

**LONDON to NAIROBI to KATHMANDU (or vice versa)**  
**31 weeks 20,000 land miles (32,000kms)**

**EUROPE, MOROCCO, WESTERN SAHARA, MAURITANIA, MALI, BURKINA FASO, NIGER, NIGERIA, CAMEROUN, CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC, ZAIRE, UGANDA, TANZANIA, KENYA, ETHIOPIA, SUDAN, EGYPT, JORDAN, SYRIA, TURKEY, IRAN, PAKISTAN, INDIA & NEPAL.**

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## ITINERARY GUIDELINE

### LONDON–NAIROBI–KATHMANDU

Week 1: Transit through France & Spain to Costa del Sol, ferry across Straits of Gibraltar.

Weeks 2 & 3: Morocco—Rabat, Fez & the Atlas Mountains to Todra Gorge & Marrakech. The Atlantic coast into Western Sahara, to Layoune & Dakhla.

Weeks 4 & 5: Desert tracks to Mauritania. Nouakchott, the capital, inland across southern Sahara to oasis villages & Bamako in Mali. Alongside Niger river to Djenne & Mopti.

Weeks 6 & 7: Cliff villages of the Dogon country. To Burkina Faso, Mossi tribal lands to Ouagadougou, forest & savannah country to Niger. Niamey on the Niger river, vast scrublands of the Sahel to Nigeria & Kano's great market.

Weeks 8-10: Cameroun, highland villages & volcanoes of the Kapsiki Mountains. South into rivers & jungles of Central Africa. Elephants, antelope & pygmy settlements of Dzanca Sancha National Park, to Bangui.

Weeks 11 & 12: Ferry across Ubangi river to Zaire—jungle villages & river crossings to Kisangani on the Zaire river. Pygmies of the tall Ituri forest.

Weeks 13 & 14: Through Ruwenzori Mountains to Uganda. Murchison Falls & the junction of the Niles, wildlife of Queen Elizabeth National Park. Buganda tribal lands to Kampala & Lake Victoria.

Weeks 15 & 16: Across Nile to Kenya & lake port of Kisumu. Tanzania, wildlife of Serengeti National Park & the Ngorongoro Crater, the Rift Valley to Nairobi.

Week 17: One week break. Time on your own—to climb Kilimanjaro or laze on Indian Ocean beaches.

Week 18: Nairobi to Lake Naivasha, foot safari in Hell's Gate National Park. North from Mt Kenya to Kaisut Desert & Marasabit, into Ethiopia.

Week 19: Abiyata, Ziway & lakes of the Ethiopian Rift Valley into the central highlands and Awash National Park. Addis Ababa, fly to Bahir Dar on Lake Tana & source of the Blue Nile. Tisisat Falls, castles & palaces of Gonder. Return Addis Ababa & fly to Khartoum in Sudan.

Week 20: Train from Khartoum along Nile to Atbara & Abu Hamed, then across Nubian Desert to Wadi Halfa on Lake Nasser. Nile steamer along lake to Egypt & Aswan.



Weeks 21 & 22: By road to Abu Simbel, downriver aboard felucca sailing boats Aswan—Kom Ombo. Luxor, Karnak & Valley of the Kings. Drive to Red Sea & beaches, St Anthony's Monastery to Cairo—the Pyramids & Sphinx.

Weeks 23-25: Across Sinai to St Katherine's Monastery. Red Sea ferry to Aqaba & Jordan, Petra & Amman. Syria's coastal hills, cedars & olive groves, ancient cities & crusader castles. Turkey, Taurus mountains to Anatolia & cave cities of Cappadocia. To Mt Ararat & Iran.

Week 26-27: Esfahan—gilded mosques & Islam's highest artistry, desert pillars of King Darius' Persepolis. Across Dasht E Lut, nomads & camel caravanserai to Zahedan, Pakistan & oasis city of Quetta. Baluchistan & frontier tribal lands to Peshawar, gateway to the Khyber Pass.

Weeks 28 & 29: **May–October:** Across Indus river & north to Pakistan's jagged Karakoram Himalaya—to Gilgit & the valley of Swat, the Punjab plains to India & Delhi. **November–April:** Across Indus river to

Punjab & India's Thar Desert. Jaisalmer, the colours & riches of Rajasthan, fabulous cities & palaces of Jodhpur & Udaipur, to Delhi.

Weeks 30 & 31: Delhi, palaces of Jaipur, the Taj Mahal, Fatehpur Sikri & Agra. Byways of rural India, temples of Khajuraho to the Ganges & holy city of Varanasi, Himalayan foothills & wildlife of Chitwan National Park to the high Himalayas & Kathmandu.

## ITINERARY GUIDELINE

### KATHMANDU–NAIROBI–LONDON

Week 1: Kathmandu to Himalayan foothills & wildlife of Chitwan National Park, Indian plains & the Ganges, holy city of Varanasi, byways of rural India & temples of Khajuraho.

Week 2: Agra & the Taj Mahal, Fatehpur Sikri, palaces of Jaipur to Delhi.

Weeks 3 & 4: **May–October:** Delhi to the Punjab & northern Pakistan, jagged mountains of Karakoram

Himalaya—to Gilgit, the valley of Swat & Peshawar, gateway to the Khyber Pass. **November–April:** Delhi to the colours of Rajasthan, fabulous cities & palaces of the Maharajahs in Jodhpur & Udaipur, Jaisalmer & Thar Desert to Pakistan & Peshawar.

Week 5: South through the frontier tribal lands of Baluchistan. The oasis city of Quetta to Iran & Zahedan.

Week 6: Across the Dasht E Lut Desert, open spaces, nomads & camel caravanserai to the desert pillars of King Darius' Persepolis, Esfahan—city of gilded mosques, gold domes & Islam's highest artistry. To Mt Ararat & Turkey.

Week 7: To Mt Ararat & Turkey's wild Anatolian plateau. Cave cities of Cappadocia, Turkish wine & carpets, the rugged Taurus mountains to the eastern Mediterranean.

