oct – 24 Oct	\$860 AUS
	12 Nov – 21 Nov	\$860 AUS
	3 Dec – 12 Dec	\$860 AUS
	24 Dec – 2 Jan	\$860 AUS
1989	28 Jan – 6 Feb	\$915 AUS
	25 Feb – 6 Mar	\$915 AUS
	18 Mar – 27 Mar	\$915 AUS
	8 Apr – 17 Apr	\$915 AUS
	29 Apr – 8 May	\$915 AUS
	14 Oct – 23 Oct	\$915 AUS
	11 Nov – 20 Nov	\$915 AUS
	2 Dec – 11 Dec	\$915 AUS
	23 Dec – 1 Jan ('90)	\$915 AUS

Tibet – The Road to Lhasa p.15

Behind the Himalayas from Kathmandu to Lhasa – its supreme scenery, its mysterious monasteries, its enigmatic peoples. The extraordinary facts of life of the Tibetan plateau. The door now stands ajar to this long-forbidden land.

Ex Kathmandu		14 days
1988	27 Jun – 10 Jul	\$1645 AUS
	8 July – 21 Jul	\$1645 AUS
	25 Jul – 7 Aug	\$1645 AUS
	5 Aug – 18 Aug	\$1645 AUS
	22 Aug – 4 Sep	\$1645 AUS
	2 Sep – 15 Sep	\$1645 AUS
	26 Sep – 9 Oct	\$1645 AUS
	7 Oct – 20 Oct	\$1645 AUS
	24 Oct – 6 Nov	\$1645 AUS
1989	26 Jun – 9 Jul	\$1745 AUS
	7 Jul – 20 Jul	\$1745 AUS
	24 Jul – 6 Aug	\$1745 AUS
	4 Aug – 17 Aug	\$1745 AUS
	21 Aug – 3 Sep	\$1745 AUS
	1 Sep – 14 Sep	\$1745 AUS
	25 Sep – 8 Oct	\$1745 AUS
	6 Oct – 19 Oct	\$1745 AUS
	23 Oct – 5 Nov	\$1745 AUS

To the Gates of Tartary p.16

Perhaps the most romantic Brief Encounter of all. The trans-Himalayan route of the old silk caravans from the valleys of the high Pamirs and mighty Karakoram ranges (Pakistan) to the desert city of Kashgar in the wastes of Xinjiang (China).

Ex Islamabad		21 days
1988	3 Jul – 23 Jul	\$1860 AUS
	24 Jul – 13 Aug	\$1860 AUS
	14 Aug – 3 Sep	\$1860 AUS
	4 Sep – 24 Sep	\$1860 AUS
	25 Sep – 15 Oct	\$1860 AUS
1989	2 Jul – 22 Jul	\$1970 AUS
	23 Jul – 12 Aug	\$1970 AUS
	13 Aug – 2 Sep	\$1970 AUS
	3 Sep – 23 Sep	\$1970 AUS
	24 Sep – 14 Oct	\$1970 AUS

Kashmir & Ladakh p.17

Lotus lakes, combined with houseboats, towering mountains and scenery for trekking per excellence. Ladakh's high barren plateaux and fabulous monasteries of tantric Buddhism.

Ex Srinagar		21 days
1988	26 Jun – 16 Jul	\$1395 AUS
	17 Jul – 6 Aug	\$1395 AUS
	7 Aug – 27 Aug	\$1395 AUS
	28 Aug – 17 Sep	\$1395 AUS
	18 Sep – 8 Oct	\$1395 AUS
1989	25 Jun – 15 Jul	\$1480 AUS
	16 Jul – 5 Aug	\$1480 AUS
	6 Aug – 26 Aug	\$1480 AUS
	27 Aug – 16 Sep	\$1480 AUS
	17 Sep – 7 Oct	\$1480 AUS

Turkey p.18

Turkey is Terrific: Adventure travels's best-kept secret! Experience all the pleasures of stylish living in the outdoors so well-suited to this sensational place.

Ex Istanbul		15 days
1988	5 Jun – 19 Jun	\$730 AUS
	19 Jun – 3 Jul	\$730 AUS
	3 Jul – 17 Jul	\$730 AUS
	17 Jul – 31 Jul	\$730 AUS
	7 Aug – 21 Aug	\$730 AUS
	21 Aug – 4 Sep	\$730 AUS
	4 Sep – 18 Sep	\$730 AUS
	18 Sep – 2 Oct	\$730 AUS
1989	4 Jun – 18 Jun	\$770 AUS
	18 Jun – 2 Jul	\$770 AUS
	2 Jul – 16 Jul	\$770 AUS
	16 Jul – 30 Jul	\$770 AUS
	6 Aug – 20 Aug	\$770 AUS
	20 Aug – 3 Sep	\$770 AUS
	3 Sep – 17 Sep	\$770 AUS
	17 Sep – 1 Oct	\$770 AUS

ASIA (continued)

TRANS CONTINENTAL EXPEDITIONS

The Backroads of Asia p.32

The definitive and undisputed classic overland odyssey. There are certain necessities in life and the well-informed rate this amongst them.

London - Kathmandu		15 weeks
1988	28 May - 9 Sep	\$4260 AUS
	2 Jul - 14 Oct	\$4260 AUS
	13 Aug - 25 Nov	\$4260 AUS
	17 Sep - 30 Dec	\$4260 AUS
	1 Oct - 13 Jan	\$4260 AUS
1989	18 Mar - 30 Jun	\$4520 AUS
	29 Apr - 11 Aug	\$4520 AUS
	10 Jun - 22 Sep	\$4520 AUS
	8 Jul - 20 Oct	\$4520 AUS
	19 Aug - 1 Dec	\$4520 AUS
	16 Sep - 29 Dec	\$4520 AUS
	7 Oct - 19 Jan ('90)	\$4520 AUS

Kathmandu - London		15 weeks
1988	20 May - 1 Sep	\$4260 AUS
	19 Aug - 1 Dec	\$4260 AUS
	9 Sep - 22 Dec	\$4260 AUS
1989	17 Feb - 1 Jun	\$4520 AUS
	10 Mar - 22 Jun	\$4520 AUS
	14 Apr - 27 Jul	\$4520 AUS
	19 May - 31 Aug	\$4520 AUS
	18 Aug - 30 Nov	\$4520 AUS
	8 Sep - 21 Dec	\$4520 AUS

ASIAN COMBINATIONS

Nepal, The Ganges & Rajasthan with Goa & South India p.10/11

Kathmandu - Madras		49 days
1988	7 Oct - 24 Nov	\$2195 AUS
	25 Nov - 12 Jan	\$2195 AUS
1989	24 Feb - 13 Apr	\$2325 AUS
	6 Oct - 23 Nov	\$2325 AUS
	24 Nov - 11 Jan ('90)	\$2325 AUS

Madras - Kathmandu		49 days
1988	26 Nov - 13 Jan	\$2195 AUS
1989	11 Feb - 31 Mar	\$2325 AUS

Nepal, The Ganges & Rajasthan with Himalayan Challenge p.10/13

Bombay - Kathmandu		61 days
1989	8 Feb - 9 Apr	\$3635 AUS

Nepal, The Ganges & Rajasthan with Nepal 'Dekho' p.10/14

Bombay - Kathmandu		40 days
1989	8 Mar - 16 Apr	\$2275 AUS

Nepal, The Ganges & Rajasthan with Mountain & River p.10/14

Bombay - Kathmandu		47 days
1989	8 Mar - 23 Apr	\$2850 AUS

Tibet with Nepal 'Dekho' p.14/15

Ex Kathmandu		28 days
1988	24 Oct - 20 Nov	\$2635 AUS
1989	25 Sep - 22 Oct	\$2850 AUS
	23 Oct - 19 Nov	\$2850 AUS



AFRICA

BRIEF ENCOUNTERS

Egypt p.20

Step back four millennia and more. An absolutely fabulous journey of discovery in which we use at least three different modes of transport.

Ex Cairo		15 days
1988	4 Sep - 18 Sep	\$895 AUS
	18 Sep - 2 Oct	\$895 AUS
	2 Oct - 16 Oct	\$895 AUS
	16 Oct - 30 Oct	\$895 AUS
	6 Nov - 20 Nov	\$895 AUS
	20 Nov - 4 Dec	\$895 AUS
	4 Dec - 18 Dec	\$895 AUS
	18 Dec - 1 Jan	\$895 AUS
	8 Jan - 22 Jan	\$955 AUS
	22 Jan - 5 Feb	\$955 AUS
	5 Feb - 19 Feb	\$955 AUS
	19 Feb - 5 Mar	\$955 AUS
	12 Mar - 26 Mar	\$955 AUS
	26 Mar - 9 Apr	\$955 AUS
	3 Sep - 17 Sep	\$955 AUS
1989	17 Sep - 1 Oct	\$955 AUS
	8 Oct - 22 Oct	\$955 AUS
	22 Oct - 5 Nov	\$955 AUS
	5 Nov - 19 Nov	\$955 AUS
	19 Nov - 3 Dec	\$955 AUS
	10 Dec - 24 Dec	\$955 AUS
	24 Dec - 7 Jan ('90)	\$955 AUS

Sahara Safari p.21

Experience the incredible contrasts of the World's Greatest Desert.

Ex Tunis		28 days
1988	16 Oct - 12 Nov	\$1190 AUS
	13 Nov - 10 Dec	\$1190 AUS
	11 Dec - 7 Jan	\$1190 AUS
1989	12 Mar - 8 Apr	\$1255 AUS
	9 Apr - 6 May	\$1255 AUS
	15 Oct - 11 Nov	\$1255 AUS
	12 Nov - 9 Dec	\$1255 AUS
	10 Dec - 6 Jan ('90)	\$1255 AUS

Gambia & Senegal p.22

A truly African adventure - even if you only have two weeks.

Ex Banjul		15 days
1988	3 Jan - 17 Jan	\$750 AUS
	17 Jan - 31 Jan	\$750 AUS

PROGRAMME WITHDRAWN

Morocco p.23

Literally in sight of Europe yet land of casbah, oasis and endless desert beyond. So you see, escape need not that far off.

Ex Malaga		15 days
1988	15 May - 29 May	\$850 AUS
	29 May - 12 Jun	\$850 AUS
	12 Jun - 26 Jun	\$850 AUS
	26 Jun - 10 Jul	\$850 AUS
	17 Jul - 31 Jul	\$850 AUS
	31 Jul - 14 Aug	\$850 AUS

Morocco (continued)

1989	14 Aug - 28 Aug	\$850 AUS
	28 Aug - 11 Sep	\$850 AUS
	11 Sep - 25 Sep	\$850 AUS
	25 Sep - 9 Oct	\$850 AUS
	14 May - 28 May	\$905 AUS
	28 May - 11 Jun	\$905 AUS
	11 Jun - 25 Jun	\$905 AUS
	25 Jun - 9 Jul	\$905 AUS
	9 Jul - 23 Jul	\$905 AUS
	30 Jul - 13 Aug	\$905 AUS
	13 Aug - 27 Aug	\$905 AUS
	27 Aug - 10 Sep	\$905 AUS
	10 Sep - 24 Sep	\$905 AUS
	24 Sep - 8 Oct	\$905 AUS

East Africa p.24

Genesis on the plains of Africa. (See also Kilimanjaro below.)

Ex Dar Es Salaam		20 days
1988	19 Jun - 8 Jul	\$1860 AUS
	24 Jul - 12 Aug	\$1860 AUS
	14 Aug - 2 Sep	\$1860 AUS
	2 Oct - 21 Oct	\$1860 AUS
	6 Nov - 25 Nov	\$1860 AUS
	18 Dec - 6 Jan	\$1860 AUS
	15 Jan - 3 Feb	\$1970 AUS
	5 Mar - 24 Mar	\$1970 AUS
1989	25 Jun - 14 Jul	\$1970 AUS
	30 Jul - 18 Aug	\$1970 AUS
	27 Aug - 15 Sep	\$1970 AUS
	24 Sep - 13 Oct	\$1970 AUS
	29 Oct - 17 Nov	\$1970 AUS
	19 Nov - 8 Dec	\$1970 AUS
	17 Dec - 5 Jan ('90)	\$1970 AUS

Kilimanjaro Option p.24

Why not also set out to climb Kilimanjaro. The ascent of Kilimanjaro can be included in both the East African Safari and the Mountain Gorilla Safari. Simply add seven days to the duration of the safari of your choice.

1988	\$595 AUS
1989	\$630 AUS

Mountain Gorilla Safari p.25

East Africa plus the great silver-backed gorilla in his mountain fastness - face to face. (See also Kilimanjaro above.)

Ex Dar Es Salaam		34 days
1988	5 Jun - 8 Jul	\$2750 AUS
	10 Jul - 12 Aug	\$2750 AUS
	21 Aug - 23 Sep	\$2750 AUS
	25 Sep - 28 Oct	\$2750 AUS
	23 Oct - 25 Nov	\$2750 AUS
	11 Dec - 13 Jan	\$2750 AUS
1989	22 Jan - 24 Feb	\$2915 AUS
	19 Feb - 24 Mar	\$2915 AUS
	11 Jun - 14 Jul	\$2915 AUS
	23 Jul - 25 Aug	\$2915 AUS
	3 Sep - 6 Oct	\$2915 AUS
	15 Oct - 17 Nov	\$2915 AUS
	3 Dec - 5 Jan ('90)	\$2915 AUS

TRANS CONTINENTAL EXPEDITIONS

The Great Safari p.39

Expeditioning across untamed Africa. Sahara, Congo, the wonders of the East African plains. Indeed the great safari - not for the faint hearted.

London - Nairobi		16 weeks
1988	14 May - 2 Sep	\$4550 AUS
	27 Aug - 16 Dec	\$4550 AUS
	8 Oct - 27 Jan	\$4550 AUS
	12 Nov - 3 Mar	\$4550 AUS
	10 Dec - 31 Mar	\$4550 AUS
	21 Jan - 12 May	\$4820 AUS
	4 Mar - 23 Jun	\$4820 AUS
1989	13 May - 1 Sep	\$4820 AUS
	26 Aug - 15 Dec	\$4820 AUS
	7 Oct - 26 Jan ('90)	\$4820 AUS
	11 Nov - 2 Mar ('90)	\$4820 AUS
	9 Dec - 30 Mar ('90)	\$4820 AUS

ALTHOUGH THESE PRICES DO NOT INCLUDE THE COST OF ANY CONNECTING FLIGHTS TO THE DEPARTURE POINT OR BACK FROM THE ARRIVAL POINT, WE OFFER SCHEDULES AND PRICES TO SUIT YOUR PERSONAL NEEDS — PLEASE ASK

The Great Safari (continued)

Nairobi-London		16 weeks
1988	3 Jun - 22 Sep	\$4140 AUS
	19 Aug - 8 Dec	\$4140 AUS
	16 Dec - 6 Apr	\$4140 AUS
	23 Dec - 13 Apr	\$4140 AUS
1989	13 Jan - 4 May	\$4385 AUS
	24 Mar - 13 Jul	\$4385 AUS
	12 May - 31 Aug	\$4385 AUS
	18 Aug - 7 Dec	\$4385 AUS
	15 Dec - 5 Apr ('90)	\$4385 AUS
	22 Dec - 12 Apr ('90)	\$4385 AUS

All Africa p.42

Seek enlightenment in 'the dark continent'. Here's the chance second to none. The epic expedition throughout Africa from the Niger to the Nile, from the Sahara to the Serengeti.

Cairo-Nairobi-London		20 weeks
1988	18 Nov - 6 Apr	\$6545 AUS
1989	14 Apr - 31 Aug	\$6940 AUS
	21 Jul - 7 Dec	\$6940 AUS
	17 Nov - 5 Apr ('90)	\$6940 AUS

London-Nairobi-Cairo		20 weeks
1988	27 Aug - 13 Jan	\$6545 AUS
	10 Dec - 28 Apr	\$6545 AUS
1989	4 Mar - 21 Jul	\$6940 AUS
	13 May - 29 Sep	\$6940 AUS
	26 Aug - 12 Jan ('90)	\$6940 AUS
	9 Dec - 27 Apr ('90)	\$6940 AUS

Africa - Coast to Coast p.43

Dakar-Mombasa		12 weeks
1988	5 Sep - 27 Nov	\$3550 AUS
1989	13 Feb - 7 May	\$3765 AUS
	4 Sep - 26 Nov	\$3765 AUS

Mombasa-Dakar		12 weeks
1988	30 May - 21 Aug	\$3550 AUS
	7 Nov - 29 Jan	\$3550 AUS
1989	29 May - 20 Aug	\$3765 AUS
	6 Nov - 28 Jan ('90)	\$3765 AUS



ASIA & AFRICA

BRIEF ENCOUNTERS

Israel, Jordan and Egypt (including Sinai) p.19

The once impossible trip - go while the going's good. Travel through 30 centuries of history, architecture, religion, culture - and still have time on the beaches of the Red Sea.

Ex Cairo		28 days
1988	4 Sep - 1 Oct	\$1750 AUS
	2 Oct - 29 Oct	\$1750 AUS
	6 Nov - 3 Dec	\$1750 AUS
	4 Dec - 31 Dec	\$1750 AUS
1989	8 Jan - 4 Feb	\$1860 AUS
	5 Feb - 4 Mar	\$1860 AUS
	12 Mar - 8 Apr	\$1860 AUS
	3 Sep - 30 Sep	\$1860 AUS
	8 Oct - 4 Nov	\$1860 AUS
	5 Nov - 2 Dec	\$1860 AUS
	10 Dec - 6 Jan ('90)	\$1860 AUS

TRANS CONTINENTAL EXPEDITIONS

Cradles of our Civilisation p.34

Individual clues as to why we are what we are - or seem to be. An absolutely incredible journey to reveal our roots, and a lot of real fun too.

London-Cairo		10 weeks
1988	28 May - 5 Aug	\$3265 AUS
	2 Jul - 9 Sep	\$3265 AUS
	13 Aug - 21 Oct	\$3265 AUS
	17 Sep - 25 Nov	\$3265 AUS
1989	18 Mar - 26 May	\$3460 AUS
	29 Apr - 7 Jul	\$3460 AUS
	10 Jun - 18 Aug	\$3460 AUS
	8 Jul - 15 Sep	\$3460 AUS
	19 Aug - 27 Oct	\$3460 AUS
	16 Sep - 24 Nov	\$3460 AUS

Cairo-London		10 weeks
1988	24 Jun - 1 Sep	\$3265 AUS
	23 Sep - 1 Dec	\$3265 AUS
	14 Oct - 22 Dec	\$3265 AUS
1989	24 Mar - 1 Jun	\$3460 AUS
	23 Jun - 31 Aug	\$3460 AUS
	22 Sep - 30 Nov	\$3460 AUS

East of Suez p.35

From the Nile to the Himalayas by way of the most awe-inspiring sights that lie along the ancient routes of trade and conquest.

Kathmandu-Cairo		9 weeks
1988	19 Aug - 20 Oct	\$3410 AUS
	16 Sep - 17 Nov	\$3410 AUS
1989	10 Feb - 13 Apr	\$3615 AUS
	19 May - 20 Jul	\$3615 AUS
	18 Aug - 19 Oct	\$3615 AUS
	15 Sep - 16 Nov	\$3615 AUS

Cairo-Kathmandu		9 weeks
1988	9 Jul - 9 Sep	\$3265 AUS
	13 Aug - 14 Oct	\$3265 AUS
	24 Sep - 25 Nov	\$3265 AUS
	29 Oct - 30 Dec	\$3265 AUS
1989	14 Jan - 17 Mar	\$3460 AUS
	29 Apr - 30 Jun	\$3460 AUS
	10 Jun - 11 Aug	\$3460 AUS
	22 Jul - 22 Sep	\$3460 AUS
	19 Aug - 20 Oct	\$3460 AUS
	30 Sep - 1 Dec	\$3460 AUS
	28 Oct - 29 Dec	\$3460 AUS

The Great Overland Encounter p.36

Long-range mega-expedition involving both Asia and Africa together in one unique experience. Why not?

London-Nairobi-Kathmandu		29 weeks
1988	27 Aug - 17 Mar	\$9130 AUS
	10 Dec - 30 June	\$9130 AUS
1989	4 Mar - 22 Sep	\$9675 AUS
	13 May - 1 Dec	\$9675 AUS
	26 Aug - 16 Mar ('90)	\$9675 AUS
	9 Dec - 29 Jun ('90)	\$9675 AUS

Kathmandu-Nairobi-London		29 weeks
1988	16 Sep - 6 Apr	\$9130 AUS
1989	10 Feb - 31 Aug	\$9675 AUS
	19 May - 7 Dec	\$9675 AUS
	15 Sep - 5 Apr ('90)	\$9675 AUS

Asia Minor & Africa - The Nile Route p.37

Via Turkey and the Arab lands to Egypt and the Sudan and on to the mountain gorillas. Africa's wildlife sanctuaries and Kilimanjaro.

London-Cairo-Dar Es Salaam		18 weeks
1988	28 May - 30 Sep	\$7135 AUS
	17 Sep - 20 Jan	\$7135 AUS
1989	18 Mar - 21 Jul	\$7560 AUS
	29 Apr - 1 Sep	\$7560 AUS
	10 Jun - 13 Oct	\$7560 AUS

Dar Es Salaam-Cairo-London		17 weeks 5 days
1988	21 Aug - 22 Dec	\$7135 AUS
1989	22 Jan - 25 May	\$7560 AUS

Indo-African Encounter p.41

From Himalayas to High Atlas, Discover the most rewarding aspects of India and Africa - in one incredible journey.

Kathmandu-Bombay-Nairobi-London		21 weeks 3 days
1988	15 Nov - 13 Apr	\$6925 AUS
	6 Dec - 4 May	\$6925 AUS
1989	14 Feb - 13 Jul	\$7340 AUS
	14 Nov - 12 Apr ('90)	\$7340 AUS
	5 Dec - 3 May ('90)	\$7340 AUS

London-Nairobi-Bombay-Kathmandu		21 weeks 3 days
1988	27 Aug - 23 Jan	\$6925 AUS
	12 Nov - 10 Apr	\$6925 AUS
1989	26 Aug - 22 Jan	\$7340 AUS
	11 Nov - 9 Apr ('90)	\$7340 AUS



SOUTH AMERICA

BRIEF ENCOUNTERS

Peru & The Incas p.26

Indelible images unique to the South American landscape.

Lima-La Paz		28 days
1988	5 Jun - 2 Jul	\$1765 AUS
	7 Aug - 3 Sep	\$1765 AUS
	2 Oct - 29 Oct	\$1765 AUS
	4 Dec - 31 Dec	\$1765 AUS
1989	5 Feb - 4 Mar	\$1870 AUS
	4 Jun - 1 Jul	\$1870 AUS
	6 Aug - 2 Sep	\$1870 AUS
	8 Oct - 4 Nov	\$1870 AUS
	3 Dec - 30 Dec	\$1870 AUS

La Paz-Lima		28 days
1988	3 Jul - 30 Jul	\$1765 AUS
	4 Sep - 1 Oct	\$1765 AUS
	6 Nov - 3 Dec	\$1765 AUS
1989	8 Jan - 4 Feb	\$1870 AUS
	5 Mar - 1 Apr	\$1870 AUS
	2 Jul - 29 Jul	\$1870 AUS
	3 Sep - 2 Dec	\$1870 AUS
	5 Nov - 2 Dec	\$1870 AUS

The Darien Gap p.27

Lying between Panama and Colombia. Perhaps the most intriguing jungle in the world - a trek absolutely on nature's terms.

Panama-Cartagena		16 days
1988	19 Dec - 3 Jan	\$1345 AUS
1989	23 Jan - 7 Feb	\$1395 AUS
	4 Dec - 19 Dec	\$1395 AUS

Cartagena-Panama		16 days
1988	1 Dec - 16 Dec	\$1345 AUS
1989	5 Jan - 20 Jan	\$1395 AUS
	9 Feb - 24 Feb	\$1395 AUS
	21 Dec - 6 Jan ('90)	\$1395 AUS

TRANS CONTINENTAL EXPEDITIONS

Conquistador p.45

Upper Amazon, high Andean Sierras, lost Inca cities. This is South America for the adventurous.

Rio-Quito		13 weeks
1988	5 Aug - 3 Nov	\$4425 AUS
	26 Aug - 24 Nov	\$4425 AUS
1989	10 Feb - 11 May	\$4690 AUS
	18 Aug - 16 Nov	\$4690 AUS
	15 Sep - 14 Dec	\$4690 AUS

Quito-Rio		13 weeks
1988	13 May - 11 Aug	\$4425 AUS
	4 Nov - 2 Feb	\$4425 AUS
1989	19 May - 17 Aug	\$4690 AUS
	24 Nov - 22 Feb ('90)	\$4690 AUS

Ocean to Ocean p.47

Across the continent coast to coast, high Pampas and Chaco, desert and Altiplano.

Rio-Lima		10 weeks
1988	5 Aug - 13 Oct	\$3545 AUS
	26 Aug - 3 Nov	\$3545 AUS
1989	10 Feb - 20 Apr	\$3710 AUS
	18 Aug - 26 Oct	\$3710 AUS
	15 Sep - 23 Nov	\$3710 AUS

Lima-Rio		10 weeks
1988	3 Jun - 11 Aug	\$3545 AUS
	25 Nov - 2 Feb	\$3545 AUS
1989	9 Jun - 17 Aug	\$3710 AUS
	15 Dec - 22 Feb ('90)	\$3710 AUS

Amazon & Andes p.48

From the High Andes of Ecuador and Colombia. Into the fragile expanse of the world's greater and oldest rain forest and to fearful evidence that the 20th century has much to answer for.

Quito-Rio		9 weeks
1988	27 May - 28 Jul	\$3180 AUS
	2 Dec - 2 Feb	\$3180 AUS
1989	19 May - 20 Jul	\$3370 AUS
	22 Dec - 22 Feb ('90)	\$3370 AUS

Rio-Quito		9 weeks
1989	10 Feb - 13 Apr	\$3370 AUS

South American Circle p.49

Do it both well and completely. South America encompassed!

Rio-Quito-Rio		23 weeks
1988	26 Aug - 2 Feb	\$7230 AUS
1989	10 Feb - 20 Jul	\$7665 AUS
	15 Sep - 22 Feb ('90)	\$7665 AUS

Quito-Rio-Quito		23 weeks
1988	27 May - 3 Nov	\$7230 AUS
	4 Nov - 13 Apr	\$7230 AUS
	2 Dec - 11 May	\$7230 AUS
1989	24 Nov - 3 May ('90)	\$7665 AUS
	22 Dec - 31 May ('90)	\$7665 AUS



Kathmandu Guest House, Nepal. December 1986

Dear Enquirer

Encounter Overland is quite simply the most experienced organisation of its kind. We have learned our craft and earned our unique reputation in long-range expeditioning. We are recognised for our exceptional vehicles and equipment and for being able to combine a friendly, candid, personal quality with a good deal of competence and ability. More recently that reputation has grown to encompass shorter projects too.

Not only is this the organisation that has done most to shape modern concepts of overlanding, having virtually invented it in 1963, but more to the point we have stayed out in front with new ideas and new horizons ever since. The emphasis is still on 'Getting Up and Doing' rather than just 'getting up and going'. Ours continue to be the standards and expectations that other organisations seek, with modifications, to emulate — and in no way can it seriously be suggested that one continent, Africa for example, is somehow compromised by the fact that we are the front-runners in Asia and South America as well. Our way of travel is a fabulous way of life and we are its best exponents on all three continents.

There are a few quite simple facts upon which our organisation is built, and I cannot easily do better than just state them.

We are involved only with people between the ages of 18 and 40 (inclusive)

The costs we need to cover amount to a single inclusive price to you.

Prices are as low as is sensible. But they are not beyond the point where a project is cheapened at its peril, or its essential quality and content diluted.

E.O. is highly competitive and is exceptional value, but that's not to say that you won't somewhere find something looking cheaper.

When we undertake a project, it's not only for you and us. We try to ensure that we 'put something back' as well. Nothing patronising in that, but a regard for other cultures, the balance of nature and the idea that 'what goes round comes round'. It works in so many ways.

Perhaps it is already apparent that Encounter Overland is hardly suited to those who prefer to be pampered, amused and stimulated with minimal effort from themselves. Here you are fully involved. You are in touch with different peoples and uncompromising natural splendours, with simple but forgotten realities and with one another. We hope that with this in mind you will want to join us.

You will certainly be welcome,

Founder,
Encounter Overland.

P.S. For those who like to put a face to a name, I'm writing this from the gardens of the Kathmandu Guest House having just returned from time in Tibet. That's me (red pullover in the centre of the picture on the front cover) at the stupa on the road from Lhasa to Kathmandu.

Experience Counts . . .

Encounter first-hand a World beyond the bounds of our technological society.

Adventure for the adventurous.

Expeditioning in search of the remote, the mysterious, the beautiful.

A Brief Encounter will produce the impact, the impressions, the memories, the laughs and the photos to enrich the year ahead.

Or better still 'go for it'. Join an EO Trans-Continental Expedition that, with no exaggeration, will be the travel event of a life-time.

Brief Encounters . . .

Doing something different, somewhere different, in a limited period of hard-earned time off.

Satisfy that taste for adventure and discovery — temporarily at least!

Trans-Continental . . .

The continents themselves supply the challenge — each one of us involved, backed by the right preparation, the best equipment, vehicles specifically designed to our requirements and leadership by people of presence and experience.

Especially on those great journeys Encounter's greater experience is needed. Politicians are opening or closing routes with a degree of unpredictability — and nature herself ensures they do not completely monopolise this activity! Should a contingency plan be used it will keep uppermost the aims and expectations of the expedition and it will make the most of the new situation by utilising the EO expertise, ingenuity and flexibility. That's expeditioning.

On such a journey your involvement is vital. It is this personal commitment that makes every EO expedition its own unique experience.

"For me it was one of the most enjoyable, rugged, entertaining, refreshing, stimulating and downright impressive trips I have ever been on."

Alan Morton — London

"I thought the trip was excellently organised, yet loose enough for personal freedom to explore what I wanted to see."

Kathleen Fry — Vancouver, Canada

"I would like to let you know just how much I enjoyed one of your trips, the Backroads of Asia."

"The truck and the equipment were all in good condition and even the camp beds couldn't have been more comfortable."

"I have no hesitation in recommending Encounter Overland to any of my friends and I hope to do another at some time in the future. Keep up the good work!"

Jenny Richardson
— Brisbane, Australia

"I was one of the fortunate twenty to participate in the October 1981-February 1982 trans-Africa expedition. Although four years have passed, the memories, the sense of adventure and 'freedom of the road' are still very fresh and real to me. I've wanted to thank you for a long time."

Constance M. Cwynar
— California, USA

"I recently went on the Mountain Gorilla expedition. I can honestly say that it was the best holiday of my life and that is why I am writing to congratulate you on organising such an excellent trip. I fully intend to try another E.O. trip next year."

William Neville — London

"I have recently returned from your Egypt trip, it was the best trip I have ever done. You are to be highly commended on your driver, equipment and planning of the trip."

"I would certainly do it again and without any hesitation recommend you to anyone else interested in your style of travelling."

Tracey Beacroft — London

"We can look back to one of the most beautiful holidays we ever had."

Michiel Kuethe & Corrie van Thoor
— Noordwijkerhout, Netherlands

"Along with the rest of the group, I came to the conclusion that Encounter Overland is definitely 'the best value for money'."

"It was immediately obvious that we were with the best firm and the better vehicle by being with Encounter Overland."

"South America is a continent of many, many sights and experiences, which makes 'optimum travelling' very hard — but talking to many other travellers we met, we realised that our route could not have been better."

Martin Spurling — Durham, England

"Just a brief note to let you know that the trip to Nepal and the River Running on the Sun Kosi river must have been one of the best holidays I have ever had."

Rosamund Jenks — Hong Kong

"I really adored the Peru and the Incas trip, it was the most fantastic four weeks."

"I think your company is absolutely the best ever and I wouldn't hesitate to recommend anyone to do one of your trips!"

Diana Ffennell — London

"... the best six weeks of my life ... the bogging down, bridge building and truck repairs were all part of the fun and certainly knitted the group together ... the trip of a lifetime."

Paul Edwards — London

"Mountain Gorillas was an experience that will be remembered by me for the rest of my life."

Keith Smith-Ryan — W. Australia

"I just want to say that I really enjoyed the trip with Encounter Overland, (as usual). This is my fifth trip with your company since 1978."

Carol L. Gross — Levittown, USA

"You possess the quality that turns a group of strangers into one big, happy family."

Wes Lockhart — Australia

"Your company shone out like a diamond amongst other overland companies ... it left me feeling very happy to have been on such a trip which offers value for money and time which never will be forgotten."

L.J. Thomas — Bristol

"I really enjoyed myself on one of your Peru and Inca trips."

"The highlight of the trip for me was the Inca Trail, although I found the first two days walking rather hard, it was well worth the effort and a few blisters to find Machu Picchu at the end. Wow, what a place!"

"We had plenty of laughs and worked well as a team."

April Hunter — Sydney

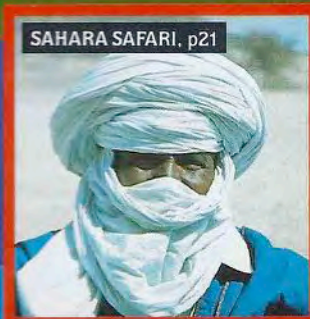
"We all felt that our enjoyment was in no small part due to the excellence of our leader/driver ... and if there was somewhere unusually interesting just off route, he would make sure we got there whilst other people hurried by."

D & H Radcliffe — London





MOROCCO, p23



SAHARA SAFARI, p21



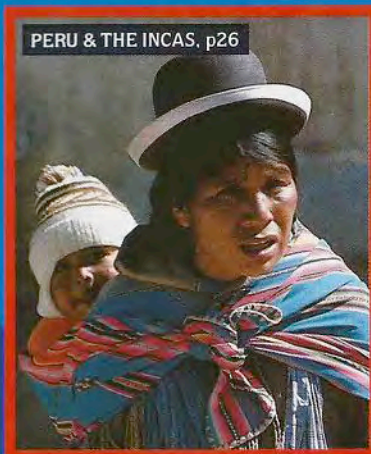
TURKEY, p18



THE DARIEN GAP, p27



GAMBIA & SENEGAL, p22



PERU & THE INCAS, p26



EAST AFRICA, p24

Brief Encounters

Increasingly now, the widebodied jet, the air-conditioned high-rise hotel, the tourist cliché and the contrived folkshow are providing for the arrival of the high-profile obtrusive package tourist in almost every corner of the world.

Paradoxically — but hardly surprisingly — it is this very infrastructure created to appeal to the tourist and to smooth his path that will in fact almost entirely insulate him from the very things that he has travelled half way around the world to see. The experiences, the realities, the simple candid contact are just not there.

But with Encounter the opportunities are there.

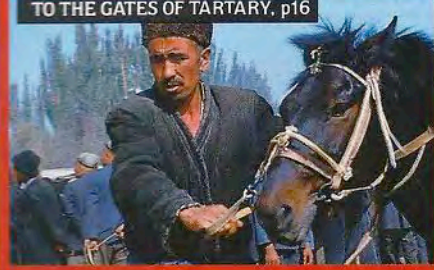
- To absorb moods and atmospheres and to appreciate some of the complex influences that shape a nation.
- To feel its social and political pulse and sense the price paid for progress.
- To dwell on its ecology, its beliefs, values and taboos, to site yourself where there is a perspective both on a culture and its context.
- To rise with the sun and the first sounds of the day.

- To soon start to feel that in a real way you belong and have a part to play — if only the part of the wayfarer, of the traveller who combines a dependence on the daily life around with his own mobility and self-sufficiency. The part perhaps of a custodian of this traditional mixture and of that ancient relationship between traveller and native which throughout the world has been the historic basis for peaceful contact.
- And to return home not so much more knowledgeable but perhaps just a little more aware.

ISRAEL, JORDAN & EGYPT. p19 & p20.



TO THE GATES OF TARTARY. p16



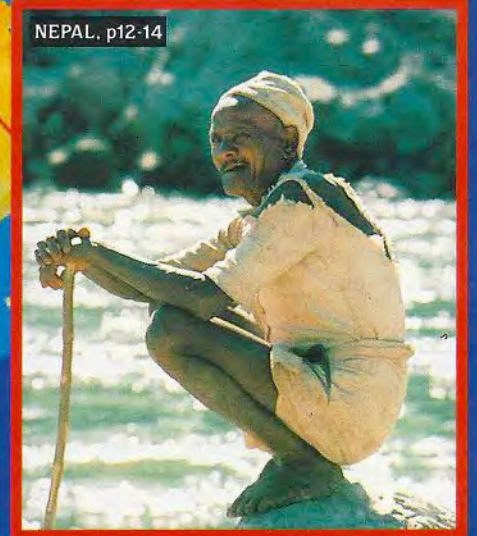
TIBET. THE ROAD TO LHASA. p15



KASHMIR & LADAKH. p17



NEPAL. p12-14



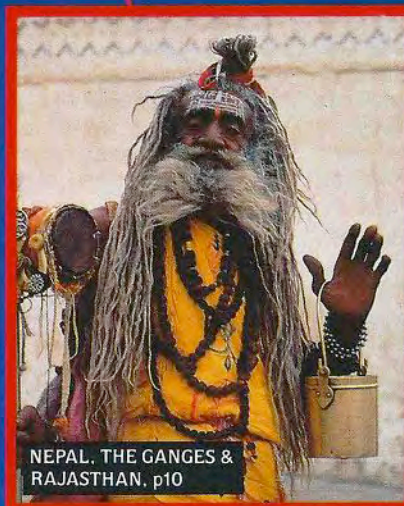
MOUNTAIN GORILLA SAFARI. p25



GOA & SOUTH INDIA. p11



NEPAL. THE GANGES & RAJASTHAN. p10



Nepal, the Ganges & Rajasthan

KATHMANDU to BOMBAY (or vice versa) 24 days ● 2,000 miles/3,200 km.

Departure Dates and Price:

See page 2

Maximum Group Size: 21

Transport & Accommodation:

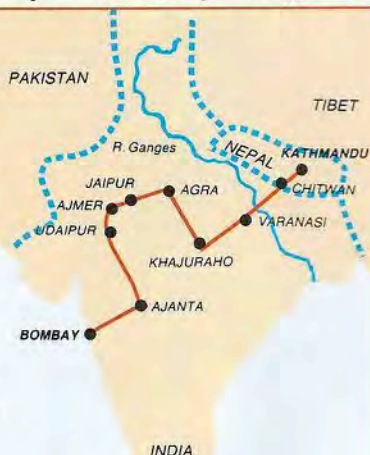
Expedition truck/Camping

Connecting Flights:

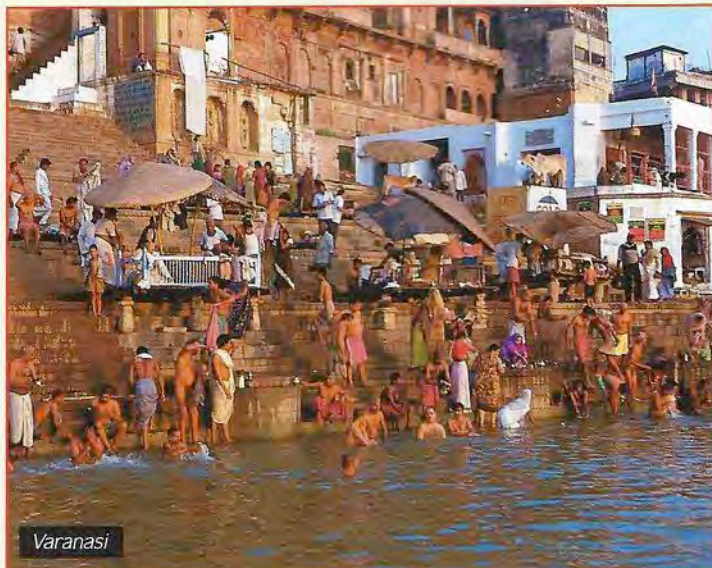
Group flights available from/to London.

