

23 WEEKS

ALL - AFRICA

EXPEDITION



Phase II

THE NILE

9 WEEKS

THE AIM

The simple aim of these two Encounter Overland Special Expeditions is an African journey that will see more of the remote and dramatically contrasting parts of Africa than we have ever planned before.

DATES & PRICES

1st Expedition Leaves London ^{23rd} 9th May, in Dar es Salaam ^{21st} 15th August, arrives London 2nd October 1981.

Total Cost £1830	Phase I London-Dar es Salaam	£1195	14 weeks
	Phase II Dar es Salaam-London	£715	9 weeks

2nd Expedition Leaves London 31st October 1981, in Dar es Salaam 6th February 1982, arrives London 9th April 1982.

Total Cost £1860	Phase I London-Dar es Salaam	£1275	14 weeks
	Phase II Dar es Salaam-London	£715	9 weeks

PHASE I : London - Dar es Salaam 13/14 weeks
via Sahara, tropical forests of Central Africa, East Africa (Serengeti Plains, Kilimanjaro).
[See EO Transcontinental details]

PHASE II: Dar es Salaam - London 9/10 weeks
via Nairobi, Northern Frontier District of Kenya, Addis Ababa, Blue Nile Gorge/Lake Tana, Khartoum (confluence of Blue & White Niles), Nubian Desert, Aswan, Luxor (Valley of the Kings), Cairo, (quite possibly Israel), London.

N.B.

- (i) At present, it has not been finalised whether the second of these two projects, leaving London 31st October 1981, will proceed in the same or the reverse direction.
- (ii) Consideration will be given to an Expedition Member joining just for Phase II if this contributes to a total maximum expedition complement of 21.

INTRODUCTION

Since January 1970, Africa's major attraction for Encounter Overland has been the challenge of crossing it from top to bottom. Encounter has played the leading role in that chapter of African travel and now, as an exciting extension to that concept, we are mounting two expeditions which will quite definitely call upon the company's experience and expertise as well as that same spirit of reconnaissance that was the hallmark of things some 10-12 years ago.

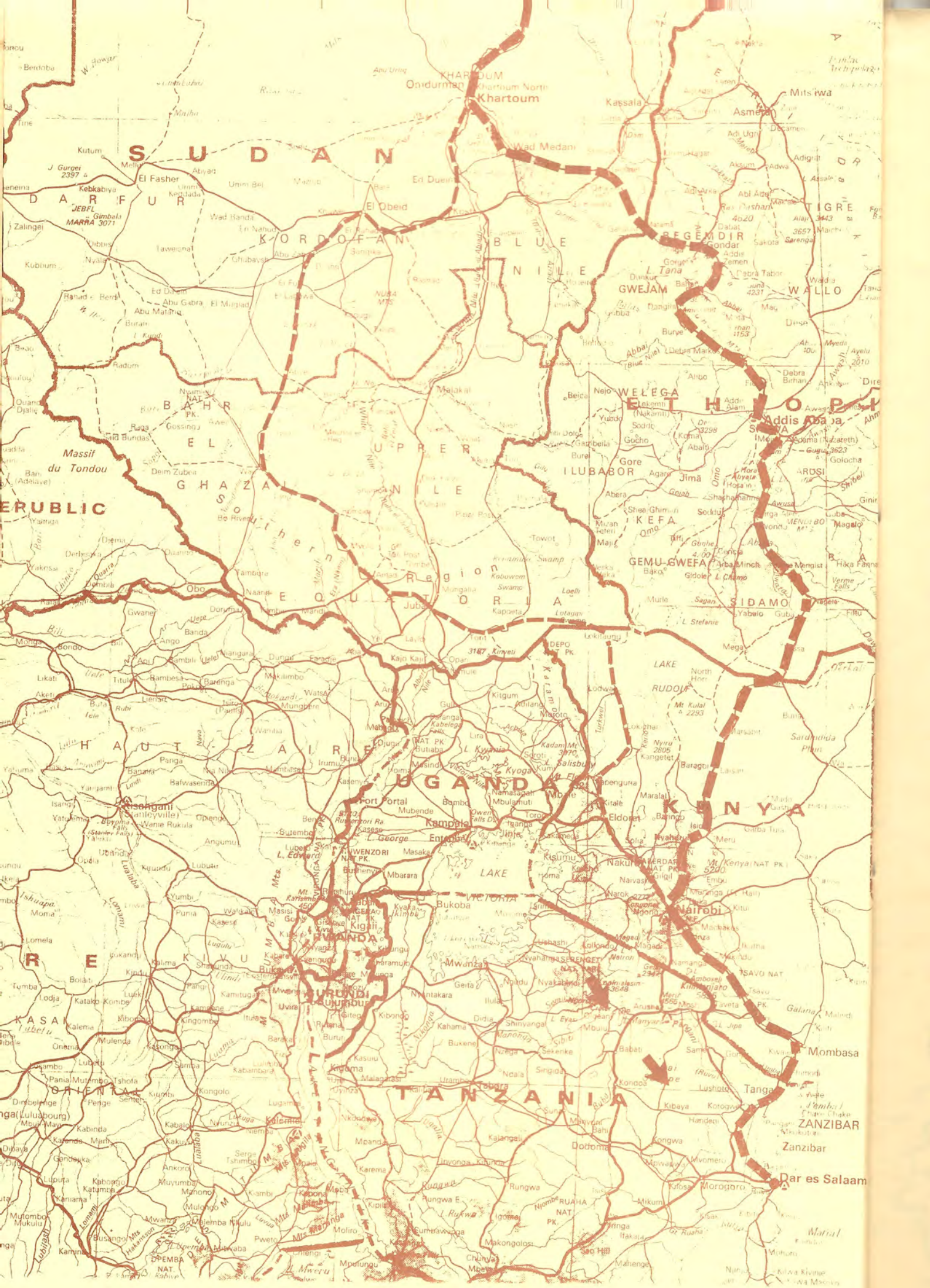
In fact, over the years, Encounter expeditions have journeyed through not only South and Central Sudan but also Ethiopia and along the two Niles. Certain sections of the planned route are new to us but, more to the point, so is the totality of the challenge.