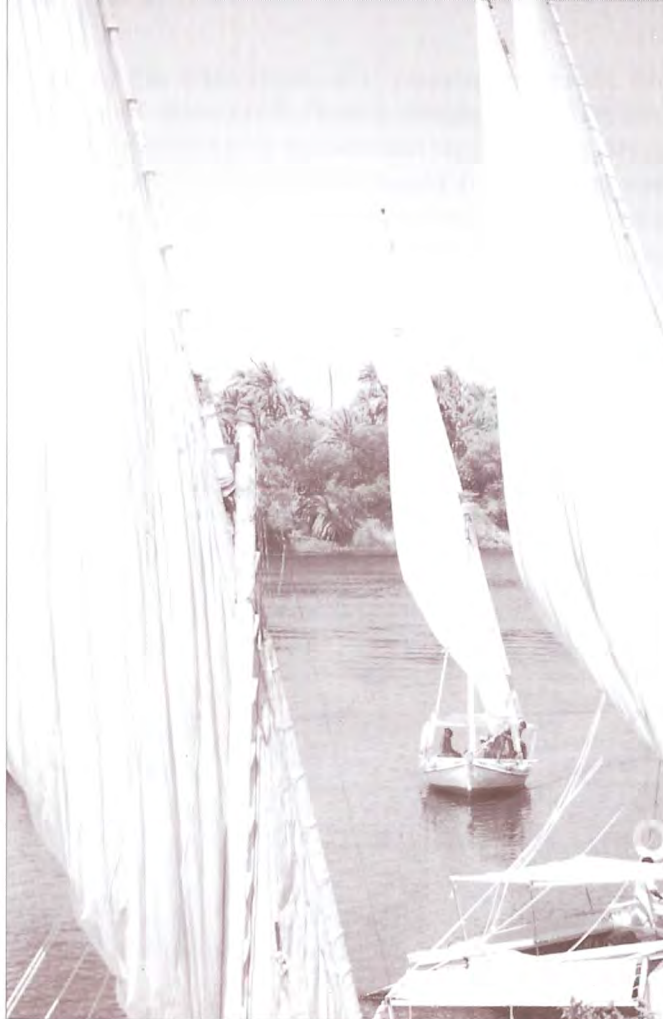
Week 8: Syria's coastal hills, cedars & olive groves, waterwheels of Hama, ancient cities & crusader castles. To Damascus.

Week 9: Jordan & Amman, Wadi Musa & Petra, Aqaba & the Red Sea, ferry to Nuweiba in Egypt. Across Sinai to Suez & Cairo.

Weeks 10 & 11: Cairo—the Pyramids & Sphinx. Drive to St Anthony's Monastery & beaches of the Red Sea, the eastern desert to the Nile, Valley of the Kings, Luxor & Karnak. Up river aboard felucca sailing boats Kom Ombo—Aswan. By road to Abu Simbel.

Week 12: Nile steamer from Aswan along Lake Nasser to Wadi Halfa in Sudan. Train across Nubian Desert to Abu Hamed, then along banks of Nile to Atbara & Khartoum.

Week 13: Fly to Addis Ababa in the Ethiopian highlands, and on to Bahir Dar on Lake Tana & source of the Blue Nile. Tisisat Falls, castles & palaces of Gonder. Return Addis Ababa & drive through central highlands to Awash National Park, to Ziway,



Abiyata & lakes of the Ethiopian Rift Valley into northern Kenya.

Week 14: South to Marsabit & Kaisut Desert, to Mt Kenya & Lake Naivasha. Foot safari in Hell's Gate National Park, & to Nairobi.

Week 15: One week break. Time on your own—to climb Kilimanjaro or laze on Indian Ocean beaches.

Weeks 16 & 17: Nairobi to Tanzania, wildlife of the Ngorongoro Crater & Serengeti National Park. Eastern shores of Lake Victoria back into Kenya & lake port of Kisumu. Uganda, across the Nile to Kampala.

Weeks 18 & 19: Buganda tribal lands to Queen Elizabeth National Park. Murchison Falls & the junction of the Niles, through the Ruwenzori Mountains to Zaire.

Weeks 20 & 21: Pygmies of the tall Ituri forest. Into the jungles of central Africa—to Kisangani on the Zaire river, forest villages & river crossings to the Ubangi river.

Weeks 22-24: Elephants, antelope & pygmy settlements of Dzanca Sancha National Park in Central African Republic. North to Cameroun, highland villages & volcanoes of the Kapsiki Mountains.

Weeks 25 & 26: Out of the jungles onto the vast savannah & scrublands of the Sahel. Nigeria & Kano's great market, Niamey on the Niger river, & Mossi tribal lands to Ouagadougou—small capital of Burkina Faso. To Mali & cliff villages of the Dogon country.

Weeks 27 & 28: Mopti & Djenne, alongside Niger river to Bamako. Across the southern Sahara, oasis settlements to Nouakchott, Mauritania's capital on the desert shores of the Atlantic.

Weeks 29 & 30: Desert tracks into Western Sahara & the Atlantic coast to Morocco. Marrakech, the Todra Gorge & Atlas Mountains to Fez.

Week 31: Ferry across Straits of Gibraltar to Spain & the Costa del Sol. Transit through Europe—to Madrid & the Pyrenees, through France to the English Channel & London.

#### PLEASE NOTE

The above is intended as a guide only and to indicate a typical itinerary and its highlights. While our intention is to adhere to this, it should be understood that group interests and wishes together with the constraints of weather, road conditions and local restrictions can alter our exact route, its activities and timings.

## DELAYS OR FORCED ALTERNATIVE ROUTES

The possibility of some delay en route is planned into this expedition and we usually arrive on time. But, by the very nature of transcontinental travel in Africa & Asia, it should be recognised that longer delays outside our control can still happen. It is suggested that you do not make any firm commitments within 8 days of the scheduled end date of any expedition that departs from Kathmandu, or within 5 days on departures from London. If we are delayed en route, no additional payments to Encounter Overland will be asked of you.

Major forced changes to our expeditions are unusual in Africa and Asia. When they do happen it is because of a border closure or civil insurrection making it impossible or imprudent to enter a particular country or region. In the worst of cases this could involve an overflight of the affected area.

If this were to happen, Encounter Overland would meet the first US\$300 per person of the fare. Should more than this be needed, a contribution from you of up to (but not exceeding) US\$300 would be required. Any further amount beyond this would again be met by Encounter Overland.

