



Sundowners

Present

ENCOUNTER OVERLAND

THE WORLD
FROM A DIFFERENT
POINT OF VIEW



**ASIA • AFRICA • SOUTH AMERICA
THROUGH TO 1993**

Mind how you go !

Dear Adventure Traveller,

You are, presumably, not interested in the tamer, more conventional versions of travel. Instead, I trust, you are drawn to the down-to-earth realities and adventure of it. For it then follows that you'll want to know more about Encounter Overland.

First, you'll want to be sure you're teaming up with people who know what they're talking about and what they're doing. You'll want to ensure things are intelligently prepared and the project equipped with the type and quality of materials needed – and that it is realistically funded. You'll want, I hope, to contribute in a hands-on way, and not least, surely, you'll want to be involved with people going where they're welcome and where they can "put something back".

In that case we believe you are in touch with the right people and that our brochure is in the right hands.

It puts the Encounter Overland perspective on matters of expeditioning and it intends to do so without being pressed into competing with other brochures in what can become a blur of rival claims as to why you should travel with Company Y or Operator Z. Yours is the choice and what we ask of you, the seasoned or aspiring adventure traveller, is to CONSIDER THE ORIGINAL.

ENCOUNTER OVERLAND, first in Asia (1963), first in Africa (1969), first in South America (1972). And first in many other ways. E.O. isn't a copy. E.O.'s latest plans are always a combination of interesting ideas and detailed research. For no extra cost you are with the first people to envisage what such travel could achieve, who devised how to go about things and who put them into practice. You are with the people who have been most active in updating material matters and finding new frontiers ever since. You are also with the people who have not abandoned the original ideal nor confused the original concept.

In this brochure we have drawn your attention to the fact that the essential elements of chance and of risk will always have a particular place in the very nature of adventure travel. This fact is not regrettable. It is quite simply the fact upon which the best travel experiences are based. Every thinking traveller knows that. However, every thinking traveller also knows that this does not mean that a great travel experience begins by gambling on who to travel with or by taking a punt on 'iffy' levels of competence and quality.

Time and again, in the annals of adventure, it is shown to matter that a project is prepared for the circumstances, not least the unexpected ones – both good and bad. And sound planning and equipping are essential for the most to be made of the opportunities.

On 'Day One' of an expedition that's just what we all have – an exceptional opportunity. What becomes of it will depend on the preparation that has gone before, the people and the processes by which they have become involved, their understanding of what actually is involved and, it should be said, the parameters within which the project is set.

My belief in E.O.'s competence in this regard means that I can assure you of our whole-hearted commitment to each project we plan as well as to the success of the expedition, long or short, and not least to the pleasures, rewards and fun that its expedition members can obtain. But if, after considering the details in this brochure, any doubts or queries remain please talk to one of us about them.

And, in short, mind how you go. And wherever you go and however you go there, may adventure, fun and a happy homecoming go with you.

Yours sincerely,

Tony Jones,
on behalf of
Encounter Overland.

Namibia, 1990



Namche Bazaar,
1964



The first Trans-Africa,
December 1969 – April 1970

The Encounter Overland way of travel is a fabulous nomadic way of life. You are involved and your involvement is an integral part, whether it's to Everest or into the Annapurnas, in Borneo, on the Inca Trail, en route to the top of Kilimanjaro or in swirling white-water. More often than not, it's helping to manhandle a truck along rainforest tracks or in the South American Chaco or in the sand-matting routine of the central Sahara. You are involved shopping, bargaining, inquiring, cooking, pitching, cleaning, navigating, learning, teaching, suggesting, caring - and even sometimes some repairing. On desert hikes, along jungle waterways, cresting high Tibetan passes, tracking gorillas, in Persian 'chaikhanas' (teahouses) or in Sarawak longhouses. Not only are you there - you are part of it.

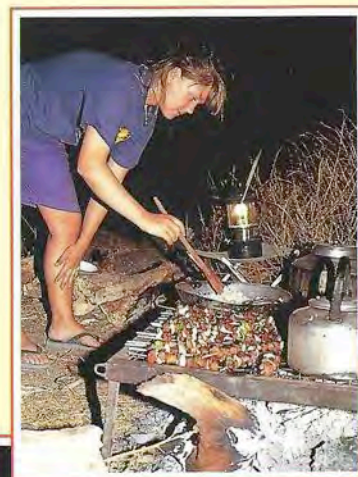
Here you can absorb moods and atmospheres and can appreciate some of the complex influences that shape a nation. You can feel the social and political pulse and can sense the price paid for progress. You can dwell on a region's ecology, beliefs, values and taboos. You can rise with the sun and the first sounds of the day. And you can help "put something back" by way of respect for the balance of nature and the value of others. And something back too in a practical and material way in the form of the very significant proportion of expedition income that reaches local 'grass roots' and village level, not as charity but in trade and exchange for supplies and facilities and services rendered.

In a very real way you belong, indeed you have a real part to play - it is the part of the traveller who combines his mobility and self-sufficiency with a certain dependence on the daily life around. The responsible adventure traveller is today's custodian of the historic relationship between wayfarer and native which throughout the world has been the basis for peaceful contact. It is an ancient role, a traditional but also a uniquely modern role, relevant to today's needs for better firsthand understanding.

To do something different, somewhere different, in a limited period of hard-earned time off, we have what we term BRIEF ENCOUNTERS. They take place in relatively localised, uniquely different parts of our planet where you can readily satisfy a taste for adventure and discovery - in the same amount of time it takes most people to have no more than a holiday!

Where entire continents supply the challenge, there are TRANS-CONTINENTAL EXPEDITIONS and a great trans-continental expedition may indeed, with no exaggeration, prove to be the travel event of a lifetime. It's especially then that Encounter's greater experience is needed. Politicians are opening or closing routes with a degree of unpredictability - and Nature herself ensures that they do not completely monopolise this activity! Were a contingency to be needed it would still keep uppermost the aims and expectations of the expedition and it would make the most of the new situation by utilising the E.O. resources, skills and ingenuity. For that is expeditioning.

Meanwhile the debate that is concerned with ensuring the well-being of this planet has begun in earnest. On this vital matter we all surely have an obligation to be informed and thereby to swell the ranks of those who must be heard.



ENCOUNTER OVERLAND

Some of you will be reading this in the UK, others on mainland Europe, others somewhere in North America, still others in Australasia and yet others in different spots dotted about the globe. We want you to know that not only in London will you get the answers you need; wherever you may be you are within fairly easy reach of an agent who's an expert in adventure travel and who will make sure you have the best advice and guidance Encounter Overland has to give. And very seldom indeed is any question, query or request not answered from London within 24 hours.

We would say 'book early', wouldn't we? But we mean it, because then these prices are guaranteed to you and you're sure of a place. While that's going on, there are people bringing all the items together to make the expedition. That happens here at our London HQ and at our base and workshop forty miles to the north. It also happens in Rio, Quito, Kathmandu, Dar-es-Salaam and Harare to name just the other main ones. The fact is that there really is a lot to organise; it's hard work but there's not one of us that doesn't really enjoy it enormously.

In Encounter Overland parlance, the "Trans-continental" and "Brief Encounter" projects that are out there putting all into practice are referred to as 'THE SHARP END' – you know, where the action is and where we'd all like to be if someone didn't have to mind the shop. The 'Sharp End' requires support, co-ordination and back-up. The basis of this has to be a thorough grasp of what's needed, time spent on preparation and attention to detail, for these factors really play a very important part.

So, if you're serious about being there to see dawn break in the high Himalaya, about following the great wildebeeste migration of the East African plains, or about watching the condor gliding in the thermals above Machu Picchu and its forested Andean chasm, so too are we.

And that's one of the main reasons it's going to be a lot of fun. Join E.O. if you can, you'll have a great trip.

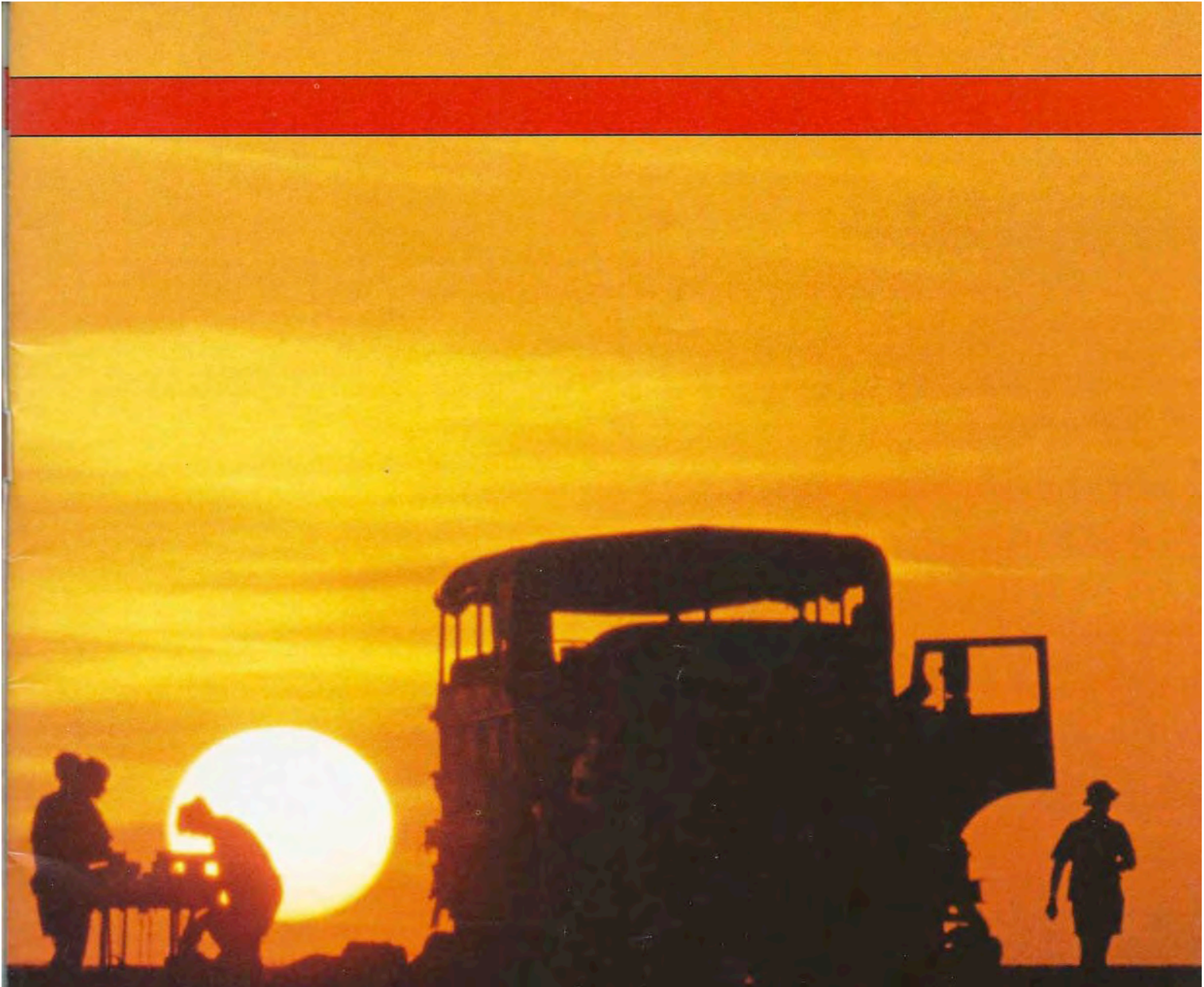
Warren Burton – Operations
Melissa Colston – Publicity
John Clark – Purse strings



London base



U.K. workshop. Tony Watson – Fleet Manager



ENCOUNTER OVERLAND is involved in expeditioning. Nothing else.
All we do is described in the one brochure.

**South
America**
and Mexico

Pages 4 — 17

Africa
with **Asia**
including **Egypt**

Pages 32 — 37

Africa

Pages 18 — 31

Asia
including **Himalaya,
China & Borneo**

Pages 38 — 51

For Dates & Prices see separate insert.

Go for the Experience

What is excellence in expeditioning? And anyway who said it's what's wanted? Isn't expeditioning all about taking the rough with the smooth, the knocks with the best bits, the rain with sunshine?

It certainly is. But if with E.O. things are down, they're not usually down long. We've got it right, it works best, is more fun and most rewarding. Shared expectations, pitching in, giving by way of inclusive cost and personal involvement while receiving exceptional value for money and acquiring something far more valuable even than that — EXPERIENCE.

People

Our job is to form the kind of group we believe you'd want to form yourself. The people who join us have sensed the essence of adventure travel and what's involved; in the laughs and lending a hand and in expressing themselves in the process.

Our gender ratio (!) is almost always about even — and you're not wrong if you think that's quite important. What's more a typical E.O. group will consist of four or five or more nationalities. The E.O. way is to involve everyone. Everyone — for the most part — being people in their 20's and 30's. Suitability is not just about fitness or previous experience but about group cohesion in which shared expectation and pitching in count. Thus here (and re-emphasised on page 52) those over 40 especially are urged to consider most carefully what's really involved. At the same time, and affecting everyone, is what in the course of this brochure will have become the self-evident fact that Encounter Overland is not suited to those who seek to be pampered, amused, catered for, entertained or stimulated with minimum effort from themselves. Nor is it suited to those whose inclination is to criticise or complain about those things that need to be accepted as intrinsic to the nature of expeditioning.

The declaration on the application/booking form at the back of this brochure addresses this and if you do not feel that you can sign that declaration in good faith, then you shouldn't do so, nor should you further consider an Encounter Overland project; for participation in an E.O. project by someone reluctant to shoulder a share of these realities simply doesn't enhance the prospects of an otherwise great trip.

EO Leaders

Encounter Overland's leading position in the world of expeditioning is achieved by our leaders! They are selected for their many skills and attributes and training is thorough. Our leaders would, however, definitely require this brochure to make it clear that they don't consider themselves 'supermen' or 'superwomen' — and neither should anyone else! They are though well-suited and well-trained for expeditioning and there are very few situations that past experience hasn't taught Encounter Overland how to deal with. Clearly

the E.O. leader/driver is catalytic to the many aspects of each trip's success; having things go well — but also putting them right if they don't! The red tape and the borders. Buying and stocking. Negotiating both fair prices and foul roads. Agreeing exact routes, maintaining vehicles and rafts and other equipment. A Public Service Vehicle Licence is required and all are proficient in off road driving and navigation and in the lifestyle of a relaxed camp.

Virtually all the hundreds of letters of testimonial that E.O. receives extol their abilities. They are the sort you'd like to know are around in a crisis — and the sort with whom there is less likely to be one!

What No Kitties!

E.O.'s single inclusive price is quite different to an operator's tour cost including just the hire and use of his equipment and services of his crew while all other costs including food, accommodation, campsites, wildlife reserves, entrance fees, discretionary detours, etc., will have to be found from the "kitties". In other cases it's never quite clear exactly what is or what isn't included. And in any case a kitty system is "wedge-shaped" running low (or out) towards the end — not the best time to be penny pinching. E.O.'s inclusive cost might at first make things look a bit more expensive but in fact they may well not be. And anyway, it's the way that works.

E.O. thoroughly budgets each project by costing in all necessary expenses except personal matters. In this way the right inclusive price is arrived at.

Expeditioning is no better for having this simple principle complicated by you having your personal monies for the trip caught up in kitties.

So what's included?

● **Transport** — including, but far from limited to, expedition vehicles second to none — each specifically selected for the particular terrain and part of the world to be encountered.

● **Camping** with a dash more style and all other planned accommodation.

● **Good food** and an intelligent diet — provisions in store on board to supplement local produce, markets and bazaars shopped in, restaurants visited.

● **Wildlife reserves**, many entrance fees, local guides, celebrations etc.; all the special inclusions as summarized on each page in each trip's details.

● **The know-how** and experience of the staff and management of the most reputed organisation of its kind.

● **Expert "count-down"** assistance and all supporting services; flights, insurance, visas, etc., to help a smooth get away and a safe return — available from all recommended E.O. agents worldwide.

● **Our No-surcharge** guarantee. Pay just the deposit and your overland project is guaranteed at the price you booked it.

The room service is lousy!

Usually up about dawn to make the most of the daylight, we have soon had breakfast and are on the move. The day's route, places of interest, market, water and fuel points and the day's destination are agreed. The tendency is to get as much as possible done before a restful light lunch. Yet there's time for camera buffs and impromptu halts, a wayside snack and detours in response to the curious and the unexpected.

Of course the planning and pace are different around towns and cities and at places of particular interest. And rhythms are different in deserts than in jungles. Wildlife reserves have a "go with the flow" quality all their own. Seascapes call for spotting an idyllic beach or cove and they are different again on whitewater and mountainside. The common theme though is nomadic and relaxed.

Camp is selected and everyone pitches in. Tents are up and dinner is on the go, there is a need for a bit of system that takes care of cooking, etc (just as it had taken care of shopping in the market that morning). Discussion, music, evening walks, diaries and campfires too perhaps — though only where ecologically responsible and the day's heat and dust can be washed away.

On warm clear nights one might even dispense with a tent choosing instead to sleep out under the canopy of stars. It's our million star hotel!

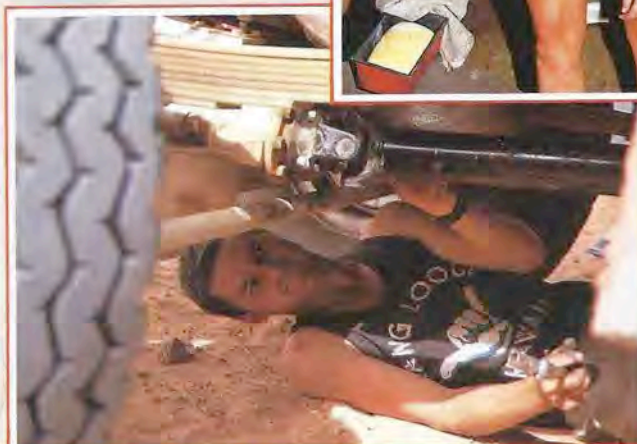
Vehicles

The terrain encountered on all three continents includes some of the toughest anywhere.

At E.O. we draw on the lessons and the know-how of more than two and a half full and fabulous decades of overlanding. It has been — and still is — an evolving process and the results in design, production and maintenance are to a standard you'd expect from a thoroughly equipped overland workshop. And where, as in a few cases, locally-chartered vehicles are used, great care is taken.

The different conditions on each continent help define what vehicle with just what specifications we need there. However, certain key factors are constant everywhere:

- ★ Safety with reliability
- ★ Optimum panoramic vision and the need for some comfort
- ★ Power and ruggedness with relative simplicity.



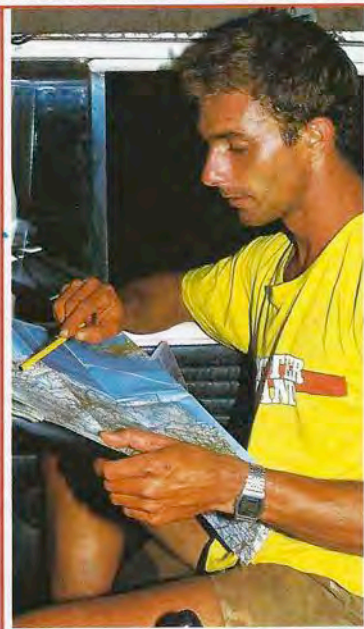
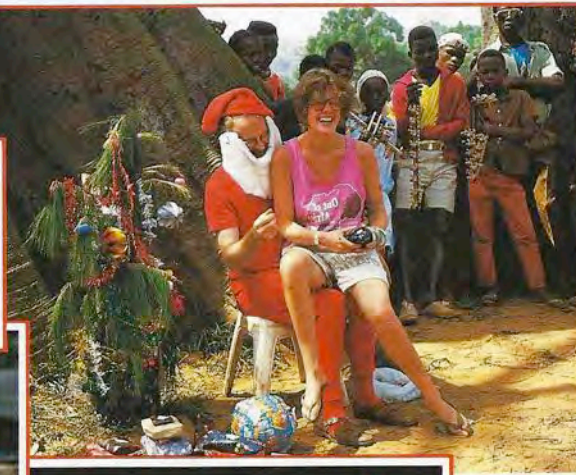
Together we've got what it takes!

Equipment

We don't overdo it, but the equipment used in conjunction with E.O. expedition trucks is what it takes to establish a bit of comfort — after all it's not just a weekend you're going for.

With us are quick-to-erect roomy robust tents (for 2) with flysheets, campbeds, mosquito nets, stools, tables, good kitchen equipment and gas stoves, showers, outside lighting and cool boxes for fresh food and refreshments. Plus things we hope *not* to use — at least not much — a very comprehensive first aid and tropical medicine kit, vehicle spares and tools, etc. We also have reference and guide books and maps and many leader/drivers ensure a cassette player.

When trekking and whitewater rafting, equipment is of course scaled down.

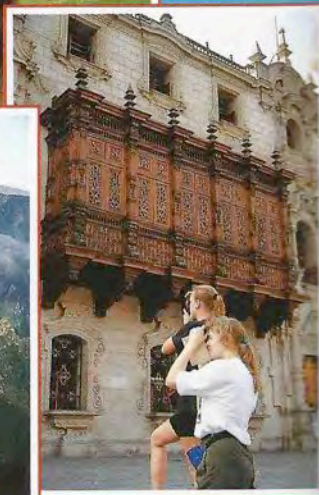
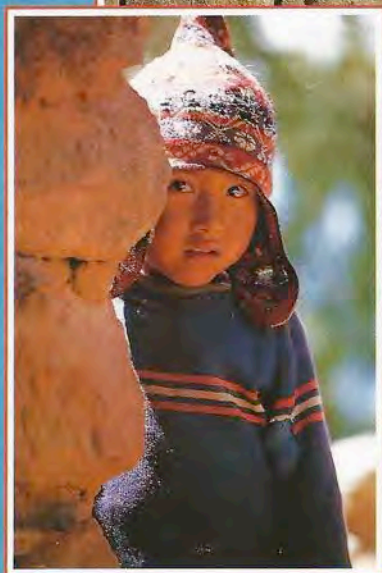
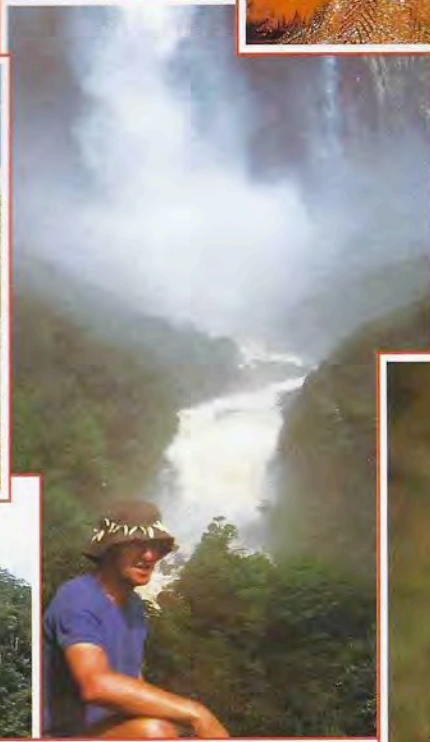
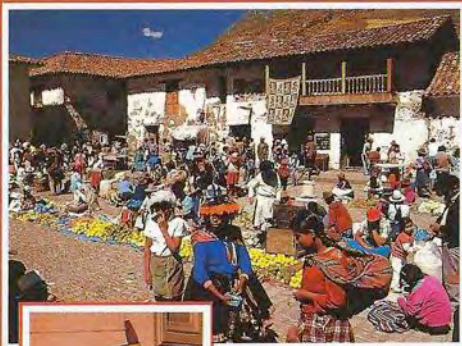


Encounter Overland has learned more about worldwide adventure travel and overland expeditioning than any other organisation. And it cannot seriously be suggested that one continent — Africa perhaps — is somehow compromised because we are the specialists in Asia and South America, too.

Yet E.O. makes no claim to be the largest organisation of its kind nor has it any particular ambition in that regard. Rather, it is known around the world for

a way of combining a personal quality and a friendly candid approach with a good deal of competence and style.

These are key facts to be borne in mind. And if you link them to the age group, to the single inclusive cost, to the specialist vehicles and equipment, to the trained staff of presence and experience, to the interaction of individuals and to the spirit of enquiry of all, you have many of the reasons people choose to travel with Encounter Overland.



LOS ANGELES

UNITED STATES

BAJA CALIFORNIA

MAZATLAN

GUADALAJARA

MEXICO

SIERRA MADRE

MEXICO CITY

PALENQUE

CARIBBEAN SEA

YUCATAN

BELIZE

GUATEMALA

HONDURAS

EL SALVADOR

NICARAGUA

COSTA RICA

Canal

CARTAGENA

PANAMA CITY

CARACAS

Orinoco

CIUDAD BOLIVAR

VENEZUELA

Mount Roraima

Angel Falls

BOA VISTA

Branco

Negro

Amazon

MANAUS

Madeira

TABATINGA

PORTO VELHO

CHOCOMA

LIMA

MACHU PICCHU

PISCO

CUZCO

Colca Canyon

Titicaca

LA PAZ

BOLIVIA

SUCRE

POTOSI

UYUNI

ANTOFAGASTA

CHACO

PARAGUAY

ASUNCION

IGUASSU

CURITIBA

CORDOBA

MENDOZA

SANTIAGO

BUENOS AIRES

PAMPAS

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BUENOS AIRES

PAMPAS

Valdez Peninsula

USHUAIA

CHILE

ARGENTINA

BRASIL

GUAYANA

SURINAM

FRENCH GUIANA

Conquistador

13 Weeks QUITO to RIO (or vice versa)

ECUADOR, PERU, BOLIVIA, CHILE, ARGENTINA, PARAGUAY, BRAZIL

If you are drawn to the world's remote places, to peoples and long rich histories utterly separate from our own, then consider South America. This fabulous land is a living collage of uncompromising extremes and apposite harmony — of soaring mountains, steaming jungles, horizon-flat grasslands and absolute desert; of lost sun kingdoms and tinsel cities; of emeralds, El Dorado, condors, gauchos and llamas. Latin rhythm and haunting Indian pipes — disparate ideologies where dictators and democracy ride the tigers of change and revolution.

QUITO to LIMA: Andean Cordilleras — Upper Amazon — N. Peru

Quito, once the northern capital of the Inca Empire, is a bustling colourful town with steep and winding cobbled streets, red-tiled roofs, cafes, restaurants and bars, lively and friendly. A rather grim baroque cathedral commands the Plaza Independencia and there is a wealth of impressive colonial architecture and wildly ornate churches. North of Quito is the famous Saturday market-fair at Otavalo, a unique insight into the ways and peoples of the Andes.

We drive south across the rich tapestry of the Ecuadorian landscape and through the beautiful 'Avenue of the Volcanoes', a series of highland basins linked on both sides, and as far as the eye can see, with snow-shrouded volcanic peaks. Then the Andes drop dramatically away and, from our cliff-hanging track, panoramas open over an infinity of green-carpeted foothills and wide plains. Roads now cut through the wild rain-drenched montana valleys to reach the primitive river ports. Settlements here have a frontier atmosphere with dirt streets, wooden sidewalks and sleazy bars.

Taking only essential supplies we venture into the jungles of the Amazon on foot and by dug-out canoe to explore the primeval forest, its endless waterways and tributaries. To settlements such as Coca and Misahualli on the Napo river, to meetings with forest dwelling Indians such as the Alama. Trees arch overhead, mosquitoes gather with the banking clouds and distant rolls of thunder, still air quivers to the screech and flash of multi-coloured birds. The jungle is primitive and harsh but there is inspired beauty to its intricate and complex balances.

Back among the cool heights of the Andean ridges we cross to the western exposure, descending emerald forest slopes festooned with orchids. But then, within the space of 20 miles (35kms), the tropical green dramatically changes to scrub and cactus, then to desert. We are now in the influence of the Humboldt current that sweeps up from the Antarctic keeping this coast cold and rainless. South of the border in Peru is Tumbes where Pizarro and his derisive force of 150 men first landed in 1527. No rain has ever been recorded here and the desert is total, broken only by the occasional slashing scar of a river pouring from the high Andes. It is in these valleys that the towns of the coast lie, their agriculture and existence wholly dependent on the Andean snowmelt. Entering these oases is a striking contrast — after 50 miles (80kms) of arid sand and gravel wastes, suddenly there is a solid green wall of sugar cane, bananas, maize, cotton and rice.

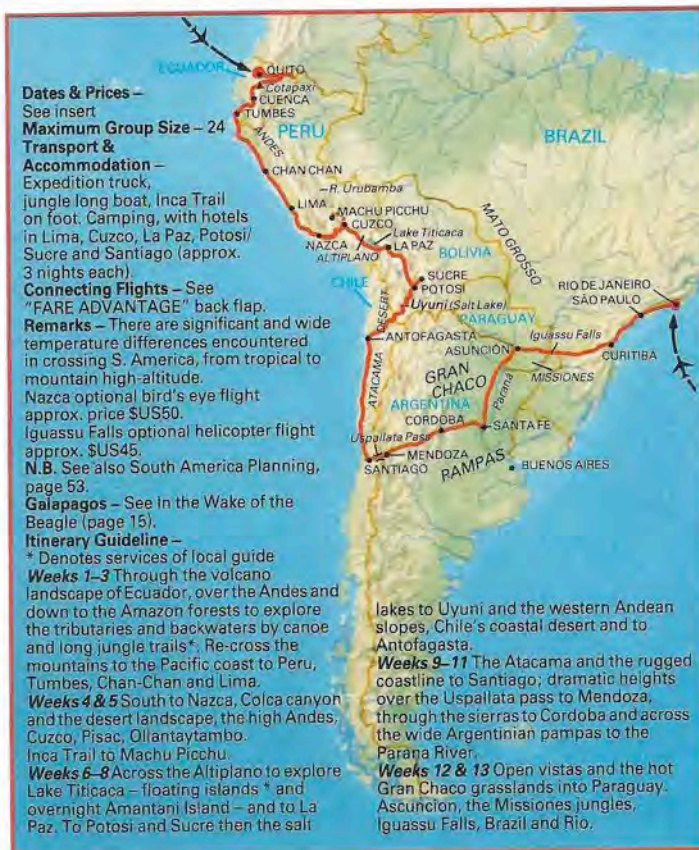
This desert by the sea can be eerie and magnificent, its desolation and whisperings haunting. Curiously it was in this

hostile arena that the civilisations of South America first flowered, where empires of the Chavin, Moche, Nazca and Chimú prospered. Testament to the artistic achievements of these desert sun-kingdoms is in the outstanding pottery, textiles and gold objects found alongside mummies in tombs. We can see the remains of the Chimú capital at Chan-Chan, and Sechin's temple walls are graphically etched in depictions of victorious chiefs and the dismembered bodies of their vanquished, a primitive but dramatic record of a brutal inter-tribal battle in the dawn of time.

LIMA to SANTIAGO: Inca Heartland — Altiplano — Chilean Desert

And so to Lima, City of Kings ringed with desert and shanty town, and to the famous yet unexplained "extra-terrestrial" lines and shapes scarred onto the plains of Nazca. Arequipa's valley is dominated by the snow-capped cone of Volcan Misti as the Andes again present a forbidding barrier. Wild and remote, Colca canyon is the biggest in the Americas, its protective walls sanctuary to the fabled condor.

The bleak moorlands of the Puna at 15,000ft/4,500m are cleft by hot low-land valleys that shelter small colonial towns and rustic villages where Indians continue an age old way of life. They tend llama flocks, spin their wool and cultivate tiny plots with the foot-plough used since Inca times.



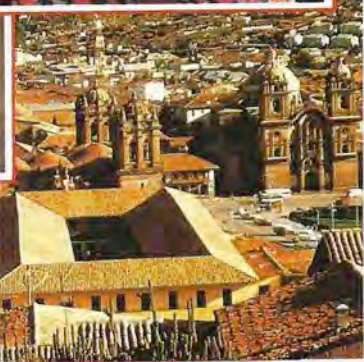
Dates & Prices — See insert
Maximum Group Size — 24
Transport & Accommodation — Expedition truck, jungle long boat, Inca Trail on foot. Camping, with hotels in Lima, Cuzco, La Paz, Potosí, Sucre and Santiago (approx. 3 nights each).
Connecting Flights — See "FARE ADVANTAGE" back flap.
Remarks — There are significant and wide temperature differences encountered in crossing S. America, from tropical to mountain high-altitude. Nazca optional bird's eye flight approx. price \$US50. Iguassu Falls optional helicopter flight approx. \$US45.
N.B. See also South America Planning, page 53.
Galapagos — See In the Wake of the Beagle (page 15).
Itinerary Guideline — * Denotes services of local guide
Weeks 1-3 Through the volcanic landscape of Ecuador, over the Andes and down to the Amazon forests to explore the tributaries and backwaters by canoe and long jungle trails*. Re-cross the mountains to the Pacific coast to Peru, Tumbes, Chan-Chan and Lima.
Weeks 4 & 5 South to Nazca, Colca canyon and the desert landscape, the high Andes, Cuzco, Pisac, Ollantaytambo. Inca Trail to Machu Picchu.
Weeks 6-8 Across the Altiplano to explore Lake Titicaca — floating islands* and overnight Amantani Island — and to La Paz. To Potosí and Sucre then the salt lakes to Uyuni and the western Andean slopes, Chile's coastal desert and to Antofagasta.
Weeks 9-11 The Atacama and the rugged coastline to Santiago; dramatic heights over the Uspallata pass to Mendoza, through the sierras to Cordoba and across the wide Argentinian pampas to the Parana River.
Weeks 12 & 13 Open vistas and the hot Gran Chaco grasslands into Paraguay. Asunción, the Misiones jungles, Iguassu Falls, Brazil and Rio.



Cuzco, protected in a hollow at 11,500ft/3,500m, is surely one of the world's most picturesque towns. This royal capital of the Inca Empire was a city of temples, palaces and incredible wealth. When the Spaniards came, the empire crumbled and the great city was looted and destroyed. But the ancient layout of the streets and squares survives, for the conquistadors merely added their own crude upper stories so that today narrow cobbled alleys lead between indestructible walls of precision cut Inca stonework. Standing over the tiled roofs of Cuzco is the mighty fortress of Sacsayhuaman, a massive defence-work wrought in colossal megalithic stone which saw the most exciting, cruel and courageous chapters of the Spanish conquest. Behind these hills the ruins of Pisac and Ollantaytambo nestle in the Sacred Valley of the Incas.

To trek the Inca Trail is to follow the same route to Machu Picchu as the loaded llamas and messengers of the Empire. Indeed much of the route is still paved with the steps they cut into mountainsides across 13,000ft/3,940m passes. Three days hiking the chasms and high crests along the Urubamba river brings us to the stairway of the Sun Gate, and the eagle's nest of Machu Picchu — Lost City of the Incas. To this green mountaintop hidden in the clouds the survivors of a nation retreated and lived, completely unknown to the Spaniards.

A tenuous Andean rail-link takes us back along the roadless gorges of the



swirling, tumbling Urubamba to a spectacular switchback descent into Cuzco. Now we will climb to the regions of snow and ice where the Urubamba has its source and where, beyond the watershed, lies the great **Altiplano** — of treeless and wasted highlands. **Lake Titicaca** blazes a deep blue among sombre autumnal colours, with the jagged **Cordillera Real** snow peaks presenting a thrusting, magnificent backdrop.

Out on the lake, Uros Indians live on 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, but the remains of a far older civilisation are represented by the ceremonial site of **Tihuanaco** and its 'Gateway to the Sun'.

From the lake town of **Puno** we enter **Bolivia** to **La Paz**. At 11,700ft/3,550m, huddled in a great crevasse of the desolate **Altiplano**, this is the world's highest capital. The Indian quarter jostles with activity, where herbs and roots, potions, pills and the recipes of witchcraft are stock-in-trade of the teetering streets and back alleys. We skirt the lakes of **Uyuni**, amid salt pans and volcanoes, to reach **Potosi** where the Spaniards extracted huge quantities of silver, and **Sucre** a beautiful old colonial town and still the 'official' capital.

Into **Chile**, where we visit the world's largest copper mine at **Chuquibambilla** before completing our 14,000ft/4,200m descent from the Altiplano to **Antofagasta**. Old mines and lost settlements lie scattered and abandoned to the lonely **Atacama desert** along this wild coast of narrow desert. But then we reach a wide inland plain, the climate subtly changes, and the garden city of **Santiago** spreads beneath the snow capped Andes.

SANTIAGO TO RIO: S. Andes – Pampas – Misiones Jungle – Rio

Once more to the mountains. Here in the south the range is thinner, the peaks taller and compressed. **Uspallata pass** cuts directly and dramatically between the two Andean giants of **Aconcagua** (22,800ft/6,960m) and **Tupungato** (22,300ft/6,797m). This was the crossing

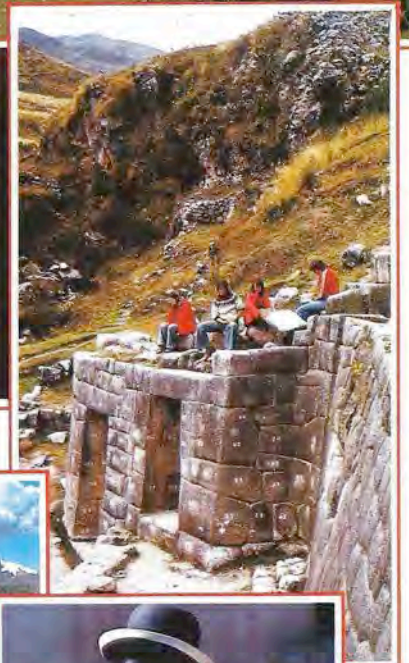
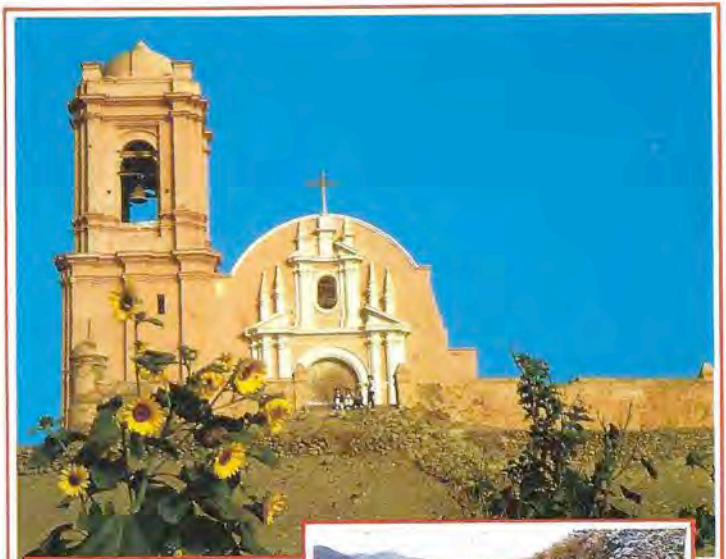
point of the conquistadors, the **Camino de los Andes**, through gaunt peaks and pinnacled rock. A statue of Christ the Redeemer stands at the summit.

We reach **Argentina** and **Puerto del Inca**, a natural bridge over the Mendoza river and one of the wonders of South America. Below, at the base of the mountains, are the vineyards, bodegas and olive groves of **Mendoza**; beyond this slim belt of cultivation the seas of alfalfa and pampas grass are home to the world's best beef cattle, their ranges zealously guarded by the gauchos — proud horsemen of the **Pampas**. Argentina would have delighted Bacchus — with giant steaks, robust wines, delicious temperate fruits and an uncompromising dedication to life and the earthly appetite.

North to **Santa Fe** and the heat of the **Gran Chaco** grasslands; to the **Paraguay** river and **Asuncion**, sleepy capital of jacaranda and orange blossom boulevards. From the fields and farmland of the Guarani Indians we enter the plateau-lands of the **Misiones Jungle**, to the great **Iguassu Falls**.

Where the border of Brazil, Argentina and Paraguay meet at a bend in the wide Iguassu river, 2 miles/3kms of thundering cataracts — combining 275 separate falls — spill 300 sheer feet to shatter into mist at cliff's base. These are the widest falls in the world and, it is often said, the most spectacular. Fork-tailed swallows dart among the vertical torrents and the vapour clouds of an atomised river billow from the base of the falls into eternal rainbows over the rainforest. Paths through the jungle and cat-walks over the river afford incredible close-up views.

And so to **Rio de Janeiro**, one of the most beautiful cities of all time. Sugar Loaf commands the broad sweep of the bay, distant islands shimmer in an azure sea and fabulous beaches lie a stone's throw from the chic boulevards of downtown. Simmering days and electrifying nights, Rio thrusts towards the 21st century on a wave of hedonism and delight. High above the city the spreading arms of the great Christ of Corcovado seem to reach out, enfolding and embracing not just Rio, but the whole New World of South America.



"Experience tells"

' The chosen route was excellent, and offered even more varied and fascinating sights than I had anticipated from reading the brochure. As for the guides, what can I say. The talented veteran Peter is a strong, dedicated leader, yet light-hearted and easy-going; and apprentice Phil, all tour members would agree, definitely had the makings of a first-class guide'

ANTHONY FELIU, USA

' Without a doubt this was the best holiday I've ever had and far exceeded my expectations. I don't know where to begin to say exactly how much I enjoyed it, so I'll just say that the whole trip from start to finish was one long exciting adventure and a great laugh'

LINDA BULMER, UK

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

DIANA FFENNEL, UK

' 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!'

APRIL HUNTER, AUSTRALIA

' We also found that E.O. has proved that "Time and Trouble have shown that the E.O. way works best." I saw three other organisations en route and 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 way of seeing and experiencing South America was the best, and our route as advised by our drivers could not have been better'

MARTIN SPURLING, USA

Patagonia & T. del F.
plus Conquistador
22 Days then 13 Weeks
BUENOS AIRES/RIO—
QUITO (or vice versa)
See also page 10

Dates & Prices — See insert

Amazon & Andes

9 Weeks RIO to QUITO via MANAUS (or vice versa)

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 sand-banks.

We now turn north; the track slashes through the forest like a knife wound to Porto Velho. Aboard one of the Amazon's amazing riverboats, sleeping on deck in hammocks, on 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 Agustin 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

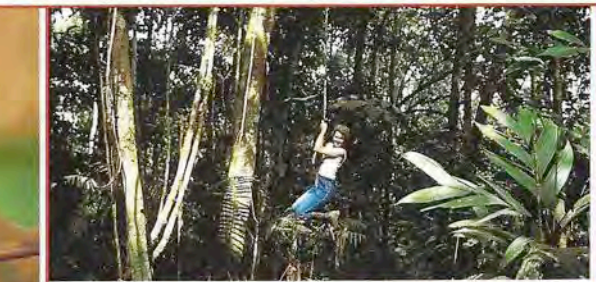
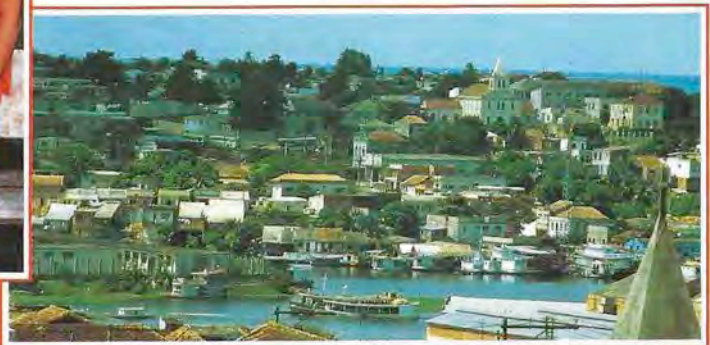
remains are the graves. Every tomb is guarded by a grotesque carved statue, up to ten feet tall — disquieting presences in the lush and serene countryside.

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



Dates & Prices — See insert
Maximum Group Size — 24
Transport & Accommodation — Expedition truck, Amazon river craft. Camping, with hotels in Manaus & Caracas.
Connecting Flights — See "FARE ADVANTAGE" back flap.
Remarks — Road Porto Velho—Manaus often impassable, in which case ferry and truck-carrying barge, taking 4 days, is used.
 Angel Falls — Optional flight approx. price \$US70.
 N.B. See also South America Planning, page 53.
Galapagos — See In the Wake of the Beagle (page 15).
Itinerary Guideline — * Denotes services of local guide
Weeks 1–3 From Rio to Ouro Preto, Brasilia & Mato Grosso; into the Pantanal's sub-tropical wildlands that merge into the Amazon rainforests around Porto Velho and on the river to Manaus.
Weeks 4–6 Explore the Amazon backwaters from Manaus *, then, crossing the Equator, through the dense jungles and rivers to Venezuela's Gran Sabana — optional flight to Angel Falls not included — across the Orinoco and to the Caribbean at Caracas.
Weeks 7–9 To Colombia and the climb out of the humidity of the Amazon into the cool of the Andes; Bogota & San Agustin to Popayan. The Andean Indians, villages and markets, the volcanoes of the Cordillera to the Equator (again), and Quito.



23 Weeks QUITO to QUITO (or RIO to RIO)

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

This is the in-depth encounter with the many faces of South America.

The project, in two phases, combines the 13 week Conquistador (pages 6 and 7) with the 9 week Amazon & Andes journey (opposite) to form a circular journey of discovery.

From the cobbled streets of Quito to the serrated ranks of Ecuador's highland "Avenue of the Volcanoes," and the sinuous rivers and the jungle trails of the upper Amazon. To Peru, with its dramatic shift from coastal desert and dry canyons to windswept Andean plateau and hardy Indian villages; then to torrid jungle-hung gorges and the amazing land of the Incas — Cuzco, the Inca Trail to Machu Picchu and the floating reed islands of Lake Titicaca.

To La Paz and Bolivia's colonial towns and lazy market squares half asleep in the high, bright air of the Altiplano. Chile's Atacama desert, Santiago and mountain passes through the lofty rock and snows of the temperate southern Andes. Then Argentina's pampas — sudden, vast ranges of cattle-country, estancias and the lore of the gaucho.