Remarks: (Lg), below, denotes local guide for comprehensive tour.

Itinerary Guideline: Day 1: Depart Kathmandu for Chitwan/2: In Park-game search on elephant back/3: Enter India, to Gorakhpur/4: To Ganges & Varanasi/5: Sunrise on river; in Varanasi (Lg)/6: Drive up escarpment to Deccan plateau & Satna/7: Temples of Khajuraho plain (Lg)/8: Along backroads of Madhya Pradesh to Jhansi 9 & 10: To & in Agra, Taj Mahal, Red Fort, markets (Lg) & Fatehpur Sikri/11: To Rajasthan & Jaipur/12: In Jaipur, City Palace, Amber Fort, central market (Lg)/13: To Ajmer & Pushkar/14: Aravalli Hills to oasis town of Udaipur/15: Lake & Palaces of Udaipur/16: Drive to Ratlam/17: Ravines & hilltop fort of Mandu/18: Into Maharashtra State to Dhule/19 & 20: Caves & temples of Ajanta & Ellora/21: Poona's palaces & gardens (Lg)/22 & 23: To & in Bombay (Lg)/24: Depart Bombay.



The Terai



Varanasi

The winter months between October and April are ideal in India — the searing heat of the summer and the wet, blanket-like humidity of the monsoons have passed. Days are pleasantly warm, nights are cool and rainfall is almost non-existent.

We leave Kathmandu on a road that snakes down the escarpment to wind through the valleys and gorges of the Trisuli River to the Terai and the Royal Chitwan National Park — home of the Bengal tiger and the Indian rhinoceros.

A days drive brings us to the river Ganges and Varanasi, the holiest of Hindu cities. Every devout Hindu hopes to make a pilgrimage here once during his lifetime; the pious are brought here to die, their bodies are burned on the ghats and their ashes scattered over the waters.

Next we come to Khajuraho where, in the 10th Century, the mighty Chandella kings raised 85 temples to venerate their gods. Today 22 glorious temples remain, every surface vibrant with "a fervour that yearns for man's union with the divine". These erotic sculptures represent a spectacular expression of Indian medieval art.

The next day's travelling brings us back to the plains and the other great river of north India, the Jumna. On this river is Agra, the city of the Taj Mahal — the marble monument of love which the Moghul emperor Shah Jahan built for his wife Mumtaz Mahal.

It is only an hour's drive to Fatehpur Sikri, the glorious but short-lived capital of the Moghuls. It was built by Akbar

the Great as a seat of power and learning to be the most magnificent city in the East. However, within 15 years the water supply was beginning to dry up and the infrastructure of this most modern city fell into decay. The Moghuls left and the city stands today almost as perfectly preserved as on the day the last inhabitants drifted away 450 years ago.

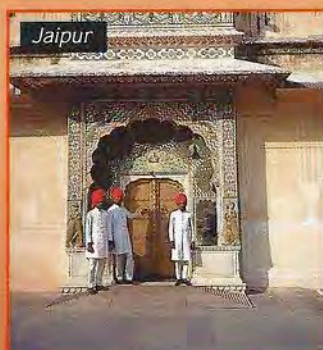
Rajasthan means 'Abode of Kings'. This is the home of the Rajputs, people with an ancient code of battle and chivalry, proud architecture and a flamboyant style of art which envelops every facet of their lives.

Jaipur is renowned for its massive walls, forts and gateways built in rose-pink stone. Nearby is the palace of Amber, home of the Rajput rulers, and the stone observatory of Sawai Jai Singh II, built in 1710.

We head out from Jaipur across the Thar Desert into Maharashtra state, a melting pot of almost every race, people and religion of India. Buddhist monks settled here in the second century BC and created paintings of tales from the life of the Lord Buddha which today still glow with a deep warmth and richness of colour. At Ajanta there are 3,000 year old cave paintings and at nearby Ellora the Kailasa temple is a wonderful example of 5th century Hindu architecture.

Our journey continues to Bombay, an extraordinary city of six million people; a vibrant, pulsating polyglot of India.

N.B. This journey and Goa and South India (opposite) often run consecutively making it possible to take a seven-week journey from Kathmandu to Madras (or V.V.).

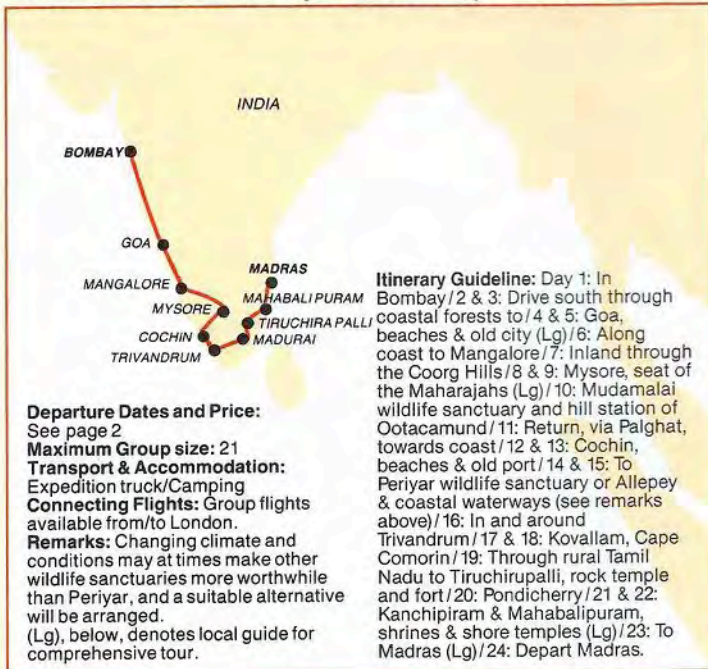


Jaipur



Taj Mahal

BOMBAY to MADRAS (or vice versa) 24 days ● 1,600 miles/2,560 km



The south is a world apart, the sun is hotter, the scenery changes more extreme, the temples more vibrant and bizarre. The warm clear seas, the long lazy beaches, the thick jungles, the quiet hill stations, the tigers and the festivals — the south is the other India.

Bombay to Goa takes us two days, through forest and jungle along the edges of the Western Ghats.

Goa was colonised in 1510 by the Portuguese who made it their capital in India and the seat of Catholicism in the East, becoming part of India in 1961. Old Goa has several richly appointed cathedrals and in the most famous, the Basilica of Bom Jesus, lies the mummified body of St. Xavier.

But Goa's main attraction must be her beaches; golden sands fringed with whispering palms and lapped by the warm Arabian sea. We shall follow the coastal road south to the port of **Mangalore**, and then, turning inland, we climb the Coorg Hills to **Mysore**.

It was from Mysore that the Maharajahs ruled, and their lavish ways are reflected in the gilt and grandeur of the old city.

We can visit **Mudumalai Wildlife Sanctuary** — on the border of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu states — and ride through bamboo jungle on elephant-back in search of wild deer, Indian bison and the elusive tiger.

Much of the attraction of the south lies outside her major centres, in her villages and country-

side, and soon after Mysore the road begins climbing the Kunda Hills to **Ootacamund** — 'Ooty' to the British who used it as a cool summer retreat.

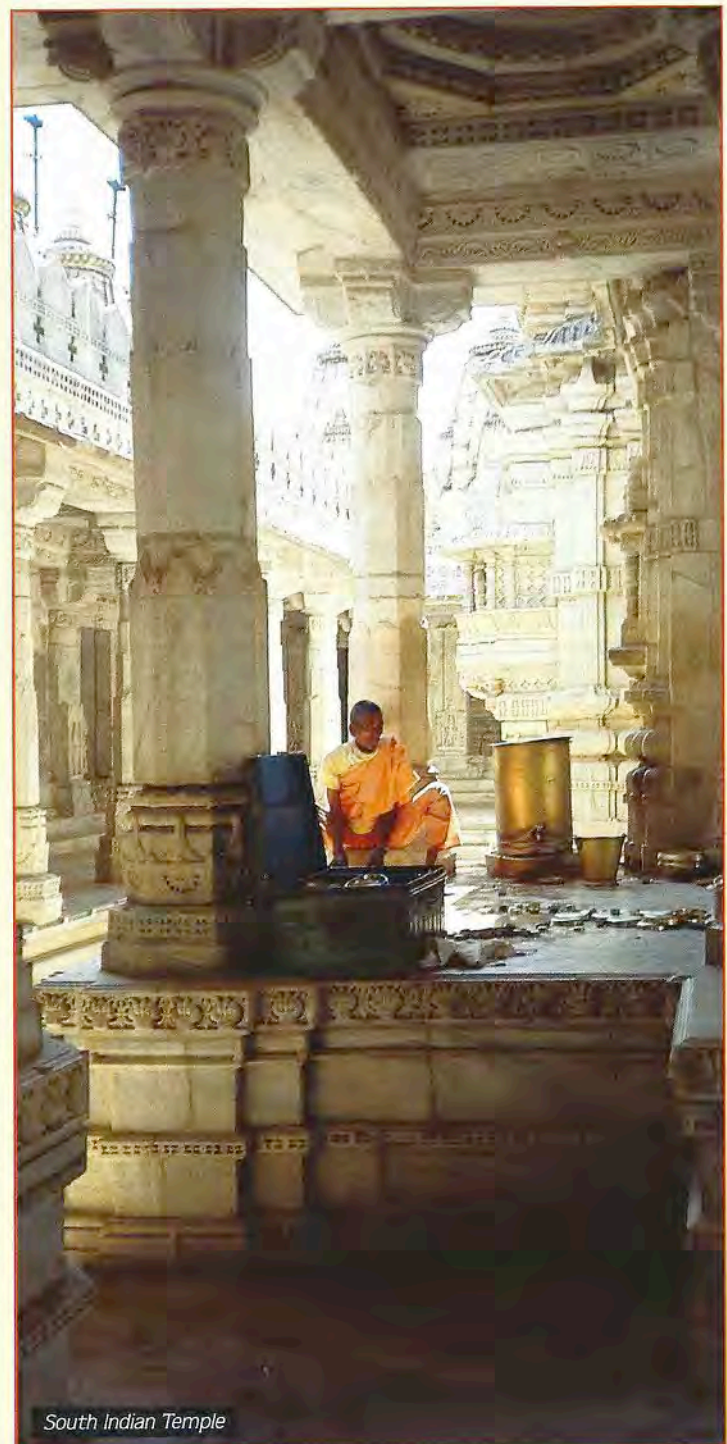
Turning back towards the west coast, we enter **Kerala**, stretching along the idyllic south-west coast with its port of **Cochin**, still exporting ivory, pepper and exotic spices. In the Cardamom Hills are the lakes and forests of the **Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary**.

We reach the lively state capital of **Trivandrum** on the Malabar coast, before continuing to the very tip of India where the bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea meet at **Cape Comorin**.

Tamil Nadu on the east coast is a green land of tea, rubber and pepper plantations and a day's travel northwards brings us to **Madurai**. Its history dates back to the 6th Century BC 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 of **Kanchipuram** and their port of **Mahabalipuram** did not originally fully reflect the awesome power of the Pallavas to the merchants who visited by land and sea. So the kings set about the city's glorification; hewing from one huge piece of rock five granite monolith temples.

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.



Nepal

Sun Kosi River

**KATHMANDU to
KATHMANDU 10 days ●
110 miles/177 km by river**

Everest Base Camp

**KATHMANDU to
KATHMANDU 28 days ●
125 miles/200 km on foot**

There are few experiences that can match river-running in wild white water and few rivers as exciting as those of Nepal. The snowmelt from the Himalayan giants winds through twisted canyons and calm valleys to gather into wide rivers spilling out on to the vast Indian plains. This is the heart of Nepal where terraced farmlands and small hamlets cling to the hills along the river's edge.

Our Avon rafts are built to withstand the heaviest of punishment while comfortably accommodating both ourselves and the supplies and equipment needed for an extended river journey. An experienced helmsman pilots from the stern but paddle-power is needed from everyone to position the boat in the correct line for the rapids.

The 16 foot "rafts" take a maximum of 7 people and usually operate in pairs to provide mutual support and spread the equipment load. Lifejackets are worn at all times and safety helmets are also used through the major rapids.

Days are leisurely, if at times exciting. We are under way after breakfast as the sun warms and the morning mists clear; We pick our campsites towards late afternoon with daylight still to pitch camp, and build the camp fire (over which surprisingly good meals are prepared) and to explore our surroundings.

The **Sun-Kosi** river rises near **Shisha Panga** in Tibet and in Nepal runs eastwards through the lateral Himalayan valleys to the plains at **Chatra**.

The expedition will take us through some of Nepal's most remote countryside. There are no roads, towns or other trappings of 'civilisation' and we must rely entirely on our own supplies.

The first two days are on easy water, but from then onwards each day has at least one difficult section as well as many lesser rapids — the Sun-Kosi can be counted among the world's ten best rafting rivers. Finally the Sun-Kosi meets the wide **Arun** river flowing straight south from the slopes of **Everest** and **Makalu**. One more rapid reminds us that the river hasn't given up yet — then the mountains end and we emerge onto the flat plains that stretch unbroken as far as the eye can see.

The **Arun** river flows out of Tibet between the **Everest** and **Kanchenjunga** massifs of eastern Nepal, carving gorges and steep valleys to the lowlands of **Chatra**. The pass formed by the river is one of the ancient trading routes between the two countries and the artery for communications and trade. This is the 'back-door' to **Everest**, a spectacular journey little travelled by other trekkers.

From **Chatra** there is easy walking as we slowly ascend through the villages and small farms of the **Rai** and **Limbu** peoples.

At the **Tumlingtar** plateau the route to Tibet splits from our path as we cross the **Arun** by dug-out canoe and turn to meet our first climbs and descents, traversing the lines of hills that spear down from the high peaks. The trail is less travelled and less populated as we trek through rain forest and cross streams by precarious bamboo and rope bridges.

On our 15th day we reach **Namche Bazaar**, the main town of the **Khumbu** region, and our first close views of **Everest**. We shall stay for two nights here to rest and acclimatise and we may load yaks from **Namche** for the last high altitude section of the trek. Beyond the whispering echo of the gongs and incantations of **Thyangboche** monastery we climb through bleak, wild countryside; and 2 days out from **Namche** we reach **Dingboche** at 14,500 ft/4,400 m and a day for rest and acclimatising.

Movement and exertion becomes harder and slower as distances take longer to cover. Our final ascent to **Kala Pattar** (18,000 ft/5,450 m) is gruelling but the rewards are immeasurable. **Nuptse**, **Changtse**, **Ama Dablam**, **Everest**, the **Khumbu glacier** and a 360 degree perspective of the high Himalayas is a sight to move even the most hardened of mountaineers.

We descend to **Namche** and the small airstrip at **Lukla**. On our last night we bid farewell to our guides with a Sherpa dinner washed down with strong 'chaang' beer and celebration. A 40 minute flight returns us to **Kathmandu**. But to have lived awhile with the Himalayan giants is to see them forever.



SUN-KOSI RIVER

Departure Dates and Price: See page 2

Maximum Group Size: 16

Transport & Accommodation: Avon white water rafts, truck/Land Rover to/from river — camping.

Connecting Flights: Allocation on group flights from/to London.

Remarks: The Sun-Kosi holds significant stretches of major rapids and although no previous rafting experience is required, it does demand a cool head & steady hand, and is not recommended for anyone who is not completely at ease in water.

Itinerary Guideline: Day 1: Drive north from Kathmandu to junction of the Sun-Kosi & Indrawatti rivers, start on river / 1-8: On river, arriving Chatra on afternoon of day 8 to meet support vehicle / 9: Drive west through lowland Terai to camp at Chitwan National Park / 10: To Kathmandu (evening arrival).

EVEREST BASE CAMP

Departure Dates and Price: See page 2

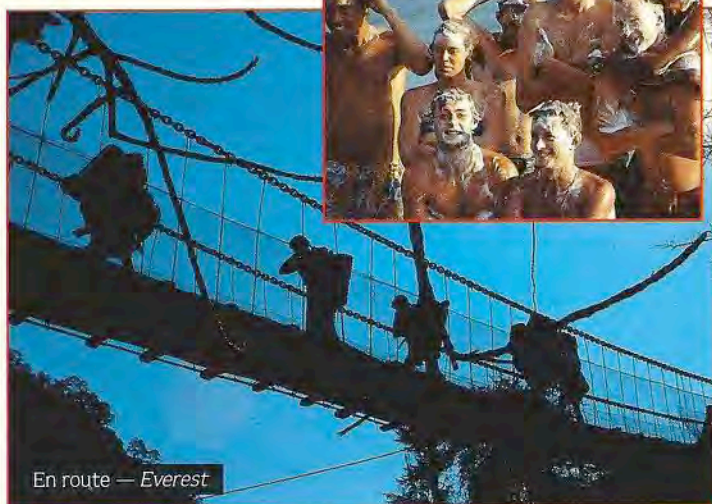
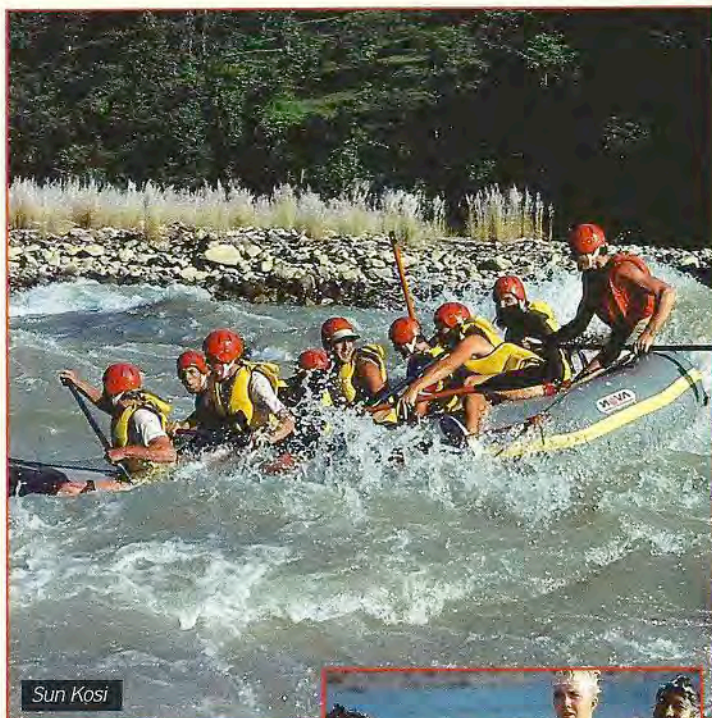
Maximum Group Size: 12

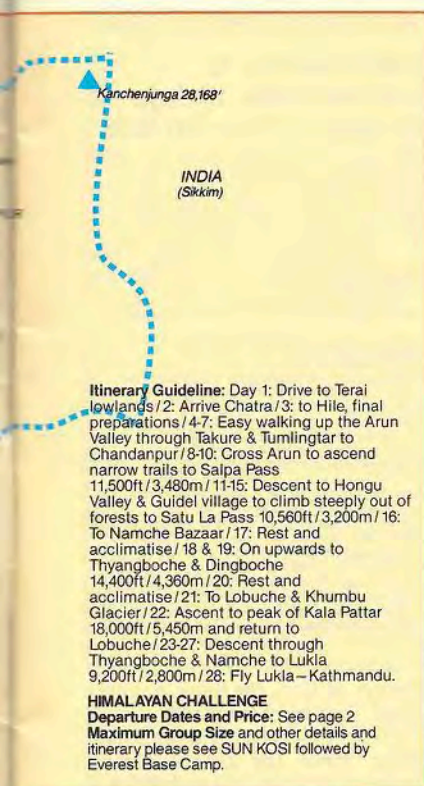
Transport: Expedition truck or Land Rover to start of trek; By foot to Lukla; By air Lukla-Kathmandu.

Accommodation: Camping

Connecting Flights: Allocation on group flights from/to London. N.B. Your return sector should NOT be booked for the day after trek completion.

Remarks: This trek climbs to 18,000ft/5,450m, requiring a median degree of fitness and perseverance. It is not recommended for anyone with respiratory difficulties. The flight Lukla-Kathmandu is an inclusive part of the trek. High altitude outer clothing can be hired in Kathmandu.





Himalayan Challenge

KATHMANDU to KATHMANDU 34 days ●

The best of both worlds — the excitement of the river and the rapids of the Sun-Kosi and the exhilarating and heady climb through the folds of the Himalayas to the wind and snow swept heights of Kala Pattar and the base of Everest.

Himalayan Challenge is a combination of the Sun-Kosi river run and the Everest Base Camp trek — the one follows on from the other with a night to rest the arm muscles and celebrate the completion of the journey out of the hills by river, before heading back into the mountains on trek to Everest.

SUN KOSI RIVER

Chatra is our take-out point where the river slows, widens and emerges onto the plains after eight days of our encounter with its rapids and its calms.

See opposite page: Sun-Kosi River.

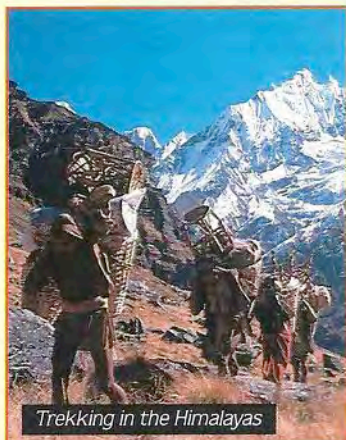
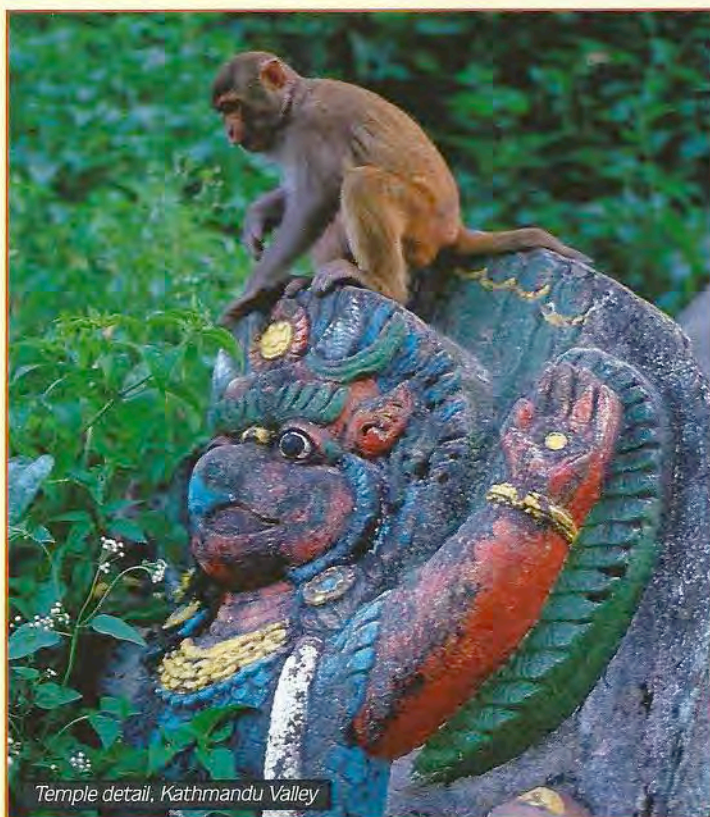
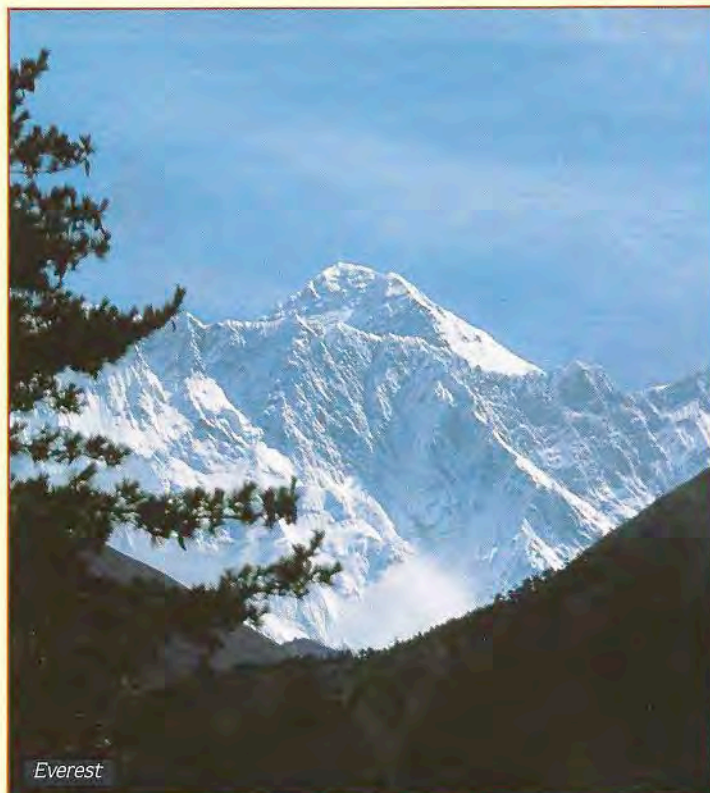
EVEREST TREK

At Chatra we join our sherpas, cooks and staff who have come down by road from Kathmandu with the food supplies and equipment required for extended high-altitude trekking — two person tents, insulate sleeping mats, cooking equipment, brimming baskets of food. The Sirdhar (head Sherpa) apportions loads to porters who, disdaining the western backpack, carry their loads in the time-honoured conical baskets supported from the forehead over the back and shoulders. The Sirdhar, his assistant and cook form the core of the trekking team. They are Sherpas from the region of Everest and this is a journey back to their homeland. These strong, considerate, fun-loving men have great enthusiasm for showing us their land and ways, and their cooking (mostly European food) isn't at all bad — brilliant really.

Days are as long or as short as the terrain requires. There is time to dally in tea-houses, wash at clear mountain springs, or simply to stop and absorb the inexorable aura as, daily, Everest looms closer.

There are other rivers and other mountains; but it is hard indeed to rival this combination of exhilaration, fun and breath-taking beauty as presented by the Himalayas and our Nepali hosts.

See opposite page: Everest Base Camp.



Nepal

Nepal 'Dekho' *

KATHMANDU to KATHMANDU 14 days ●
30 miles/48 km by river;
40 miles/64 km on foot;
200 miles/322 km by road

Departure Dates and Price: See page 2
Maximum Group Size: 18
Transport & Accommodation: Truck/Land Rover to/from river, trek and Chitwan/Avon white water rafts/Trekking on foot. Camping/Permanent tented camp at Chitwan/Hotel accom. at Kathmandu Guest House nights 1 and 2.
Connecting Flights: Allocation on group flights from/to London.

Remarks: The run of the Trisuli river is uncomplicated, but contains some good white-water and we are unable to accept non-swimmers. The trek is moderately challenging and requires the stamina to reach a maximum altitude of 12,000ft/3,700m.

Warm outer clothing can be hired in Kathmandu.
(Lg), below, denotes local guide for comprehensive tour.

Itinerary Guideline: Day 1: In Kathmandu / 2: Bicycle tour of city and valley (Lg) / 3: Drive to Trisuli river (approx 3hrs), start on river / 4: On river / 5: On river - to Mugling village / 6: Drive to Pokhara (approx 5hrs), camp by lake / 7: Start trek / 8-11: On trek, returning to Pokhara evening of Day 11 / 12: Drive to lowlands and Chitwan National Park (approx 7hrs), staying at E.O. permanent tented camp / 13: In Chitwan, by elephant or foot through park, dug-out canoe on Rapti river (Lg) / 14: Drive to Kathmandu (approx 7hrs), (evening arrival).

Rafting the Trisuli river, a short trek to the foot of Annapurna and a visit to the Chitwan National Park in the Terai (lowlands). A relaxed look at Nepal but an absorbing project not withstanding its relatively short duration.

The River. The Trisuli runs westwards from the Ganesh Himalayas above Kathmandu, snaking its course along wide peaceful valleys of farms and villages and through rocky canyons and gorges hung with jungle and fern. To travel by river is to experience a land from a new and different perspective.

For a general description of river-running in Nepal, please refer to page 12. Our 5-mile-an-hour glide through the tranquility and warmth of the Trisuli's changing landscapes is punctuated by rapids that have a growl and a power to them that demands they not be treated lightly.

The Trek. From Mugling we drive to Pokhara, under the shadow of the Annapurna massif and the giant 'fish-tail' of Machapuchare — the holy mountain. (For a general description of life on trek, please refer to page 12). We trek upwards through valleys and green forests into the Kali-Gandaki gorge with peaks towering above and the thundering of the river below.

From the hot springs at Tatopani the trail leads to Ghorepani through rhododendron woods and haunting, lichen covered passes while all around is the panorama of 30 Himalayan peaks thrusting high into the crystal clear air.

'The Terai'. To the plains and the Chitwan National Park. This game reserve of tall shaded forest and high elephant grass astride flat sandy rivers is a natural haven for the Asian rhinoceros, elephant, deer, wild pig and the Bengal tiger.

We stay for two nights at our permanent tented camp from where we can travel on elephant back, foot and by dug-out canoe in search of the ever present but sometimes elusive wildlife.

* Dekho, from the Hindi. Look!

Mountain & River

KATHMANDU to KATHMANDU 21 days ●
30 miles/48 km by river;
64 miles/77 km on foot;
240 miles/386 km by road

Departure Dates and Price: See page 2
Maximum Group Size: 18
Transport & Accommodation: Truck/Land Rover to/from river, trek, Chitwan and Nagarkot/Avon white water rafts/Trekking on foot. Camping/Permanent tented camp Chitwan/Hotel accom at Kathmandu Guest House Nights 1, 2 and 20, lodge accom at Nagarkot night 19.
Connecting Flights: Allocation on group flights from/to London.

Remarks: (As per Nepal Dekho at left).
Itinerary Guideline: Day 1: In Kathmandu / 2: Bicycle tour city and valley (Lg) / 3: Drive to Trisuli River (approx 3hrs) / 4: On river / 5: On river to Mugling village / 6: Drive to Pokhara (approx 5hrs) / 7: Start trek, returning Pokhara evening of day 14 / 15: Drive to lowlands and Chitwan National Park (approx 8hrs, permanent tented camp) / 16 & 17: In Chitwan, by elephant and foot through park, dug-out canoes on Rapti river (Lg) / 18: En route to Nagarkot, camping / 19: Arrive Nagarkot - Sunset views, overnight at lodge / 20: Sunrise over mountains at Nagarkot, return via ancient city of Bhaktapur, to Kathmandu / 21: Depart Kathmandu.

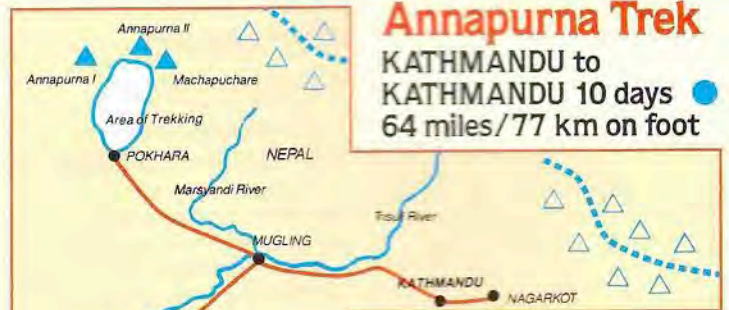
Three weeks in Nepal that contain the ingredients of:
3 days rafting on the Trisuli river,
8 days trekking in the Annapurna Himalaya and 3 days at the Chitwan National Park; all spiced with time spent in Kathmandu and at the mountain village of Nagarkot — where sunrise tinges the sight of 300 miles/480 kms of peaks from Dhaulagiri in the West to Kanchenjunga in the East.

The 3 day river journey is as that in the 14-day 'Nepal Dekho' (this page). From our put-in point 3 hours drive from Kathmandu to the village of Mugling where the Trisuli meets the Marsyandi and rushes south to the lowlands. This is a fairly easy paced river journey through beautiful scenery and it contains some fine and exhilarating white-water.

It is a five hour drive from Mugling to the lake town of Pokhara and the start of our 8 day trek. The trek from Pokhara is as described in the 'Annapurna Trek' (this page), ascending through Dhampus, the sub-tropical forests of the mid levels and onto the high ridges facing Annapurna South. The maximum height reached is 15,000 ft/4,500 m, but much of the time is spent at 8-10,000 ft/2,500-3,030 m where the effects of altitude and cold are not excessive. The Annapurna region is one of Nepal's most popular for trekking however we have chosen most of our route to take us away from the more frequented trails without compromising the fabulous views or access to the snow-clad peaks or the village life of the valleys.

It is 7 hours by road from Pokhara to the Chitwan National Park where we spend 3 nights at our permanent tented camp (see 'Nepal Dekho', this page).

Returning to the Kathmandu valley we shall visit Nagarkot, strategically perched atop the hill at valley's edge. Sunrise at Nagarkot paints an unbroken stretch of magnificent peaks including Everest and eight of the 10 highest mountains in the world.



Annapurna Trek

KATHMANDU to KATHMANDU 10 days ●
64 miles/77 km on foot

Departure Dates and Price: See page 2
Maximum Group Size: 18
Transport & Accommodation: Truck/Land Rover to/from trek. Trekking on foot. Camping.
Connecting Flights: Allocation on group flights from/to London.

Remarks: The Annapurna trek is moderately challenging and requires the stamina to reach a maximum altitude of 15,000ft/4,500m. Warm outer clothing can be hired in Kathmandu.
Itinerary Guideline: Day 1: Leaving Kathmandu, drive west along Trisuli & Marsyandi rivers to Pokhara, camp by lake / 2: Start trek along Seti valley up to Dhampus, 6,000ft/1,800m / 3-6: Ridges and valleys, to rhododendron forests and out of the tree line up to the highest point (15,000ft/4,500m) on southern edge of Annapurna massif / 7: Descent to Modi Khola valley / 8: Mardipul, rest and explore valley and villages / 9: Return to Pokhara and lake / 10: Drive to Kathmandu (late afternoon arrival).

Always, at first, the Himalayas defy belief. They seem impossible — solid white teeth suspended in the atmosphere above the clouds, distant heights remote and unattainable. For many travellers this has remained their only impression; for to walk the mountains and to live with them awhile is the only way to understand their enormity, moods and overpowering presence.

This is a mid-altitude trek at a relaxed pace. The maximum height attained is 15,000 ft/4,500 m. For a general description of life on trek, please refer to page 12 — Everest Base Camp.

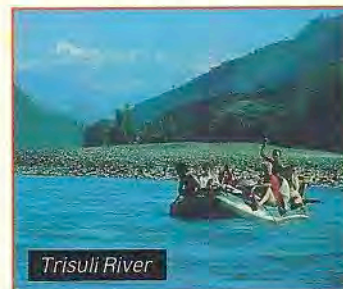
We drive westwards through the lateral valleys to Pokhara, Nepal's second town and the starting point of our trek. The first day's walking takes us along the valley through small villages and paddy fields then upwards along winding mule tracks to the village of Dhampus at 6,000 ft/1,800 m. In the morning we awake to stunning views of Machapuchare (23,000 ft/6,970m) and the Annapurna range. Our route is now along a high ridge leading to a dense forest of birch and rhododendron, where we camp in a small clearing. We are now well away from the main trails and unlikely to meet other trekkers.

At 10,000 ft/3,030 m the forest thins and the rampart faces of Annapurna South seem close enough to touch. Here is the highest camp of our trek and the views are stupendous.

On the sixth day we descend along terraced hillsides to reach the beautiful Modi Kola valley and a welcome swim. It is now easy walking again along the valley floor and criss-crossing the river on narrow, dipping cable bridges to Mardipul. Here there is time to relax and to explore this picturesque valley and its sleepy villages before the final hike back into Pokhara. There is a final night under the stars in the shadows of the looming peaks and time for a celebration with our Sherpas, before the road back to Kathmandu.



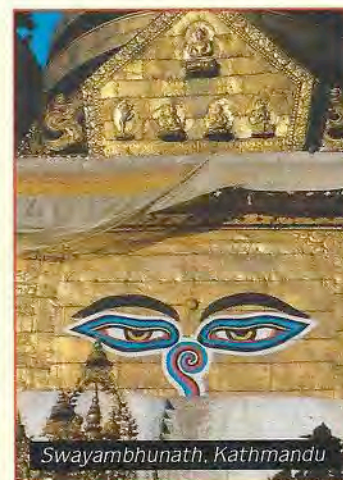
Kathmandu Guest House



Trisuli River



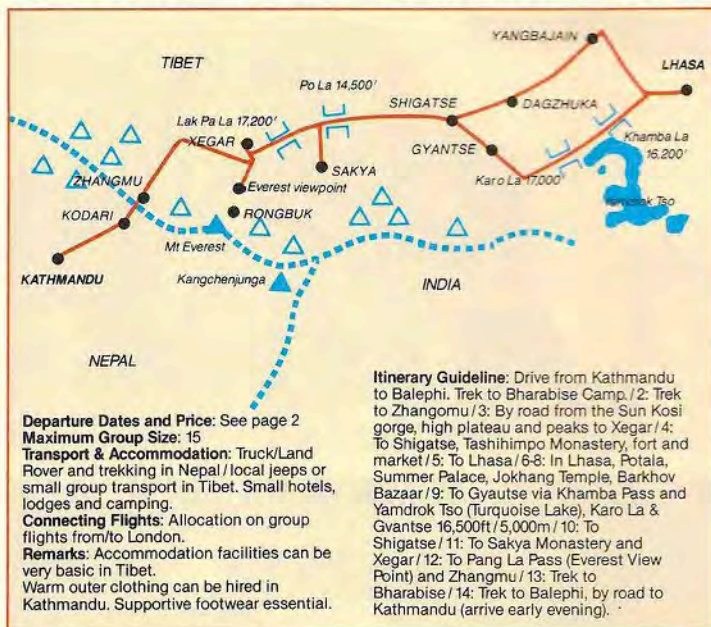
Chitwan



Swayambhunath, Kathmandu

Tibet — The Road to Lhasa

KATHMANDU — LHASA — KATHMANDU 14 days ● 1,120 miles/1,800 km



Much mystique has surrounded the name Tibet. So much so that the facts and the fiction, the images and the illusions of that enigmatic, long-suffering land have blurred into excessively pretentious and patronising pulp as perpetrated by the arm-chair expert.

Although it can well be said that Tibet is fascinating 'more for what it was than what it is', today's journey beyond the Himalayas into this once forbidden land is a high-road to adventure.

Beneath the intense blue skies of Tibet live a hardy, stoic but good-natured people whose lives fuse the labour of a harsh existence with the spiritual forces which they see to exist all around.

There is nowhere so complete, so sudden or so dramatic a contrast as that between the lush terraced valleys and idyllic villages of Nepal and the stark barren wind-swept land of Tibet — a difference brought home by the fact that between Kathmandu and Lhasa there is a rise of 8,000 ft/2,500 m in altitude.

Different too, it must be noted, are the amenities and creature comforts available. In Tibet such facilities are mostly pretty basic, and it is best to presume that the 'outer man' could be better provided for. At least this fact has the dubious advantage of requiring a fair share of borrowed local stoicism — a total experience which the long arm of Peking ensures is not reflected in low prices to the traveller!