## HIGHLIGHTS & ROUTE

### EUROPE & NORTH AFRICA

Our crossing of Europe is a straight transit toward North Africa. From London to France, across the Loire to the wine growing regions of Bordeaux and the lowlands of Aquitaine to the Pyrenees & Spain. Madrid, the hills of Castile and Andalusia to Granada, the Sierra Nevada to the Mediterranean and Algeciras. But, depending on daylight travelling hours and weather conditions, there are full travelling days through France into Spain with overnight stops in Madrid, Granada & the Costa del Sol. Ferry (1 hour) across the Straits of Gibraltar to the Spanish North African territory of Ceuta, and Morocco. To the capital Rabat & royal Fez, where slim minarets

and Moorish palaces rise above Africa's greatest medina. In a staggering maze of narrow alleys, merchants sell intricate hammered brass & copper, fabulous carpets and hand-tooled leather. Mule trains crowd the passageways between stalls of vegetables & spices and all of life's necessities.



### THE DESERTS

Over the Atlas Mountain passes (7,500ft/2,300m) the fertile land becomes twisted rock then level sands fading to a distant horizon. To the Todra Gorge, where road and river contest the space beneath sheer rock walls, and the Erg Chebbi—the great sea of dunes and silent shifting sands. Marrakech was the northern terminus on ancient trans-Saharan trade routes, and one of the most important artistic centres of the Islamic world. Soukhs and squares are crowded with traders and storytellers, jugglers and itinerant artisans, camels & desert nomads.

South from the Atlas Mountains to the rocky, desert landscapes of Tan Tan and Western Sahara. To

Layoun opposite the Canary Islands and Dakhla on a narrow peninsula in the Atlantic. It is an arid land of absolute and untouched desert, of nomadic peoples and few settlements. To the empty beaches of Nouadhibou, desert wells and low tide tracks along the Atlantic sands to Nouakchott. Inland across the

southern Sahara, the sand & dunes of the Trarza & rock hills of the Massif de l'Assaba.

Nema was on one of the most lucrative trans-Saharan trade routes from West Africa to Morocco & the Mediterranean. So great were the riches in gold, precious salt & slaves that the Almoravide dynasty in 11th century Morocco conquered and took control of this region from the Kings of Ghana & Senegal.

Isolated and protected in the desert, even the 17th century Arab conquest brought little change. Slav-

ery was officially abolished here only in 1980—and most likely the old ways continue in oases deep in the sands.

Bamako on the Niger river desert's southern fringes, and the subtle transfer to black Africa. Now market squares thrive with life and activity, skilled silver-smiths hammer and shape distinctive ornaments and trinkets, there are swordmakers and seamsters, weavers and leather pouchmakers and all manner of purveyors of the improbable. This was the centre of the Songhai and Malinke empires, great mediaeval kingdoms that controlled the movement of all trade throughout West Africa. The Niger river was their artery of life and communication.

Upstream lie the islands and waterways of Mopti in the Niger marshes, and the enormous sand and mud built mosque at Djenne. Further, in the protective cliffs of the Bandiagara Escarpment are the people of the Dogon who, resisting the inroads of Islam from their stronger neighbours, kept faithfully to their old beliefs so that today their villages and art are a mirrored reflection of Africa 2,000 years ago.

To Burkina Faso & the colourful markets of Ouagadougou. Across the branches & tributaries of the Volta rivers to Ouagadougou, the savannah and cattle lands to Niamey in Niger and Kano, Nigeria's city of the north, the great crossroads of trade between the desert lands and the 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 and the different sounds of nature instil themselves into the thread and weave of our daily life. In the Kapsiki highlands of northern Cameroun the Kirdi peoples build their villages with tall, conical thatched roofs, pointing skywards to the volcanoes. Giant lava cores, all that is left of ice-age mountains and aeons of erosion, punctuate these beautiful hills.

All roads, like the rivers, lead south—into the lush, dank rainforests of Central Africa. The air is rich and humid, great trees arch overhead, and dappled light filters to forest floor where 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 excitement and screech of fleeing monkeys. Deep in the jungles of the Central African Republic is the Dzanca Sancha National Park, home to the Baaka pygmies, to elephant, forest antelope and multi-coloured jungle bird species. Rarely seen, there is at least one known colony of lowland gorillas here. The town of

Bangui lies in a flame of luxuriant tropical vegetation along the wide Ubangi river. Few roads reach this small 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. The forests thin as we near the volcanic Ruwenzori ranges, the fabled 'Mountains of the Moon' that split the dense rainforests from the wide reaches of the East African plains. In these hills the close humidity falls away, as wide horizons open to the cool clear air.

### THE PLAINS

Across the equator in this mountain watershed is Uganda, and the great lakes that are headwaters to the Nile—the 4000 mile (6,500 km) course of the world's longest river.

To Murchison Falls where the Victoria Nile is squeezed to a few metres of thundering width, plunging sheer into a narrow rock gorge. The absolute volume of water forced through such a tight space, and the ability to stand right at its edge, make the falls an unforgettable sight.

In Queen Elizabeth National Park the 20mile/35km long Kazinga Channel connects Lakes Edward &

George. Volcanic craters & baboon cliffs are home to Uganda kobs, waterbuck, buffalo, lion & hyena. By launch through the channel with hippo, elephant, pelican, stork & fish eagle along the banks.

Farmlands of the Buganda tribes to Kampala & Entebbe, Kenya into Tanzania and the wild eastern



shores of Lake Victoria. Migrating herds of zebra and wildebeest in their thousands move with the seasons across the Serengeti grasslands—the world's greatest preserve of wildlife. The chances are excellent for frequent meetings with elephant & rhino, gazelle, giraffe, leopard, hippo and buffalo, lion & cheetah.

Ochre robed Masai tribesmen armed with spear and shield roam just as freely—with allegiance neither to frontier nor distant government. There are unforgettable nights camped under spreading acacia trees, with the sounds and calls of the wild just beyond the flickering firelight. At the eastern edge of the

Serengeti is Olduvai Gorge where in 1959 the Leakeys discovered the 1.8 million year old skull and fossil fragments of Homo Habilis.

The Ngorongoro Crater is 10 miles/16kms wide and almost sheer sided. From the rim we descend 2200ft/700m into the crater by Landrover. Every species of the plains are concentrated among the grasslands,



woods, salt licks and lakes of this amazing natural sanctuary. Herds graze around small lakes, lion & cheetah watch from the shade of acacia trees.