Landlocked Paraguay, where Asuncion basks in tropical indolence and the

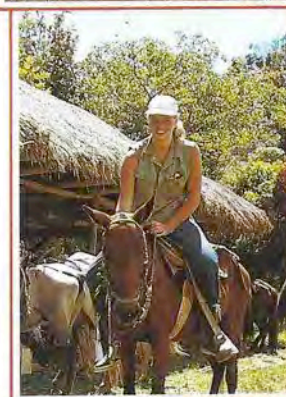
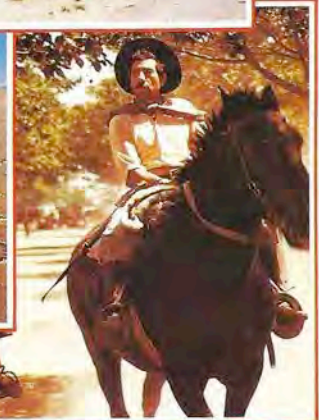
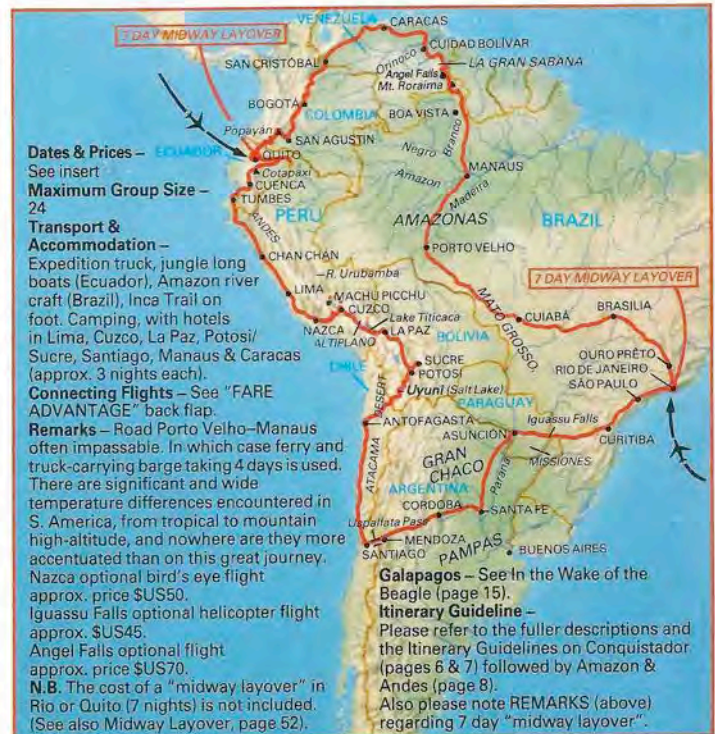
Iguassu Falls thunder beyond the Misiones jungle.

Cross into Brazil and join the life of Rio de Janeiro and view the futuristic city sky-line of Brasilia before heading into the wilds of the Mato Grosso and the Pantanal. Witness how a forest so vast and apparently permanent as the Amazon is made matchwood as chainsaw-wielding warriors proceed with its destruction.

Strange flat-top mountains pierce the clinging mists in Venezuela's jungle highlands. Across the Orinoco to Caracas and the white beaches of the Caribbean; to sleepy Colombian village markets and the streets of Bogota. Ahead Volcan Cayambe straddles the equator, full circle to the Andes again, and Quito.

MIDWAY LAYOVER

Midway through the expedition there is a planned week's stay; a layover 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. 92/93). Alternatively, in Quito small groups often plan to visit the Galapagos Islands. Thus, although special group rates can still apply, during this week's layover accommodation and food is at own expense to allow for greater flexibility.



"Experience tells"

"... The tremendous scenery, the people, the climate, the music and the other group members are all part of the many memories I have of the diverse and colourful experience of South America. Thanks E.O. . . ."

FIONA HUGHES, NEW ZEALAND

"... I must say that I had a very good time in South America thanks to your organisation and a really good driver. I found out that travelling South America in a truck is the best way to enjoy it all and the experience of living together for a few weeks with people from another part of the world makes it only better"

LIEVE de SMEDT, BELGIUM

"... The South American trip really was an incredible experience — so much variety of incident in a relatively short period"

DAN & HILARY RADCLIFFE, UK

"... Allard was standing on the river bank calmly negotiating with some Indians for a canoe to take us across the Golfo de Uraba to Turbo and from there a four-wheel drive to the Caribbean coast. He was a fine leader of men: resourceful and with an instinctive feel for the jungle, and it was a shame he had to go and spoil it all by tripping over the Hotel Bellavista steps when we finally reached Cartagena and the journey's end. . . ."

MARK WALLINGTON, SUNDAY TIMES

Patagonia & Tierra del Fuego

22 days From BUENOS AIRES

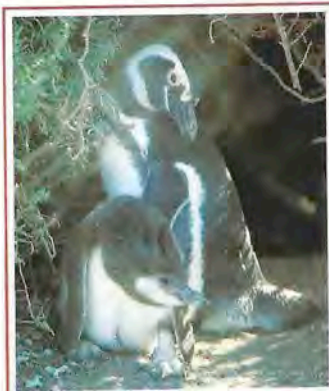
At the 'uttermost ends' of the Americas, where the southern sub-continent is squeezed to its narrowest. Here the magnificent mountain spine of the Andes, that braces the entire length of the landmass from the lush Colombian Cordilleras, has been compressed to form the most beautifully violent summits, placid lakelands and stunning glaciers. Here too boisterous winds blow, hardy farming settlements shelter in the river ravines that cut eastwards to the Atlantic and a desolation of grassland stretches to the southern horizon. All this is Patagonia.

More southerly still lies a land of angry red dawns - Tierra del Fuego (T. del F.) - at whose very tip the world's two great oceans clash together beneath the Southern Cross in the treacherous seas off Cape Horn.

Throughout this journey wildlife abounds; the Andean condor in the skies above the Patagonian ice-cap, herds of guanaco, rheas and armadillos, the arctic wild goose and penguins of Tierra del Fuego, and the whales, seals, sea-lions and sea-elephants of the Valdez.

Sizable distances are involved here and, from the air, the brown blanket of Patagonia spreads between the high snow of the Andes and the low white

surf of the Atlantic. First from Buenos Aires to Bariloche and the trek into the Andean lake district of Argentina. Then southwards, overland through Patagonia, to the breathtaking vistas of Fitz Roy and, on foot, up between the towering peaks. Into Chile now via the ice-cliff of the Moreno Glacier to the Paine National Park extending to the jumble of inlets and islands that are the beautiful confusion of Andean fjords and to the Pacific beyond. So to Punta Arenas and across the Straits of Magellan onto Tierra del Fuego, to Ushuaia and the Beagle Channel. Finally north again to where the "Roaring Forties" of the South Atlantic buffet the land - and the sea-mammals shelter in the lee of the Valdez Peninsula.



Patagonia & T. del F. plus Conquistador

22 Days then 13 Weeks
BUENOS AIRES/RIO-QUITO (or vice versa)

See also pages 6 & 7

Patagonia & T. del F. plus Amazon & Andes

22 Days then 9 Weeks
BUENOS AIRES/RIO-QUITO (or vice versa)

See also page 8

Patagonia & T. del F. plus South American Circle

22 Days then 23 Weeks
BUENOS AIRES/RIO-QUITO-RIO

See also page 9

Patagonia & T. del F. plus Ocean to Ocean

22 Days then 10 Weeks
BUENOS AIRES/RIO-LIMA (or vice versa)

See also page 11 facing

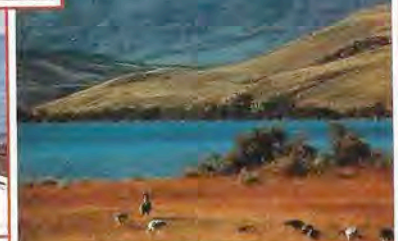
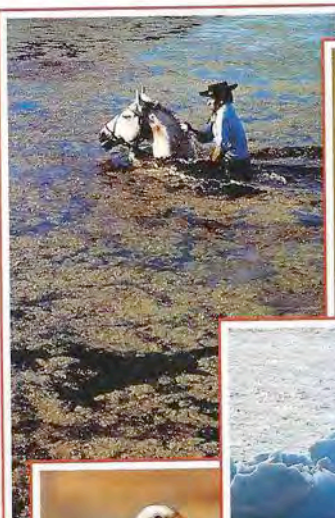
Dates & Prices - See insert
Maximum Group Size - 20
Transport & Accommodation - Internal flights, specially modified overland mini-van, on foot, boat on Beagle Channel & Valdez Peninsula excursion. Hotels, lodges & hostels in Buenos Aires, Bariloche, Los Antiguos, Gobernador Gregores, Calafate, Punta Arenas, Fagnano Lake, & Trelew (12 nights total), camping elsewhere.

Connecting Flights - See "FARE ADVANTAGE" back flap.
Remarks - Food: Apart from the treks (Mt Dedal, Fitz Roy, Cerro Torre) where three camp meals daily are provided, meals in local restaurants & cantinas are the norm. Two meals daily are included, the exceptions being Buenos Aires & Bariloche where meals are at one's own expense. There are significant and wide climatic differences encountered in crossing Argentina. Temperatures in southern Patagonia can, even in high summer, be very low and one should arrive suitably equipped.

Itinerary Guidelines - Day 1 Arrive Buenos Aires / 2: Buenos Aires / 3: Fly to Bariloche / 4: Excursion to Nahuel-Huapi National Park / 5: Drive to Futalaufquen Lake for overnight camp / 6: Trek to Mount Dedal for views of Alerces National Park / 7: Drive along Andes range to Los Antiguos in the Lake District / 8: Across the Patagonian heartland to Gobernador Gregores / 9: On to Fitz Roy Massif, camp / 10: Full day trek to Fitz Roy basecamp / 11: Full day trek to Cerro Torre basecamp / 12: Drive to Calafate / 13: Excursion to Perito Moreno Glacier / 14: Drive to Torres



del Paine National Park in Chile / 15: Excursion in National Park, fantastic views over "Cuernos" peaks / 16: To Punta Arenas, excellent bird viewing along the way / 17: Cross Magellan Straits to Tierra del Fuego / 18: Drive to Ushuaia, camp in National Park / 19: Excursion in park / 20: Boat trip on Beagle Channel, fly to Trelew / 21: Full day boat trip to Valdez Peninsula - whales (in season), sea-elephants, cormorant rookeries. Fly to Buenos Aires / 22: Depart Buenos Aires.



Dates & Prices - See insert

N.B. For a guide to a Midway Layover between the Patagonia project on this page and the overland trans-continental expeditions beginning or ending in Rio, see page 52. This allows approx. one week in Buenos Aires and Rio de Janeiro and their environs. The cost of this Midway Layover is not included, neither is the cost of any Integral International flight between Buenos Aires and Rio de Janeiro (or vice versa), see page 53.

The 22 day expedition to Patagonia and to the furthest tip of Tierra del Fuego is a project that combines excellently with the overland journeys that leave from (or arrive in) Rio de Janeiro. The empty distances of the southern 'wedge' of South America make for long and repetitive road travel. Therefore it is by air, using a special airpass, rather than by vehicle that this expedition makes best and fullest use of time down here at the 'uttermost ends' of the earth.

The published prices in the Dates and Prices insert which combine Patagonia & T. del F. with a trans-continental expedition, as stated here, are a most useful saving on the actual cost of the separate parts.

10 Weeks LIMA to RIO (or vice versa)

PERU, BOLIVIA, CHILE, ARGENTINA, PARAGUAY, BRAZIL

The journey between the world's two great oceans is a journey between opposite shores of South America; of opposite geography, of opposite peoples, of ways now and of origins then.

Along the Pacific shore where the cold Humboldt current and the Andean watershed conspire to form the driest place on earth, Atacama. Onto the Altiplano where the Andes converge in their mightiest and most forlorn beauty, to where pulsed the heart of the fabulous Inca empire. Across the great Pampas grasslands and the tropical territories that drew the 19th century adventurers, settlers and soldiers of fortune. To hot jungles, broad rivers, giant waterfalls. To sleepy plazas and text-book banana republics and to Rio.

South from the hustle of Lima to desert silence and the plains of Nazca, to Arequipa and the wilderness of the Colca canyon. Climb, past Volcan Misti, into the high Andes to Cuzco and the Inca Trail to Machu Picchu. Traversing

the lateral valleys of the Altiplano we explore the shoreline and islands of Lake Titicaca to reach Bolivia and its fascinating capital La Paz. Beyond the barren rock and salt pans of the Uyuni are the old Spanish towns and silver mines of Potosi and Sucre.

We see the world's largest copper mine at Chuquibambilla in Chile and reach the Pacific coast again at Antofagasta, to travel south through the dry Atacama before turning inland to the lovely city of Santiago. Across the Uspallata pass between the towering snow peaks of Aconcagua and Tupungato we reach Argentina and the wine country of Mendoza.

The flat Pampas lands stretch ahead, to distant cattle ranches, the realm of gaucho lore and the untamed country of the Gran Chaco. Crossing the Paraguay river we reach the flowered plazas of Asuncion and the village farms of the Guarani Indians, then into the hot Misiones Jungles — to the thunder of the Iguassu Falls and, at the far side of this intriguing continent, the sparkle and glitter of Rio de Janeiro on the warm shores of the south Atlantic.



Dates & Prices — See insert
Maximum Group Size — 24
Transport & Accommodation — Expedition truck, Inca Trail on foot. Camping, with hotels in Cuzco, La Paz, Potosi/Sucre and Santiago (approx. 3 nights each).
Connecting Flights — See "FARE ADVANTAGE" back flap.
Remarks — There are significant and wide temperature differences encountered in crossing S. America, from tropical to mountain high-altitude. Nazca optional bird's eye flight approx. price \$US50. Iguassu Falls optional helicopter flight approx. \$US45.
N.B. See also South America Planning, page 53.
Itinerary Guideline — * Denotes services of local guide
Weeks 1 & 2 From Lima to Nazca, Colca canyon, desert landscape to high Andes, Cuzco, Pisac, Ollantaytambo. The Inca Trail to Machu Picchu.
Weeks 3-5 Across the Altiplano to explore Lake Titicaca — floating islands * and overnight Amantani Island — and to La Paz. To Potosi and Sucre then the salt lakes to Uyuni and the western Andean slopes to Chile's coastal desert and Antofagasta.
Weeks 6 & 7 The Atacama and the rugged coastline to Santiago; dramatic heights over the Uspallata pass to Mendoza, through the sierras to Cordoba and across the wide Argentinean pampas to the Parana River.
Weeks 8-10 Open vistas and the hot Gran Chaco grasslands into Paraguay. Asuncion, the Misiones jungles, Iguassu Falls, Brazil and Rio.

Experience counts

South America is a continent of contrasts and of extremes, and travel from one extreme to another is often only a day or two's distance. Within one hundred miles or so the dust road across the windswept Altiplano at 14,000ft becomes the mud track through the jungles and rainforests of Amazonia. The verdant, orchid-hung, ocean-facing Andean slopes turn to rainless coastal desert within a similar distance.

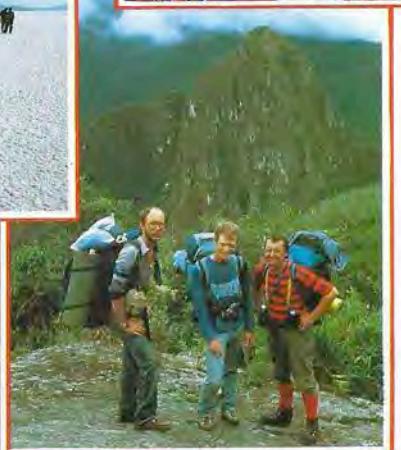
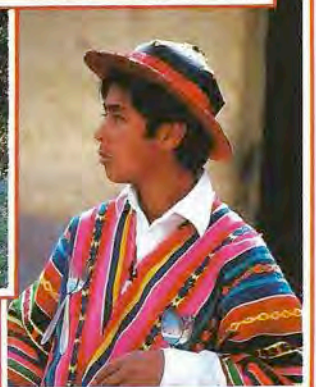
Clearly, dramatic geological and climatic factors such as these call for adaptability, not dogma, in a traveller's plans for encountering them.

Thus a built-in versatility is apparent in E.O.'s equipment and a flexible approach is adopted in our travels. The varied local amenities used include hotels — particularly in the cities located at high altitude, but elsewhere too — and the use of convivial restaurants in them (see Special to South America, page 53). The waterways are used on many projects and rail has been a contingency on some occasions. Awareness of frail ecological balances and the lot of the native Indians of Amazon and Andes are also considerations for living and travelling harmoniously in the disordered oneness of South America.

This and more requires a specialised vehicle, one that is at home in these quick-change conditions and one that can provide for all the needs of a group of 24. They are mostly powered by Perkins turbo-charged engines with 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 19 years of expeditioning throughout South America.



Trans-Amazon to the Lost World

31 Days LIMA to CARACAS

If you've a mind for it, adventure rises with the mists from the steamy abundance and vastness of it all. From atop the Andean ramparts one can sense the Amazon forests – dropping away from the high ground to the flatness that is rounded only by the far horizon.

Below you is the serpentine Ucayali that, upstream from the Peru/Brazil frontier, meets and swells the Amazon itself.

Huge now, the river has hardly started its silver and green, black and brown, journey beneath the high white and blue and the low menacing greys of the Amazon sky.

There lies a challenge. And, on the far side, north-east of here, causing the Amazon to be contained not by the buttresses of the Andes but by the long inclines from the river that eventually emerges out of the forests to become the plateau of La Gran Sabana you are surrounded by the vertical cliff faces, the daunting dimensions of the tablelands and brooding 'Mesas' of the legendary 'Lost World'.

Beyond this still (for this is but a stunningly imposing watershed) there lies another entire river system, the Orinoco. And there lies a final challenge – the river expedition to Angel Falls.

If you've a mind for it.

First we fly from Lima to Iquitos, the frontier clabboard town of Amazon exploration, 'black gold' and sleazy friendly riverside slums deep in the

upper river regions. The Marañon River has joined the Ucayali and soon the Napo is to combine with them. Thousands of river miles lie between here and the Atlantic, all of them making up the wide, indifferent Amazon and all of them navigable by sea-going vessels.

Four days is typical timing for booking passage, boarding, heading downstream and effecting the international formalities at the trinity of towns – Leticia, Ramon Casilla and Benjamin Constant. Peru, Colombia and Brazil meet here; cordially for the most part but the potential for intrigue is a thriller writer's dream!

Airborne now from nearby Tabatinga we are above the green carpet of forest with its erratic river pattern en route for Manaus, the great Amazon city in the very depths of this huge forest system.

The Trans-Amazon Highway crosses the Amazon at Manaus and on it we head due north, first to Boa Vista via El Dorado into the Pakaraima Mountains and the Gran Sabana of Venezuela. This is the hauntingly dramatic 'Lost World' – the escarpments and 'mesas' and plateau lands that culminate in Mt. Roraima where we make our six day return trek to the summit. On then, reaching the Orinoco at Ciudad Bolívar, we are airborne by charter aircraft, dropping down to the airstrip at Kamarata. This begins our four day canoe-borne expedition down the Coroni river to the foot of Angel Falls, to encounter the river falling out of the sky. The beaches of the Caribbean will then be an idyllic and just reward en route to Caracas.

Peru & The Incas plus Trans-Amazon

28 Days then 31 Days
LA PAZ–LIMA/
LIMA–CARACAS

See also page 13 facing

Ocean to Ocean plus Trans-Amazon

10 Weeks then 31 Days
RIO–LIMA/
LIMA–CARACAS

See also page 11

Inca Mountain, Amazon Jungle plus Trans-Amazon

19 Days then 31 Days
LIMA–LIMA/
LIMA–CARACAS

See also page 13 facing

EVEN ...

Patagonia & T. del F. plus Ocean to Ocean plus Trans-Amazon

22 Days then 10 Weeks
then 31 Days
BUENOS AIRES/
RIO–LIMA/
LIMA–CARACAS

See also pages 10 & 11

Dates & Prices – See insert.
Maximum Group Size – 14
Transport & Accommodation – Internal flights, local small group vehicles, on foot, motorised canoes & dugouts, Amazon river boat. Small hotels, hostels, river boat cabins, jungle shelters and camping on treks.

Connecting Flights – See "FARE ADVANTAGE" back flap.

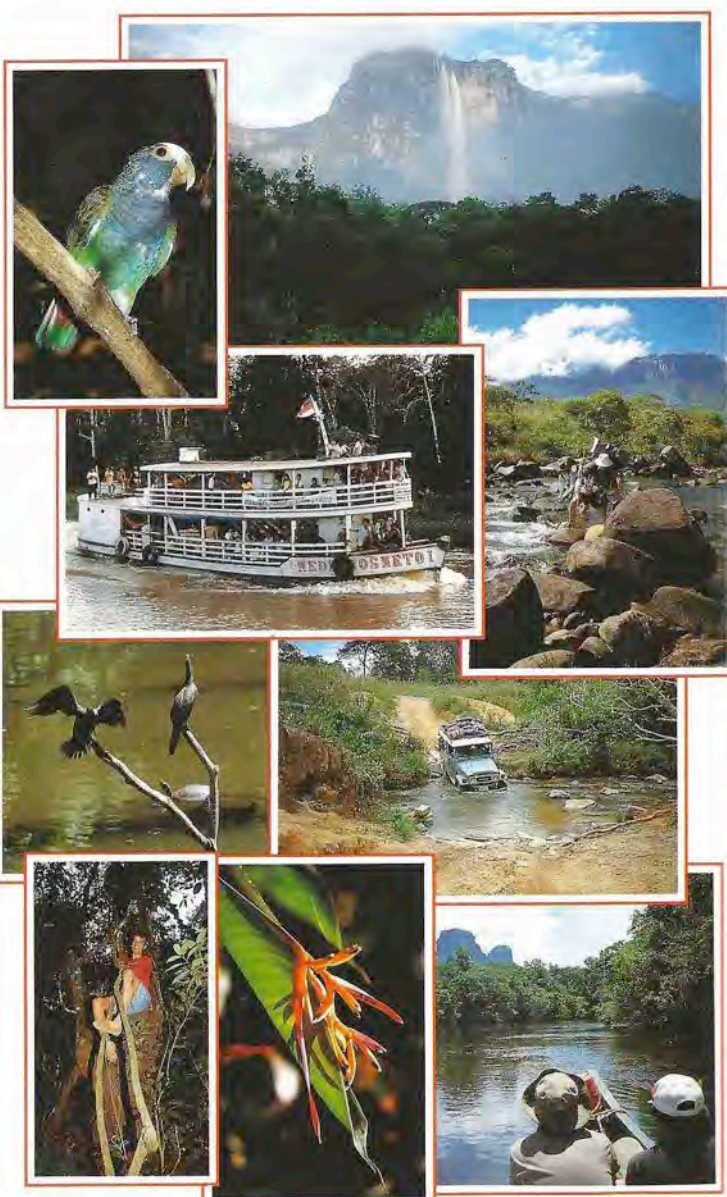
Remarks – Food: Apart from the trek (Roraima) and canoe trip (to Angel Falls) where 3 camp meals daily are provided, meals in local restaurants and cantinas are the norm. Two meals daily are included, the exceptions being in Manaus and Caracas where meals are at one's own expense. This journey in particular should not be under-estimated. Of necessity the itinerary is flexible and the section of this journey between Iquitos and Santa Elena makes very little provision for European sensibilities (!) and not every night's accommodation can be pre-booked.

N.B. See also Mt. Roraima under Remarks for The Lost World page 14.

Itinerary Guidelines – * Denotes services of local guide

Day 1: Fly Lima–Iquitos, evening transfer to Amazon river boat / **2–3:** Amazon river journey from Iquitos to Tabatinga / **4:** Fly Tabatinga–Manaus, deep in the Amazon basin / **5–6:** Manaus* / **7–9:** Crossing the Equator, through dense jungles and rivers to /

10: Santa Elena / **11–16:** Trek the jungle trails and steep mesa gullies to explore the "Lost World" of Mt Roraima* / **17:** Santa Elena / **18–19:** From Santa Elena to El Dorado & the gold towns of Ciudad Bolívar / **20:** Fly to Kamarata / **21–25:** Down river by motorised canoe, rapids and rainforests to Canaima and the magnificent Angel Falls* / **26:** Fly Canaima–Ciudad Bolívar / **27–28:** Drive to Cumana and the beaches of the Caribbean / **29:** To Caracas / **30:** Caracas / **31:** Depart Caracas.



Dates & Prices – See insert

N.B. LIMA: Each of the published dates for these combined projects provides for several days in Lima before the second phase (i.e. the start of the Trans-Amazon). This period, ranging between two nights and four nights, is included in the published price of these combined projects (see also page 53 Special to South America).

Peru & Bolivia including The Inca Trail

Peru & The Incas

28 days LIMA to
LA PAZ (or vice versa)

Dates & Prices – See insert
Maximum Group Size – 24
Transport & Accommodation – Expedition truck, Inca Trail on foot, various boats. Camping with hotels in Lima, Cuzco and La Paz.
Connecting Flights – See "FARE ADVANTAGE" back flap.
Remarks – Inca Trail: Trekking at heights between 10,000 and 13,000ft/3–4,000m. It is a serious yet very rewarding experience. See also South America Planning, page 53.
Nazca optional bird's eye flight approx. price \$US50.
Itinerary Guideline –
* Denotes services of local guide
Day 1: In Lima / 2 & 3: Drive south to Pachacamac and Pisco; boat trip to Ballestas Islands * / 4 & 5: The Nazca Lines (optional bird's eye flight) / 6 & 7: Along Pacific coast to Arequipa / 8: In Arequipa / 9–12: Through desert and volcano country to Colca canyon and climb into the high Andes to Cuzco / 13–16: Inca Trail to Machu Picchu (see description below) / 17 & 18: In and around Cuzco; old city and outlying Inca sites / 19–22: Across the Altiplano to the Urubamba, Pisco, Puno and the shores of Lake Titicaca / 23–25: By boat via reed islands to Amantani to overnight with island families *; around the lake to Copacabana / 26: Ferry across lake to Bolivia and descend cliff road into La Paz / 27: In La Paz, back streets and Indian markets / 28: Depart La Paz.

Hidden among the bleak Cordilleras, where the Andes thrust up their highest peaks over folds of valley and plateau, lies the turquoise 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 the mists and silence is Machu Picchu, the last Inca stronghold.

South of Lima a short boat trip takes us out to the Ballestas Islands, a beautifully rugged haven for marine wildlife. At Nazca slashing scars and enormous outlines of animals and birds are etched into the desert — although unexplained, theories abound.

We reach Arequipa set in an enchanting valley dominated by the snow-capped cone of Volcan Misti. Beyond in the wild countryside is Colca canyon, twice the size of the Grand Canyon. We camp on the rim of this vast chasm whose protective walls are sanctuary for the fabled condor — a last retreat for these great birds among the high volcanoes, giant cacti and scattered Indian villages.

We climb 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 cruder top-work. Cathedrals crammed with looted Inca gold rose on the foundations of 'idolatrous temples'.

Overlooking the city is the fortress of Sacsayhuaman, citadel of the Sapa Inca. Stone blocks weighing hundreds of tons are fitted so perfectly that a knife blade can scarcely be slid between them.

THE INCA TRAIL

To trek The Inca Trail is to follow the same route to Machu Picchu as the loaded llamas and messengers of the empire. Three days hiking, along 13,000ft/3,940m passes high above

the steep gorges of the Urubamba river, leads us to the stairway of the Sun Gate and Machu Picchu — Lost City of the Incas.

Returning to Cuzco by train, we take the road through the mountains and Altiplano to the still waters of Lake Titicaca. We can travel by boat across the lake to the floating reed islands of the Uros Indians who live here in humble reed dwellings — and eternal, slow motion.

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, 11,700ft/3,550m and the highest capital in the world.



Inca Mountain, Amazon Jungle

19 Days from LIMA

Dates & Prices – See insert
Maximum Group Size – 16
Transport & Accommodation – Internal flights, local small group vehicles, inflatable white-water rafts, on foot, train, motorised canoes & dugouts. Small hotels in Lima & Cuzco, camping on Inca Trail, simple jungle-lodge in the Amazonas.
Connecting Flights – See "FARE ADVANTAGE" back flap.
Remarks – Food: Unlike more typical E.O. projects, here (apart from on the Inca Trail) most meals are prepared for us in local restaurants & cantinas and in the jungle.
The internal flights Lima–Cuzco–Lima are an inclusive part of this project's price. The Inca Trail involves trekking at heights from 10,000–13,000ft/3–4,000m and is a challenging yet very rewarding experience.
N.B. See also South America Planning, page 53.
Itinerary Guideline –
* Denotes services of local guide
Day 1: Arrive Lima / 2: Fly to Cuzco / 3: In and around Cuzco, Sacsayhuaman, Chincheros and the Inca sites / 4: Raft Urubamba river through the Sacred Valley of the Incas to Huayrapunku, commence Inca Trail * / 5–7: Trek the Inca Trail to Machu Picchu * / 8: Train to Ollantaytambo, view ruins and return to Cuzco by chartered bus / 9: Chartered bus to Amazonia Lodge in Manu National Reserve / 10–14: In Manu National Reserve, upriver by motorised canoe, along trails and waterways to Cocha Salvador base camp and Boca Manu, wildlife of the Amazon rainforests * / 15: Back downriver to Amazonia Lodge / 16: Return to Cuzco / 17: In Cuzco / 18: Fly to Lima / 19: Depart Lima.

High adventure in the Andes and the Upper Amazon. Explore the Inca sites of Cuzco and the Peruvian Altiplano, raft the Urubamba river and hike the high trails to the lost city of Machu Picchu. Then across the mountains to the Madre de Dios, to jungle trails, the wildlife and waterways of the Amazon basin.

From Lima on the Pacific Coast we fly to Cuzco in the hollow of the Andes at 11,500ft/3,500m. Cuzco was the royal capital of the Inca Empire of the Sun. This beautiful town of Spanish colonial mansions, courtyards and cathedrals was then built atop the massive Inca stoneworks. The colossal stone fortress of Sacsayhuaman stands high above the city's tiled roofs and in the hills beyond are the ruins of Chincheros. Cuzco is our ideal base for exploration.



The "white water" of the Urubamba river, on its way through the Sacred Valley of the Incas, is tackled on a day aboard inflatable rafts before we put the final touches to preparations for the trek along the ancient trail for the Incas to the Lost City.

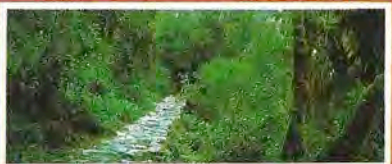
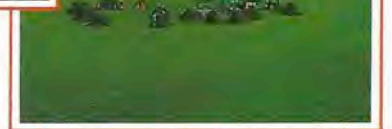
The Inca trail is the old Inca 'road' to the distant mountain-top eyrie of Machu Picchu, the last stronghold of the Incas, known only in folklore, never found by the pillaging Conquistadors and not traced until 1911. Three days of spectacular hiking: from chasms and ridges and over the high crests and 13,000ft/3,940m passes, with views that see forever beyond the Andes'



tortured lower slopes to the blue-green haze of river-veined forest. And finally to the Sun Gate of this fabled, deserted lost city in the clouds.

Returning to Cuzco by way of the train that struggles back up the Andes, it is now a very long day's drive, down the mountain side through the dark eeriness of the "Cloud Forest", the many different terrains and on down to the leafy blanket, the vast flatness of primeval rain forest, the rivers and lakes, the exquisite ecosystem of the wondrous green garden of Eden that will repeat itself eastwards for a hundred horizons.

This is the Manu. Our isolated lodge, deep in the Amazonas, is most relaxing and dinner is to the accompaniment of the sounds of the jungle. All one surveys seems utterly tranquil and idyllic, the perfect solitude of a jungle hideaway. Viewing from a tree-platform; woolly monkeys, turtles and caiman, hundreds of species of birds. Later in our stay we will set up a base camp after a day's travel by canoe. Just how isolated we are is apparent on jungle walks with our guides — some tribal people, some graduates. The Manu is sacred to them, its future in the balance, outsiders — depending on their interest in it — either fiend or friend. And wondrous experiences to tell, of herbal remedies, of jaguars and fighting fish.



The Jungles of South & Central America

Daring the Darien

16 Days PANAMA to
CARTAGENA (or vice versa)

Dates & Prices – See insert
Maximum Group Size – 10
Transport & Accommodation – Local and hired transport to motorable track's end, on foot and canoe across Darien. Camping, hotels in Panama and Cartagena.
Connecting Flights – See "FARE ADVANTAGE" back flap.
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 \$US20 per kilogramme. It should be noted that it can take up to 2 days to clear Customs.
N.B. Due to particular heat and humidity, and the need to carry optimum loads, very precise emphasis is placed on equipment needs; e.g. lightweight bivouacs, mosquito nets, etc.
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, Pururo, Pava, Palo de las 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.

The Darien lies as an almost total physical barrier across 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". In fact it is a tough awe-inspiring jungle journey on which it is necessary to travel light with only minimal equipment.

The rivers of the Darien are inclined to run laterally through its central depression. This allows for penetration by dug-out canoe up these narrowing shallowing rivers then, by foot, up and over the dense jungle-clad hills of the watershed — a ridge that is also the Panama/Colombia border.

"Canoes were our transport for the first few days as we wound our way along the rivers that are the veins of the jungle, the lifelines that sustain the Choco villages where we spent the nights. These are irresistible communities, cooled by the river and with a peace only a village with no roads could manage.

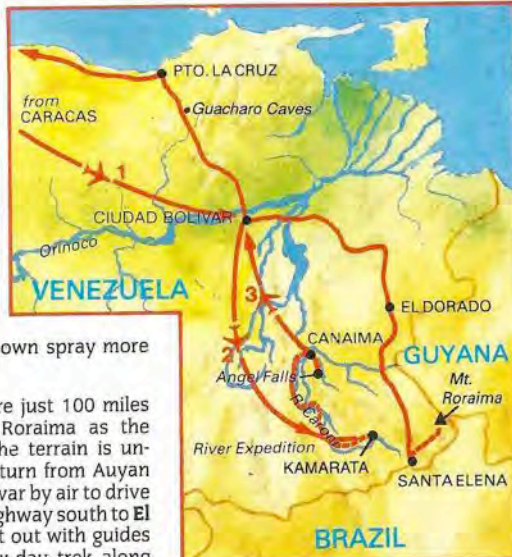
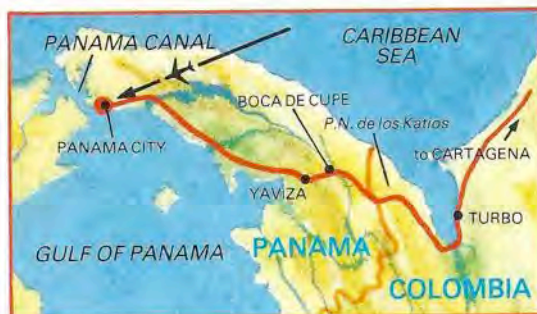
The views from the high ground are the ones you always associated with South American rainforests: a sea of vegetation and a black river snaking to the pale horizon. We saw fish eagles, macaw, egrets, cockatoo, toucans, osprey, hummingbirds and all kinds of parrots."

MARK WALLINGTON, SUNDAY TIMES

The descent on the Colombian side is through a maze of serpentine tributaries before reaching Cristales, the ranger post of the Katios National Park.

From here canoes transport us through the everglades and swamp, opening up into meadows of water-hyacinth that clog the Atrato before this river from the Andes disgorge into 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 compare with the Darien!'



The Lost World

21 Days from CARACAS

Dates & Prices – See insert
Maximum Group Size – 14
Transport & Accommodation – Internal flights, river canoe, local small group and (if necessary) 4-wheel drive vehicles, on foot. Local hotels, hostels, jungle shelters and camping on trek.
Connecting flights – See "FARE ADVANTAGE" back flap.
Remarks – Food: Unlike more typical E.O. projects, here (apart from the trek and canoe trip) meals in local restaurants and cantinas are the norm. 3 meals daily including breakfast, lunch and an evening meal, the best that can be provided. The 3 internal flights Caracas-Ciudad Bolivar-Kamarata/Canaima-Ciudad Bolivar are an inclusive part of this project.
The Mt Roraima 6-day trek demands perseverance and a degree of fitness to meet the hot, wet conditions. No technical climbing abilities are needed, but a familiarity with mountain walking is preferable.
N.B. See South American Planning, page 53, for Caracas arrangements.
Itinerary Guideline – * Denotes services of local guide
Day 1: Arrive Caracas / 2: Fly to Ciudad Bolivar on the Orinoco river / 3: Fly to Kamarata in the jungle highlands of the interior / 4-8: Downriver by motorised canoe, rapids and rainforests to Canaima and the magnificent Angel Falls * / 9 & 10: Fly to Ciudad Bolivar, and join road transport for the Trans-Amazon highway towards Santa Elena / 11-16: Trek the jungle trails and steep mesa gullies to explore the 'Lost World' of Mt Roraima * / 17 & 18: From Santa Elena to El Dorado & the gold towns, recross the Orinoco to / 19 & 20: The beaches of the Caribbean / 21: Return to, and depart Caracas.

into billows of their own spray more than 3,000ft below.

Although the falls are just 100 miles (160kms) from Mt Roraima as the pterodactyl flies(!) the terrain is uncrossable and we return from Auyan Tepuy to Ciudad Bolivar by air to drive the trans-Amazon highway south to El Dorado. Here we set out with guides and porters on a six-day trek along forest trails and up through steep gullies. Waterfalls spout from the heights, predatory plants as well as snakes and jaguars await their moment in the undergrowth. We gain the summit of Mt Roraima and with it a panorama of the massive mesas, equatorial icebergs thrusting from the savannah floor. On to Caripe and the Guacharo Caves.

And, en route back to Caracas, the Caribbean beaches beckon.



Vast landtracks beyond the great Orinoco remain unexplored. To the nugget-hungry Conquistadors who died in vain here this was the promised land of El Dorado; of dense jungle and dark rivers, of stealthy, vicious savages and of mysterious flat-topped Mesas from which waterfalls thundered and clouds formed far below. All had been forbidding legend-bound enigma until the trans-Amazon highway reached beyond the Orinoco at Ciudad Bolivar in 1973.

Arriving at Ciudad Bolivar from Caracas the flight continues on down off the tablelands of Auyan Tepuy, to the small settlement of Kamarata on the Caroni River. From here our now canoe-borne expedition moves off, propeller-powered, slicing through the mirror smooth waters that reflect the pressing closeness of the jungle wall. Turning into the Meru River, we are now headed upstream to the foot of the highest waterfall in the world. The Angel Falls drop sheer from the escarpment falling through rainbows

Expedicion Ecuadoriana

15 Days from QUITO

Dates & Prices – See insert
Maximum Group Size – 16
Transport & Accommodation – Local small group vehicle, jungle longboat and on foot. Small hotels, hostels and basic jungle lodges.
Connecting Flights – See "FARE ADVANTAGE" back flap.
Remarks – Food: Unlike more typical E.O. projects, here most meals are prepared for us; in local restaurants and cantinas & in the jungle.
N.B. See also South America Planning, page 53 for Quito arrangements.
Itinerary Guideline – "or vice versa"
 * Denotes services of local guide
 Day 1 & 2: In Quito / 3: The Avenue of the Volcanoes to Cotopaxi / 4: On Cotopaxi / 5: To Quilotoa crater and Ambato / 6 & 7: On Chimborazo and to Banos / 8: Banos – hills, waterfalls and gorges / 9: The road to the Amazon lowlands via Tena and to Lago Agrio / 10: By road and river to Cuyabeno Wildlife Reserve / 11–12: By canoe and on foot into the jungle, tributaries and wildlife / 13: Return by canoe and road to Lago Agrio / 14: Fly to Quito then drive to Otavalo / 15: Indian market at Otavalo and return to Quito.

The diverse and fascinating back-country of Ecuador reveals her secrets. The volcanoes and snows of the Andes – the Indian markets hidden in the high Cordilleras. By dugout into the jungles, to tribal territories and the exotic wildlife of the Amazon's upper tributaries.

Quito, once the northern centre of the Inca Empire, sits in a hollow of the Andes at 9,000ft/2,800m. Nestled beneath the volcano of Pichincha and circled by the snows of high peaks, South America's most charming capital basks in its climate of eternal Spring. North of Quito and across the equator is the Saturday market-fair at Otavalo, a unique insight into the ways and peoples of the Andes.

We drive through the rich tapestry of the Ecuadorian countryside to the beautiful 'Avenue of the Volcanoes' and the highlands of the condor, the llama and wild horse. Day treks take us to 16,000ft on active Cotopaxi and Chimborazo (20,500ft/6,300m), to glacier lakes and the still, emerald green waters of Quilotoa's crater in an eerie landscape of earthquake and upheaval. From Banos we hike the hills and gorges of waterfalls, cascading streams and narrow suspension bridges, then drive a clinging road high above the twists of the Pastaza river to the lowlands, and the Amazon river basin. Three hours by road takes us to the riverhead at Tarapoa where we transfer to longboat canoes to travel down the Rio Cuyabeno, an upper Amazon tributary, to the Cuyabeno Wildlife Reserve. This remote and pristine part of the world's greatest forest is a haven for tropical birdlife – parrots, macaws, toucans, – and the river is home to freshwater dolphins, lumbering manatees and the silently watching caiman. Based at Cuyabeno Lodge, we are led by our jungle guides – on foot and by canoe – deep into jungle where the trees arch overhead and the undergrowth reverberates to the shrill and call of multi-coloured birds. By night the darkness echoes to the sounds – hardly a lullaby – of forest survival.

In the wake of The Beagle

8 Days from QUITO

This Galapagos project can be combined with Expedition Ecuadoriana simply by adding 8 days at either the beginning or the end. It can also be combined with certain other E.O. South American projects (i.e. Andes & Amazon, Conquistador, South American Circle). It cannot, however, be booked as an individual project on its own.

Dates & Prices – See insert
Maximum Group Size – 12
Transport & Accommodation – Small private motor cruiser through the islands, on foot across islands. Simple berth accommodation on board vessel.
Connecting Flights – See "FARE ADVANTAGE" back flap. For flight Quito-Balra see insert.
Remarks – Swimming with basic snorkelling equipment is available.
N.B. This project is either combined with Expedition Ecuadoriana or can only be booked in conjunction with some other South America projects from this brochure – see Conquistador (page 6), Amazon & Andes (page 8) & South American Circle (page 9).
Itinerary Guideline – Day 1: Balra Island (arrival by air), join naturalist guide & crew on board motor cruiser and / 2–7: Cruise the Galapagos. Depending on prevailing weather conditions & animal colonies, visit Bartolome, Rabida, Santa Cruz, Espanola, Floreana, Santa Fe Islands / 8: Return to Balra Island, fly to Quito, depart Quito.

The 18 basalt islands of the Galapagos Archipelago lie on the Equator 600 miles (1,000km) west of the mainland of Ecuador. They are the peaks of gigantic submarine volcanoes that have forever stood alone – almost totally cut off from the rest of the world's evolutionary process. No large predatory animals have ever reached here. The wildlife, especially reptilian, has remained unmoled since the dawn of time. This condition, seen by Darwin on his voyage aboard HMS Beagle, was the seminal influence on his 'Origin of Species'. Today the islands and their wildlife are a unique zoological time-window – as if one is visiting the world as it was an entire aeon before the age of man.

From the airstrip on Balra island we join our small motor yacht that is to be home for 7 nights among the islands. An experienced crew and naturalist are on board. Accommodation is a little cramped, the food is wholesome and the schedule kept relaxed and flexible. The weather is usually hot and the Pacific calm.

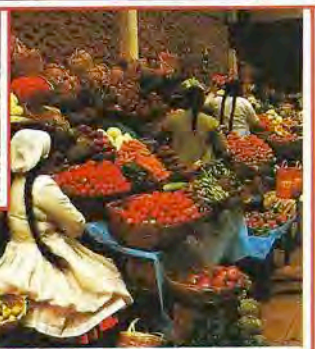
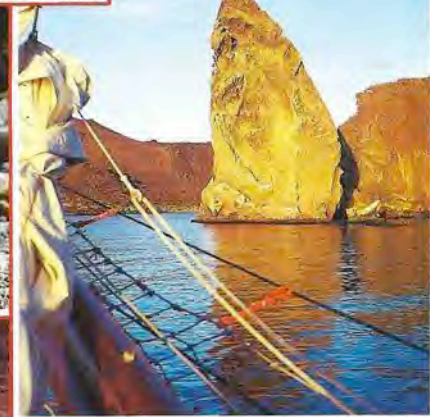
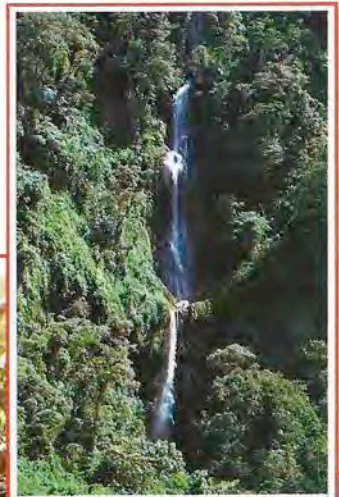
Normally we will visit Bartolome and Rabida islands with their briny lagoons and salt craters attracting iguana and a host of birdlife. The rocky shores are home to sea lions and Galapagos seals, cacti and twisted volcanic formations crowd the dry interior.

With little reason to have ever been wary of man, the wildlife of the Galapagos is untamed but unfearing. Half the plants, a quarter of the species of shorefish, many of the birds and almost all the reptiles are found nowhere else except these few islands.

We cross the large and inhabited island of Santa Cruz to visit the Charles



Darwin research station and the park headquarters, then sail to Santa Maria, Espanola and Santa Fe islands. Here we meet the giant tortoise, sea turtles and marine iguanas, the booby, cormorant, penguin and other aquatic birds. Tropical fish, rays and small sharks bask in the clear shallow waters.



Fiesta!

21 Days LOS ANGELES
to MEXICO CITY
(or vice versa)

Dates & Prices – See insert
Maximum Group Size – 14
Transport & Accommodation – Dodge 'Maxi-Van' (a tough, but comfortable air-conditioned 15-seater mini-bus), ferry between La Paz & Mazatlan. Camping, small hotels in La Paz & Mexico City (nights 8 & 20), overnight ferry berths La Paz – Mazatlan (night 12).
Connecting Flights – See "FARE ADVANTAGE" back flap.
Remarks – On these projects E.O. usually works in conjunction with Toucan Expeditions of Los Angeles.
Itinerary Guideline –
Day 1: Drive from Los Angeles to Baja California and the dramatic cliff road to Ensenada / 2: The cactus and boulders of the high desert to Santa Inez / 3 & 4: Guerrero Negro, the Pacific lagoons and (only between December to March) whale watching by 'ponga' boat / 5-7: Across the Sierra de Santa Lucia to the Gulf of California; beaches, Spanish missions and the Indian cave paintings of Mulege / 8: La Paz / 9 & 10: The rugged Baja coastline to Cabo San Lucas / 12: Overnight ferry across the Sea of Cortez to the mainland and Mazatlan / 13 & 14: Mazatlan; the beaches, backstreets and nightlife along the 'Mexican Riviera' / 15: Inland to the Sierra Madre and the plazas of Guadalajara / 16: Mule and foot-trails to the slopes and lava fields of Paracutin volcano / 17 & 18: Beautiful lake islands and villages, the cobbled streets and Indian markets of colonial Patzcuaro / 19 & 20: The gorges and wild scenery of the high Sierras to Guanajuato and San Miguel de Allende; steep twisting streets, tiled cupolas, silver mines and the intricacies of traditional handicrafts and so on to Mexico City / 21: The Pyramids of the Sun and Moon, the cathedrals and palaces, museums and street life of Mexico City.

Explore the peaceful beauty of high Baja deserts, of cactus forests and dramatic sculpture in sea, sky and parched earth. Idle on isolated Pacific beaches and dive into the exciting nightlife of Mazatlan. Discover the hidden Mexico of pueblos and colonial towns in the wild Sierra Madre. Move to the music and excitement that's the world of difference in this warm and welcoming land.