It is a project which has created a deal of interest throughout Encounter Overland. It is seen by us as being perhaps the most exciting, yet well-conceived, of several recent new projects. In particular, two remarkable factors make these two expeditions very special.

- (i) These 23 week expeditions are absolutely unique; 23 weeks in which the West, the Central, the East and the North-east are explored in the course of an expedition that will subscribe to the highest standards of Encounter Overland who are widely recognised as the best and most experienced expedition organisers in Africa.
- (ii) There is no other safari or expedition mounted by us (or indeed anyone else) which does not require a fairly expensive flight for return or onward travel. At the completion of this expedition, however, you are back in London - the cheapest place to get almost anywhere.

(e.g. The "All Africa" project (23 weeks) costs £535 more than the London-Johannesburg expedition (16 weeks £1295) but "All Africa" needs no return flight whereas a flight from Jo'burg to London costs a minimum of £340. Thus, in this typical instance, the "All Africa" project's extra 7 weeks back to London would cost less than an extra £200.)

Usual EO pre-conditions apply, namely that expedition members will be in the 18-35 years age group and that each member of the expedition brings with them a commitment to this project and to being wholeheartedly involved.



DAR ES SALAAM-KHARTOUM

Dar es Salaam, Nairobi, Thomson's Falls/Mt Kenya, Marsabit, Moyale, Shashemene, Addis Ababa, Blue Nile Gorge, Lake Tana, Gonder, Metema/Gallabat, Wad Medani, Khartoum.

TANZANIA

Dar es Salaam (Arabic for "Haven of Peace")

Capital and main port of Tanzania, both for freighters, passenger ships and frequent Arab 'dhows' from the Persian Gulf or from nearby Zanzibar.

On to Bagamoyo, onetime capital of Tanganyika and last mainland halt for slaves en route to the Zanzibar slave markets. Starting point of the 19th century European explorers such as Livingstone, Burton and Speke.

Travelling north, passing by villages and sisal plantations to the coastal town of Tanga, then through the border to Kenya and so to Mombasa.

KENYA

Mombasa (Arabic for "Island of War")

Old port and town which still retains much of its history - highlighted to us by the voyages of Vasco da Gama. We climb gradually inland to Nairobi.

Nairobi

The capital and largest city in East and Central Africa, a fashionable safari centre.

Leaving Nairobi we travel via the Kenyan Highlands and Mt Kenya (17,058 ft) into the Northern Frontier area which is populated by nomadic peoples like the Turkana and Samburu with their herds of cattle, goats and camels.

Passing through Samburu and Marsabit game reserves, this route takes us into southern Ethiopia at Moyale.

ETHIOPIA

Ethiopia is rich in the visible remnants of an ancient civilisation which sprang from its early Christian heritage, leading through to current times where significant social changes are taking place. Its geography has helped it retain much of this distinctive culture. The central core of Ethiopia is a vast highland region of faulted volcanic rock thrown up along with the Great Rift, that vicious scar on the earth's surface from Palestine to Lake Malawi. Highland areas alone cover a region about the size of France and form a watered, temperate world of their own, surrounded by hot, inhospitable deserts.

The majority of people are Christian of the Coptic sect, the other main religion being Islam. The national language is Amharic, spoken throughout Ethiopia, with the second official language being English.