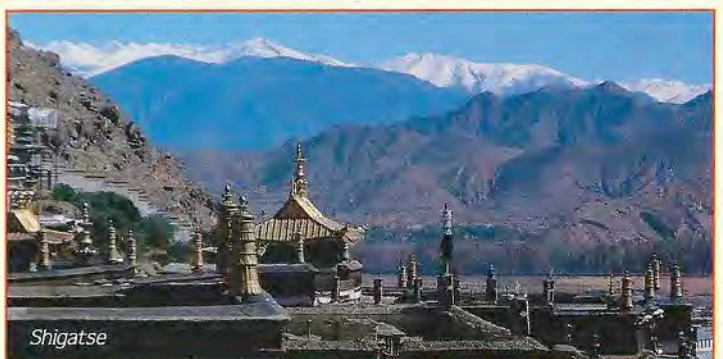
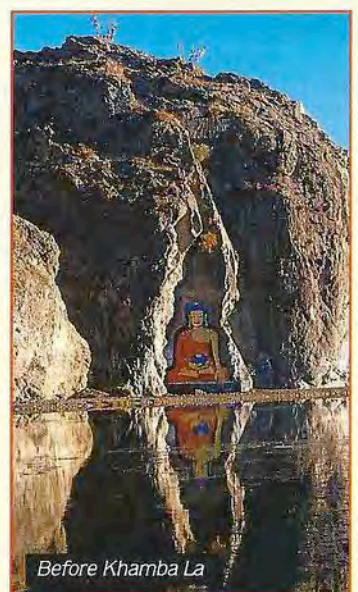
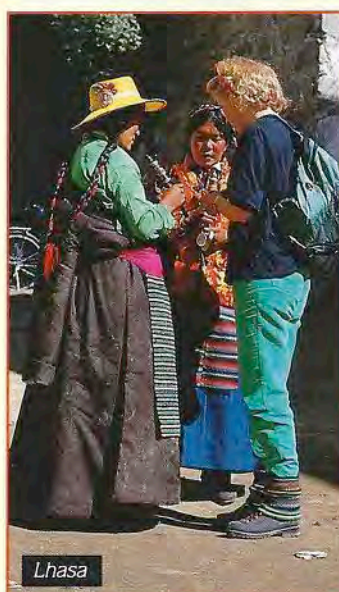
Buddhism arrived from the south in the 7th century to splice with the local cults and for 1,000 years a handful of great monasteries ruled over the land, while at a humble level the smaller monastic houses were the centres of feudal life. The power and authority of the monastery stemmed from its being the sole and hugely wealthy repository not only of all religion but all learning, literature, art and medicine.

With the arrival of direct Chinese rule in the 1950's came the end of such total monastic power and today we are in a land where the old norms and perceptions of reality have been largely and crudely dismantled and destroyed. A sense of the void thus created is apparent and, when there, it is this more than anything that one is inclined to call the Chinese to account for.

The seats of Dalai Lama and Panchen Lama at Lhasa and Xigatze are fabulous caricatures of their former selves and, fascinating though they are, one senses the loss of a spiritual dimension, while in the countryside at least the impressions of traditional life project strongly still; yak-pulled ploughs, whole families harvesting, yak herds on the high pastures.

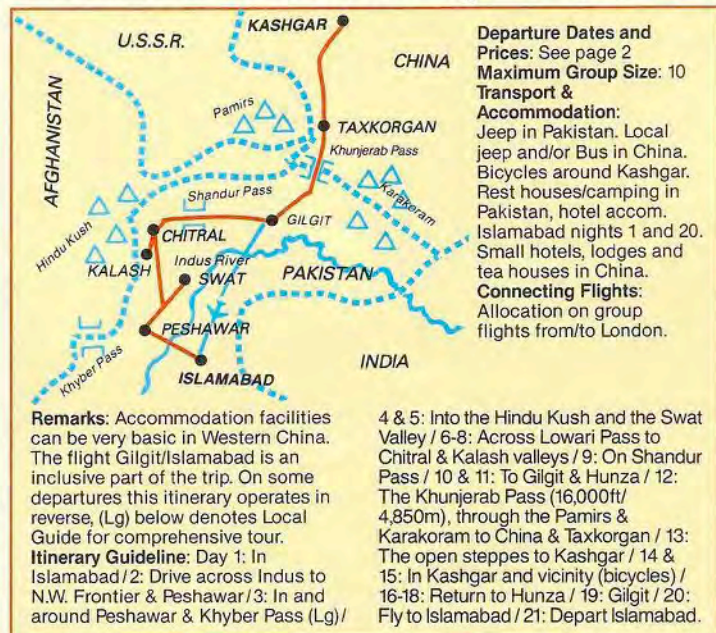
Tibet is stunning. Nothing here seeks to distract from the fact. But it is the more so for being appreciated in context.

For the actual description of the itinerary see facts box.



To the Gates of Tartary

ISLAMABAD to ISLAMABAD 21 days ● 1,430 miles/2,300 km



Here is a journey that really does defy superlatives and that culminates in a crossing of the Himalayas in Pakistan, through China's newly opened back-door to fabled Kashgar, the oasis town of Chinese Central Asia that has long survived the decline of trade on the Ancient Silk Road to Cathay.

Here the ranges of the Hindu Kush, the High Pamirs, the Karakoram and the Himalayas rear up to heights that produce one of the most glaciated regions of the world outside the polar circles. Here too are wonderfully remote valleys and spectacular scenery on a vast scale, with narrow tracks and spindly bridges manageable by nothing larger than Jeep or Land Rover.

In China itself, where, en route to Kashgar, we are obliged to use local vehicles, the prospect of erratic and barely basic travel and accommodation arrangements cannot be too strongly emphasised.

We first travel to Peshawar, crossing the Indus to this fabulous frontier town of colourful bazaars and dubious dealings; opium and hashish vying with arms and ammunition — a visit to such dens of iniquity being quite arrangeable!

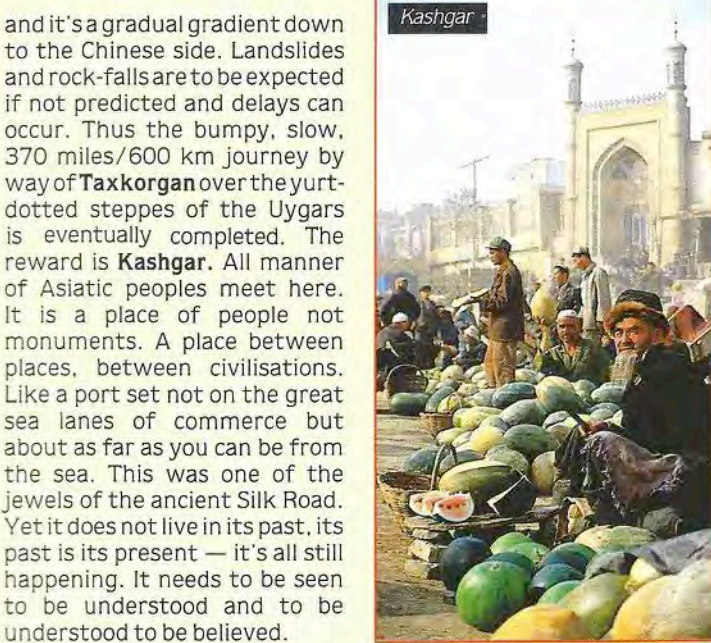
We enter the hills, to the valley of Swat and the sites of Ghandara Buddhist civilisation that met and mingled with the Armies of Alexander. We climb the rugged rock-strewn pine-topped Lowari Pass 10,000 ft/ 3,030 m to wind down to the valleys of Chitral, first to Chitral town with mosque, ancient fort, polo-ground and busy main

street. We have come here to Chitral for its special beauty and for the journey that will take us to the Kalash valleys.

The Chitral river flows into Afghanistan, between the steep hillsides of the Hindu Kush. But before then we take the track that hugs the cliff-side of a tributary that leads to the mysterious valleys of the Kalash peoples, to the villages of the "Kafirs". There are three such valleys jointly known as Kafirstan, Bumburet, Rumbur and Birer. The villages are set in the hillsides, shady walnut groves and fruit orchards surround them, the land tended in terraces, sheep and goats grazing and browsing freely. Theories of origin abound, one thing is for sure, the women and girls wear their hair and headgear decorated with buttons and beads and shells and bells.

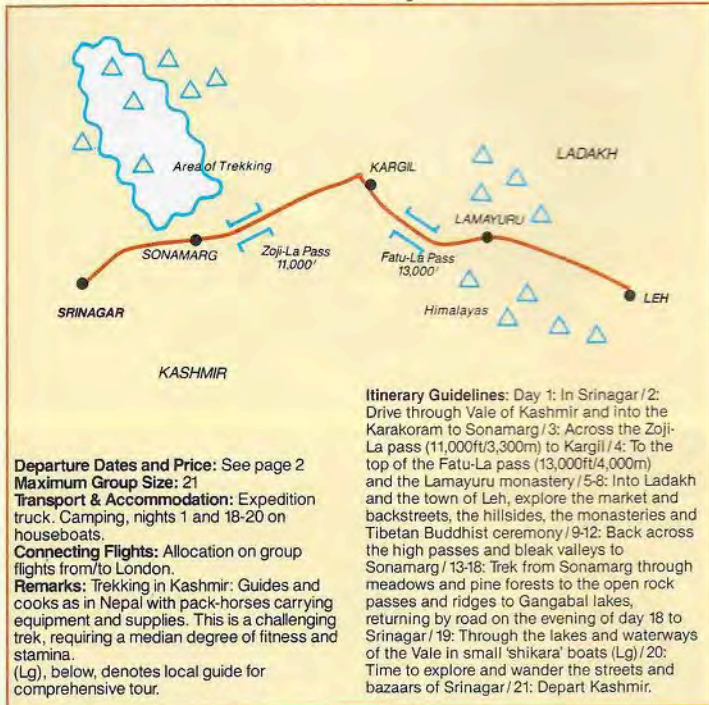
From Chitral our route is over one of the most magnificent mountain passes ever travelled by wheeled transport — the Shandur Pass to Gilgit. In a journey of superlatives they are best abandoned here and for it simply to be said that here you will know you are among some of the most stunning and unspoilt scenery on earth.

Gilgit too lies in an enchanting valley from where the newly engineered Karakoram Highway climbs on up to the Khunjerab Pass 16,000 ft/ 4,850 m. Before the pass is Hunza, lost Shangri-La of the Karakoram, remote and harshly beautiful. With the Pakistan Customs 3,000 ft/ 900 m behind and below us we are atop the pass



and it's a gradual gradient down to the Chinese side. Landslides and rock-falls are to be expected if not predicted and delays can occur. Thus the bumpy, slow, 370 miles/ 600 km journey by way of Taxkorgan over the yurt-dotted steppes of the Uygars is eventually completed. The reward is Kashgar. All manner of Asiatic peoples meet here. It is a place of people not monuments. A place between places, between civilisations. Like a port set not on the great sea lanes of commerce but about as far as you can be from the sea. This was one of the jewels of the ancient Silk Road. Yet it does not live in its past, its past is its present — it's all still happening. It needs to be seen to be understood and to be understood to be believed.

SRINAGAR to SRINAGAR 21 days ● 650 miles/1,040 km



At a time in summer when the mountains of Nepal are hidden in monsoon cloud, the Karakoram range at the western end of the Himalayas is bathed in sunshine. June, July, August and September are ideal months for visiting Kashmir and Ladakh. Kashmir is a land of four beautiful and brilliantly contrasting seasons, cut-off from the plains of India and remote from the outside world.

Here on the lakes near the town of Srinagar the famous houseboats are moored. They are built like Victorian palaces with verandah and sun deck, living rooms, bedrooms and baths. Meals are cooked and served by our Kashmiri host and his family.

There is time to relax, explore the markets and bazaars of Srinagar and take a small 'shikara' boat through the lotus lakes and gardens of the valley. Kashmiri carpets, now considered some of the world's finest, are woven in small back rooms by descendants of Persians who settled there in the 18th century. There are traders with beautifully detailed wood carvings, precious stones from the mountains, or Kashmiri jewellery and trinkets. The range is as wide and varied as the traders are persuasive and ubiquitous — this is all part of the magic of Kashmir.

Only in summer do the 275 miles/440 kms of tortuous mountain road link Leh with Srinagar — during the rest of the year it is impossible to keep this road clear of snow. The road leads north-east from Srinagar,

through rice fields to the edge of the valley and rises to Sonamarg and then climbs steeply over the Zoji-la pass (11,600 ft / 3,500 m) to Kargil, an important trading post on the mule trails between Samarkand and Lhasa.

The highest point on the road is the 13,500 ft / 4,100 m pass at Fatu-la and just before the top of the pass, standing below the road on a crumbling sandstone outcrop, is the 10th century monastery of Lamayuru.

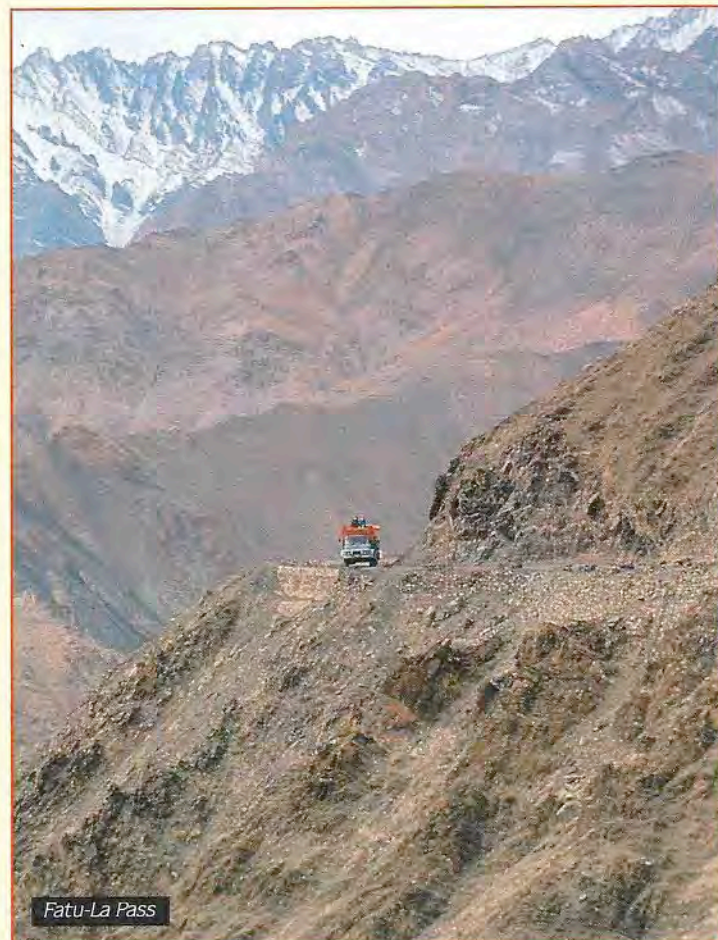
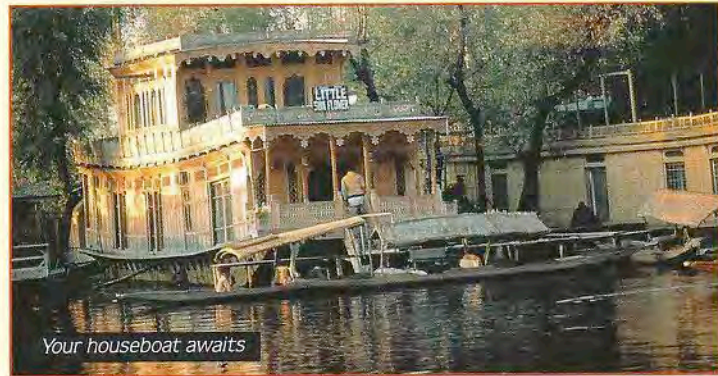
Ladakh lies astride the upper Indus, a land of magnificent mountains, of cedars, poplars and willows, apple, apricots and walnuts, of wild ibex and the hybrid dso.

In the fertile valleys between the barren peaks, farmers pray not for rain but for sunshine to melt the snow and glaciers.

From Ladakh's remoteness a village society has evolved where beliefs and traditions of Lamaistic Buddhism still run deep. We are welcomed into monasteries (gompas) and into smoke-blackened homes.

Trekking — 6 days on the trail is a typical duration. Several possibilities exist in the harsher, more desolate regions of Ladakh itself or in the Zaskar valley, but there is often a preference for the region of more contrasts and colour which includes the passes, the ridges and the valleys to the north of the Srinagar/Leh road before the Zoji-la.

Here are magnificent views as well as glaciers, snow bridges, yak pastures and the Gangabal Lakes.



Turkey

ISTANBUL to ISTANBUL 15 days ● 1,400 miles/2,240 km

Departure Dates and Price:

See page 2

Maximum Group Size: 21

Transport & Accommodation: Expedition truck/Camping.

Connecting Flights: Allocation on group flights from/to London.

Remarks: (Lg) below denotes local guide for comprehensive tour.

Itinerary Guidelines: Day 1: In Istanbul / 2: In Istanbul, the Grand Bazaar, Topkapi Palace, the mosques and waterfront of the Golden Horn (Lg) / 3 and 4: Drive across the Bosphorus to Asia, the sea of Marmara, through Izmit & Afyon to the spa and springs of Pamukkale / 5: South through the Taurus mountains to the Mediterranean at Antalya / 6: To Perge & Xanthus and along the 'Turquoise Coast' and beaches / 7 and 8: To Fethiye, to relax in the warm waters of the Aegean, or take a boat trip out to one of the islands / 9: To Bodrum, the Crusader castle, lazy outdoor bars and restaurants / 10 and 11: The archaeological sites and settlements around Kusadasi and the magnificent ruins at



Ephesus (Lg) / 12: The coast to Bergama & Troy / 13: Ferry across the Dardanelles, to the memorials and slopes of Gallipoli / 14 The northern shores of Marmara to Istanbul / 15: Depart Istanbul.

It might well be said that there are only two types of traveller; he who has not yet visited Turkey and he who intends to return! It really is true that just about anyone who has explored Turkey — or some of it — vows to go back. Inevitably there is much to see and do throughout this many-faceted, always impressive and intriguing part of the world.

"Where East meets West" says the tourist blurb, "East is East and West is West and never the twain shall meet", says Kipling. We say "Just one country, but two continents."

Satellite city-states of ancient Greece and Rome were established here along with Christianity. But the warrior prophets of Islam arrived to dismantle it all. Today, Nato's only Asian member is seeking to satisfy western democratic criteria, but rides the tiger of the Islamic fundamentalist revival from neighbouring Iran.

Indeed what an absolutely fascinating, as well as delightful and hot, country Turkey is.

What's more, things here in Asia Minor are so providentially arranged that this really is a perfect two week mix of exploring and relaxing. Most of the great classical sites are close to the sea where the coves and beaches surpass almost anything elsewhere along the Mediterranean. The beauty of the area is outstanding, the small towns friendly, the food good, the sea blue, the sun hot, the bars, the restaurants and colourful night-life plentiful — belly dancing, discos and cathartic bath-houses.

It is not yet widely appreciated how very well suited this region is to the camping life style. There are first class excellently positioned campsites with all

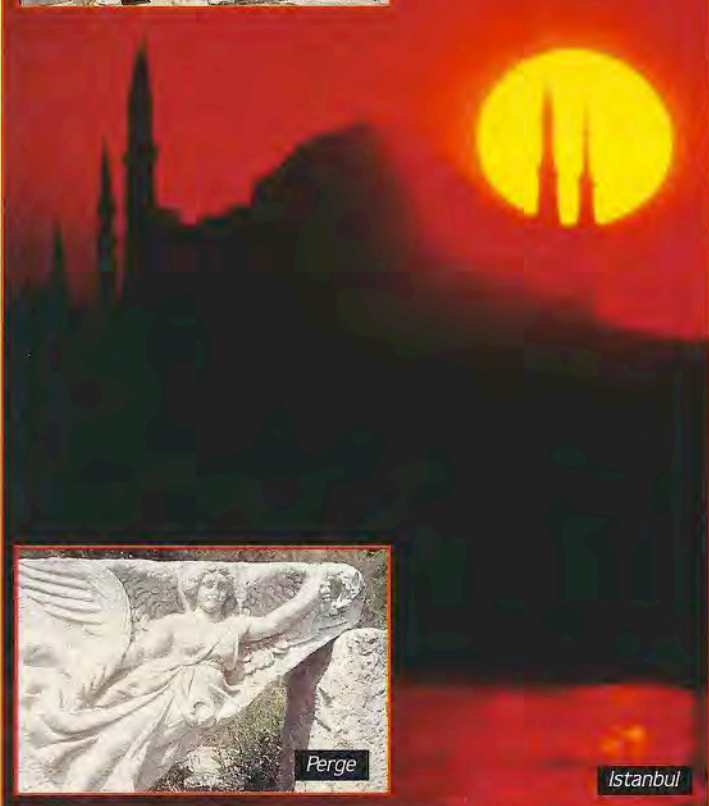
facilities and there are also many 'secret' spots, in the hills, among the pines, or on the secluded beaches, where the simple pleasures of the outdoors are offered to the traveller who has come equipped.

Our flights arrive in Istanbul in time to sample the vibrant nightlife in Taksim; although it is not wise to party too late, as the following day will be packed with sightseeing — the grand Bazaar, Topkapi, the famous bridges, Galata and Attaturk.

Following the coastline along the sea of Marmara at first to Izmit, then due south to Afyon en-route to Pamukkale. Here we can bathe in hot mineral springs, swimming amongst ancient stone pillars that once formed part of Hierapolis.

We meet the Mediterranean coast at Antalya, above which stands the impregnable fortress city of Thermessos. East along the coast is Perge — ruled at times by Greeks, Romans and, in its decline by the Byzantines; today its 2,000 year old colonnaded streets are a tribute to the skill of the craftsmen who laboured here. There will be time to relax, swim and explore small villages along this splendid coastline at Kas, Fethiye, Bodrum and Kusadasi and to visit the magnificent archaeological sites at Xanthus, Ephesus and Bergama; and a striking almost fairytale castle at Bodrum.

North along this magical coastline we reach Troy — not one city but nine! built literally one on top of another, the earliest dating from 3,000 BC. En route back to the bustle of Istanbul, we cross the Dardanelles. Here are the bloody killing grounds of 1916 at Gallipoli where stand the cemeteries and monuments to the fallen of Australia, Britain, New Zealand, France and Turkey.



Jordan, Israel & Egypt

CAIRO — AMMAN — JERUSALEM — CAIRO (or vice versa) 28 days ● 2,400 miles/3,860 km

Departure Dates and Price: See page 4

Maximum Group Size: 21

Transport & Accommodation: Truck/Train/Felucca in Egypt, Sinai Peninsula and Jordan. Group bus in Israel, bus from Jerusalem to Cairo. Hotel in Cairo/camping in Egypt & Jordan/Local hotels and hostels in Israel.

Connecting Flights: Group flights available from/to London.

Remarks: (Lg), below, denotes local guide for comprehensive tour.

On some departures this itinerary operates in reverse.

Itinerary Guidelines: Day 1: In Cairo (Days 1-13 inclusive are as page 20 'Egypt') / 14 & 15: Across Suez Canal and drive through Sinai to St. Katherine's Monastery / 16: Ferry to Agaba and Jordan / 17: The lost city of Petra / 18 & 19: To and in Amman / 20: Forum of Jerash and the Dead Sea / 21: Dead Sea / 22: West Bank and Jericho to Jerusalem / 23: To Galilee, Nazareth and Lake Tiberias (Lg) / 24: Acre, Caesarea and the Mediterranean coast (Lg) / 25-27: Jerusalem (Lg) / 28: Across the northern Sinai to El Arish, Egypt and to Cairo.



For Egypt section see page 20.

Gulf of Aqaba

This sun-washed corner of the Mediterranean that is Asia as well as Africa, Arabia as well as the Cradle of Christendom: has as its unequalled 'guide-book' the Bible — this is the Holyland. Crossroads between the great civilisations of Egypt to the south and Mesopotamia to the east; the land of the Moabites, the Amorites and the Tribes of Israel. Familiar names, places and events are scattered throughout the desert villages, over the bare mountain rocks and amongst the olive shaded slopes of the coastal hills.

But there is more, for this corridor between two continents and two oceans is still unearthing and revealing its pre-Biblical origins, while building a future that is every bit as far reaching and complex as its past.

Our first two weeks are described in more detail on page 20, under 'Egypt'. We follow that same route from Cairo along the Nile to Aswan, Abu Simbel, Luxor and the Valley of the Kings and Queens. It is a journey of 700 miles/1,100 kms up river and 5,000 years back in time, to where explainable fact and imagined mystery begin to merge.

From our Nile encounter we cross the Suez Canal, de Lessep's dream of an international waterway that would promote trade and understanding from occident to orient, but that, in 1956, became the catalyst for a last 20th century crusade in the Holyland and the final throes of European 'gunboat diplomacy'. Now in the Sinai we turn inland across the empty, scarred deserts of the Bedouin to St Katherine's Monastery and the ferry across the Gulf of Aqaba to Jordan.

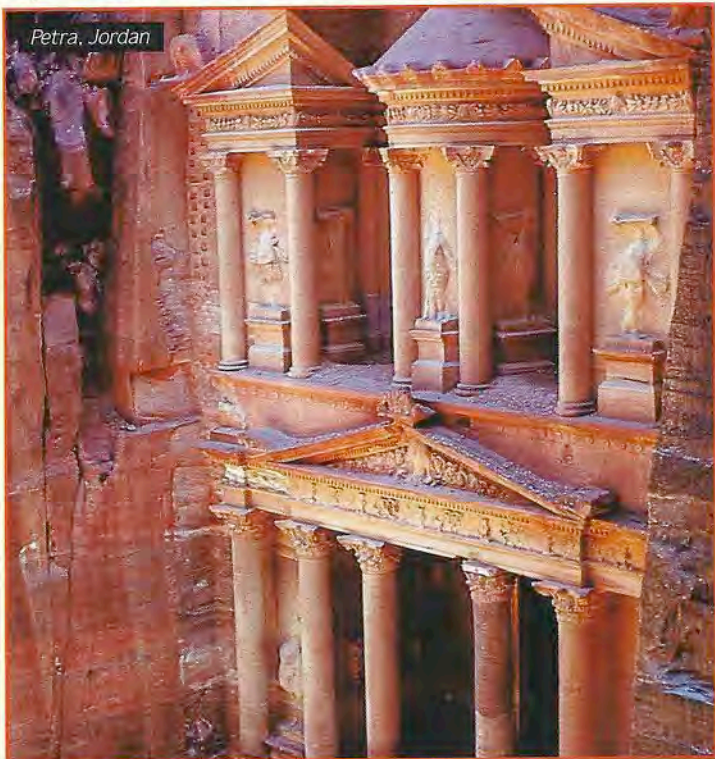
The romance of fashionable 19th century 'Egyptology' that instigated so many discoveries along the Nile largely ignored the trans-Jordan lands. But

here in the Hashemite Kingdom are villages of stone and mud-brick that can be traced back 8,000 years, while the buildings of Petra carved into the rose and crimson limestone of a hidden gully, formed a thriving centre of commerce long before the Nabataean Arabs captured it in 300 BC and made it their capital. Nearby in the desert are the wadis and Bedouin hideouts of Lawrence's campaigns that overthrew the Ottoman Turks in the first World War, leading to the formation of Palestine, then Israel and today's malleable frontiers.

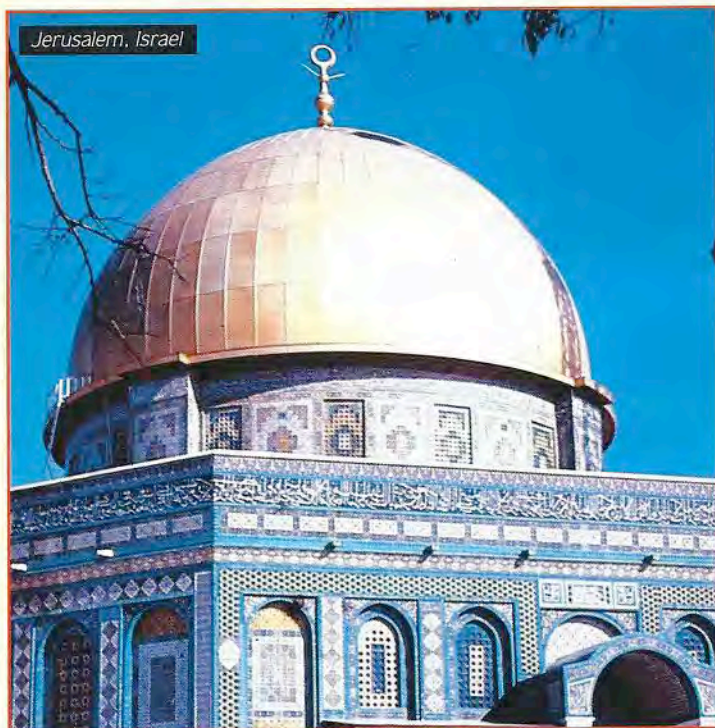
We reach Amman, the modern capital, and the Graeco-Roman forum of Jerash that recalls yet another Empire's era, its art and learning that flowered — and was absorbed into the sands. From the Dead Sea we cross the Jordan river to the West Bank and Jericho, 825 ft/250 m below sea level, that lays justifiable claim as the world's oldest city. This was the first town captured by the Israelites, under Joshua, after entering the Promised Land in the 14th century BC.

Now, just to the north, lies Galilee, Nazareth and the biblical sites of Lake Tiberias, while on the coast Acre was the landing point for zealous crusaders from Europe — its ruins testament to repeated capture and recapture in the name of Christ and Allah. We follow the coast, studded with history, through Haifa and Caesarea to reach Jerusalem — the holy city of Jew, Moslem and Christian. New and old, divided and unified, this beautiful city presents all her religious complexions — and balances them precariously on hopes of common ground.

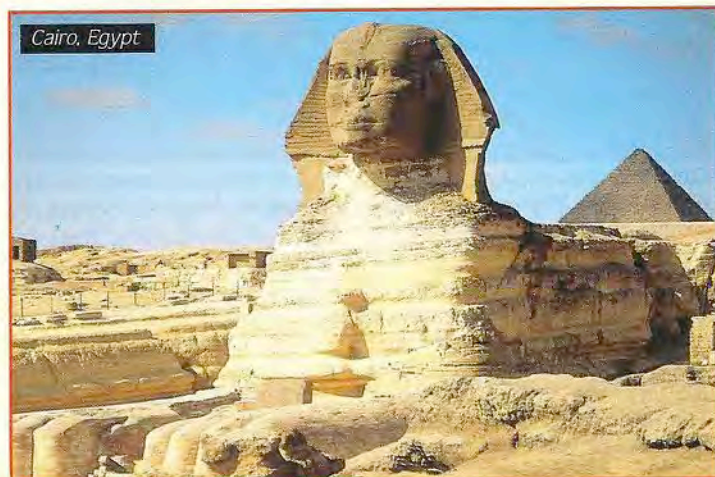
Echoing these hopes, the main road now runs from Jerusalem through Gaza and the northern Sinai to Cairo; and the shadows of patient wisdom on the face of the Sphinx.



Petra, Jordan



Jerusalem, Israel



Cairo, Egypt

Egypt

CAIRO to CAIRO 15 days ● 1,400 miles/2,240 km

Departure Dates and Price: See page 3
Maximum Group Size: 21
Transport & Accommodation:
 Expedition truck/Nile felucca and train.
 Camping, Hotel in Cairo night 1,
 overnight train Cairo-Aswan, night 2.
Connecting Flights: Group flights
 available from/to London.
Remarks: (Lg), below, denotes local
 guide for comprehensive tour.
 This itinerary also operates in reverse
 on some departures.
Itinerary Guideline: Day 1: In Cairo /
 2: In Cairo, the Citadel, treasures of
 Tutankhamun, museum of Egyptology,
 the city and bazaars / overnight train to
 Aswan / 3: In Aswan, the island and
 temples of Philae / 4: Drive to Abu
 Simbel / 5: Abu Simbel (Lg) and return
 to Aswan / 6 and 7: Sail the Nile by
 felucca from Aswan to Kom Ombo / 8
 and 9: Luxor, Valley of the Kings (Lg)
 and temples of Amun (Lg) / 10-12: Drive
 to Hurghada, the Red Sea coast and
 beaches to Suez / 13: Return to Cairo /
 14: In Cairo, the Sphinx & Pyramids
 (Lg) / 15: Depart Cairo.



The amazing story of ancient Egypt dating back 30 centuries before Christ has been pieced together entirely by the detective work of modern archaeologists. This story can be told with breathtaking illustrations on our two week journey. Egyptian civilisation, past and present, is the Nile, for throughout that history, Africa's great artery has deposited rich Ethiopian soil on Egypt's fields. Today 40 million people depend on this ribbon of water reaping the harvest to stock the nation's granaries and harnessing the hydro-power to satisfy the electrical needs of a fuel hungry state.

The contrasts here are sharply defined; a lush, fertile depression in which the river lies quickly gives way to empty desert, 20th century urban life-style functions cheek-by-jowl with more traditional peasant values, the wondrous achievements of ancient engineering skills survive alongside constructional feats of the modern day. And to round things off for us, the Red Sea supplies the fun of sandy beaches and clear blue tropical waters.

The many things of interest are further enhanced by the several forms of transport we use. Combined with E.O.'s expedition vehicle for the desert stretches and the camping on the Red Sea we will use the comfortable overnight sleeper train between Cairo and Aswan. And also here on the upper Nile we will use the traditional feluccas to sail down stream.

Our journey 700 miles up the Nile and 5,000 years back in time begins in **Cairo**, the bazaars of the old City, the great mosques of The Citadel combining to make this one of the most vibrant if chaotic, of the world's great

cities. Here we can see the **treasures of Tutankhamun** and acquire the beginnings of an insight into the journey we are about to take back into history. Beyond the city are the **Pyramids** and **Sphinx** at **Giza** and the even older 'step' pyramid at **Saqqara**.

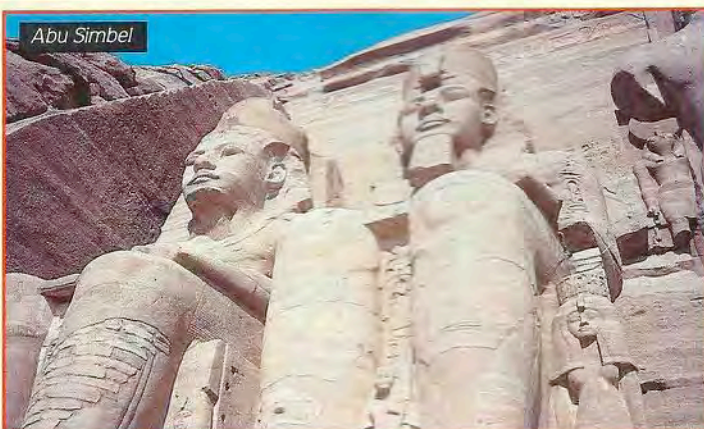
Aboard the overnight train we will wake as it travels rhythmically through the irrigated fields beside the Nile. Dawn stirs villages, lights the craft on the river and casts long dune shadows on the desert beyond.

At **Aswan** the river is studded with rocks and islands, amongst which move graceful single-sailed feluccas. On one such island are the lovely **temples of Philae**. The High Dam is several miles up stream and the route to **Abu Simbel** lies beyond it south for 170 miles across the desert. Fronting this incredible rock temple, seated, imperious, the four colossal statues of Ramses II guard, as they have long done, the southern approach to Egypt. Beyond here lay the 'Sudan' or land of the black people and further proof of an impressive authority was seldom required.

On return to Aswan we board **feluccas** to sail down stream, mattresses on deck, a lantern gently rocking; no five-star hotel this — a five million star hotel!

At or near **Kom Ombo** with its temples and tombs of the 'Old Kingdom' we will rejoin the truck and continue to **Luxor**; the great **temple of Amun** at **Karnak** and the valleys of the Kings and Queens, the Tombs of the Nobles, and the fabulously colonnaded temples on the far bank.

The route across the desert will now bring us to **Hurghada** on the Red Sea and time to relax more, perhaps gain a tan and to return to **Cairo** via the **Gulf of Suez** and the **Suez Canal**.



Abu Simbel



Death mask of Tutankhamun



Red Sea



Feluccas, Aswan

TUNIS to TUNIS 28 days ● 3,000 miles/4,830 km

Departure Dates and Price: See page 2.

Maximum Group Size: 21

Transport & Accommodation:

Expedition truck/Camping.

Connecting Flights: Allocation on group flights from/to London.

Remarks: (Lg), below, denotes local guide for comprehensive tour.

Water for other than drinking, cooking and 'Kitchen' hygiene may, at times, need to be limited on this safari.

Itinerary Guideline: Day 1: In Tunis / Day 2: Drive to holy city of Kairouan and the great medina / 3 and 4: Across the Chott el Djerid to the desert & Algeria, to the oasis of El Oued / 5-10: The sands and rock of the Sahara to Fort Gardel, the Tassili Mountains and plateau to Djanet / 11 and 12: By foot or mule from Djanet to the remote caves & rock paintings of the Tassili (Lg) / 13-15: The beauty and empty silence of the central Sahara to the scarred volcanic plugs of the Hoggar / 16: The Hoggar, Assekrem and the hermitage / 17 and 18: The oasis of Tamanrasset and the Tuareg / 19-24: North through the Arak gorge, In Salah and

the barren Tademaït plateau to the oasis towns of El Golea and Ghardaïa / 25-27: Across the Atlas mountains to the villages and towns of the north, cafes and markets, the ruins of Constantine and so to Tunis / 28: Depart Tunis.



Australia or the United States would, if transplanted into North Africa, fit comfortably into the Sahara and still leave enough spare desert for all the remakes of 'Lawrence of Arabia'. But the realities of the Sahara are far removed from the box-office image of featureless wastes of flat sand that stretch unbroken from horizon to horizon. Granted it is one of the driest regions on earth, but its scenery, its moods and its colours alter with every hour. There are great mountain ranges, bone-dry and silent as the tomb, and sparkling rock-pools of clear spring water. There are cool green oasis settlements that lack none of life's necessities (and few of its simpler pleasures) — and camel caravans that criss-cross the open desert on paths known only to their drivers. And yes, there are those sand dunes, but they're likely to be the 600 ft/180 m high wind-sculpted giants that form the Saharan Ergs — swathes of pure desert uncrossable by vehicle, beast or man.

This expedition into the central Sahara explores the barren and forsaken mountains of the Tassili Plateau and the Hoggar massif that form the geographical centre of this, the World's greatest desert.

On a course due south from Tunis and the great medina of Kairouan we reach the shimmering mirages of the Chett el Djerid and the oasis of El Oued. We skirt the **Grand Erg** to where the road ends and the tracks begin across the **Tassili** plateau.

This 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 6,000 BC. They recorded their progress and history with precision on amazing cave murals. The more recent of these 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 lie arrowheads, bowls, beads and the debris of its past.

We reach **Fort Gardel** and our only source of water before **Djanet** which, with its palm groves, shade and water, is the most beautiful of desert settlements. From here we will need a local guide to the rock paintings.

We now strike out on the ill-defined, sand blown route south west across one of the emptiest but most attractive sections of the entire Sahara to the **Hoggar** and the summit of **Assekrem**. If the Tassili is dead, then the Hoggar is the living present in an equally battered landscape of towering volcanic plugs and broken mountains.

This is the home of the Tuareg — the legendary 'Blue Men of the Sahara' — who it is thought overran the Tassili. Blue robed and turbaned with only their eyes showing to the world, they are the proud, unchallenged rulers of the desert. Armed still with a distinctive broadsword, their robes hung with leather pouches, they guide their camels to the farthest reaches of the desert.

Below the mountains of the Hoggar massif is **Tamarrasset**, the Saharan crossroads, where camel caravans muster alongside giant desert trucks en route to neighbouring oases. The Trans Saharan Highway from Algiers



En route Djanet



Desert well



Cave murals

reached here in 1979 to form a tenuous concrete strip that mocked the surrounding desert. But the Sahara is without sympathy for those who would seek to change it and the road was motorable for only a few years. It is now slowly being rebuilt and we will follow its course north to the Mediterranean.