Two hours south of the dross and gloss of Los Angeles we cross the border to Mexico and the unique scenery of the Baja Peninsula. Here in the high desert, one of the most untouched landscapes in the world, cactus grows in forests and giant boulders strew the ground, coyotes roam the scrubland and seals dot the rugged coastline. Days are spent exploring this fascinating countryside by road and on foot, while nights in camp are often along secluded beaches with the sea just beyond our tents.

Grey whales migrate from the Arctic circle to winter in the warm waters off Baja (from December to March), and from Guerrero Negro we sail out to calm lagoons where the whales are abundant, friendly and approachable. South towards Cabo San Lucas to villages and Spanish mission churches basking in the hot sun, and hill caves that hide paintings and pictographs of prehistory.

We cross the Sea of Cortez to a very different land. First the lush region of the 'Mexican Riviera', of highlife and hectic night-life in coastal resorts like Mazatlan. Then to the hills. Through the backroads of the Sierra Madre to

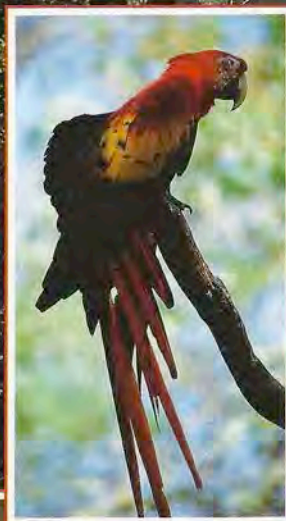
Mexico

Two Mexicos. "The Mexico until 500 years ago and the Mexico of 500 years too late". What a marvellous few weeks discovering the truth about multi-faceted Mexico.

1492 - saw Columbus searching the Caribbean for a passage to Asia. Colonisation of the Caribbean islands followed. 1513 - the isthmus of Darien crossed to discover the Pacific. 1518 the coastline of the Yucatan explored and charted.

All in less than 30 years, yet story after story of adventure and hardship, shipwreck, treasure, fantastic temples and terrible rituals. Enough to make Indiana Jones look like a 'B movie' and too much for Hernando Cortez who in 1519, armed with "the Cross of Christ and Sword of Spain" set out to challenge the Aztec empire of Montezuma.

Far, far longer ago than that, 1000 years BC (that's 'Before Christ' not 'Before Columbus') emerged the civilization of the Maya, the first cultured and urbane society of Middle America, a superbly classic period comparable with that of ancient China or India or Egypt and testified to by today's ruins at the city of Chichenitza deep in the emerald green jungles of the Yucatan.



Paracutin, a volcano that in 1943 burst from the ground in sudden and violent destruction. Now the crater boils quietly above its sea of cold lava and the protruding spires that mark the buried village of **San Juan**. We camp along beautiful mountain lakes, to Indian markets and the steep cobbled streets of tile-roofed villages where artisans craft fine works in copper and silver.

Finally to **Mexico City** sprawling beneath the high snows of Popocatepetl. This is the continent's oldest city and, with 12 million inhabitants, one of her largest. Here are the fantastic Pyramids of the Sun and Moon almost as large as the Pyramid of Cheops; the gold and filigree of the Cathedral and Palacio Nacional, and the powerful murals of Diego Rivera decorating government building and museum. An entwined mix of ancient Aztec, of colonial Spanish and questing modernism that itself is the very essence of Mexico.

Maya & Aztec

21 Days from
MEXICO CITY

Dates & Prices – See insert
Maximum Group Size – 14
Transport & Accommodation – Dodge 'Maxi-Van' (a tough, but comfortable air-conditioned 15-seater mini-bus). Camping, with small hotels in Mexico City, Tuxtla Gutierrez, Merida and Veracruz (nights 1, 7, 17 & 20).
Connecting Flights – See "FARE ADVANTAGE" back flap.
Remarks – On these projects E.O. usually works in conjunction with Toucan Expeditions of Los Angeles.
Itinerary Guideline – Day 1: Mexico City; Pyramids of the Sun & Moon, ancient Aztec city of Teotihuacan / 2-4: Oaxaca, the Zapotecan ruins at Monte Alban, mountain villages of the Sierra Madre and the covered city markets / 5 & 6: The beaches of Puerto Escondido and the Pacific coast / 7: To Tuxtla Gutierrez and by boat into Sumidor canyon / 8 & 9: San Cristobal de las Casas; the lakes, mountains and Indian villages of Chiapas / 10 & 11: The Mayan ruins and rainforests of Palenque / 12: Into the Yucatan to Chetumal / 13: The cliff-top Maya-Toltec ruins at Tulum / 14-16: The Caribbean beaches and tropical lagoons of Playa del Carmen, Cancun and Isla Mujeres / 17: The great Toltec site of Chichenitza, to Merida / 18: The Mayan pyramids and temples of Uxmal, to Campeche / 19 & 20: Along the coastline of the Gulf of Mexico to the Spanish colonial towns of Villahermosa and Veracruz / 21: Into the highlands and Mexico City (late afternoon arrival).

Central Mexico and the tropical Yucatan. Feel the pulse of Mexico past and present, from the swirl of city life to the measured pace of mountain village and colonial town. From the wide Pacific coastline and the heights of the Sierra Madre to the Gulf of Mexico – of emerald green jungles and spectacular monuments of the Mayan and Aztec civilisations. Follow the path of Cortez from sunrise along Caribbean beaches to sunset over the Pyramids of the Sun and Moon.

Today's **Mexico City** thrives on its verve and self-styled chaos. In its centre we find fine palaces, cathedrals and museums of the colonial era, while out in the high **Sierra Nevada** valley stand the **Pyramids of the Sun and Moon**, and the ancient Aztec city of **Teotihuacan**. We drive to **Puebla**, the 'City of the Angels', and across the mountains to **Oaxaca**.

This beautiful Indian town of arcades and open spaces boasts a fine tradition in local handicrafts – of carpet weaving and pottery; ponchos, blankets and Zapotecan jewellery. The interior of the 17th century Santo Domingo church is an incredible finery in gold and brilliantly filigreed overstatement. Nearby at **Monte Alban** we find the amazing pyramids, terraces and tombs of the ancient Zapotec capital.

We leave the mountains to join the **Pacific coast** at **Puerto Escondido**, to lazy days in the surf and sands along the wide **Gulf of Tehuantepec**. Inland is the **Chiapas** region fronting the border with Guatemala. Here we travel by boat through the depths of the **Sumidor canyon** and explore dramatic landscapes of gorges and lakes, waterfalls and remote Indian villages.

Then, descending to the hot lowlands, we reach the famous Mayan ruins of **Palenque** and the deep, emerald green rainforests of the southern **Yucatan**. 2,500 years ago the Mayans mysteriously migrated from the highlands of central America to this low-lying peninsula, where they rebuilt their rival and autonomous cities. The achievements of this brilliant civilisation survive in fabulous sites like **Tulum**, **Chichenitza** and **Uxmal**. We base ourselves on the **Caribbean coast**, travelling out each day to explore the ruins and the palm-fringed shores of lagoons and islands.

Finally, from **Veracruz** and the **Gulf of Mexico**, we follow the route of Cortez's Conquistadors to the highlands and **Mexico City**.

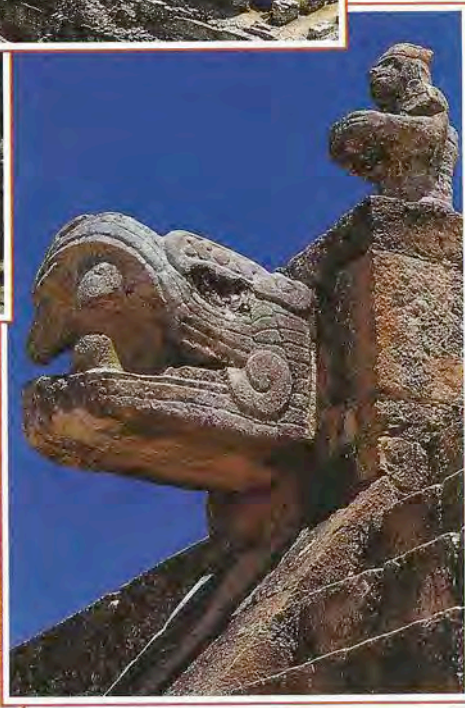
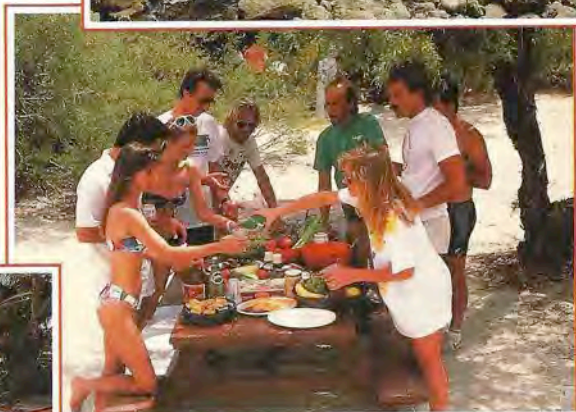
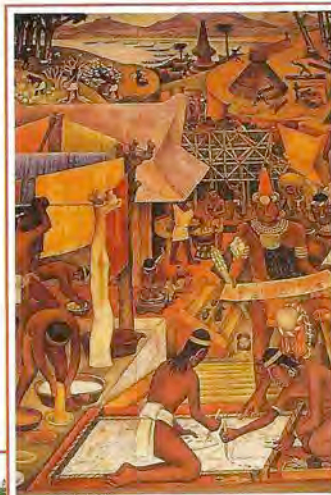


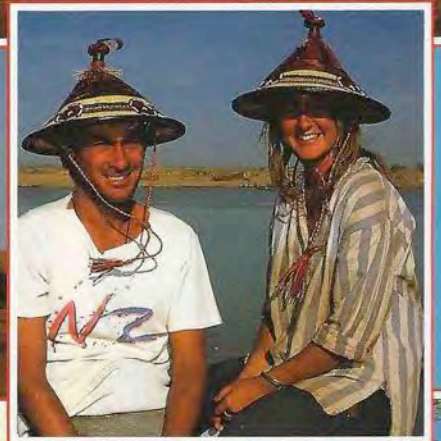
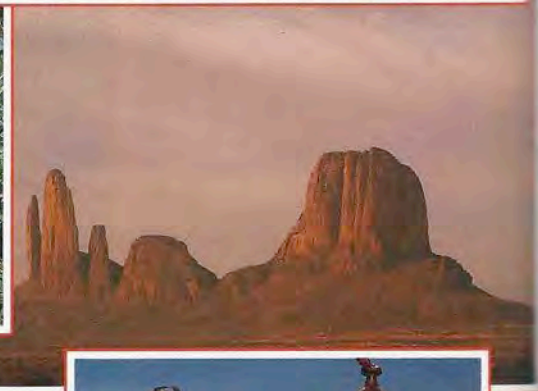
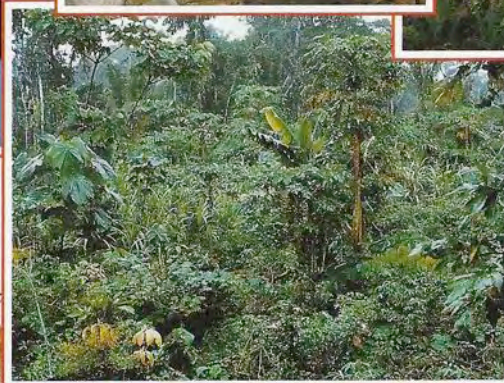
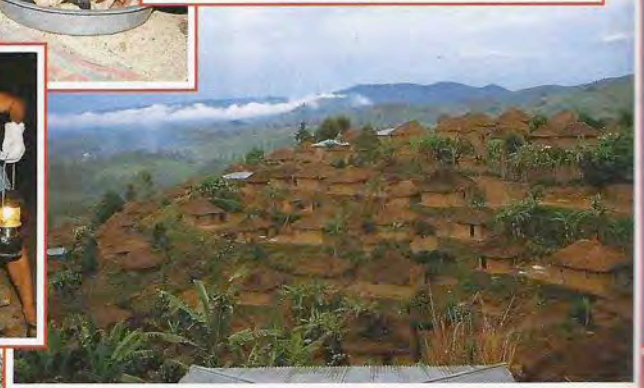
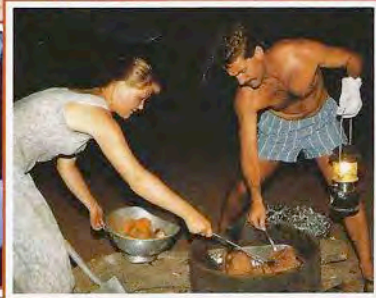
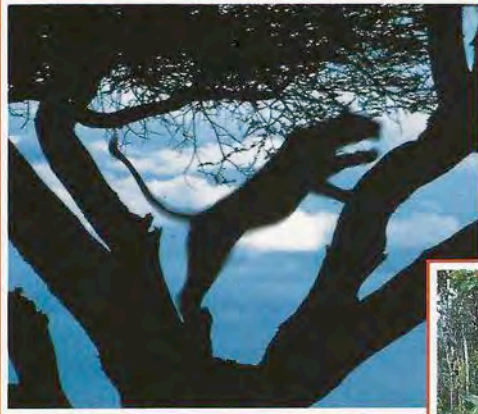
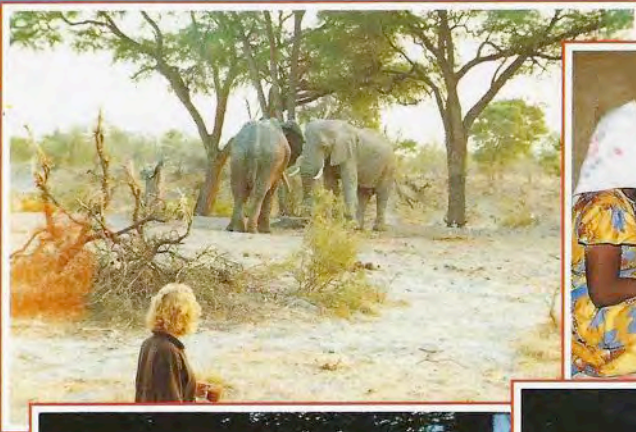
Grand Mexico

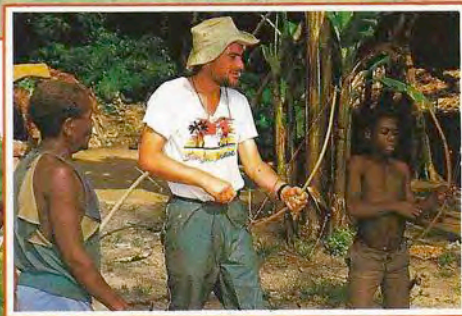
42 Days LOS ANGELES
to MEXICO CITY
(or vice versa)

Dates & Prices – See insert

Plan a fabulous 7 week journey in Baja California and Mexico; combine **Fiesta** (facing page) with **Maya & Aztec** (this page) and really know Mexico.







The Great Safari

15 Weeks LONDON to DAR ES SALAAM (or vice versa)

EUROPE, MOROCCO, ALGERIA, NIGER, NIGERIA, CAMEROUN, CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC, ZAIRE, UGANDA, KENYA, TANZANIA

It is 20 years now since we set out on the first trans-Africa expedition of its kind ever. Incredibly little has changed — even the road conditions are little better — though in fact we are now choosing to take three weeks longer. It was then and remains now the great classic Africa overland journey.

Now, however, our frequent return visits are like those to an old friend. Such is the heart of Africa and such remains the nature of Encounter Overland that the original elements of suspicion and wariness have warmed into friendships renewed while acquaintances are made and transactions are conducted in an easy atmosphere of trust and openness.

Even today relatively few people cross Africa. It remains the explorers' continent. You should go now. Across desert, through primeval equatorial forest and out onto rolling eastern plains. You should be in on the expedition that justly earns the name GREAT SAFARI.

From London through France and Spain, crossing the narrow Straits of Gibraltar to Africa's shores and Morocco, the last coastline for more than three months. The souks and fabled bazaars of Fez and Marrakech buzz with the excitement of barter and trade, but from the top of Morocco's High Atlas passes this fertile country suddenly changes to absolute desert.

THE DESERTS

For nearly 2,000 miles (3,300kms) the Sahara stretches before us in eerie rock plateaux, contorted mountain ranges and yellow seas of swollen dunes. The Sahara is simply one of the most beautiful, haunting and evocative places on earth, its faces, colours and moods in constant flux. There is a peace and a readjustment of priorities here.

Wide horizons shimmer in mirages that herald oasis towns, trickling waters and cool date palms. Places like In-Salah that were once major centres along the trans-Saharan camel caravan routes, or the tiny settlements around outpost forts built by the Foreign Legion during another of the desert's many eras.

Beyond the wild and rugged Arak Gorge, the mountains of the Hoggar emerge like the massive desolation of an uninhabited planet. Gnarled peaks and volcanic plugs rise 9,000ft (2,800m) above the desert floor as a dramatic backdrop to Tamanrasset. This oasis town is the Sahara's centre. Robed and turbaned Tuareg amble the main street and gather beneath the tamarisk trees. They are the proud 'blue men of the desert', the famed cameleers once masters of all trade and movement across desert Africa.

From Assamaka, the isolated checkpoint into Niger, we pick our course across the soft sands of the Azaouagh depression. Signs of brittle savannah scrub appear, then the first Fulani and Hausa peoples herding their long-horn cattle to the deep wells.

The baked-mud tower of the Agadez mosque marks the desert's southern fringes, and the subtle transfer to black Africa. Now market squares thrive with life and activity, skilled silversmiths hammer and shape distinctive ornaments and trinkets, there are swordmakers and seamsters, leather pouchmakers

and all manner of purveyors of the improbable. We reach Kano, Nigeria's city of the north, the great crossroads of trade between the desert lands and the ancient West African kingdoms.

THE JUNGLES

Across northern Nigeria and south into Cameroun the drumbeat of Africa's heart grows stronger as the countryside grows ripe and green. Different sights, different ways, different sounds, different smells even, instill themselves into the thread and weave of our daily life.

In the Kapsiki highlands of northern Cameroun the Kirdi peoples build villages of tall and conical thatched roofs, pointing skywards to the misty volcanoes and thrusting lava cores.

All roads, like the rivers, lead south — into the lush, dank rainforests of Central Africa. After rains the ground turns to a red, soap-slippery mud. The truck's sandmats become mudmats and at times it may seem the only comfort is that everyone else is likewise deep in the same! But this land is also full with its share of wonders. Great trees arch overhead, soft dappled light filters through glades of giant bamboo and bright butterflies cluster in their thousands by sandy pools. The forest is never silent, the undergrowth flashes with the colour and call of brilliant birds, the upper branches dip to the excited screech of fleeing monkeys. Here it may, or may not, be possible to reach Dzanca Sancha, deep in pristine forest. Here are the Baaka pygmies and at least one colony of gorillas.

Bangui lies in a flame of luxuriant tropical vegetation along the wide Ubangi

Dates & Prices — See insert
Maximum Group Size — 21

Transport & Accommodation — Expedition truck, jungle river ferries. Camping.

Connecting Flights — See "FARE ADVANTAGE" back flap.

Remarks — N.B. Gorillas There is known to be at least one colony of gorillas in the remote south western spur of Central African Republic approx. 2 days drive from Bangui. The option to visit Dzanca Sancha with its elephants, antelopes & pygmy settlements will probably be presented.

Cost of optional entry \$US50.

East African National Parks & Reserves — We shall be visiting the Queen Elizabeth National Park in Uganda and the Serengeti National Park in Tanzania, with at least 24 hours in each. Also Lake Manyara in The Rift Valley. If you want to do more, a visit to the Ngorongoro Conservation Area using local landrovers may be arranged. This is not included in our price or itinerary and the cost to you would be approx. \$US60.

Climbing Mt Kilimanjaro — See Kilimanjaro page 31.

Itinerary Guidelines — * Denotes services of local guides

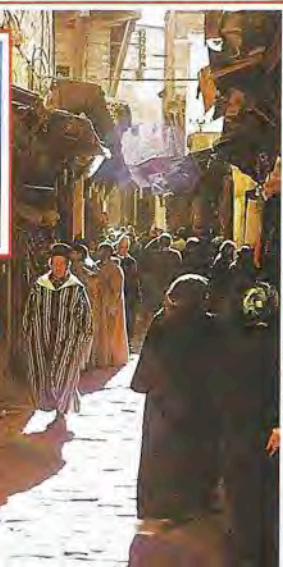
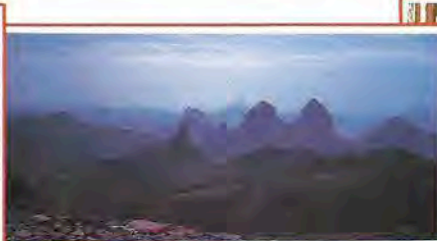
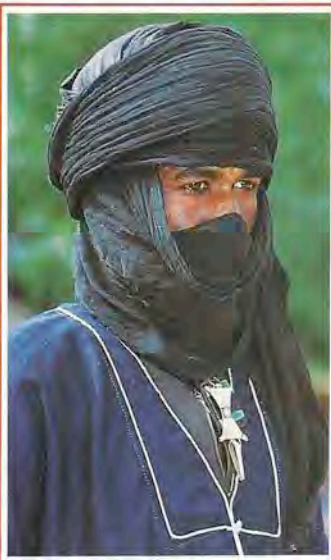
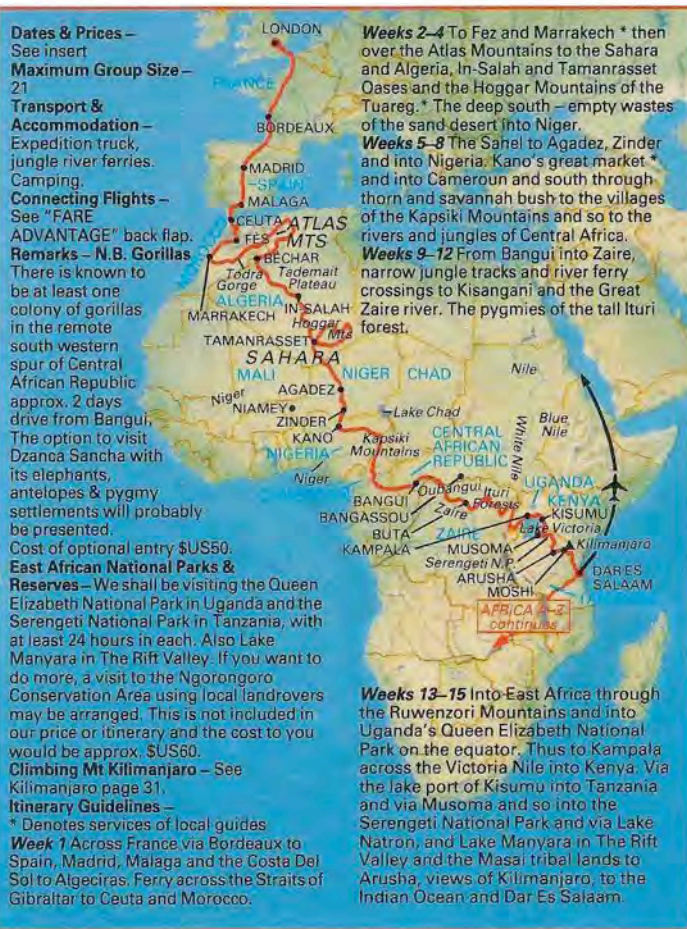
Week 1 Across France via Bordeaux to Spain, Madrid, Malaga and the Costa Del Sol to Algeciras. Ferry across the Straits of Gibraltar to Ceuta and Morocco.

Weeks 2-4 To Fez and Marrakech * 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 5-8 The Sahel to Agadez, Zinder and into Nigeria: Kano's great market * and 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 9-12 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.

Weeks 13-15 Into East Africa through the Ruwenzori Mountains and into Uganda's Queen Elizabeth National Park on the equator. Thus to Kampala across the Victoria Nile into Kenya. Via the lake port of Kisumu into Tanzania and via Musoma and so into the Serengeti National Park and via Lake Natron, and Lake Manyara in the Rift Valley and the Masai tribal lands to Arusha, views of Kilimanjaro, to the Indian Ocean and Dar Es Salaam.



river. Few roads reach this small Central African Republic capital, the river is the natural lifeline. There are coffee and cotton plantations, red brick mission churches, French patisseries and market stalls piled with exotic tropical fruits. We ferry across the river to north-east Zaire, to slow tracks through dense jungles and small riverside settlements remote from the centres of power and commerce. Simple ferries carry infrequent vehicles across the network of river crossings. To Buta and Kisangani on the great Zaire river, and into the tall cover of the great Ituri forest where narrow paths tunnel the undergrowth to clearings and encampments of the Mbuti pygmies. At Epulu's research station we see the forest okapi, an oddity of ancestry and one of Africa's rarest animals. From Komanda the forest thins, we are at last nearing the volcanic Ruwenzori ranges, the fabled 'Mountains of the Moon' that



split the dense rainforests from the wide reaches of the East African plains. We climb into the hills and the close humidity falls away as wide horizons open to the cool clear air.

THE PLAINS

Across the equator and south to **Uganda**. Here in the shadow of the Ruwenzori mountains and flanked by Lake George is the Queen Elizabeth National Park, our first and perhaps the most verdant in East Africa.

North of **Lake Victoria** now and via **Kampala** and across **The Victoria Nile** at **Jinja** where it flows out of Lake Victoria. And so to the rolling hills of tea and coffee plantations in the **Kenyan highlands**. We avoid the explosion of 'high-tech' tourism that has so recently turned Kenya's reserves into crowded zoos of zebra-striped tour buses and hotel concessions. Instead we drive the wild, untouched eastern shores of **Lake Victoria** to **Tanzania** and the **Serengeti** — the world's greatest preserve of wildlife. Across these vast rambling plains the chances of meeting lion and leopard, gazelle and giraffe, elephant and rhino, hippo and buffalo, flamingo, stork and crane are excellent. Here the wildlife is alone and undisturbed in its natural home. There are unforgettable nights camped under spreading acacia trees, with the sounds and calls of the wild just beyond the flickering firelight. From purple dawn to blazing sunset, the raw beauty of Africa's nature is all around.

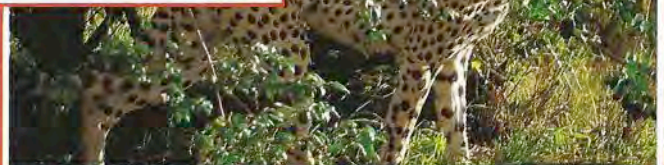
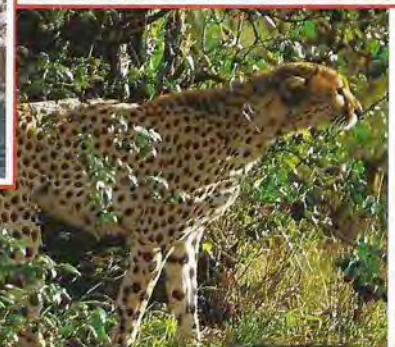
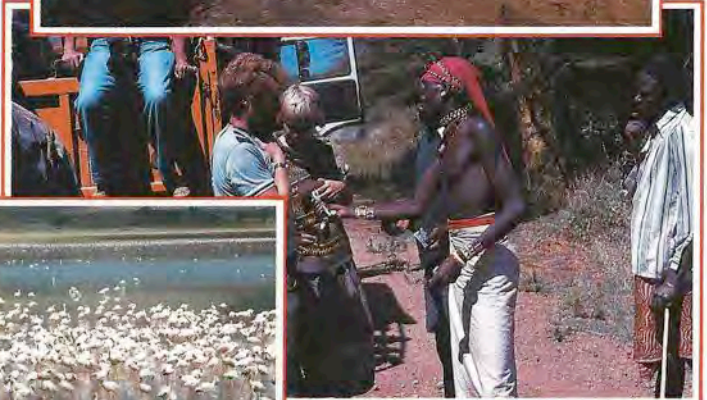
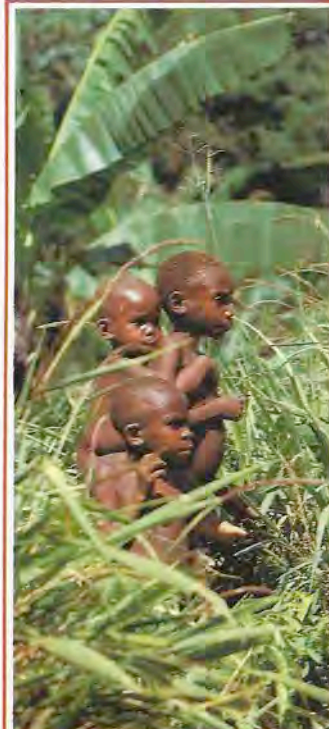
Migrating herds of zebra and wildebeest in their thousands move with the seasons across this land of the **Masai Steppe**. We meet ochre robed Masai tribesmen who, armed with spear and shield, roam just as freely — with allegiance neither to government nor frontier. We of course do need to observe such formalities — but we do have some similar freedoms, for ours is the only type of 'open' vehicle allowed to wander these great reserves.

A dramatic track twists down off the escarpment taking us into Masai tribal lands to skirt the vast pan of glittering crystals that is seasonal **Lake Natron**. Here we are as dwarfed as a safari ant on the floor of **The Great Rift Valley** en route to **Lake Manyara** famed for the abundance of bird life, especially flamingo and pelican; and also for its tree-climbing lions. Across The Great Rift Valley the snow covered cone of

Mt Kilimanjaro rises above the haze, dominating the plains.

And so to the Indian Ocean and to **Dar es Salaam**; beaches, fishermen in their outriggers, adjacent **Zanzibar**. And time to rest and wash away the dust of travel. But Africa will be under your skin, a continent of memories stretching behind you.

See also **Africa A-Z** page 22 and **Kilimanjaro** page 31.



"Experience tells . . ."

"... It was incredible! . . ."
FRANK & NANCY JACKSON, USA

"... After reading the letters in the brochure I realised all the compliments I wanted to pay E.O. had been said already — the only thing left for me to say is a huge "thank you" — to all the folks in London for making the time I spent in Egypt absolutely incredible. I still can't decide if it was the wonders and antiquities of the fascinating country or the actual "Brief Encounter" trip that captivated my attention the most! The people in the group were some of the most amazing I've met and I feel honoured to have shared some of my most exciting experiences with them. After the first introductions and settling-in, everyone 'fell in together' — it was a great family feeling. And, yes I did make lifetime friendships . . ."

RHODA TAYLOR, CANADA

"... Also a special thank you for your sterling work on the Friday our flight was cancelled. I hope you can send me your latest brochure if it's printed yet — if I win the pools I'll probably go on all of them! . . ."

JOHN CRAWFORD, UK

"... About a month and a half ago I finished the Great Safari. To be honest, I've never had such a wonderful and interesting time in all my life. Besides Africa being such a challenge within itself, your company gave us all a chance to be able to meet that challenge and come away saying we did it!! I'd like to congratulate you on your very efficient trucks. We came across many other trucks from various companies including E.O., and it was always the Encounter trucks that seemed most organised, happy and running well . . ."

KAY STEVENSON, AUSTRALIA

Africa A-Z!

22 Weeks LONDON-DAR ES SALAAM-HARARE (or vice versa)

EUROPE, MOROCCO, ALGERIA, NIGER, NIGERIA, CAMEROUN, CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC, ZAIRE, UGANDA, KENYA, TANZANIA, MALAWI, BOTSWANA, ZIMBABWE

The plan is simple: to go the distance, to travel the length of Africa all the way from the Atlas Mountains to the Zambezi River. The key to this is combining the Great Safari from Europe to East Africa with the Safari South from the Indian Ocean to Harare in Zimbabwe.

The implementation of this plan constitutes a brilliant expedition that explores Africa like no other expedition quite does.

If simplicity is the key then there is a good case for simply listing many of the experiences to be encountered.

The Straits of Gibraltar and first views of the landmass of Africa rising from the Mediterranean Sea.

The bazaars of Fez and Marrakech, intriguing, mysterious places with African Arab culture at its most picturesque and lively.

The Atlas Mountains, beautiful at any season but especially in springtime; dramatic mountain walls between fertile granary lands and the infinite desert horizons to the south.

The Sahara, grander than it's sensible to imagine; stark, awesome grandeur that adopts you with each day of progress across the largest desert on earth.

The Sahel, the southern desert and the desperately meagre grazing of Fulani pastoralists and other tribes, and the lone landmark of the mud mosque tower of Agadez.

The Kapsiki Highlands of Cameroun, beautiful volcanic scenery and idyllic villages.

Equatorial forest, water and waterfalls of Central Africa, Boali Falls and Kembe Falls and rivers and streams meandering through lush, green jungle, and forest glades and clear pools alive with butterflies. (Possible option of gorillas at Dzanga Sancha).

Jungle ferry crossings and wing-&-a-prayer bridges, suffering decades of disrepair but proving just adequate.

The Pygmy peoples of the Ituri forest, the aboriginal people of the heartland of the primeval equatorial rain forests—people as threatened as those of the Amazonas.

"Big Holes", the tracks in north-eastern Zaire so rutted by wet season use that the holes formed by digging out bogged vehicles are deeper than the height of the laden local trucks that are all too often trapped in them!

Epulu and the Okapi, the rare and timid forest dweller, part buck with zebra-like hindquarters and part miniature giraffe with twitching 'Mickey Mouse'-like ears being studied at the research station at Epulu in the heart of the Ituri forest.

The Ruwenzori Mountains, beautiful, green and snow-capped catchments for rains that will become the Nile.

Lake Victoria, while driving along the wild eastern shore from the hills of Uganda through distant parts of Kenya far from those "targeted for tourism".

The Serengeti, nature's wonderland of wildlife in Tanzania, the grassland sea where the great herds move as they have moved through ages past—and as they must be permitted to move for ages to come.

Lake Manyara, noted for its black-maned, tree-climbing lions.

The Masai Steppe and Kilimanjaro—wide vistas topped by the ice cone of Kilimanjaro; here is the Olduvai Gorge, the freedom of the plains, the slender athletic herdsman and cattle shrouded in translucent dust.

The superb Manchewa Falls and the Nyika Plateau in northern Malawi.

The length of Lake Malawi, an African inland sea with beaches and passenger steamers.

The Zambian national parks of Luangwa and Kafue.

The Zambezi River and 'Mosi-oa-Tunya', the Victoria Falls, where the river thunders into a spray-filled chasm.

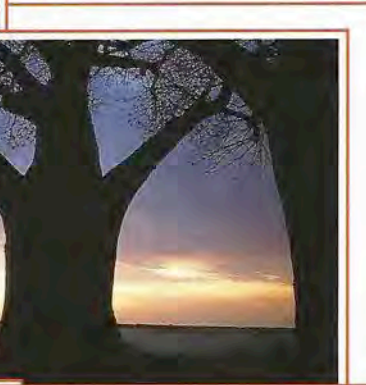
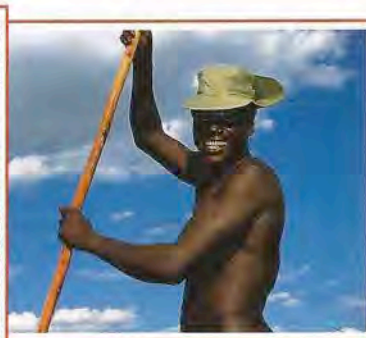
Botswana's Savuti and the Chobe National Park—Africa most raw, lion country this, probably the best in Africa.

The Okavango—the watery unplundered paradise, the delta that never finds the sea.

The waterless Kalahari and the massive baobabs, giant legacies from the earliest beginnings of the world when the big trees were king.

World's View and the piled boulders of the Matopos.

The ruins of mysterious, legendary Great Zimbabwe—Africa's El Dorado? Truly the location of King Solomon's mines?



6 Weeks DAR ES SALAAM to HARARE (or vice versa)

TANZANIA, MALAWI, ZAMBIA, BOTSWANA, ZIMBABWE

Some of the least-known wildlife reserves of Africa are in fact also among the most fabulous. It is of course precisely their relative inaccessibility and their lack of tourist facilities that have caused them to remain both!

Our needing neither easy access nor over much in the way of interior decor means such places are for us. Our Safari South includes some of the best haunts of wildlife on a meandering trail through the great expanse of the African landscape — from Kilimanjaro, across the Masai steppe to the plateau lands of Nyika to follow the long shoreline of beautiful Lake Malawi. To cross to the far side of the Zambezi, to reach the Kalahari desert and the languid, sedge-stocked wetlands of Botswana's Okavango — and to stand in awe at the thundering might of the Victoria Falls.

From Dar es Salaam on the Indian Ocean we cross the inland hills of southern Tanzania to the Great Rift Valley. Lake Malawi stretches south for 360 miles (580 kms), almost the whole length of this beautiful country. Along its western shores we reach Livingstonia, set on an escarpment 2,600ft (800m) above the lake, and Manchewa Falls with views that must rank among the most spectacular in Africa. Above is the Nyika plateau, of cool pine plantations, misty forest and moorlands. There are no lion or elephant in this small mountain reserve at 6,500ft (2,000m), and walking trails lead to unobtrusive contact with grazing zebra and antelope herds.

Travelling the length of the lake, to fishing communities and mission villages, we reach the new capital of Lilongwe and our crossing into Zambia. The Luangwa National Park is one of the only reserves in Africa that still allows safaris on foot. All the great game species are here, and (carefully and guardedly) stalking them at ground level provides a very different perspective on encounters with Africa's wildlife. Kafue National Park, west from Lusaka, is one of Africa's largest. Its distant corners abound with lion, elephant, buffalo, lechwe, and hundreds of species of birdlife.

We reach the Zambezi where it widens to plunge 300ft (100m) over a great cliff and the jungle-hung gorges of Victoria Falls. Upstream, huge elephant herds gather along the riverbanks at dusk as the air comes alive to the sounds of the African night. Across the river is northern Botswana where giraffe, kudu and hyena roam the grasslands around the Savuti channel. Lion are never far away and there is a chance of seeing rare leopard or a pack of African hunting dogs.

The Okavango river, flowing from the mountains of west Angola, widens in Botswana to form the world's largest inland delta — before evaporating in the hot sands of the Kalahari. Maun is the delta crossroads, where Kavangos and colourful Hereros from Namibia mingle with the descendants of Kalahari bushmen. We travel the clear waterways by dugout canoe, exploring swamp islands and the rich Okavango birdlife before driving to the remote Tsodilo hills where Bushmen groups gather near their tribal rock paintings. Never staying long in one place, they forever wander this dry and unknown land.

Across the sparse bush and low horizons of the northern Kalahari to the

shimmering Makgadikgadi salt pans where sable, gazelle and smaller antelope are plainly visible far across the flat lakebed. Hungry predators watch and wait in thin scrub beneath fat baobab trees along the dusty desert rim. There is a harsh beauty to this land, where the only laws are those of survival.

Francistown lies in the bushlands to the east. Beyond the border crossing into Zimbabwe, in the heartland of the Matabele people, are the Matopos hills topped with huge boulders for all the world like massive cottage loaves or as if placed precariously one on top another. White and black Rhino together in any real numbers are unique to the Matopos National Park and are to be seen, often with young, close to our vehicle. Bulawayo in springtime is powder-blue with jacaranda and hung with bougainvillea. Finally the ancient Zimbabwe ruins are visited en route to Harare.



Footsteps of the Explorers & Safari South

12 Weeks

KIGALI-ARUSHA/
DAR-HARARE

(or vice versa)

Dates & Prices — See insert

N.B. — There is a short staging period between the two parts of this project linking Arusha with Dar es Salaam (or vice versa). This period is included in the published cost.

Itinerary Guideline — For fuller descriptions and the itinerary guidelines see FOOTSTEPS OF THE EXPLORERS (page 30) and SAFARI SOUTH (this page).

Sub-Saharan Africa explored from the Nile to the Zambezi and beyond.

The equator and the rainforests, the gorilla stronghold, the volcanoes and the 'Mountains of the Moon', the pygmies and hot springs of Semliki, the journey to the 'Jade Sea', Mt Kenya, Mt Kilimanjaro, the Serengeti Plains and the abundance of wildlife of the great crater of Ngorongoro.

And only then southward on the safari to Lake Malawi, 'Mosi-oa-Tunya' where the Zambezi cascades, to the lions of the Chobe bushland and the serene moods of the watery world of the Okavango.

Dates & Prices — See insert
Maximum Group Size — 21
Transport & Accommodation — Expedition truck, canoes/open boats (Okavango Delta). Camping.
Connecting Flights — See "FARE ADVANTAGE" back flap.

Remarks — The following are possible options available at individual expense at Victoria Falls (paid for at the time)
— White water rafting from below the Falls through the Zambezi gorge approx. \$US75 July-Dec. only

— Light plane, bird's-eye flight, over Falls and Zambezi approx. \$US60

— River cruise above the Falls approx. \$US12

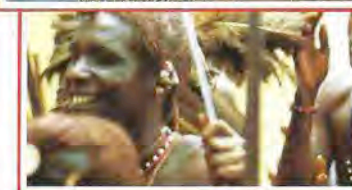
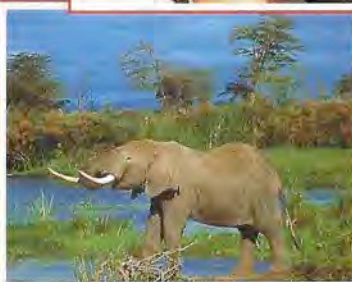
Climbing Mt Kilimanjaro — See Kilimanjaro page 31.

Itinerary Guideline —

* Denotes services of local guide

Days 1-3: From Dar through the hills of southern Tanzania to Malawi and Lake Malawi / 4: The western lakeshore to Livingstonia and Manchewa Falls / 5 & 6: Nyika plateau and mountain wildlife reserve / 7-9: The shores & villages of Lake Malawi to Lilongwe / 10-13: To Zambia and foot safari through the Luangwa National Park * / 14 & 15: To Lusaka and Kafue National Park * / 16-18: In Kafue National Park / 19: To Livingstone and the Victoria Falls / 20 & 21: At and around Victoria Falls / 22: The banks of the Zambezi to Botswana and Chobe National Park / 23-26: Through Chobe National Park, the

Savuti channel, to Maun / 27: Maun and the Okavango waterways / 28-30: By canoe through the swamps and delta waterways * / 31-34: Tsodilo Hills and the bushmen * / 35-37: The salt pans and wilds of the northern Kalahari, and Makgadikgadi / 38: Across the desert to Francistown / 39: Crossing into Zimbabwe at Plumtree border to Rhodes Matopos National Park / 40: In National Park renowned for both white and black Rhino / 41: Via Bulawayo to Zimbabwe Ruins / 42: Visit ruins before travelling on to Harare.



African Genesis

28 Days LUSAKA to HARARE (or vice versa)

Dates & Prices — See insert

Remarks — For full details see SAFARI SOUTH Days 15-42 (this page).

African Genesis is the very best of the hinterland of southern Africa, the domain of such varied species that only Africa can muster, the beauty of the Okavango, the wondrous Savuti channel, the thunderous Victoria Falls.



Africa Encompassed including Sudan & Ethiopia

20 Weeks CAIRO—ADDIS ABABA—
DAR ES SALAAM—LONDON (or vice versa)

EGYPT, SUDAN, ETHIOPIA, TANZANIA, KENYA, UGANDA, ZAIRE, CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC, CAMEROUN, NIGERIA, NIGER, ALGERIA, MOROCCO, EUROPE

This is the expedition that in African terms really does it all. Egypt and the Sudan; the Nile and the Ethiopian Highlands in which it rises. The plains of East Africa. The primeval equatorial forests of Central Africa. And finally the Sahara. An all-encompassing Safari.

Egypt and the Nile—to experience the ancient splendour of a once great civilisation that developed here over 5,000 years ago.

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**.

Rusting and romantic, the Nile steamer nudges out of Aswan to cross **Lake Nasser** bound for **Wadi Halfa** and the **Sudan**. Here at the southern end of the lake the train across the Sudanese Desert rattles its way round 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 **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, meets the **Blue Nile**—level now after its rampage through the gorges and over the waterfalls in its Ethiopian homeland.

We are high above this contorted landscape before landing at **Addis Ababa**, capital of Ethiopia. Founded by the son of King Solomon and the Queen of Sheba this city, at 8,000ft, 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 and at the national park and warm springs of **Awash** before flying onwards to **Dar es Salaam** for our 1 week layover (see page 53).

East Africa—best known for 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 and volcanoes. 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. The wildlife reserves we visit are **Lake Manyara** and **Serengeti** in Tanzania and **The Queen Elizabeth National Park** in Uganda.

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.

To reach the equatorial forests we shall wind our way through the **Ruwendoris**, 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**.

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.

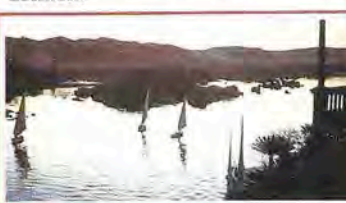
Across the **Sahara**, seemingly unattainable horizons stretch ahead; all eyes strain for the occasional marker. The sky may darken, the wind blasting the sand in our faces. Digging, pushing and sandmatting are needed across this soft sand sea.

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**.

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.

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**.



"Experience tells"

'I would like to express my thanks to the organisation behind my very enjoyable overland trip to Nairobi. The helpfulness and support from London was very comforting especially when things were getting rough and appeared to be going against us . . .'

TONY ERNI, SWITZERLAND

' . . . I can say without doubt that it was the best holiday I have ever had. The trip was very well organised and the variety of experiences that were packed into the trip were incredible . . .'

CHRISTINE SUTTON, UK

'A much belated thank you to you for your marvellous organisation, making the arrangements and departure for my trip to Egypt over Christmas and New Year so easy and friendly . . .'

LOISE DARBY, UK

' . . . I am most impressed both by the efficient service of personnel in your London office and by the organisation of the group whilst "on tour". In short, it was the most enjoyable holiday I have had and I have already been to book another "Encounter Overland" . . .'

KAREN MUSK, UK

Dates & Prices—See insert
Maximum Group Size—21
Transport & Accommodation—Expedition truck, truck or chartered bus in Egypt, Lake Nasser steamer, desert train, chartered bus in Ethiopia, expedition truck trans-Africa from Dar es Salaam, Marrakech, jungle river ferries. Camping with hotels in Khartoum and Addis Ababa.

Connecting Flights—See "FARE ADVANTAGE" back flap.

Remarks—The maximum estimated cost of the Integral International flight Khartoum—Addis Ababa—Dar es Salaam (or vice versa) is \$US595. See "FARE ADVANTAGE" back flap.

N.B.—The cost of a **Midway Layover** of 7 nights in Dar es Salaam is not included. (See also Midway Layover, page 52).

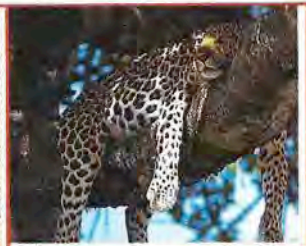
Kilimanjaro—The 'layover' enables those interested to climb Kilimanjaro (see page 31).

Itinerary Guideline—* Denotes services of local guide

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 night tour in Ethiopia including the Highlands, the hot springs and National Park at Awash and the Great Rift Valley*. Flight to Dar es Salaam.

Week 5* Midway layover* (see N.B. above).