Into Ethiopia we pass through the Sidamo region in the Rift Valley lake area and the area of hot springs leading up to Debre Zeit. We climb up into the Abyssinian Highlands to Addis Ababa (8,200 ft) with a population of 1.3 million.

Addis Ababa

The city naturally ambles across a number of gullies and mountain streams. Apart from cultural and historical interests, it is renowned for its vast market (Mercato), one of the largest in Africa.

Leaving Addis, we head further into the highlands to the Blue Nile Gorge (stated by some - "the Grand Canyon would be lost in it!") via the monastery of Debre Libanos, to Lake Tana (Source of the Blue Nile) at Bahar Dar and taking in the Tisisat/Blue Nile Falls ("Smoke of Thunder"). We reach Gonder, the old capital of the 17th-19th centuries, surrounded by its castles and churches.

We pass into Sudan, meeting with the Blue Nile again at Wad Medani and we follow it down to its meeting with the White Nile at Khartoum.

NB: Sudan Contingency Route

The contingency route would be taken should we be unable to pass through Ethiopia due to border closure.

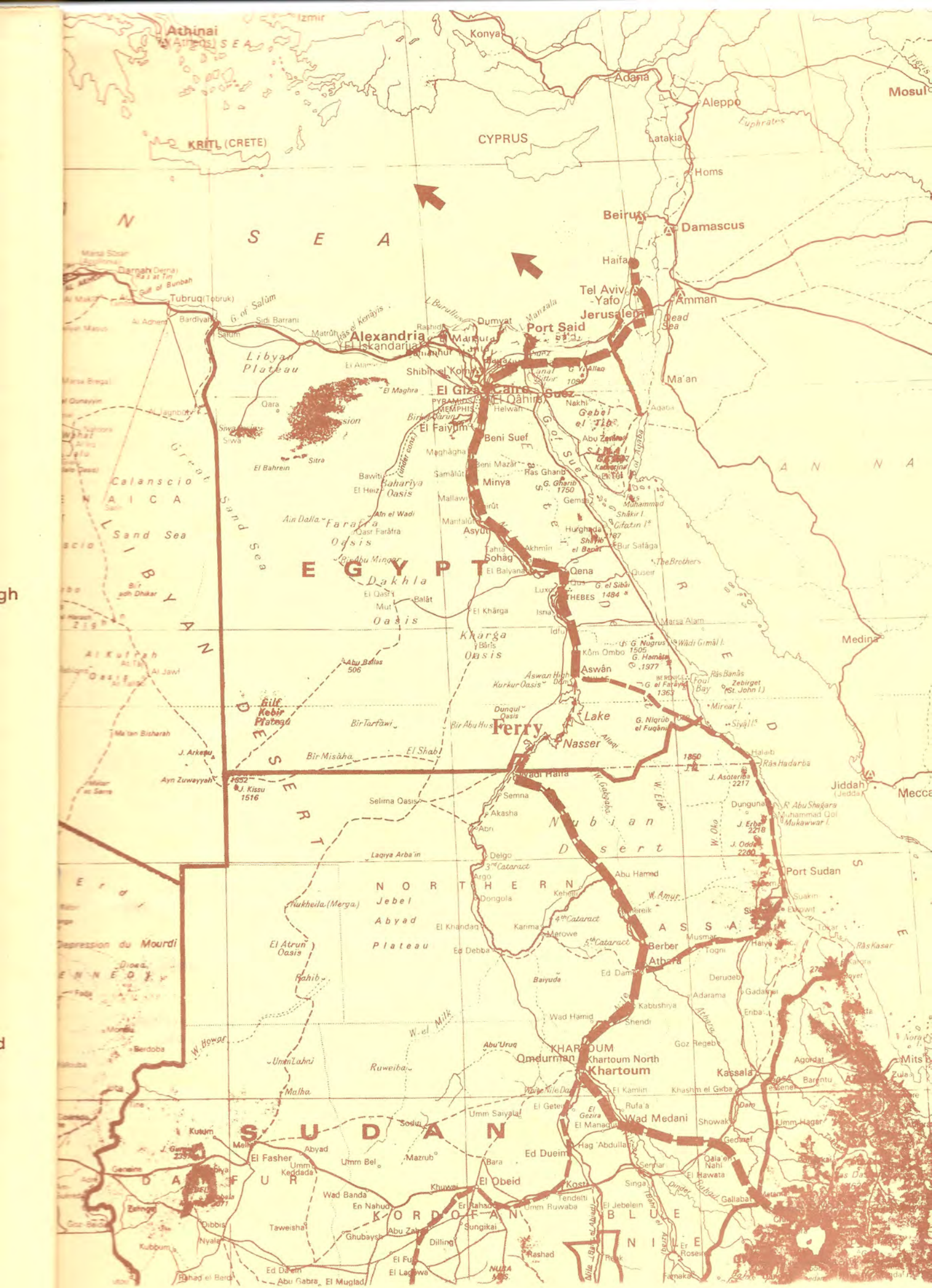
From Nairobi, we would travel out through the Rift Valley and up to the Samburu and Turkana regions, visiting Lake Turkana (Rudolf) before passing into Sudan at Lokichokio. To Juba (on the White Nile), the capital of the vast area of southern Sudan, we pass through the Sudd region, rarely visited by travellers because of its remoteness. Then on to Khartoum via El Obeid, the largest market for 'gum arabic' in the world.