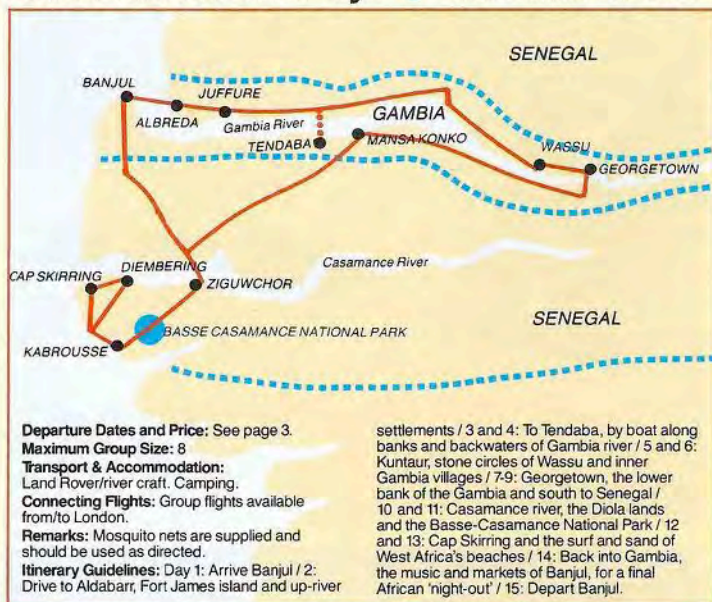
In Salah, El Golea and Ghardaïa are

the great oasis towns of the trans desert route, and onetime landmarks like Fort Mirabel, a deserted, forgotten outpost of the Foreign Legion, lie lost in the silence of the vast **Tademaït** plateau.

At **Laghouat** we cross the Atlas mountains and the dramatic change back to the fertile rich lands of the coast.

Gambia & Senegal

BANJUL to BANJUL 15 days ● 550 miles/885 km



Gambia — Africa's smallest country, 300 miles/480 km long but only 30 miles/18 km wide, is clamped like a crocodile's jaws around the life-line of its river. What it loses in size it more than makes up for in the sparkle and colour of life, beautiful African bush rich in wildlife and a treasure-chest of a chequered history. There are ancient relics of unknown African Empires and 17th century forts dotting the rivermouths — legacies of the rivalry between Britain and France for control of trade and power which, once established, led to the wholesale export of peoples bound in slavery to the Americas. Here, too, in a small Gambian village, was the end of the long search for Alex Haley's 'Roots'.

Senegal surrounds Gambia's land borders — that now have no more apparent relevance than a random sweep of the empire builder's pen, but in southern Senegal we find a land of rivers and islands, of friendly traditional lifestyle, golden beaches and warm blue seas.

Banjul stands at the mouth of the Gambia river, a town of lively African markets and long ocean beaches. 12 miles/20 km up-stream is **Fort James Island**, the first British settlement along this coast, established in 1661 by the Company of the 'Royal Adventures Trading in Africa' — overtones, perhaps, of what was to come. The French were not slow to establish a trading post on the banks opposite the island. The protagonists faced each other across the river as their nations struggled for control of West African trade and the fort became the infamous collecting point for those captured in the

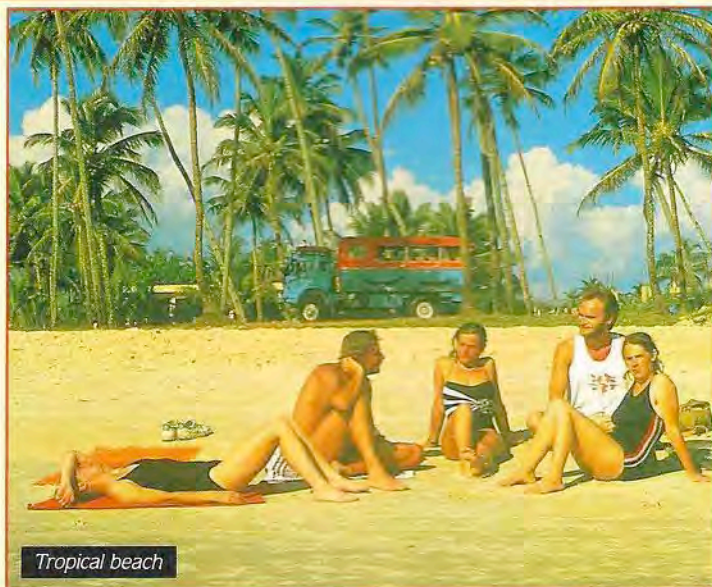
interior to be shipped in chains to the 'New World'.

Further upstream at **Tendaba** we take to the river. Travelling in small boats we search the quiet backwaters for hippo, crocodile and the freshwater dolphin, while the forest around us is filled with a riot of birdlife.

Close to **Kuntaur** are the **Stone Circles of Wassu** — blocks of hewn stone and tall monoliths that stand testimony to the grandeur of an ancient civilisation. Artefacts of pottery, spear and jewellery discovered here indicate an organised social structure around 1,000 AD; later this region was part of the great Kingdom of Mali that stretched from the inland deserts to the coast. What happened between, the purposes and the builders of these monuments, is lost in history. The past may be dead, but the present is alive around us with the vibrance, the colours, the music and dance of the villages.

The rocky hills of **Georgetown** mark the limits of our journey up-river as we cross to the southern banks and head to **Senegal**. Here we reach the flat delta land of the Casamance river, and the easy-going Diola peoples who proudly maintain their traditional ways and ancestral beliefs. The coastal forests of the **Basse-Casamance National Park** reveal their wildlife: antelope, baboons, warthog, monkeys and that riotous range of tropical birds.

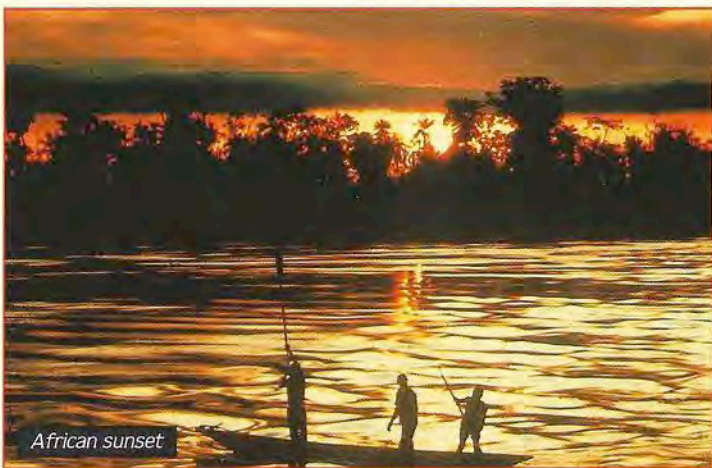
We reach the Senegal coast at **Cap Skirring** with vistas of blue water and the wide sweep of West Africa's best beaches. Time to idle here, to swim, to relax, to reflect on our journey from the interior, before making our final return to Gambia, and Banjul.



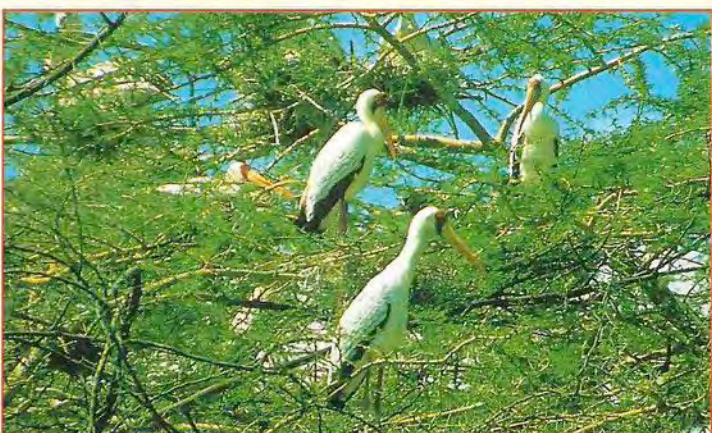
Tropical beach



Calabashes and colour



African sunset



MALAGA to MALAGA 15 days ● 1,470 miles/2,350 km

Departure Dates and Price: See page 3.

Maximum Group Size: 21.

Transport & Accommodation:

Expedition truck/Camping.

Connecting Flights: Allocation on group flights from/to London.

Remarks: (Lg), below denotes local guide for comprehensive tour.

Itinerary Guidelines: Day 1: In Malaga, and drive along Costa del Sol to Algeciras / 2: Ferry to Ceuta and into Morocco to Tetouan / 3 and 4: To Volubilis and Fez, the old city-palaces, mosques and the great souk (Lg) / 5-7: The winding roads and berber villages of the Atlas mountains and the Gorges du Ziz / 8-10: Into the Sahara, caravanserai and oases, sand dune seas and the Todra Gorge / 11: Marrakech — open air markets and mystery of back alleys (Lg) / 12 and 13: Atlantic beaches, the coast to Casablanca and Rabat / 14: Ferry across the Straits of Gibraltar to Algeciras and Malaga / 15: Depart Malaga.



Morocco, just 30 miles/48 km over the water from Spain's Costa del Sol, is a different world. It's a crossroads between Africa, the Arab world and Europe. In the cities the wide, café-lined boulevards reflect the French colonial heritage. In the old quarters, the minarets and mosques are pure Moslem, and in the countryside, the camel trains are unmistakably African. All of these go to make up the Morocco of today, it is fascinating and attractive. The colour and the natural pageantry are not just laid out for the tourist — fantasias, moussems, festivals are all a very real part of everyday Moroccan life. From the mysterious Marrakech, to the narrow winding alleys of Fez and the great Todra Gorge you will see all of the different characteristics which make Morocco what it is.

We depart from Malaga, at the heart of the Costa Del Sol, to travel along the high-rise coastline to Algeciras and the 1 hour ferry journey over the straits of Gibraltar to Africa.

Landing at Ceuta we enjoy low prices in this duty free port before crossing from this tiny Spanish protectorate into Morocco to Tetouan.

On our way south to Fez we visit the ruined city at Volubilis, once the capital of Roman North West Africa. In Fez an experienced guide is essential, not only to lead us to the Moorish palaces and slim minarets but also to ensure against becoming lost forever in the narrow winding alleys of the souk! Small shops and artisans' workbenches spill out their wares of intricate brasswork, embroidery, carpets and hand tooled leather into the seemingly unending maze of pathways.

The journey southwards off the passes of the Atlas mountains is a journey into an adventurer's

paradise. Past Berber villages the road winds down through the impressive 'Gorges du Ziz' to reach the tempting blue springs of the Meski Oasis, poised on the very edge of the Sahara — level sands fading into a distant hazy horizon. Here were once the great terminals of the trans-Saharan trade routes with camel caravans carrying gold and salt between Morocco, Timbuctou and the ancient kingdoms of West Africa. From these same desert sands also sprang the zealous warrior-prophets who swept across North Africa spreading Islam by the sword.

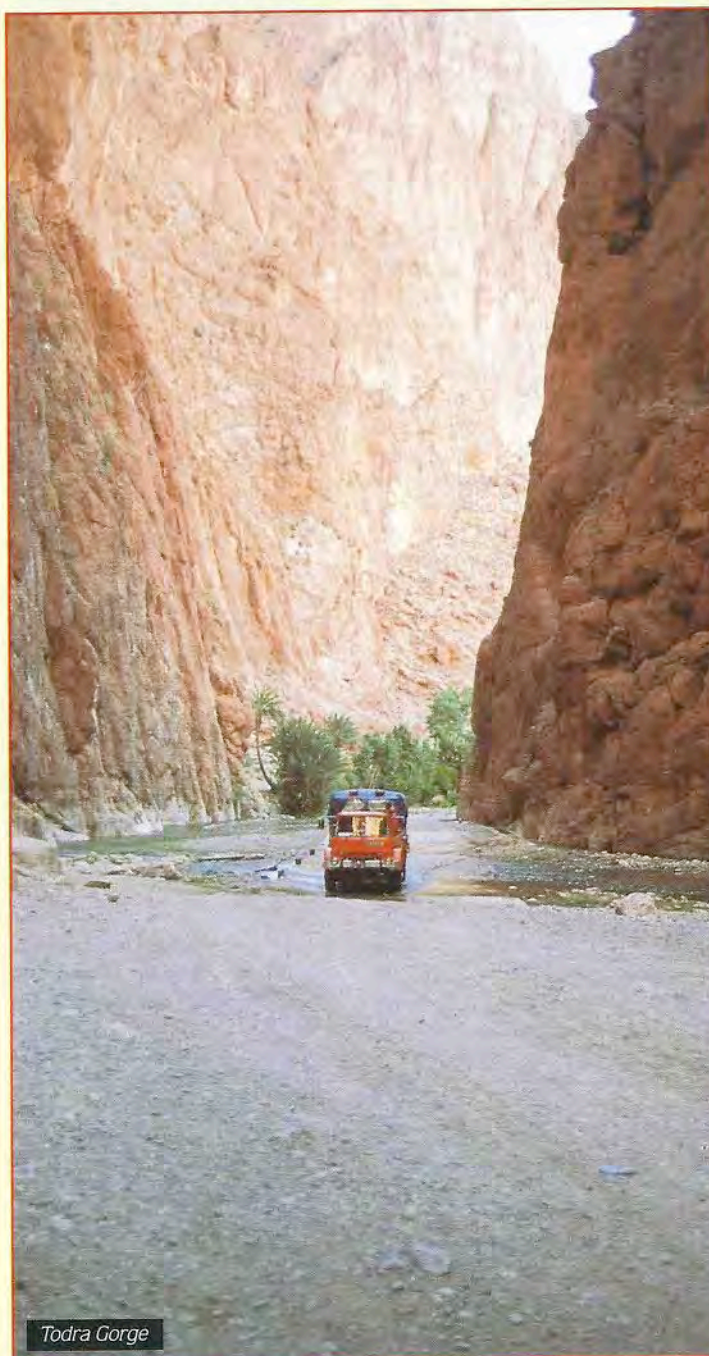
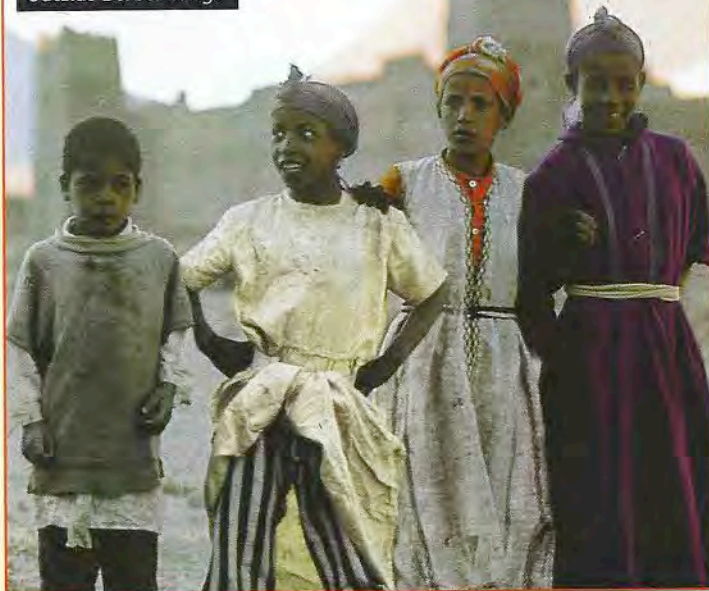
The Caravanserai of Merzouga lies to the west of the Erg Chebbi — a vast sea of shifting sands; here nomadic Berber tribesmen meet as they search the sparse northern fringes of the desert in pursuit of meagre grazing for their camels and goats.

Across the scorched and hostile landscape of the Jbel Ougnat we will drive through one of the most scenic parts of Morocco at Todra Gorge — a narrow chasm through which both road and river pass with barely room for either. The sheer rock walls rise over 300 ft/100 m on either side.

The desert now behind us we recross the Atlas mountains by way of the 7,000 ft/2,200 m. Tizi n Tichku pass and descend to the colourful imperial city of Marrakech. It is here that one can best see it all, the Palaces and the mosques, souks and storytellers, caftans, djelabas and cous cous; all part of the mystique of this historic city and the Moorish past.

Casablanca and Rabat, the capital, are on our route along the Atlantic coast — time to swim and relax before taking the ferry back to Spain — another continent, another world.

Outside Berber village



Todra Gorge

East Africa

DAR ES SALAAM to DAR ES SALAAM 20 DAYS (27 days including KILIMANJARO) ● 1,650 miles/2640 km

Departure Dates and Price: See page 3.

Maximum Group Size: 21.

Transport & Accommodation:

Expedition truck/Camping. N.B. Some departures use internal air flight on return to Dar es Salaam.

Connecting Flights: Space allocation held on group flights from/to London.

Remarks: The (optional) climb of Kilimanjaro starts on day 19 of the itinerary below, and includes transport back to Dar es Salaam at the end of the climb.

Itinerary Guideline: Day 1: In Dar es Salaam / 2: The Indian Ocean and Bagamoyo / 3-5: Across the wide plains and Masai Steppe to Arusha / 6: In Arusha / 7-13: The Game Parks and wildlife of Lake Manyara, the Serengeti, and Ngorongoro crater / 14-16: The Great Rift Valley and Lake Natron and the Masai / 17 and 18: Through Arusha, Moshi to Marangu and the base of Mt Kilimanjaro / 19: In Marangu / 20: Return to 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.

We meet in Dar and set out to the shores of the Indian Ocean at Bagamoyo, an old slave trading centre. The rusting slave pens remain to this day and a strong Arab influence is reflected in the faces and dress of the traders and in the sailing dhows around the harbour. There is a sultry tropical heat, coconut palms and white sandy beaches; time to relax before we strike out for the interior.

Our route will take us north across the plateau of the Masai Steppe, to pass by Mount Kilimanjaro, its snow-capped peak dominating the plains and so, via Arusha to Lake Manyara.

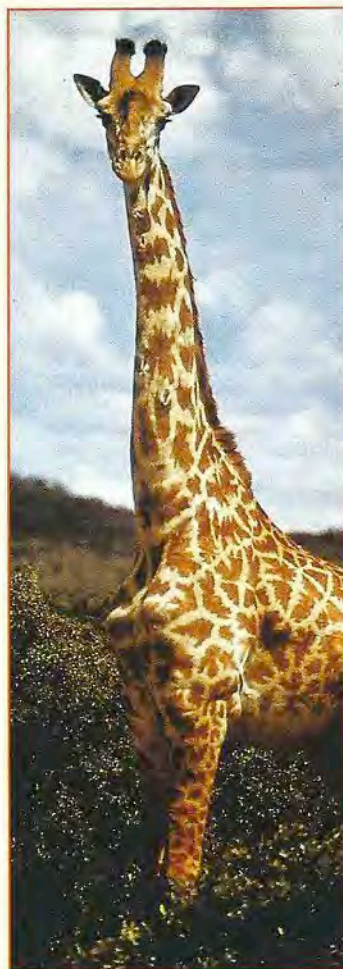
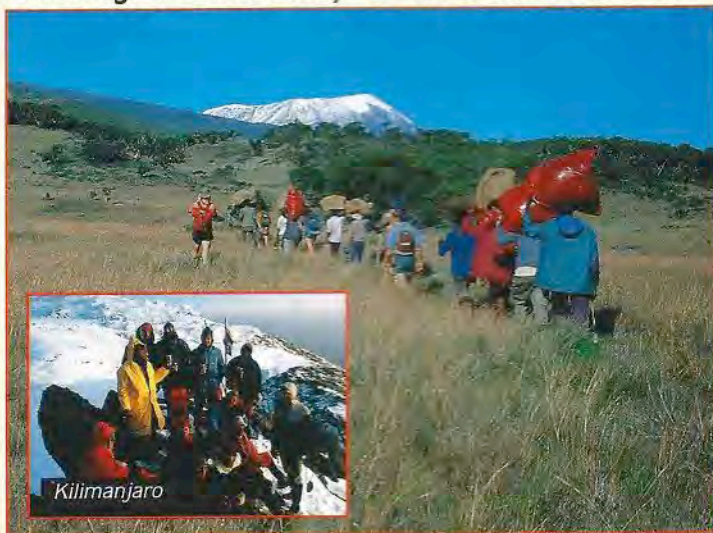
We rise early to see the millions of pink flamingoes and other teeming bird life of pelicans, maribou stork and crane, while above the lake tower the 1,000 ft./303 m. walls of the great Rift Valley. From the top we look out over the shimmering lake, with Mount Meru and Kilimanjaro in the hazy distance across the Masai Steppe.

The Ngorongoro Crater, ten miles across and almost sheer sided, is a sheltered animal haven containing probably the highest concentration of wildlife anywhere — zebra, elephant, rhino and buffalo graze the crater floor, while lion and leopard shelter in the shade of the trees by its lakes. From Ngorongoro we descend to the surrounding Serengeti plains — a sea of grasslands, home of the great herds of wildebeest, gazelle and giraffe. Here too is a chance of seeing the rare cheetah as it surveys its giant larder.

Descending again into the Rift Valley we make our way to Lake Natron where we will encounter the splendid Masai tribe — a proud, fierce nomadic people who wander freely between Tanzania and Kenya herding their cattle.

The rough tracks give way to better roads as we approach Mt. Kilimanjaro. After the heat and dust of 'up-country' travel we now have a day to relax in the cool, comfortable and easy surroundings of Kibo 6,000 ft./1,800 m — the foot of the mountain, before returning via Korogwe, to Dar es Salaam.

For those of us taking the 'Kilimanjaro Option' we start our climb after this rest/preparation day at Kibo. Returning from the mountain we continue, as above, to Dar.



Kilimanjaro Option 7 Days

The ascent to the summit of Africa's highest mountain 19,340 ft./5860 m. is a long, hard uphill walk rather than a technical climb. A guide accompanies the party and there are porters to carry supplies. Each night is spent in mountain huts.

If you are reasonably fit and the conditions favourable and providence smiles you will reach the summit from where the view, as dawn spreads over the plains below, is breathtaking. The descent back to base takes a further two days. No particularly specialised equipment is needed to make the climb, but the cold temperatures at the summit should not be underestimated.

From Kibo Hotel at the base of Kilimanjaro:

Day 1: Preparation.

Day 2: To Mandara Hut, 9,000 ft./2736 m. An easy walk through grasslands and forest.

Day 3: To Horombo Hut, 12,300 ft./3736 m. Sharp climb to Podo-carpus Hill then easy going over moorlands of rock and wild flowers.

Day 4: To Kibo Hut 13,500 ft./4,712 m. Harder going as altitude increases. Exposed reaches of sand and volcanic dust. Cold at Kibo after sun sets.

Day 5: To summit and return to Kibo Hut. 1.30 a.m. start to reach the summit at sunrise. Steep and hard going especially over the last 1,000 ft./300 m. to top (Gillmans point) — but once you're there, it's been worth every gasping breath! Return to Kibo Hut.

Day 6: To base and Kibo Hotel. Descent usually takes 6 hours, with a break at Mandara.

Day 7: Today is set aside for rest, recuperation and celebration at Kibo base.

Mountain Gorilla Safari

DAR ES SALAAM to DAR ES SALAAM 34 days (41 days including KILIMANJARO) ● 2,750 miles/4,400 km

Departure Dates and Price:

See page 3.

Maximum Group Size: 21.

Transport & Accommodation:

Expedition truck/Camping. N.B. Some departures use internal air flight on return to Dar es Salaam.

Connecting Flights: Allocation on group flights from/to London.

Remarks: The (optional) climb of **Kilimanjaro** starts on day 33 of the itinerary below, and includes transport back to Dar es Salaam at the end of the climb.

Itinerary Guideline: Day 1: In Dar es Salaam / 2: Dar es Salaam, the Indian Ocean / 3-10: Across the wide plains, the Masai Steppe to Rusumo Falls and Rwanda; the forested hills of the Ruwenzori to Kigali and Ruhengeri / 11-14: The Volcano National Park, on foot with guides to the families and groups of Mountain

Gorilla / 15-20: Return to the plains and Tanzania, Lake Victoria at Mwanza to: / 21-27: The Game Parks and wildlife of the Serengeti, Ngorongoro crater and Lake Manyara / 28-30: The Great Rift Valley and the Masai / 31 and 32: To Arusha, Moshi and the base of Mt Kilimanjaro at Marangu / 33: In Marangu / 34: Return to Dar es Salaam



This is a major expedition and is still regarded as one of the most adventurous Brief Encounters. As well as enjoying the easier life and travels of the East Africa safari it includes a journey across remote north-eastern Tanzania into the Ruwenzori ranges and the penetration of dense tropical forest to see the gorillas in the mountains near Ruhengeri.

As visas for Rwanda must be obtained prior to leaving Dar es Salaam, we shall spend 2-3 days exploring this historically important coastal region up to Bagamoyo. Stanley, Livingstone, Burton and Speke all passed through Bagamoyo and, it was to this city that Arab caravans brought their cargoes of ivory and half-dead slaves for shipment. The air is heavy and humid as if haunted by the ghosts of captives in their thousands.

We shall first cross the southern edge of the Masai Steppe, through Dodoma and over rough tracks across the central plains of Tanzania entering the steep mountainous country of Rwanda at the Rusumo Falls. Before us lie the Ruwenzori, the fabled 'mountains of the moon', a great range that separates the rolling East African plain from the dense, steaming jungles of Central Africa.

It is then an easy day's drive to the Rwandan capital of Kigali where we pass a few hours in relative civilisation before heading off towards our main objective, the Mountain Gorillas.

Despite their great size, (male gorillas can grow to 6 feet/1.8m and weigh up to 450 pounds/205 kgs) these shy and gentle creatures are in grave danger of becoming extinct, and are now only found in the deepest part of a tiny enclave of virgin forest which borders on Rwanda, Zaire and Uganda.

Man's encroachment on this area threatens the survival of the mountain gorilla. Poaching for trophies is currently under control. However, although funds raised from people seeing this rare noble species at such close hand is what has ensured their survival, at present at least, the whole balance remains precarious. Ours is an uncommon opportunity.

Our observation of the gorillas involves us going in small parties, with a guide, to the area where a gorilla family is likely to be. (This can involve up to 5 hours of difficult trekking through thick jungle.) They live in family groups which range from 5 to 20 members. We will find ourselves literally crawling on hands and knees through the undergrowth, with our guides imitating the different sounds made by the gorillas to put these amazing creatures at their ease.

Being there with Gorillas in the wild is like no other experience.

After this unforgettable encounter we head back to Kigali, and cross into Tanzania, skirting the flat exposed southern shores of Lake Victoria, through Mwanza and on to the vast Serengeti plain.

The second half of this expedition follows much the same route as the East Africa Safari described on the previous page — Lake Manyara, Ngorongoro crater and the Serengeti National Park — and to the base of Mt. Kilimanjaro. After the heat and dust of 'up-country' travel we now have a day to relax in the cool, comfortable and easy surroundings of Kibo 6,000ft/1,800m — the foot of the mountain, before returning, via Korogwe, to Dar es Salaam.

For those of us taking the 'Kilimanjaro Option' (see page 24) we start our climb after this rest/preparation day at Kibo. Returning from the mountain we continue, as above, to Dar.



Peru and the Incas

LIMA to LA PAZ (or vice versa) 28 days ● 1,950 miles/3,120 km

Departure Dates and Price: See page 4.

Maximum Group Size: 24.

Transport & Accommodation: Expedition truck/Inca Trail on foot, various boats.

Camping/Local hotels in Lima, Cuzco and La Paz.

Connecting Flights: Allocation on group flights from/to London.

Remarks: Inca Trail: Trekking at heights between 10,000 and 13,000 ft/3-4,000m. It is a serious yet very rewarding experience.

(Lg), below, denotes local guide for comprehensive tour. As shown in dates and prices, some departures operate on a reverse itinerary.

Itinerary Guideline: Day 1: In Lima / 2 and 3: Drive south to Pachacamac and Pisco; boat trip to Ballestas Island (Lg) / 4: The Nazca Lines (optional bird's-eye flight) / 5 and 6: Along Pacific coast to Arequipa / 7: In Arequipa / 8-11: Through desert and Volcano country to Colca canyon and climb into the high Andes to Cuzco /

12-15: Inca Trail to Machu Picchu (see description below) / 16 and 17: In and around Cuzco; old city and outlying Inca sites / 18-21: Across the Altiplano to the Urubamba, Pisco, Puno and the shores of Lake Titicaca / 22-24: By boat via reed islands to Amantani to overnight with island families (Lg), around the lake to Copacabana / 25: Ferry across lake to Bolivia and descend cliff road into La Paz / 26 and 27: In La Paz, back streets and Indian markets / 28 Depart La Paz.



Here the Andes are compressed to their thinnest, thrusting up their highest peaks above unrelenting folds of valley and plateau. The rain forests of the Amazon basin reach for the empty Atacama desert of the Pacific coast, while hidden among the bleak Cordilleras is the jewel of Lake Titicaca and the stark remains of the Inca Empire.

Huge stone fortresses, temples and arches lie scattered and forgotten along the hilltops, and hidden in mist and silence lies Machu Picchu, the last stronghold of the Incas.

South of Lima, a short boat trip from the Paracas peninsula takes us to the Ballestas Islands — a beautiful rugged haven for marine wild-life. At Nazca vast triangular or parallel lines and enormous outlines of animals and birds are etched in the plain — although unexplained, theories abound.

The craggy foothills of the Andes run down to the coast and we turn inland to Arequipa, set in a beautiful valley dominated by the snow-capped cone of Volcan Misti.

In the wild countryside beyond Arequipa is the Colca Canyon, the biggest in the Americas and reputed to be twice the size of the Grand Canyon. We camp on the rim of this vast chasm whose protective walls are sanctuary to the fabled condor. Early morning and evening are the best time to see these great birds that have retreated to this haven among the snow-capped volcanoes, giant cacti and remote Indian villages.

We are soon climbing along the tortuous route through the Cordilleras to Cuzco, royal capital of the great Inca Empire. Every street has its walls, arches and doorways of such precisely carved stone that the Spaniards were unable to destroy them. Instead they built their own comparatively crude top-work,

and cathedrals crammed with re-smelted Inca gold rose on the foundations of idolatrous temples.

Overlooking the city is the fortress of Sacsayhuaman, scene of the bloodiest fighting and citadel of the Sapa Inca, constructed from stone blocks weighing hundreds of tons; fitted so tightly that a knife blade can scarcely be slid between them.

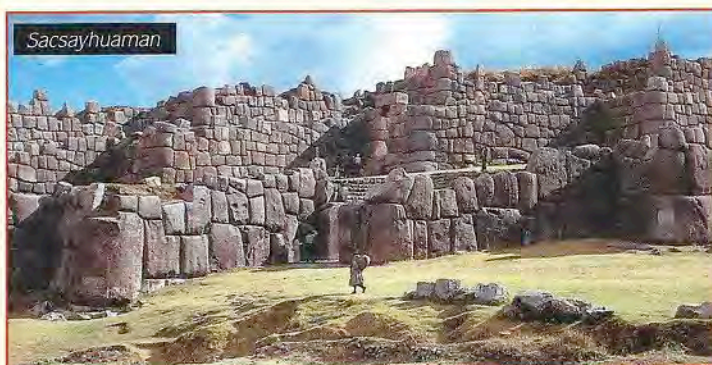
To trek the Inca Trail is to follow the same route to Machu Picchu as the loaded llamas and messengers of the Empire. Much of the path is still paved with steps cut into the mountain sides over 13,000 ft/3,940 m passes.

TREKKING THE INCA TRAIL TO MACHU PICCHU

Day 1: We travel by local train to the starting point of our trek at 'Km 88'. For 5 hours the small, crowded string of carriages zig-zags upwards out of Cuzco and down along the Urubamba river. From Km 88 we cross the river and start an easy walk upwards to Waillabamba. From here the route is steeper as we climb the forested hills to make camp in a clearing beside the trail.

Day 2: An early start to reach the top of the pass at 13,700 ft/4,150 m. It's slow and hard going but the views from the top are spectacular. We rest here over the mid-day before a steep descent and short climb up to Rumouraqay and our camp for the night by the stream below Sayacmarka.

Day 3: The scenery on this last day is remarkable. All around are the misty jungle covered mountains above the steep gorges of the Urubamba's tortuous path. Here there is easy walking down through patches of light jungle and open tracts of wild flowers and shrubs to reach Winai-Waina, the well preserved ruins of an Inca village. Two hours of steep path and narrow bridges brings us to the stairway of the



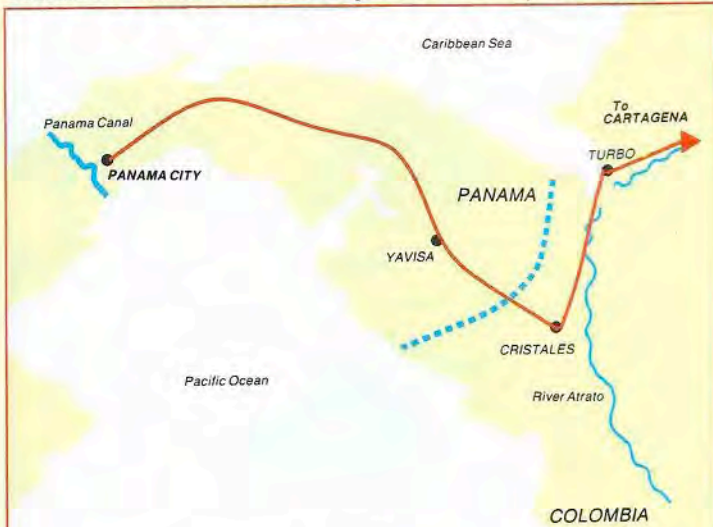
sungate and Machu Picchu — lost city of the Incas.

We return to Cuzco by train and take a long dusty road up through the mountains and out on to the Altiplano — the undulating plateau high in the Andes. The rarefied atmosphere and the constant temperature fluctuations produce a lethargy that is typified in the vacant stare of llamas and in the limpid waters of Lake Titicaca. We can

travel by boat across the lake to the floating reed islands of the Uros Indians, who live in humble reed dwellings, catching fish from the lake.

From the lakeside town of Puno, we cross the Bolivian frontier and follow a scenic, dirt track via Copacabana to an unforgettable cliff-edge view of La Paz, the highest 'capital' city in the world, set in natural bowl 11,700 ft/3,550 m up in the Andes.

PANAMA to CARTAGENA (or vice versa) 16 days ● 100 miles/160 km by foot and dug-out canoe



Departure Dates and Price:

See page 4.

Maximum Group Size: 10.

Transport & Accommodation:

Local and hired transport to track's end/by foot and canoe across Darien. Camping/hotels in Panama and Cartagena.

Connecting Flights:

Group flights available from/to London.

Remarks: Any additional clothing/belongings not required in the Darien will be air freighted between Panama City and Cartagena (or vice versa). The cost of this service to you is \$10 U.S. per Kilogramme. It should be noted that it can take a full day to clear

the baggage from Customs Authorities.

Itinerary Guideline: Day 1: In Panama City/2: By road to Yaviza/3-9: Darien Gap Trek by foot and canoe through the villages and landmarks of Boca de Cupe, Purcuro, Pava, Palo de los Letras Cristales/10-13: Walking excursions in Parque Nacional los Katios/14: By launch to Turbo and road to Cartagena/15: Cartagena and beaches/16: Depart Cartagena.

THE JUNGLE TREK OF A LIFETIME

A traverse of the barely penetrable Darien Gap by canoe and on foot is surely one of the most incredible jungle treks in the world, practical only during four months of the year (December to March).

The Darien lies as an almost total physical barrier across the southern end of the Central American isthmus cutting off communities to north and south. This magnificent region of absolutely untouched tropical forest situated between the two great oceans has a somewhat exaggerated if not undeserved reputation as "hostile to man" and an image among armchair travellers of almost fairytale proportions. In fact it is a tough, awe-inspiring jungle journey on which it is necessary to travel light. Only minimal equipment is carried while other gear is air-freighted between Panama and Barranquilla (reasonable amounts at no personal cost).

Contrary to ready assumption, the rivers of the Darien are inclined to run laterally in its central depression, the high ground on either side dropping away to its two coastlines. This allows for

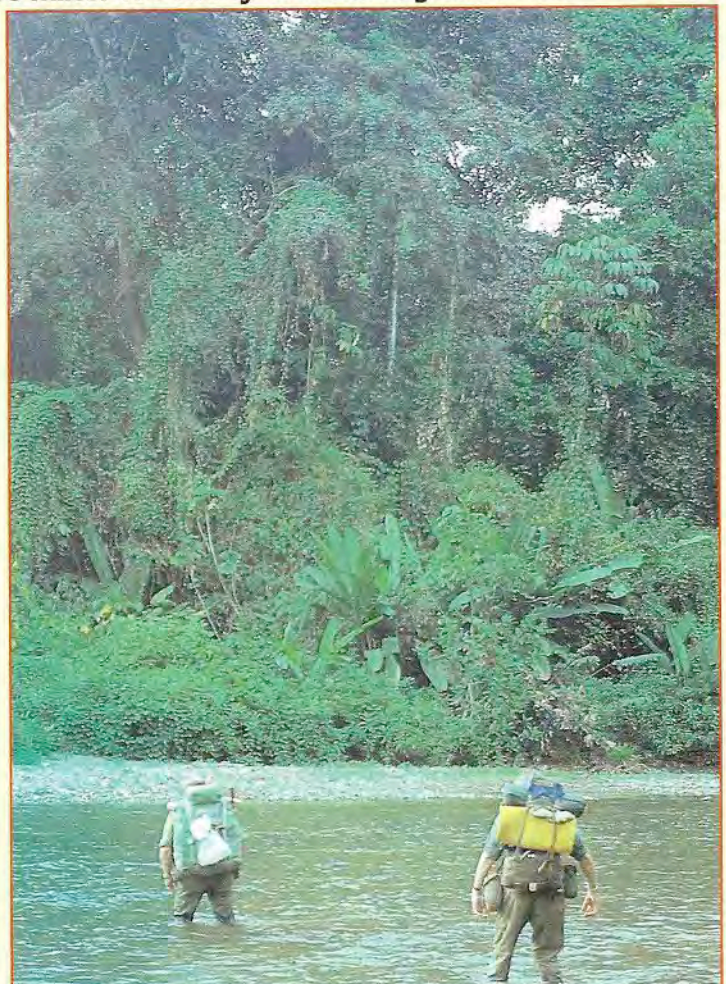
penetration by dug-out canoe up these narrowing shallowing rivers then up and over the dense jungle-clad hills of the watershed (which is the ridge forming the Panama/Colombia border).

Cuna and Choco Indians are friendly, their river-side villages interesting. The jungle is simply extraordinary with giant balsa trees, huge ferns, tree orchids, spectacular bird life and fireflies at streamside campsites as bright as cigarettes in the blackness.

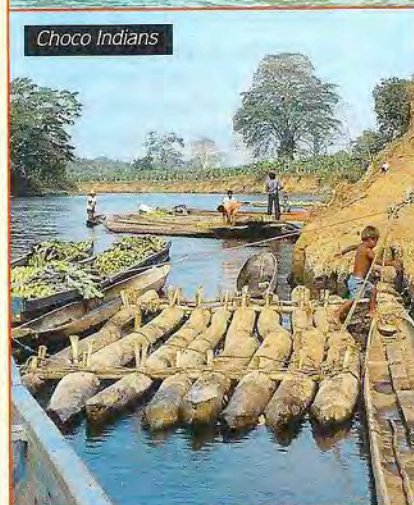
The descent on the Colombian side is through a maze of serpentine tributaries before reaching Cristales, the ranger post of the Parque Nacional Natural Los Katios.

From here canoes transport us through the everglade and swamp — great arthritic roots of a haunted forest — opening up into meadows of water-hyacinth that clog the Atrato before this Andean river disgorges in the Atlantic.

At the end of one such crossing someone was heard to say "I wouldn't mind if I never went to another jungle again — it couldn't possibly compete with the Darien!"



Choco Indians



Darien



More Darien

YOUR COMPANY: People, Vehicles, Food & Equipment,

ENCOUNTER OVERLAND

Encounter Overland is all about people, distinct individuals who, we are well aware, are interested in new travel experiences — not in being herded around on a guided tour. The basis of our expeditions is participation and sound all-round preparation, leaving it to the continents themselves to supply the challenge and the unexpected.