Weeks 6-20 From Dar es Salaam, the game parks of Tanzania and via Kenya and Uganda, the equatorial forests, the Sahara and Morocco to Europe and London. Please refer to the fuller description and itinerary guidelines for THE GREAT SAFARI (pages 20 & 21).



Successful overlanding calls on many of the same factors and attributes in whichever continent one chooses to travel. Africa, however, presents the adventure traveller with certain conditions and with certain characteristics peculiarly African. Almost without exception settlements are few and far apart, for the most part facilities are thinly spread – and that's an understatement – and the route conditions are those to tax the toughest vehicle.

Africa provides huge regions of a single geographic and climatic type; indeed, in from her coastlines, the continent consists of no more than three such regions, each absolutely fascinating and gradually fusing one with the other. These of course are Africa's deserts, her primeval equatorial forests and her great grasslands to the east and south.

Thus, of our three continents, it is Africa in particular that calls for the expedition's ability to establish the rhythms and a certain consistency of progress in response to a daily recurrence of Sahara. Of jungle. Of plain.

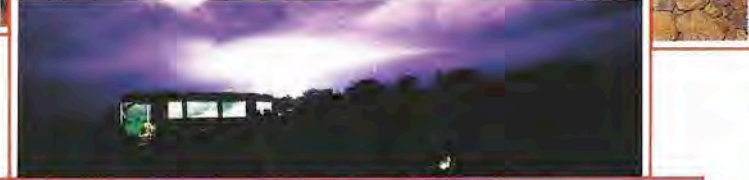
Unexciting as this may sound, it isn't. It is the best way of getting the most from the opportunities of a major Safari in Africa while using know-how, equipment and personalities to extend the parameters to their fullest.

Unfortunately it cannot be said or assumed that every other well-intended group that sets out to cross Africa has much idea of, or accepts, this basic reality.

On a practical vehicle level we think you should note our commitment to both 4-wheel drive and also to the "3-axle principle" in Africa. By no means everyone subscribes to either, let alone both, of these principles. But we at E.O. definitely do. It is having the weight distribution spread over 3 axles (not 2) that best explains the advantages of the truck-trailer combination. Add to this the considerable advantage of more storage space – and easy access to it – and you then have the best practical as well as the best safety reasons for this well-proven 3-axle truck/trailer unit.

It is not top heavy, it is stable and the easy access means you don't have everyone scrumming around inside the truck. It costs a bit more but it meets higher practical and safety requirements and it enhances the opportunities of reaching the real Africa that are presented by 4-wheel drive.

The right equipment and the soundness of preparation, the knowledge and know-how, the inclusive realistic price, the gender and nationality mix is each a particularly important part of Encounter's successful African formula.



"Experience tells"

LETTER FROM AFRICA — 1988
Reproduced in full by kind permission of the Cottendon family of Canada

Dear Dad,

I am finally at one of those places in Africa where I can sit down and write you a genuine letter. Sorry my letters have not been more frequent but Africa and overland travel do not facilitate good correspondence – usually I was lucky to get a letter to Eva and asked her to contact you to provide details where my post-cards were sketchy. I'll just let this letter spill-out and try and summarise the trip to date.

First, the present – East Africa, Tanzania – the land of the Safari. After 14 weeks of rough overland travel E.A. is a welcome gift. Three days in the Serengeti – one day Ngorongoro crater. Herds of wildebeest, gazelle, zebra, antelope and giraffe, buffalo, lion and a rare sighting of six cheetah. Serengeti is a massive grassland – 14,763km – while Ngorongoro crater is a capsule (20km wide extinct volcano floor) of wildlife including thousands of flamingoes. To add to our pleasure we've settled down for two nights at Ngorongoro Wildlife Lodge, an impressive hotel on the edge of the crater rim – superb balcony views out over the crater and nice meals of pot roast beef and Wildebeest steaks. The only sour part of my last week has been a nasty cold which I share with half the truck. This is winter season in East Africa – hot bright sunny days but cold nights and cold mornings.

With any luck I'll be better in four days so I can prepare for a climb up Mount Kili. I'm not looking forward to this challenge but it is a travellers' dream and eleven of us are game to give it a try. After Kili the trip is over and we'll drive onto Nairobi, have a final farewell party and I'll begin preparing to meet Dan in Cairo. I'm really looking forward to Egypt and Turkey – it will be a wonderful way to finish my trip.

So what has the last three and a half months meant to me – I'll be honest it has not been easy. I've heard Encounter Overland (E.O.) travel described as "rough comfort" across Africa – for me I'll underline rough. As for comfort E.O. is the best of the overland companies in Africa – I've seen several other outfits and I would not like to

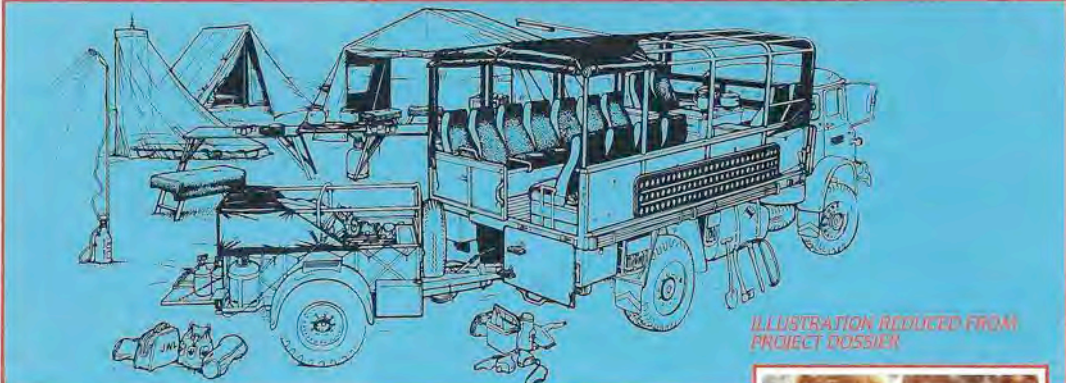


ILLUSTRATION REDUCED FROM PROJECT ROSSIER

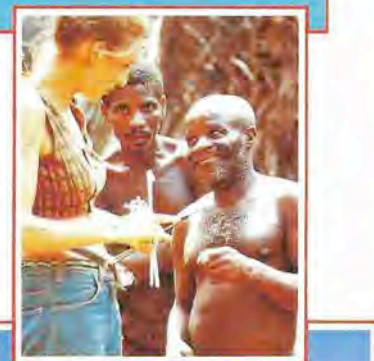
be in the back of their trucks. We have never gone hungry or without water, our equipment is "tops", an excellent driver and very well organised.

Why rough – because we're in Africa and it is a world removed from the luxuries taken for granted back home. I can now fully appreciate the conveniences of our western world – flush toilets, running water, grocery stores (fresh food and milk), refrigeration, electricity, easily accessible means of transportation and communication (postal service, paved roads), medical care, a warm home etc. etc. Africa has all these facilities but it is available to only a small portion of the population – government mismanagement and foreign corruption is an endemic disease spread across the continent.

I would not recommend this trip to anyone without letting them know the complete story – camping four months in tents on hot, cold or wet nights; cooking on a campfire; living with twenty individuals in close quarters; long days of travel; up at 5:30, on the road by 7:00 and drive until 4:30 or 6:00 with an hour for lunch; diabolical roads (and if you've got a bad case of stomach upset the days seem twice as long); six-plus hours at border crossings; African diseases (malaria, cholera . . .). This may sound alarming

but the most shocking news is that I loved Africa and I've had a great experience . . . the old markets and culture of Morocco, sleeping on the desert floor during a beautiful starry night in the Sahara, viewing a cross section of black African cultures, bargaining in the local markets, laughing and joking with the small children, viewing spectacular landscapes, standing face to face with the mountain gorillas, digging our truck out of mud in Zaire at 4:30 in the morning – it has just been a marvellous adventure. Africa builds one's character – four months of overlanding is twenty years of life. I would never do the same trip again but I wouldn't have missed this adventure for the world. I guess this sounds like a contradiction but everything in Africa is a contradiction. I once tried to describe it to Eva like this . . . Africa is amazing. The flow and style of life has so much character. I'll never understand Africa or its people – it seems primitive and modern, cosmopolitan and tribal, colourful and alive, drab and diseased, it's fresh and warm, disgusting, arid and hot, geographically wonderful and geographically harsh, markets of fresh fruit and vegetables with fly infested meats. To write about Africa is an impossible task . . . it is undefined, its history never ends, its a living documentary.

John Cottendon



Saharan Journey to the Niger & Timbuktu. Combined,

45 Days TANGIERS to DAKAR (or vice versa)

MOROCCO, ALGERIA, MALI, SENEGAL

1,800 miles (3,000 km) from north to south if a crow could, and swallowing one third of Africa's land mass, this greatest of the earth's wild regions fully deserves the simple distinction of its name: Sahara, "The Desert".

The Sahara is not the empty, featureless void of traveller's legend. Eerie gorges and strange plateaux, towering rocks and contorted mountain ranges vie with golden yellow seas of giant dunes. There are distant desert towns, hidden oases and the cooling shade of breeze-rustled palms. Lonely camel caravans ply ancient trade routes and nomadic tribes group their tents at remote wells. Pastel shades suffuse the ever changing landscape, impossibly long shadows etch the desert floor at day's end, while night brings absolute silence and a ghostly light from star-scapes beyond the wildest excesses of any earthbound planetarium.

Far to the south lies fabled Timbuktu and the great curve of the Niger river, lifeline of the Sahel where great kingdoms were once masters of the trans-African trade routes; controllers of the movement of salt, gold and slaves. Here the heedless, hardly inhabited desert finally gives way to the headstrong course of mankind, and black Africa meets the north.

Away from the more usual routes across the Sahara, the desert reveals much of its finest scenery and secrets. From the Mediterranean at Tangiers we negotiate the High Atlas passes and descend to Bechar and Algeria, Roman outposts, far flung forts of the Foreign Legion and the more recent twisted steel skeletons of civil engineering lie gaunt and abandoned in mocking

testimony to those who would reorganise the desert.

Glaring dune seas and the rock strewn Tademait plateau lead to In Salah, and wild tracks toward the far oasis of Djanel in the stark beauty of the Tassili mountains. Here rock paintings and cave murals depict elephant herds, rhino, lion and man's hunt for antelope 8,000 years ago when the Sahara was fertile grassland.

Beyond the Hoggar's enormous and battered landscape of lava and withered volcanoes is Tamanrasset, oasis epicentre of the Sahara. Tamarisk trees line the brief boulevards of cool shade and mud-sculpted buildings. Here are the magnificent Tuareg — 'Blue Men of the Sahara'. Robed and turbaned, armed with broadsword and conviction. They remain the unchallenged rulers of the desert. We choose a careful course over seldom-used tracks — into the silence and solitude of the desert's farthest reaches; to Mali and the Tilemsi depression and at last to Gao on the northern bend of the great Niger River — centre of the trans-Saharan trade and grown more prosperous from the lucrative sale of those led away to the coast in chains into slavery.

Upstream and westwards lies Timbuktu, the islands and waterways of Mopti, the imposing 'perfect sandcastle' of a mosque at Djenne and the villages of the Dogon peoples among the protective rocks of the dramatic Bandiagara Escarpment.

And so to Bamako, Mali's capital where the insistent rhythms and heartbeat of a different Africa defy the Sahara's austerity. Here the changing facets of West Africa; from the browns and evening sepias, once more across the Niger to the greenness and lushness of Senegal, into forests and to the Atlantic and the daring chic of Dakar.

Dates & Prices — See insert

Maximum Group Size — 21

Transport & Accommodation —

Expedition truck, Niger river boats, train Bamako-Dakar. Camping, 2 nights on train between Bamako & Dakar.

Connecting Flights — See "FARE ADVANTAGE" back flap.

Remarks — Water for other than drinking, cooking and 'kitchen' hygiene may occasionally need to be limited in the Sahara.

The train journey from Bamako to Dakar (30-36 hours) is better remembered for its colour, bustle and atmosphere than for its comfort.

Itinerary Guideline —

* Denotes services of local guide

Day 1: Depart Tangiers / 2 & 3: Via Rif mountains and Middle Atlas to Oujda / 4-13: Along the ridge of the Saharan Atlas and through the dunes of the Grand Erg Occidental to the oases towns of Laghouat, Ghardaia, Ouargla and across the tracks to the distant Tassili plateau / 14-21: Here we trek from Djanel to the remote caves and rock paintings of the Tassili mountains * / 22-28: Drive into the lunar landscape and volcanic plugs of the Hoggar * / 29-35: Tamanrasset, oasis town of the central Sahara and home of the Tuareg, then the wild reaches of the deep south to Mali / 36-42: The Adrar des Iforas and Tilemsi

valley to the Niger river and Gao / 36-42: Along the Niger, upstream to Timbuktu, the Niger flood-basin to Mopti, the Bandiagara Escarpment, the Dogon country, Djenne and Bamako / 43-45: By train across the Malinke tribal lands into Senegal and the Atlantic at Dakar / 45: Depart Dakar.



"Experience tells"

'... Once again E.O. has come through with an impressive trip. Although it was my second trip to East Africa, I was fascinated all over again. And Carroll feels it was an experience of a lifetime. The gorillas! What a thrill! We accomplished all we set out to do in Africa, including both reaching the top of Mt. Kilimanjaro'

LORNE & CARROLL DEPAPE, CANADA

'Thank you for the experience of a lifetime. Your Mountain Gorilla Safari was everything I had ever dreamed of and so much more than I had ever thought possible. The trip had all the ingredients of a best seller novel. I'm coming back to read another one'

MICHAEL NOONE, N.Z.

'... In my opinion, such tours that you operate are the ideal way to visit a place like Africa. I am already trying to decide which trip I'll go on next!'

DAVID ROSENBAUM, CANADA

'... I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Encounter Overland for what must be the most remarkable, amazing, brilliant trip. Capt. Cuddles as you call him, his knowledge, integrity, driving skill, self control, mechanical dexterity (who else could rebuild and refit a turbo in an afternoon), humour and leader qualities were first class. Someone to be emulated. He does, however, still owe me eight beers. I'd like to donate them to the faceless names that assisted in the smooth running of the trip, i.e. 'the girls in the office'. P.S. The pre-departure information was excellent but I fear post-arrival information on how to re-settle is needed'

NIGEL CLAYTON, UK — TRANS-AFRICA

'... I made some great friends and wouldn't have missed the trip for anything'

SUSAN HAWKEN, N.Z.

'... It's a long time to be on a truck with 18 other people but I can honestly say I had a ball'

GREG DAVIE, AUSTRALIA

'... This was my first trip to Africa, and it was a total success. I fell in love with Africa, the Africans, and my fellow overlanders'

STEVEN BAILEY, ALASKA, USA

'... The trip was one of the most memorable experiences of my life and I enjoyed it immensely. I was most impressed with Encounter's obvious experience in Africa. After sighting other overland trucks, our group realised the comfort we had in our vehicle. We 21 developed a very close bond during the trip and have since all kept in contact with each other. I recently booked another Encounter Overland trip, the Conquistador in South America, leaving in November this year and I also hope to do the Coast to Coast in Africa late next year. After listening to my tales of Africa, four of my friends have also booked Encounter trips. The staff of your Sydney office have been extremely helpful to all of us in preparing for our future travels. I must thank you and your staff most sincerely for a wonderful holiday and I look forward to my next venture with Encounter Overland.

BEVERLEY CLARKE, AUSTRALIA



13 Weeks and 4 Days DAKAR to DAR ES SALAAM (or vice versa)

SENEGAL, MALI, BURKINA FASO, BENIN, NIGERIA, CAMEROUN, CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC, ZAIRE, BURUNDI (s'bound)/RWANDA (n'bound), TANZANIA

To set off on this Africa Safari from the pounding surf of the Atlantic beaches to the Port-of-Peace (Dar-es-Salaam) is to journey among Africa's peoples, their villages and their lives. It is also to come face to face with much of Africa's most inspiring and unyielding scenery; the Niger River and the ancient settlements along its banks, the ranging sands of the southern Sahara, the tangled depths of jungle in the Zaire (Congo) basin, the noble gorillas of the mountains and the commanding beauty and wildlife of the eastern plains.

WEST AFRICA

Leaving the Atlantic surf and chic boulevards of Dakar we travel by rail, rattling away at the miles, on across the coastal plain of Senegal and the course of the Senegal river through Malinke tribal lands into Mali and to Bamako on the Upper Niger.

Joining our expedition truck at Bamako we set off to the other side of Africa. First to Burkina Faso (previously the republic of Upper Volta) and its capital at Ouagadougou and the many branches of the Volta River, the Red, White and Black Voltas.

We turn south choosing a route through Benin (and possibly Togo) through the wildlife reserves of Keran or du W which, though with few facilities, are among the best in West Africa with elephant, buffalo, lion, cheetah, hippo, crocodile. Through the lush well-watered countryside we reach the coast of the Gulf of Guinea.

Through Benin the climate subtly shifts, as brushland becomes spreading greenery, tall trees and thick undergrowth then, on the Gulf of Guinea, tropical jungle. Through southern Nigeria and the humid flatlands of the Niger delta we reach Cameroun, the massif of Mbam and Yaounde, then Bangui and narrow tracks into the great African rainforest.

CENTRAL AFRICA

Great trees arch overhead, the forest is never silent but filled with undergrowth noises and screeching alarm calls from the upper branches. Soft dappled light filters through glades of giant bamboo, butterflies cluster in their thousands by sandy pools. Life in the villages and small riverside towns of eastern Zaire is self-contained, remote and isolated from the centres of power and commerce.

We reach Kisangani, perspiring on the banks of the wide Zaire River. Beyond is the tall canopy of the Ituri forest where paths tunnel through the undergrowth to clearings of Pygmy encampments. And at Epulu we find the forest okapi, a genetic oddity and one of Africa's rarest animals. At last the ground begins to rise from the Zaire basin onto the western slopes of the Ruwenzori mountains, eucalyptus groves and a fresher climate as the jungle slowly releases its hold.

Across the equator we catch our first sight of Africa's great animal life among the volcanoes and valleys of the Virunga National Park. Elephant, giraffe and antelope graze on riverbanks, lion watch in the dappled grass of a hillock. This too is the limited domain of the mountain gorilla. With guides to lead us we track up through misty woodlands to quietly approach family groups in their natural habitat. There is also an opportunity to

climb Nyrangongo volcano — to spectacular views out over the land or down into its boiling throat.

EAST AFRICA

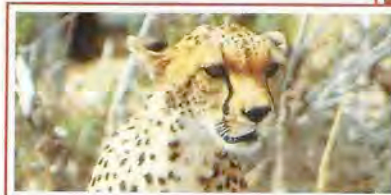
We cross Burundi through hill villages and terraced slopes of maize and coffee to Tanzania (or northbound, via Rusumo Falls and Rwanda). The great plains of East Africa stretch ahead, wild and untamed 'bush' towards Mwanza, Lake Victoria and the Serengeti.

This is perhaps the world's greatest wildlife reserve, where huge herds of zebra and wildebeeste migrate with the seasons across the rolling grasslands. Chances are excellent of meeting lion and leopard, elephant and rhino, or hippo and buffalo — among the inquisitive, ever present stare of the giraffe and gazelle, flamingo, stork and crane. Days are full with the raw beauty of nature alone and undisturbed; and there are unforgettable nights camped under spreading acacia trees, with the calls of the wild just beyond our flickering firelight.

A steep track leads downwards onto the floor of Ngorongoro crater, down into a microcosm of African wildlife. Smaller animals found abundant food and ideal shelter here, larger predators followed, so that almost every species of the plains are concentrated in this wide caldera of scattered woodland, salt licks and lakes. Proud Masai roam these same lands, armed with shield of hide, a spear and intimate knowledge of all wildlife's ways. Across the Great Rift Valley the snow cone of Kilimanjaro rises above the heat haze.

And so to Dar es Salaam where the Indian Ocean has brought the influence of Arabia and sea-trade with India — a far cry and a long crossing from the Atlantic's rolling breakers.

See also Kilimanjaro — page 31



Trans-Africa between the Tropics

21 Weeks DAKAR to WINDHOEK (or vice versa)

Dates & Prices — See insert

Remarks — For full details see AFRICA — COAST TO COAST (this page) and JOURNEY TO THE SKELETON COAST (pages 28/29).

N.B. The cost of a Midway Layover of 7 nights in Dar es Salaam is not included. (See also Midway Layover, page 52).

This is the great expedition concerned with sub-Saharan Africa. From the Atlantic northwest at Senegal, via the Niger river and the tropical forests to East Africa's grasslands and the Indian Ocean — only then crossing Africa again; south-westwards now via the Okavango and Etosha Pan to the Skeleton Coast of the south Atlantic and the mountainous dunes of the Namib.

Dates & Prices —

See insert

Maximum Group

Size — 21

Transport &

Accommodation —

Train Dakar—

Bamako, expedition

truck, jungle river

ferries, landrovers

in Ngorongoro Crater,

Camping, 2 nights train

between Dakar & Bamako,

Connecting Flights — See "FARE

ADVANTAGE" back flap.

Remarks — The train Dakar—Bamako,

30–36 hours is better remembered for its

colour, bustle and atmosphere than for its

comfort.

Climbing Mt Kilimanjaro — see

Kilimanjaro page 31.

Itinerary Guideline —

* Denotes services of local guide

Weeks 1–4 Train from Dakar in Senegal to

Bamako in Mali. By expedition truck now

into Burkina Faso via the colourful

markets of Bobo Dioulasso and so to the

capital Ouagadougou. Then south via the

Parc National du W into Benin and so to

the coast of the Gulf of Guinea at Cotonou,

then through Nigeria and again to the

Niger River (this time at its delta).

Weeks 5 & 6 We enter Cameroun, the

Bamenda highlands and the Mbam

Massif to Yaounde then into the Central

African Republic, the waterfalls at Boali,

and Bangui.

Weeks 7–10 From Bangui upstream on

the northern banks of the Ubangi river

and into Zaire, narrow jungle tracks and

river ferry crossings to Kisangani and the

Great Zaire river. The pygmies of the tall

Ituri forest *, the Nyrangongo Volcano *

and the Ruwenzori mountains — home of

the silver backed gorilla *. The eastern hill-

slopes and terraces of Burundi/Rwanda.

Weeks 11–13 & 4 days Into East Africa,

from Lake Victoria to the game reserves of

Tanzania, the Rift Valley and views of

Mount Kilimanjaro — not less than 3

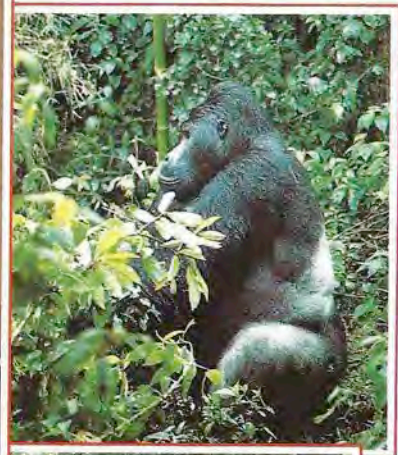
complete days in wildlife parks including

Serengeti, Olduvai Gorge and

Ngorongoro Crater. And finally to the

coast of the Indian Ocean and Dar es

Salaam.



Trans-Africa Plus

19 Weeks TANGIERS-BAMAKO-DAR ES SALAAM (or vice versa)

MOROCCO, ALGERIA, MALI, BURKINA FASO, BENIN, NIGERIA, CAMEROUN, CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC, ZAIRE, BURUNDI (southbound)/RWANDA (northbound), TANZANIA

Seek the even less travelled paths of African adventure and discovery; combine the Saharan Journey to the Niger and Timbuktu with Africa — Coast to Coast in the African expedition that sees even more, that roams further from the more usual, more direct routes, that is lured by some even more remote regions.

Here the view is that where, in a part of Africa to which you are unlikely to return, there exist aspects of Africa unique and exceptionally interesting, then that is where Trans Africa Plus is headed.

This is surely the richest most rewarding challenge of a single continent ever to be within the Adventure Traveller's grasp.

THE DESERT

From **Tangiers** we wind through the hills of northern **Morocco**; the rugged passes and Berber villages of the **High Atlas**, till the sudden, awesome vista of the **Sahara** covers and colours the land. Yet this greatest of all deserts can alter its mood and faces with a surprising suddenness. We find silent gorges and eerie plateaux, towering rock, contorted mountains and whispering seas of shifting dunes. There are cool palms and passing camel trains, untamed nomads armed with broadsword and desert lore, and oasis towns that leap from the pages of forgotten history.

Into **Algeria** where dune seas of the Grand Ergs and the rock strewn **Tassilis** point our route via the oases of **Ghardaia** and **Ouargla**, where encroaching sands drift against mud walls and across sleepy streets and date groves. Landmarks along the barely defined tracks to **Djanet** can be little more than symbols or long since disused names on the map, or empty outposts of the Foreign Legion built during another of the desert's chapters. In the stark beauty of the **Tassili N'Ajjer** cave paintings show elephant, rhino, lion and herds of antelope of an era and a civilisation 8,000 years ago when the Sahara was a more fertile and watered plain.

The **Hoggar's** daunting landscape of lava cones and shattered volcanoes rises 9,000ft (2,800m) above the desert floor. At the foot of this incredible range lies **Tamanrasset**, oasis epicentre of the Sahara. Tamarisk trees shade dusty streets where the Tuareg, magnificent 'Blue Men of the Desert', gather from the far corners of the Sahara — to meet, rest and continue on their way.

We choose a careful course across the empty reaches of the southern desert; to **Mali**, the **Tilemsi** depression and so to Gao on the northern bend of the great **Niger River**. Upstream lies **Timbuktu**, and the islands and waterways of **Mopti** and **Djenne**. Here great medieval kingdoms of the Malinke and Songhai controlled all movement and trade through-out West Africa and across the Sahara to the Mediterranean. The Niger was their artery, connecting these three cities that grew fat from traffic in the gold and slaves of their empire. Such was their power and wealth that their names were heard far across the world, names synonymous with the 'back of beyond'.

THE JUNGLES

South from **Bamako** Africa dances to the beat of a different drum. The austerity and silence of desert and desert ways are behind us. We are immersed in Black



Africa's vociferous ebb and flow, in the chatter and laughter of the market place, the splash of colour in tropical flower and bright dress, the infectious rhythm and swirl of music and life.

We cross the coastal flatlands of **Benin** and **Nigeria** to the green hills of **Cameroun**. Then to **Zaire** and the dense tangle of central Africa's unyielding jungles; of wide rivers, village clearings and distant mission outposts. Progress is slow and often difficult, but never dull. From **Kisangani** and the **Zaire river** we reach the **Ituri forests** — tall trees, pygmy people. On the misty slopes of the **Ruwenzori** where smoking volcanoes sometimes plume the sky we climb in search of the mountain gorilla, in this the gorilla's last sanctuary.

THE GRASSLANDS

We descend through **Burundi's** wooded foothills of coffee and tea plantations on to the broad, sunwashed **East African plains**. Elephant and giraffe move across the rolling horizons of grassland where zebra and wildebeeste migrate in huge herds, and predators follow. And en route to **Dar es Salaam** and the **Indian Ocean**, high above the plain is the glistening crown of this African paradise, the snow-cone of **Kilimanjaro**.

See also Kilimanjaro, page 31



Journey to the

45 Days DAR ES SALAAM to

TANZANIA, MALAWI, ZAMBIA, ZIMBABWE, BOTSWANA, NAMIBIA

The journey that is a truly old-style African adventure of heat and dust and the thrill of a raw and beautiful untamed land. To Namibia, to one of Earth's last great tracts of untrammelled wilderness, an ancient land once lush with forests and all that forests sustain. Barely more than the rocks of ages remain and adapting to the increasingly arid emptiness are the birds and beasts and plant life that are the wonder of this abandoned corner of Africa. Abandoned too are the 19th and 20th Century wrecks that rust on the storm-buffed, fog-bound Skeleton Coast. Yet this is a land that has newly taken its place among the sovereign nations of the world.

From **Dar es Salaam** via 'the warm heart of Africa', Malawi's inland sea and peaceful highlands, a foot safari in Zambia's **Luangwa National Park**, the Zambezi at **Kariba** and so to **Harare**. To the mysterious ruins of **Great Zimbabwe** and the deafening magnitude of the **Victoria Falls**. To Botswana and an escape into one of Nature's last great sanctuaries, the landscape of paradise, the **Savuti channel** of the northern **Chobe**; herds grazing, drinking, wallowing, contesting, mating, parenting, 'all as though Adam had yet to eat of the apple'.

Into the swampland that is the wonderful delta of the **Okavango**, the river that never finds the sea, through the reeds and lilies, between the islands, a seemingly blissful world reliant on the circling fish eagle to affirm, even here, the reality of prey and predator.

Dry land again. Very dry, the four-wheel-drive dust trail hanging in the air in the waterless world of the northern **Kalahari**. Braced for rough going on a bearing north-west towards the great pan of **Etosha** (the place of mirages). By the standards of this huge desert region, it's a place of much water — rain water from the heavens and flood water from Angola — at these times (mid-Dec/mid-Mar) attracting flocks of graceful flamingos.

Skeleton Coast

The Southern Cross of Africa

WINDHOEK (or vice versa)

Dates & Prices - See insert
Maximum Group Size - 21
Transport & Accommodation - Expedition truck, canoes/open boats (Okavango Delta). Camping.
Connecting Flights - See "FARE ADVANTAGE", back flap.

Remarks - The following are possible options available at individual expense at Victoria Falls (paid for at the time):
 - White water rafting from below the Falls through the Zambezi gorge, approx \$US75 July-Dec only.
 - Light plane, bird's-eye view, over the Falls and Zambezi, approx \$US60
 - River cruise above the Falls, approx \$US12.
 Climbing Mt Kilimanjaro - See Kilimanjaro, page 31.

Itinerary Guideline -
 * Denotes services of local guide
 Days 1-3: From Dar through the hills of southern Tanzania to Malawi and Lake Malawi /4: The western lakeshore to Livingstonia and Manchewa Falls /5 & 6: Nyika plateau and mountain wildlife reserve /7-9: The shores & villages of Lake Malawi to Lilongwe /10-13: To Zambia and foot safari through the Luangwa National Park* /14: To Lusaka /15: Cross to Zimbabwe, the Zambezi & Lake Kariba /16 & 17: To & in Harare /18-20: To Nyanga, Mutare, Great Zimbabwe ruins & Bulawayo /21-23: The Matopos, World's View, Hwange National Park (foot safari)* /24 & 25: Victoria Falls (including options) /26-28: Into Botswana, the Chobe, Serondela and the Savuti channel & marshes /29 & 30: Southern



Chobe & soft sand to Maun /31-33: Waterborne in the Okavango Delta & game walks*, safari camp at Moorosi island (or other) /34-36: Northern Kalahari, Shakawe, bushman village, Tsodilo Hills into Namibia, Caprivi strip /37 & 38: Via Angolan border & Cubango river to Etosha, Namutoni camp in eastern Etosha /39: The Etosha Pan & Okaukuejo camp /40 & 41: Rock finger, Petrified Forest, Burnt Mountain, Skeleton Coast, Cape Cross (Koop Kruis) seal reserve /42 & 43: Swakopmund, Walvis Bay, Rostock, Solitare, Sesriem /44 & 45: Dawn at Sossusvlei dunes, then Hardap Dam to Windhoek.

Otherwise, under an unrelenting sun and with dust spirals and shimmering mirages as the backdrop, tens of thousands of resourceful creatures find water at the shrinking waterholes.

South-west of Etosha the mountains of the **Brandberg** rise to nearly 8,000 ft and beyond is the pounding surf of the Atlantic and the colony of seals at **Cape Cross**, the fisheries of **Walvis Bay** (territory of South Africa) and in the south the mountainous wind-fashioned dunes of **Sossusvlei**, utterly stunning in the red-gold dawn of another African day.

Trans-Africa Plus The Skeleton Coast

26 Weeks & 4 Days
 TANGIERS to WINDHOEK
 (or vice versa)

Dates & Prices - See insert
N.B. The cost of a Midway Layover of 7 nights in Dar es Salaam is not included. (See also Midway Layover, page 53)
 Kilimanjaro - The 'layover' enables those interested to climb Kilimanjaro (see page 31)
Itinerary Guideline -
 For fuller descriptions and the itinerary guidelines see TRANS-AFRICA PLUS and JOURNEY TO THE SKELETON COAST (both facing page).

Completion of a great trans-continental expedition (such as Trans-Africa Plus) is usually the time to return home - though Africa will no doubt beckon again. It will not however have escaped the notice of some that continuing south is a real option. It is a serious temptation and so it should be, it not only makes a lot of sense - the combination makes for the most comprehensive expeditioning the length of Africa.

Footsteps of the Explorers & The Skeleton Coast

12 Weeks & 3 Days
 KIGALI-ARUSHA/
 DAR-WINDHOEK
 (or vice versa)

Dates & Prices - See insert
N.B. There is a short staging period between the two parts of this project linking Arusha with Dar es Salaam (or vice versa). This period is included in the published cost.
Itinerary Guideline -
 For fuller descriptions and the itinerary guidelines see FOOTSTEPS OF THE EXPLORERS (page 30) and JOURNEY TO THE SKELETON COAST (this page).

The 'Jade Sea' and the Kalahari, Ngorongoro Crater and the Etosha Pan, the Upper Nile and the Zambezi - and then the Okavango. The entire swathe of Africa from 3° north all the way to the Tropic of Capricorn - in other words the entire domain of Africa's wildlife.



28 Days HARARE to WINDHOEK (or vice versa)

ZIMBABWE, BOTSWANA, NAMIBIA

Dates & Prices - See insert
Remarks - The Southern Cross of Africa from Harare to Windhoek forms part of the Skeleton Coast journey.
 The Southern Cross of Africa begins with Day 18 of the Skeleton Coast in Harare through to its completion in Windhoek on Day 45.
 Therefore, for full details see JOURNEY TO THE SKELETON COAST (this page) and its Itinerary Guidelines Days 18-45.

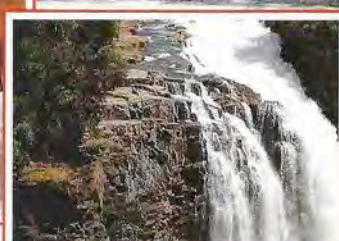
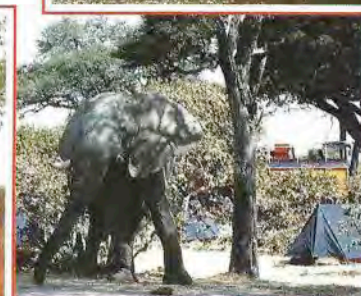
There is a richly rewarding, rough and rugged trail crossing southern Africa from the Zimbabwean highlands and Matabeleland, via the waterways of Okavango to the deserts of Africa's south-west and the empty beauty of Namibia's Etosha Pan. Each night, high in the sky, hangs the Southern Cross.

Three days out from Harare and behind us already are the **Mutare Hot Springs**, the **hills of Nyanga** and the ancient ruins of **Great Zimbabwe**. Ahead of us thunders the **Victoria Falls**. Beyond, in Botswana, is the dramatic wilderness of the **Chobe**, its lion and elephant herds and the freedom and the simple well-being of our bush camps.

The **Okavango** is the tranquility of a uniquely watery Africa, a strangely different river delta; islands, reeds, birds and nature trails - the gentle adventure where, behind the seductive veil of soft twilight tones and birdsong, many a saga of survival is won and lost.

Then via the **northern Kalahari**, the domain of now no more than the few remaining desert stalwarts, the Bushmen. Westwards goes our trail from the **Caprivi Strip** to follow the south bank of the Cubango (Okavango) river and on across the tribal lands of the Kavango to the flat salty expanse of **Etosha**, home of the black-maned lion and a larder as large as giraffe, as striped as zebra and as timid as the Damare dik-dik, with perhaps ten different mammals from springbok and gazelle to kudu and gemsbok and families of elephant arriving at a popular waterhole by the time the sun is high.

The petrified forest and 'burnt mountain' of the **Brandberg range**, the impact on the baked desert of the chill Benguela Current with its origins in the 'Roaring Forties', the aquatic birds, the seals and the long open road via the tracks that meet at **Solitare**, across the wilderness to the sand mountains of **Sossusvlei**.



Gorillas, the Ruwenzoris & Turkana Safari

29 days KIGALI to NAIROBI (or vice versa)

RWANDA, UGANDA, KENYA

Dates & Prices – See insert
Maximum Group Size – 21
Transport & Accommodation – Expedition truck, on foot to Gorillas. Camping
Connecting Flights – See "FARE ADVANTAGE", back flap
Remarks – To encounter the Gorillas we form small groups of 4-6 people. In this way over a period of 2-3 days everyone has one day for one of the gorilla families in the area. During this same period there is time for short treks to nearby volcanoes.
Itinerary Guideline –
 * Denotes services of local guide
 Days 1 & 2: Leave Kigali for Gisenyi & Lake Kivu /3-5: To gorillas & trek in Parc des Volcans* /6-8: To border with Uganda at Kisoro, to & in Ruwenzori National Park, Lakes Edward & George /9-12: Hillsides of Mt Ruwenzori /13-15: Via Semliki Valley, hot springs & pygmies to Kampala /16: In Kampala plus Entebbe, Lake Victoria & botanical gardens /17-19: From Kampala, Jinja, Nile bridge, Tororo, into Kenya, Mt Elgon National Park* /20-23: To Turkwell Gorge, the Turkana Hills, Lodwar, Eliye Springs, Lake Turkana & region of lake /24-26: Lake Baringo, Buffalo Springs or Samburu National Reserve /27-29: Mt Kenya, the equator, Lake Naivasha* & Nairobi.

Great silver-backed gorillas. The 'Mountains of the Moon'. Massive Nile crocodiles. The tribal lands of the Turkana. The mythical 'Jade Sea'. In all, a journey that might well claim the title 'SAFARI', for travel of great magnitude is indeed what the Swahili word "safari" means.

Since our earliest involvement in the international project committed to the survival of the mountain gorilla in 1976, a thrilling safari into the forested hills of Central Africa has been a particularly rewarding encounter; led by skilled guides (sons of poachers, some of them!) our purpose is to reach the authentic habitat of these impressive gentle giants and to be face to face with them in their family environment.

Our observation of the gorillas involves going in small parties 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 them at their ease.

Despite their great size (male gorillas can grow to 6 feet/1.8 m 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 an enclave of virgin forest which borders on Rwanda, Zaire and Uganda.

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

But our trek into the inner sanctuary of the gorillas isn't all. We shall travel from the tropical Riviera atmosphere of Gisenyi on Lake Kivu to trek where the 'Mountains of the Moon' rise, where snows of 5,109m Mt Ruwenzori melt into Lake Albert to become 'the tears of Isis', the Egyptian goddess of the Nile –

for here it was claimed the great river began its 4,000 mile journey. Here too we shall reach the **Ruwenzori National Park** (formerly – and still commonly known as – Queen Elizabeth II National Park) bounded by Lakes Edward and George. Hippo are the famed attraction here; the Kazinga Channel linking the two lakes abounds in them and in pelican and other fowl.

To the north the peaks of Mt Stanley (5,109m) and Mt Speke (4,890m) tower above the forest and our planned approach is as far as Guy Yeoman camp at 3,450m and is subject to the weather which is unpredictable. Enroute to Kampala, a picturesque detour is to the hot springs of the **Semliki Valley** and the pygmy dwellings near the village of Ntandi.

We shall travel further; on now from **Kampala** crossing the frontier, in the shadow of 4,321m **Mt Elgon**, into **Kenya** and from here we cross the country of the Samburu people and steer for Turkana country and to **Lake Turkana**, the fabled 'Jade Sea'. It is the northernmost of the **Great Rift Valley** lakes, called a sea for rivers flow only into it, and these include the turbulent, rebellious Omo river from the wild highlands of Ethiopia. It is a superb explorers' landscape, far horizons, the sun vertical and not a trace of anything to remind one of home.

Home lies beyond **Nairobi** which lies beyond **Mt Kenya** and the lovely lake-encircling **Naivasha** park, habitually pink with flamingoes.

Gorillas & the Ruwenzoris

15 Days KIGALI to KAMPALA (or vice versa)

Dates & Prices – See insert
 This project consists of Days 1-15 of GORILLAS, THE RUWENZORIS & TURKANA SAFARI (this page) commencing in Kigali on Day 1 and ending in Kampala on Day 15.

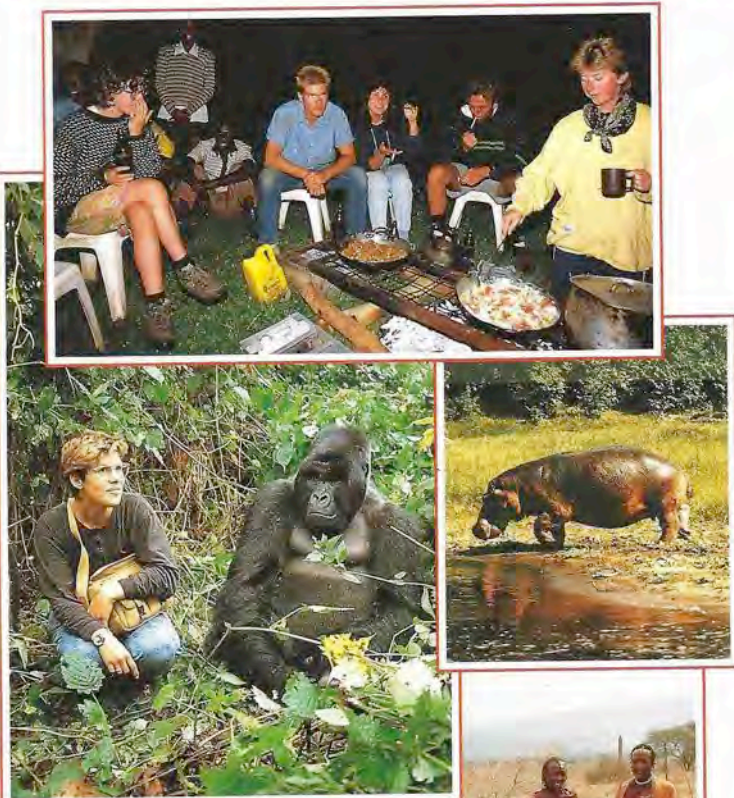
With time of the essence, these two weeks will waste none of it. Within days Africa is as real and as close as the hot breath of a gorilla. The ramparts and the snow-tipped peaks of the Ruwenzoris are beautifully out of place astride the equator.

Footsteps of the Explorers

5 Weeks & 6 Days KIGALI-KAMPALA-NAIROBI-ARUSHA (or vice versa)

Dates & Prices – See insert
 N.B. There is also an overland link Nairobi-Arusha included.
Itinerary Guideline –
 For fuller description and the itinerary guideline see GORILLAS, THE RUWENZORIS & TURKANA SAFARI (this page) followed by SERENGETI SAFARI (opposite page).

The conundrum of the source of the Nile, the legends of the 'Mountains of the Moon' and the impenetrable forests. The journey to the 'Jade Sea', the 'Garden of Eden' in the huge beau-

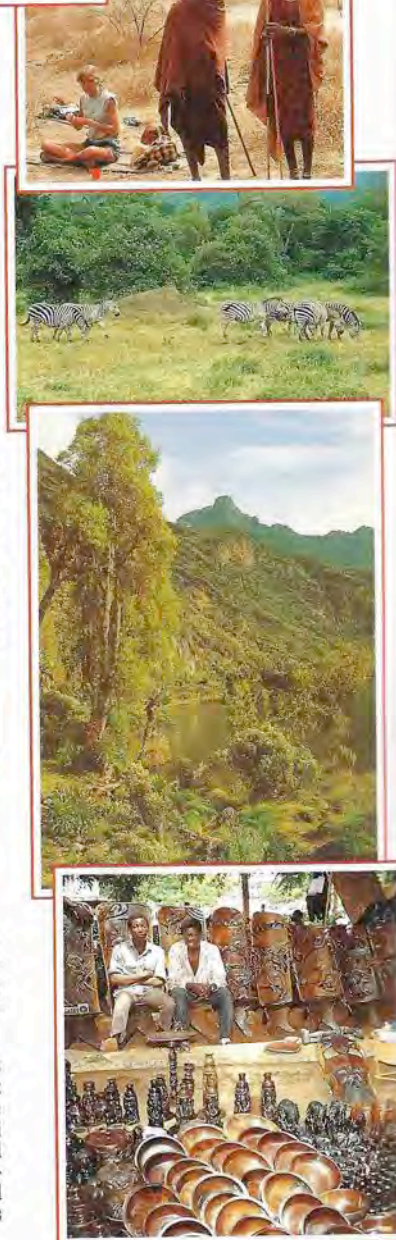


Turkana Safari

14 Days KAMPALA to NAIROBI (or vice versa)

Dates & Prices – See insert
 This safari consists of Days 16-29 of GORILLAS, THE RUWENZORIS & TURKANA SAFARI (this page) commencing in Kampala on Day 16 and ending in Nairobi on Day 29.

You've got two weeks and doubt it's long enough to get right away from it all? Well, here you will delight in proving yourself wrong! Quite simply this is the other Kenya, the one nearly no-one knows, still gloriously devoid of package tour appeal, probably the best, yet the least frequented, safari country in the whole of Africa.



tiful bowl of Ngorongoro Crater. Here was the very essence of adventure and Burton, Speke, Stanley and the other early Europeans knew it and were spellbound.

Not all is quite how it was. More has changed in 130 years since the first explorers than changed in all the millennia since a creature at Olduvai first walked upright and fashioned the first crude tool. But much remains thankfully still unsquandered and this safari is a journey that owes all to that fact.

Serengeti Safari

12 Days from ARUSHA

Once you have heard the roar of lion at close quarters in the wild, once you have watched the ambling herd of elephant with trotting calves progressing across the grasslands of East Africa, the two-dimensionality of caged animals – and their captors – strikes you hard.

From Arusha at the base of Mt. Meru, we cross the **Masai Steppe** to **Lake Manyara**. Millions of flamingoes rimming the lake a deep pink. Pelicans, maribou stork and crane also thrive here. Climbing the steep slopes of the **Great Rift Valley** the vistas are out across the shimmering lake and beyond, in the hazy distance, **Mount Meru** and **Kilimanjaro**.

The **Ngorongoro Crater**, ten miles across and almost sheer sided, is a sheltered haven containing the highest concentration of wildlife – zebra, elephant, rhino and buffalo graze the crater floor while lion and leopard shelter, and watch, beneath the trees and along the lakes.

From Ngorongoro we descend to the surrounding **Serengeti plains** – a sea of grasslands and home to the great wildebeeste herds, to gazelle and giraffe. Here too is a good chance of seeing the rare cheetah as it surveys its giant larder.

Back in the Rift Valley we make our way to **Lake Natron** where we encounter the splendid Masai – proud, fierce nomads without regard for frontier or barrier. After the heat and dust of 'up country' travel, the rough tracks give way to better roads as we approach **Mt Kilimanjaro** – starting point for those of us headed for the summit.