SUDAN

Sudan is Africa's largest country of great geographical and ethnic variety, its vastness covering 2,500,000 sq. kms. It has several regions rich in wildlife as well as the spectacular Red Sea coast and the remains of ancient civilisations along the Nile.

Khartoum/Omdurman

Khartoum is the commercial and administrative capital, with Omdurman being considered the traditional capital, the latter being rich in Sudanese architecture dating from the Mahdi's 19th century empire. The Mahdi's empire emerged as a revolt against the Sudan's Turko-Egyptian rulers and then defeated General Gordon's Anglo-Egyptian expedition before being crushed by the Kitchener army at Omdurman in 1898.



KHARTOUM-CAIRO-JERUSALEM

Khartoum, Atbara, Wadi Halfa, (ferry Lake Nasser), Aswan, (or contingency route via Port Sudan), Thebes/Luxor/Valley of the Kings, Cairo, Suez, Sinai, Jerusalem.

From Khartoum, there may be a choice of routes to Aswan.

- (i) Travelling north cross the Nubian Desert, then on to a ferry for 2 days down Lake Nasser from Wadi Halfa to Aswan.
- (ii) From Atbara across the 'bedja' to Suakin (ancient port of Sudan), to Port Sudan and to follow the Red Sea coast into Egypt and west to Aswan.

EGYPT

Egypt, with 35 million people mainly crammed into the fertile areas of the Nile Valley and its delta region, offers the contrast of densely populated towns and cities and empty desert. The Nile, the life-line of Egypt, divides the country in two and as Pharaonic ruins show us, the river has supported civilisation for 5000 years.

Aswan

It may be possible for you to fly back from here to Abu Simbel, the great temple built by Ramses II 3000 years ago and moved in the 1960's to avoid destruction by the rising waters of Lake Nasser. By road now, we follow the right bank of the Nile to the historic treasures of Luxor, Valley of the Kings, including the Pharaohs' tombs of Tutankhamen, Seti I and Ramses II.

Cairo

Continuing down the Nile, with its 'feluccas' and riverside communities, we finally arrive at Cairo ("City of 1000 Minarets"), the capital of Egypt and largest city in Africa, the heart of the Arab world.

Nearby we visit the great wonders of the Pyramids and, of course, the Sphinx.

We can visit the Suez Canal and, subject to politics, time and links with Europe, there is an option for us to journey up through the Sinai Peninsula to Israel; through the Negev Desert to Jerusalem.

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ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

N.B. Each heading below is discussed in detail in pre-departure information sent to all members of each expedition.

The Cost



The fact is that the cost of an Encounter Overland expedition is shared and that it covers all expenses of a well-planned project.

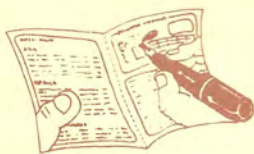
You know the actual cost and you know that you and your personal spending money won't get caught up in sometimes bottomless miscellaneous 'kitties'. This concept of 'inclusiveness' is not spoon-feeding: it is a fundamental principle of full participation.

Remember, the cost covers all the following expenses throughout the journey:

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

The cost of visas and personal insurance is not included and you will be glad of personal spending money based on approx. £3 per day, allowing for the occasional wayside snacks, souvenirs, postage, some museum entrances, laundry, etc.

Joining



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

Passports & Visas



Passports must be valid for the duration of the expedition and have several blank pages for visas and border stamps. As a general rule, most visas are obtained prior to departure. The pre-departure details will tell you how these are obtained — in most instances. EO or your agent will be able to help you obtain them.

Insurance & Medical



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

Participation in these projects requires vaccination. Smallpox and cholera are often required as is TABT (inoculation against typhoid, para-typhoid and tetanus). For these expeditions you are also recommended to have a Gamma Globulin injection against hepatitis immediately before setting off. Again, the pre-departure information will cover this point as it affects the specific trip.

Personal Equipment



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

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

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

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

Post



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

Recommended Reading



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

Musical Instruments



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

Agent :

These Special Expeditions are operated by:

**ENCOUNTER
OVERLAND**

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Images of Ethiopia

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