E.O. is represented around the world and it's therefore no surprise that a typical group will consist of perhaps six or more different nationalities. It is a very unusual trip indeed where the male/female ratio is not well balanced — and you're not wrong if you think that's quite important!

What's more, people who join us have clearly sensed the essence of such projects — that is the need to lend a hand — for there is a lot of laughs and a lot of fun in helping to make these trips really happen... and expressing yourself, not suppressing yourself, in the process.

E.O. has always been the expedition organiser synonymous with people under 40. There is a strong commitment to this mainly, it should be said, in the interests of group harmony. Experience has shown that a young group is most likely to become a compatible team, better able to share the experiences and challenges.

Combined with this is the basic principle that the cost of each project is shared and covers all expenses — well-planned, well-budgeted. You have a right to know the total amount in advance rather than having your personal spending monies used up in miscellaneous food and other 'kitties'.

YOUR LEADER/DRIVER

You can be sure that the project's Leader/Driver has been carefully selected and trained and has acquired sound knowledge and experience of all practical aspects of expeditioning, not only the driving and mechanical skills but the ability to get jobs done effectively. The E.O. Leader/Drivers are known for their resourcefulness, possessing a unique reputation for getting the problem solved — anything from border hassles to rebuilding washed-out bridges.



Vehicles

Conditions that include sand and mud, mountain gradients, potholed tracks and fast open roads call for a very versatile vehicle — and Encounter's are expertly designed, built and maintained with years of professional experience. Ours are the best and most comprehensively equipped expedition workshops — bar none!

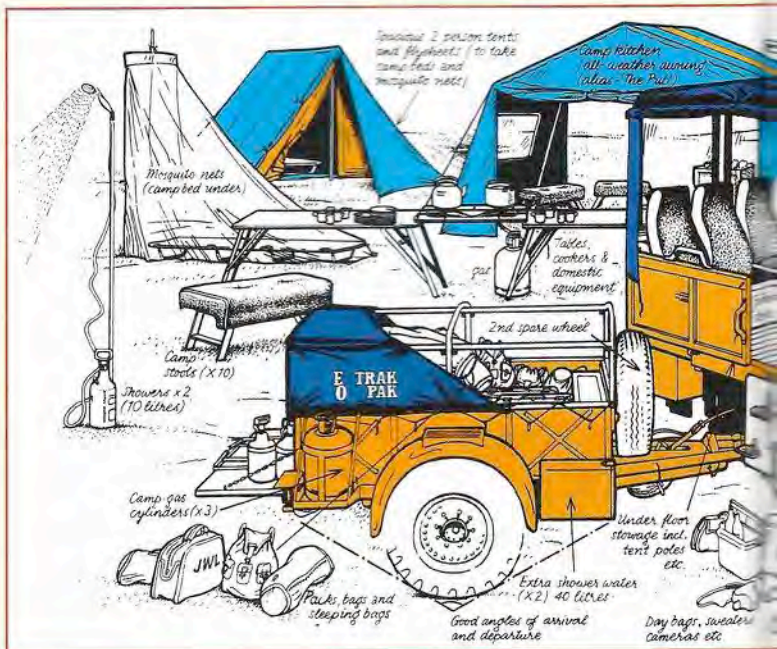
It is our confident claim that the E.O. way works best. Others use similar-sized machinery for a larger group, yet without the carrying capacity of the cross-country trailer. Also, elsewhere, you are being persuaded that certain equipment, that we know is well worth having, won't be missed.

EXPEDITION TRUCKS

In Africa and Asia the latest 'M' series four-wheel-drive Bedfords (illustrated here) are used. In South America, turbo-charged Dodges are the norm (see page 49).

In the Bedford the windowed 'soft-top' which can be fully opened (in game parks, for example) can also provide shaded all-round vision as well as complete weather protection when required. There is good, safe forward vision at all times. Deep-cushioned individual coach seats (not padded benches) are fitted throughout.

THE ADVENTURE MACHINE —



These give back and head support as well as plenty of leg and elbow room, with sufficient under-seat stowage for expedition provisions. Long-range fuel and water tanks give a priceless independence from civilisation.

The E.O. truck with its cross-country 'Trak-Pak' is built for a maximum of 21 people including staff — and that's less than other operators, who are obliged to fit more people (at the expense of key equipment) into a lot less space. In the words of at least one E.O.er — "It is a bit worrying to see other people en route so crammed in and with few provisions and with little space for even some of the essentials".

Encounter's is the most proven overland expedition equipment in the world. It is called upon to work well within design specifications, the weight being spread over the three (not two) axles of the com-

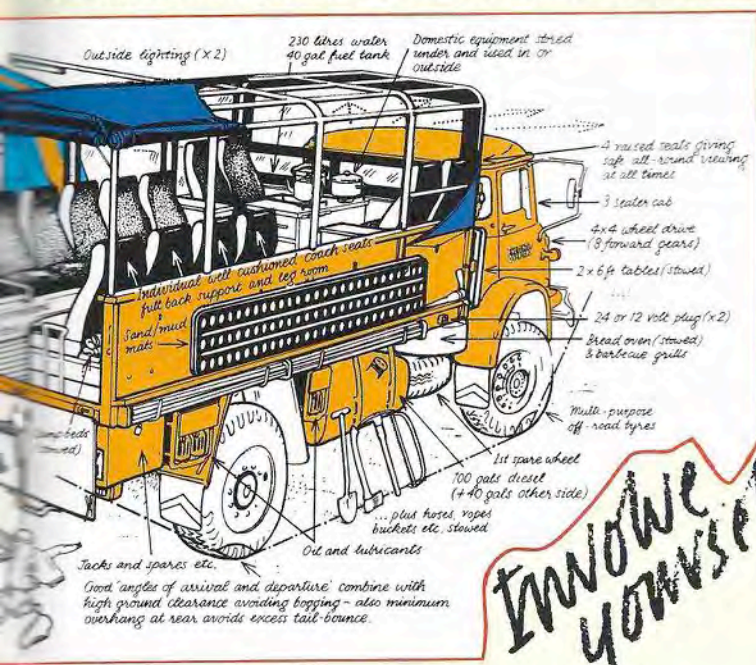
plete unit — less stress and with better weight distribution — important while crossing make-shift bridges, for example. It is not top-heavy and there is clearance under low trees.

EXPEDITION LANDROVERS

Although operational costs (per person) go up a notch, on certain projects there can be a number of advantages using these smaller vehicles; for example when new routes are reconnoitred or mountain passes are exceptionally narrow or when the amount of interest in a particular project might be a bit difficult to predict. The group size, using the versatile cross-country long-wheelbase Landrover is 8 (including E.O. staff). They operate with a light trailer and the equipment is to the same high standards and specifications as that used throughout E.O.



Geared to a closeness with nature



Know Yourself!



Our trucks are not so much vehicles as part of a way of life — our kind of people are not so much tourists as travellers — Africa, Asia, South America are not so much continents to be crossed as worlds to be explored.

Food and Equipment

E.O. foodstocks are far superior to any of those where a 'kitty system' is used by organisers who are invariably more cramped. With E.O. there is a well-founded confidence in proper food and a balanced diet, lightly spiced with some interesting meals out.

Campbeds, camp-seats, 'The Pub', tables, showers, outside lighting, etc as well as the best of more standard equipment are all included.

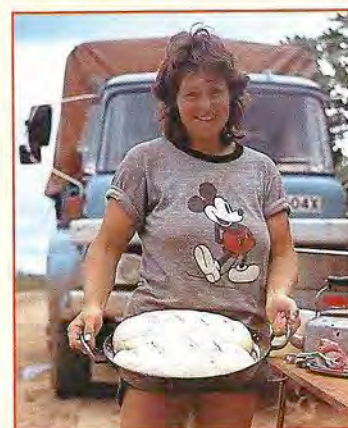
Life en route

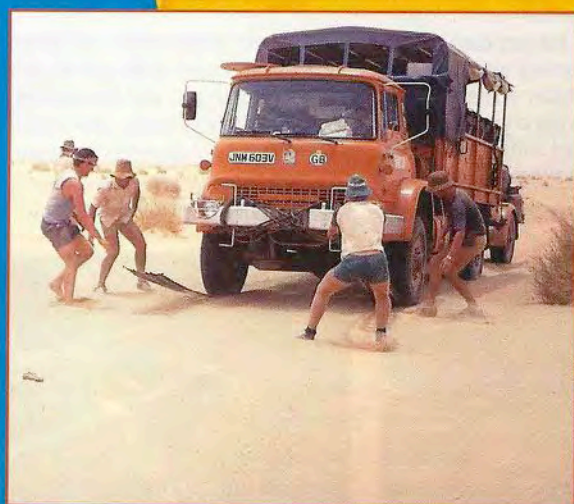
Usually up about dawn, we would soon have had breakfast and be on the move (if that's the plan). Each day varies widely but the pace is generally relaxed, the day's route, places of interest, watering points, shopping and the day's destination agreed. We fix a light lunch, there are stops for camera buffs, etc. and impromptu halts and detours in response to the unexpected.

Camp is selected and pitched and the evening meal prepared at leis-

ure. Campfires, diaries, discussion, music, quiet evening walks — yet everyone pitching in, a roster-type system deciding the shopping, cooking and so on but with each of us lending a hand to the 'daily round'. On warm nights, one might choose

to dispense with tents to sleep under a canopy of stars (what we call "not a five but our five million star Hotel"). By then, the day's mud or dust, the heat and humidity to which all may have been subjected, can have been washed away.





Asia with Africa

Overlanding is the way to combine Asia with Africa. Here, using the overlanding way of life, Asia leads into Africa . . . after all, is there any reason why continents should not combine? Why expeditions, like cultures, should not cross labels of convenience?

When they do, amazing things happen.

East of Suez

KATHMANDU to CAIRO (or vice versa) 9 weeks. Page 35.

Great Overland Encounter

LONDON — NAIROBI — KATHMANDU (or vice versa) 29 weeks. Page 36.

Asia Minor and Africa — the Nile Route

LONDON — CAIRO — DAR ES SALAAM (or vice versa) 18 weeks. Page 37.

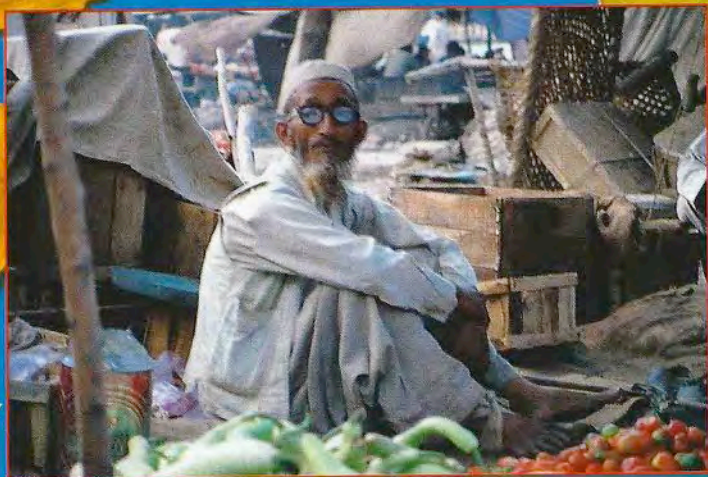
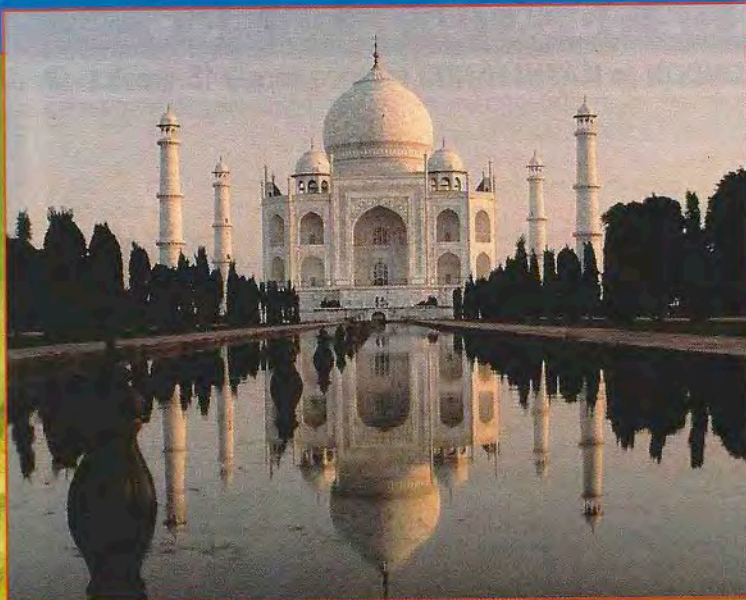
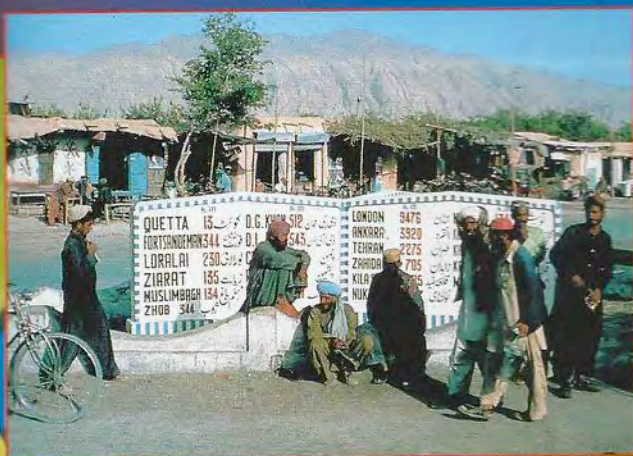
Indo-African Encounter

LONDON — NAIROBI — BOMBAY to KATHMANDU (or vice versa) 21 weeks 3 days. Page 41.

Cradles of Our Civilisation

LONDON to CAIRO (or vice versa) 10 weeks. Page 34.





Asia

The essence of Asia lies not only in the hustle and intrigue of its big cities or in its magnificent ancient buildings. It lies too in Asia's wastes, across which are etched some of the great invasion routes of history, and in its apparently unimportant villages with their mystics and gurus.

In India itself you can sense the philosophy that has shaped Hinduism and can witness the vitality that generates from this seemingly apathetic religion into the everyday life of common folk.

Particularly if you are inclined to examine (if not actually challenge) our accepted western values, you are likely to be deeply and spontaneously stirred. No matter how accurate your preconceptions, if you are wise you will bring an open mind.

Asia's essence also rests where the foothills of Nepal roll away towards Tibet and in Ladakh where the wild stream of the upper Indus forms a half-moat around crag-top Buddhist monasteries.

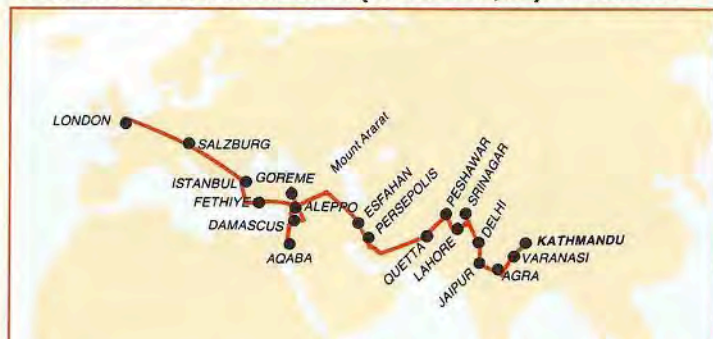
Across Europe and through central Asia to Kashmir, India and Nepal remains one of the last great overland adventures, brimming with interest; *"more in a few months of travel than most people experience in a lifetime"*.

Backroads of Asia

LONDON to KATHMANDU (or vice versa) 15 weeks. Page 32.

The Backroads of Asia

LONDON to KATHMANDU (or vice versa) 15 weeks ● 10,365 miles/16,690 km



Departure Dates and Price: See page 3
Maximum Group Size: 21
Transport & Accommodation: Expedition truck. Camping: houseboat accom. in Srinagar (Kashmir) (approx 5 nights).
Connecting/onward flights: Some choice and good prices to/from Kathmandu.
Remarks: (Lg), below, denote local guide for comprehensive tour.
Itinerary Guideline: Weeks 1 and 2 Belgium and Germany to Salzburg and Austria; across the Alps into Yugoslavia and south through Belgrade to Macedonia and the Aegean coast of northern Greece, then to Turkey to explore the backstreets and bazaars of Istanbul (Lg).
Weeks 3 to 7 The beaches and history of the Turkish coastline, to Tarsus, Aleppo and Palmyra in the Syrian desert, south to Damascus and Amman in Jordan, Petra and the Red Sea at Aqaba.
Weeks 8 to 11 North through Jordan to Jerash, Syria and again to Turkey — the climb through the Taurus Mountains to the Anatolian Plateau and Cappadocia. Winding passes, the high pasturelands and nomads of Eastern Turkey — to Mt. Ararat and Iran. Esfahan — city of mosques and Islam's highest artistry and to the Pillars of Persepolis before setting out across the Dasht-e-Lut to Baluchistan and Quetta in Pakistan.
Weeks 12 to 15 To Peshawar, the north-west frontier — the Indus. Lahore, the Punjab, and India. Kashmir and a rest on the houseboats in the cool air of the Karakoram before returning to the Northern Plains — Delhi, Jaipur (Lg), Agra and the Taj Mahal, Khajuraho (Lg), the Ganges and Varanasi — and so to the foothills, Chitwan, Kathmandu and the heights of the Himalayas.

WESTERN EUROPE, YUGOSLAVIA, GREECE, TURKEY, SYRIA, JORDAN, IRAN, PAKISTAN, INDIA, NEPAL.

To find the beauty and solitude, to head off towards ruins or nomads, to respond confidently to the lure of where a track may lead, as well as to best cope with the variety of conditions, four-wheel-drive is invaluable.

This self-sufficiency, freedom and flexibility mean we get well off the worn path and explore peaceful unspoilt wilderness regions, finding places of ancient and natural splendour out of reach of less versatile vehicles, meeting people whose manner and welcome are traditional and genuine.

EUROPE, ASIA MINOR AND THE HOLY LAND

Through Belgium and Germany's Rhine Valley, Salzburg, the Austrian Alps, and Yugoslavia to Greece. Along the Aegean shores of sun and eternity are fine beaches, fishing villages and the haunting strains of bouzouki music.

Istanbul, port and metropolis, is packed with interest. We have ample time to visit the famous mosques and the Topkapi Palace, to explore the waterfront and the labyrinth of narrow, cobbled alleys. The famed Grand Bazaar does not thrust bargains upon those who walk its covered ways; but they are there to be found with discerning search and hard bartering.

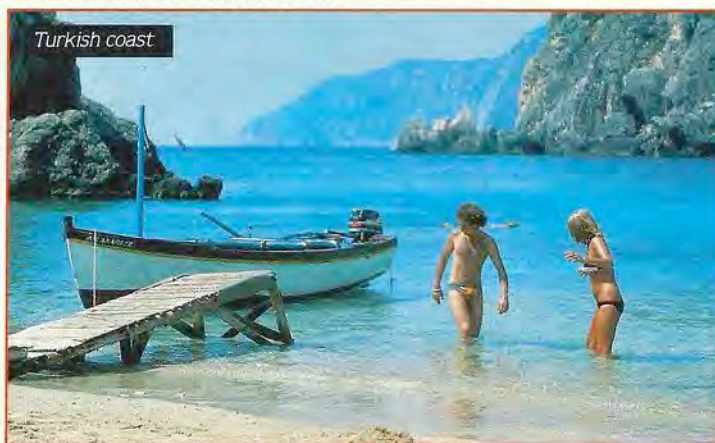
There are the bridges that span the Golden Horn and the myriad domes and slender minarets that form the city skyline, and all

around is that aromatic blend of western order with the hustle, spice and intrigue of the east.

We cross the Bosphorous into Asia and head south into a region that has played such an important part in history. Here in Asia Minor are many of the early Greek city-states where Christianity found a first tenuous foothold; where fertile minds learned the advanced techniques of the Middle East and sowed the first seeds of western philosophy and learning. Many of the classical sites are in a fine state of preservation and in this open museum one gains more by surrendering pretensions of archeological mastery to the enlightening joys of exploring them in the eternal sunshine.

Ephesus was the mightiest city of Roman Asia, where Paul the apostle preached and was imprisoned. Inland is Pamukkale where hot mineral springs form huge marble-white terraces of sediment. Here too are the Roman Baths at Hierapolis, where you can bathe in the warm clear water of the pillar-strewn pool. The following evening we reach Fethiye on the south coast of Turkey. Here the Mediterranean is an endless stretch of rocky coves and sandy beaches. There is time to rest and laze and attempt nothing more ambitious than working on the suntan.

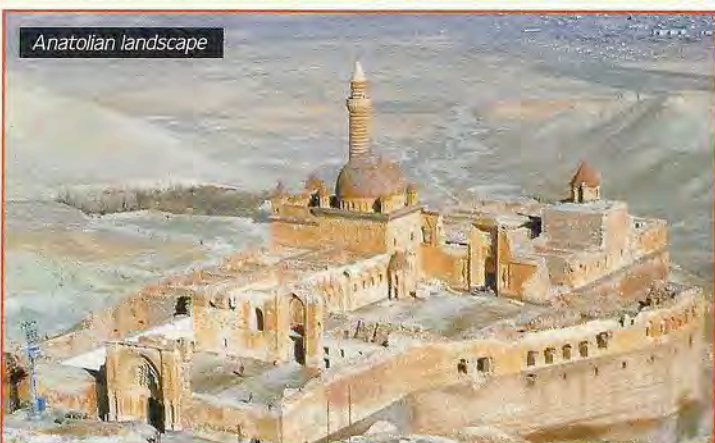
Here splendid seascapes are studied with the ruins of antiquity. Thermessos is situated in pine-woods on almost inaccessible cliffs a thousand feet above the



Turkish coast



Persian bakery



Anatolian landscape

sea. Side was a slave centre, providing the world's first democracies with their labour force of wretched savages from the mountainous hinterland. Aspendos has one of the most exciting amphitheatres in the world and along this coast there are fine castles built in the days of the Crusades. Today they stand silent and deserted.

Beyond Tarsus we cross into Syria to Aleppo and Homs, to Queen Zenobia's desert capital at Palmyra, to the bazaars and pavement cafés of Damascus, and the dominant ramparts of the Crusader castle of Krak des Chevaliers.

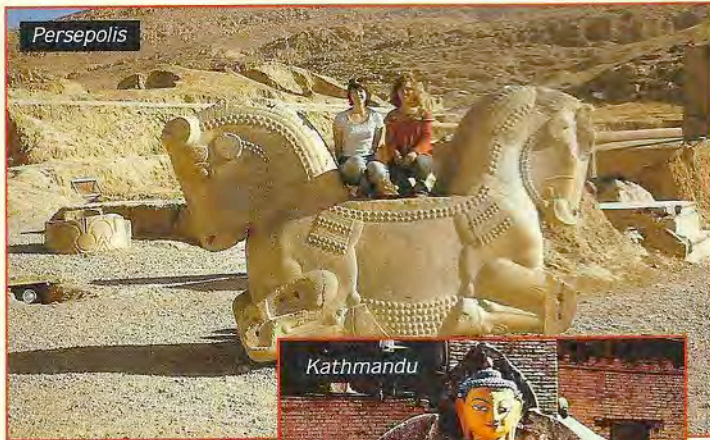
We arrive in Jordan, land of the Bedouin Arab and the Dead Sea. Near Amman, the capital, is the magnificent pillar-lined oval forum at Jerash. Sacred to Christian, Moslem and Jew is Jerusalem. A possible opportunity here for an independent excursion

at own expense to cross to the West Bank and Jerusalem. The red sandstone façades of Petra carved in the canyon walls of the Wadi Musa appear as we emerge from the narrow defile that has concealed this strange city for centuries. Continuing south we journey to the tip of the Red Sea and the azure blue and beaches of Aqaba.

EASTERN TURKEY AND PERSIA

After re-entering Turkey, in the region around Nevsehir, are tiny villages built in the sandstone rock. And here is Goreme a place of eerie splendour, of troglodyte dwellings and beautifully frescoed seventh century cave churches. The landscape becomes barren as we cross the high plateau of Eastern Turkey, where the Tigris and Euphrates rise, and we continue eastwards past Mount Ararat towards Iran.

Esfahan is surely the loveliest of all the old Persian cities and is



Persepolis



Charming snakes



Himalayan backdrop

famous for the continuance of its ancient crafts. Nimble-fingered girls work faster than the eye can see, tying the million knots that make a Persian carpet. The lofty bazaar echoes to the ring of hammers. Copper, bronze and silver are all worked here, the craftsmanship as traditional as the legends depicted on their trays and vases. The techniques and motifs of tile-ceramics are as old as the first beautiful Mosque; delicate as lace, they adorn the ceilings and walls of all the holy places of Esfahan.

With the **Zagros Mountains** on our right we cross the rim of the shimmering depression which is the **Great Salt Desert**, moving towards the heart of the largest land empire the world has ever known — **Persepolis**.

From this palace city 2,500 years ago King Darius embarked on

campaigns that were to stretch the Persian Empire from the Punjab to the Danube, from the Nile to Samarkand. Persia dominated the world and the Royal Palace of Persepolis was built accordingly. Now ruins remain; pillars and walls of relief carvings show the members of subject nations bringing tributes to the King.

The most exciting route is now through the mountains and down into the shimmering mirages of **Dasht-e-Lut**, the huge desert region of central Persia.

The going is sometimes rough across blinding white salt-pans and the lands of the **Kashgai tribes** with their black tents and wandering camels. The arid landscape is occasionally softened by a small date palmery or broken by the silhouette of a fortified village or a network of domed wells

and tunnels bringing its water underground across the desert.

PAKISTAN

From the small border town of **Zahedan** in south-eastern Iran, we now cross into **Pakistan** and travel through the Baluchistan desert to the city of **Quetta** and so to **Peshawar**, gateway to the Khyber Pass.

We cross the Indus at **Attock**, to **Rawalpindi** and **Lahore's** Shalimar Gardens and Red Fort.

INDIA AND NEPAL

Once in the Punjab of India we travel north through **Jammu** and begin a climb through green hazy foothills to 8,000 feet. The road goes into a mile long tunnel. On the other side we can look out across the **Valle of Kashmir**. Here we are away from the heat of the plains, to where the air is clear, to a land of beautiful and brilliantly contrasting seasons, remote from the outside world.

On the lakes near **Srinagar** the famous houseboats are moored. The food, both Indian and European, is very good — and at last a real bathroom and bath. You can take a 'shikara' out on the lovely lotus lakes, or just wander through the fascinating bazaars.

In summertime a visit to the Buddhist monasteries in the mountains of **Ladakh** (Little Tibet) is possible by road over the 11,600 foot **Zoji-la Pass** in the **Karakoram Range**.

We return to the plains to the region of the great rivers, **Jumna** and **Ganges** and after a few days in **Delhi** — India's colourful capital and seat of government of the world's largest democracy — we go to **Jaipur**. This rose-pink city is the thriving heart of Rajasthan — India's desert state of proud warrior clans, fortified towns and magnificent Maharajah palaces. The wide streets are thronged with turbaned merchants, desert travellers and the bright flash of Rajput colour.

On the banks of the Jumna at **Agra** stands the palace fort of the Moghuls, built by Akbar the Great.

In 1666 his grandson Shah Jahan died imprisoned here. His body was taken by barge across the broad sweep of the river to the great mausoleum that he had built to fulfil a promise to the memory of his Queen, Mumtaz Mahal. Her death had separated them for thirty years but now they lie together beneath the high marble dome of the dream-white **Taj Mahal**.

Not far away is **Fatehpur Sikri**, for a time the Moghul capital. It stands today almost as perfectly preserved as on the day the source of water dried up and the last occupants drifted away.

The temples at **Khajuraho** had for many years been mentioned only in whispers. The celestial beauties of this reconstructed heaven are shown in provocative attitudes, yet transcending their sensuality is a graphic, dynamic form and a sublime impression of gaiety and happiness.

Along the byways of rural India monkeys chatter in the trees, girls draw water from a village well, a bullock cart creaks slowly to the roadside, an elephant stops to watch us with a kindly eye.

There is everywhere a closeness to the rhythm of time, a gentleness and a sense of mystery and drama, an awe of life which pervades the sights and sounds of India like the ubiquitous sunlight.

At **Varanasi** the river Ganges comes slowly to life as the first rays of the sun touch the ghats along the western bank. To the temples close by the river, pious Hindus are brought to die and in the early morning their bodies are burned on sandalwood pyres. From all over India pilgrims come to Varanasi to bathe and be spiritually cleansed.

We move across the Ganges near Patna and into southern **Nepal**. The plain is behind us and we are driving through tropical vegetation with frequent fast-flowing streams. The Nepalese call this low lying jungle area 'Terai'. Here is the **Royal Chitwan National Park**, home of tiger and Indian rhino.

Horizons are close now as we begin the long climb into the foothills of the high **Himalaya**. Then as we reach the crest of the pass at 9,000 feet, we can see, from west to east, the highest mountains in the world thrusting their peaks up into the thin atmosphere.

Below lies **Kathmandu**. Houses overhang the narrow streets, the ritual music of many temples comes from every direction. Pagodas are topped in beaten gold and everywhere the eye is instructed upward. **Everest** and **Kanchenjunga** are there in the east and to the west is the **Annapurna Massif** while to the north beyond the Kathmandu valley the folds of the hills roll away towards Tibet.

Cradles of our Civilisation

LONDON to CAIRO (or vice versa) 10 weeks ● 6,400 miles/10,200 km

Departure Dates and Price: See page 4

Maximum Group Size: 21

Transport & Accommodation:

Expedition truck. Red Sea steamer. Overnight train Cairo-Aswan, feluccas. Camping.

Connecting/onward Flights: Some choice and good prices to/from Cairo.

Remarks: (Lg), below, denotes local guide for comprehensive tour.

Itinerary Guideline: Weeks 1 and 2 Belgium and Germany to Salzburg; across the Alps into Yugoslavia, south through Belgrade to Macedonia and the Aegean coast of northern Greece, then to Turkey to explore the backstreets and bazaars of Istanbul (Lg).

Weeks 3-4-5-6-7 The beaches and history of the Turkish coastline, to Tarsus, Aleppo and Palmyra in the Syrian desert, south to Damascus and Amman; Jerash, Petra and the Red Sea at Aqaba.



Weeks 8-9-10 By ferry to Sinai and St. Katherine's to Cairo, the Pyramids and the Sphinx (Lg), the Nile, Luxor and the Valley of the Kings (Lg) and Abu Simbel (Lg) and return to Cairo.

EUROPE, TURKEY, SYRIA, JORDAN, EGYPT

This is a journey from the glory that was Greece, by way of Constantinople and the antiquity-studded seascapes of Turkey to the eastern provinces of the Roman Empire and the Holy Land. It is an absolutely fascinating journey of revelation and enlightenment that finally reaches the depths of our past, beside the Nile, at which point history acquires a sense of the supernatural no longer quite explaining events, though perhaps more clearly suggesting motives and forces.

Such was the dawn of our civilisation.

Through Belgium and Germany's Rhine Valley, Salzburg, and the Austrian Alps, Yugoslavia — Zagreb, Belgrade, Nis — ahead of us — is Greece — Bouzouki music, tavernas, Azure seas, olive groves, white cottages on granite hillsides. Our journey takes us through Macedonia, Alexander's birthplace and along the Aegean to Istanbul known once as Constantinople and once as Byzantium, the capital of Rome's Eastern Empire. And so on to the Troy of Helen and Achilles, the Wooden Horse and the departure of Ulysses' Odyssey. A more factual event is the teaching of St. Paul to the converted of Ephesus.

Then the agora, sulphur baths and amphitheatres of Hierapolis and Aspendos. Our odyssey continues along this beautiful Turkish coastline of beaches, crusader castles, small farms, well stocked market towns, mosques and minarets, the Taurus mountains now squeezing the road

onto the cliff edge above the pounding sea.

From Tarsus we follow St. Paul's road to Damascus by way of ancient Antioch and Aleppo, once citadels of crusader knights who also held the magnificent castle of Krak des Chevaliers which not even Saladin could capture. Into the desert to the oasis of Tadmor and to Palmyra, beautiful ruined city of Queen Zenobia astride Rome's trading route with the states of Mesopotamia on the Tigris and Euphrates.

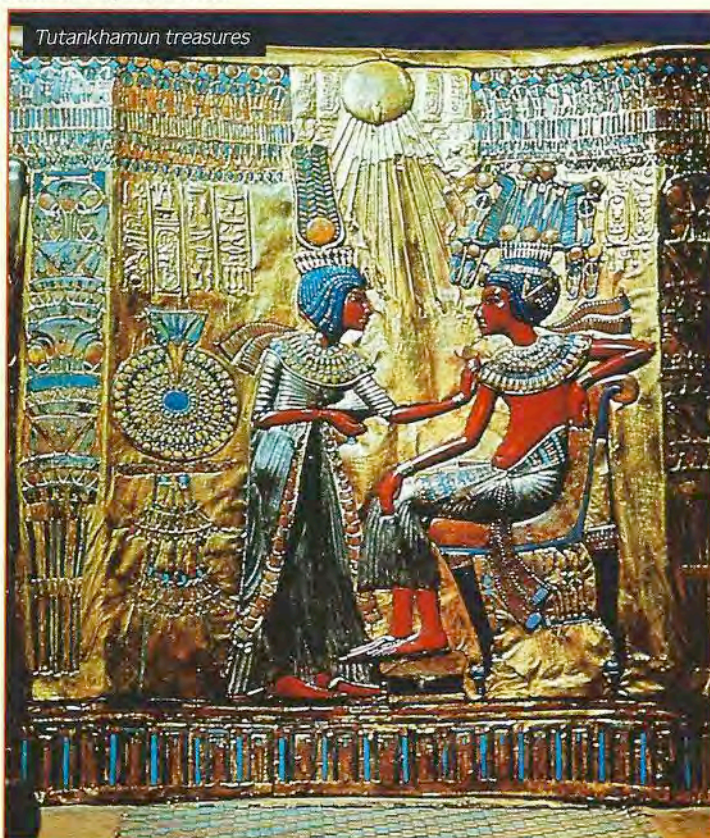
The colourful, noisy bazaars of old Damascus do justice to this most Arab capital. In Jordan we visit Jerash with its splendid oval forum and we pass through Amman towards Wadi Musa and the secret defile which hides the rose-red sandstone city of Petra whose cave-mouth treasure house is fronted with the great columns of a fine portico. Thus to Aqaba and by ferry to Nuweiba.

See page 32 'Backroads of Asia', (Europe, Asia Minor and the Holyland).

The coast of the Sinai peninsula is lapped by the warm, crystal clear waters of the Red Sea while inland along our route is the Monastery of St. Katherine. Our tracks across this desert of the Bedouin lead us at last to the Suez Canal, Cairo, the Sphinx and the Pyramids before reaching Abu Simbel.

This is Upper Egypt, fertile either side of the slow moving, purposeful Nile. Here we use the zephyrs from the desert, aboard feluccas to transport us from Aswan towards Luxor where awaits a personal encounter with the Valley of the Kings and Queens before journey's end back in Cairo.

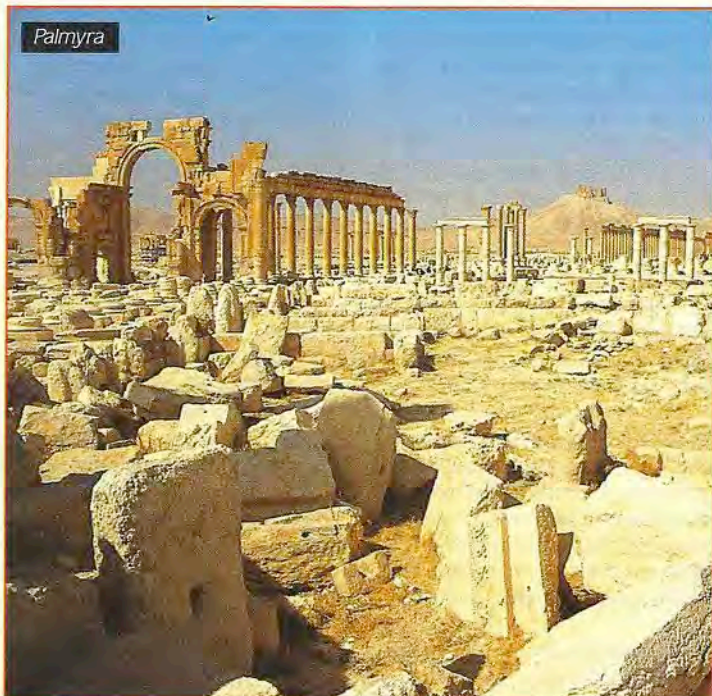
Tutankhamun treasures



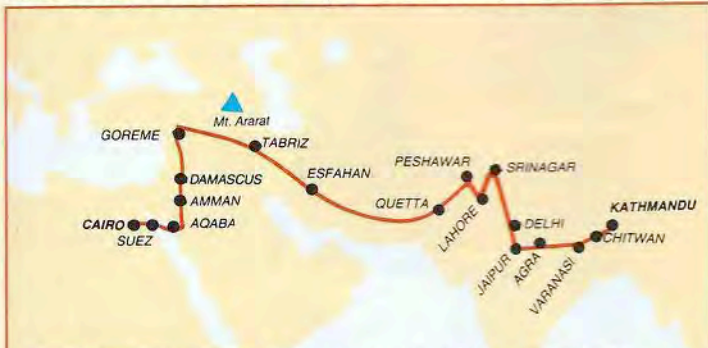
Desert lunch spot



Palmyra



CAIRO to KATHMANDU (or vice versa) 9 weeks ● 6,740 miles/10,785 km



Departure Dates and Price: See page 4
Maximum Group Size: 21
Transport & Accommodation: Expedition truck. Camping / Houseboat accom. in Srinagar (Kashmir).
Connecting/onward Flights: Some choice with good prices to meet personal needs to/from both Cairo and Kathmandu.
Remarks: (Lg), below, denotes local guide for comprehensive tour. Perhaps consider this trip in conjunction with 2 weeks Egypt (see page 20).
Itinerary Guideline: **Week 1** Across the Suez Canal and the Sinai and by ferry to Aqaba and Jordan.
Weeks 2-3-4-5 North through Jordan via Petra to Jerash, Syria and the climb through the Taurus

mountains to the Anatolian Plateau and Cappadocia. Winding passes, the high pasturelands and nomads of eastern Turkey to Mt. Ararat and Iran, Esfahan — city of mosques and Islam's highest artistry and to the Pillars of Persepolis before setting out across the Dasht-e-Lut to Baluchistan and Quetta in Pakistan.
Weeks 6-7-8-9 To Peshawar, the North-West Frontier and the Indus, Lahore, the fertile Punjab and India. Kashmir and a rest in the cool air of the Karakoram before returning to the Northern Plains — Delhi, Jaipur (Lg), Agra and the Taj Mahal, Khajuraho (Lg), The Ganges and Varanasi, and so to the foothills, Chitwan, Kathmandu and the heights of the Himalayas.

EGYPT, JORDAN, SYRIA, TURKEY, IRAN, PAKISTAN, INDIA, NEPAL.

To take this journey from Egypt through the Holy Land and Persia to the distant Himalayas is to link many of the most intriguing places of the Arab and Islamic world with those of India and Nepal.

In central Asia the desert wastes, like the sea, have a special appeal to a special person — emptiness, serenity, fulfilment, an awakening to living in mutual respect with a harsh land; interrupted, though it is, by the cacaphony of horns and hammers, shouts and transistors of the wayside bazaars as if, able to stand the solitude no longer, mankind has had to make his presence heard

And to this there is subtle counterpoint. The Indian Experience; wending a way through bullock carts and bicycles, fort and palace of Moghul Prince and Hindu Maharajah; processions and festivals, troubadours, gurus and snake charmers; tin and tented urban squalor, and of vivid blossoms — jasmine, frangipani and bougainvillaea in spacious courts and gardens. And standing along India's entire northern border, from Kashmir to Kathmandu, the massive mountains stare down; impervious to the struggles of men and Gods.