Across the Great Rift Valley that runs through Africa from Lake Malawi to Ethiopia. To Arusha & the road to Nairobi—the snow covered cone of Mt Kilimanjaro rising above the plains.

**In Nairobi: One week's break under your own arrangements. See MIDWAY LAYOVER**

## RIFT VALLEY & THE NILE

The Great Rift Valley is a wide and often dramatic geological fault running from Mozambique & Lake Malawi through Tanzania & Kenya (spawning Mts Kilimanjaro & Kenya on the way) to Ethiopia and the Red Sea, the river Jordan & the Dead Sea. Lake Naivasha, 60 miles/100kms from Nairobi, is one of the freshwater lakes of the Valley, and home to a huge variety of bird species. Joy Adamson (Born Free) built a house here; the small Hell's Gate National Park is one of only two in the country to allow access on foot. The gorge & cliffs protect zebra, baboon, ostrich & gazelle which in turn attract leopard & cheetah.

To Thomson's Falls at 7,900ft/2400m in the cool Aberdare Hills, past the snow peaks of Mt Kenya to the wild and undeveloped tribal territories of the

northern frontier. Across the lands of the Samburu to the scrub of the Kaisut Desert—canyons and camels, craggy mountains, volcanic craters and sudden oases of forested hills. Marsabit is the town of the north, a market & meeting place for the Rendille, Boran & Galla peoples—clothed in hide, wearing multicoloured beads & necklaces, fierce in tradition and independence of ways.

Climbing roads into the central highlands of Ethiopia (7–10,000ft/2–3,000m) along the chain of Rift Valley lakes (Awasa, Langano, Abiyata & Ziway). It is a beautiful, lush land with a temperate climate of

woodlands & eucalyptus, small towns, wheat & tobacco. To the hot springs and highland antelope of Awash National Park, and Addis Ababa beneath Mt Entoto. The market is one of the largest and liveliest in Africa, with everything from beer & vegetables to gold & silver jewellery, frankincense & myrrh.

Fly (approx 1 hr) to the northern town of Bahir Dar on Lake Tana, source of the Blue Nile. Drive to Tisisat Falls and the old capital of Gonder. This was once part of the ancient Axum Empire, of the Queen of Sheba, and trade with Egypt, Greece and India in ivory, silks & spice. Then Axum faded & Gonder rose. Castles and palaces, showing influences from Europe, North Africa and Arabia were built by the emperors during the height of Gonder's power in the 17th & 18th centuries. Monasteries and beautifully muralled churches reflect the area's 1,700 year association with Christianity.

We return by air to Addis, & fly (approx 2 hrs) over southern Sudan to Khartoum at the meeting of the Blue and White Niles. The train from Khartoum rattles its way along the Nile to Atbara, the 5th Cataract and Abu Hamed. Then, cutting out the great bend in the river, the rails point straight—across the Nubian Desert to Wadi Halfa on the southern tip of Lake Nasser. Then, rusting and romantic, a Nile steamer trudges the 200 miles/300kms course of the lake to Aswan in Upper Egypt. Drive from Aswan to the Sun Temple & statues of Ramses & Nefertari at Abu Simbel, isolated & alone in the sands. Fronting this incredible rock temple, four colossal statues of Ramses II guard the southern approaches to Egypt. Back at Aswan the river is studded with rocks and islands, amongst which glide graceful white feluccas—traditional shallow draft Nile sailing boats. On one of these islands are the lovely temples of Philae. Boarding feluccas we sail slowly down stream to Kom Ombo's temples and tombs of the 'Old Kingdom'. Then by road to Luxor; the great temple of Amun at Karnak (Thebes) and the Valleys of the Kings and Queens.

A route across the eastern desert brings us to Hurghada on the Red Sea—time to rest and relax, swim & explore the coral reefs. From the solitude of St Anthony's Monastery to the streets of Cairo—the Treasures of Tutankhamun, the Pyramids and inscrutable Sphinx.

### THE LEVANT, EASTERN TURKEY AND PERSIA

From Cairo across the Sinai to Nuweiba. Ferry to Jordan & the sands & beaches of Aqaba, washed by the warm, crystal-clear waters of the Red 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, collecting and controlling the flow of wealth throughout the known world. To Amman and the crossroads of Damascus. Style driven boulevards and plazas cannot hide the intriguing undertow in cobbled backstreets and pavement coffee houses, in whispered secrets over hookah pipes and along 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.

The cold stone lines of mediaeval Europe echo to another era in the Levant's long story. North into Turkey's Taurus Mountains, the high Anatolian Plateau and the steppes of central Asia. Early Christians fled to Cappadocia and built completely underground cities. Churches, tunnel-linked houses and villages are carved out of the ravines and cliffs of soft sandstone at Goreme. Life in Cappadocia has gone unchanged for centuries, time's only influence is slow erosion. Turkey's best wines and most colourful carpets are also here. The Anatolian scenery is magnificent & rugged, nomad descendants of Genghis Khan's Mongols and the cameleers of Silk Road caravans still pitch their black tents here, moving across central Asia without regard to frontiers.

Mt Ararat marks our entry into Iran, to Esfahan's beautiful squares and blue tiled mosques that project the highest achievements of Islamic art and architecture. The pillars of Persepolis stand over the dust of King Darius' great Empire, the Dasht-E-Lut's dra-



matic landscape of arid rock and parched plains leads to crumbling caravanserais, to the tents and wandering 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 desert city of Quetta. Pathan villages of the Afghan hills to Peshawar, gateway to the Khyber Pass, and a frontier town of frenetic bazaars and dubious dealings. Of opium & carpets, precious stones, firearms and ammunition.

The bridge at Attock across the great Indus river heralds a suddenly different land. Ahead lie the great plains of the Indian sub-continent, green and fertile from the deluge of summer monsoons, prized by

history's invaders—Aryans, Alexander's Greeks, Tartars, Afghans & Moghuls. Here is proud Rawalpindi so dear to the British Raj; the Red Fort & Shalimar Gardens of Lahore—city that Kipling loved to hate, where the swirl of commerce & daily life is celebrated with wild abandon and Punjabi panache.

**From May to October:** During the hot weather, we head north into the Karakoram Mountains—dramatic western teeth of the Himalaya. To the scenery and pastoral settings of the Swat valley, the Murree Hills and Gilgit on the upper Indus beneath the snows of Nanga Parbat (26,600ft/8,100m).