See also Kilimanjaro, this page

Turkana & Serengeti Safari

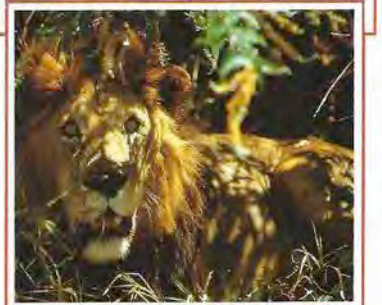
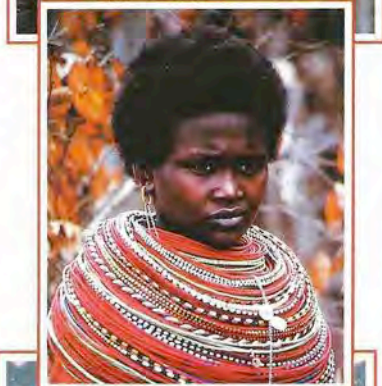
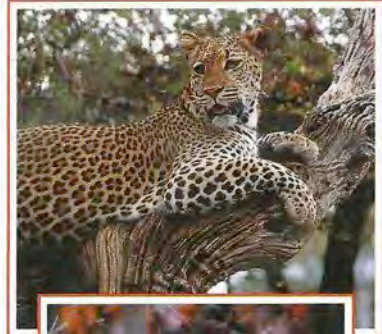
26 Days KAMPALA to ARUSHA (or vice versa)

Dates & Prices – See insert
N.B. There is also an overland link Nairobi–Arusha included. This safari consists of Days 16-29 of GORILLAS, THE RUWENZORI'S & TURKANA SAFARI (opposite page) followed by SERENGETI SAFARI (this page).

The safari that roams north and south of the equator. From Turkana to Masai, from Mt Kenya to Mt Kilimanjaro. A host of planned and spontaneous encounters in Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania.



Dates & Prices – See insert
Maximum Group Size – 21
Transport & Accommodation – Expedition truck, Landrovers in Ngorongoro Crater. Camping.
Connecting Flights – See "FARE ADVANTAGE", back flap
Remarks – The (optional) climb of Kilimanjaro starts on day 12 of the itinerary below. (See Kilimanjaro, this page).
Itinerary Guideline –
* Denotes services of local guide
Day 1: Arrive Kilimanjaro International airport, to Arusha /2: From Arusha to Lake Manyara and /3–8: The Game Reserves and fabulous wildlife of Lake Manyara, the Serengeti Plains* and Ngorongoro Crater* /9–11: Remote Masailand, The Great Rift Valley and Lake Natron /12: Return to Arusha and depart.



Mt Kilimanjaro

7 Days

"Climbing Kili" can be included with any E.O. project in or passing through East Africa. It cannot, however, be booked by itself.

Dates & Prices – See insert
Maximum Group Size – 15
Transport & Accommodation – on foot, group accommodation in Kibo Hotel & National Park Alpine huts.

Connecting Flights – See "FARE ADVANTAGE", back flap.

Remarks – The ascent of Kilimanjaro is a challenging uphill walk that involves no technical climbing but requires a good degree of physical fitness.

Temperatures at the top before dawn can reach -25°C.

Each daily section is planned to allow for physical adjustment and acclimatisation to the altitude. The climb is led by experienced local mountain guides supported by porters and cooks.

Itinerary Guideline –

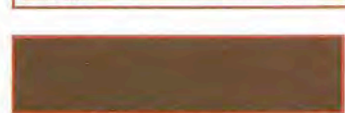
Day 1: Arrive Kibo Hotel/preparation for climb /2: The climb to Mandara hut (9,000ft/2,736m). An easy walk through forests and grasslands /3: To Horombo hut (12,300ft/3,736m). A sharp climb to Podocarpus Hill then easy going over moorlands of rock and flowers /4: To Kibo hut (15,300ft/4,712m). Harder going as the altitude increases. Exposed reaches of sand and volcanic dust as we cross the saddle between Mawenzi and Kibo peaks /5: To the summit. A 1.30am start – to reach the first summit at sunrise. Steep and hard going over the last 1,000ft/300m to Gillman's Point (18,480ft/5,685m) but the view is worth every step. But that is not it – a further 11/2 hours takes those with reserves of stamina around the lip of the crater to Uhuru Peak at 19,340ft/5,895m – only then will you be at the top of Africa.

The descent to Horombo hut is quick and easy by comparison /6: To our base at Kibo Hotel. The descent usually takes 6 hours. Rest and celebration /7: Depart for further African travels or for home.

The highest and probably the most magnificent and picturesque mountain in Africa, Kilimanjaro rises, cloud-shrouded, from the Masai Steppe to a staggering height of 19,340 ft/5,895m.

When the clouds do roll back, in the early morning and late afternoon, the impressive double peak is revealed. To the left is the smooth volcanic cone of Kibo with its permanent mantle of glaciers and snow. It reaches past the 5,800-metre barrier at Uhuru Peak. To the right is the jagged peak of Mawenzi at 16,890ft/5,148m, a dangerous mountain not so often scaled.

There are no other peaks to detract from its immensity, there is no mountain range in which 'Kili' can lose its identity. There it sits in solitary majesty, rising from the surrounding plains as a monument to the geological forces which shaped Africa.

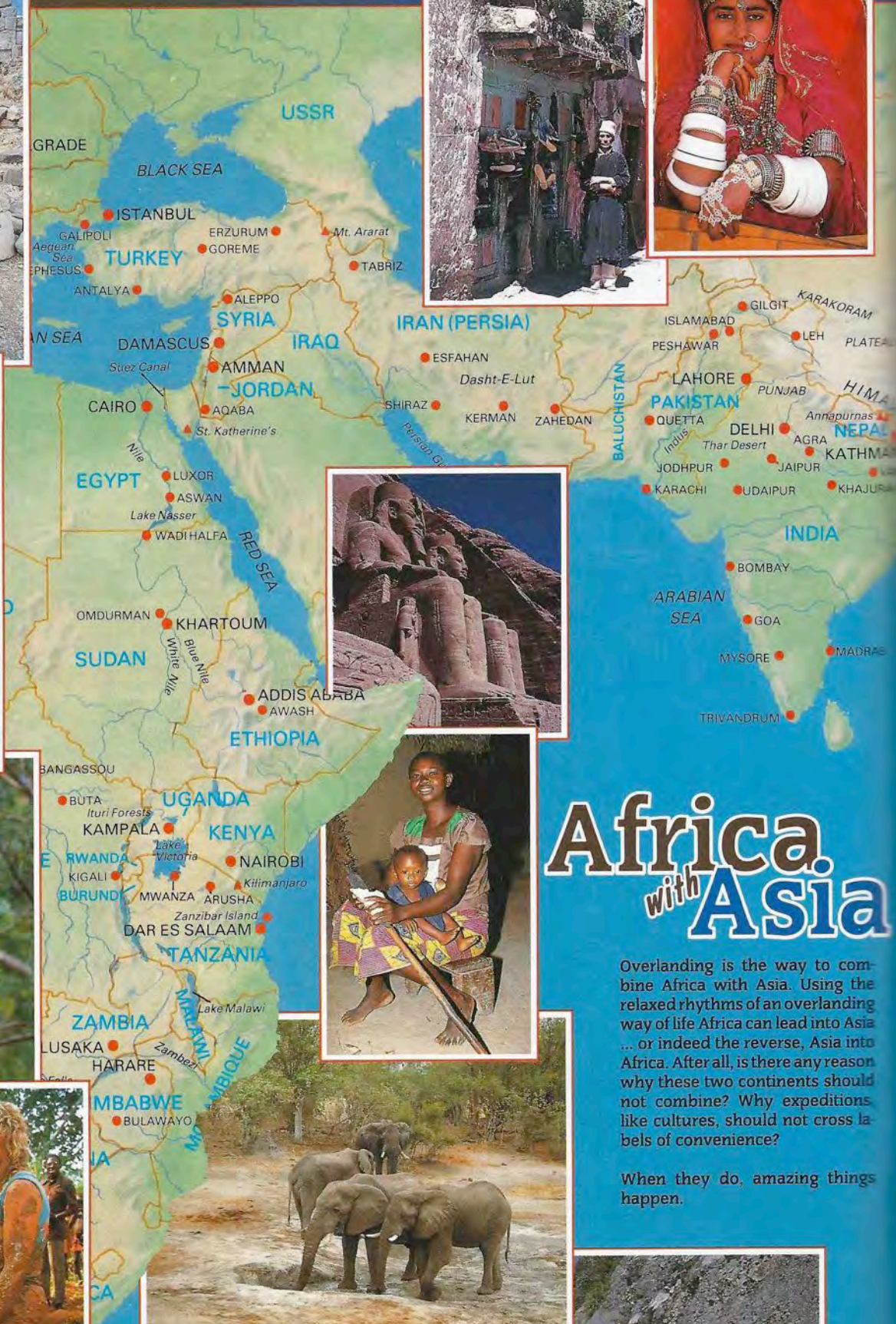
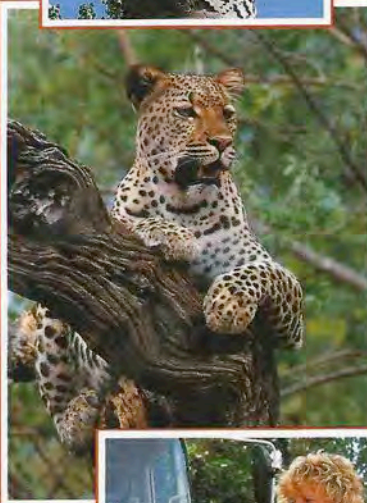
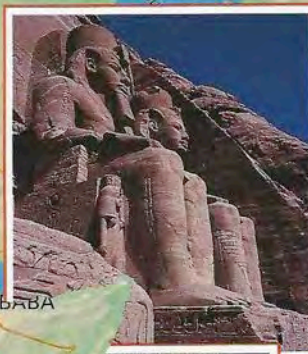
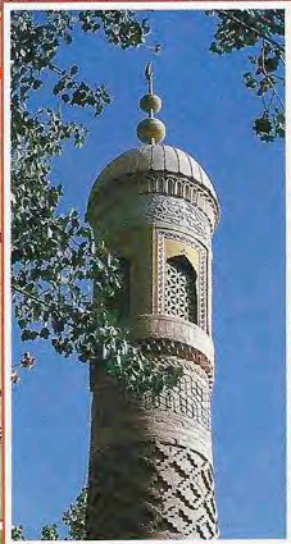
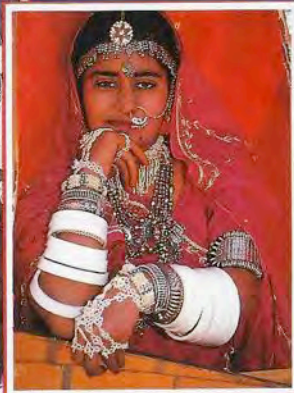
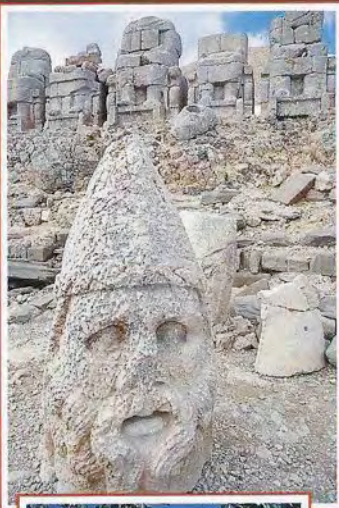


Serengeti Safari & Safari South

8 Weeks
ARUSHA to HARARE (or vice versa)

Dates & Prices – See insert
N.B. There is a short staging period between the two parts of this project linking Arusha with Dar es Salaam (or vice versa). This period is included in the published cost.
Kilimanjaro – See also climbing Kilimanjaro (this page) before or after this project.

This is a 2 month African Odyssey. It is the best of wildlife in Eastern and Southern Africa, the combination of Serengeti Safari (this page) and Safari South (page 23).



Africa with Asia

Overlanding is the way to combine Africa with Asia. Using the relaxed rhythms of an overlanding way of life Africa can lead into Asia ... or indeed the reverse, Asia into Africa. After all, is there any reason why these two continents should not combine? Why expeditions like cultures, should not cross labels of convenience?

When they do, amazing things happen.

24 Weeks TANGIERS-DAR ES SALAAM-BOMBAY-KATHMANDU (or vice versa)

MOROCCO, ALGERIA, MALI, BENIN, NIGERIA, CAMEROUN, CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC, ZAIRE, BURUNDI (s'bound)/RWANDA (n'bound), TANZANIA, INDIA, NEPAL

Africa and India together in one great expedition; the idea to do not one or the other but the plan to do both.

To hidden depths of the Sahara desert, to Timbuktu and the Niger River; to hot jungles of the pygmy and gorilla, and game-tracking through the plains of East Africa. Then a leap, Dar es Salaam-Bombay, a metamorphosis from the dust and realities of Africa to subtle magic in the sights and sounds of India — and to high adventure in the Himalaya.

LONDON to DAR ES SALAAM

From Tangiers we wind up and over the passes of the High Atlas to where this fertile country becomes desert. Oasis towns like In Salah lie between high seas of rolling tall dunes, bare cinderous plateaux and brittle mountain ranges like the Tassili. Rock paintings near Djanel show a land of plenty, with antelope, lion and elephant wandering these rich grasslands of 8,000 years ago. From Tamanrasset and the lava cones of the Hoggar we steer a course over remote tracks into the lands of the Tuareg and the desert's deepest reaches — to Mali and the Tilems depression, then Gao on the northern bend of the Niger River, and Timbuktu.

Here are the rhythms of Black Africa, in Mopti and Djenné, the Dogon peoples, Bamako and the splash of tropical colour through coastal Benin and Nigeria, and the cooler highlands of the central Cameroun. Then to Zaire and the dense tangle of central Africa's unyielding jungles; of wide rivers, mission outposts and self-contained villages. Progress is slow and often difficult, but never dull. From Kisangani on the Zaire River we enter the tall Ituri Forests of the pygmies. Along the edges of the Ruwenzori, where volcanoes like Nyirangongo boil and fume and the mountains where the great silver-backed Gorilla clings to his last sanctuaries.

From the hillsides of Burundi we descend through foothills of coffee plantations and eucalyptus onto the broad sweep of the East African Plains. Elephant and giraffe roam the rolling horizons of flat topped acacia trees, the grasslands of the Serengeti host great migrating herds, and the predators that follow them. This is an Africa that belongs to its animals. High above the wild Masai Steppe and the lakes of the Rift Valley, a fitting crown to this paradise, is the snow cone of Mt Kilimanjaro.

Warm breezes and palm trees brush the shores of the Indian Ocean. The same breezes that once brought Arab dhows to Dar es Salaam — and a thriving sea trade with India. In Dar es Salaam is our 1 week layover (see page 53).

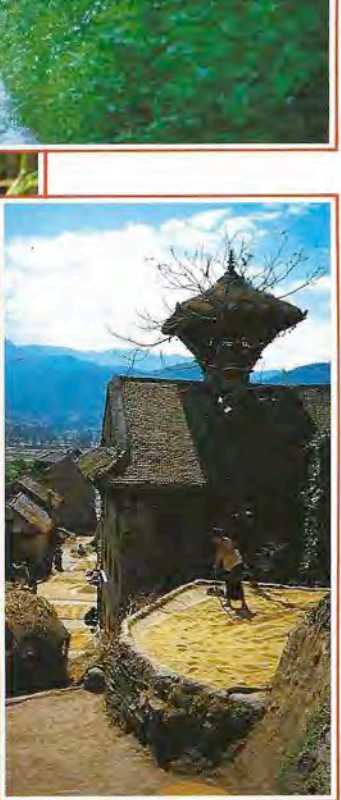
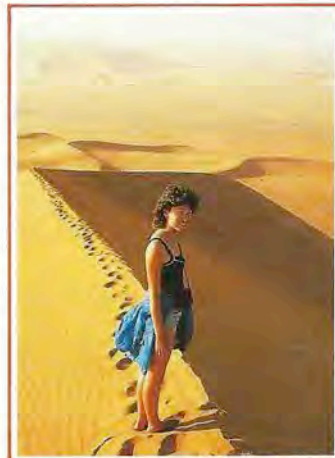
BOMBAY to KATHMANDU

The few remaining dhows take up to six months to make the crossing, but we take 6 hours to fly from Dar to Bombay, the historic gateway to India. Africa will leave lasting impressions with her open spaces and heterogenic villages, India will impress with her never-ending cycle of activity — of people, history and the very celebration of life.

Here is Rajasthan, the land of the Maharajahs whose fiery ways and staggering wealth are everywhere in

gilded palaces and cannoned fortress strongholds. To Udaipur's quiet lakes and shimmering white palaces, the craggy heights of Jodhpur's aloof castle and the cacophony of town bazaars. From Jaipur, the walled Rajput city of rose-pink sandstone, we reach Fatehpur Sikri — the glorious but short-lived capital of the Moghuls. Nearby is Agra and the Taj Mahal, and beyond, in the byways and sleepy villages lie the temples of Khajuraho, their walls carved with erotic and sensuous delights of the gods. Varanasi is the holiest of Hindu cities, the Ganges River the source of all life and death.

The Himalaya, impossibly high, shimmer like ivory white sentinels above the heat haze of the plains. From Nepal's Chitwan National Park where rhino — and just possibly tiger — can be spotted, we climb through the foothills. From horizon to horizon the world's highest mountains pierce the clouds — Dhaulagiri, Annapurna, Everest and Kanchenjunga far to the east. And below, nestled in a green valley, lies the welcoming warmth of Kathmandu.



Dates & Prices — See insert
Maximum Group Size — 21
Transport & Accommodation — Expedition truck, Niger river boats, jungle river ferries, landrovers in Ngorongoro Crater, expedition truck Bombay-Kathmandu.
Connecting Flights — See "FARE ADVANTAGE" back flap.
Remarks — The maximum estimated cost of the Integral International Flight Dar es Salaam-Bombay (or vice versa) is \$US440. See "Fare Advantage" back flap. To encounter the Mountain Gorillas we form groups of 4-6 people.
N.B. The cost of a Midway Layover of 7 nights in Dar es Salaam is not included. (See also Midway Layover, page 52).
Kilimanjaro — The 'layover' enables those interested to climb Kilimanjaro (see page 31).

Itinerary Guideline —
Weeks 1-6 Tangiers via the Atlas Mountains and the less frequented regions of the Sahara to Timbuktu and the Niger River.
Weeks 7-19 From Bamako via Nigeria and the Cameroun and the equatorial forests of Central Africa, the pygmies, the Mountain Gorillas, via Burundi/Rwanda to Tanzania's Serengeti and the Ngorongoro Crater and so via the foot of Kilimanjaro to Dar es Salaam.
Weeks 20-24 Layover in Dar es Salaam, flight Dar-Bombay, by land through Northern India-Rajasthan and the Ganges plains to Kathmandu and the Himalaya. For further descriptions and itinerary guidelines please refer to TRANS AFRICA PLUS (page 28) followed by NEPAL, THE GANGES & RAJASTHAN (page 43).

The Great Overland Encounter

29 Weeks KATHMANDU-CAIRO-DAR ES SALAAM-LONDON (or vice versa)

NEPAL, INDIA, PAKISTAN, IRAN, TURKEY, SYRIA, JORDAN, EGYPT, SUDAN, ETHIOPIA, TANZANIA, KENYA, UGANDA, ZAIRE, CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC, CAMEROUN, NIGERIA, NIGER, ALGERIA, MOROCCO, EUROPE

Here is the chance to blend Asia with Africa on what is surely the most superlative expedition of them all.

This incredible journey links so many of the most exotic places in the world. It is the great journey that will change your perspective, putting western culture in its proper place and proportion. Tilting the world on its axis so to speak.

'Over two continents, over twenty countries, over twenty thousand miles and through adventures too numerous to tally'.

KATHMANDU to CAIRO

(See also East of Suez, page 36)
Overland from the high Himalaya across India, 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.

CAIRO to DAR ES SALAAM

(See also Africa Encompassed, page 24)
Into Africa - first to Cairo, the Sphinx, the Pyramids and treasures of the Pharaohs. From the Red Sea coast and Hurghada we travel beside the Nile, Africa's artery from the equatorial heartland, to Karnak (Thebes), Luxor and the Valley of the Kings, Kom Ombo, Edfu and Aswan - to the temples of Philae and Abu Simbel. The Nile Steamer transports us down the

dammed Nile, flooded to form the elongation of Lake Nasser; the result - less papyrus reed and more clogging, cloying water hyacinth - to Wadi Halfa and the rail that rattles across the Sudan desert to Omdurman and Khartoum, wedged in the confluence of blue and white Nile.

Three nights in Addis Ababa and on the Ethiopian plateau break our journey by air to Dar es Salaam, capital and seaport of Tanzania. Hotels or laid back nearby beaches can be on the agenda for our Midway Layover (see page 53).

DAR ES SALAAM to LONDON

(See also The Great Safari, page 20 & 21)
From Dar es Salaam we head across the open plains, the home of Africa's migrating herds and roaming wildlife. Past Kilimanjaro to Lake Manyara and the Serengeti, to the shores of Lake Victoria and the misty Kenyan highlands, to the Queen Elizabeth National Park of Uganda.

The expedition now enters an area of primeval rain forests, lush vegetation, lakes and volcanoes, 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.



Dates & Prices - See insert

Maximum Group Size - 21

Transport & Accommodation -

Expedition truck, truck or chartered bus in Egypt, Lake Nasser steamer, desert train, chartered bus in Ethiopia, expedition truck trans-Africa from Dar es Salaam, jungle river ferries. Camping, hotels in Khartoum and Addis Ababa.

Connecting Flights - See "FARE ADVANTAGE" back flap.

N.B. The cost of a Midway Layover of 7 nights in Dar es Salaam is not included (See also Midway Layover, page 52).

Remarks - The maximum estimated cost of the Integral International flight Khartoum-Addis Ababa-Dar es Salaam is \$US\$95. See 'Fare Advantage' back flap. Chitwan optional elephant ride, jungle walk, canoe trip approx. \$US\$30.

Kilimanjaro - The 'layover' enables those interested to climb Kilimanjaro (see page 31).

Itinerary Guideline -

Weeks 1-9 The route from Kathmandu through Nepal and India, Pakistan, Iran, Turkey and the Middle East to Cairo is as per the description and itinerary guideline for EAST OF SUEZ (see page 36 westbound weeks 1-9).

Weeks 10-29 The route of this great project, on now through Egypt and Sudan and by air to Ethiopia and Tanzania and across East and Central Africa to the Sahara and North Africa, Spain and France to London is as per the description and itinerary guidelines for AFRICA ENCOMPASSED (see page 24) and is further expanded in THE GREAT SAFARI (see pages 20 & 21).

"Experience tells . . ."

'... The GOE (Great Overland Encounter) is a fantastic trip and leaves me with nothing but good memories, and lots of overseas friends. This Africa-Asia adventure is probably the best and most varied trip I'll ever make. My family and friends at home were very impressed with my slides and stories . . .'

LUC VAN RAUST, BELGIUM

'I have recently returned from the Gates of Tartary trip. I'm just dropping a line to say how much I enjoyed the trip. It's very hard work and the conditions in China are very basic but it was very rewarding. This surely is one of the last great adventure routes available in a limited period. . . .'

STEPHEN COTTAM, UK

'... The Egypt, Jordan & Israel trip was great and I am very appreciative of the E.O. company and all who make it tick. I loved the desert bush camps, sailing on felucca, snorkelling in the Red Sea and experiencing the cities of Cairo and Jerusalem - and many other events . . .'

GEOFF WATSON, AUSTRALIA

'Just a quick note to say thank you to E.O. for a great Himalayan Challenge. All the staff made it fantastic. . . .'

JONATHAN HAZELWOOD, UK

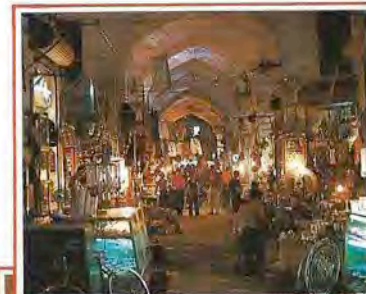
'... The truck and the equipment were all in good condition and even the camp beds couldn't have been more comfortable! . . .'

JENNY RICHARDSON, AUSTRALIA



'Having just returned from the E.O. Brief Encounter trip through Nepal, the Ganges & Rajasthan, I thought I would write and say how much I enjoyed it and express my appreciation for the efforts of our leader/driver. The route has been well chosen, taking in nearly all the places I would want to visit. Overlanding is a great way to travel and I would recommend it to anybody who was up to it as the best way to see countries. . . .'

ANDY BRAMLEY, UK



Cradles of our Civilisation

7 Weeks & 1 Day LONDON to CAIRO (or vice versa)

WESTERN EUROPE, YUGOSLAVIA (or HUNGARY, ROMANIA & BULGARIA), GREECE, 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, calcium baths of Pammukkale 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. Thence to Aqaba and by ferry to Nuweiba.

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.

We now travel by train beside the slow-moving purposeful Nile from Cairo to Aswan. Here we use the zephyrs from the desert, aboard feluccas to transport us down the Nile on to Kom Ombo. Then, at Luxor, awaits our personal encounter with the Valleys of the Kings and Queens before journey's end back in Cairo, back to the Sphinx and Pyramids and the splendour that is the golden hoard from the tomb of Tutankhamun.



Dates & Prices — See insert
Maximum Group Size — 21
Transport & Accommodation — Expedition truck, Red Sea ferry, train, Nile felucca, small group local transport in Egypt. Camping, with budget hotels and guest houses & feluccas in Egypt.
Connecting Flights — See "FARE ADVANTAGE" back flap.
Remarks — This project can be combined with Safari South to form **The Cultured & the Untamed** (see below).
 Optional overnight cruise at Fethiye, Turkey approx. \$US35.
Itinerary Guideline — * Denotes services of local guide
Weeks 1 & 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 *.
Weeks 3-6 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.
Week 7 By ferry to Nuweiba, across the Sinai to St. Katherine's and the Suez Canal. Cairo, the Pyramids & Sphinx *; by train to Aswan, feluccas down the Nile to Kom Ombo; Drive to Luxor and the Valley of the Kings & Queens *, (optional flight to Abu Simbel), return by train to Cairo.

"Experience tells . . ."

"Thank you very much for all your help organising my trip to Egypt, Jordan & Israel in January, I really enjoyed it too. I'm thinking about going on the Nepal, Ganges, Rajasthan, Goa & South India trip and was wondering if you have to book early for that one. . . ."

SUZI MCINNIS, UK

*(Yes, indeed you do! Ed.)

"I was on your London-Kathmandu trip, and am writing to say how much I enjoyed and how I was impressed by the trip. The organisation was impeccable and every thought had gone into the kitting out and provisioning of the truck. Our driver made the ideal spirit of adventure to make such a venture exciting, as well as the necessary tolerance to cope with borders and the various minor disasters and problems that occur on board. . . ."

SUE G. GILCHRIST, UK

"... I would like to take this opportunity of saying how helpful and pleasant your staff have been in all my dealings with them and to say thank you for the best holiday I have ever had. . . ."

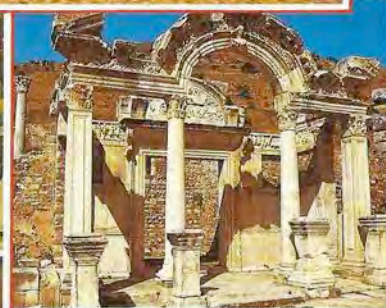
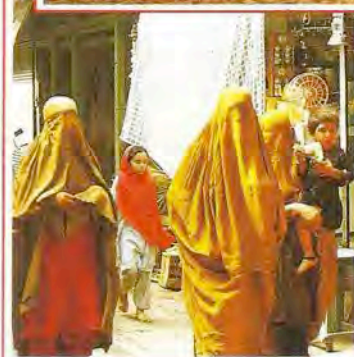
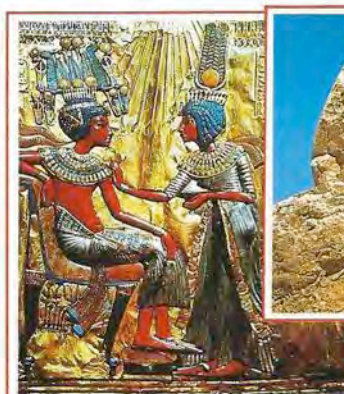
ALISA HEPBURN, UK

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

WES LOCKHART, 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, USA



The Cultured & the Untamed

13 Weeks & 1 Day
HARARE to LONDON

Dates & Prices — See insert

This journey of opposites — from Southern Africa to Kilimanjaro, and then by air to Cairo, the Nile and the Levant and across Europe to London — is the combination of Safari South (page 23) with Cradles of our Civilisation (this page).

East of Suez including Egypt

10 Weeks & 1 Day CAIRO to KATHMANDU
(or vice versa)

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

To take this journey from Egypt through the Holy Land and Persia to the distant Himalaya 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 — emptiness, serenity, fulfilment, an awakening to living in mutual respect with a harsh land; interrupted, though it is, by the cacophony 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 bougainvillea in spacious courts and gardens. And standing along India's entire northern border, from K2 to Kathmandu, the massive mountains stare down imperiously.

From Cairo, the enigma of pyramid and sphinx and the treasures of Tutankhamun, we travel by train to Aswan and Luxor where awaits a personal encounter with the Valleys of the Kings and Queens.

We cross the empty Sinai to St. Katherine's Monastery and we sail from Nuweiba to Aqaba, then overland through Jordan to Petra's hidden rock temples. Into Syria where 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.

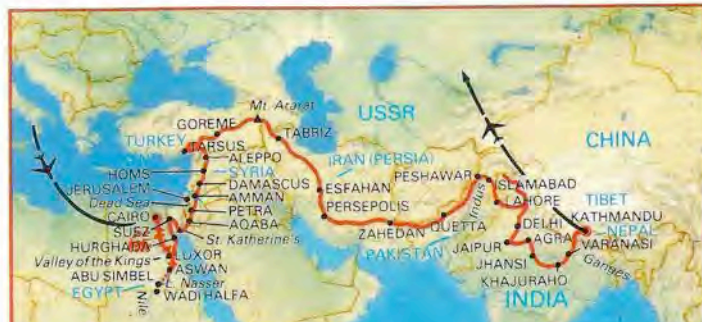
We reach Goreme in Turkey where Christians, fleeing from the zealots of other gods, burrowed their cities and churches deep into the ground. Crossing the high, windswept plateau of eastern Anatolia to Mt Ararat we enter Persia to Esfahan where Islamic scholarship, art and understanding once flowered, 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.

Here, depending on the season, either we turn north high into the mountains of the Karakoram, climbing to Gilgit and Skardu where the Indus swirls and tumbles past massive Nanga Parbat (May-Oct). Or we head south from the Punjab across Rajasthan to the fortress city of Jodhpur and on across the Thar desert to fabled Jaisalmer (Nov-Apr).

We arrive in Delhi, capital and in fact a tale of two cities — the old and chaotic, alongside 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 gains the ridge revealing the panorama of peaks below which is journey's end. Kathmandu — the Shangri-La of mist shrouded legend and 'truth searching hippy'. The fabled city where idols, temples and gilded pagodas direct the eye constantly upward — upward to the cold stone and icy heights of the Himalaya.



Dates & Prices — See insert

Maximum Group Size — 21

Transport & Accommodation: Train, group bus & Nile felucca in Egypt, Red Sea ferry, expedition truck Aqaba-Kathmandu. Budget hotels, guest houses & feluccas in Egypt, camping.

Connecting Flights — See "FARE

ADVANTAGE" back flap.

Remarks — N.B. EO projects do not visit (Indian) Kashmir due to prevailing political tensions. Instead this project includes either: time in the Himalayan regions of Pakistan, the Swat Valley and the Gilgit region of the Karakoram or: in colder months (Nov-Apr) India's Rajasthan, Jodhpur, Jaisalmer, Udaipur and Ranakpur.

Chitwan optional elephant ride, jungle walk, canoe trip approx. \$US30.

Itinerary Guideline —

Denotes services of local guide

Weeks 1 & 2 Cairo, the Pyramids & Sphinx*, by train to Aswan (optional flight to Abu Simbel), feluccas down the Nile to Kom Ombo; drive to Luxor and the

Valleys of the Kings & Queens*, return by train to Cairo. Across the Suez Canal to the Sinai & St. Katherine's*, ferry to Aqaba and Jordan, Petra & Amman.

Weeks 3-6 To Syria, Krak des Chevaliers and Damascus, then climb through the Taurus mountains to the Anatolian plateau, Cappadocia and Goreme*. 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 7-10 To Peshawar*, then see N.B. above. North to the upper Indus and western Himalaya or Rajasthan and the Thar desert including Jodhpur & Udaipur. Then Delhi, Jaipur*, Agra and the Taj Mahal, Khajuraho*, the Ganges and Varanasi*, and so to the foothills, Chitwan, Kathmandu and the heights of the Himalaya.

"Experience tells . . ."

'... There was something different in the landscape, the people, the food and the climate for each day that we travelled. It was an excellent choice of pathway to entice people into enjoying their first experiences of India and Nepal . . .'

ROD BASIC, AUSTRALIA

'I'm just writing to say how much fun I had on the E.O. East of Suez trip. It has been the most fascinating event in my life so far. The openness of the truck and the unsophisticated way of life we led, brings you so much closer to the countries, their people and nature. And it goes without saying, that we were mobile enough to do more adventurous drives such as leaving the road to go across desert to Wadi Rum in Jordan. The only constructive criticism I would have, is that the 9 weeks for the East of Suez is too short.* Nevertheless, this trip has given me the travel bug. I have already started recommending E.O. to friends and am wondering when to do the next trip! . . .'

KAJA JOBES, UK

* (It's now 10 weeks! Ed.)

'I have just returned from a fantastic E.O. trip . . .'

SUSANNE PLANCK, W. GERMANY —
KASHMIR & LADAKH

'... My trip from Cairo to Kathmandu was fantastic. I like the way you run the trips and the truck life, and hope to do an African trip sometime in the future . . .'

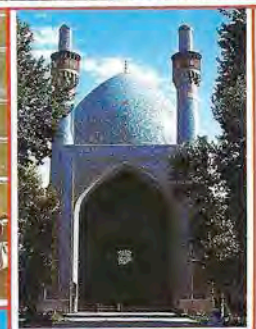
EVA MARIA HINTERLEITNER, AUSTRIA

South & East of Suez

15 Weeks & 5 Days

Dates & Prices — See insert

This great journey from Southern Africa to Kilimanjaro and then by air to Cairo, the Nile to the Himalaya is the combination of Safari South (page 23) with East of Suez (this page).



Egypt

14 Days from CAIRO

Dates & Prices – See insert
Maximum Group Size – 21
Transport & Accommodation – Expedition truck or coach, Nile felucca & train, expedition truck or mini-bus Suez–Cairo. Camping, hotel in Cairo night 1, overnight train Cairo–Aswan, night 2.
Connecting Flights – See “FARE ADVANTAGE” back flap.
Remarks – This project often co-ordinates with 28 days Egypt & Sinai with Israel & Jordan (see this page)
Itinerary Guideline –
 * Denotes services of local guide (This itinerary may operate in reverse)
 Day 1: In Cairo, the Citadel, treasures of Tutankhamun, museum of Egyptology, the city and bazaars * / 2: The Sphinx & Pyramids, overnight train to Aswan / 3: In Aswan, the island and temples of Philae / 4: Drive to Abu Simbel / 5: Abu Simbel * and return to Aswan / 6 & 7: Sail the Nile by felucca from Aswan to Kom Ombo * / 8 & 9: Luxor, Valley of the Kings and temples of Amun * / 10–12: Drive to Hurghada, the Red Sea coast and beaches to Suez / 13: Return to Cairo / 14: Depart Cairo.

The amazing story of ancient Egypt, dating back 50 centuries, has been pieced together by the detective work of modern archaeologists — a story that can be told with breathtaking illustrations on our journey.

Combined with E.O.'s expedition vehicle for the desert stretches, we will use the comfortable overnight sleeper-train between Cairo and Aswan. On the upper Nile we take traditional feluccas to sail down stream and to round things off, the Red Sea supplies the fun of sandy beaches and clear blue waters.

Our journey 700 miles up the Nile and 5,000 years back in time begins in Cairo. Here we see the treasures of Tutankhamun, 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. The dawn breaks, stirring villages, lighting sails on the river and casting long dune shadows on the desert beyond.

At Aswan the river is studded with rocks and islands, amongst which glide graceful white feluccas. On one such island are the lovely temples of Philae.

The route to Abu Simbel lies beyond and south for 170 miles across the desert. Fronting this incredible rock temple, seated and imperious, the four colossal statues of Ramses II guard, as they have long done, the southern approach to Egypt.

Returning to Aswan we board feluccas to sail down stream, mattresses on deck and a lantern gently rocking; no five-star hotel this — more a five million star hotel.

Near Kom Ombo's temples and tombs of the 'Old Kingdom' we rejoin our truck and continue to Luxor; the great temple of Amun at Karnak and The Valleys of the Kings and Queens.

A route across the desert will bring us to Hurghada on The Red Sea — time to rest and relax, gain a tan, and return to Cairo via the Gulf of Suez and the great Canal.

Egypt & the Sinai with Israel & Jordan

28 Days CAIRO–AMMAN–JERUSALEM–CAIRO

Dates & Prices – See insert
Maximum Group Size – 21
Transport & Accommodation – Expedition truck or coach in Egypt, Sinai & Jordan, Nile felucca, train, group bus in Israel, bus from Jerusalem to Cairo. Hotel in Cairo night 1, overnight train Cairo–Aswan night 2, camping in Egypt, Sinai & Jordan, local hotels and hostels in Israel.
Connecting Flights – See “FARE ADVANTAGE” back flap.
Remarks – This project co-ordinates with Egypt (see this page) for the first 13 days of the itinerary.
Food: During our 6 days in Israel most meals are prepared for us; in hostels and in local Kosher & Arab restaurants.
Itinerary Guideline –
 * Denotes services of local guide
 Days 1–13: Inclusive are as 'Egypt' (see this page) / 14 & 15: Across Suez Canal and drive through Sinai to St. Katherine's Monastery * / 16: Ferry to Aqaba 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 / 24: Acre, Caesarea and the Mediterranean coast / 25–27: Jerusalem * / 28: Across the northern Sinai to El Arish, Egypt and to Cairo.

This sun-washed corner of the Mediterranean is Asia and Africa. It is Arabia and the cradle of Christendom. It is a corridor between two continents and between two oceans. Familiar names of places and events are scattered over the bare mountain rocks and amongst the olive shaded hills. Unearthing the pre-Biblical past continues, the future is likely to be every bit as complex and as far reaching.

Our first two weeks are described under 'Egypt' (alongside) as we follow the same route from Cairo up the Nile to Aswan, Abu Simbel, Luxor, The Valleys of the Kings and Queens and to the Red Sea coast.

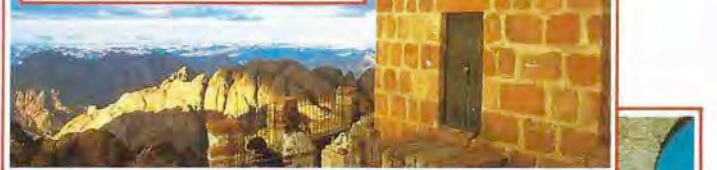
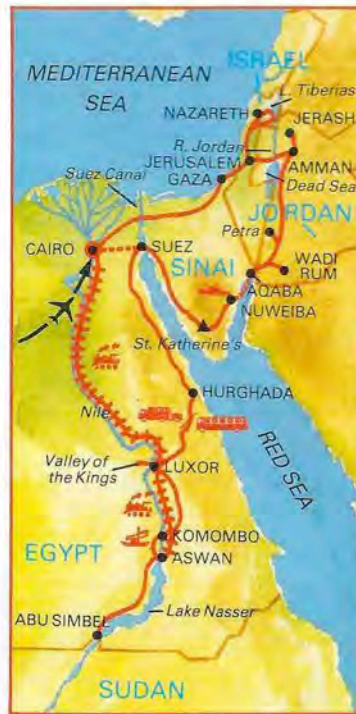
From our Nile encounter we cross the Suez Canal into The Sinai and the empty scarred deserts of the Bedouin — to St Katherine's Monastery and a ferry across the Gulf of Aqaba to Jordan.

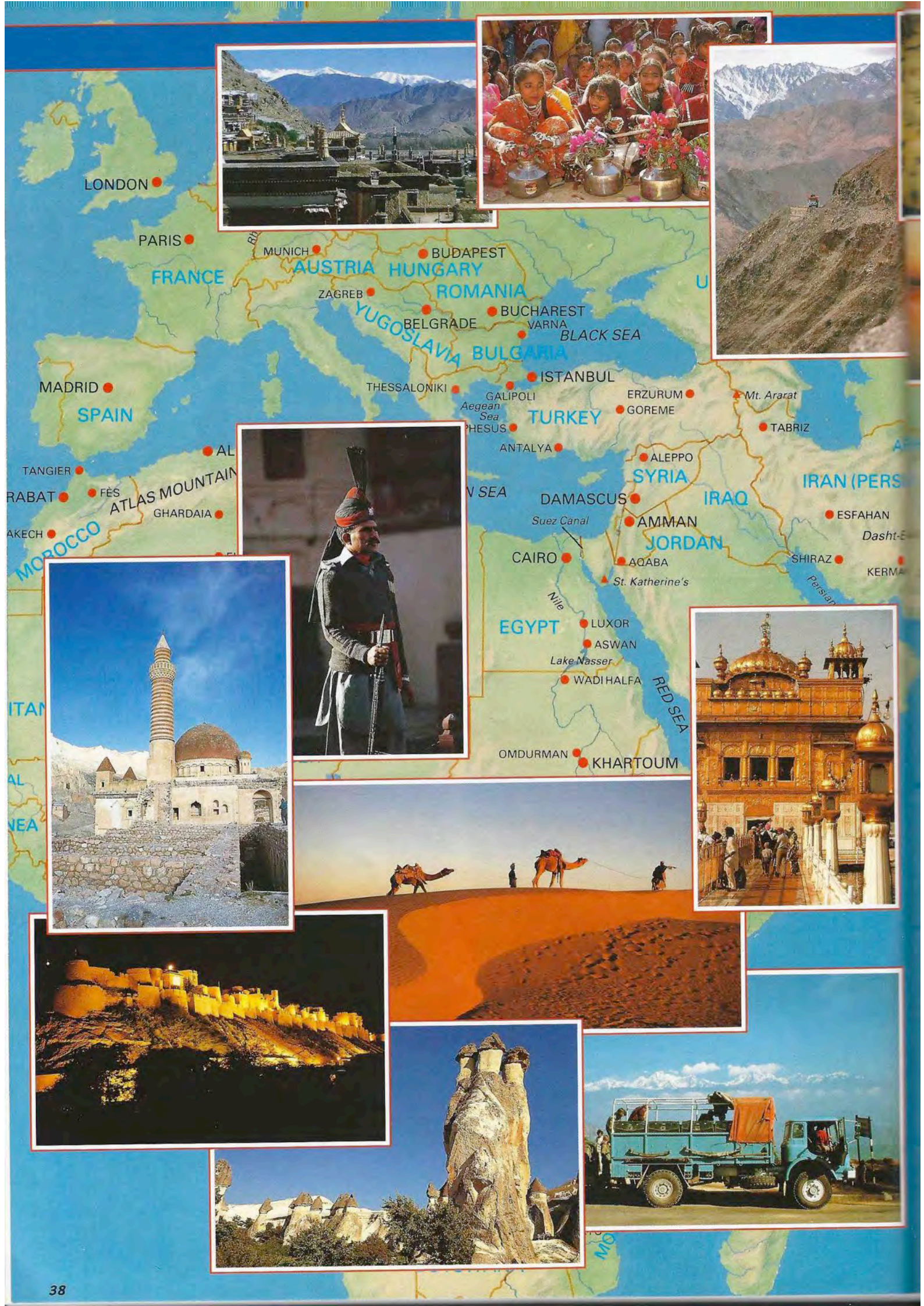
The buildings of ancient Petra are carved into the rose and crimson limestone of a hidden gully. Nearby in the desert are the wadis and Bedouin hideouts of Lawrence's campaigns that overthrew the Ottoman Turks. We visit Amman, the modern capital, and Jerash with its spectacular Graeco-Roman forum.

From the Dead Sea we cross the Jordan river to the West Bank and Jericho, 825ft/250m below sea level. Jerusalem — holy city of Moslem, Jew 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.

To the north lies Bethlehem, the Sea of Galilee, Nazareth and the biblical sites of Lake Tiberias. On the coast Acre was once the landing point for zealous crusaders from Europe. We follow this coast studded with history to Haifa, to Caesarea.

With no more than the usual paperwork a road now crosses the frontier from Gaza back to Cairo.