From the enigma of pyramid and sphynx and the treasures of Tutankhamen, we cross the empty Sinai to sail from Nuweiba to Aqaba. Then overland to Petra's hidden rock temples and the great pillared forum of Jerash. Damascus reveals the secrets of her covered bazaar and the stronghold of Krak des Chevaliers, the Crusader castle which not even

Saladin and his Saracen army could breach.

We reach GOREME in Turkey where Christians, fleeing from the zealots of other Gods, burrowed their cities and churches deep into the ground. Crossing the high, windswept plateau of eastern Anatolia to Mt Ararat we enter Persia to Esfahan where Islamic scholarship, art and understanding once flowered, spread and enlightened the world. Persepolis, Darius' city that was the hub of history's greatest empire, lies plundered and scattered like dried bones in the valley that was once known as Paradise.

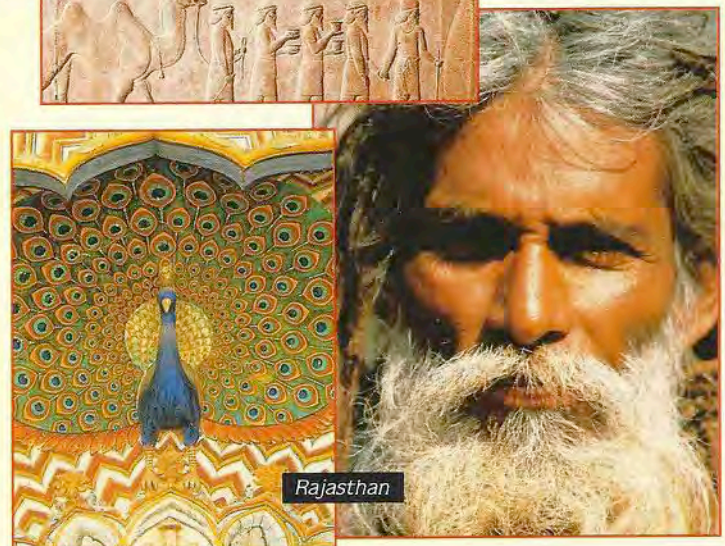
The deserts beckon us across Baluchistan to the life-giving waters and green lands beyond the Indus river, the Punjab — vociferous and political heart of Pakistan. To the north lies Peshawar and the Khyber Pass from Afghanistan, the route of all trade and conquest from the West into this coveted land of plenty between the Indus and the Ganges.

We reach India and rest among the lakes and mountains of Kashmir — eternal retreat of luxury and ease for India's invaders unable to withstand the oven heat of Summer in their newly acquired lands. Returning to the plains we arrive in Delhi, and awesome metropolis of two cities — the old and chaotic, the new and Imperial. The final great achievements of the Moghuls are enshrined at Fatehpur Sikri and the Taj Mahal. Temples of erotica stand at Khajuraho and all Hindu life and death is to be found at Varanasi.

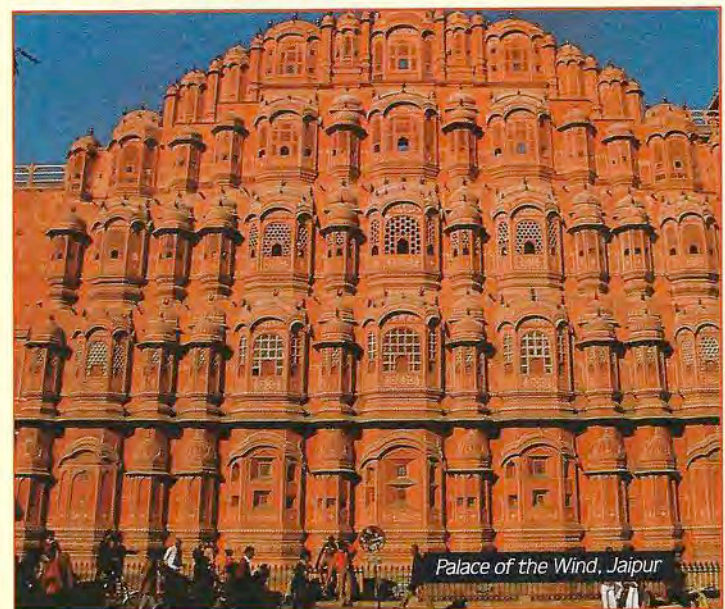
The Bengal tiger still stalks the jungles of Chitwan National Park in Nepal where the road snakes into the Himalayan foothills and



Persepolis



Rajasthan



Palace of the Wind, Jaipur

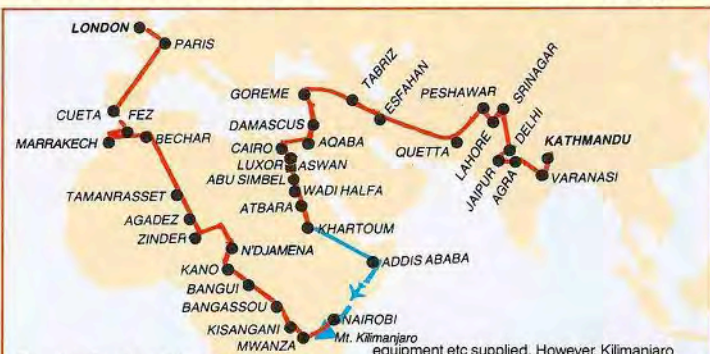
gains the ridge revealing the panorama of peaks below which nestles Kathmandu — the Shangri-La of mist shrouded legend and 'truth searching hippy'. Journey's end in this fabled city' where idols, temples

and gold gilded pagodas direct the eye constantly upward — upwards to the cold stone and icy heights of the Himalayas.

See pages 32 and 33 'Backroads of Asia', (Eastern Turkey and Persia, and following).

The Great Overland Encounter

KATHMANDU — CAIRO — NAIROBI — LONDON (or vice versa) 29 weeks ● 20,750 miles/33,400 km



Departure Dates and Price: See page 4

Maximum Group Size: 21

Transport & Accommodation: Expedition truck, Steamer lake Nasser / train Sudan / flight Khartoum-Addis-Nairobi, Camping / Houseboat accom. in Srinagar (Kashmir), (Approx 5 nights) / Hotel accom. in Khartoum and Addis Ababa.

Connecting/onward flights: Some choice with good prices to meet personal flight needs to/ from Kathmandu.

Remarks: The flight connection between Khartoum and Nairobi is an inclusive part of the overall expedition cost.

Kilimanjaro — No need to decide to climb or not until you are there and its visual lure grabs you or doesn't. For those climbing the usual daily expedition expenses are met and cooking

equipment etc supplied. However, Kilimanjaro climbing permit, use of the 3 huts, guides, rescue fund, are not included and will cost approx US\$170 per person.

This extended expedition encounters a full range and variance of terrain, climatic and weather conditions.

Itinerary Guideline: **Weeks 1 to 9** The route from Kathmandu through Nepal and India, Pakistan, Iran, Turkey and the Middle East to Egypt and Cairo is as per the itinerary guideline on page 35 (East of Suez).

Weeks 10 to 29 The route then from Cairo to Khartoum and Nairobi across East and Central Africa to the Sahara and North Africa, Spain and France to London is as per the itinerary guideline on page 42 All Africa (and 39 and 40 The Great Safari).

NEPAL, INDIA, PAKISTAN, IRAN, TURKEY, JORDAN, SYRIA, EGYPT, SUDAN, KENYA, TANZANIA, RWANDA, ZAIRE, R.C.A., CAMEROUN, CHAD, NIGER, ALGERIA, MOROCCO, EUROPE.

Often people travel with Encounter Overland first on one continent and then on another — and then even on another. Here is the chance to blend Asia and Africa on what is surely the most superlative expedition of them all.

This incredible Afro-Asian journey links so many of the most exotic places in the world. It is the journey that will change your perspective, will tilt the world on its axis so to speak and put Western culture in its proper place and proportion.

KATHMANDU to CAIRO

Overland from the high Himalaya across India to Kashmir, across the Punjab and Pakistan and the Moslem lands and desert wastes of Central Asia, the mosques and bazaars of Persia. Then through the highlands of eastern Turkey, Mount Ararat and the upper reaches of the Tigris and Euphrates and so south to the shores of the Mediterranean and the Bible lands. Great Medieval castles and ruined cities of the Roman Empire; Damascus, the River Jordan, Amman, Petra and the gulf of Aqaba. We cross by ferry to Nuweiba and traverse the Sinai Peninsula to complete our crossing of Asia.

See pages 32 and 33 'Backroads of Asia' (Eastern Turkey and Persia and following).

CAIRO to NAIROBI

Into Africa — first to Cairo, the obelisks, Pyramids and the treasures of the Pharaohs then

we travel beside Africa's main artery, the Nile leading to equatorial heartland. South to the Sudan — Wadi Halfa, Omdurman and Khartoum. We fly across the politically unstable area of Southern Sudan to Addis Ababa and stylish Nairobi.

See page 37 — The Nile Route (Upper Nile).

NAIROBI to LONDON

After Nairobi, we are on to the open plains, the home of Africa's migrating herds, wildlife roaming free through Masai Mara and Serengeti, and around Kilimanjaro in Tanzania.

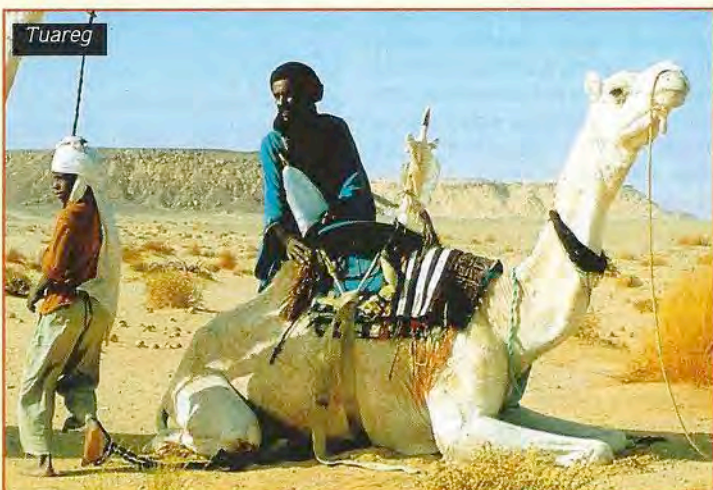
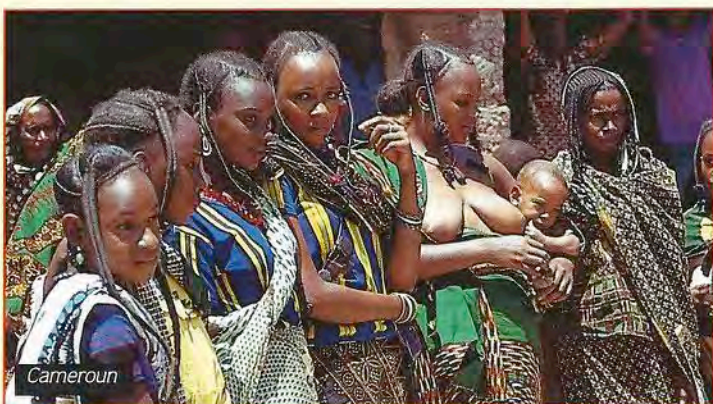
The expedition now enters an area of primeval rain forests, lush vegetation, lakes, volcanoes and remote colonies of gorillas, the mountain region in which both the Nile and Zaire (Congo) rivers rise. Uncompromising jungle, rutted tracks, precarious bridges and ferries, tribes of pygmies. Eventually emerging into the mountains of the Cameroun and the disturbingly threadbare Sahel of the Sahara's southern periphery.

The horizons of the sand sea lie ahead — days of daunting beauty and bare emptiness, until we reach Tamanrasset, the Hoggar Massif and the oases of In Salah and El Golea.

North of the oases and date groves, the Atlas mountains tower like a giant crumbling fortress entered through a massive gorge to fall towards the coast in fertile valleys from which rise colourful noisy Moroccan towns.

Finally we arrive at the Straits of Gibraltar and cross to Europe — Spain, France and England.

See pages 39 and 40. 'The Great Safari', Nairobi to London.



Asia Minor & Africa — the Nile Route

LONDON — CAIRO — DAR ES SALAAM, (or vice versa) 18 weeks ● 9,000 miles/14,490 km

Departure Dates and Price: See page 4

Maximum Group Size: 21

Transport & Accommodation: Expedition truck, Lake Steamer Aswan and train to Khartoum / flight Khartoum-Dar es Salaam. Camping / Hotel accommodation in Khartoum and Addis Ababa. **Connecting/onward flights:** Good prices available to meet your personal flight needs to/from Dar es Salaam.

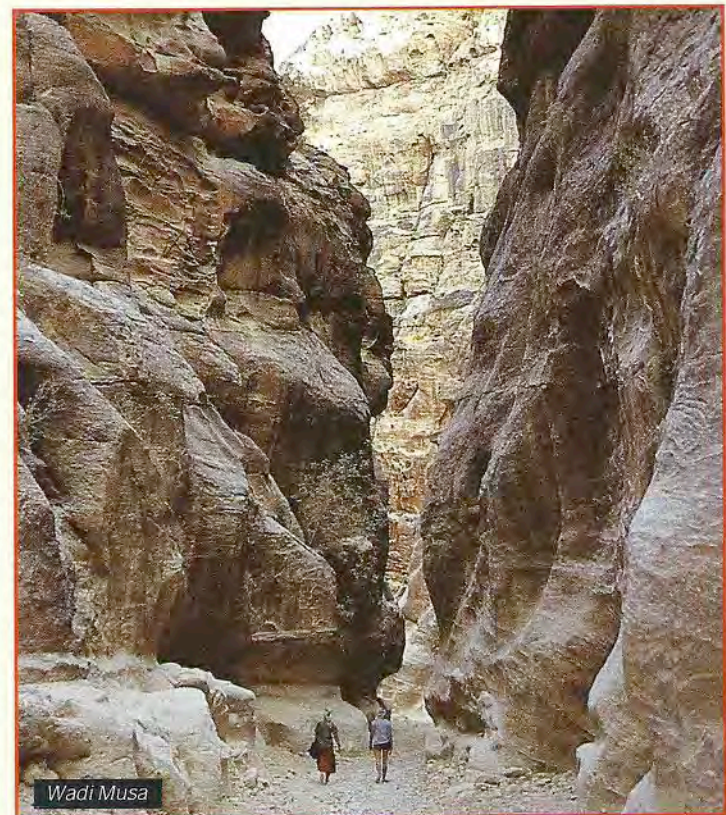
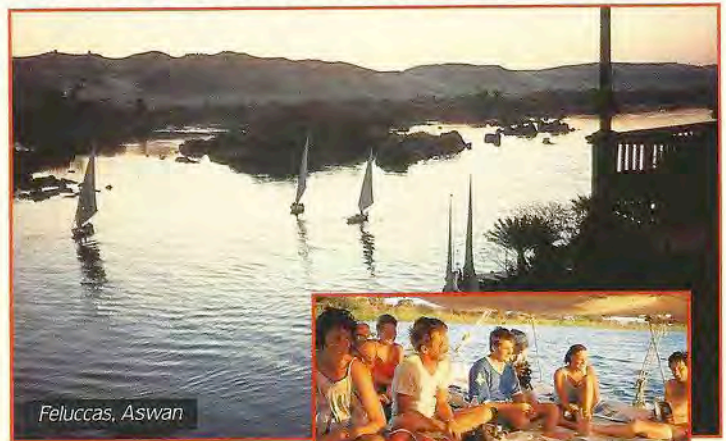
Remarks: The connecting flight between Khartoum - Addis Ababa and Dar es Salaam is an inclusive part of the overall expedition cost. **Kilimanjaro:** the full cost of this climb is included in the price (see page 24).

Itinerary Guidelines: Weeks 1-12 from London through Europe to Greece and Turkey; The Middle East to Sinai and Egypt, Cairo and Lake Aswan are as per the itinerary guidelines on page 34 (Cradles of our Civilisation).

From Aswan by Lake Steamer to Wadi Halfa and the Sudan. Then by train across the desert to Atbara and along the Nile to Khartoum. Time in Khartoum then the flight to Addis Ababa to explore Ethiopia's capital. Fly Addis to Dar es Salaam, and:-

Weeks 13-14-15-16-17-18 The route from Dar across the Masai Steppe to Rwanda and the mountain Gorillas, the Serengeti Plains, Ngorongoro Crater and the Game Reserves of Tanzania to Kilimanjaro and back to Dar es Salaam are as per the Itinerary guidelines on page 25 (Mountain Gorilla Safari).

N.B. Dar es Salaam — Cairo — London: For scheduling reasons this northbound expedition is projected as 17 weeks and 5 days.



EUROPE, TURKEY, SYRIA, JORDAN, EGYPT, SUDAN, ETHIOPIA, RWANDA TANZANIA.

As the wonders of ancient Egypt were uncovered and unravelled during the last century, the Nile came to be perceived as a vital source of our civilisation. Thus little wonder that the search for the Nile's own source so intrigued, obsessed, inspired scholar and explorer alike. Here was no new-found stream but "the tears of the Goddess Isis", the essential element of the most brilliant of early cultures.

How many cataracts might there be above the rapids at Aswan? Where, beyond the farthest limits of the known world does this mysterious river have its beginnings? What substance is there in talk of two mighty rivers joining? And had not Ptolemy, the 2nd century geographer, spoken of the 'mountains of the moon', while legend held that such mountains as these were harbourers of all King Solomon's fabled riches?

Here is the African interior, African genesis, the domain of such varied species of wildlife that only Africa can muster, as in Serengeti and Ngorongoro and the last habitat of the endangered mountain gorilla of the Ruwenzori.

LONDON to THE UPPER NILE

The route during the first ten weeks of this expedition as it heads via Asia Minor into Egypt and so to Abu Simbel and Aswan is as that of *Cradles of our Civilisation* (see page 34).

UPPER NILE

In Aswan we board the Lake Steamer to continue south the length of Lake Nasser to Wadi Halfa and the Sudan. Here at the

bottom end of the lake the train across the Sudanese Desert rattles its way around the great bend in the river via Atbara to the fifth cataract at Khartoum. The capital of Sudan could hardly be anywhere but on the Nile. But Khartoum goes one better — it is on both of them!

It is situated where the Blue Nile, level now after its rampage through the gorges and over the waterfalls in its Ethiopian homeland, meets the White Nile which has long been meandering its way from its source in the mountains of Rwanda and Burundi through the sparse cattle-lands of the Sudd.

We shall here use an air link between Khartoum (via Addis Ababa) and Dar-es-Salaam. **The alternatives to a flight are not practical; the southern Sudan is in a state bordering on civil war and drastic famine. Any detour would involve many unrewarding flood-prone weeks of hard travel.**

Addis Ababa, founded by the son of King Solomon and the Queen of Sheba, at 8,000 feet, is bathed in a bright, luminous air and set against the striking backdrop of Mount Entoto.

The market, one of the largest and liveliest in Africa, still offers jewellery of gold and silver, frankincense and myrrh alongside life's more mundane necessities. We spend 3 nights here in Ethiopia's capital before flying onwards to East Africa.

EAST AFRICA

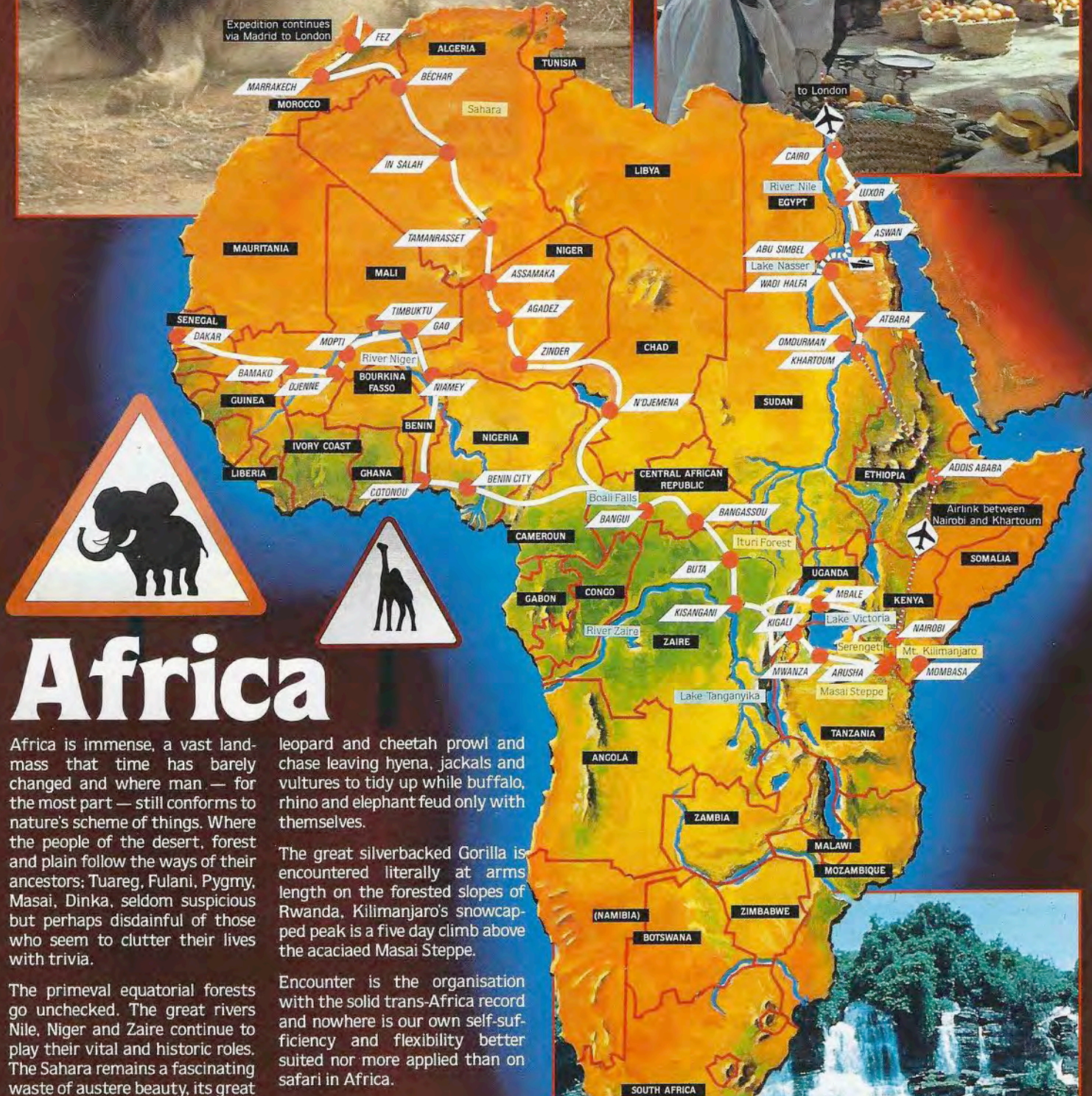
From Dar es Salaam we will be crossing the Masai Steppe to the Ruwenzoris, those legendary snow-capped peaks that divide the East African plains from the vast reaches of primeval tropical forest. Here in Rwanda we will reach the domain of the en-

dangered Mountain Gorilla.

We are to return by skirting the southern shores of Lake Victoria to the Serengeti Plains and the game reserves of the Ngorongoro

there is time to climb Mt. Kilimanjaro before returning to Dar and the end of our 'journey into the interior'.

(See page 24 and 25 Mountain Gorilla and Kilimanjaro.)



Africa

Africa is immense, a vast land-mass that time has barely changed and where man — for the most part — still conforms to nature's scheme of things. Where the people of the desert, forest and plain follow the ways of their ancestors; Tuareg, Fulani, Pygmy, Masai, Dinka, seldom suspicious but perhaps disdainful of those who seem to clutter their lives with trivia.

The primeval equatorial forests go unchecked. The great rivers Nile, Niger and Zaire continue to play their vital and historic roles. The Sahara remains a fascinating waste of austere beauty, its great mountains outlined on the horizon like the massive desolation of an uninhabited planet; its sunsets and night skies stunning.

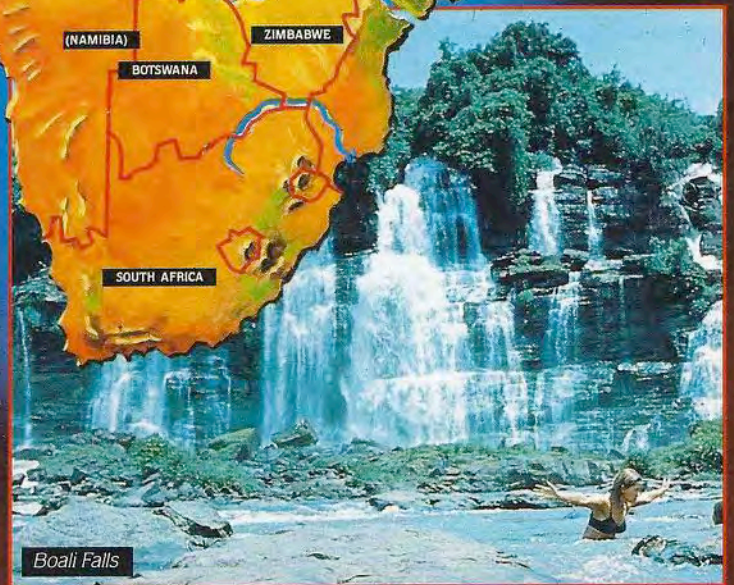
Here is still the greatest concentration of wildlife anywhere. Giraffe, zebra, gazelle, buck, impala and wildebeest graze where at last man has shown some restraint. Pink flamingoes, stork and crane populate the lakes; lion,

leopard and cheetah prowl and chase leaving hyena, jackals and vultures to tidy up while buffalo, rhino and elephant feud only with themselves.

The great silverbacked Gorilla is encountered literally at arms length on the forested slopes of Rwanda. Kilimanjaro's snowcapped peak is a five day climb above the acaciaed Masai Steppe.

Encounter is the organisation with the solid trans-Africa record and nowhere is our own self-sufficiency and flexibility better suited nor more applied than on safari in Africa.

The Great Safari
LONDON to NAIROBI (or vice versa) 16 weeks. **Page 39.**
All Africa
LONDON — CAIRO — NAIROBI — LONDON (or vice versa) 20 weeks. **Page 42.**
Africa — Coast to Coast
DAKAR to MOMBASA (or vice versa) 11 weeks 5 days. **Page 43.**



Boali Falls

LONDON to NAIROBI (or vice versa) 16 weeks ● 10,400 miles/16,700 km

Departure Dates and Price: See page 3
Maximum Group Size: 21
Transport & Accommodation: Expedition truck / Camping.
Connecting Flights and Safari Train: Some excellent prices to/from Nairobi (or possibly to/from Harare in conjunction with the Safari train).
Remarks

Kilimanjaro: No need to decide to climb or not until you are there and its visual lure grabs you or doesn't. For those climbing, all the usual expedition overheads are met and cooking equipment, food etc supplied; however Kilimanjaro climbing permit, use of the 3 huts, guides, rescue fund, are extra and will cost approx US\$170 per person.

(Lg) below denotes local guide for comprehensive tour.

Itinerary Guideline:

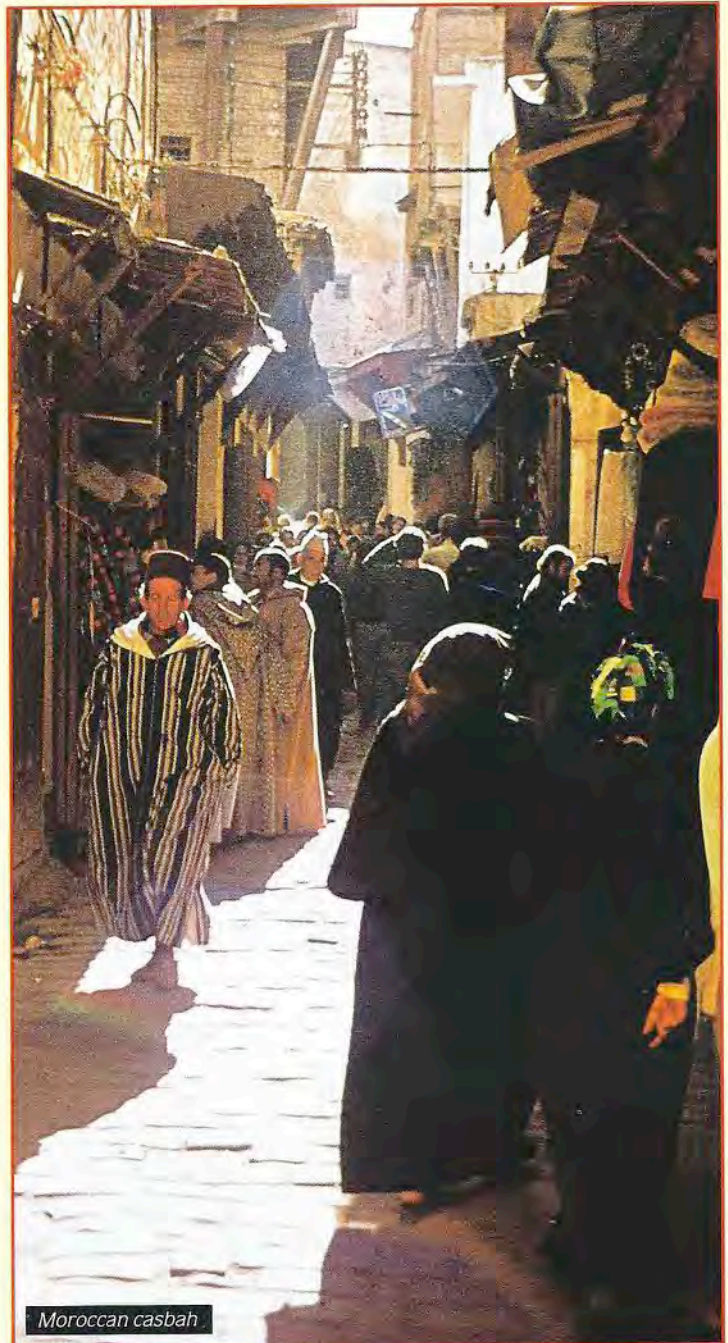
Week 1 Across Europe via Paris and Bordeaux to Spain, Madrid, Malaga and the Costa Del Sol to Algeciras. Ferry across the Straits of Gibraltar to Ceuta and Morocco.

Weeks 2-3-4 N. Morocco and Fez (Lg) then over the Atlas Mountains to the Sahara and Algeria, In-Salah and Tamanrasset Oases and the Hoggar Mountains of the Tuareg. The deep south — empty wastes of the sand desert into Niger.

Weeks 5-6-7 The Sahel to, Agadez, Zinder and Lake Chad, skirting the north and eastern shores to N'djamena. Into Cameroun and south through thorn and savannah bush to the villages of the Kapsiki Mountains and so to the rivers and jungles of Central Africa.

Weeks 8-9-10-11-12-13 From Bangui into Zaire, narrow jungle tracks and river ferry

crossings to Kisangani and the Great Zaire river. The pygmies of the tall Ituri forest (Lg), the Nyirangongo Volcano (Lg) and the Ruwenzori mountains — home of the silver backed gorilla (Lg). The eastern hill-slopes and terraces of Rwanda to: **Weeks 14-15-16** East Africa; from Lake Victoria to the games reserves of Tanzania, the Rift Valley and Mount Kilimanjaro to Kenya and Nairobi — not less than three complete days in wildlife parks including Serengeti, Olduvai Gorge and Ngorongoro.



Moroccan casbah

EUROPE, MOROCCO, ALGERIA, NIGER, CHAD, CAMEROUN, CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC, ZAIRE, RWANDA, (BURUNDI), KENYA, TANZANIA.

In the span of this 14,000 mile African Safari 5,000 arduous miles are over barely maintained track. The few who cross are creating a place for themselves in the closing chapters of the story of Africa's alignment with a new age. This is surely the richest most rewarding challenge of a single continent within the overlander's grasp.

THE DESERTS

After reaching the Straits of Gibraltar from London via France and Spain, we cross to Africa, to the high Atlas Mountains of Morocco and to the fabled markets of Marrakech and to Fez.

From the fascinating Medinas and Berber settlements of North Africa, for nearly 2,000 miles/ 3,300 kms the desert stretches before us, the great yellow dunes give way to a hundred miles of barren plateau finishing abruptly in a steep escarpment. Below the escarpment a thin layer of sand covers the rock surface, which aids faster, smoother progress into the wastes of the central Sahara.

Out of the horizon the mountains of the Hoggar emerge like the massive desolation of an uninhabited planet. Yet settled in the

lee of these peaks is Tamanrasset, the administrative centre of the Algerian South. Traders amble among the shops and cafes of its main street lined with Tamarisk trees. These are the 'blue men of the desert', the famed cameleers who have made it their home.

From Assamaka, the isolated check point into Niger, we pick our way across a sea of sand, digging, pushing and sandmatting; all eyes strain for the occasional marker as seemingly unattainable horizons stretch ahead. A camel train may materialise out of nowhere, days from the nearest water.

At last, signs of brittle savannah begin to appear and the first herdsmen with cattle raising the dust. A noisy crowd of Fulani and Hausa people are gathered around every well drawing water for their cattle.

The first landmark of the desert's southern edge is the baked mud tower of the mosque of Agadez. After another three days travelling we reach the market of Zinder, close by the border with Nigeria.

THE JUNGLES

Sparse savannah country leads us eastwards towards Lake Chad, where, after skirting its northern shore, we reach Chad's capital N'djamena (formerly Fort Lamy); still to this day an active outpost of the Foreign Legion.



Sandscape

The Great Safari (continued)

Due south lie the **Kapsiki Hills** of northern **Cameroun** — a high, volcanic, fertile region leading to the lush forbidding forests of Central Africa.

After tropical downpours the track turns to a red soap-slippy mud (and sandmats turn to mud-mats). In the luxuriant equatorial vegetation bordering the Ubangi River is the town of **Bangui**. No proper roads reach this central African capital, the navigable river is the natural lifeline. Coffee and cotton are the cash crops and the grass huts attached to the plantations cluster around the red brick mission schools and churches.

At **Bangassou** we cross to **Zaire** over the broad Ubangi, employing the first of several rundown ferries. This north-east corner of Zaire, remote from centres of power and commerce, is dense primeval rainforest. Roads are poorly maintained and axle-deep mud sometimes restricts progress to barely 60 miles/100 kilometres per day. The great trees arch overhead, the forest never silent but full of undergrowth noises and screeching alarm calls from the upper branches. Soft dappled light filters through glades of giant bamboo and bright butterflies cluster in their thousands by sandy pools.

Several routes exist through the forests via **Isiro** or **Kisangani** to the **Ituri Forests** where paths tunnel through the undergrowth to clearings of pygmy encampments. Children look on in initial terror as greetings are exchanged and suspicions calmed.

The climb out of the Zaire basin brings us onto the western slopes of the **Ruwenzori Mountains**. In this fresher climate we turn south through eucalyptus woods to cross the Equator. This is the **Virunga National Reserve** and we can climb **Nyirangongo**, one of Africa's few still active volcanoes. We are now in the limited domain of the **Mountain Gorilla**. With guides to lead us, we track up through the thick, misty volcanic forests to approach a typical family group in their natural habitat.

THE PLAINS

Winding between steep terraced hillsides of maize, we cross Rwanda and enter **Tanzania** over the unfarmed 'bush' to **Mwanza** on **Lake Victoria**. Beyond are the wide plains of the **Serengeti** — probably the world's greatest single preserve of wildlife. The chances are excellent of seeing lion and leopard, gazelle and giraffe, elephant, rhino, hippo, buffalo,

crocodile, flamingo, stork and crane. Unforgettable is the raw beauty of Africa's wildlife and its blazing sunsets.

A tortuous track now leads us down the twisting descent into the Ngorongoro crater to the teeming wildlife on the floor of this the world's largest intact caldera.

The huge migrating herds of zebra and wildebeest move with the seasons across the central region of the **Masai Steppe** where spear-armed Masai tribesmen roam. Ours is the only type of 'open' vehicle permitted to wander freely throughout these reserves — allowing an uninterrupted view from high off the ground.

There are spectacular views across the Rift Valley and soon the snow covered cone of Mt. Kilimanjaro rises through the haze to dominate the plains.

The challenge of Africa's highest mountain will, for some, prove irresistible. This 19,340 feet/5,895 m. extinct snow-capped volcano is a challenging but not technically difficult peak. The route winds up through rain forest to a lateral trail across grassy slopes and on to a barren saddle from which the final assault is made on the summit. Those determined can usually reach the top and return within five days. (See page 24). Those not climbing will be off on further exploration of the Masai Steppe.

We cross the border with Kenya to Nairobi. At 5,400 ft/1,600 m the climate is ideal and this city of flowers is a fitting finale to this thrilling journey. And it is said that you don't have to sit for long at the shaded terrace of the Thorn Tree Cafe before meeting someone you know. You might even meet another of those rare souls who have crossed Africa.

Safari Train

(Under your own steam!)

Although Encounter Overland itself no longer operates further south than Tanzania, for those wishing to travel independently into Southern Africa, perhaps one of the safer means is by train. In that case we would suggest the interesting and easily travelled route from **Nairobi** to **Harare** via **Dar es Salaam**, (**Zanzibar**), **Lusaka**, **Livingstone**, **Victoria Falls** and **Bulawayo**. A guideline for the cost of this 15 day journey including transport, accommodation and food is US dollars \$500.

EO has produced a fact and information sheet and this sheet is available to you on request, and in any case is included in our pre-departure information.



Ituri Forest



Evening crossing — Zaire



Indo-African Encounter

LONDON — NAIROBI — BOMBAY — KATHMANDU (or vice versa) 21 Weeks and 3 Days ● 12,700 miles/20,400 km



Departure Dates and Price: See page 4
Maximum Group Size: 21
Transport & Accommodation: Expedition truck / flight Nairobi / Bombay (or vice versa), inflatable rafts, on foot. Camping. 2 nights hotel accommodation, Kathmandu.
Connecting/onward Flights: Some choice and good prices to/from Kathmandu.
Remarks: The flight between Nairobi and Bombay (or vice versa) is an inclusive part of the overall expedition cost.
Kilimanjaro: No need to decide to climb or not until you are there and its visual lure grabs you or doesn't. For those climbing the usual daily expedition expenses are met and cooking equipment etc supplied. However, Kilimanjaro climbing permit, use

of the 3 huts, guides, rescue fund, are not included and will cost approx US\$180 per person.

Itinerary Guideline:

Weeks 1-16 From London across Europe, the Sahara, Central and East Africa. Please refer to itinerary guideline on page 39 (The Great Safari).

Weeks 17-18-19 Fly from Nairobi to Bombay, then by land through N. India — Rajasthan and the Ganges Plains to Nepal. Please refer to itinerary guideline on page 10 (Nepal, Ganges and Rajasthan).

Weeks 20-21 The Himalayas, Kathmandu, rafting the Trisuli River and trekking in the Annapurna Peaks. Please refer to itinerary guideline on page 14 (Nepal Dekho).

EUROPE, MOROCCO, ALGERIA, NIGER, CHAD, CAMEROUN, CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC, ZAIRE, RWANDA, TANZANIA, KENYA, INDIA, NEPAL.

A great expedition involving three continents. Across Europe, through the desert, rain forests and game reserves of Africa; a flight connection to Bombay and a journey across India to trek and river raft through the Himalayas.

LONDON to NAIROBI

From London through France and Spain to the ferry over the Straits of Gibraltar to Ceuta and Morocco.

The souks of Fez and Marrakech buzz with the excitement of barter and exchange, but at the top of the High Atlas passes this fertile country suddenly switches to absolute desert. As we head from oasis to oasis — El Golea, In Salah and Tamanrasset, even the smallest landmarks are of great reassuring significance to the navigator. The horizons of the sand sea lie ahead during long days of daunting beauty and bare emptiness.