**From November to April:** During the cool weather, we move south into India's Thar Desert and the colours of Rajasthan. To Jaisalmer, hill-top 12th century town

springing straight from the pages of 'Arabian Nights'. Jodhpur's cliff fortress, museum of artistic & martial perfections and excess; and Udaipur—graceful lake city of island palaces and gardens.

Dawn spills across the wide Jumna and Ganges rivers, exploding a day of new sounds and sights, of heady aromas and a spirit of India that invades the soul. Here is the formal ceremony and politics of Delhi, the marble shades of royal Agra and the Taj Mahal, the pastel palaces and incomprehensible wealth of Jaipur's Maharajahs. There is evocative silence in the empty Moghul city of Fatehpur Sikri and enlightenment among the erotic carvings of the Karma Sutra at Khajuraho. There is calm conviction in the pilgrim's devout steps towards the holy waters of the goddess Ganges at Varanasi.

India also lives along her backroads, in shadows of morning mist and shafts of dappled sunlight, the quiet footfall of a wayward elephant and the accepting smiles of village life.

In Nepal's teak forested lowlands tiger and rhinoceros stalk the riverbanks of the Royal Chitwan National Park. (Optional day on elephant back through park, on foot with guide, & dugout canoe along river—approx US\$30. Asian rhinoceros, deer, gaurial crocodile, waterfowl & raptors, rare tiger). Our road ends against a backdrop of Himalayan giants that crowd the horizons to improbable heights, in the pagodas and palaces of Kathmandu—where everywhere the eye is instructed upward.

### **GAME PARKS & RESERVES**

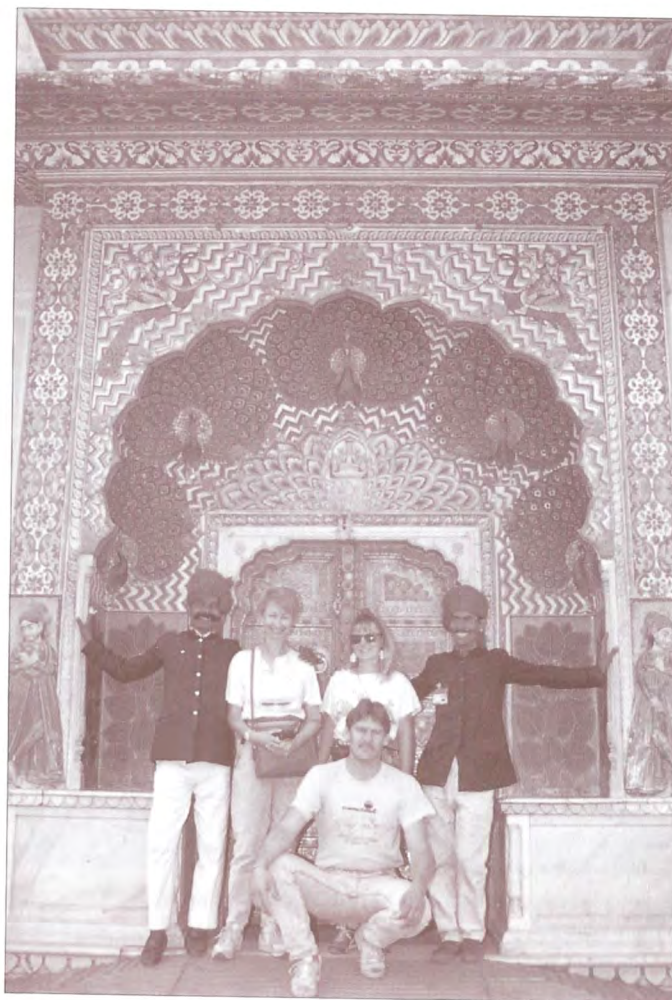
Time spent in the major wildlife reserves and included in the expedition cost is usually Dzanca Sancha (2 days), Queen Elizabeth (2 days), Serengeti (2 days), Ngorongoro Crater (1 day), Hell's Gate (1 day), Awash (1 day) & Chitwan (1 day).

### **GROUP SIZE & STAFF**

In Africa: 21 max including EO staff. In Asia, between Cairo & Kathmandu: 24 max including EO staff. Plus local guides Fez, Dogon, Kano, Dzanga Sancha, Station de l'Epulu, Queen Elizabeth Park, Serengeti, Ngorongoro Crater, Hell's Gate, in Ethiopia from Bahir Dar to Gondar, Valley of Kings & Queens, Pyramids & Sphinx, St Katherine's Monastery, Petra, Goreme, Peshawar, Jaipur, Agra, Khajuraho & Varanasi.

### **PHYSICAL DEMANDS:**

The heat of the Sahara, West Africa & Sudan, humid and damp conditions in the central African jungles together with minimal facilities throughout much of the continent can all take their toll. The hot, monsoon climate of India & Pakistan from May to September can also be difficult. Living a nomadic/camping lifestyle for eight months under these conditions requires a flexible and adaptable approach, and cannot be recommended to many people over



the ages of 45-50. Water for personal washing may occasionally need to be restricted in the Sahara.

### **INCLUDED IN EXPEDITION COST**

All transport (except flight between Addis Ababa & Khartoum), food, camping equipment & supplies, hotels & guest houses in Bahir Dar & Gondar, in Sudan & in Egypt, local guides, camping fees, tolls, entrance fees & activities as detailed from published starting date of expedition until arrival in Kathmandu or London. Other than local payment for the flight between Addis Ababa & Khartoum, there are no kitties or similar en route payment funds.

### **EXPEDITION COST DOES NOT COVER**

Flights to/from Kathmandu/London and transfers to/from airport & airport taxes in connection with same; Integral Flight & airport taxes between Addis Ababa & Khartoum; vaccinations, visas, personal insurance, laundry, snacks, drinks, occasional lunches in major centres (minimal cost), personal clothing/equipment & items of a personal nature. Some individual entry fees to museums/sights (minimal cost), and individual options inside Chitwan National Park as also noted in Highlights & Route. Accommodation & meals in Kathmandu/London before/after expedition.

### **EQUIPMENT SUPPLIED**

Standard EO truck equipment including 2 person tents, campbeds, kitchen/dining tent, tables & stools, light, cooking equipment & utensils, mosquito nets, first aid kit.