LONDON

PARIS

MUNICH

BUDAPEST

FRANCE

ZAGREB

AUSTRIA

HUNGARY

ROMANIA

BELGRADE

BUCHAREST

VARNA

BLACK SEA

THESSALONIKI

ISTANBUL

GALIPOLI

Aegean Sea

TURKEY

ERZURUM

GOREME

Mt. Ararat

TABRIZ

MADRID

SPAIN

TANGIER

RABAT

FES

ATLAS MOUNTAIN

GHARDAIA

MOOROCCO

ANTALYA

ALEPPO

SEA

DAMASCUS

SYRIA

IRAQ

IRAN (PERS)

AMMAN

JOYDAN

CAIRO

EGYPT

St. Katherine's

Nile

LUXOR

ASWAN

Lake Nasser

WADI HALFA

OMDURMAN

KHARTOUM

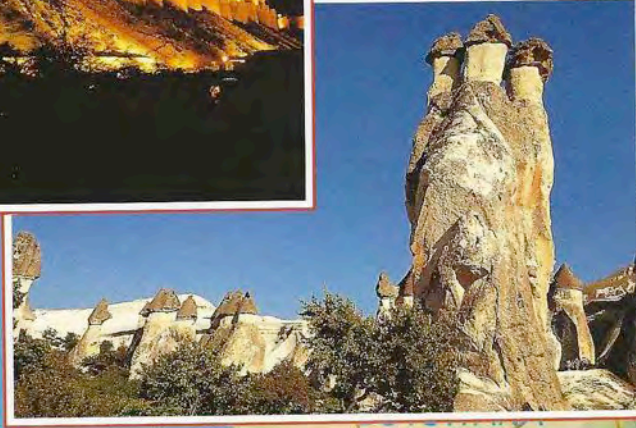
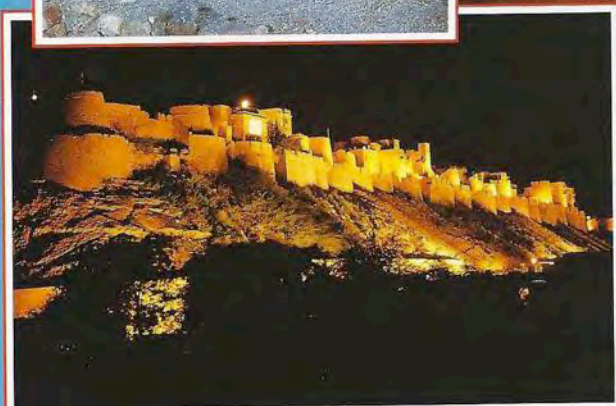
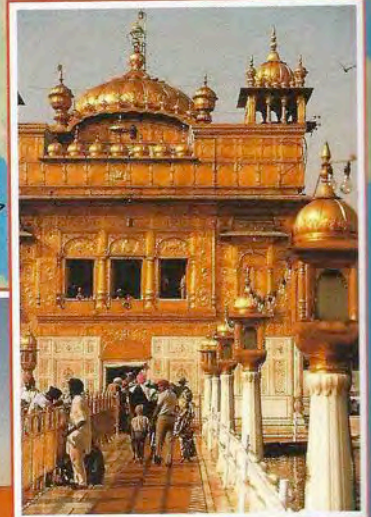
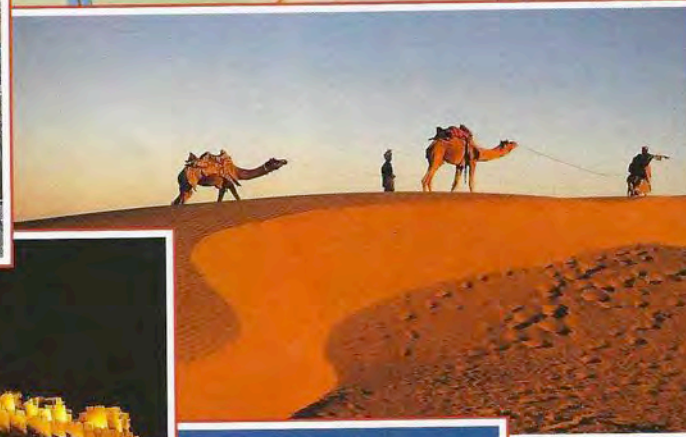
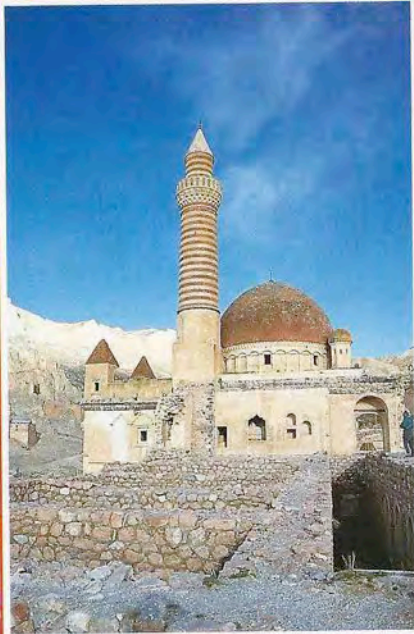
ESFAHAN

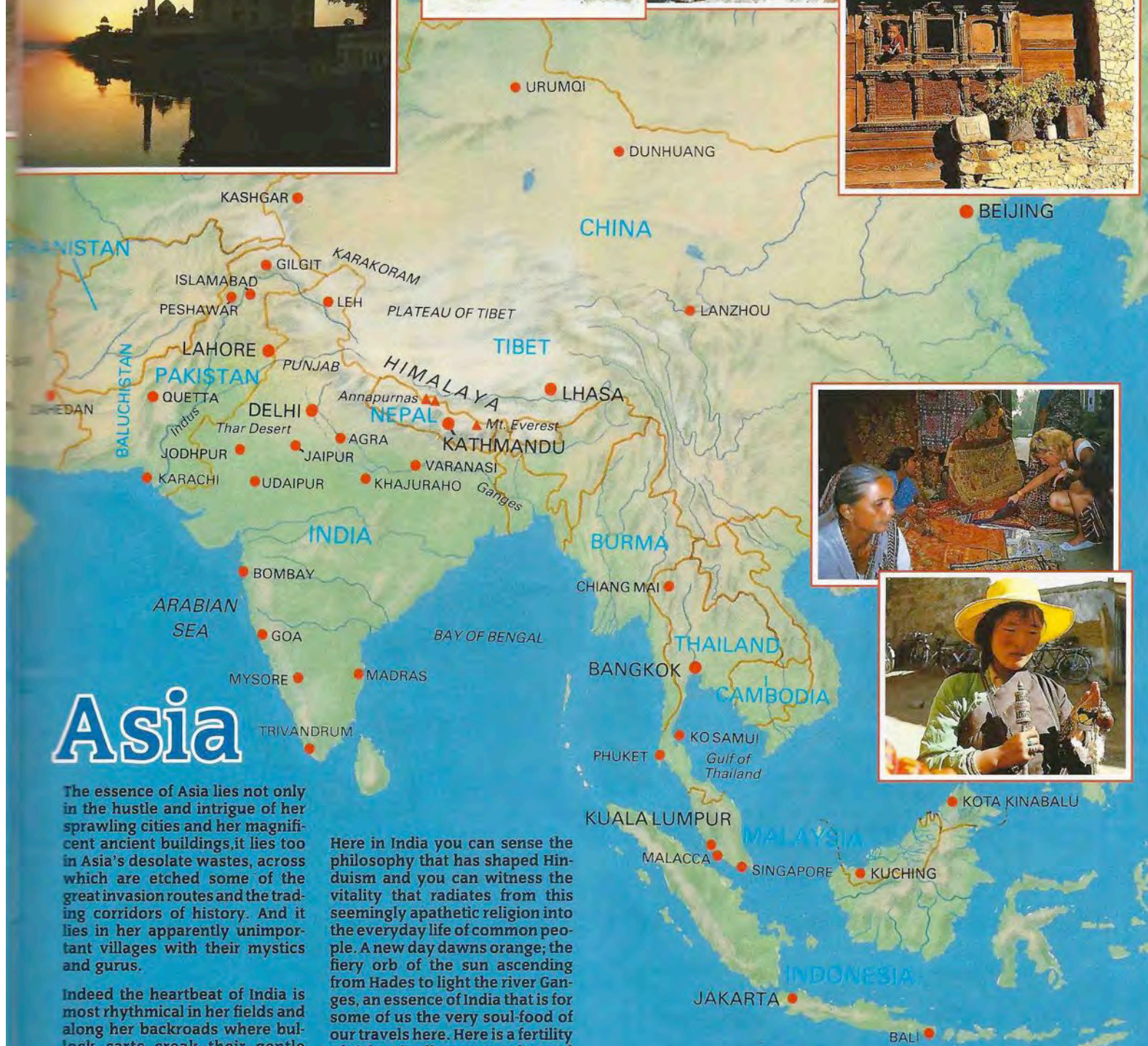
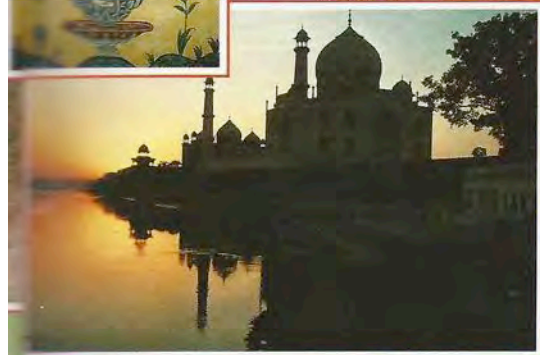
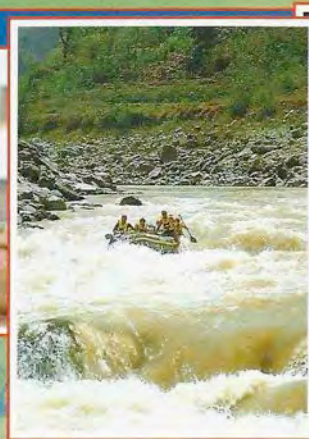
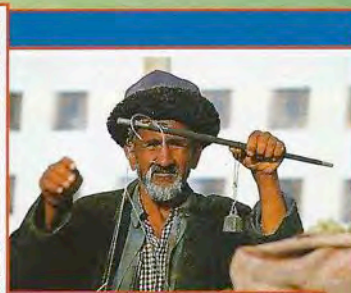
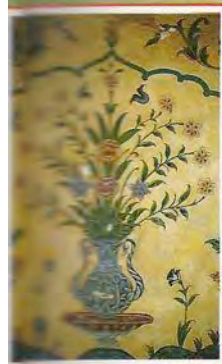
Dasht-e

SHIRAZ

Persian

KERMA





Asia

The essence of Asia lies not only in the hustle and intrigue of her sprawling cities and her magnificent ancient buildings, it lies too in Asia's desolate wastes, across which are etched some of the great invasion routes and the trading corridors of history. And it lies in her apparently unimportant villages with their mystics and gurus.

Indeed the heartbeat of India is most rhythmical in her fields and along her backroads where bullock carts creak their gentle progress and an elephant stops to watch with a kindly eye. Where women and girls draw water from a village well, where monkeys chatter in the trees and a wild peacock struts calling with pompous irritation. Here there is a closeness to the rhythm of time, an indefinable certainty of being that pervades the sights and sounds and life of India like the ubiquitous sunlight.

Here in India you can sense the philosophy that has shaped Hinduism and you can witness the vitality that radiates from this seemingly apathetic religion into the everyday life of common people. A new day dawns orange; the fiery orb of the sun ascending from Hades to light the river Ganges, an essence of India that is for some of us the very soul-food of our travels here. Here is a fertility of riches in diverse peoples and customs, festivals, traditions, values, philosophies, religions, music, dress and humour.

Particularly if you are inclined to examine (if not actually to 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 with you an open mind.

Asia's essence also lies in the beautiful foothills of the Himalaya and behind Nepal, abutting the exposed north wall of the white serrations of the Himalayan giants, is Tibet. In the west, the wild stream of the upper Indus carves through the Karakoram range, our route to fabled Kashgar. From

here, with the deserts of Taklamakan and Gobi to the south and to the north, the tattered ribbon of the fabulous Silk Road reaches ancient Cathay.

The largest continent on the planet ends in the steaming south-east in islands fit for castaways.

The Classic Overland

11 Weeks KATHMANDU to LONDON (or vice versa)

NEPAL, INDIA, PAKISTAN, IRAN, TURKEY, GREECE, YUGOSLAVIA, (or BULGARIA, ROMANIA & HUNGARY), WESTERN EUROPE

From the high Himalaya, the fabulous riches of India unfold. Then follows the time to encounter the ancient customs and traditional hospitality of the desert lands and the peoples of the frontiers. And as we get closer to Europe it is the time to explore the beaches and bazaars of Turkey. All on this, the original, the Classic Overland.

NEPAL & INDIA

Kathmandu, fabled city in the enchanted valley and crossroads of adventure cupped in the palm of the Himalayan giants. Views from the road, horizon to horizon peaks pointing high into the everlasting emptiness. Descending through the Himalayan foothills to the jungle lowlands and the wildlife of Nepal's **Chitwan National Park**.

So to **India** and the holy river and **Varanasi**, its pilgrims, sadhus, gurus and stall-holders thronging the temples and the steps to the waters of the Goddess **Ganges**. The erotic carvings of the Karma Sutra at **Khajuraho** and the sublime beauty of Taj Mahal at **Agra**, the commanding Red Fort and the Moghul palaces within, and the forlorn majesty of the deserted citadel of **Fatehpur Sikri** where vultures circle above the rust-red ramparts. Thus to **Jaipur**, faded pink city, capital of **Rajasthan** and the pageantry of history at the capital of the world's most populous democracy — **Delhi**.

In winter months (Nov–Apr) we will do more: to the distant city of Jaisalmer on the far side of the Thar desert.

PAKISTAN & PERSIA

In Pakistan now, over the **Indus River** and a different world, the tribal Pathans of the Afghan hills, the brownness of landscape, **Baluchistan** and **Quetta** and the way towards Persia and the shimmering rim of the **Great Salt Desert**. In summer months (May–Oct) we will do more: north to the towering western Himalaya of Gilgit and the upper Indus.

Persepolis, 2,500 years ago — and a thousand years before the crusading zeal of Islam — was the heart of the omnipotent Persian Empire, conquerors of Samarkand and Egypt, protagonists with the Greeks at the battle of Marathon; the seat of power in a once fertile valley called Paradise. Only huge pillars and great carved walls now stand, tall in the encroaching sand.

Esfahan is the loveliest of the old Persian cities; great city of the caliphs whose slender minarets, tiled archways and blue-domed mosques echo the muezzin's call to prayer. The lofty bazaar reverberates to the hammerings on copper, bronze and silver; while priceless hand-knotted carpets hang from merchants' balconies.

EASTERN TURKEY, ASIA MINOR & EUROPE

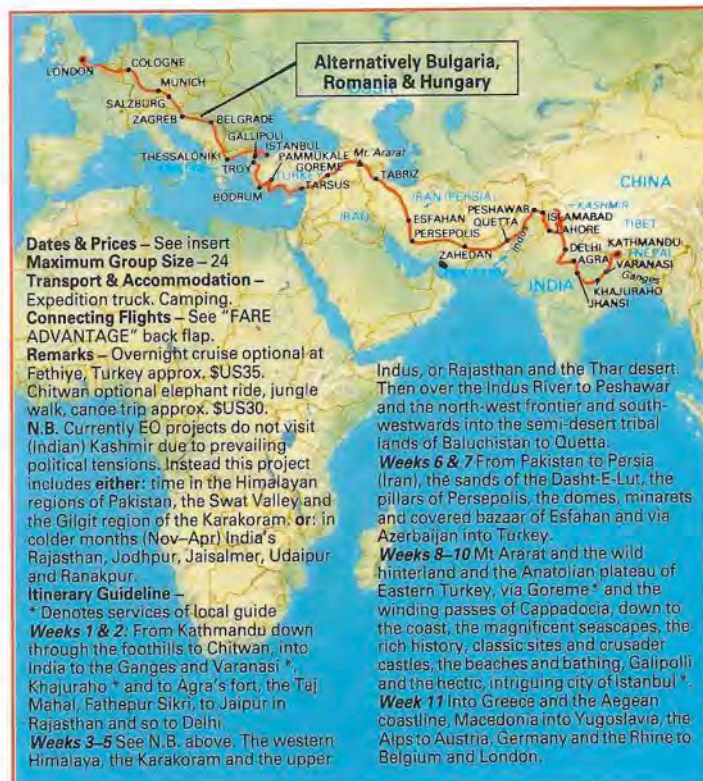
The snows of **Mt Ararat** mark the 3 way junction of Iran, the Soviet Republics and Turkey and beyond are the rolling hills where the **Tigris** and **Euphrates** rise, where low mud-built villages cling to valleys and nomads' felt tents dot the high pastures. To the **Anatolian plateau**, to **Goreme** and its eerie underground cities, cave dwellings and decorated 7th century troglodyte Christian churches. The entire length of the renowned Turkish coast of the Mediterranean is our route during the coming days. Bays and beaches, cliff-top roads, spectacular seascapes, crusader fortresses standing sentinel at historic passes and ancient ports. And most beautiful cities of classical times; ancient forums, theatres, temples, colosseums.

Aspendos, **Side**, **Thermessos** lost in pinewoods amongst almost inaccessible cliffs a thousand feet above the azure sea, and the Roman warm baths at **Hieropolis** whose sulphurous waters form the sugar white sedimentary terraces at **Pammukkale**. Life at an even pace continues in the vineyards and villages, in the olive groves in the mending of nets and in harvesting the sea.

Gallipoli and **Anzac Cove**, a memorial to 20th century blunders and folly excelled only by acts of courage and duty.

And so to **Istanbul**. Here, along the **Golden Horn's** scimitar curves, we find the treasures of the **Topkapi Palace**, **Aya Sofiya** and the famous mosques, the covered ways and hidden corners of the labyrinthine **Grand Bazaar**. Domes and minarets, masts, funnels and ships' hooters, the hustle of the waterfront, the spice of cobbled alleyways permeate this fabulous city of East and West.

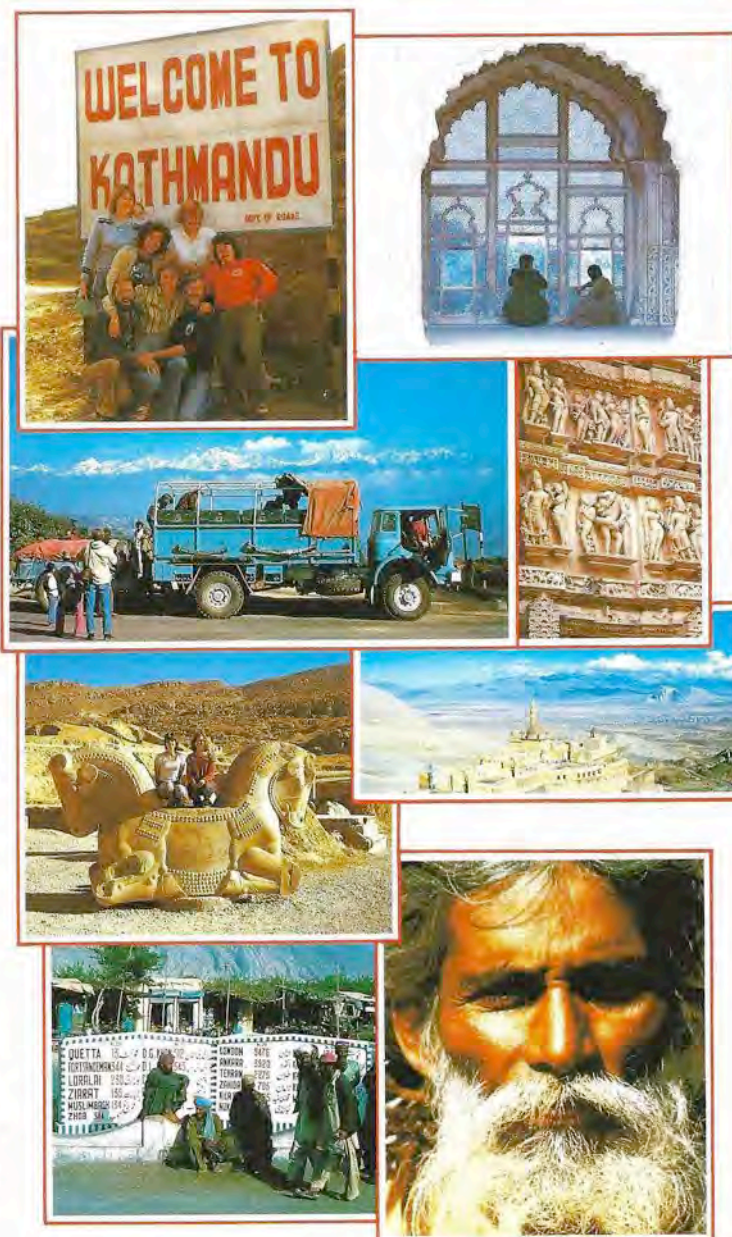
The week that ends our journey takes us along the **Aegean** coast into **Greece** and then across **Yugoslavia** and into the **Alps**, **Austria**, **Germany**, the **Rhine** and so to **England**.



Alternatively Bulgaria, Romania & Hungary

Dates & Prices – See insert
Maximum Group Size – 24
Transport & Accommodation – Expedition truck, Camping.
Connecting Flights – See "FARE ADVANTAGE" back flap.
Remarks – Overnight cruise optional at Fethiye, Turkey approx. \$US35. Chitwan optional elephant ride, jungle walk, canoe trip approx. \$US30.
N.B. Currently EO projects do not visit (Indian) Kashmir due to prevailing political tensions. Instead this project includes either: time in the Himalayan regions of Pakistan, the Swat Valley and the Gilgit region of the Karakoram; or: in colder months (Nov–Apr) India's Rajasthan, Jodhpur, Jaisalmer, Udaipur and Ranakpur.
Itinerary Guideline – * Denotes services of local guide
Weeks 1 & 2: From Kathmandu down through the foothills to Chitwan, into India to the Ganges and Varanasi *. **Khajuraho** * and to Agra's fort, the Taj Mahal, Fatehpur Sikri, to Jaipur in Rajasthan and so to Delhi.
Weeks 3–5 See N.B. above. The western Himalaya, the Karakoram and the upper

Indus, or Rajasthan and the Thar desert. Then over the Indus River to Peshawar and the north-west frontier and south-westwards into the semi-desert tribal lands of Baluchistan to Quetta.
Weeks 6 & 7 From Pakistan to Persia (Iran), the sands of the Dasht-e-Lut, the pillars of Persepolis, the domes, minarets and covered bazaar of Esfahan and via Azerbaijan into Turkey.
Weeks 8–10 Mt Ararat and the wild hinterland and the Anatolian plateau of Eastern Turkey, via Goreme * and the winding passes of Cappadocia, down to the coast, the magnificent seascapes, the rich history, classic sites and crusader castles, the beaches and bathing, Gallipoli and the hectic, intriguing city of Istanbul *.
Week 11 Into Greece and the Aegean coastline, Macedonia into Yugoslavia, the Alps to Austria, Germany and the Rhine to Belgium and London.



"Experience tells . . ."

'It's now 5 months ago that I was on your trip, Tibet – The Road to Lhasa, but everything is still very lively on my mind. It was absolutely marvellous, excellent and wonderful; the countryside, the way to travel and the group. It was never like a guide trip, it was more like travelling with a team . . .'

BARBARA STUDER, SWITZERLAND

' . . . This letter is to thank you for helping me to fulfil a dream — which was to view those magnificent mountains of Northern Pakistan as close as possible. What a fantastic trip! . . .'

IRENE KNOWLES, UK

' . . . I thoroughly enjoyed the Sun-Kosi rafting trip — tremendous . . .'

MARK LIGHTBURN, UK

'Just a short note to let you know how much I enjoyed the Mountain & River encounter last month. Everything ran really smoothly and it was amazing how much we managed to see and do in 3 weeks . . .'

ANDY KETTLE, UK

'I am writing to say thank you for a marvellous 2 weeks holiday in Turkey. I was very impressed with the accuracy of your brochure being able to stick to the itinerary which counted for a lot as I had chosen E.O. above others because of the places I wanted to visit. Your brochure therefore comes out on top as being accurate and reliable. Excellent value for money compared to other companies, the truck was marvellously well equipped . . .'

YVONNE COOK, UK

Backroads of Asia including Egypt

16 Weeks LONDON-CAIRO-KATHMANDU (or vice versa)

WESTERN EUROPE, YUGOSLAVIA, (or HUNGARY, ROMANIA & BULGARIA), GREECE, TURKEY, SYRIA, JORDAN, EGYPT, IRAN, PAKISTAN, INDIA, NEPAL

To explore beyond the well-worn paths, to find places of ancient and natural splendour, to reach the beauty and solitude of unspoiled wilderness regions, to follow the lure of where a track may lead and to feel the pulse of time and change among different peoples and divergent lands is to travel the Backroads of Asia.

EUROPE & ASIA MINOR

We cross **Belgium** to **Germany's Rhine Valley**, **Salzburg** and the **Austrian Alps**, then through **Yugoslavia** to **Greece** — to the Aegean's sun-soaked shores, fishing villages and bouzouki music. The streets of **Istanbul** are packed with diversion — the Grand Bazaar, the Topkapi Palace, the mosques and Golden Horn of the Bosphorus, the waterfront and tastes for every appetite. From **Gallipoli** we ferry across the **Hellespont** to **Asia Minor**. History springs from every turn in the warm hillsides; here are the ruins of **Ephesus** and **Troy**, **Pammukkale's** mineral springs and the Roman baths of **Hieropolis**; the tombs and temples of **Thermessos** hidden high in the pine hills, and **Aspendos'** perfect amphitheatre. This is the Mediterranean's 'Turquoise Coast' of hidden coves and beckoning sands — lazy days just to swim, relax and explore market towns and fishing villages like **Kusadasi**, **Fethiye**, **Kas**, **Antalya**, **Side** and **Silifke**.

THE LEVANT & EGYPT

East beyond **Tarsus** we cross into **Syria** and turn the corner of the eastern Mediterranean into 'The Levant', the 'Holyland', the 'Fertile Crescent'. Scenes in **Aleppo's** soukh spring straight from the pages of 'The Tales of a Thousand and One Nights' and **Hama's** giant waterwheels speak of ancient skills and concepts far in advance of their time. Way out in the far reaches of the Syrian desert the beautiful time-softened ruins of Queen **Zenobia's** city, **Palmyra**, echo the slow lopping padded footfall of the camel caravans — like kings from the Orient — bearing wealth and knowledge from **Samarkand**, **India** and farthest **China**.

We enter **Jordan** — to **Amman**, the great Roman forum at **Jerash** and the biblical shores of the **Dead Sea**. The dry ravines and narrow chasm walls of **Wadi Musa** reveal the red sandstone temples and treasure-houses of **Petra** where for centuries the Nabataean Arabs maintained an independent city-state, collectors and controllers of the flow of wealth throughout the known world.

The beaches of **Aqaba** are washed by the warm, crystal-clear waters of the **Red Sea**. Crossing by boat to **Nuweiba** we travel the Bedouin deserts of the **Sinai** to the **Monastery of St Katherine**. Across the **Suez Canal** lies the honking clatter, the grime and the glitter of **Cairo**, the treasures of **Tutankhamun**, the Pyramids and inscrutable Sphinx. A rail journey upstream along the banks of the **Nile** takes us far inland to Upper Egypt and **Aswan** with its little islands and high dam. Here we board traditional Nile feluccas, white sails billowed by the soft breezes, to sail slowly downstream toward **Kom Ombo** and **Luxor** and the majestic **Valleys of the Kings and Queens**.

From this land of the Pharaohs, where Asia merges with Africa and history emerges from mythology, we return across the **Sinai** to **Jordan** and the

crossroads of **Damascus**. Voguish boulevards and plazas cannot hide the intriguing undertow in cobbled backstreets, the treacly coal-black coffee and the hookah pipes at pavement coffee houses and the cornucopian alleys of the covered bazaar. In the quiet hills of cedar and olive groves behind Syria's Mediterranean coast, the imposing crusader stronghold of **Krak des Chevaliers** seems oddly out of place. These cold stone outlines of medieval Europe echo to another era in the Levant's long story. Ahead of us loom Turkey's **Taurus Mountains**, the road into the high **Anatolian plateau** and the steppes of central Asia.

EASTERN TURKEY & PERSIA

Early Christians had fled to the extraordinary ravines and cliffs of soft sandstone around **Goreme** and had built amazing underground churches and whole villages of tunnel-linked houses. Life here in **Cappadocia** has gone unchanged for centuries; it would seem time's only influence is slow erosion. The scenery is magnificently rugged and nomad descendants of Genghis Khan's Mongols and the cameleers of Silk Road caravans still range and black tents still lay seasonal claim in the hollows where there's better grazing.

Mt Ararat marks our entry into **Iran**, to **Esfahan's** beautiful squares and mosques that project the great achievements of Islamic art and architecture. The pillars of **Persepolis** stand over the dust of King **Darius'** great empire, the **Dasht-E-Lut's** dramatic landscape of arid rock and parched plains leads to crumbling caravanserais, to the tents and hobbled camels of the **Kashgai** tribes.

PAKISTAN, INDIA & NEPAL

From the small border town of **Zahedan** we cross into **Pakistan** and the tribal desert lands of **Baluchistan**, to the city of **Quetta** and so to **Peshawar**, gateway to the **Khyber Pass**; and then at **Attock** the bridge across the mighty **Indus**, the river that heralds the land of that name, a different land, green from the deluge of summer monsoon, prize of the invaders, Aryans, Greeks of Alexander, Tartars, Afghans and Moghuls. Before us stretch the great tropical plains of the Indian subcontinent.

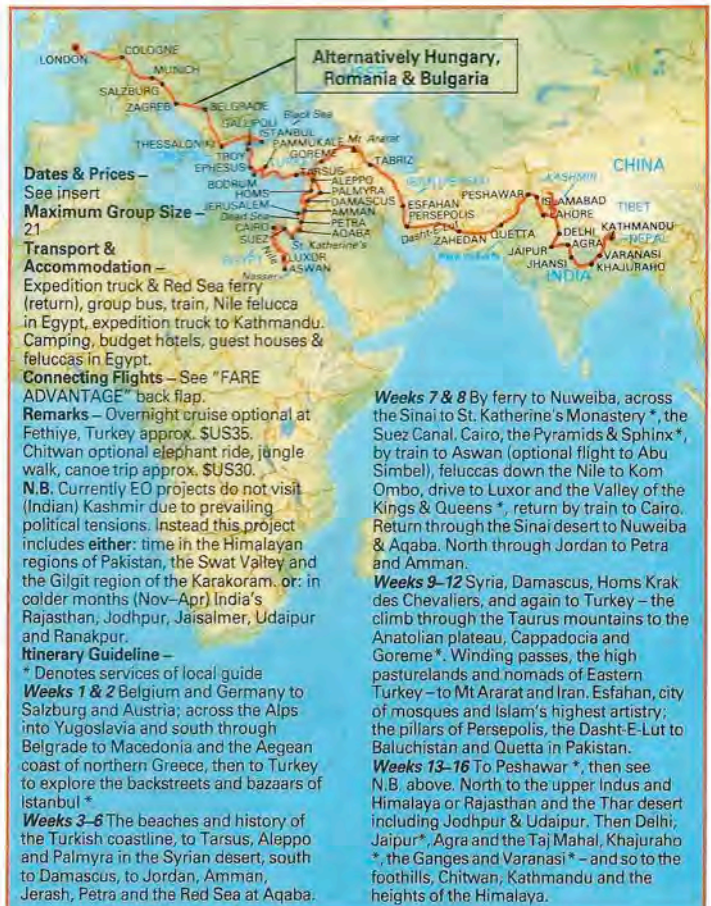
Our road heads north up into the superb scenery and pastoral setting of the **Swat Valley** and **Gilgit**, the wild, turbulent upper reaches of the great river and the looming beauty of **Nanga Parbat**, (26,600 ft).

INDIA

Here the politics of **Delhi**, the pastel palaces and incomprehensible wealth of **Jaipur's** Maharajahs, the evocative silence in the empty Moghul city of **Fatehpur Sikri**, the marble shades of royal **Agra** and **Taj Mahal**, the enlightenment among the erotic carvings of the **Karma Sutra** at **Khajuraho's** temples, the calm conviction in the pilgrim's devout steps towards the holy waters of the goddess **Ganges** at **Varanasi**.

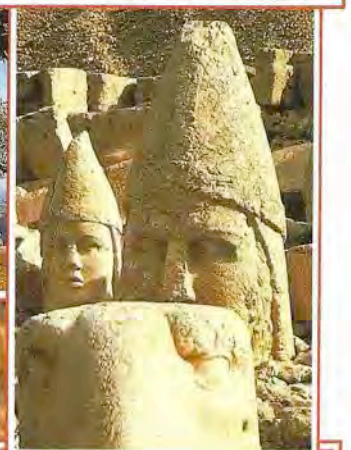
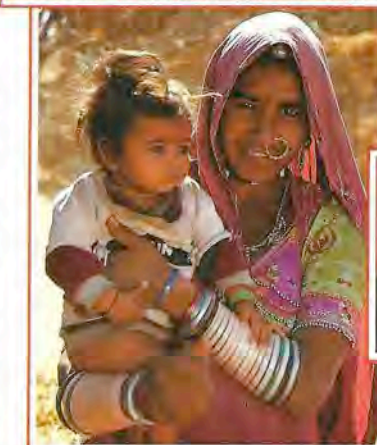
Beyond the Ganges to the north we cross into **Nepal**, to the narrow strip of flat lowland teak forest and farmland that is known to the Nepalis as **The Terai**.

Also here tiger and rhinoceros stalk the riverbanks of **Nepal's Chitwan National Park** against a distant backdrop of **Himalayan** giants. The steep foothills crowd close now as we begin the long climb in the **High Himalaya**. Then as we reach the pass at 9,000ft we can see,



Alternatively Hungary, Romania & Bulgaria

Dates & Prices — See insert
Maximum Group Size — 21
Transport & Accommodation — Expedition truck & Red Sea ferry (return), group bus, train, Nile felucca in Egypt, expedition truck to Kathmandu. Camping, budget hotels, guest houses & feluccas in Egypt.
Connecting Flights — See "FARE ADVANTAGE" back flap.
Remarks — Overnight cruise optional at Fethiye, Turkey approx. \$US35. Chitwan optional elephant ride, jungle walk, canoe trip approx. \$US30.
N.B. Currently EO projects do not visit (Indian) Kashmir due to prevailing political tensions. Instead this project includes either: time in the Himalayan regions of Pakistan, the Swat Valley and the Gilgit region of the Karakoram. or: in colder months (Nov-Apr) India's Rajasthan, Jodhpur, Jaisalmer, Udaipur and Ranakpur.
Itinerary Guideline — * Denotes services of local guide
Weeks 1 & 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.*
Weeks 3-6 The beaches and history of the Turkish coastline, to Tarsus, Aleppo and Palmyra in the Syrian desert, south to Damascus, to Jordan, Amman, Jerash, Petra and the Red Sea at Aqaba.
Weeks 7 & 8 By ferry to Nuweiba, across the Sinai to St. Katherine's Monastery*, the Suez Canal, Cairo, the Pyramids & Sphinx*, by train to Aswan (optional flight to Abu Simbel), feluccas down the Nile to Kom Ombo, drive to Luxor and the Valley of the Kings & Queens*, return by train to Cairo. Return through the Sinai desert to Nuweiba & Aqaba. North through Jordan to Petra and Amman.
Weeks 9-12 Syria, Damascus, Homs Krak des Chevaliers, and again to Turkey — the climb through the Taurus mountains to the Anatolian plateau, Cappadocia and Goreme*. Winding passes, the high pasturelands and nomads of Eastern Turkey — to Mt Ararat and Iran. Esfahan, city of mosques and Islam's highest artistry; the pillars of Persepolis, the Dasht-E-Lut to Baluchistan and Quetta in Pakistan.
Weeks 13-16 To Peshawar*, then see N.B. above. North to the upper Indus and Himalaya or Rajasthan and the Thar desert including Jodhpur & Udaipur. Then Delhi, Jaipur*, Agra and the Taj Mahal, Khajuraho*, the Ganges and Varanasi* — and so to the foothills, Chitwan, Kathmandu and the heights of the Himalaya.



from west to east, the highest mountains in the world thrusting their peaks up into the thin atmosphere while below us, nestled in its valley, is fabled **Kathmandu**.

Taj & Tiger

14 Days KATHMANDU to DELHI (or vice versa)

Dates & Prices – See insert
Maximum Group Size – 21
Transport & Accommodation – Expedition truck, elephant back in Chitwan, jeeps in Ranthambore Tiger Reserve, train between Agra & Delhi. Camping, permanent tented camp in Chitwan, hotel in Delhi night 13.
Connecting Flights – See "FARE ADVANTAGE" back flap.
Remarks – Nepal treks and rafting can be planned with this journey. Chitwan optional elephant ride, jungle walk, canoe trip approx. \$US30.
Itinerary Guideline –
 * Denotes services of local guide
 Day 1: Kathmandu to Chitwan / 2: In Park-game spotting on elephant back * / 3: Into India to Ghorakhpur / 4: To Ganges & Varanasi / 5: Sunrise on river; in Varanasi * / 6: Drive up escarpment to Deccan plateau and Satna / 7: Khajuraho temples and Panna reserve * / 8 & 9: Backroads of Madhya Pradesh to Jhansi & Kota / 10 & 11: To Sawai Madhopur and in Ranthambore Tiger Reserve * / 12 & 13: To and in Agra – Taj Mahal, Red Fort and markets * / (Taj Express) to Delhi that evening of Day 13 / 14: In Delhi *, depart Delhi.

Barely a decade ago it used to be said that the number of Bengal tigers in India could be counted with a few hundred grains of rice. The high-velocity rifle, the safety of elephant back, and the voguish excesses of the Raj had seen to that; slaughtering nearly as many tigers in one day as now remained.

The foresight of "Project Tiger" has reversed this and the fabulous creature is clawing its way back from the edges of extinction. Tigers don't keep appointments, but our main purpose in reaching these sparsely populated parts of central India has a very positive prospect of success.

The **Chitwan National Park** is in the lowlands of **Nepal**. An elephant's deliberate pace takes us through tall riverine grasses and shady forest to close encounters with rhinoceros. Here are Gharial crocodile, deer and sloth bear too.

Varanasi on the holy river **Ganges** is all that is India. Displays of new-found glamour and glitter rub shoulders with more aesthetic riches that, even in worldly squalor, define a spiritual wealth without comparison.

In the quiet **Deccan** valleys are the ancient Jain and Hindu temple complexes of **Khajuraho** where every wall and alcove is sculpted in intricate details of life, Gods and graphic erotica.

Nearby in the **Panna** hills a deserted palace of now forgotten royalty decays with sad grace as the forest seeps into once formal grounds. But mankind's retreat is good news for tigers. Panna forest is one of India's newest national parks – undeveloped, untouched, unspoiled and hard to travel. There are chinkara gazelle and wolves and there are ever-present hard-to-see tigers.

The jungle hills of **Ranthambore** are dominated by the fort that once guarded these private hunting lands of the Maharajahs of Jaipur. The 200 square mile sanctuary now supports hyena, jackal, deer, panther – and crocodile along its lakes. The tigers of this perfect natural habitat have accepted and adapted to a small degree of human contact. Winding through the park on elephant or jeep, the chances of a meeting at close quarters are high and very real.

Just a day to the north, and back in the populated plains, is **Agra** and the fabled **Taj Mahal**.

Rajasthan with Camel Safari

19 Days From DELHI

Dates & Prices – See insert
Maximum Group Size – 21
Transport & Accommodation – Expedition truck, camel, train between Delhi & Agra and between Jaipur & Delhi. Camping, hotel Delhi night 1.
Connecting Flights – See "FARE ADVANTAGE" back flap.
Remarks – Camels – probably not the most comfortable form of transport but the only real way to see the Rajasthan deserts. Not recommended to people with a back complaint. Camel carts transport the encampment (including a modest bar).
Itinerary Guideline –
 * Denotes services of local guide
 Day 1: In Delhi * / 2 & 3: Taj Express to Agra – Taj Mahal, Red Fort & markets * / 4: To Fatehpur Sikri, Bharatpur Bird Sanctuary (bike) * and to Jaipur / 5 & 6: Jaipur – Bikaner & Royal Palaces / 7–10: Camel safari into the Thar * / 11: To Jaisalmer, deep in the Thar / 12: Jaisalmer to Jodhpur / 13: In Jodhpur – city, fortress & museums * / 14: To Jain Temple of Ranakpur, & lake town of Udaipur / 15: In Udaipur / 16: To Ajmer & Pushkar / 17 & 18: Jaipur – City Palace, Amber Fort & central market * / 19: Jaipur – "Pink City Express" to Delhi & depart.

This is a journey into the most exotic corner of India, into the colourful land of fortresses on craggy hilltops and fabulous palaces of the warrior princes. Traditionally such a journey would be by camel in caravan – and so too is some of ours – across regions of the Thar desert riding by day, the smell of cooking at sunset, and camped out under a star-studded firmament night.

From the bazaars and boulevards of **Old and New Delhi** we board the Taj Express to **Agra** – the Red Fort and the Taj Mahal. Then by road to the deserted Moghul city of **Fatehpur Sikri** and the delightful bird sanctuary of **Bharatpur**. And so to **Jaipur**, Rajasthan's capital. This walled city of rose-pink sandstone bristles with the opulence of its stately past and the clamour of barter and trade in souk and market. Everything is here – from elephants and emeralds to carpets and camels.

To the desert and **Bikaner**, town of the caravan routes, and the beautiful Moon and Glass palaces.

To ride by camel into the desert hills through rocky gullies and whispering sands is to ride back in time; to attune to a different world and a slower flow that is the desert nomad's life. For four days we travel in caravan, each to a camel under the guiding hand of its master. An inventive variety of Rajasthani dishes are prepared by our cameleers, and nights are spent round flickering fires under a canopy of stars.

Far out across the sands of the **Thar** lies the buttressed citadel of **Jaisalmer**. This 12th century town springs straight from the pages of 'Arabian Nights'. Ornate windowed alcoves and fligreed balconies overhang narrow cobbled alleys and everywhere is the cool shade of carved stone.

To **Jodhpur**, its hilltop fortress now one of India's most intriguing museums; amazing instruments of war and of music; tapestries, miniatures, finest car-pets and gilded elephant howdahs, and royal apartments in their original glory. The regalia, excesses and trappings of Maharajah life.

There is inspiration and peace in the exquisite Jain temple at **Ranakpur**.



Nearby is **Udaipur**, "City of Dreams" where gold and white island palaces shimmer in reflections from the deep blue lake.

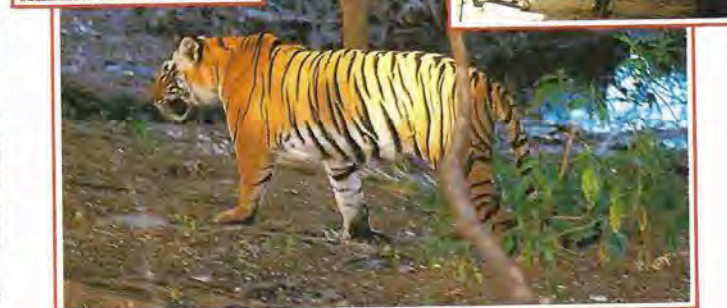
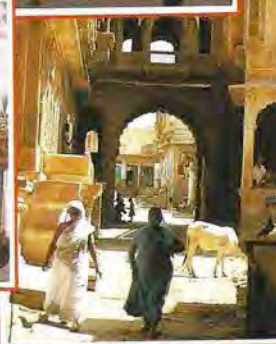
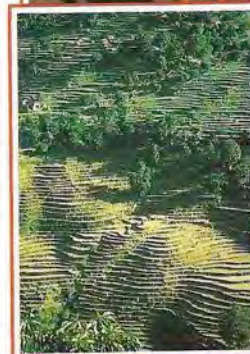
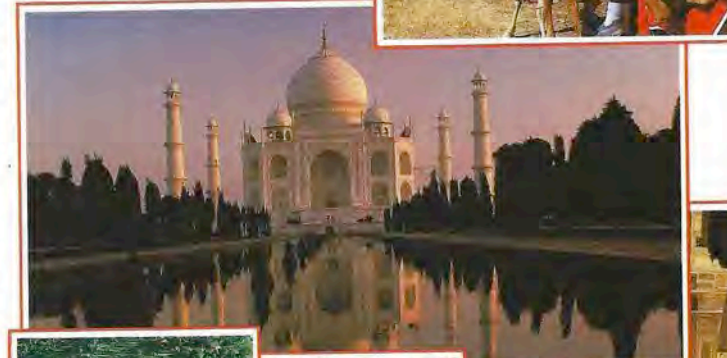
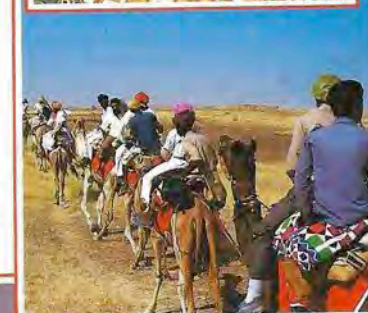
We return to Jaipur to tour this now familiar Rajput capital before taking the "Pink City Express" to **Delhi**.

Tiger & Camel

31 Days KATHMANDU–RAJASTHAN–DELHI (or vice versa)

Dates & Prices – See insert
Remarks – The Pink City Express, Jaipur–Delhi is taken to end or start the journey.

You can combine the two journeys on this page in a single 31 day project from Kathmandu to farthest Rajasthan, including the Tiger reserves and the Camel Safari.



Nepal, the Ganges & Rajasthan

24 Days KATHMANDU to BOMBAY (or vice versa)

Dates & Prices – See insert
Maximum Group Size – 21
Transport & Accommodation – Expedition truck. Camping.
Connecting Flights – See "FARE ADVANTAGE" back flap.
Remarks – Nepal treks and rafting can be planned with this journey. Chitwan optional elephant ride, jungle walk, canoe trip approx. \$US30.
Itinerary Guideline –
 * Denotes services of local guide
 Day 1: Depart Kathmandu for Chitwan / 2: In Park * / 3: Enter India, to Gorakhpur / 4: To Ganges & Varanasi / 5: Sunrise on river; in Varanasi * / 6: Drive up escarpment to Deccan plateau & Satna / 7: Temples of Khajuraho * / 8: Along backroads of Madhya Pradesh to Jhansi / 9 & 10: To & in Agra, Taj Mahal, Red Fort, markets * & Fatehpur Sikri / 11: To Rajasthan & Jaipur / 12: In Jaipur, City Palace, Amber Fort, central market * / 13: To Ajmer & Pushkar / 14: Aravalli Hills to oasis town to 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: Backroads of Maharashtra / 22 & 23: To & in Bombay * / 24: Depart Bombay.

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.

Our road from Kathmandu snakes down the escarpment and winds through the valleys and gorges of the Trisuli river to the Terai and the Chitwan National Park — home of the Bengal tiger and the Indian rhinoceros.

A day's drive brings us to the river Ganges and Varanasi, the holiest of Hindu cities. The pious come here to die, their bodies to be burned on the ghats and their ashes scattered over the sacred waters.

At Khajuraho the 10th century Chandella kings raised mighty temples to venerate their gods. Every wall and vaulted ceiling is carved with intricate details, erotic sculptures and the spectacular expression of Indian medieval art.

On a broad curve in the Jumna river lies Agra, city of the Taj Mahal — the marble monument of love that the Moghul emperor Shah Jahan built for his empress wife, Mumtaz.

Nearby is Fatehpur Sikri, the glorious but short-lived capital of the Moghuls that was built by Akbar the Great as a seat of power and learning to be the most magnificent in the East. The water supply dried up after 15 years. The Moghuls left and today the city stands as perfectly preserved as the day the last inhabitants drifted away 450 years ago.

Rajasthan means 'Abode of Kings'. This is the home of the Rajputs, warriors with an ancient code of battle and chivalry, proud architecture and flamboyant style that envelopes their lives.

Jaipur is renowned for its massive walls, forts and palaces built in rose-pink stone. Nearby is the great palace of Amber, home of the Rajput rulers.

From Jaipur we head across Rajasthan to Udaipur and into Maharashtra

state, a melting pot of almost every race, people and religion in India. Buddhist monks settled here in the 2nd century B.C. Today, in the caves of Ajanta, their religious murals still glow with their original deep warmth and richness of colour.

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

Goa & South India

24 Days BOMBAY to MADRAS (or vice versa)

Dates & Prices – See insert
Maximum Group Size – 21
Transport & Accommodation – Expedition truck. Camping.
Connecting Flights – See "FARE ADVANTAGE" back flap.
Remarks – Changing climate and conditions may at times make other wildlife sanctuaries more worthwhile than Periyar, and a suitable alternative will be arranged.
Itinerary Guideline –
 * Denotes services of local guide
 Day 1: In Bombay / 2 & 3: Drive south through coastal forests to / 4 & 5: Goa, beaches & old city * / 6: Along coast to Mangalore / 7: Inland through the Coorg Hills / 8 & 9: Mysore, seat of the Maharajahs * / 10: Mudumalai wildlife sanctuary and hill station of Ootacamund / 11: Return, via Palghat, towards coast / 12 & 13: Cochin, beaches and old port / 14 & 15: To Periyar wildlife sanctuary or Allepey and coastal waterways (see remarks above) / 16: In and around Trivandrum / 17 & 18: Kovalam, Cape Comorin / 19: Through rural Tamil Nadu to Tiruchirupalli, rock temple and fort / 20: Pondicherry / 21 & 22: Kanchipuram & Mahabalipuram, shrines and shore temples * / 23: To Madras / 24: Depart Madras.