We reach the outpost towns of Agadez and Zinder and skirt the north shores of Lake Chad to N'djamena.

We now enter the area of dense, unyielding jungle, rutted tracks, rotting bridges, antiquated ferries and pygmy villages.

Gradually the primeval rain forests release their hold as we near the highlands and wind our way into The Ruwenzori Mountains — landscape of lakes and chains of active volcanoes and last habitat of the mountain gorilla.

From Kigali in Rwanda the road descends through foothills of coffee plantations and eucalyptus onto the broad sweep of the East African Plains. Elephants and giraffe roam among the flat topped acacia trees on the wide horizons of the Masai Steppe. The grasslands of the Serengeti are home to the great migrating herds and the predators that follow them and it is also the site of the Olduvai Gorge. Crowning this paradise is the towering presence of Mt. Kilimanjaro 19,340 ft/5,860 m. There is opportunity to make the five day climb to the summit of Africa's highest mountain (please see details on page 24) before crossing to Kenya and the city of Nairobi.

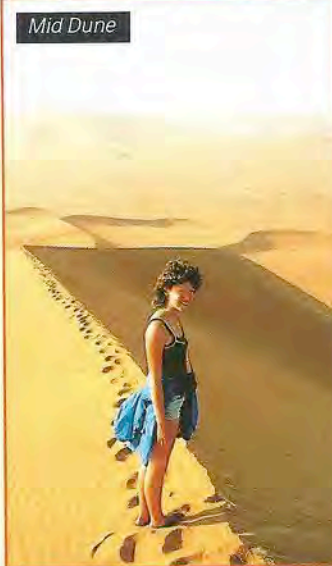
See preceding two pages, 'The Great Safari'.

Our Indo-African Encounter now uses the 6 hour flight connection from Nairobi to Bombay — the historical gateway to India. (This flight is an inclusive part of the overall expedition cost.)

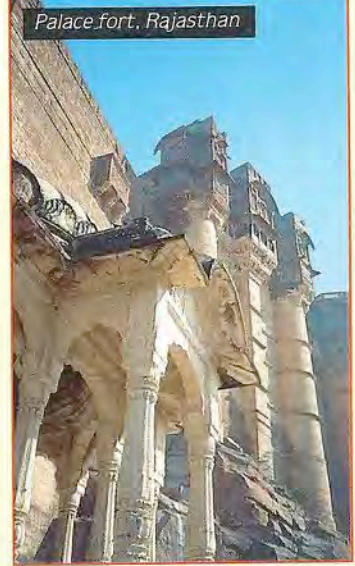
BOMBAY to KATHMANDU

Africa impresses with her open spaces and scattered villages. India with her never-ending activity — of people, history, life and change.

This is Rajasthan; the land of the Maharajahs, their staggering wealth and fiery traditions evidenced everywhere in gilded palaces and fortress stronghold. From Udaipur, Jodhpur and Jaipur, the Rajput city of rose-pink sandstone, we reach Fatehpur Sikri — glorious but short lived capital of the Moghuls.



Mid Dune



Palace fort, Rajasthan



Masai Encounter



Trisuli River — Nepal

Nearby, is Agra and the Taj Mahal — and beyond among the by-ways and sleepy villages lie the temples of Khajuraho, their walls carved with the erotic and sensual delights of the gods.

Then on to Varanasi — holiest of Hindu cities beside Ganges river Goddess source of all life and death.

Impossibly high, the Himalayas appear over the heat haze of the plains. The road twists through green foothills to climb steeply over the final ridge, and there laid below us is the beautiful vale of Kathmandu.

See page 10, 'Nepal, Ganges and Rajasthan'.

HIMALAYAS

We complete our overland journey in the clear skies and refreshing clime of the Himalayas. There is a welcome for 2 nights at the Kathmandu Guest House before venturing on to raft the white waters of the Trisuli river for four days and drive to Pokhara to trek for five days into the snows of the Annapurna range. A fitting end to our Encounter with both Africa and Asia.

See page 14, 'Nepal Dekho'.

All Africa

CAIRO — NAIROBI — LONDON (or vice versa) 20 weeks

● 16,200 miles/26,000 km

Departure Dates and Price: See page 3

Maximum Group Size: 21

Transport & Accommodation: Expedition Truck/Lake steamer/Desert train/flight Khartoum-Addis Ababa-Nairobi/continue by truck.

Remarks: The flight Khartoum — Nairobi (or v.v.) are an inclusive part of the expedition cost. Kilimanjaro: No need to decide to climb or not until you are there and its visual lure grabs you or doesn't. For those climbing the usual daily expedition expenses are met and cooking equipment etc. supplied. However Kilimanjaro climbing permit, use of the 3 huts, guides, rescue fund, are not included and will cost approx US\$170 per person.

(Lg) below denotes local guide for comprehensive tour.

Itinerary Guideline:

Weeks 1-4 Cairo, Sphinx, Pyramids, via the Red Sea to Luxor, Valley of the Kings, Abu Simbel, Aswan, Lake Nasser Steamer, Wadi Halfa, desert train to Khartoum and Omdurman, flight Khartoum, Addis Ababa (3 days) — Nairobi.

Weeks 5-20 From Nairobi, game parks, Kilimanjaro, Equatorial Forests, Sahara, across Europe to London. Please refer to Itinerary Guideline on page 39 (The Great Safari).



EGYPT, SUDAN, ETHIOPIA, KENYA, TANZANIA, RWANDA, ZAIRE, CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC, CAMEROUN, CHAD, NIGER, ALGERIA, MOROCCO, EUROPE

This is the expedition that in African terms really does it all. An encounter with the natural rawness as well as the ancient splendour of the 'dark continent'. A journey both incredible and enlightening.

Journey down the Nile — to experience the ancient splendour of a once great civilisation that prospered here over 5,000 years ago.

East Africa — best known perhaps for its open rolling green plains, which today support a very large part of the earth's fast dwindling stock of wildlife. But in fact a marvellous mixture of beautiful white sandy beaches, mountains, forests, volcanoes and, of course, opulent Nairobi.

Central Africa — barely touched by western-style civilisation, roads that bear little resemblance to the cartographers' bold assumption, rivers that exceed all expectations and jungle even denser than one might have imagined.

The Sahara — not simply a sea of sand as many imagine, but a mixture of mountains and valleys, sheltered oases, sparse savannah and perpetually moving sand dunes of enormous proportions. It is a place where time itself has been condensed, where the meagre possessions of our early ancestors have lain untouched and perfectly preserved for thousands of years.

North of the Atlas — the souks and bazaars and bustling cities of Morocco give way to the more familiar social structures of Spain and France.

CAIRO-NAIROBI

After meeting the truck in Cairo

we travel to **The Sphinx** and the **Pyramids** at **Giza** and **Saqqara**, and via the Red Sea to **Karnak**, **Luxor**, **Edfu** and **Aswan** and so to **Abu Simbel**. We cross **Lake Nasser** by Nile Steamer to **Wadi Halfa** and **Sudan**; to **Omdurman** and **Khartoum** wedged in the confluences of the White and Blue Niles and thus by air to **Addis Ababa** for three days and then on to **East Africa**.

See page 37 Nile Route (Upper Nile).

NAIROBI to LONDON

In the game parks of East Africa the expedition truck allows us a completely uninterrupted view — no guarantees, but the chances are excellent of seeing lion, cheetah, leopard as well as all types of gazelle, buck, hippo, rhino, elephant and much more. Also to Kilimanjaro where those who have set their sights can set off for the summit of Africa's highest mountain.

To reach the equatorial forests we shall wind our way through the **Ruwenzoris**, Africa's snow-capped mountains on the rim of the great **Congo basin** and descend into the dense green forest of the **Ituri**. Tiny jungle paths tunnel through the undergrowth, forming a network of tracks connecting Pygmy villages.

Axle-deep mud, appalling roads and rickety bridges make progress slow across **Central Africa**.

Across the **Sahara**, seemingly unattainable horizons stretch ahead; all eyes strain for the occasional marker. The sky may darken, the wind blasting the sand in our faces. Digging, pushing and sandmatting are needed across this soft sand sea.

At the desert's centre is the moon-like **Hoggar Massif** and the Tuareg — mysterious 'people of the veil'. Nestled among the great dunes of the North are the oasis towns of **In Salah**, **El Golea** and **Ghardaia**.



Pressure well, Algeria



Kilimanjaro from the plains



Bridge re-building, Zaire



Desert convoy

We climb by mountain road through the **Atlas Mountains** and across the fertile valleys of **Morocco**, arriving at **Fez** medina, probably the most fascinating market place in Africa.

We leave Africa at **Ceuta** to cross the straits to **Algeciras** and the Spanish mainland. The final week is spent travelling through **Spain** and **France** to **London**.

See pages 39 and 40 (The Great Safari).

Africa — Coast to Coast

● 6,250 miles/10,000 km

DAKAR to MOMBASA (or vice versa) 12 weeks

Departure Dates and Price: See page 4

Maximum Group Size: 21

Transport & Accommodation: Expedition truck. Camping.

Connecting/Onward Flights: Some interesting alternative routings.

Remarks: (Lg), below, denotes local guide for comprehensive tour.

Itinerary Guideline: Weeks 1 to 5
Dakar to Mali, Bamako and following the Niger river, through Mopti and the Bandiagara escarpment (Lg), Timbuktu, the Sahara fringes and Gao to Niamey, south to Benin and the Gulf of Guinea, southern Nigeria, Niger Delta, Yaounde and the Camerouns.

Weeks 6 to 9 To Bangui, the dense rain forests and the rivers of Zaire to Kisangani, the Pygmies of the Ituri and the Ruwenzori mountains to Uganda, the Nile and Kabalega National Park, then the East African Plains to:

Weeks 10 and 11 Kenya, the highlands and lakes of the Rift Valley and the game reserves (Lg) of the north and Mt. Kenya. From Nairobi through Tsavo National Park and the Indian Ocean at Mombasa.



SENEGAL, MALI, NIGER, BENIN, NIGERIA, CAMEROUN, RCA, ZAIRE, UGANDA, KENYA.

This journey through Africa is to travel among her people, their villages and lives — it is also to come face to face with her most inspiring and unyielding scenery. Here are the ranging sands of the southern Sahara, the tangled depths of jungle in the Zaire (Congo) basin, and the commanding beauty and wildlife of the eastern plains.

WEST AFRICA

The first phase of our expedition is through the savannah and bush lands of the Sahel and southern Sahara.

Dakar, washed by the Atlantic surf, stands on the tip of Cap Vert — the most westerly point in Africa. Smart French restaurants and the university that is Africa's seat of learning give this city a worldly air — but the hardships borne of the drought and sparsity of life inland are also laced throughout its boulevards. The proud independence of the Senegalese, rooted in ancient African values and the traditions of Islam, belies the hard realities of their land.

Mali was the centre of the Songhai and Malinke empires — great mediaeval kingdoms that controlled the movement of all trade throughout West Africa and on across the Sahara to Morocco. The Niger river was their artery of life, food and communication that connected the three autonomous regions of **Djenne**, **Timbuktu** and **Gao**. Such was their power, wealth and brilliance that their names were heard far across the World. Names that could not be put to a location, so that a mystique grew around them that survives to this day.

We follow the river from **Bamako** to **Djenne** and **Mopti**. Here along the steep cliffs of the **Bandiagara escarpment** are the people of the **Dogon** who, resisting the inroads of Islam from their stronger neighbours, kept faithfully to their old beliefs so that today their villages, houses, art and striking wood carvings are a mirrored reflection of Africa 2,000 years ago.

The Niger now arcs upwards into the Sahara then, as if worried by the prospects of the desert wastes, turns abruptly south, fleeing for the coast. The road narrows into a little used track, clinging its way to **Timbuktu** and **Gao**. Shadows of their former glory, they stand and wait in the sands of time.

South from **Niamey**, capital of **Niger**, and on into **Benin** the climate subtly but surely changes. Brushland transforms to spreading green vegetation, that becomes thick undergrowth and, by the **Gulf of Guinea**, tropical jungle. Through southern **Nigeria** and across the wide, humid Niger delta, we reach **Yaounde** in **Cameroun** and the slow tracks through the central African rainforests.

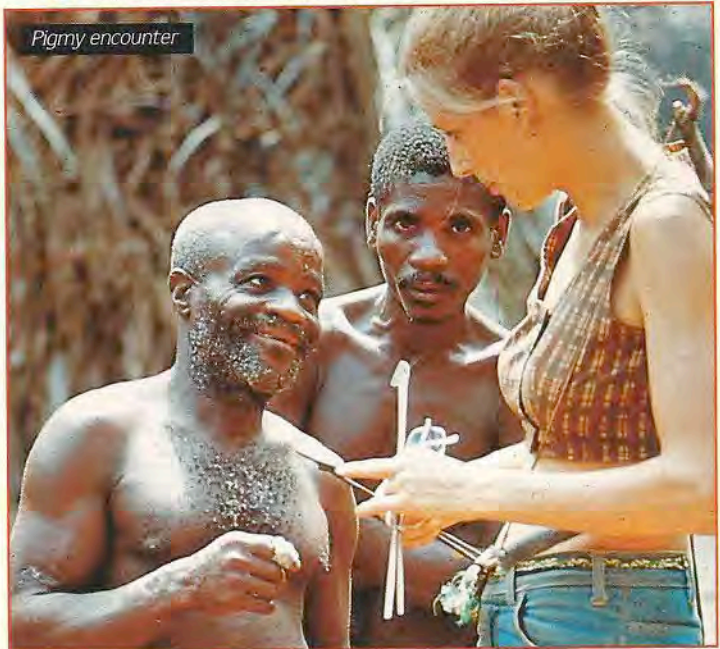
CENTRAL AFRICA

Familiar EO stamping grounds are here — our often muddy progress through from Cameroun to Bangui, into Zaire to Kisangani and the Ituri forest is described on page 39, 'The Great Safari'.

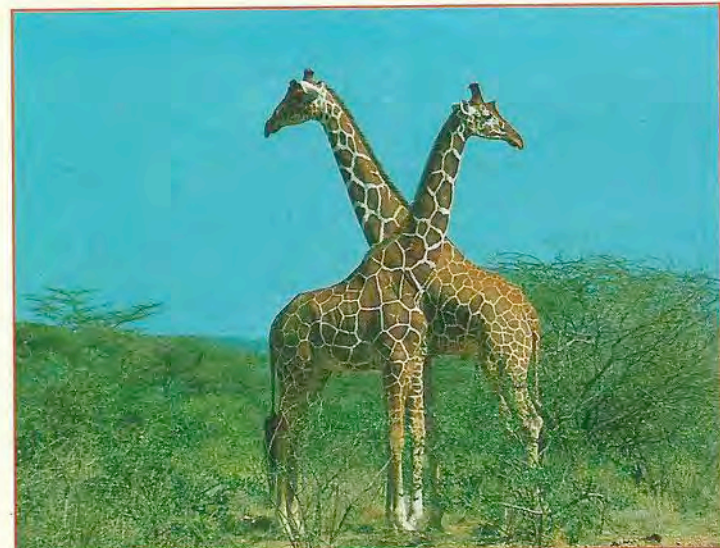
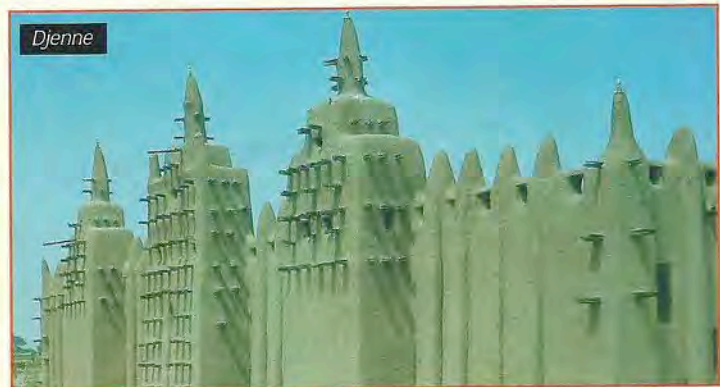
EAST AFRICA

The **Ruwenzori** mountains form the climatic border between the rainforests and the open spaces of East Africa and here, under the incongruous sight of snow capped peaks, is the frontier between **Zaire** and **Uganda**. We descend through terraced slopes and eucalyptus trees to **Kabalega**

Pigmy encounter



Djenne

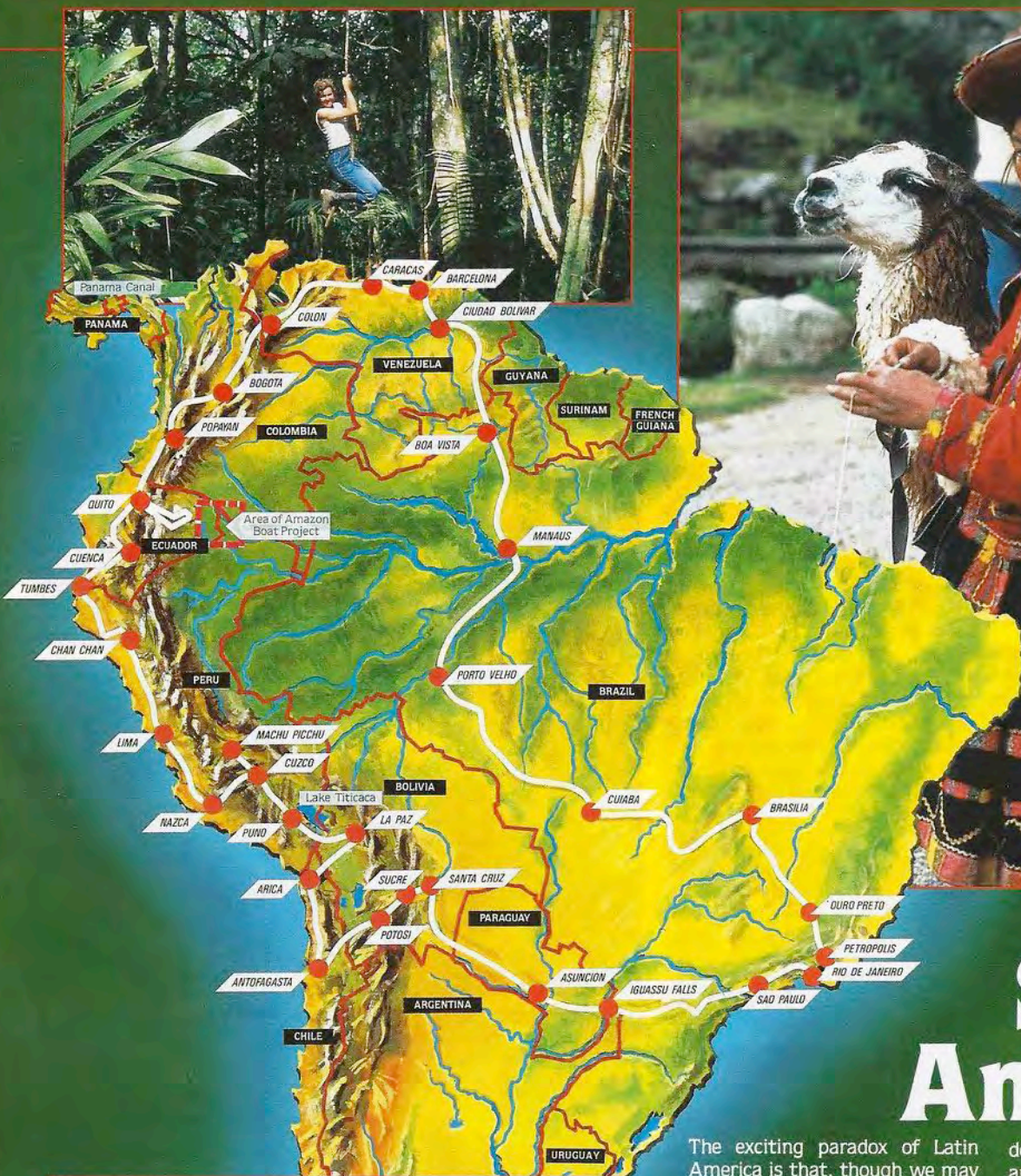


National Park on the confluence of the **Albert** and the **Victoria Nile**. Here is the foaming cataract of Murchison Falls and our first encounters with East Africa's wildlife; elephant, giraffe and antelope roam the grasslands while hippo and crocodile rule the river banks.

From **Tororo** we climb into the highlands of **Kenya** — cool temperate hills of coffee plantations that lead into the **Great Rift Valley** and its shallow volcanic

lakes tinged by flocks of pink flamingoes. Africa's wildlife is all around us as we wend through track and backroad to **Mt. Kenya** and across the equator to the southern hemisphere.

The flower-lined streets of **Nairobi** are 300 miles/480 kms from the Indian Ocean. A route through **Tsavo** National Park, renowned for its lions, brings us out of the once feared hinterlands to **Mombasa**, basking in the warm wash of the Indian Ocean.



South America

The exciting paradox of Latin America is that, though we may know little about it, it has become a living collage of fascinating images. Of gauchos and condors, llamas and reed boats; soaring mountains, smoking volcanoes and steaming jungles; of grasslands and deserts, cocaine-eaters and poison darts; of lost sun kingdoms and conquistadors, emeralds and El Dorado; of Latin rhythms and haunting Indian folk-tunes.

Beyond the modern cities, with their cultural identity descending directly from a European heritage, the vital pulse of an older way of life still beats strong; a life tied to ancient spiritual beliefs, to a majestic untamed land, and to the seasonal cycle of weather and crops.

We wind among the ever-changing scenery of the Andes, through colourful Indian market villages, among grazing llamas, through deep rocky gorges and over bleak icy passes at 16,000 feet. We traverse the barren sand-blown

deserts where no rain ever falls and penetrate the washed-out trails of tropical rain-forest. We barbecue giant steaks around the campfire in the cattle-ranching lands of Chaco, and stand in awe at the thundering might of the Iguazu Falls. We blaze a trail of dust across the Altiplano amid salt-pans and volcanoes. We take canoes to explore the Amazon tributaries — trees arching overhead, parrots and toucans flashing squawking across our bows.

These are fabulous journeys and the reward an untold wealth of experience and friendship.

Conquistador

QUITO to RIO (or vice versa)
13 weeks. **Page 45.**

Ocean to Ocean

LIMA to RIO (or vice versa)
10 weeks. **Page 47.**

Amazon & Andes

RIO to QUITO (or vice versa)
9 weeks. **Page 48.**

South American Circle

RIO — QUITO — RIO or QUITO —
RIO — QUITO 23 weeks. **Page 49.**



QUITO to RIO (or vice versa) 13 weeks ● 7,300 miles/11,700 km

Departure Dates and Price: See page 4
Maximum Group Size: 24
Transport & Accommodation: Expedition truck, canoe, Camping, with hotels in Lima, Cuzco, La Paz and Potosi/Sucre (approx 3 nights each).

Connecting/Onward Flights: Check for latest choice and prices to/from Quito and Rio.

Remarks: There are significant and wide temperature differences encountered in crossing S. America, from tropical to mountain high altitude.
 (Lg), below, denotes local guide for comprehensive tour.

Itinerary Guideline: Weeks 1 to 3 Through the volcano landscape of Ecuador, over the Andes and down to the Amazon forests to explore the tributaries and backwaters by boat and canoe. Re-cross the mountains to Guayaquil and the Pacific coast to Peru, Tumbes, Chan-Chan and Lima.

Weeks 4 and 5 South to Nazca, Colca canyon and the desert landscape, the high Andes and Cuzco. Inca Trail to Machu Picchu.

Weeks 6 to 8 Across the Altiplano to explore Lake Titicaca and floating islands (Lg) and to La Paz. The winding western slopes to Chile — the coastal deserts and Antofagasta.

Weeks 9 and 10 Inland again, tracks across the Uyuni Plateau to Bolivia and the Andes, Sucre and Potosi, and so to the Gran Chaco of Paraguay.

Weeks 11 to 13 The beauty, open vistas and rough tracks and trails of the Chaco to Filadelfia and Asuncion, the misiones jungles, the Iguassu Falls, Brazil and Rio.



ECUADOR, PERU, BOLIVIA, CHILE, PARAGUAY, BRAZIL

Is there, for you, magnetism in remote places, in their peoples and in long rich histories utterly separate from your own? Then consider South America.

The Andean landscape and all it has inspired is like no other; peaks and plateaux, high-blown clouds, lakes that merge with sky, all strangely denying one any comforting sense of attachment to what for us is a real world.

QUITO to LIMA;

Andean Cordilleras —

Upper Amazon — N. Peru

Once the northern capital of the Inca Empire Quito is a bustling, colourful and fascinating place with steep and winding cobbled streets, red-tile roofs, cafés, restaurants and bars, lively and friendly. The rather grim baroque Cathedral commands the central Plaza Independencia and there is a wealth of impressive colonial architecture as well as the fabulously ornate churches of La Compania and San Francisco.

Less than 80 miles north of Quito is the famous Saturday market fair at **Otavalo**, a unique insight into the ways and peoples of the Andes. What's more Ecuador is the only point from which the Galapagos Islands can be reached.

Quito is indeed a good place to begin or end, (or take a break on) a journey in South America.

We then set off south through the rich tapestry of the Ecuadorian landscape and through the beautiful 'Avenue of the Volcanoes', a series of highland basins linked on either side, as far as the eye can see, with snow-shrouded volcanic peaks.

Now the **Andes** drop away dramatically. From a cliff-hanging track panoramas open out over an infinity of green-carpeted

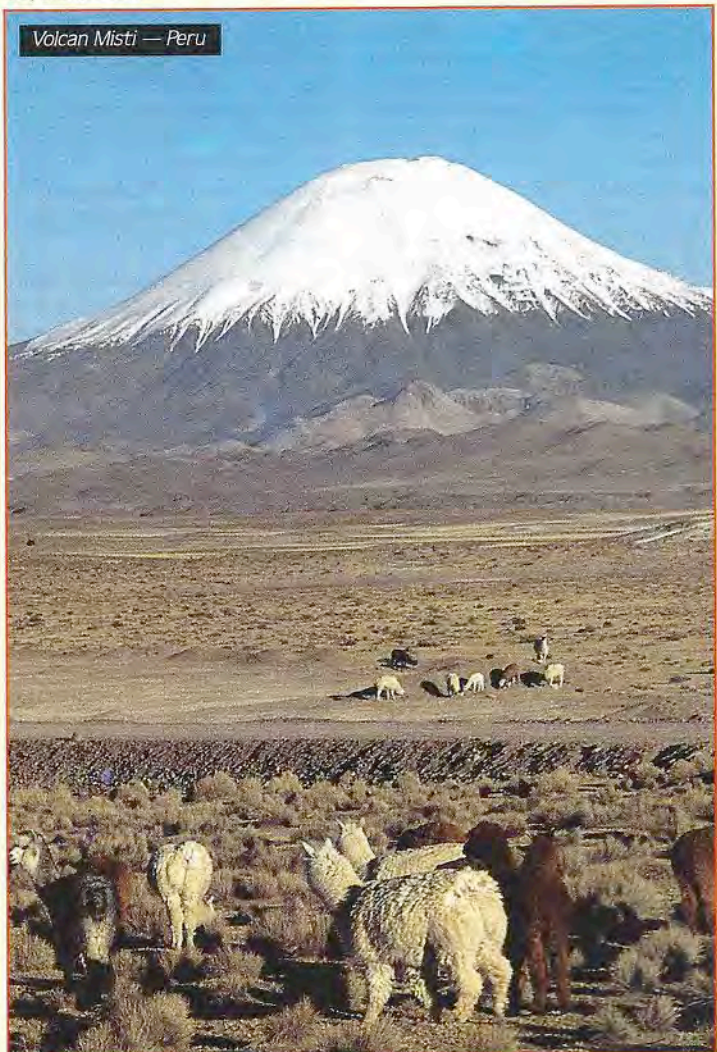
foothills and plains far below. Such roads are now being cut into the wild rain-drenched montana valleys, to reach the primitive river ports. The settlements here have a frontier atmosphere, with dirt streets, wooden sidewalks and sleazy bars.

To experience the river and the primeval forests of the **Amazon** and to see the forest dwelling Indians, we take to the waterways for several days, exploring the tributaries by dug-out canoe. Such a tributary is the Napo, such settlements are **Coca** and **Misahualli**, such Indians are the Jivaro.

We take only essential supplies; mosquitoes force an early retirement under nets, but the river is cool and fast-flowing — there are no piranha fish — and the sensations at day's end are those of being somewhere unique.

Once back up on the Andean ridges, we shall descend to the coast. From cool heights down through damp forests festooned with orchids — but then within the space of twenty miles, the tropical green gives way to scrub and cactus and then to desert; dramatically we are now under the influence of the Humboldt Current that sweeps up from the Antarctic keeping this coast cold and rainless. South of the border with **Peru** is **Tumbes** (where Pizarro and his derisory force of just 150 men first landed in 1527) and the desert is total except where broken by several river valleys that bring water down from the high Andes. It is in these valleys that the towns of the coast lie and the agriculture of coastal Peru thrives wholly dependent on the Andean snow-melt. Entering these oases is a striking contrast — after 50 miles of arid sand and gravel waste, suddenly there is a solid green wall of sugar cane, bananas, maize, cotton and rice.

Volcan Misti — Peru



'Pieces of eight'



This desert by the sea can be eerie and magnificent. Its desolation and whispering noises are haunting. Curiously, it was in this hostile arena that the civilisations of South America first flowered. The empires of the Chavin, Mochica, Nazca and Chimú prospered. The desert sun-kingsdoms attained high artistic achievements; outstanding pottery, textiles and gold objects have been found alongside mummies in tombs. We can visit the remains of the Chimú capital at **Chan-Chan** and at **Sechin** the temple walls are graphically etched with depictions of the

victorious chiefs and the dismembered bodies of the vanquished, a primitive but dramatic record of a brutal inter-tribal battle in the dawn of time.

LIMA to ANTOFAGASTA: Inca Heartland — Altiplano

And so to **Lima**, City of Kings ringed around with desert, and shanty towns. From Lima we can follow the coastal road past the famous unexplained extra-terrestrial markings scarred into the plains of **Nazca** before turning inland and climbing back into the mountains. The Andes again present a formidable barrier as

Conquistador (continued)

we haul up to the bleak moorlands of the Puna at 14-15,000 ft/42-4500 m before twisting and turning our way down to the hot tropical valleys at 4,000 ft/1,200 m amid sugar cane plantations. It is in the shelter of these valleys that the main Indian settlements lie, small colonial towns and rustic villages where people continue an age-old way of life. They tend their flocks of llamas, spin the wool and cultivate tiny plots with the primitive foot-plough used in Inca times.

Eventually we arrive at **Cuzco**, sheltered in a hollow at 11,500 ft/3,500 m, surely one of the world's most picturesque towns. This was the royal capital of the Inca empire; a city of temples and palaces and incredible wealth. When the Spaniards came and the empire crumbled, the great city was looted and destroyed. The ancient layout of the streets and plazas survives to this day, for the Conquistadors merely added their own comparatively crude upper storeys; thus narrow cobbled alleys lead between walls of precision-cut Inca stonework.

Overlooking the red-tiled roofs of Cuzco, the mighty fortress of **Sacsayhuaman** stands, a massive defence-work wrought in colossal megalithic stone which saw the most exciting, cruel and courageous chapters of the Spanish conquest. Beyond the nearby hills are the ruins of **Pisac** and **Ollantaytambo**, nestling in the warm Sacred Valley of the Incas. And from Cuzco the railway makes its spectacular descent through the roadless gorges to the swirling, tumbling torrent of the Urubamba, to the great green mountain on which **Machu Picchu** is perched.

Most of us, however, will perhaps decide to reach Machu Picchu by the three day trek along the exhilarating **Inca Trail** — a walk for the sure-footed and fit, leading by way of chasms and crests and river crossings to this, the 'Lost City of the Incas' straddling its magnificent eagle's nest position. Here an entire ceremonial city existed high among the clouds, completely unknown to the Spaniards. (See page 26).

From Cuzco we need to head up to the high regions of snow and ice where the river Urubamba has its source. Over the watershed lies the Altiplano, the treeless plateau of the Bolivian highland. Here **Lake Titicaca** blazes deep blue among sombre autumnal colours, the jagged snow-covered peaks of the Cordillera Real providing a magnificent eastern backdrop.

Out on the lake, Indians live on the floating reed islands in humble shelters with their reed boats alongside. Legend has it that the first Inca chief was born here of the Sun God and the remains of a far older civilisation than theirs are represented by the ceremonial site of **Tiahuanaco** including the ancient 'Gateway to the Sun'.

La Paz, the commercial capital of **Bolivia**, lies huddled in a great crevasse in the desolate **Altiplano**. At 11,700 ft/3,500 m, it is the world's highest capital and one of the most fascinating and friendly. The teetering streets of the Indian quarter spill over with jostling activity; herbs and roots, potions and pills are the ingredients of the witchcraft that is stock-in-trade of the back alleys behind the baroque facades of the Cathedral.

We continue on demanding, dusty roads amid salt pans and volcanoes dropping 14,000 ft/4,200 m to the coast at **Arica** in **Chile** — south through the **Atacama** desert to **Antofagasta** before visiting the world's largest copper mine at **Chiqui-camata**.

SUCRE to RIO:

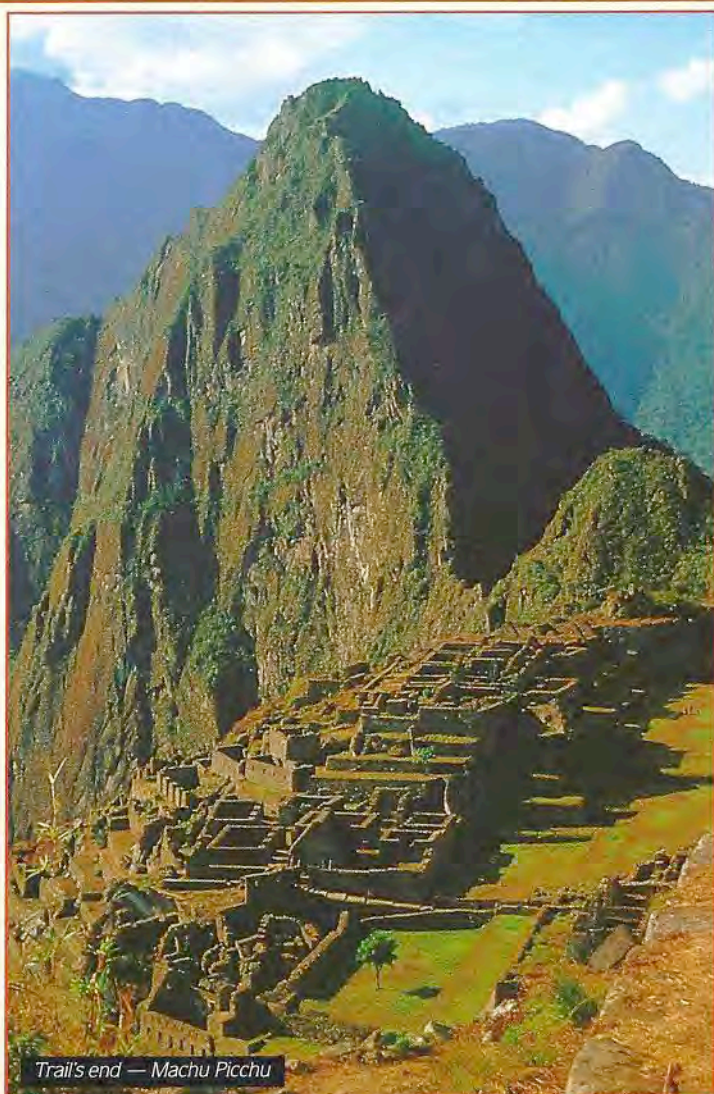
The Chaco — Misiones Jungle — Rio

Re-entering Bolivia, we skirt salt lakes of Uyuni en route to **Potosi** where the Spaniards, extracted phenomenal quantities of silver. We visit **Sucre**, a beautiful old colonial town and the official 'capital'.

Our plans now are to leave the last ramparts of the Andes behind, heading via **Santa Cruz** to the **Gran Chaco** of **Paraguay**.

Border formalities are completed at **Boyude**, then come the rivers to ford! Bird-life is prolific in this remote area of the Chaco — no wonder, perhaps, when so empty of man and his chattels. We travel on through the Paraguayan Chaco with clumps of wild palmolive standing up from the green plain and we arrive at scattered Mennonite farms. This devout Protestant sect settled here earlier this century from Prussia and has achieved much with devotion and faith. At last there is a reasonable road from the provincial town of **Filadelfia** to **Asuncion** and from this hot sleepy capital on the Paraguay river, we continue through the farmland of the Guarani Indians.

Climbing the escarpment from these tranquil scenes, we enter the plateauland of the Misiones Jungles, and a good road speeds us on to the Brazilian border which we cross high above the



Rio Parana on the International Friendship Bridge. An hour's drive from here are the incomparable **Iguassu Falls**, where the broad Rio Iguassu hurls itself into a 250 foot/75 m chasm amid billowing vapour and shimmering rainbows. In a setting of magnificent jungle, one of the world's mightiest waterfalls (and many say the most spectacular) crashes over a huge horseshoe rim in an estimated 275 separate falls. Paths through the jungle and cat-walks over the river allow incredible panoramic views.

And so to bustling colourful **Rio**; although utterly of the 20th century, it is one of the most beautiful cities of all time. Hectic multi-line highways pass fabulous beaches a stone's throw from the chic boulevards of downtown. The colour and mood of Rio by day is excelled only by Rio at night. The bay is overlooked by the Sugar Loaf and the whole sprawling city is dominated by the great Christ of Corcovado, prevailing, it would seem, not only over Rio and Brazil but over the whole New World of South America.

Ocean to Ocean

LIMA to RIO (or vice versa) 10 Weeks ●
5,100 miles/8,200 km

Departure Dates and Price: See page 3
Maximum Group Size: 24
Transport & Accommodation: Expedition truck. Camping, with hotels in Cuzco, La Paz and Potosí / Sucre (approx 3 nights each).
Connecting/Onward Flights: Check for latest choice and prices to/from Lima and Rio.

Remarks:
There are significant and wide temperature differences encountered in crossing S. America, from tropical to mountain high-altitude.
(Lg) below, denotes local guide for comprehensive tour.

Itinerary Guideline:
Weeks 1 & 2 From Lima to Nazca, Colca canyon, desert landscape to high Andes & Cuzco. Inca Trail to Machu Picchu.

Weeks 3-4-5 Across Altiplano to explore L. Titicaca & floating islands (Lg) and to La Paz. The winding western slopes to Chile: Pacific coast and the northern Atacama desert to Antofagasta.

Weeks 6 & 7 Inland again; tracks across the Uyuni plateau to Bolivia & the Andes, Sucre & Potosí, and so the Gran Chaco & Paraguay.

Weeks 8-9-10 The beauty, the open sweeps and hardgoing of the Chaco to Filadelfia & Asuncion. The missions Jungles, the Iguassu Falls, Brazil and the highways to the hustle & colour of Rio.



Pacific and Atlantic, with their connotations of the New World and the Old. A journey between these two oceans that slices across the core of South America to open her opposites of geography, of peoples, their ways now and their origins then. The western outer skin of the Atacama desert, formed by a conspiracy of the Humboldt current and the Andes, is only a few narrow miles wide but can lay claim as the planet's driest place. Here the spines of the Andes converge to form their mightiest and most folornly impressive beauty, and in their heights was the heart, life-blood and the demise of the fabulous Inca Empire.