### **WHAT YOU NEED TO BRING**

A warm sleeping bag, a medium sized bag or backpack and a daypack. Personal clothing, strong footwear, water bottle, personal medicines & toiletries etc. No specialised clothing or equipment is necessary and you probably already have most of what is needed. A complete suggested clothing list is included in our pre-departure information. Soft bags or frameless backpacks are the most suitable kinds of luggage to bring. Most flights into and out of Kathmandu have a 44lbs/20kg baggage limit. This limit is also applied to the Integral Flight between Addis Ababa & Khartoum.

### **TRANSPORT**

EO expedition truck, Landrovers in Ngorongoro Crater, on foot Hell's Gate National Park (day hike), internal flights Addis Ababa—Bahir Dar & Gondar—Addis Ababa (approx 1 hr each), chartered local vehicles around Bahir Dar & Gondar, Integral international flight between Addis Ababa & Khartoum (approx 2 hrs), train between Khartoum & Wadi Halfa

(approx 2 days), Nile steamer on Lake Nasser between Wadi Halfa & Aswan (approx 24 hrs), chartered bus & driver throughout Egypt, with feluccas between Aswan & Kom Ombo (1 day); ferries across English Channel, Straits of Gibraltar & various small central African rivers.

### **INTEGRAL INTERNATIONAL FLIGHT ADDIS ABABA-KHARTOUM (or v.v.)**

The ongoing civil war in southern Sudan makes it impossible for us, let alone unwise, to travel by land south of Kosti. We therefore fly between Addis Ababa and Khartoum. The cost of this flight is NOT included in the published price of the expedition. Payment for the flight is made en route and only in the days immediately before the actual flight date. Payment must therefore be made to your Leader/Driver in cash dollars or in recognised traveller's cheques. The maximum estimated cost of the flight is US\$300. (Prices can change, downward as well as upward, with exchange rates, oil prices and inflation. We cannot therefore guarantee the price to the last dollar, but we are confident that any fluctuation will not be more than 10%). You should budget this amount into your travelling funds and personal spending money.

### **ACCOMMODATION**

Traveller's hotels & guest houses on a multi-share basis in Bahir Dar & Gondar (approx 2 nights), Khartoum (approx 2 nights) & in Egypt (approx 10 nights), plus: On board train between Khartoum & Wadi Halfa (approx 2 nights, sleeping berths if available, otherwise standard seating), on board Lake Nasser steamer (1 night, basic multi-share cabins), on deck aboard Nile feluccas between Aswan & Kom Ombo (1 night). Otherwise camping throughout. Equipped campsites in most of Europe. Occasional & basic campground facilities exist in some cities & centres of Africa, usually extending to simple washing/showering & toilet arrangements only. Otherwise open "bush" camping with no facilities other than standard EO truck equipment. (Your involvement is

needed in camp setup, domestic & day to day routines etc).

### **MEALS, COOKING & FOOD**

Camp cooked breakfasts & evening meals, picnic lunches. Expedition members are involved in daily fresh food shopping & cooking. (Fresh vegetables, fruit, meat where available, eggs, bread, cereals, cheese, preserves, supplemented by truck supplies of canned & dried goods in areas where fresh supplies are unavailable or severely limited. We frequently bake our own bread). Restaurant/hotel meals in Bahir Dar, Gondar & area, in Khartoum & in Egypt, plus: Meals on train & Lake Nasser steamer between Khartoum & Aswan, & meals prepared by felucca



crews on Nile. In a few larger cities where a day is spent in individual sightseeing or activities away from the truck, lunch will sometimes be at your own expense. The cost of these occasional lunches is minimal.

### **PASSPORTS & VISAS**

You will need a passport(s) that is valid for not less than 6 months after the end of the expedition, and

which is free of any evidence of having visited Israel. Visa, entry and exit stamps during the Great Overland Encounter will fill up 40 pages in your passport. But passports for several nationalities do not even have this number of pages! However, depending on your nationality, you can either be issued with a second passport or have extra pages inserted into your original one. (Details on this are provided in our pre-departure information). Visa requirements and costs vary according to your nationality, and even then are subject to sudden change. Some visas need to be obtained before departure, others en route. EO or your agent can advise you of all the up to date visa requirements applicable to you, and their costs. We can also help you in obtaining

any visas you may require before departure. Visas en route are applied for as a group with the assistance of your leader/driver. This expedition crosses 25 countries, most of which require visas for all or some of us.

### **INSURANCE & MEDICAL**

Everyone must have individual personal travel insurance. Various policies are available, but they must include a minimum of £20,000 or US\$30,000 for medical, hospital and additional expenses including emergency repatriation. You will need to obtain vaccinations against Yellow Fever and Meningitis. Several other vaccinations are strongly recommended though not required by law for travel

through Africa & Asia. Their up to date details are given in our pre-departure information. Malaria pills are supplied on the expedition.

### **MIDWAY LAYOVER**

For 7 nights following our arrival in Nairobi. This time is at your own expense and under your own arrangements. (EO can of course help with accommodation and rates at our Nairobi hotel). You should



budget £175/\$260 for this week to cover hotels, food and incidentals. You can find as much or as little as you want to do in this time.

Nairobi is an interesting city with plenty to do—National Museum, Nairobi National Park, Karen Blixen's house, Snake Park & Railway Museum, Bomas of Kenya—traditional dance & songs, cinemas, shopping along Kenyatta Avenue & city market. There are tropical beaches on the Indian Ocean at Malindi—1 day's bus or train from Nairobi, or the magic of Lamu island—1 hr by air from Nairobi. Or:

### CLIMBING MT KILIMANJARO

The walking climb of Kilimanjaro (19,337ft/5,894m) is a challenging but very worthwhile experience not to be missed if you are fit, in the area, and have the inclination & time!

The climb, including hotel in Moshi at start and end, takes 7 days/6 nights. A further travelling day should be allowed at each end to get between Nairobi & Moshi, just across the border in Tanzania at the base of the mountain.

The cost of the climb including all government, hut, & entry fees, guide, porters, food, hotel & meals before & after the climb is approximately US\$520. This is payable direct to the climb operators in Moshi on your arrival.