The south is a world apart. The warm clear seas, long lazy beaches, the quiet hill stations and thick jungles, the tigers, temples and festivals — here is the other India.

Goa was colonised in 1510 by the Portuguese who made it their capital in India and the seat of Catholicism in the East. But Goa's main attraction is her beaches, where whispering palms fringe golden sands lapped by the warm Arabian Sea.

We follow the coastal road south to the port of Mangalore then turn inland, climbing the Coorg Hills to Mysore — lavish city of the Maharajahs. We can visit Mudumalai Wildlife Sanctuary and ride through bamboo jungles on elephant back in search of wild deer, Indian bison and the elusive tiger.

Much of the south's attraction lies in her villages and countryside, in places like the Kunda Hills and the cool summer retreat of Ootacamund.

Kerala's port of Cochin still exports ivory, pepper and exotic spices, while inland are the Cardamom Hills and the lakes and forests of the Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary. From the lively state capital of Trivandrum on the Malabar coast and the fabulous beaches at Kovalam we journey to the tip of India, where the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea meet at Cape Comorin.

Tamil Nadu to the east is a green land of tea, rubber and pepper plantations. Here the city of Madurai is dominated by a huge temple dedicated to Shiva — each of its four towers a tangled mass of



brightly coloured statues. At Mahabalipuram are the exquisite ancient Pallava Hindu temples lapped by the tides.

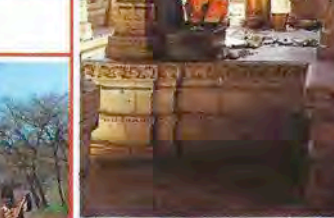
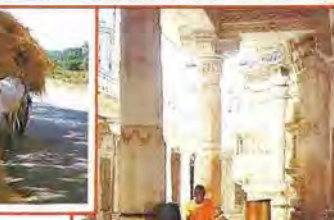
Our journey's end is historic Madras the silk and spice port, the first cantonment of the East India Company and the original port at the end of the sea lanes on a passage to India.

All India

49 Days KATHMANDU–BOMBAY–MADRAS (or vice versa)

Dates & Prices – See insert

From the Himalaya at the top, to Cape Comorin at the tip. 'India Illustrated,' daily turning the vivid pages the length of the sub-continent. Here we combine Nepal, the Ganges & Rajasthan with Goa & South India (both this page) — and at a useful saving.



The Silk Road

36 Days from BEIJING to ISLAMABAD (or vice versa)

Gold, frankincense, myrrh. From the east, so the story goes. Gospel reference to the trade route from the Orient. There would be carpets and spices, furs, elixirs, tea, exquisite porcelain, lapis, jade and other gemstones, all traded and bartered and carried further to the west by yet another merchant adventurer. In this way, prosperous and fabulous trading stations were established at strategic stages en route.

But from farthest Cathay, at the very beginnings of the road, secure behind the fabled Great Wall, came the most exotic of all contemporary merchandise. Silk - most prized possession of the nobility of the Mediterranean, the true mark of power and privilege and the coveted currency of patronage.

So closely kept was the secret of silk that the fantastic nature of its manufacture could only be wildly guessed at. Small wonder then that this incredible trade route, pre-dating any other trans-continental trade route by thousands of years, was to become known as the Great Silk Road.

Beijing, the forbidden city of palaces, the forbidding city of Tiananmen Square. That China is different and distanced, that the rest of the world is foreign, is soon apparent. For the reality and the symbolism are clear; China - jealously guarded, much envied culture of art and intellect, protected from armies and ideas (by the Great Wall) while Chinese perceptions, ideas and values were to remain safe with the Mandarins and unchallenged within this fortress temple of the Emperors.

We take the overnight train to Hohhot, then reach Siziwanggi by road. This is the heartland of Inner Mongolia; traditional yurts, horsemanship, wrestling, songs, dances, and the Mongolian cooking of the heirs of Genghis Khan.

On the great Yellow River is Baotou, the 8th Century monastery of Wudong included in our tour by bike, then via Dongsheng's woollen mills famed for silk-soft cashmere. Here too is the tomb of Genghis Khan, hardly an understated monument but a rather bizarre mausoleum/museum displaying the martial accoutrements of this most famed and feared warrior.

We recross the Yellow River upstream at Yinchuan; here the Great Wall and the river together have historically formed the defences against both marauding hordes and disciplined armies from Mongolia - those who chose confrontation with China in preference to battling with the Gobi Desert.

Yinchuan is an ancient city of Turkic origin, still Moslem, the old mosque and the buzz and barter of a great intersection of trade are still there; Chinese, Mongolian, Turkic, Arab, Tibetan faces are a walking picture history.

To the south on the peaceful pretty island surrounded by the river that is known as Qingtongxia we camp and relax. En route to Guyuan we again rest by the river near Zhongwei, experience a traditional sheepskin raft and re-enact the Old Silk Road on camel-back in the picturesque dunes of the desert around Shapotou. We stop at Tongxin's Great Mosque and at Guyuan itself explore the Xumi Shan Grottoes. These are perhaps China's finest group of Buddhist caves including the massive 19m high, thousand year old Maitreya Buddha.

Westwards again, on the great river and protected to north and west by the Great Wall, lies historic Lanzhou; high above

the water and accessible only by boat, are the Bingling Grottoes and the great seated Buddha.

To the south lies the pilgrim town of Xiahe and the Tibetan monastery of Labrang, so typical of the great monasteries of Tibet - and marvellously medieval in atmosphere. A particularly long but interesting day is required to reach Zhangjie; much of the route follows close to the ruins of the Great Wall. Then on again to the fortified landscape of Jiayuguan. Here is the western end of the Great Wall where the silk road was to be left to the tender mercies of the desert, the brigands and the central Asian tribes of Uygur and Cossack. From here the silk route was to keep the Gobi on its right hand and the oven heat of the huge depression of Taklamakan on its left. Day after day the sun would rise at the travellers' backs and would set before them; the cold of the night bitter, the heat of midday blistering.

In this direction lie the caves of Dunhuang, goal of 19th Century western explorers, archeologists and treasure seekers. Praised and plundered for their superbly exquisite Buddhist art, these 500 caves from the first millennium AD were all but lost in dunes.

Turpan - for us two days away, for the traders of old a journey of several weeks - the most needed and welcome of oases. Bustling with local colour, the exotic bazaar, the melon market, the streets and alleys that belong to past centuries.

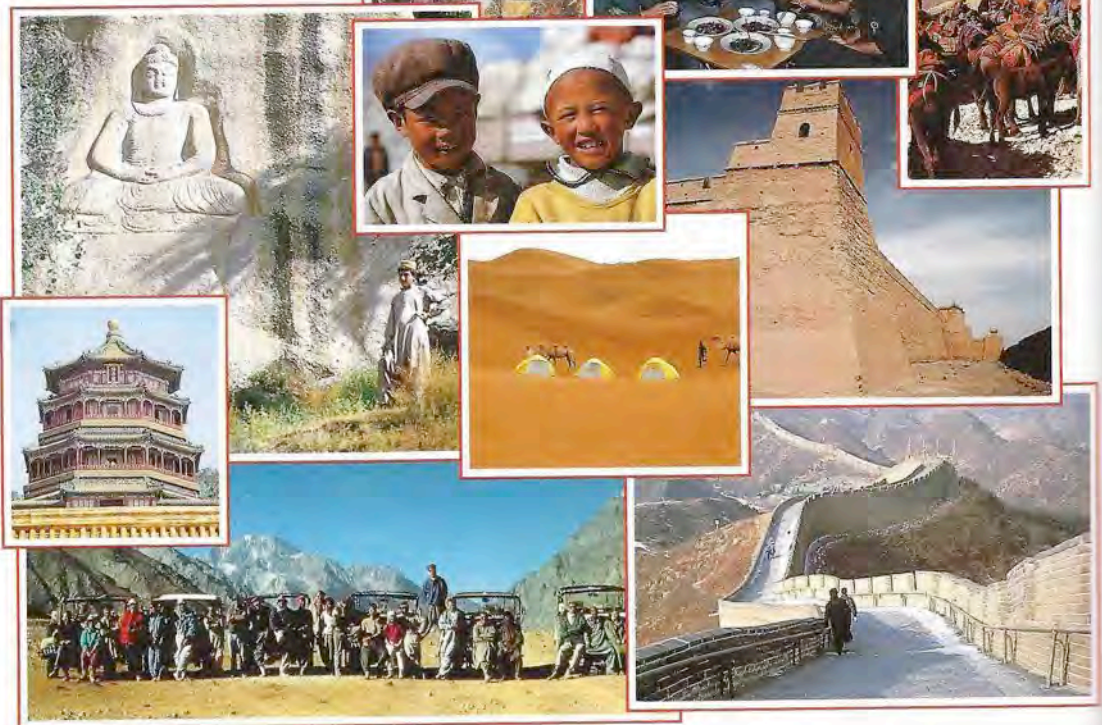
Gaochang, the ancient abandoned Uygur capital and thus to Urumqi, a dust-grey proletarian city, China the way it is today.

And so to Kashgar, for many the gem of the Silk Road for it retains much that others (even Samarkand and Bokhara) have lost. Most memorable is the Sunday bazaar, most striking is the extraordinary sense of a dozen different cultures meeting and interweaving.

Via Taxkorgan to the foot of the Khunjerab Pass, bumping and jolting for much of the way, crossing the dramatic high plains, snow-sprinkled mountains around. Then the downhill meandering highway to the lowlands of the Indus and Islamabad.



Dates & Prices - See insert
Maximum Group Size - 18
Transport & Accommodation - Train between Beijing & Hohhot, jeep-type 4-wheel-drive in China, bicycles around Baotou and Kashgar, flight Urumqi - Kashgar, chartered jeep in Pakistan. Hotels in Beijing, Urumqi and Islamabad, guesthouses & budget hotels in China and Pakistan, some camping (approx 6 nights) including one night in a traditional 'yurt'.
Connecting Flights - See 'FARE ADVANTAGE' back flap.
Remarks - Accommodation facilities can be very basic in central and western China. 3 meals daily, the best that can be provided but sometimes very basic. Chinese/Pakistani driver/guides throughout; local guides as shown.
Itinerary Guideline - * Denotes services of local guide
 Days 1-3: In Beijing, the Forbidden City, Imperial Palace, Ming Tombs, the Great Wall*; overnight train to Hohhot /4: Arrive Hohhot and drive to Siziwanggi, Mongolian traditional songs, dances, dishes, yurts* /5: Return across the grassland steppes to Hohhot /6: In and around Hohhot /7: To Baotou, exploring by bicycle, Wudong monastery /8: On to Dongsheng, Genghis Khan's mausoleum /9: Across the Yellow River to Yinchuan /10: To the tranquil island of Qingtongxia /11: Drive via Zhongwei to the desert at Shapotou, camel-riding, sheepskin rafts /12: Visit Tongxin Great Mosque en route to Guyuan & Xumi Shan Grottoes /13: Drive to Lanzhou historic silk route staging-post /14: To Xiahe and the Labrang Monastery on the Tibetan plateau* /15: Day exploring this Yellow Hat sect monastery, surrounding temples, prayer halls and bazaar /16: Return to Lanzhou on the banks of the Yellow River /17: Westward via Wuwei to Zhangjie, following ruins of Great Wall /18: To Jiayuguan /19-20: To & in Dunhuang, 500 caves of Mogao Grottoes /21: Long day's drive to Hami, Xinjiang Autonomous Region /22-23: To the hot oasis depression of Turpan, time wandering its exotic bazaar & bustling alleyways /24: East through the Gobi Desert via Gaochang to China's most inland city, Urumqi /25-27: In Urumqi and fly to Kashgar /28-29: In Kashgar & vicinity (bicycles) including Sunday market /30: Drive across the open steppe to Taxkorgan /31 & 32: Khunjerab Pass & Hunza /33: Gilgit /34: Follow Indus River below Nanga Parbat to Chilas /35: Abbottabad and Murree Hills to Islamabad /36: Depart Islamabad.



Western Himalaya — Pakistan & China

The Hidden Valleys & Tirich Mir

21 Days from ISLAMABAD

Dates & Prices — See insert
Maximum Group Size — 16
Transport & Accommodation — Chartered jeep, on foot. Hotel in Islamabad (nights 1 & 20), rest houses & budget hotels, camping on trek (6 nights).
Connecting Flights — See "FARE ADVANTAGE" back flap.
Remarks — Food: Unlike more typical E.O. projects, here (apart from the trek) meals in local restaurants and tea houses are the norm. 3 meals daily, the best that can be provided but sometimes very basic.
 The jeeps with their experienced local drivers are singularly suited to these mountain conditions.
Trekking — The 7 day trek is challenging and requires the stamina to reach and also to walk comfortably at 15,000ft/4,550m. Porters carry equipment and personal gear. See Trekking, page 53.
Itinerary Guideline —
 * Denotes services of local guide
 Day 1: In Islamabad / 2: Drive across Indus to N.W. Frontier & Peshawar / 3: In and around Peshawar & the Khyber villages * / 4 & 5: Into the Hindu Kush and the Swat valleys / 6 & 7: Across Lowari Pass to Chitral & Kalash valleys / 8: To Drasan, collect porters and start trek / 9-14: On trek to Tirich Mir and glacier * / 15: Drive from Drasan to Shandur Pass / 16: To Gilgit / 17 & 18: In Gilgit / 19: Follow Indus river below Nanga Parbat to Manshera / 20: Abbottabad and the Murree Hills to Islamabad / 21: Depart Islamabad.

The Hindu Kush, high Pamir and Karakoram — the wild and hauntingly stark Himalaya of Pakistan — soar to heights that produce one of the most glaciated regions outside the polar circles. Here are wonderfully remote valleys and spectacular scenery on a vast scale, with narrow tracks and spindly bridges manageable by nothing larger than small jeeps.

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.

We enter the hills to the valley of Swat and the sites of Gandhara Buddhist civilisation that met and mingled with the armies of Alexander. We climb the rugged rock-strewn pine-topped Lowari Pass (10,000ft/1,030m) to wind down to the Chitral valleys, and Chitral town with mosque, ancient fort, polo-ground and busy main street.

Our track hugs the cliffsides of the ravine leading to the mysterious valleys of the Kalash peoples and the villages of the 'Kafirs', terraced pastoral hillsides of shady orchards and walnut groves grazed by sheep and goats.

Near Drasan, we meet our porters and set out on our seven day trek through the Hindu Kush. The route climbs from the shelter of the upper Chitral to windswept ridges and spectacular views of the Hindu Raj massif. Onwards into the craggy heights we reach 15,000ft/4,550m and the great Tirich glacier — born from the 25,000ft/7,500m giant of Tirich Mir in a wild and lonely domain astride the ill-defined and half-headed borders of Pakistan, Afghanistan and the USSR.

Our route is now over what is probably the most magnificent and awe-inspiring mountain pass ever travelled by wheeled transport — the Shandur Pass to Gilgit — through some of the most stunning and unspoiled scenery on earth.

From Gilgit's enchanting valley we descend with the winding upper Indus, past Nanga Parbat, through Manshera

and down through the Murree Hills to Abbottabad, a place of warmth and ease conducive to our needs after the heady exhilaration of the distant ice and snow.

To the Gates of Tartary

23 Days ISLAMABAD—KASHGAR—ISLAMABAD

Dates & Prices — See insert
Maximum Group Size — 16
Transport & Accommodation — Chartered jeep in Pakistan, bus or small group transport in China, bicycles around Kashgar. Hotel in Islamabad (nights 1 & 22), rest houses & budget hotels in Pakistan and China.
Connecting Flights — See "FARE ADVANTAGE" back flap.
Remarks — The jeeps with their experienced local drivers are singularly suited to these mountain conditions. Accommodation facilities can be very basic in western China, 3 meals daily, the best that can be provided but sometimes very basic.
Itinerary Guideline —
 * Denotes services of local guide
 Day 1: In Islamabad / 2: Drive across Indus to N.W. Frontier & Peshawar / 3: In and around Peshawar & the Khyber villages * / 4 & 5: Into the Hindu Kush and the Swat valleys / 6 & 7: Across Lowari Pass to Chitral & Kalash valleys / 8: On Shandur Pass / 9-11: Gilgit and the Hunza / 12: The Khunjerab Pass (16,000ft/4,850m), through the Pamirs & Karakoram to China & Taxkorgan / 13: The open steppes to Kashgar / 14-16: In Kashgar & vicinity (bicycles), including Sunday market / 17: Return to Taxkorgan / 18 & 19: Khunjerab Pass & Hunza to / 20: Gilgit / 21: Follow Indus river below Nanga Parbat to Manshera / 22: Abbottabad and the Murree Hills to Islamabad / 23: Depart Islamabad.

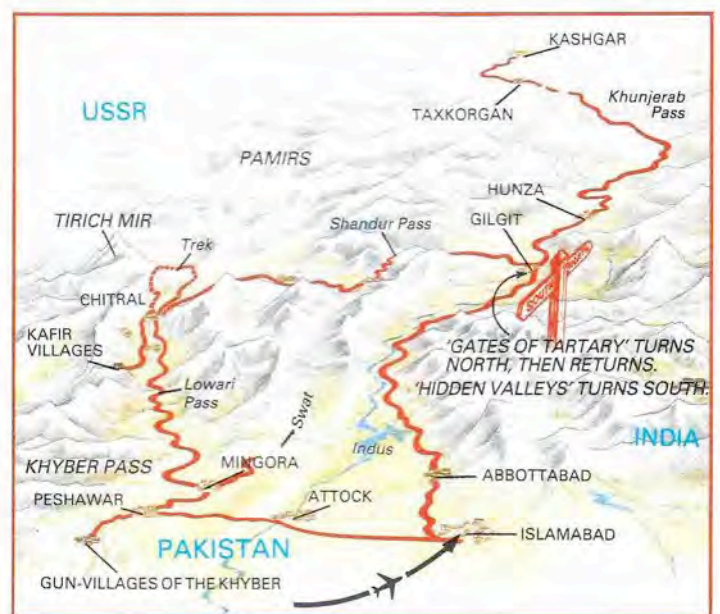
A journey that defies superlatives — a crossing of the Himalaya in Pakistan, through China's newly opened backdoor to fabled Kashgar, the oasis town of Chinese Central Asia that has long survived the decline of trade on the Ancient Silk Road to Cathay.

Our route from Islamabad to Peshawar, Swat, Chitral, the Kalash Valleys and Gilgit is as described in "The Hidden Valleys & Tirich Mir" (alongside and excluding only the trek from Drasan into the Tirich glacier).

Then, from Gilgit, we turn north to travel the newly engineered Karakoram Highway on its long climb to the Khunjerab Pass 16,000ft/4,850m into China.

Over on the Chinese side of Khunjerab, landslides and rockfalls are to be expected if not predicted and delays can occur. The bumpy, slow 370 miles/600km journey by way of Taxkorgan over the yurt-dotted steppes of the Uyghurs is not completed without discomfort. But the reward is Kashgar.

All manner of Asiatic peoples meet here and it is a place of people not monuments. A place between places, between civilisations; like a port set strategically on the great sea-lanes of commerce — but we are about as far from the sea as we can be. This is one of the jewels of the ancient Silk Road yet it does not live in its past — no conserved "museum city" this — it is all still happening. And it needs to be seen to be understood and to be understood to be believed.

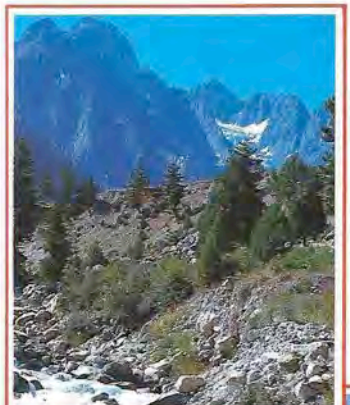
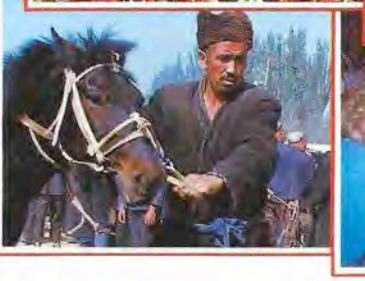


Tartary & Tirich Mir

30 Days ISLAMABAD—KASHGAR—ISLAMABAD

Dates & Prices — See insert

This expedition is to the spectacular heights of Pakistan including the 7 day trek to the stunning Tirich Mir glaciers and so beyond the Karakoram Range, across the steppes of China's far west to Kashgar. It is the combination of THE HIDDEN VALLEYS & TIRICH MIR (this page) — days 1-17 with TO THE GATES OF TARTARY (this page) — days 11-23. Thus a superb 30 day adventure is created.





Trekking & Rafting in Nepal & Tibet

Even the most rugged of trucks won't get near to where we are now planning to go – for here all roads end; the breathtaking majestic peaks of the world's giants are where men and mountains meet and where machinery is left far behind and far below us.

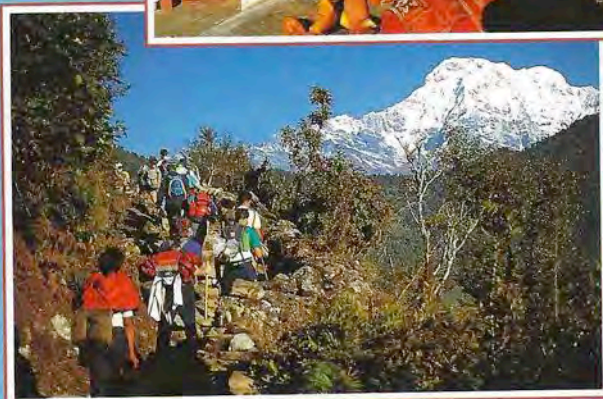
Encounter Overland has been a presence in Nepal for a whole generation. Our associate organisation, Himalayan Encounters, are professionals exclusively concerned with Himalayan trekking and who, together with E.O., have for 14 years been pioneering the 'river-running' for which Nepal is now increasingly recognised.

Our Sherpas and all our staff have the abilities and temperament that are typical of the good nature and generosity of spirit for which the peoples of Nepal are renowned.

Normally, but not always, treks and river expeditions have non-Nepali overseas staff involved also. There is however no hard-and-fast policy, simply the undertaking to ensure the project has the various skills and knowledge needed.



In association with
HIMALAYAN
encounters



Nepal 'Dekho' *

* Dekho, from the Hindi. Look!
See map, facing page

14 Days from
KATHMANDU

Dates & Prices – See insert
Maximum Group Size – 18

Transport & Accommodation –

Expedition truck, Avon inflatable rafts, on foot, elephant back. Guesthouse Kathmandu nights 1 & 2, camping on river beaches and on trek, permanent tented camp – Chitwan.

Connecting Flights: See "FARE ADVANTAGE" back flap.

Remarks – On trek we are accompanied by our Sherpas, cooks and porters. This trek, although only 5 days, is nevertheless fairly strenuous and also at times is quite remote from the more commonly trod trails. It reaches an altitude of 10,000ft/3,000m.

See also Planning; Trekking & Rafting, page 53.

Itinerary Guideline –

* Denotes services of local guide

Day 1: In Kathmandu / 2: Bicycle tour of city & valley * / 3: Drive to Trisuli river and on river / 4 & 5: On river / 6: On river to Mughling village and drive to Pokhara / 7: Start trek returning to Pokhara evening of Day 11 / 12: Drive to lowlands and Chitwan National Park / 13: In Chitwan, by elephant and on foot through park, dug-out canoe on Rapti river * / 14: Return to Kathmandu (evening arrival).

White-water rafting on the Trisuli river, a short trek in the Annapurna ranges and a wildlife 'safari' into the Chitwan National Park of the Terai lowlands. A relaxed look at Nepal but an absorbing project in two action-filled weeks.

The River. The Trisuli rises in the **Ganesh Himalaya** to the north of **Kathmandu**. It winds along wide peaceful valleys dotted with farms and villages, and courses through bouldered canyons and deep gorges hung with jungle and fern. Here is the heart of Nepal, where river travel throws a new and refreshingly different perspective on the land and its peoples.

But our 5-mile-an-hour glide through the warmth of the Trisuli's changing landscapes is well punctuated with rapids. They have a growl and a kick to them; wild rushes of churning water (and adrenalin) as the river sharply reminds us when we, and it, have rested enough.

The Trek. Leaving the river at **Mughling** we drive to **Pokhara**, under the shadow of the **Annapurna** massif and the giant 'fifth-tail' peak of **Machapuchare**, the holy mountain. We trek upwards through green forests and **Gurung** villages. Rhododendron woods lead to haunting lichen-covered passes while all around is the panorama of 30 Himalayan peaks thrusting high into the crystal air. **Dhaulagiri**, **Annapurna II**, **Manaslu** and **Machapuchare** shatter belief and the skyline.

This is a wilderness trek that avoids the well-travelled routes, bringing us into close contact with an unchanged way of life in the mountain villages.

The Terai. To the plains and the **Chitwan National Park**, a wildlife reserve of tall shaded forests, hidden clearings and high elephant grass astride flat sandy rivers – haven for the great Asian rhinoceros, elephant, sloth bear, deer, gharial crocodile, wild pig and the Bengal tiger.

From our permanent tented camp we can travel out on elephant back, by foot or in dug-out canoes in search of the wildlife of the Indian sub-continent.

Mountain & River Annapurna 10

21 Days from
KATHMANDU

Dates & Prices – See insert.
Maximum Group Size – 18
Transport & Accommodation – Expedition truck, Avon inflatable rafts, on foot, elephant back. Guesthouse Kathmandu nights 1, 2 & 20, camping on river beaches and on trek, permanent tented camp – Chitwan, lodge at Nagarkot.
Connecting Flights – See “FARE ADVANTAGE” back flap.
Remarks – This project includes 8 days trekking in the Annapurna region. For the full description of this please refer to Annapurna 10 (this page) days 2–9. See also Planning; Trekking & Rafting, page 53.
Itinerary Guideline –
* Denotes services of local guide
Day 1: In Kathmandu / 2: Bicycle tour of city & valley * / 3: Drive to Trisuli river and on river / 4 & 5: On river / 6: On river to Mughling village and drive to Pokhara / 7: Start trek returning to Pokhara evening of Day 14 / 15: Drive to lowlands and Chitwan National Park / 16 & 17: In Chitwan, by elephant and on foot through park, dug-out canoe on Rapti river * / 18: En route to Nagarkot / 19: Arrive Nagarkot – sunset views / 20: Sunrise over mountains at Nagarkot, return via ancient city of Bhaktapur, to Kathmandu / 21: Depart Kathmandu.

3 days rafting the Trisuli river, 8 days trekking into the high Annapurnas and 2 days (3 nights) among the wild-life of the Chitwan National Park; discover the mysteries of the Kathmandu valley and travel to the mountain village of Nagarkot where sunrise and sunset paint the view along 300 miles (480kms) of Himalayan peaks.

First Kathmandu and its historic (flat!) valley explored by bike.

Our three day river journey is as the ‘Nepal Dekho’ (facing page) from our put-in point three hours from Kathmandu to the village of Mughling, where the Trisuli meets the Marsyandi and runs south to the lowlands. This is an easy paced river journey through beautiful scenery and contains some fine and exhilarating white-water.

Joining our Sherpas and trek crew at Mughling we drive to the lake town of Pokhara and the start of our trek. Now, leaving the villages, the rice fields and peaceful life of the valley behind us, we climb through sub-tropical woodlands and out onto the high ridges in front of Annapurna South (23,800ft/7,300m) and Machapuchare (22,940ft/6,990m). The rock faces and ice fields of the massif thrust above us, dwarfing all and distorting perspective with seemingly impossible angles.

We gain our highest altitude at 15,000ft/4,500m, but much of our trek is at 8–10,000ft/2.5–3,000m. (The route of our trek from Pokhara is the same as the ‘Annapurna 10’, this page).

From Pokhara we drive out of the mountains into the lowlands, and the Chitwan National Park. We spend three nights here, staying at our permanent tented camp and travelling out by day into the forests, reeds and riverbanks that are home to a rich and varied wildlife.

We overnight in the Himalayan foothills en route to the mountain lodge at Nagarkot. We will awake to the beginnings of a cold but stunningly spectacular dawn; the first rays of the sun firing the peaks a hellish red, slowly lighting the Himalaya from Kanchenjunga and Everest in the far east to the Annapurnas and Dhaulagiri in the west. Breakfast and exploring the ancient city of Bhaktapur add to the day that delivers us back to Kathmandu.

10 Days from
KATHMANDU

Dates & Prices – See insert.
Maximum Group Size – 18
Transport & Accommodation – Bus to/from Pokhara, on foot. Camping.
Connecting Flights – See “FARE ADVANTAGE” back flap.
Remarks – On trek we are accompanied by our crew of Sherpas, cooks and porters. This is a moderately challenging trek requiring the stamina to reach a maximum altitude of 15,000ft/4,600m. See also Planning; Trekking, page 53.
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: Descend to Modi Khola valley / 8: Mardipul, rest and explore valley and villages / 9: Return to Pokhara and lake / 10: Drive to Kathmandu (evening arrival).

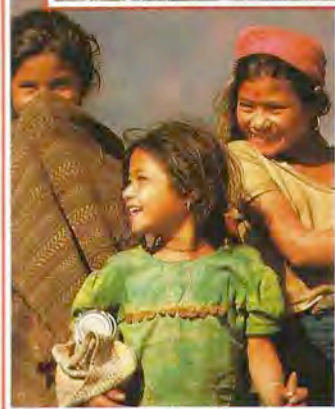
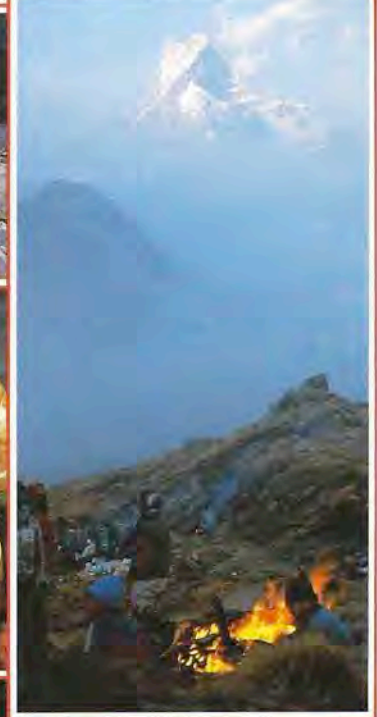
At first the Himalaya defy belief. They seem impossible – white jagged fangs piercing the clouds, remote and unattainable. For many visitors this remains their only impression. For only by walking these mountains, by being among their peaks and by living with them awhile can one understand their true enormity their moods and their awesome presence.

The Seti Khola valley pushes deep into the encircling high Annapurnas. The walking is not easy but the pace is relaxed. 8 miles (13kms) a day is an average distance. We have chosen our route well away from the more frequented trails without compromising the fabulous views, the snow clad peaks, the village life of the valleys. Porters handle the equipment, gear and camp arrangements while our Sherpa trek crew and cooks maintain a watchful and cheerful eye over all. This includes an unswerving dedication to a vigorous and delicious potpourri of oriental and western foods they insist is necessary for the continuing good health of anyone graced with the good fortune to visit their mountains.

From Kathmandu we drive west along the steep Trisuli and Marsyandi valleys to the lake town of Pokhara. Our first day's walk meanders through small villages and padi fields before we climb upward on twisting trails to the village of Dhampus at 6,000ft (1,800m). We awake to stunning views of Machapuchare (22,940ft/6,990m) and the great Annapurnas. Along a high ridge now into dense forests of birch and rhododendron to camp in a small clearing.

At 10,000ft (3,030m) the forest thins and the glistening ramparts of Annapurna South loom disturbingly close above us. Here is the highest camp of our trek and the view belies adequate description.

On the sixth day we descend through terraced hillsides to the beautiful Modi Khola valley – a warmer altitude and, by now, a welcome bathe in the river. At last it is easy walking again along the valley floor, criss-crossing the river on narrow dipping cable bridges. We reach Mardipul and time to relax, to stretch and ease the muscles, to explore this idyllic valley and its sleepy villages. A last night of bright starlight, under the black shadows of familiar peaks at Pokhara; a night to celebrate with our Sherpas before the ride back to Kathmandu.



Nepal (Everest Region)

Sun-Kosi River

10 Days from
KATHMANDU

Dates & Prices – See insert
Maximum Group Size – 16
Transport & Accommodation – Avon inflatable rafts, expedition truck to/from river. Camping.
Connecting Flights – See "FARE ADVANTAGE" back flap.
Remarks – The Sun-Kosi holds significant stretches of major rapids and although no previous rafting experience is required, it does need coolheadedness and confidence in water.
See also Planning, Rafting, page 53.
Itinerary Guideline –
Day 1: Drive north from Kathmandu to junction of the Sun-Kosi & Indrawati rivers, start on river / 2–8: 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).

There are few experiences that can match running the white-waters of a wild river, and there are few rivers that can match those of Nepal. The snow-melt from the Himalayan giants thunders through twisted canyons and winds through calm valleys, to be tamed as broad rivers spilling out onto the vast Indian plains. Back here in the hills is the heart of Nepal where terraced farmlands and small hamlets cling to the warm slopes along river's edge.

The **Sun-Kosi** river rises near **Shisha Pangma** in Tibet. In Nepal it turns eastwards to run through the lateral Himalayan valleys before disgorging onto the plains at **Chatra**. There are no roads, no towns and no other trappings of "civilisation". We rely entirely on our own supplies.

The 16-foot "Spirit" inflatables take a maximum of 8 people and usually operate in pairs to provide support and spread the equipment load. Lifejackets are worn at all times and safety helmets are also used through the major white water.

Experienced helmsmen pilot from the stern but paddle-power is needed from everyone to position the boats for the rapids.

Days are leisurely, if often 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 a driftwood fire – for cooking, good company, good cheer and tales of the day in full-blown exaggeration. Meals, too, can be surprisingly good, and there is time here to relax and explore our new surroundings.

The first two days are on easy water. From then onwards each day has at least one difficult section as well as many lesser rapids. The Sun-Kosi still lives up to its reputation as one of the world's ten best rafting rivers.

Finally we merge with the wide **Arun** that flows in from the snowfields of **Everest** and **Makalu**. One more turn, one more surprise of churning water as the river vents its final anger, and we glide into the flat dusty plains that stretch unbroken as far as the eye can see.

Upstream to Everest

28 Days from
KATHMANDU

Dates & Prices – See insert
Maximum Group Size – 16
Transport & Accommodation – Expedition truck, on foot to Lukla; fly Lukla–Kathmandu. Camping.
Connecting Flights – See "FARE ADVANTAGE" back flap.
Remarks – On trek we are accompanied by our Sherpas, cooks and porters. The trek which starts at less than 2,000ft/620m will finally reach an elevation at Everest Base Camp of 18,000ft/5,540m. In the process one's fitness improves and there is provision for altitude acclimatisation. However, the trek requires basic fitness as well as stamina and perseverance. See also Planning; Trekking, page 53.
N.B. The flight Lukla–Kathmandu (which is an inclusive part of the trek) may be delayed due to unsuitable flying weather. Therefore, for international flights, it would be preferable to allow at least 4 days from the scheduled trek completion.
Itinerary Guideline –
Day 1: Drive to Terai lowlands / 2: Arrive Chatra / 3: To Hile, final preparations / 4–7: Easy walking up the Arun Valley through Takure & Tumlingtar to Chandanpur / 8–10: Cross Arun to ascend narrow trails to Salpa Pass 11,500ft/3,400m / 11–15: Descend to Hongu Valley & Guidel village to climb steeply out of forests to Satu La Pass, 10,560ft/3,200m / 16: To Namche Bazaar / 17: Rest and acclimatise / 18 & 19: On upwards to Thyangboche & Dingboche 14,400ft/4,360m / 20: Rest and acclimatise / 21: To Lobuche & Khumbu Glacier / 22: Ascend to peak of Kala Pattar 18,000ft/5,540m and return to Lobuche / 23–27: Descend through Thyangboche & Namche to Lukla 9,200ft/2,800m / 28: Fly Lukla–Kathmandu.

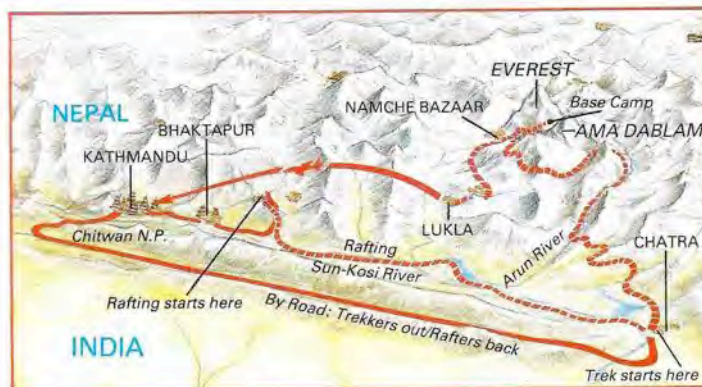
The **Arun** river flows out of Tibet between the **Everest** and **Kanchenjunga** massifs of eastern Nepal, carving gorges and steep valleys to the lowlands of **Chatra**. The pass formed by the river is one of the ancient trading routes between the two countries and the artery for communications and trade. This is the other Nepal route to Everest, a spectacular and remote journey relatively 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, we trek through rainforest and cross streams by precarious bamboo and rope bridges.

On our 16th 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 14,500ft/4,400m 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** (18,000ft/5,450m) is gruelling but the rewards are immeasurable. **Nuptse**, **Changtse**, **Ama Dablam**, **Everest** and the **Khumbu** glacier and a 360 degree perspective of the high Himalaya 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 'chhang' beer and much celebration. A 40 minute flight returns us to **Kathmandu**. But now you have lived awhile with the Himalayan giants.

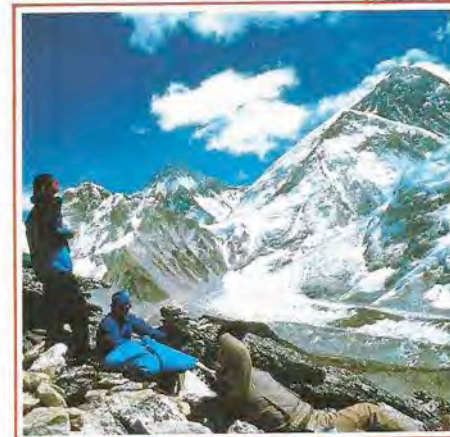
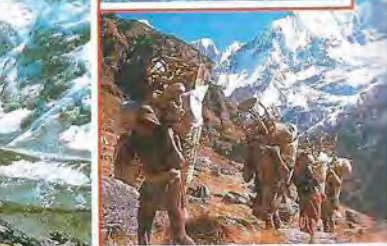
Himalayan Challenge

34 Days from
KATHMANDU

Dates & Prices – See insert

The best of both worlds. Rushing excitement on the Sun-Kosi's wild white-water and an exhilarating climb to the wind and snow-swept base of Everest's towering rock and ice.

This ultimate Nepal experience is the combination of the Sun-Kosi River expedition (this page) days 1–8 and Upstream to Everest (this page) days 3–28. The one follows on from the other, with a night in between to rest and celebrate the completion of our journey out of the hills by river before heading into the mountains on trek to Everest.



The Lhasa Highroad

14 days KATHMANDU—LHASA—KATHMANDU

Dates & Prices — See insert
Maximum Group Size — 20
Transport & Accommodation — Flight Kathmandu—Lhasa, small group transport & on foot (around landslides) in Tibet and Nepal. Guesthouses & resthouses.

Connecting Flights — See "FARE ADVANTAGE" back flap.

Remarks — Food: Unlike more typical E.O. projects, here meals in local restaurants and teahouses are the norm; 3 meals daily — the best that can be provided but sometimes very basic. The maximum estimated cost of the Integral International flight Kathmandu—Lhasa (or vice versa) is \$US220. See "Fare Advantage" back flap. N.B. Sparse and basic are creature comforts — this fact has the one dubious advantage of requiring from us a fair share of borrowed local stoicism.

Itinerary Guideline —

* Denotes services of local guide
 Day 1: Fly from Kathmandu to Lhasa / 2-4: In Lhasa—Potala, Summer Palace, Jokhang Temple, Barkhor Bazaar * / 5: To Yamdrok Tso (Turquoise Lake), over Karo La Pass (17,000ft/5,150m) to Gyantse / 6: In Gyantse and drive to Shigatse / 7: In Shigatse—Tashilhunpo monastery, fort and market * / 8: To Sakya monastery and via Lhasa to / 9: Pang La Pass (Everest view point) & Tingri / 10: Lalung Leh Pass (16,500ft/5,000m) to the gorge of the Sun-Kosi / 11: Trek (around land landslides) to Zhangmu / 12: Trek to Bharabise and drive to Kathmandu / 13: Day in Kathmandu, day in hand (contingency against delay), p.m. drive to Nagarkot — Himalayan viewpoint and lodge / 14: Sunrise over peaks, drive to Bhaktapur & Kathmandu (midday arrival).

Much mystique has surrounded the name Tibet — in the facts and in the fiction, in the images and in the illusions of an enigmatic, long-suffering people. Today's journey beyond the Himalaya into this once forbidden land is a highroad to adventure.

Nowhere is there so complete nor so dramatic a contrast as that between the lush terraced valleys of Nepal and the stark, barren windswept landscape of Tibet. Beneath Tibet's intense blue skies live a hardy stoic but good natured people whose lives fuse the labour of a harsh existence with the spiritual forces they see to exist all around.

It is through the rites and invocations of tantric Buddhism embodied in the great monasteries that hope of release and of salvation from this earthly struggle is devoutly expressed. For one thousand years the authority of the monasteries stemmed from their being the sole and hugely wealthy repository of all learning, all literature, art and medicine as well as all religion. The seats of the Dalai Lama at the Potala Palace and of the Panchen Lama at Shigatse have lost much but not all that power and much, though far from all, that glory.

Although we are today in a land where the old norms and perceptions of reality have been largely and crudely dismantled, in the countryside the impressions of traditional life project strongly still; yak-pulled ploughs, hand sowing, yak herds on the high pastures, whole families harvesting.

Tibet is stunning, the heights as well as the lengths and breadths of vistas are wonderful. And Tibet, still, is another world.



Tibet: Backdoor to Everest

21 Days KATHMANDU—LHASA—KATHMANDU

Dates & Prices — See insert
Maximum Group Size — 20 on the non-trekking section, when travelling in conjunction with members of Lhasa Highroad. 12 on trek.

Transport & Accommodation — Flight Kathmandu—Lhasa, small group transport in Tibet, on foot (6 days Rongbuk—Everest), small group transport & on foot (around landslides) in Nepal. Guesthouses, resthouses & camping on trek.

Connecting Flights — See "FARE ADVANTAGE" back flap.

Remarks — Food: Unlike more typical E.O. projects, here (apart from the trek) meals in local restaurants & teahouses are the norm; 3 meals daily — the best that can be provided but sometimes very basic. Accommodation facilities can be very basic in Tibet. The maximum estimated cost of the Integral International flight Kathmandu—Lhasa is \$US220. See "Fare Advantage" back flap. On trek we are accompanied by our Sherpas, cooks & porters. The previous 9 days on the Tibetan plateau (average altitude 13,500ft/4,150m) will have provided for acclimatisation. On trek the elevation reaches 18,000ft/5,540m calling for fitness and stamina. See also Planning; Trekking, page 53.

Itinerary Guideline —

* Denotes services of local guides
 Days 1-8: Fly from Kathmandu to Lhasa and the Lhasa Highroad (this page) / 9: To Pang La Pass (Everest view point) and start of trek / 10-14: On trek to Rongbuk and Everest Base Camp * / 15-21: as are Lhasa Highroad days 9-14.

Here finally is an aspect of Everest even less easily or often gained than from Nepal. High altitude trekking to the glaciers and moraine of Everest's north face — indeed face to face with the highest of the High Himalaya.

Our flight from Kathmandu to Lhasa climbs over Everest. Below us now a violently crinkled world, the buttresses, faces, traverses and glaciers of the highest peaks on the planet, an aerial preview of the adventure to come. Lhasa lies at 12,000ft (3,650m) and we adjust to our new altitude while exploring the town and valley. The remarkable Potala, the Norbulingka Palace, Jokhang Temple and the backstreets and alleys of Barkhor bazaar.

We drive the steep, dusty mountain roads to Kamba La and the silent, empty shores of the Turquoise Lakes. Prayer flags flutter in the thin air atop Karo La pass (16,400ft/5,010m). Yaks graze the

high pastures and isolated villages cluster beneath the crumbling, ghostly shells of hilltop castle-monasteries. But at Shigatse the Grand Monastery of Tashilhunpo, built by the first Dalai Lama in 1447, survived the purges of the cultural revolution and lives on.

Meeting our trek guides at Xegar we cross Pang La pass to Rongbuk where the massive heights of Everest, Lhotse, Nuptse, and Makalu fill the valley. With porters and pack-animals (usually yaks) we trek the slopes and ridges to the original base camp from where, in 1924, Irvine and Mallory set out. If they made it is known only to the gods of the mountain. Base camp is at 17,000ft/5,200m. The snows from the high faces sweep here with a fierce and icy vengeance. The mountain warns against invading further.

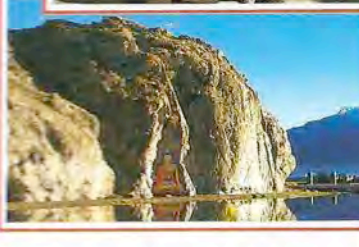
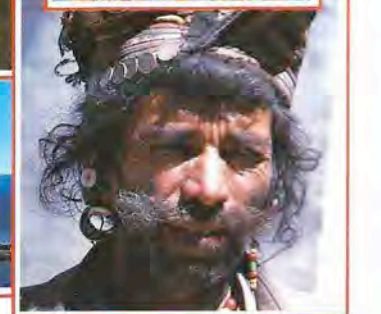
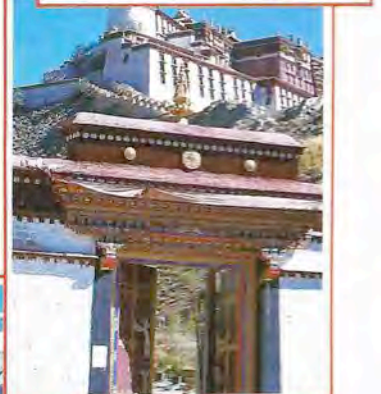
Rejoining our vehicles we drive to Tingri, and an amazing descent through green, humid, jungle-hung gorges to Zhangmu, the Friendship Bridge at Kodari and the warm Nepalese valleys to Kathmandu.