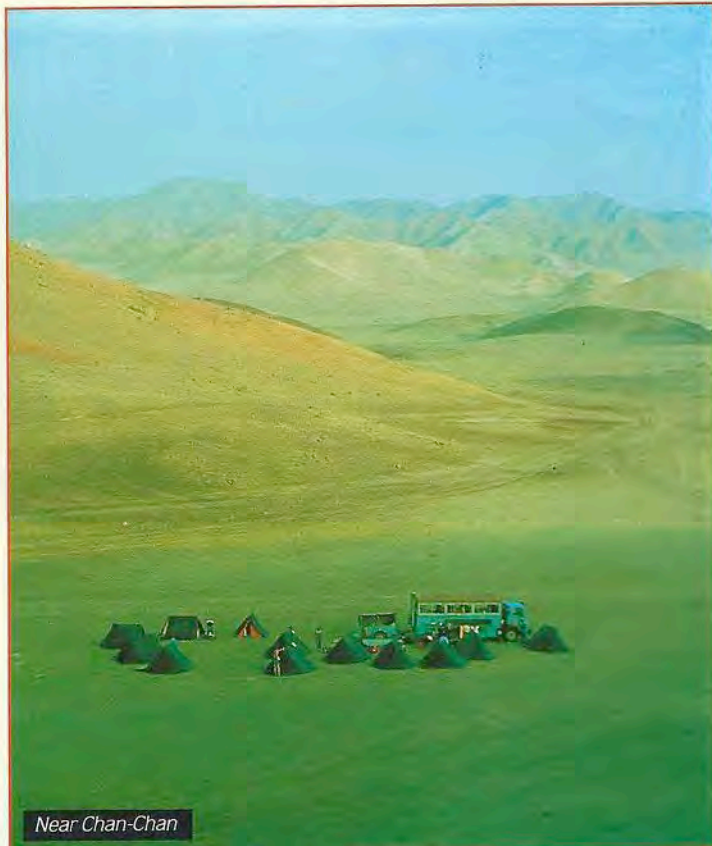
Paraguay tilts towards Atlantic's shores, the banana republic of our preconceived notions of revolution and political bombast. But in 'Fact there is Fiction', for this is one of South America's most delightful countries, and hidden in the far reaches of the Chaco are her undisturbed displays of wild-life and nature. And finally,

thumbing its sugar-loaf nose across the waters to the Old World is Rio, all that is 'now', immediate and living — an infectious hedonistic rush on a glorious wave of high-paced credit.

To return a flight of fancy to hard facts, our journey starts in Lima and heads south to the plains of Nazca, then the long climb into the high Andes to Cuzco and Machu Picchu.

We traverse the lateral valleys to Lake Titicaca and La Paz and descend to the Atacama desert in Chile. Returning to Bolivia we visit Sucre and leave the last ramparts of the Andes for the wild, untamed Gran Chaco of Paraguay. This is as remote, open and challenging a country as an African Safari can ever provide. Next, to the flowered plazas of Asuncion, the Iguassu Falls and, at the far side of the continent, Rio de Janeiro.

A more detailed description of our route can be followed on pages 45 & 46 "Conquistador", Lima-Antofagasta and Sucre-Rio.



Amazon & Andes

RIO to QUITO via MANAUS (or vice versa). 9 weeks ● 6,900 miles/11,040 km.

Departure Dates and Price:

See page 4

Maximum Group Size: 24

Transport & Accommodation:

Expedition truck/river craft. Camping, with hotels in Manaus & Caracas (approx 3 nights each).

Connecting/Onward Flights: Check for latest choice and prices to/from Rio & Quito.

Remarks: (Lg) below, denotes local guide for comprehensive tour.

Itinerary Guideline:

Weeks 1-2-3 From Rio to Ouro Preto, Brasilia & Mato Grosso; into the Pantanal's sub-tropical wildlands that merge into the Amazon rainforests and, at Manaus, the river.

Weeks 4-5-6 Explore the Amazon backwaters from Manaus (Lg), then, crossing the Equator, through the dense jungles and rivers to Venezuela & the Orinoco. (Angel Falls – optional flight), and the Caribbean at Caracas.

Weeks 7-8-9 To Colombia and the climb out of the humidity of the Amazon into the



cool of the Andes; Bogota & San Agustín to Popayan and Ecuador. The Andean Indians, villages and markets, the volcanoes of the Cordillera to the Equator (again), and Quito.

BRAZIL, VENEZUELA, COLOMBIA, ECUADOR

Seen by many as nature's last frontier on the surface of this planet, the Amazon is unique in its intricate interplay of water, plant and animal in an ecosystem untampered with — until now — since the Ice Age. It generates almost a quarter of the earth's surface fresh water and incalculable amounts of oxygen.

The forest's species too are threatened — the plant life, undisturbed in millennia; the insect life sustained by the mysteries of collaboration; the jaguar and the alligator; and the vulnerable Indian, whose fate epitomizes the threat to the entire forest.

We leave Rio de Janeiro for Petropolis, the richly ornate old summer capital of the long abolished Brazilian monarchy. Close by is Ouro Preto, a beautiful old colonial town built with the profits of nearby gold mines, one of which we can visit.

We arrive at Brasilia, the nation's ultra modern capital with some of South America's most startling architecture.

Passing through Cuiabá, the provincial capital of the Mato Grosso, we head west towards the Pantanal, a pastoral mix of the wild and the tame that has worked. Cattle graze alongside stork and wading egrets, ocelot and anteaters and the area teems with alligators lazing on the sandbanks.

We now turn north; the track slashes through the forest like a knife wound to Porto Velho on the Amazon tributary of the Rio Madeira and so to Manaus, the hectic river port central to all the comings and goings of the Amazon's colourful commerce. The city was born of the rubber boom. It has an incongruous old-world opera house and had the

first street trams in South America. We spend at least three days in this area, where the oily black waters of the Rio Negro slowly fuse with the massive muddy flow of the eight kilometre wide Amazon.

Our route now leads to Boa Vista using several ferry crossings in the territory of still hostile Indian tribes. We slowly climb out of the Amazon basin towards the border with Venezuela, then across the plateau of La Gran Sabana with its flat topped mountains, waterfalls and spectacular views. To the east is Mount Roraima, setting of Conan Doyle's 'Lost World'.

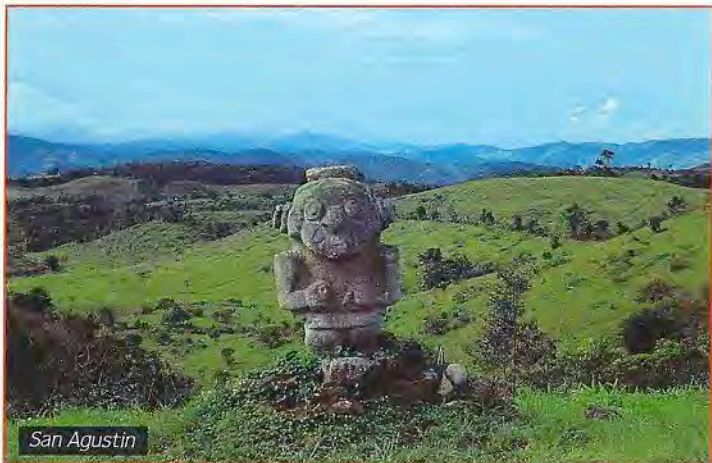
We reach the colonial elegance of Ciudad Bolivar and the Orinoco, an extraordinary fast-flowing river sweeping under the massive Angostura Bridge in its charge to the sea. We follow good roads now, to the white sand beaches of the Caribbean and to Caracas.

Passing into Colombia we are soon climbing the refreshingly cooler forested slopes of the Cordillera Oriental. Our progress is slowed by the chaotic jumble of mountains and valleys, a landscape of forests and fields, torrents, villages and billowing clouds. Eventually we emerge on the high plateau where Bogota stands at 8,600 feet. Here is the famous Gold Museum, thousands of incredible Inca artefacts that escaped the Spaniards.

We descend to the warmer climes of the Magdalena Valley, the dirt road clinging to ledges high on the Magdalena Gorge, the torrent far below. In these isolated uplands around San Agustín are some of the most amazing relics of an ancient culture. Little is known of the Indian tribes that fashioned this strange cult in these far-flung hills, for all that remains are the graves. Every



Amazon settlement



San Agustín

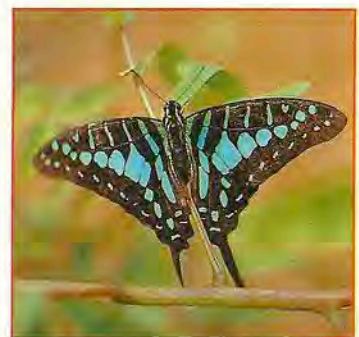


Pinchincha

tomb is guarded by a grotesque carved statue, up to ten feet tall — disquieting presences in the lush and serene countryside.

We loop back over high moorland passes to Popayan, a fine colonial highland town, winding, climbing and dropping through tortured landscape into Ecuador.

There is a famous and fabulous Saturday market at Otavalo where Indians in their thousands gather to trade and gossip. Before Quito the equator cuts through the road and through the snow-capped summit of Volcan Cayambe. Quito, capital of



Ecuador, is situated at 9,000 ft., below the volcano of Pinchincha. It is for many, South America's most enthralling city.

South American Circle

QUITO to QUITO (or RIO to RIO) 23 weeks ● 14,210 miles/22,878 km

Departure Dates and Price: See page 4
Maximum Group Size: 24
Transport & Accommodation:
 Expedition truck, canoe. Camping, with hotels in Lima, Cuzco, La Paz, Potosí/ Sucre (Rio), Manaus & Caracas (approx 3 nights each).
Connecting/Onward Flights: Check for latest choice and prices in/out Quito or in/out Rio.
Remarks: There are significant and wide temperature differences encountered in S. America, from tropical to mountain high-altitude, and nowhere are they more accentuated than on this great journey.
Itinerary Guideline:
 Please refer to Itinerary Guidelines on page 45 (Conquistador) followed by page 48 (Amazon & Andes).



ECUADOR, PERU, BOLIVIA, CHILE, PARAGUAY, BRAZIL, VENEZUELA, COLOMBIA

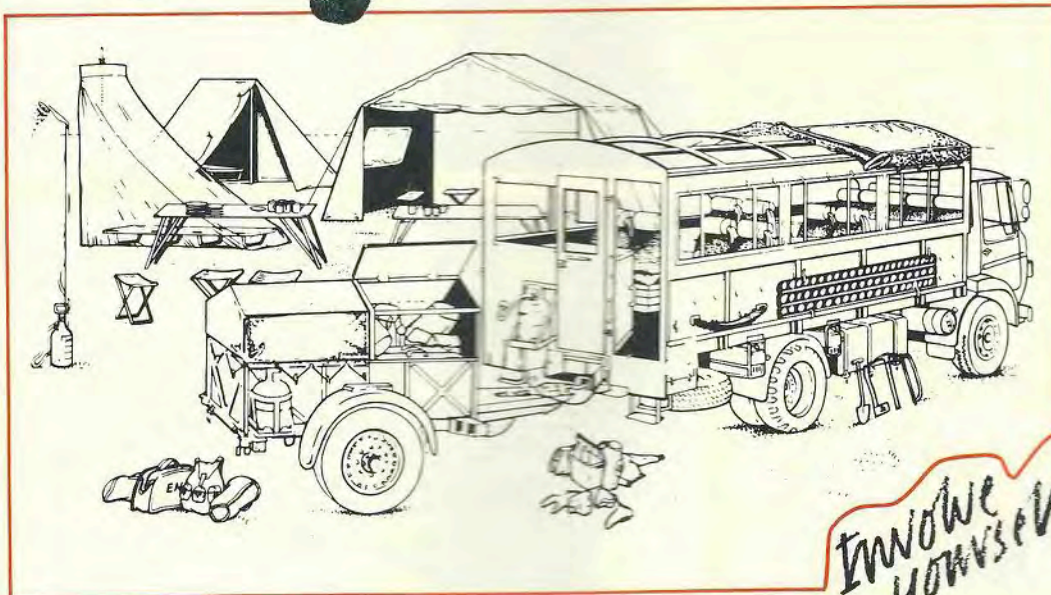
This project, in two phases combines the 13 week **Conquistador** (pages 45, 46 & 47) with the 9 week **Amazon & Andes** journey (opposite) to form a circular discovery that is an in-depth encounter with the many faces of South America.

Midway there is a planned week's

stay in either **Quito** or **Rio** dividing the two phases of the journey. Often the beginning, middle or end of the South American Circle coincides with 'Carnival time' in **Rio** (Feb 88/89). Alternatively, in Quito small groups often plan to visit the **Galápagos Islands**. Thus, although special group rates can still apply, this week's accommodation and food is at own expense to allow for greater flexibility.



The Adventure Machine — South American style



South America is a continent of extremes and the roads reflect this fact — highways that match some of the world's best turn to meandering tracks as they zig-zag up into the Andes. Beautiful sunny days become cold and windswept with altitude. An effortless cruising speed maintained across the Pampas is reduced to a laborious grind across the high Altiplano.

This and more, requires a specialised vehicle, one that is at home in this fast changing environment and one that can provide for all the needs of a group of 24. They are mostly powered with Perkins turbo charged engines close ratio gearboxes and two speed axles, providing 10 or 12 forward gears. The trailer (with lockable lids for security) is similar to those used in other continents; as indeed is all the other equipment on board — camp beds, mosquito nets, two person tents, cook tent (The Pub), showers etc. etc.

Coach built bodywork with sliding glass windows and forward and rear facing seats grouped around tables, may, at first sight, give more the impression of a coach. But make no mistake, this is a rugged purpose-built expedition vehicle, that has developed from a wealth of experience gained over our 14 years of expeditioning throughout South America.

"Dear Mum . . ."



Around the World by expedition truck, Land-Rover, coach, jeep, local bus, train, lake and sea ferry, 'plane, white-water raft, dug-out canoe, elephant, camel, bicycle and on foot.

In the second half of 1989 the first transworld overland expedition will be setting off. Although detailed planning is not complete at the time of this publication, E.O. is announcing the outline information and inviting expressions of serious interest.

In total just sixty expedition members, including E.O. staff, are being sought. In principle 20 will form the NORTH AMERICAN group, 20 the AUSTRALASIAN group and a further 20 the EUROPEAN group. Each of these will be formed around REGIONAL BASES, in San Francisco, Sydney and London, under the overall auspices of Encounter Overland — London.

To date the longest E.O. projects have been our Great Overland Encounters (29 weeks). These really are very successful undertakings and given a wider variety of transport and lifestyle as well as well-paced timings and sensible breaks, we know that this Trans-Globe concept and project is wholly practical. Not only will it work — but it should prove to be a very remarkable project indeed.

A great deal of all that is fabulous in this brochure will be included and much of the 'TRANS-GLOBE 89' itinerary follows the routes of

our Trans-continental and Brief Encounter programmes. It does not however "feed into them", on the contrary, vehicles, equipment and facilities are already being made available exclusively for the world project.

The 3 Groups

The three groups will start from San Francisco, Sydney and London respectively. The Australasian group will circle the globe westwards and the Europeans and North Americans eastwards. The staggered departure dates use the seasonal and climate conditions to full advantage, especially with reference to the few months best suited to travel into and beyond the Himalayas. It would, though, be impossible to strike all points at the optimum time of year.

The departure dates and directions also lend themselves to parties crossing paths or meeting up with one another at various times.

The Guide-line Price

The guide-line price for Trans-Globe 89 is £11,850 (currently approx. \$US 19,850 and \$AUS 28,450). It reflects the inclusion of all air travel (start point-to-start point) as well as all surface travel. The final price is as likely to be less as more but no computer yet developed has the characteristics of the crystal ball — and inflation and currency fluctuations that far ahead are too unpredictable to fix a firm price till September '88.

Membership

You are invited to enroll by sending off a membership fee of £50/US or AUS \$100. This entitles you to regular updates on the progress of expedition preparation.

● In the event of your being offered and accepting one of the sixty places on Trans-Globe 89 when this is decided in December '88, your membership fee becomes part of your deposit (10% of the total price).

● If at that time we are unable to offer you a place as part of the Trans-Globe 89 team, your membership fee will be refunded in full.

● If you are offered a place but cannot accept, then your membership fee will be donated to the World Wildlife Fund.

It is too early (as of February '88) to say how the different teams will be formed. However, stage one is for you to complete the usual E.O. booking form clearly stating TRANS-GLOBE '89 and which group you are considering joining.

In this case (only) the booking form will not constitute a contract with E.O. but simply be a completed form for administrative purposes. You can attach to it anything that may further help us know you a bit better, but don't feel compelled to "sell yourself", it's mainly your enthusiasm for the concept that we want to hear about. We suggest you get signed-up **now** if the concept interests you and if

there is a reasonable chance that you could participate.

The Countdown

JUNE '88:

Progress Report I.

General progress report, details of, and summaries from each Regional Base. Finalisation of route and timings. Update on political developments etc.

SEPT '88:

Progress Report II.

General progress report and planning matters. Summaries from Regional Bases. Confirmation of expedition Leaders. Newsletter and journal launch. Appointment of trustees for financial account. Finalisation of total cost of the expedition.

DEC '88/JAN '89:

Progress Report III.

Confirmation of Expedition members. Payment of deposits.

FEB '89:

Progress Report IV.

General progress report. Start of administrative count-down and red tape.

MARCH/MAY '89:

Further progress towards departure mainly under Regional Base control with newsletter as main medium for collective information.

SAT. 27th MAY '89:

North American Group sets off from San Francisco.

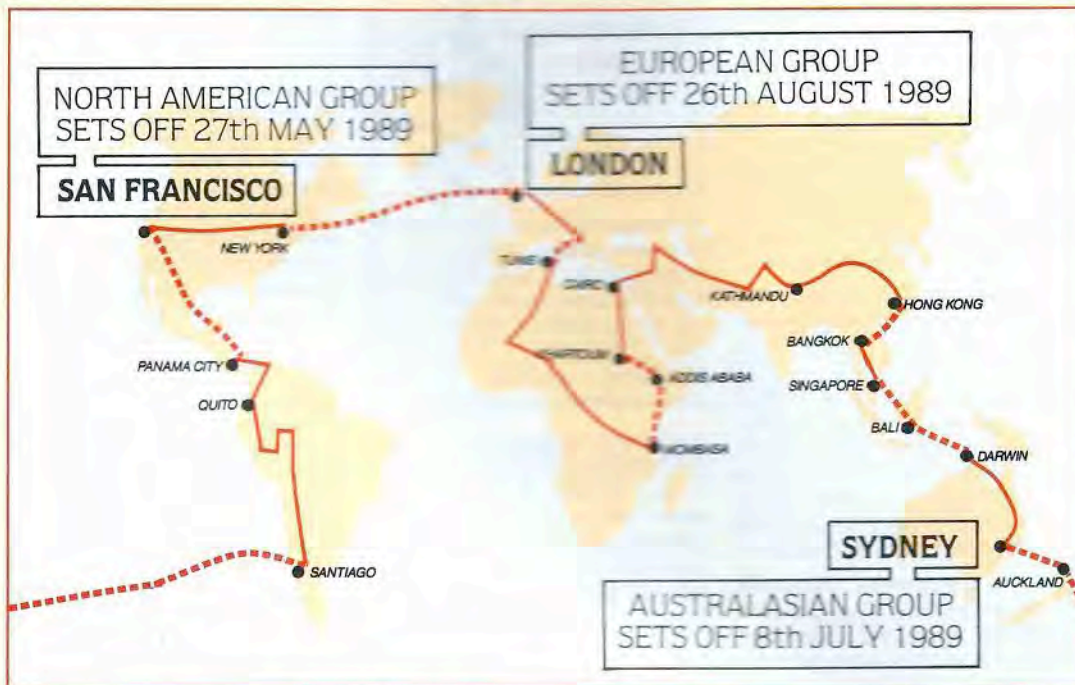
SAT. 8th JULY '89:

Australasian Group sets off from Sydney.

SAT. 26th AUGUST '89:

European Group sets off from London.





North American Group — Departs 27 May '89

Phase I — from San Francisco overland across N. America to New York and fly to London. In England you will meet E.O.'s London staff and final expedition preparations at the workshops and also meet with the European group. Then across Europe, the Mediterranean from Sicily to Tunis, and embark on the expedition across Africa to Nairobi. There will be a week's break on the Indian Ocean at Mombasa.

Phase II — continue north through Sudan and Egypt to Cairo, where you will cross paths with the Australasian Group. Then across Asia to Kathmandu (overflying Iran unless diplomatic situation for US and Canadians have improved.) There is a week's break in Kathmandu.

Phase III — Raft and trek the Himalayas and on across the mountains to Tibet, China and Hong Kong. Then Bangkok and Thailand, Malaysia by road and rail to Singapore and by air to Bali and Darwin. Across Australia to Sydney and a further week's break to relax in New Zealand.

Phase IV — Fly to Santiago and overland through South America to Cartagena. Here you will again meet the Australasian group on their way south. Finally across the Darien Gap to Panama to arrive San Francisco August '89.

Australasian Group — Departs 8 July '89

Phase I — from Sydney overland across Australia to Darwin, flying to Bali and Singapore and by land through Malaysia and Thailand. Then flight to Hong Kong and the long land route through northern Asia to Lhasa and Kathmandu. Here there is the first of the one week breaks.

Phase II — then rafting and trekking through Nepal before descending to the plains of India and overland journey through Central Asia to Turkey, the Middle East and the African continent at Cairo meeting with the North American group for the first time. South through Egypt to Sudan, Addis Ababa and Nairobi. Here will be the second break of a week on the coast of the Indian Ocean at Mombasa.

Phase III — Across East Africa to the rain forests of Zaire, the Sahara desert to Tunis, through Europe to London to meet everyone at E.O.'s headquarters and take the third seven day break.

Phase IV — Fly to New York and overland across the North American sub-continent to San Francisco then the flight to Panama City for the crossing of the Darien Gap to Cartagena. Here you will again meet the North American group on their final leg. Overland through South America to Santiago, where you again meet the European group who will have just arrived from 'Down Under'. The flight from Santiago across the Pacific will bring you back to Auckland and Sydney for late September '89.

European Group — Departs 26 August '89

Meeting with North American group in London early June.

Phase I — From London through Europe to Sicily and the Sahara to Zaire and East Africa. A week's relaxation at Mombasa.

Phase II — Fly Nairobi to Addis Ababa and Khartoum to continue overland and by lake steamer through the Sudan and Egypt to Cairo meeting the Australasian group en-route. Overland now through the Holy Land, Turkey, the Middle East, Iran, Pakistan, Kashmir, India and Nepal. Arrival in Kathmandu means a week's complete break relaxing around town.

Phase III — Onto the rivers and mountain trails of the Himalayas by raft and on foot then northwards to Tibet and Lhasa and the long land route eastwards through China to Hong Kong. Fly to Bangkok, then by land through Thailand and Malaysia to Singapore and air to Bali and Darwin. On across Australia's "Red Centre" to the Great Barrier Reef and Sydney before taking the short flight to Auckland. Here in New Zealand there will be the third of the one week breaks.

Phase IV — Fly to the far shores of the south Pacific and Santiago — where you again meet the Australasian group on their final leg back home. Overland from Santiago through South America to Cartagena and the crossing of the Darien Gap to Panama City. Then the flight to San Francisco and overland across North America to New York. Finally there is the Atlantic flight to London in late October '89.

Route References

Certain pages in this brochure help to describe sectors of the Trans-Globe 89 Expedition. They are summarised here in the order as encountered by the European Group.

EUROPE (3 WEEKS)

Overland through Europe, time in Paris, the Loire Valley, Strasbourg and the Rhine; Bavaria to Munich, the Austrian Tyrol into Italy, Venice, Florence, Rome, Naples, Sicily and so to Tunis.

AFRICA (21 WEEKS)

Tunis to Tamanrasset (see Sahara Safari, page 21). Tamanrasset, Zinder, Bangui, Kisangani to the Ruwenzori and Tanzania, the East African Game Parks and Mt. Kilimanjaro to Nairobi (see The Great Safari, pages 39 and 40). Nairobi/Addis Ababa/Khartoum by air; train to Wadi Halfa and by steamer to Aswan; then overland to Abu Simbel, Luxor and Cairo (see All Africa, page 42).

ASIA (19 WEEKS)

Suez, Amman to Damascus and Eastern Turkey, Iran and Pakistan to India and Nepal (see East of Suez, page 35).

River running and trekking in Nepal (see Nepal Dekho, page 14); by road from Kathmandu to Lhasa (see Tibet, page 15). From Lhasa to Hong Kong by road, or road and rail (if not — air/rail). Hong Kong to Bangkok by air, then overland through Thailand and Malaysia to Singapore. By air from Singapore to Bali and Darwin.

AUSTRALASIA (5 WEEKS)

Overland from Darwin to Alice Springs, the Queensland Coast to Sydney then by air to Auckland and Santiago in Chile.

THE AMERICAS (15 WEEKS)

From Santiago to Quito through the Atacama, the Andes and the Amazon jungle to Cartagena (see Conquistador, pages 45-47) and the trek across Darien Gap to Panama City (see Darien Gap, page 27). Then by air to San Francisco and overland through the Western desert and the Rockies to Niagara Falls and New York, and by air to London.

The Red Tape ...

HOW TO BOOK



Please note our age limits are 18-40.

To ensure a place, you should book as early as possible. You should first carefully read the conditions of contract, then sign the booking form and return it together with the required booking fee. All payments will be promptly receipted. In the event of us not being able to accept your booking, your booking fee will be returned immediately.

Once your booking has been confirmed we guarantee not to surcharge. This, plus the tendency for us and airlines to be filling up fast really does amount to a strong case for your booking as soon as possible.

THE COST



The prices quoted in this brochure were correct at the time of printing (February 1988). Should exchange rates move significantly we reserve the right to adjust prices; however, our **'NO SURCHARGE GUARANTEE'** ensures that once you have booked, you are protected against any increases that may occur.

The only circumstance in which you could possibly be asked to make an additional payment is covered under Contingencies (page 53). This applies to Trans-Continental Expeditions only.

The fact is that the cost of the project is shared and that it covers in advance all expenses of a well planned expedition. 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.

But Encounter Overland isn't cheap and won't look cheap. It is simply about the best value there is. Remember the cost of Encounter Overland covers the following expenses throughout the journey:

- **Administration and 'count-down'** — our involvement in helping you to set off smoothly. It's why we're based in Central London.

- **Transport** — 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.

- **Food** — three meals daily, usually prepared ourselves and occasionally at pleasant restaurants (see note on South America below).

- **All accommodation** — campsites fees, hotels/hostels as detailed.

- **Special planned highlights** — Trekking the Inca Trail, Amazon boat projects, Houseboats in Kashmir and the short trek in Ladakh, the great game reserves in Africa as detailed. In fact, all the places and activities given at the start of each project's details as specified in its facts-box (subject of course to circumstances). And too the flexibility to implement unplanned ideas on all continents!

- And, perhaps most valuable of all, the involvement of a highly able expedition leader fully supported from an experienced base, with the authority and readiness to implement ideas flexibly.

The cost does not include visas, vaccinations and personal insurance. And obviously there are going to be other, optional, unspecified admissions etc over and above those included in the cost as specified in the facts-box.

South America — accommodation and food

Included in the price is the cost of hotel accommodation in the major centres.

These cities are Lima, La Paz, Potosi/Sucre, Cuzco, Manaus and Caracas, with three nights usually being spent in each (one night each in Lima and La Paz on Peru and the Incas). As these stops provide an opportunity for individual exploration and excursions, experience has shown that attempting to provide group meals is something of an inconvenience and therefore all meals are at own expense in these specified cities. We suggest you should allow an extra \$8 a day on these occasions.

PASSPORTS AND VISAS



Passports must be valid for the duration of the expedition plus six months, and have sufficient blank pages, twelve at least for Trans-continental journeys and six for most Brief Encounters.

Some visas are obtained prior to departure, other en route. With the pre-departure details will be all the information you need and we will ensure you are given all the necessary assistance. En route the expedition leader will apply for the necessary visas as a group.

PERSONAL SPENDING MONEY



As these projects are fully inclusive, personal spending money need be relatively little. As a guide, we would recommend you to have up to £7/US \$12 a day, available for a wayside snack, cold drink, a lunch when sightseeing, souvenirs, postage, some admission fees, laundry etc.

Our advice is to travel with at least £140-£200/US \$200-300, or a third of your personal spending budget, which ever is less, in smallish denominations of cash. The remainder should probably be taken in Travelers Cheques of the best known brands.

N.B. The Government of Algeria has Currency Exchange Regulations that require arriving travellers to exchange a pre-set amount of "hard currency" into local currency at the port of entry (i.e. border). In Algeria this amount is the equivalent of US \$210. This amount (which approximates to the recommended daily spending money) should therefore be part of your budget.

INSURANCE AND MEDICAL



Everyone must have individual **personal travel insurance**. Various policies are available, but whatever policy you arrange it must include a minimum of £10,000 or US \$15,000 for medical, hospital and additional expenses including all necessary extra travel (re-joining trip, repatriation, etc.).

A personal policy arranged with one of our recommended underwriters is probably the best way to deal with this.

You are strongly recommended to make sure that your policy provides for cancellation and curtailment and baggage. Any expedition member with family commitments must also be satisfied that they are responsibly provided for.

Participation in most of these projects requires **vaccination**; cholera is often required as is typhoid, yellow fever and tetanus. For most expeditions you are also recommended to have a Gamma Globulin injection against hepatitis immediately before setting off. Again, the pre-departure information will cover this point as it affects your specific trip.

A sensible, well-tried **medical kit** is carried on all projects and an abundance of personal pills is unnecessary and should not be taken routinely as preventative cover. When the need arises the necessary drugs, antibiotics etc. are available. It is a good idea to bring along your own small supplies of basic items such as band-aids, aspirins, insect repellent, lip-salve, etc. Also, if you haven't had a dental check recently, it's not a bad idea to see your dentist before leaving — dental repairs are primitive in many of the areas we shall visit.

Malaria pills are supplied on all Trans-Continental journeys and are to be taken as prescribed. On Brief Encounters a course should sometimes be commenced prior to departure and supply of the same drug taken with you for use en route. The pre-departure information will provide more specific details on this point.

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 or a rucksack (with detachable frame), or a canvas kit-bag;
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 — and these on some trips at certain times of the year can include extremes.

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 at the end of the expedition.

CONNECTING TRAVEL



Far too large a subject to be dealt with here but it will probably be a significant part of your total outlay. Therefore Encounter Overland and its agents will work hard at helping you find the connecting travel you need. And we'll work hard at the cost, too, doing our experienced best to ensure smooth connections and at a very competitive price indeed.

ENCOUNTER OVERLAND LTD

Registered Office:

267 Old Brompton Road, London SW5

Registered number 1021150 England

I the signatory to the booking form wish to join the expedition (Transcontinental and/or Brief Encounter) mentioned thereon under the following conditions:

1. The booking fee of A\$200 or 10% of the inclusive fare (whichever is greater) is paid at the time of booking. The booking fee is accepted as part of the inclusive fare and will only be refunded if the applicant cannot be offered a place.
2. If, prior to 60 days before departure, an applicant wishes to transfer from the expedition he/she has booked, a transfer fee equal to half the booking fee is required. Less than 60 days, transfers cannot be accepted without loss of monies contracted unless the vacated place is subsequently filled.
3. The accepted applicant must pay the balance of the inclusive fare not later than 60 days before the published departure date of the expedition.
4. If the balance of all monies due to the operator is not paid 60 days prior to departure, the operator may treat the booking as cancelled by the client.
5. Clients should note that the operators cannot ensure against price differentials of the various currencies acceptable in payment. Balance payments must be made to the same office and in the same currency as the original booking fee was paid.
6. If the applicant cancels his/her booking less than 60 days before departure the balance payment can only be refunded if the cancelled place is subsequently filled.
7. The operators reserve the right to cancel any expedition or places on an expedition without prior notice. In this case all monies paid will be refunded in full. This shall be the full extent of the operators' liability.
8. Schedules and itineraries are subject to alteration without prior notice due to events or circumstances which are beyond the control of the operators. These include, but are not limited to, epidemics, political disputes, adverse political developments, quakes, floods.
9. (Applies to Trans-Continental Expeditions only.) Clients accept that if the operators are left with no reasonable alternative but to adopt other means — air or sea — so as to continue with the expedition, clients would be asked to make a contribution towards the cost of its implementation. This contribution will in no circumstances exceed US \$250.
10. Charges quoted include meals, living and travel by the means and route indicated or as may be

altered by the operators. The price of visas, personal insurance, laundry, and optional unspecified admission fees as well as purely personal spending is not included.

11. In circumstances involving a complaint whilst travelling with us the client must first bring the matter to the attention of the Leader/Driver. In this way resolution by better understanding is made possible. What can be put right is put right, what is not resolved must be brought to the notice of the operator on completion of the trip within 30 days.
12. Clients will comply with all legislation, visas, immigration, customs, foreign exchange regulations of the countries visited. Should there be any contravention of the laws of any country through which the expedition passes, we or the expedition leader shall have the right to require the applicant to leave the expedition without recourse to refund.
13. Clients will effect personal travel insurance, being satisfied that their insurance cover fully meets their personal requirements and, in the case of trans-Africa and trans-South America, it extends the planned length of the expedition by three weeks. Cancellation and baggage insurance is also strongly recommended. Clients are informed that full vehicle insurance is not necessarily obtainable for all countries en route.
N.B. If you are married and/or especially if you have children or elderly dependents you are strongly recommended to have adequate extra insurance to cover these responsibilities.
14. Clients acknowledge that this is an undertaking involving a significant element of personal risk and that this expedition is a journey of a hazardous nature. Clients accept this risk and accept that neither the operators, nor the operators' staff, nor their agents, nor any operators or carrier with which they are co-operating will be under any unreasonable liability whatsoever.
15. This contract shall be construed and the relations between the parties determined in accordance with the laws of England. All matters of difference arising under or in connection with this contract shall be subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the English courts.

ACCOMMODATION at expedition departure and arrival points.



In all places where trips begin and end we have economic hotel arrangements available. This applies in London, Istanbul, Kathmandu, Bombay, Madras, Srinagar (houseboat), Malaga, Islamabad, Dar es Salaam, Nairobi, Cairo, Tunis, Banjul, Panama, Rio, Lima, Cartagena, La Paz, Quito, Dakar and Mombasa.

Arrangements for nights needed by you before departure or after arrival are covered in our pre-departure information. Then you pay your own account to the hotel (often at special group rates).

POST



En route mailing points for news from home will be supplied with our approximate dates of arrival.

RECOMMENDED READING AND MAPS



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. We'll advise you of the maps we ourselves use.

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!

CONTINGENCIES (Applies only to Trans-Continental Expeditions)



Occasional tense political situations have long been a fact of life for overlanders, and in more than two decades no-one has responded to such events with greater proficiency than Encounter Overland.

No continent has had a monopoly, in fact none has been entirely spared. We are of course constantly attuned

to such affairs and, in the event, to what contingency plan of 'around', 'through', or 'over' it would be best to implement. In such circumstances we would investigate possible alternatives and we would do our utmost to ensure that Expedition Members do not incur extra cost.

However, it should be recognised that political forces or circumstances beyond our control, could bar every realistic land-route and that flying (or shipping) remains the only course of action. In this unlikely circumstance only, would we call on a 'contingency contribution' from you. This would have an absolute ceiling of US \$250 (although a rare but recent example is of a US \$90 contribution to the cost involved in overflying the closed Indo/Pakistan border).

It is a clearly limited contribution that could possibly be called to assist with exceptional expenditure that it would be unrealistic and unfair to provide for in our inclusive cost.

PERSONAL COMBINATIONS



Having assessed the choices that are described in this brochure, it is quite usual for people to plan to put at least two such trips together — a combination. In our Asia section (see inside front cover) we have listed and priced those combinations that work especially well. For these we have fixed a combined price which is a small saving on 'the sum of the parts' (though no more than 5%).

There are, too, a number of other logical combinations in Asia as well as in Africa and South America. Some will require an 'integral flight' (for example if you wanted to combine Egypt with East African Safari or with Mountain Gorilla; or Darien Gap with Peru & The Incas). In these cases round-trip flight costs from London or other take-off points that incorporate both trip start-points can be a great saving. Other possible combinations such as East of Suez with Egypt may have a day or two between.

At EO the utmost has been done to keep prices down, and for this reason we cannot offer discounts on such combinations. But we can and do ensure the best possible arrangements in meshing together the completion of one chosen journey with the start of another so that they merge smoothly to become one overall personal combination.

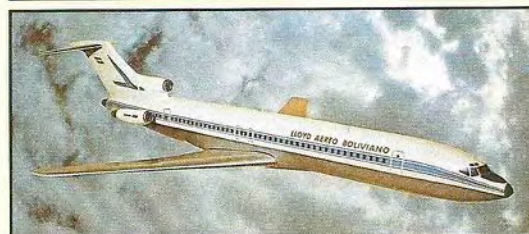
PRE-DEPARTURE INFORMATION



Each expedition has pre-departure information which is sent to all expedition members.

Connecting Air Travel

Although our prices do not include the cost of any connecting flights to the departure point or back from the arrival point, we offer comprehensive schedules and competitive prices with many of the world's major airlines.



Our Conditions of Contract

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Reg. No. 1021150 England.

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14. Clients acknowledge that this is an undertaking involving a significant element of personal risk and that this expedition is a journey of a hazardous nature. Clients accept this risk and accept that neither the operators, nor the operators staff, nor their agents, nor any operators or carrier with which they are co-operating will be under any unreasonable liability whatsoever.
15. This contract shall be construed and the relations between the parties determined in accordance with the laws of England. All matters of difference arising under or in connection with this contract shall be subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the English courts.

Booking Form

APPLICATION / BOOKING DETAILS

ENCOUNTER OVERLAND

I wish to join the Trans-Continental/Brief Encounter called:

AGENT

SUNDOWNERS TRAVEL CENTRE
108 ALBION STREET
SURREY HILLS
TEL: 081 401 401
LIC. NO. 214

EOB 7/88 AUS

which is leaving on the _____ day of _____ 198__

from _____ to _____

Surname: (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms) _____ Other names (as passport) _____

Present address _____

_____ Phone No. (daytime) _____ (evening) _____

Permanent address (in normal country of residence) _____

Age (at start of expedition) _____ Date of birth _____ Marital status _____

Occupation _____ Nationality (according to passport) _____

Passport No. _____ Place & date of issue _____ Expires _____

Please state if you have any children or dependent relatives (Specify) _____

_____ Please name any relative or friend accompanying you _____

Please give details of any physical or mental condition or illness and/or hospitalisation that could be relevant (if none, please state) _____

Interests and aptitudes (musical/linguistic/culinary, etc) _____

Please state how you first heard of us _____

Air connecting travel if required (please tick) ☐ Group flight ex-London if applicable ☐ None required

Other please specify ☐ _____

PLEASE CAREFULLY READ THE CONDITIONS OF CONTRACT CONTAINED IN THIS BROCHURE BEFORE SIGNING BELOW. RETURN THIS COMPLETED BOOKING FORM WITH YOUR BOOKING FEE. THIS WILL BE PROMPTLY RECEIPTED TOGETHER WITH CONFIRMATION OF YOUR PLACE.

Enclosed herewith the booking fee of 10% of the inclusive published fare (minimum deposit A\$200).

I have read and understood the information contained in the relevant pages of this brochure including pages 52 and 53 and I accept the conditions of contract and the authority and decisions of the operators.

Signature _____ Date _____

ENCOUNTER OVERLAND

ASIA • AFRICA SOUTH AMERICA

The Adventure begins here!



Sundowners

SYDNEY

108 Albion Street, Surry Hills 2010
Phone: 281 4066

MELBOURNE

67 Bevan Street, Albert Park, Vic 3206
Phone: 690 2499

BRISBANE

22nd Fl. 288 Edward Street, Qld. 4000
Phone: 221 8825

PERTH

2nd Fl. 133 St. George's Terrace, W.A. 6000
Phone: 321 2335



AGENT

SUNDOWNERS TRAVEL CENTRE PTY. LTD.

108 ALBION STREET
SURRY HILLS, 2010

TEL: 281 4066

LIC. No. 27A000595



These Expeditions are organised by
ENCOUNTER OVERLAND LTD.
267 Old Brompton Road, London SW5
Telephone: 01 - 370 6845 (24 Hours)

*Innowe
yourself!*