The climb may be started on any day of the week. If you like, EO can make a confirmed reservation for you. (There is a reservation charge by EO of US\$50 for this). In the peak periods of July–September and December–January reservations are usually necessary as only a limited

number of people at a time are allowed on the mountain. If you think you might be interested, ask for our information dossier on Climbing Kilimanjaro.

### PERSONAL SPENDING MONEY

To cover personal day to day expenditure en route—drinks, snacks, laundry, occasional lunches in major centres, optional activities, en route visa costs, some individual museum entry fees & some souvenirs, including accommodation, food & incidentals during the Midway Layover, and including en route payment for the Integral International flight between Addis Ababa & Khartoum.

You should budget a further £25/\$40 per day that you spend in Kathmandu after or before the expedition to cover hotel, meals etc. Ethnic crafts can be tempting, attractive and good value in Africa, and Asia is a souvenir collector's paradise. Good buys include: Moroccan leatherwork, carpets, copper & brasswork; Saharan & Sahel jewellery & silver; West African masks, carvings & ceramics; Central African beads, musical instruments, cloth & tribal artifacts;

East African ebony & hardwood carvings, bracelets, baskets, weaving & jewellery; kilims, rugs, tapestry, hand beaten brass & copperware in Egypt, the Middle East & India; silks, miniature paintings, lacquerware, gems & jewellery & inlaid woodwork in the Indian sub-continent. Many small 'treasures' need not cost much at all.

Credit cards are accepted only in a few of the larger cities in Africa, slightly more widely in Asia. Apart from the above, and your en route visas, EO has no hidden expenses, funds or kitties to surprise your spending money.

### ARRIVING AND LEAVING

There will be a pre-departure meeting at our London offices or our Kathmandu hotel at 6.00 pm two days before expedition departure date. On departures from Kathmandu we recommend that you arrive at least 3 days before expedition departure date to allow yourself time to acclimatise and get over intercontinental flights. (It is safe to say that even a week in the Kathmandu valley is not wasted: city, temples & bazaars, restaurants & nightlife, old city of Bhaktapur, nature reserve, overnight at Nagarkot for sunrise/sunset Himalayan views).

**Ending:** Even though serious delays en route are unlikely, we would prefer that you not have any firm commitments for up to 8 days after scheduled expedition completion date in London, or up to 5 days on expeditions ending in Kathmandu.

### COMBINATIONS & CONNECTING PROJECTS

In Africa the "Great Safari" (London–Nairobi or v.v.) & "Africa Encompassed" (London–Nairobi–Cairo or v.v.) are part of "The Great Overland Encounter". In Asia "The Great Overland Encounter" is also the "East of Suez" part of "The Backroads of Asia" (London–Cairo–Kathmandu or v.v.). On departures from London you may therefore be travelling with some group members who are leaving in Nairobi or Cairo,

and joining others from Cairo on to Kathmandu. And on departures from Kathmandu you may be travelling with some group members who are continuing through western Asia from Cairo to London, while you are joining others in Cairo or Nairobi for the journey across Africa.



## CLIMATE

**Europe–France & Spain to Mediterranean:** Cold winters (Dec–March): Days 8°C/47°F, Night -2°C/29°F. Warm summers (Jun–Oct): Days 15°C/77°F, Night 9°C/50°F. Year round rain.

**Western Sahara, Mauritania & Mali to Niger & Nigeria.** Warm winters with sandstorms, hot summers with rain in south. Hotter & drier inland.

### DESERT & SAHEL

|                   |      | JAN | FEB | MAR | APR | MAY | JUN | JUL | AUG | SEP | OCT | NOV | DEC |
|-------------------|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| <b>CELSIUS</b>    | High | 29  | 31  | 32  | 32  | 34  | 33  | 32  | 32  | 34  | 33  | 32  | 28  |
|                   | Low  | 14  | 15  | 17  | 18  | 21  | 23  | 23  | 24  | 24  | 22  | 18  | 13  |
| <b>FAHRENHEIT</b> | High | 85  | 87  | 89  | 90  | 93  | 92  | 89  | 90  | 93  | 91  | 89  | 83  |
|                   | Low  | 57  | 59  | 63  | 64  | 69  | 73  | 74  | 75  | 75  | 71  | 65  | 56  |
| Relative Humidity |      | 31% | 30% | 30% | 32% | 35% | 48% | 63% | 69% | 59% | 41% | 35% | 34% |
| Rainfall in mm    |      | 0   | 3   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 3   | 13  | 104 | 23  | 10  | 3   | 0   |

**Burkina Faso, Cameroun, Central African Republic & Zaire.**

### RAINFOREST

|                   |      | JAN | FEB | MAR | APR | MAY | JUN | JUL | AUG | SEP | OCT | NOV | DEC |
|-------------------|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| <b>CELSIUS</b>    | High | 31  | 31  | 31  | 31  | 31  | 30  | 29  | 28  | 29  | 30  | 29  | 30  |
|                   | Low  | 21  | 21  | 21  | 21  | 21  | 19  | 20  | 20  | 20  | 20  | 20  | 20  |
| <b>FAHRENHEIT</b> | High | 88  | 88  | 88  | 88  | 87  | 86  | 84  | 83  | 85  | 86  | 85  | 86  |
|                   | Low  | 69  | 69  | 69  | 70  | 69  | 69  | 67  | 68  | 68  | 68  | 68  | 68  |
| Relative Humidity |      | 66% | 63% | 64% | 68% | 69% | 71% | 72% | 75% | 69% | 70% | 67% | 60% |
| Rainfall in mm    |      | 53  | 84  | 178 | 158 | 137 | 114 | 132 | 165 | 183 | 218 | 198 | 84  |

**Uganda, inland Kenya & Tanzania.** ‘Short Rains’ Nov/Dec. ‘Long Rains’ March–May.

### PLAINS

|                   |      | JAN | FEB | MAR | APR | MAY | JUN | JUL | AUG | SEP | OCT | NOV | DEC |
|-------------------|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| <b>CELSIUS</b>    | High | 28  | 28  | 27  | 26  | 25  | 25  | 25  | 25  | 27  | 27  | 27  | 27  |
|                   | Low  | 18  | 18  | 18  | 18  | 17  | 17  | 17  | 16  | 17  | 17  | 17  | 17  |
| <b>FAHRENHEIT</b> | High | 83  | 82  | 81  | 79  | 78  | 77  | 77  | 78  | 80  | 81  | 80  | 80  |
|                   | Low  | 65  | 65  | 64  | 64  | 63  | 63  | 62  | 61  | 62  | 63  | 63  | 63  |
| Relative Humidity |      | 54% | 56% | 62% | 69% | 72% | 69% | 66% | 66% | 65% | 64% | 63% | 62% |
| Rainfall in mm    |      | 46  | 61  | 130 | 175 | 147 | 74  | 46  | 86  | 91  | 97  | 122 | 99  |