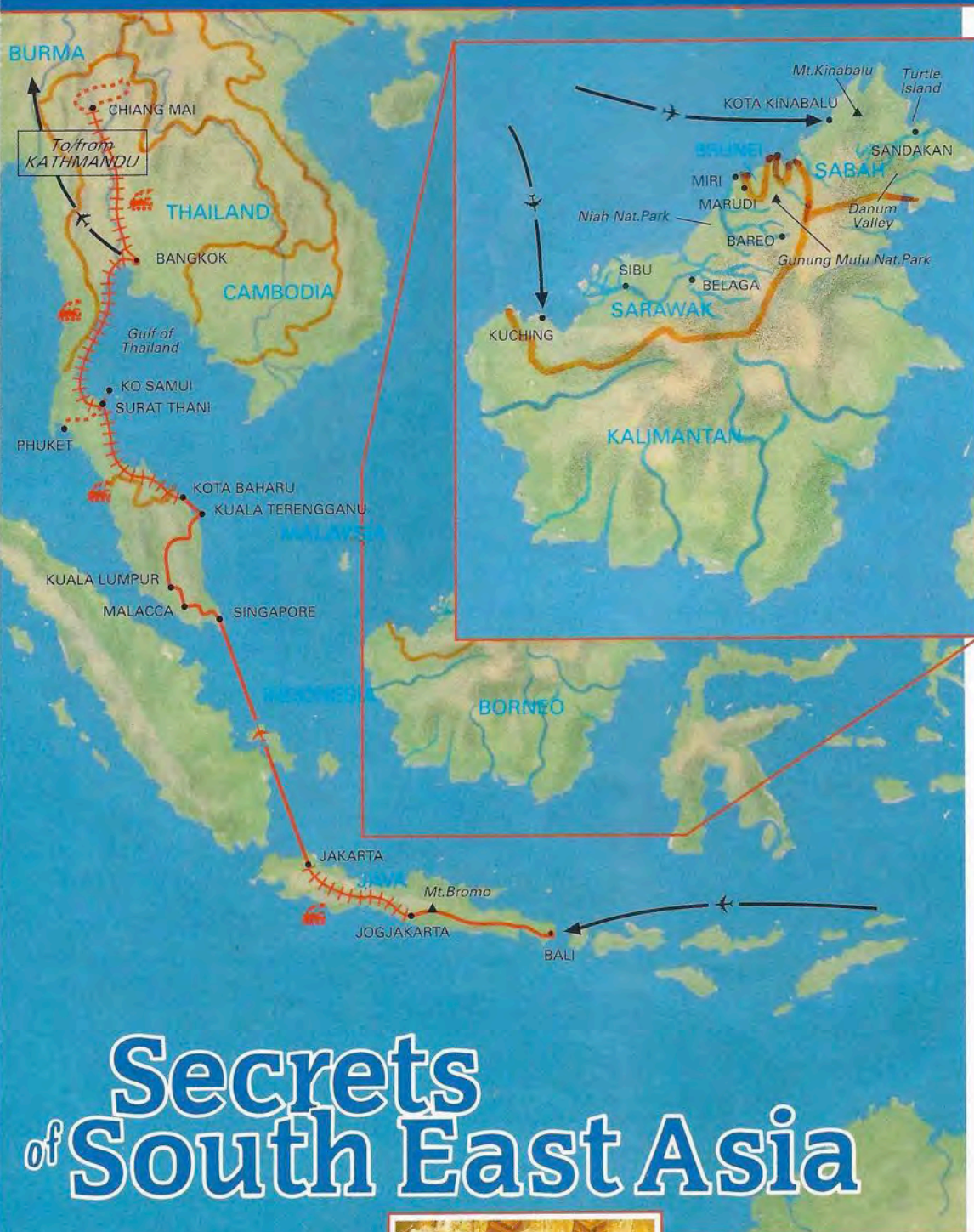
Nepal & Tibet

28 Days KATHMANDU—LHASA—KATHMANDU

Dates & Prices — See insert

Here we combine two weeks in Nepal with two weeks in Tibet; we combine Nepal Dekho* (page 46) with The Lhasa Highroad (this page) — there's an adventure (and there's a useful saving too)!





Top Secrets of North Borneo

SARAWAK, SABAH

Dates & Prices (approximate) — See insert

The mountainous backbone of Borneo, against which the clouds gather and on which the rains that swell the rivers of the jungles fall, reaches its highest point in the far north. Here is Mt. Kinabalu, exposed grey granite heights above a skirt of deep green and at 4,101m (13,455 ft) mightiest in Asia south of the Himalaya; from the mountain summit magnificent views out across the South China Sea and, more impressive yet, across what is probably the oldest, virtually undisturbed areas of equatorial hardwood forest on earth that have been in existence — and indeed have been almost unchanged — for 100 million years. But be braced for what you will be seeing now . . . logging, big business, the man-borne scourge that is decimating this last frontier, more vulnerable even than the Amazon.

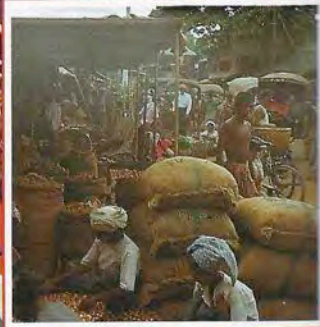
The much better news is about marvelous vast national parks and better still the fact that, along Borneo's great spine of high ground and mountain, the unique beauty of Borneo — that is to say, the heart-pounding wildness of it all — still remains.



Secrets of South East Asia

Thailand and the peninsula of Malaya, the archipelago of Indonesia and the great island of Borneo. Indeed there is a lot to wonder at in South East Asia. There's the brazen world of tomorrow that is Singapore in the midst of it all. No secret that. But there are hilltribes in the opium triangle hard against the Burmese and Laotian borders. There are families of longhouse dwellers in Sarawak. There is dense lush jungle laced with clear rivers and there are beaches fit for the proverbial castaway.

Is there anywhere a more exotic ambience? Pagodas and temples clouded in the heavy fragrance of incense, the chanting of monks and the resonance of great brass gongs. The aromatic pungency of the markets and the small ports and the deliciously diverse dishes from fleets of steaming stalls — the tasty evidence of cultural influences from all over South East Asia and from India and China beyond.



Jacobs and pitcher plants and the massive Rafflesia, hundreds of clear jungle rivers and thousands of streams, miles of deserted beaches and the turtle islands of Sabah, sanctuaries for orangutans, proboscis monkeys and vivid technicolour birdlife, massive underground caves dozens of miles long and swarms of resident bats each evening. The tribespeople of the forests and inland rivers, the Land Dayaks, Punans, Kadazans and Muruts and their village longhouses (the only successful 'apartment blocks' anywhere), home for up to 80 families; the Sea Dayaks (Ibans) of the river delta and historic Kuching with its dynasty of White Rajahs and its museum's insights into the natural history, crafts, culture and beliefs of Sarawak and its diverse peoples.

RECONNAISSANCE ("Recce")

Here then is an outline plan of three Borneo expeditions for late '92 and early '93.

The full details can be made available on request. No applications/bookings can be received by E.O. until these full details together with confirmed dates, duration, costs, etc. have been provided.

Borneo Recce - Project #1

(September '92)

3 Weeks divided between Sarawak and Sabah with special emphasis on Gunung Mulu National Park, the Pinnacles, the great caves, the ascent of Mt. Kinabalu, the turtle islands and the orangutans.

Borneo Recce - Project #2

(February '93)

4 Weeks adding to the findings of Project #1 including Gunung Mulu National Park, Mt. Kinabalu, the turtle islands and orangutan sanctuary of Sandakan, with time at the Niah 'Bat' Caves, more extensive travel to the longhouses of the interior and of the Rejang River and delta region.

Borneo Recce - Project #3

(March/April '93)

4 Weeks with special emphasis on the interior, the Usun Apau plateau, trekking and river exploration via Belaga and around Bario and parallel to the Indonesian frontier that is marked by the high ground, and returning via Bario into the reserve of Gunung Mulu.

The Slow Lane through South East Asia

31 Days BALI to BANGKOK (or vice versa)

INDONESIA, SINGAPORE, MALAYSIA, THAILAND

Dates & Prices - See insert

Maximum Group Size - 20

Transport & Accommodation - Private small group vehicles, ferry, train, river boat, local bus, on foot. Budget hotels, guest houses, lodges, overnight train, camping or hostels in Taman Negara National Park, village huts on hilltribe trek. **Connecting Flights** - See "FARE ADVANTAGE" back flap.

Remarks - We are accompanied by local guides throughout this project. The maximum estimated cost of the Integral International flight Jakarta-Singapore (or vice versa) is \$US175 see 'Fare Advantage' back flap. The Thai hilltribe trek is easy-paced. Depending on the monsoon season we visit either Phuket (Nov-April) or Ko Samui (May-Oct). **Itinerary Guideline** - Days 1-3: On Bali; Lake Batur, Elephant Cave, Painters Village, Water Temple and beaches / 4: Ferry to Java, drive to Probolinggo / 5: Hike to summit Mt Bromo for sunrise, drive to Jogjakarta / 6 & 7: Jogjakarta & Borobudur, overnight train to / 8: Jakarta / 9: In Jakarta / 10: Fly to Singapore / 11: In Singapore / 12: Drive to, and in Malacca / 13: Drive to, and in Kuala Lumpur / 14 & 15: Jungle trails & wildlife of Taman Negara National Park / 16-18: East coast Malaysia's tropical shores & villages, Kuala Terengganu & Kota Bharu / 19: Train to Thailand and Surat Thani / 20-22: The beaches and island life of Phuket or Ko Samui / 23: Train to Bangkok and overnight train to Chiang Mai / 24 & 25: Chiang Mai; elephants, cottage industries, Doi Suthep hill temple / 26-28: Drive to Fang, trek the jungle trails to Akhu & Lisu villages of the Golden Triangle hilltribes, return by river boat & road to Chiang Mai; overnight train to / 29: Temples of Phitsanulok and ancient capital of Sukhothai. Drive to Bangkok / 30 & 31: The city's floating markets, monasteries & royal palaces, Depart Bangkok.

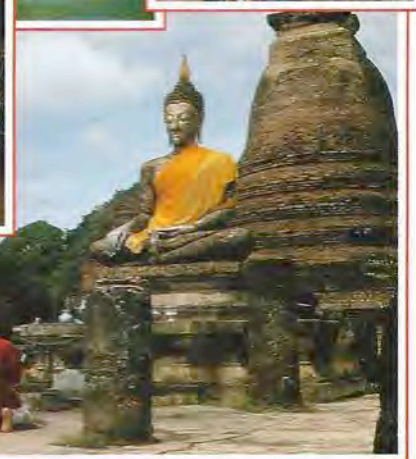
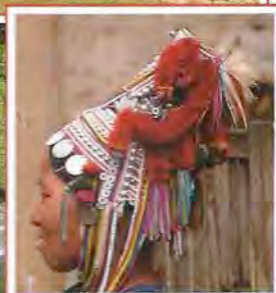
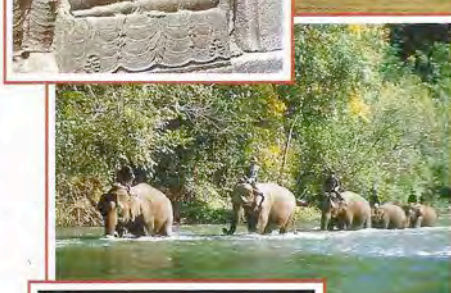
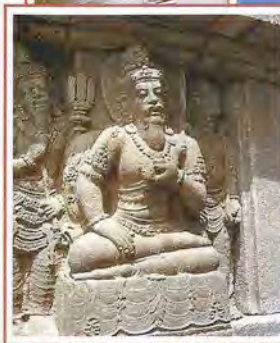
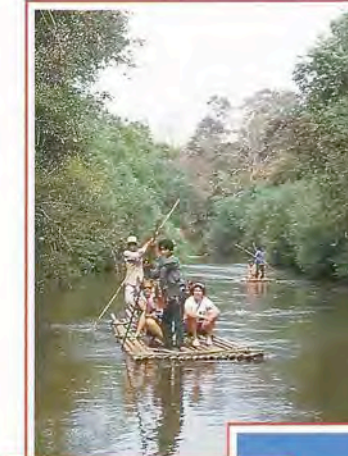
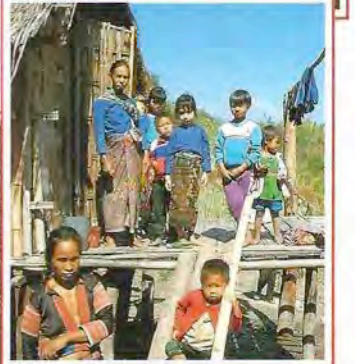
A journey through four diverse nations - and the tropical delights that link them. Discover the traditions and colour of village life in the mountains, the jungles and along golden shores, delve into the rich patterns of country town and capital city, and explore the sights and sounds of this tropical south-eastern corner of Asia.

The beauty and magic of Bali - entwined in intricacies of wood and stone carving, in the Village of the Painters, in Lake Batur and the Elephant Cave, and sunsets over long gentle beaches. By ferry to Java and a trek to the volcanic summit of Mt Bromo; to the royal city of Jogjakarta, of palaces, batiks and bird-markets. Nearby in the hills is the huge temple complex of Borobudur - one of Buddhism's greatest monuments, a wonder of the ancient world.

By train across the Javan countryside to Jakarta and our flight to Singapore, commercial centre of the East - and a shopper's paradise. We drive the Malay peninsula to the quiet squares, stone quays and colonial Dutch buildings of old Malacca; to the mosques and street markets of Kuala Lumpur, and the jungle trails and wildlife of Taman Negara National Park (including deer, civet cat, elephant, tapir and even tiger). Then to the turtle beaches and long tropical shores of the east coast, the fishing villages and traditional boat-builders of Kuala Terengganu and Kota Bharu.

By slow train to Thailand and the idyllic, lazy beaches and island life of Ko Samui or Phuket off the Kra isthmus; the road north to Chiang Mai - of teak forests and working elephants; and a three day trek from Fang into the hill-tribe region of the far north, staying in remote villages edging the infamous Golden Triangle. Returning by road and train we see the ancient capital of Sukhothai and the fabulous temple complex at Phitsanulok. Bangkok - city of all you wanted and never wanted. A city of fabulous temples and gilded roofs, of saffron-robed monks, garden spirit-houses, teeming canals and floating markets, a true, if tarnished, jewel of the east.

N.B. Taman Negara National Park is closed from November 15th to January 15th. November departures from Bangkok will therefore use the 'Alternative Route', visiting Malaysia's Cameron Highlands with its mountain scenery, tea plantations and pleasant hiking trails.



Planning & Organising it

THE COST & VALUE

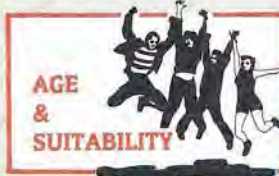


We do not go to great lengths to make E.O. look cheap. We are here to further E.O.'s name as the byword for both real expeditioning and for real value that's second to none in the world of Adventure Travel today. To help us we use a single inclusive price to cover all the following costs before you go and throughout the journey:

- ✓ **Research & Training** – planning and reconnoitring routes, evaluating and developing equipment and vehicles, selecting and training staff.
- ✓ **The E.O. Leaders & Guides** – able, well-informed leadership with the necessary authority and readiness to lead the project supported from a competent and organised UK base.
- ✓ **The Administration & 'Count-down'** – our commitment to getting the red tape right and helping you set off smoothly. It's one of the main reasons we're based in central London – one of the main diplomatic centres of the world.
- ✓ **The Transport** – everything related to the high standard of vehicle preparation – plus special licences, taxes, tolls, maintenance, spares, repairs.
- ✓ **The Top Quality Camping & Specialist Equipment** – includes big two-person tents, campbeds, mosquito nets, all the cooking and domestic equipment to make life as comfortable, convenient and healthy – yet as simple – as possible. And the best inflatable rafts and equipment for the mountain whitewater.
- ✓ **The Food** – generally three meals daily, usually prepared ourselves and occasionally at pleasant restaurants.
- ✓ **The Accommodation** – campsites, guesthouses and hostels as stated in each project's "Facts Box".
- ✓ **The Facts & The Flexibility** – all the places and sub-projects as detailed in each project's "Facts Box" are included in the cost. They are not idle hopes or faint promises and they are not at extra cost. They are the planned and proven facts of E.O. Of course circumstances can change routes, in which case there's the flexibility to implement unplanned, unexpected ideas on all continents.
- ✓ **The E.O. No-Surcharge Guarantee on land prices** – ensures that once you have booked and paid the deposit you are protected against any possible increase that might be introduced.
- ✓ **The Cost Does NOT however include** – visas, vaccinations

and personal insurance. And obviously there are going to be optional admissions etc. over and above those included in the cost as specified in the "Facts Box" (see also Personal Spending Money – page 53).

AGE & SUITABILITY



For many years E.O. has implemented an Age-Limit policy on the basis that we shouldn't seek to be 'all things to all people'.

It has worked well. However, though this rule has had high purpose and has contributed much to group cohesion, it has increasingly been pointed out that discrimination (solely) on the basis of age does not reflect the fairness and values that E.O. seeks to represent, nor perhaps does it hold true to internationally accepted tenets regarding individual rights.

Therefore this rule has been relaxed and we now expect and accept (and indeed welcome!) others. We firmly believe though that E.O. simply does not suit the vast majority of people in their middle age (let alone beyond) and we must emphasise as strongly as possible that E.O. expertise and intentions are addressed to what we see as the expectations of fairly young, fairly fit, fairly outgoing individuals who'll bring along some input! Although applicable to all our projects, this is particularly true on the Trans-continental journeys. It is reasonable – and we believe responsible of us – to recommend to most older people that they seek their 'off-beat' travel experiences with those organisations who more intentionally address themselves to what, generally speaking, are the somewhat different requirements and expectations of older people.

HOW TO BOOK



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

FURTHER INFORMATION & PROJECT DOSSIERS



The purpose of the Further Information and the Project Dossiers is to ensure that each person involved in a project has a similar and accurate knowledge of it and what has to be done in preparation. This includes specific information regarding joining instructions etc. It instructs on **visas, insurance and preventative health measures** and it advises on **personal equipment, personal monies, mail en route**, etc. (i.e. those points condensed in the information on these two pages). It also deals with **security, health, hygiene and water sterilisation en route, weather charts, photography, possible equipment hire, possible pre and post trip accommodation needs**, etc., even advice on **souvenirs**.

Therefore, when you receive this information, it is very important that you read it carefully as it contains important details and advice.

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 kitbag;
2. an airline (cabin baggage) type hold-all;
3. a sleeping bag.

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.



Passports must be valid for the duration of the expedition plus six months, and have sufficient blank pages, twenty at least, for the longer projects and six for the shorter ones.

Visas are obtained either prior to departure or en route depending

on circumstances and as advised by E.O. Different nationalities have different requirements and costs and these are subject to change – sometimes at short notice.

With the Project Dossiers will be all the current information and E.O. (for those in U.K.) and your agent (for those elsewhere) will ensure you are provided with the necessary assistance.

En route the project leader will apply for the necessary visas as a group.

INSURANCE & MEDICAL



Insurance

Everyone must have individual **personal travel insurance**. Various policies are available, but whatever policy you arrange 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.). It must also include cancellation and curtailment insurance and also personal baggage and personal effects up to a minimum of £1,250 or US\$2,000.

Any expedition member with family commitments must also be satisfied that they are responsibly provided for.

A travel policy arranged with one of our recommended underwriters is probably the best way to deal with this.

Medical

Participation in many of these projects requires **vaccination; cholera** is often required as is **typhoid, yellow fever, meningitis and tetanus**. For most expeditions you are also recommended to have a **Gamma Globulin** injection against hepatitis immediately before setting off. The presences of meningitis in parts of Africa and the Himalaya also requires attention. Again, the Project Dossiers will cover these points as they affect your specific trip. A sensibly comprehensive, well-tried medical kit – including certain prescription drugs – is carried on all projects. It is a good idea, however, 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 on many others and are to be taken as prescribed. On many shorter projects a course of tablets should usually be commenced prior to departure and a supply of the same drug taken for use en route. The Project Dossiers provide specific detail on this point.

Malaria is on the increase in Africa. You should not travel there (or indeed anywhere else

in designated malarial zones of Asia or South America) unless you are willing to accept a strict regime of malaria pills and also strict adherence to use of mosquito nets and other sensible precautions. Even then the risk of malaria, though greatly reduced in likelihood or severity is not eradicated.

DEPARTURE POINTS (& pre-departure accommodation)



In all places where trips begin and end we have economic hotel arrangements available. This applies in **London, Kathmandu, Delhi, Bombay, Madras, Islamabad, Beijing, Amman, Cairo, Tangiers, Dakar, Dar es Salaam, Kilimanjaro, Kigali, Kampala, Nairobi, Lusaka, Harare, Windhoek, Buenos Aires, Rio de Janeiro, La Paz, Lima, Quito, Caracas, Cartagena, Panama, Mexico City and Los Angeles**.

The Project Dossier supplies further information and the hotel recommended in the dossier is the usual point of departure – except in London where our office address is used.

Arrangements for any extra nights needed by you before the departure or after the arrival are covered in the Project Dossier. You then pay your own account to the hotel (often at special group rates).



South America

The **South American Circle** involves a 7 night midway layover in **Quito or Rio** – both great cities in which to do one's own thing. On arrival, make your own plans or let us help. Pleasant hotels, plenty to do and relaxing too! Rio's Copacabana Beach, the Sugar Loaf, the Christ of Corcovado. Quito's fabulous old town, cathedrals and market, Ecuador's tropical coast at Esmeraldas or even one of the daily flights for a short stay on the Galapagos. In both cities – for some comfort – allow around \$175 bed & board for the week.

Similar layover arrangements apply in **Buenos Aires/Rio** when combining **Patagonia & Tierra del Fuego** with other projects stated on page 10.

NB: In **Lima** 2–4 days serve as a short **staging period** prior to the **Trans Amazon to the Lost World** when it is combined with the other projects stated on page 12. This period is covered in the published cost of the combined project (see also page 53 Special to South America).

Africa

Africa A-Z, Africa Encompassed, The Great Overland Encounter, the Indo-African Encounter, Trans Africa Plus

of Contract

Please retain
this copy

Office: 267 Old Brompton Road, London SW5.

Reg. No. 1021150 England

Operators ONLY

Conditions of Contract

ENCOUNTER OVERLAND LTD.

Registered Office: 267 Old Brompton Road, London SW5. Reg. No. 1021150 England

3) accepting a substitute Project of equivalent or higher quality where the Operator is able to offer him such a substitute, or if of a lower quality, a refund of the difference in price and, in any such instant, to receive a 5% discount of the Price of the substitute Project accepted; or
4) to be repaid as soon as possible all sums paid by him under the Contract.

7.5 If the Operator cancels the Project before the agreed Date of Departure for whatever cause, other than the fault of the Client, the Client shall be entitled to either:-

1) accept a substitute Project of equivalent or higher quality where the Operator is able to offer the Client a substitute, or if of a lower quality, a refund of the difference in price, and, in any such instant, to receive a 5% discount of the Price of the substitute Project accepted; or
2) be repaid as soon as possible all sums paid by the Client under this Contract.

7.6 In all such cases, the Client shall not be entitled to compensation where:-

1) cancellation is on the grounds that the number of persons enrolled is less than the minimum number required for the Project and the Client is informed of the cancellation in writing as soon as possible and in any event no later than 45 days prior to departure; or
2) cancellation is for reasons of Force Majeure.

7.7 The Operator shall determine a minimum number, if any, required for the Project to take place and shall notify the Client not less than 45 days prior to departure that the minimum number have not enrolled and the Project is cancelled, in which event the provisions of this clause shall apply.

7.8 After the Departure Date, no refund for any unused portion or part of the Project or services to be provided will be given. If the Client of his own volition makes any alteration to, or departs from, any portion or part of the Project, such alteration or departure will be entirely at the Client's expense and liability and the Client will forthwith communicate in writing the reason for leaving to the Project's Leader.

B) Operational Conditions

1) Information concerning routes, schedules, itinerary guidelines, amenities and modes of transport set out in the brochure and other written information supplied to the Client are subject to alteration without prior notice. This information constitutes an indication only of what each Project is planned to accomplish and is not to constitute a contractual obligation on the part of the Operator. The Client accepts that Force Majeure, sickness, mechanical breakdown, events emanating from political disputes, entry or border difficulties, severe adverse weather conditions, floods, quakes and other unpredictable or unforeseeable circumstances may also have a consequential or material effect on the contents and timings of the Project, including in particular the time of arrival at the Project's destination.

2) The Client accepts that some changes, delays or detours may arise as a result of changes or difficulties in procurement of visas by the Client himself or by any other members of the Project.

3) Mode of Transport

3.1 Where stated, for each Project, the Operator's own expedition vehicle (E.O. truck) will be used. Where this is not stated, use of locally arranged transport including jeeps, coaches, buses or river craft are used as shown.

3.2 Where the Operator's own vehicle is not used, the Client agrees that the obligation of the Operator to the Client is to select normally competent, independent, sub-contractors to provide such transport and any other services related to the Project and to exercise reasonable care in selecting such suppliers to provide these services.

3.3 The Operator will use its best efforts not to sub-contract for such transport except as notified but reserves the right to do so in such circumstances as may be determined by the Operator at its own discretion.

4) Alternative Transport

(Applies to projects of 45 or more scheduled days duration only).

If for reasons beyond the Operator's control, the Operator is obliged to utilise unplanned air or sea transport, the Client will accept such other means of transport so as to enable the Project to continue. The Operator will bear the first US\$300 of any additional expenditure arising out of or in connection with the continuation of the Project. Should the additional expenditure by the Operator exceed US\$300 per person, the Operator reserves the right to require from the Client a further payment, not exceeding US\$250, to help meet any such additional expenditure beyond US\$300 per person. Any further additional expenditure would be the responsibility of the Operator.

5) In the event of a complaint and/or a claim in regard to a complaint or a claim, the Client agrees to the following procedure:

5.1 The Client will ensure that at the earliest opportunity, any perceived failure in the performance, or improper performance of the Contract, whether by the Operator or its suppliers, is communicated to the Operator's Project Leader. The Operator and the Client will then make prompt efforts to resolve the complaint; and

5.2 The Client agrees to give written details of an unresolved serious complaint to the Project's Leader.

5.3 In the event of a claim for compensation, the Client agrees that any such claim must be received by the Operator at its London office within 30 days of the Project's completion date.

5.4 The Client agrees that these provisions are reasonable and that any failure by the Client to comply with them will, at the Operator's discretion, exclude any rights arising out of this Contract.

C) Extent and Financial Limits of Liability

1) The Operator shall be liable to the Client for the proper performance of the obligations arising from the Contract, irrespective of whether such obligations are to be performed by the Operator or by other suppliers of services contracted by the Operator. However, the Operator will not be liable if such failure to perform is

attributable neither to any fault of the Operator nor to that of another supplier of services, because:

1.1 such failure to perform is attributable to the Client; or
1.2 such failure being attributable to a third party unconnected with the provision of the services contracted for is either unforeseeable or unavoidable; or

1.3 such failure is due to a case of Force Majeure; or
1.4 such failure is due to an event which the Operator or the supplier of services, even with due care, could not have foreseen or forestalled.

In the cases referred to in sub-clauses C1.2, C1.3 and C1.4 above, the Operator will give prompt and appropriate assistance to a Client in difficulty.

2) The Operator's maximum aggregate liability under, arising from or in connection with this Contract shall be limited to a reasonable sum and in no circumstances shall be greater than the Price. However, nothing in this Contract shall exclude, restrict or limit the Operator's liability for death or personal injury resulting from the Operator's negligence nor affect the Client's statutory rights.

3.1 Subject to Clause C2 above, if any claim is made against the Operator by the Client pursuant to sub-clause C1 above arising from the non-performance or improper performance of services by the Operator or a supplier of services other than the Operator, the Operator's maximum liability in respect of such claim shall be limited to the amount to which the Client would be entitled to receive as damages from the Operator or such other supplier of services under applicable law (including relevant international conventions). If any such claim as is set out in sub-clause 3.1 above is made, the Client reserves the right to claim in place of the Client against the relevant supplier of services. In these circumstances, the Client hereby agrees to assign to the Operator all his rights against such supplier in respect of the relevant claim and the Operator will be subrogated to these rights.

D) Compliance with Legislation

The Client will comply at his expense and his liability with all legislation, visa requirements, immigration, customs and foreign exchange regulations of the countries visited. Should there be any failure to comply or any contravention by the Client of such laws, requirements or regulations or failure to provide the right to require the Client to leave the Project without recourse to refund or other compensation.

E) Responsibility for Effecting Suitable Personal Travel Insurance

1) The Client will effect no later than the date on which the balance payment is due and maintain sufficient and appropriate cancellation, curtailment, medical expenses and third party liability insurance in respect of the Client and dependent relatives, and insurance to cover loss of, damage to, or theft of the Client's baggage. The Project is a journey of a hazardous nature and the Client shall be satisfied that such insurance fully covers all personal requirements including medical expenses and repatriation in the event of accident or illness and in no circumstances is this insurance to be less than the minimum sum to be insured as stipulated in the Operator's brochure. The insurance policy and the receipt for premiums paid thereunder will be produced to the Operator or the Project Leader prior to departure. If circumstances give rise to a claim, the Client will forthwith pursue his remedies under such policies.

2) The Client will also produce to the Operator prior to departure, on request, details of the name, address and telephone numbers of their next of kin or persons to be notified in the event of an emergency.

3) On a Project scheduled for more than 45 days, the Client's insurance cover should extend for the planned duration of the Project and at least an additional one day for each planned week, or part thereof, of the Project.

4) If the Client obtains such insurance through the Operator, the Client acknowledges that he is satisfied with the levels of insurance that have been arranged for him on his behalf. The Client acknowledges that the Price alone does not include the cost of any personal travel insurance.

F) Acceptance of Risk

The Client acknowledges that there is a significant element of personal risk in participating in the Project. The Client accepts and consents to the personal risks inherent in implementation of this Contract, and accepts the limitations of the Operator's liability set out herein as being reasonable. The Operator reserves the right at any time to require the Client to produce a doctor's certificate certifying that the Client is fit to participate in the Project.

G) General Conditions

1) The Operator will appoint the Project Leader(s), who will represent the Operator, and the Client agrees to accept the decisions of the Project Leader(s) who shall have absolute discretion and authority to secure implementation of the Operator's obligations under the Contract.

2) Waiver

No person, save with the express permission in writing of a company director of Encounter Overland Limited, has the authority or is empowered to waive or vary any of the conditions.

3) Passport/Visas

The Client acknowledges that prior to Contract he has been given general information on passport and visa requirements for the Project and of the health formalities required for the Project, and knows of no reason that would cause the Client to be unable to comply with these requirements.

4) Appropriate Law and Courts of Law

This Contract shall be construed in accordance with English law and the parties irrevocably submit to the exclusive jurisdiction of the English Courts to settle any disputes which may arise out of or in connection with this Contract.

Parties and Definitions

The Operator — Encounter Overland Limited of 267, Old Brompton Road, London, SW5 9JA, England which includes the Operator's agents, its servants or employees.

The Client — the person whose signature and details appear on the Booking Form.

The Project — The Operator's expedition, trek or safari, for which the Client has applied and been accepted for travel.

The Contract — 1) these Conditions of Contract, 2) the brochure for the Project for which the Client has booked, 3) the booking form, and 4) the Operator's current 'Dates and Prices' leaflet, all of which are hereby incorporated into and shall constitute the entire contract made between the Operator and the Client. For the clarification of any doubt, the Operator's 'Fare Advantage' flight services does not form part of either the Contract or the Project.

The Price — the price of the Project as set out in the Operator's leaflet 'Dates and Prices' current at the time of booking.

Date of Departure — the date of commencement of the Project as set out in the Operator's leaflet 'Dates and Prices'.

Force Majeure — unusual and unforeseeable circumstances beyond the control of the Operator, the consequences of which could not have been avoided, even if all due care had been exercised.

A) Booking Conditions

1) Brochure Description

The contents of the brochure are based on knowledge and information available to the Operator prior to publication of the brochure and often months prior to the date of departure. No changes will be made to the particulars contained in the brochure relating to the Project unless they are also clearly communicated to the Client before the Contract is made with the Client, or, if the changes are made after the Contract is made, only with the agreement of the Client.

2) Deposit

A deposit of 10% or \$A200 of the Price of the Project (whichever is greater) shall be sent by the Client to the Operator with the completed Booking Form.

3) Acceptance of Deposit

The Contract between the Operator and the Client will be final and binding on both parties with effect from the date that notification of acceptance of the deposit has been sent by the Operator to the Client. Notice of acceptance, or otherwise, will be given to the Client in writing within 10 days of receipt of the Client's booking (but usually within 72 hours).

The Operator reserves the right for whatsoever reason to return the deposit to the Client and refuse acceptance of the Client's application.

4) Balance of Payment

The Client will pay the balance of the Price not later than 60 days before the Departure Date. This payment will be made to the same office and in the same currency as the original deposit was made. The Operator shall not make any adjustment to the Price due to fluctuations in relative currency values.

5) Transfer of Booking

5.1 If, up to 60 days before departure, the Client wishes to transfer from the Project he has booked, a transfer fee of 50% or \$A100 of the original deposit (whichever is greater) up to a maximum of \$A300, is payable. Discretionary waiving of the transfer fee will be considered by the Operator if the transfer is to a higher priced Project departing no later than the original Project booked.

5.2 If the Client wishes to transfer less than 60 days before departure, the Client's request cannot be accepted. Conditions relating to cancellation of the Contract by the Client apply (see paragraph 7 below).

5.3 However, where the Client is prevented from proceeding with the Project, the Client may transfer the booking to a person who satisfies all the conditions applicable to the Project, having first given the Operator notice as soon as possible of his intention. The Transferee will sign the Booking Form, and pay the transfer fee as defined in this clause 5.1. The Client and the Transferee shall then be jointly and severally liable to the Operator for payment of the balance due under Clause 4 above and for any additional costs arising from such transfer.

6) Failure to Pay the Balance of Payment when Due

If the balance of the monies due from the Client to the Operator is not paid 60 days prior to departure, the Operator may treat the Contract as cancelled by the Client, and retain the deposit.

7) Cancellation or Alteration of the Contract

7.1 The Client acknowledges that payment for the Project is an intrinsic part of the Project's income and contributes to the overall cost of equipment, vehicles, running costs, staffing, administration etc., and that the Operator will have incurred the largest part of its costs before the actual date of departure.

7.2 If the cancellation is made by the Client less than 60 days before the Date of Departure, the deposit only will be retained by the Operator.

7.3 If the cancellation is made by the Client less than 60 days before the Date of Departure, the Operator will retain the deposit and will only refund any balance payment made if all places on the Project are subsequently filled. (In the case of some popular shorter projects, the prospects of this are good. However, on longer projects, in spite of a continued effort by the Operator, the prospects, at this late stage, of filling all places on the Project are not particularly good).

7.4 If the Operator alters significantly any of the essential terms of the Contract, the Client shall be entitled to decide between:-

- 1) withdrawing from the Contract without penalty; or
- 2) accepting for no more than the Price as contracted, a rider to the Contract specifying the alterations made; or

3) accepting a substitute Project of equivalent or higher quality where the Operator is able to offer him such a substitute, or if of a lower quality, a refund of the difference in price and, in any such instant, to receive a 5% discount of the Price of the substitute Project accepted; or
4) to be repaid as soon as possible all sums paid by him under the Contract.

7.5 If the Operator cancels the Project before the agreed Date of Departure for whatever cause, other than the fault of the Client, the Client shall be entitled to either:-

1) accept a substitute Project of equivalent or higher quality where the Operator is able to offer the Client a substitute, or if of a lower quality, a refund of the difference in price, and, in any such instant, to receive a 5% discount of the Price of the substitute Project accepted; or
2) be repaid as soon as possible all sums paid by the Client under this Contract.

7.6 In all such cases, the Client shall not be entitled to compensation where:-

1) cancellation is on the grounds that the number of persons enrolled is less than the minimum number required for the Project and the Client is informed of the cancellation in writing as soon as possible and in any event no later than 45 days prior to departure; or
2) cancellation is for reasons of Force Majeure.

7.7 The Operator shall determine a minimum number, if any, required for the Project to take place and shall notify the Client not less than 45 days prior to departure that the minimum number have not enrolled and the Project is cancelled, in which event the provisions of this clause shall apply.

7.8 After the Departure Date, no refund for any unused portion or part of the Project or services to be provided will be given. If the Client of his own volition makes any alteration to, or departs from, any portion or part of the Project, such alteration or departure will be entirely at the Client's expense and liability and the Client will forthwith communicate in writing the reason for leaving to the Project's Leader.

B) Operational Conditions

1) Information concerning routes, schedules, itinerary guidelines, amenities and modes of transport set out in the brochure and other written information supplied to the Client are subject to alteration without prior notice. This information constitutes an indication only of what each Project is planned to accomplish and is not to constitute a contractual obligation on the part of the Operator. The Client accepts that Force Majeure, sickness, mechanical breakdown, events emanating from political disputes, entry or border difficulties, severe adverse weather conditions, floods, quakes and other unpredictable or unforeseeable circumstances may also have a consequential or material effect on the contents and timings of the Project, including in particular the time of arrival at the Project's destination.

2) The Client accepts that some changes, delays or detours may arise as a result of changes or difficulties in procurement of visas by the Client himself or by any other members of the Project.

3) Mode of Transport

3.1 Where stated, for each Project, the Operator's own expedition vehicle (E.O. truck) will be used. Where this is not stated, use of locally arranged transport including jeeps, coaches, buses or river craft are used as shown.

3.2 Where the Operator's own vehicle is not used, the Client agrees that the obligation of the Operator to the Client is to select normally competent, independent, sub-contractors to provide such transport and any other services related to the Project and to exercise reasonable care in selecting such suppliers to provide these services.

3.3 The Operator will use its best efforts not to sub-contract for such transport except as notified but reserves the right to do so in such circumstances as may be determined by the Operator at its own discretion.

4) Alternative Transport

(Applies to projects of 45 or more scheduled days duration only).

If for reasons beyond the Operator's control, the Operator is obliged to utilise unplanned air or sea transport, the Client will accept such other means of transport so as to enable the Project to continue. The Operator will bear the first US\$300 of any additional expenditure arising out of or in connection with the continuation of the Project. Should the additional expenditure by the Operator exceed US\$300 per person, the Operator reserves the right to require from the Client a further payment, not exceeding US\$250, to help meet any such additional expenditure beyond US\$300 per person. Any further additional expenditure would be the responsibility of the Operator.

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5.1 The Client will ensure that at the earliest opportunity, any perceived failure in the performance, or improper performance of the Contract, whether by the Operator or its suppliers, is communicated to the Operator's Project Leader. The Operator and the Client will then make prompt efforts to resolve the complaint; and

5.2 The Client agrees to give written details of an unresolved serious complaint to the Project's Leader.

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1.2 such failure being attributable to a third party unconnected with the provision of the services contracted for is either unforeseeable or unavoidable; or

1.3 such failure is due to a case of Force Majeure; or
1.4 such failure is due to an event which the Operator or the supplier of services, even with due care, could not have foreseen or forestalled.

In the cases referred to in sub-clauses C1.2, C1.3 and C1.4 above, the Operator will give prompt and appropriate assistance to a Client in difficulty.

2) The Operator's maximum aggregate liability under, arising from or in connection with this Contract shall be limited to a reasonable sum and in no circumstances shall be greater than the Price. However, nothing in this Contract shall exclude, restrict or limit the Operator's liability for death or personal injury resulting from the Operator's negligence nor affect the Client's statutory rights.

3.1 Subject to Clause C2 above, if any claim is made against the Operator by the Client pursuant to sub-clause C1 above arising from the non-performance or improper performance of services by the Operator or a supplier of services other than the Operator, the Operator's maximum liability in respect of such claim shall be limited to the amount to which the Client would be entitled to receive as damages from the Operator or such other supplier of services under applicable law (including relevant international conventions). If any such claim as is set out in sub-clause 3.1 above is made, the Operator reserves the right to claim in place of the Client against the relevant supplier of services. In these circumstances, the Client hereby agrees to assign to the Operator all his rights against such supplier in respect of the relevant claim and the Operator will be subrogated to these rights.

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The Client will comply at his expense and his liability with all legislation, visa requirements, immigration, customs and foreign exchange regulations of the countries visited. Should there be any failure to comply or any contravention by the Client of such laws, requirements or regulations or failure to provide the right to require the Client to leave the Project without recourse to refund or other compensation.

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2) The Client will also produce to the Operator prior to departure, on request, details of the name, address and telephone numbers of their next of kin or persons to be notified in the event of an emergency.

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F) Acceptance of Risk

The Client acknowledges that there is a significant element of personal risk in participating in the Project. The Client accepts and consents to the personal risks inherent in implementation of this Contract, and accepts the limitations of the Operator's liability set out herein as being reasonable. The Operator reserves the right at any time to require the Client to produce a doctor's certificate certifying that the Client is fit to participate in the Project.

G) General Conditions

1) The Operator will appoint the Project Leader(s), who will represent the Operator, and the Client agrees to accept the decisions of the Project Leader(s) who shall have absolute discretion and authority to secure implementation of the Operator's obligations under the Contract.

2) Waiver

No person, save with the express permission in writing of a company director of Encounter Overland Limited, has the authority or is empowered to waive or vary any of the conditions.

3) Passport/Visas

The Client acknowledges that prior to Contract he has been given general information on passport and visa requirements for the Project and of the health formalities required for the Project, and knows of no reason that would cause the Client to be unable to comply with these requirements.

4) Appropriate Law and Courts of Law

This Contract shall be construed in accordance with English law and the parties irrevocably submit to the exclusive jurisdiction of the English Courts to settle any disputes which may arise out of or in connection with this Contract.

Application/Booking Form

You've got a

Please carefully read the Conditions of Contract and the information contained in this brochure. Then please complete and sign this Application/Booking Form and lodge it, in conjunction with the required deposit, with ENCOUNTER OVERLAND LTD. or your Agent.

YOUR AGENT

AUS 92/93

SUNDOWNERS TRAVEL CENTRE PTY. LTD.
108 ALBION STREET
SURRY HILLS, 2010
TEL: 281 4066
LIC. No. 2TA000595

THE PROJECT

I wish to join the Encounter Overland project called _____
which leaves on the _____ of _____ 19____
from _____ to _____ The price of this project is \$A_____

PERSONAL DETAILS OF THE APPLICANT/CLIENT

Surname (Mr/Mrs/Ms/Miss) _____
Other names (as passport) _____
Present address _____
Phone No. (daytime) _____ (evening) _____
Permanent address (in usual country of residence) _____ Phone No. _____
Age at start of Project _____ Date of birth _____
Occupation _____
Nationality (according to passport) _____
Passport No. _____ Place of issue _____
Date of issue _____ Date of expiry _____
Please name any relative or friend travelling with you _____
Please give details of any physical or mental condition or illness and/or hospitalisation that could be relevant (if none please state) _____

DEPOSIT (LAND SECTION ONLY)

Enclosed herewith my deposit: being 10% of the inclusive published price \$A_____ (minimum deposit \$A200) or payment in full if booking within 60 days of the departure date.

DECLARATION

I have read and understand fully the information contained in this brochure especially pages 52 and 53 and the pages directly related to the particular project I have applied to join and I am competent and willing to cope with the situations, circumstances and conditions as made clear in the brochure and Conditions of Contract.

I recognise and agree that the realities made clear in the written information I have received reflect the intrinsic characteristics of adventure travel and expeditioning; not least matters of flexibility, adaptability, reasonableness and practical personal contribution to lifestyle en route and the fact that not all situations, circumstances and conditions subsequently encountered are identical to those pre-existing and prevailing at the time of booking or departure and I undertake to keep myself abreast of world matters and current affairs.

I also recognise and agree that I am undertaking a journey that contains a significant element of personal risk and that risk does indeed sometimes become a reality. I acknowledge the relative remoteness, the tough travelling and weather conditions, the limited and relatively primitive medical and other services as well as the greater potential dangers inherently present in a project such as this compared with my usual daily life or conventional holiday travel. Not only do I accept these realities, I have chosen to seek them out.

I recognise Encounter Overland's responsibility to me and I accept the authority and decisions of Encounter Overland in respect of the project that I have applied to join.

Signed _____ Date _____

THE FARE ADVANTAGE SERVICE (OPTIONAL)

Can the 'Fare Advantage' service offered by E.O. and E.O.'s agents help you organise your Flight(s). No Thank You ☐ Yes Please ☐ If yes please specify _____

Our prices for projects shown in this brochure do NOT include the cost of any connecting travel either one way or return.

It is important that you note that any such FARE ADVANTAGE service is of a flight-only nature and is NOT part and parcel of the project, and E.O. acts as the agent for the airline's services booked.

People join E.O. from all points of the compass and sometimes as part of yet wider travel plans. Thus 'packaging' group flights is neither practical nor desirable. Instead, however, E.O. and E.O.'s agents can offer schedules and competitive air fares with the airlines which best serve our destinations.

We'll get you the smoothest connections at the right price — but please don't delay. Also please note that, occasionally, a flight price increase or surcharge from the airline is implemented without much warning. This is outside E.O. control and is not covered by our 'no surcharge' guarantee.

Fare Advantage



Style & hospitality en route to the Orient from Europe, North America & Australasia



Flag carrier from London to the Western Himalaya and onward to Nepal



From Europe to southern Africa, India & South America



Everywhere, especially India, South East Asia & East Africa



Egypt, Ethiopia, Tanzania



Flag carrier into the Himalayan Kingdom



From Europe & Australia to South America

NEW CONDITIONS OF CONTRACT

Clients, and in particular those familiar with Encounter Overland's previous conditions of contract, should note that the conditions of contract contained here have been significantly redrawn. This more comprehensive Contract is the necessary result of the Tour Directive adopted by The European Community, June 1990 and scheduled to be law 1st January 1993. The Directive is beholden on all European Community based operators.

It makes hard but necessary reading.

The publication date of this brochure is 30th January 1992.

ENCOUNTER OVERLAND

The Adventure begins here!

NEW SOUTH WALES:
SUNDOWNERS TRAVEL CENTRE PTY LTD.
 108 Albion Street
 Surry Hills
 Sydney
 NSW 2010
 Phone: 02 281 4066
 Telex: 20037
 Fax: 02 281 3947
 Lic. No. 2 TA 000595

VICTORIA:
SUNDOWNERS TRAVEL CENTRE PTY LTD.
 151 Dorcas Street
 South Melbourne
 VIC 3205
 Phone: 03 690 2499
 Telex: 151062
 Fax: 03 696 1261
 Lic. No. 3 TA 30093

WESTERN AUSTRALIA:
SUNDOWNERS TRAVEL CENTRE PTY LTD.
 1st Floor, 1167 Hay Street
 West Perth
 W.A. 6005
 Phone: 09 321 2335
 Telex: 94358
 Fax: 09 481 0451
 Lic. No. 9 TA 00406

**SOUTH AUSTRALIA, NORTHERN
 TERRITORY & TASMANIAN AGENTS:**
 Telephone Melbourne Toll Free
 008 337 089

QUEENSLAND AGENTS:
 Telephone Sydney Toll Free
 008 251 847

AGENT:

SUNDOWNERS TRAVEL CENTRE PTY. LTD.
 108 ALBION STREET
 SURRY HILLS, 2010
 TEL: 281 4066
 LIC. No. 2TA000595