**Northern Kenya & Ethiopia.** Hotter at lower altitudes in Kenyan desert.

### HIGHLANDS

|                   |      | JAN | FEB | MAR | APR | MAY | JUN | JUL | AUG | SEP | OCT | NOV | DEC |
|-------------------|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| <b>CELSIUS</b>    | High | 24  | 24  | 25  | 25  | 25  | 23  | 21  | 21  | 22  | 24  | 23  | 23  |
|                   | Low  | 6   | 8   | 9   | 10  | 10  | 9   | 10  | 10  | 9   | 7   | 6   | 5   |
| <b>FAHRENHEIT</b> | High | 75  | 76  | 77  | 77  | 77  | 74  | 69  | 69  | 72  | 75  | 73  | 73  |
|                   | Low  | 43  | 47  | 49  | 50  | 50  | 49  | 50  | 50  | 49  | 45  | 43  | 41  |
| Relative Humidity |      | 33% | 39% | 37% | 44% | 43% | 59% | 73% | 72% | 64% | 39% | 37% | 29% |
| Rainfall in mm    |      | 13  | 38  | 66  | 86  | 86  | 137 | 279 | 300 | 191 | 20  | 15  | 5   |

**Egypt, Jordan, Syria and Coastal Turkey.** Hot summers, cool winters.

| MEDITERRANEAN     |               |     | JAN | FEB | MAR | APR | MAY | JUN | JUL | AUG | SEP | OCT | NOV | DEC |
|-------------------|---------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| CELSIUS           | High          |     | 13  | 14  | 17  | 21  | 26  | 31  | 33  | 33  | 29  | 24  | 19  | 14  |
|                   | Daily Average | Low | 4   | 4   | 6   | 9   | 13  | 17  | 21  | 21  | 17  | 13  | 9   | 6   |
| FAHRENHEIT        | High          |     | 55  | 57  | 63  | 70  | 79  | 87  | 92  | 92  | 85  | 76  | 67  | 58  |
|                   | Daily Average | Low | 39  | 40  | 43  | 49  | 56  | 63  | 69  | 69  | 62  | 59  | 45  | 42  |
| Relative Humidity |               |     | 62% | 51% | 52% | 48% | 45% | 40% | 31% | 37% | 42% | 49% | 58% | 64% |
| Rainfall in mm    |               |     | 112 | 84  | 76  | 43  | 33  | 15  | 5   | 5   | 20  | 53  | 84  | 122 |

**Central and eastern Turkey, western Iran** Warm summers, cold winters; generally dry.

| MOUNTAINS         |               |     | JAN | FEB | MAR | APR | MAY | JUN | JUL | AUG | SEP | OCT | NOV | DEC |
|-------------------|---------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| CELSIUS           | High          |     | 4   | 6   | 11  | 17  | 23  | 26  | 30  | 31  | 26  | 21  | 14  | 6   |
|                   | Daily Average | Low | −4  | −3  | −1  | 4   | 9   | 12  | 15  | 15  | 11  | 7   | 3   | −2  |
| FAHRENHEIT        | High          |     | 39  | 42  | 51  | 63  | 73  | 78  | 86  | 87  | 78  | 69  | 57  | 43  |
|                   | Daily Average | Low | 24  | 26  | 31  | 40  | 49  | 53  | 59  | 59  | 52  | 44  | 37  | 29  |
| Relative Humidity |               |     | 70% | 67% | 52% | 40% | 38% | 34% | 28% | 25% | 31% | 37% | 52% | 71% |
| Rainfall in mm    |               |     | 33  | 31  | 33  | 33  | 48  | 25  | 13  | 10  | 18  | 23  | 31  | 48  |

**Central and eastern Iran, Pakistan to Indus.** Very hot, dry summers; cold winters.

| ASIAN DESERT      |               |     | JAN | FEB | MAR | APR | MAY | JUN | JUL | AUG | SEP | OCT | NOV | DEC |
|-------------------|---------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| CELSIUS           | High          |     | 8   | 12  | 16  | 22  | 28  | 33  | 37  | 36  | 32  | 25  | 17  | 11  |
|                   | Daily Average | Low | −4  | −2  | 3   | 8   | 12  | 17  | 19  | 18  | 13  | 8   | 3   | −2  |
| FAHRENHEIT        | High          |     | 47  | 53  | 61  | 72  | 83  | 92  | 98  | 96  | 90  | 77  | 63  | 52  |
|                   | Daily Average | Low | 24  | 29  | 37  | 46  | 54  | 62  | 67  | 64  | 56  | 46  | 37  | 29  |
| Relative Humidity |               |     | 53% | 40% | 33% | 25% | 27% | 18% | 15% | 15% | 19% | 24% | 35% | 45% |
| Rainfall in mm    |               |     | 15  | 10  | 25  | 15  | 5   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 3   | 15  | 20  |

**Pakistan and India.** Very hot, wet and humid summers; warm, dry winters. Cooler all year in Himalayas.

| MONSOON           |               |     | JAN | FEB | MAR | APR | MAY | JUN | JUL | AUG | SEP | OCT | NOV | DEC |
|-------------------|---------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| CELSIUS           | High          |     | 21  | 24  | 31  | 36  | 41  | 39  | 36  | 34  | 34  | 34  | 29  | 23  |
|                   | Daily Average | Low | 7   | 9   | 14  | 20  | 26  | 28  | 27  | 26  | 24  | 18  | 11  | 8   |
| FAHRENHEIT        | High          |     | 70  | 75  | 87  | 97  | 105 | 102 | 96  | 93  | 93  | 93  | 84  | 73  |
|                   | Daily Average | Low | 44  | 49  | 58  | 68  | 79  | 83  | 81  | 79  | 75  | 65  | 52  | 46  |
| Relative Humidity |               |     | 41% | 35% | 23% | 19% | 20% | 36% | 59% | 64% | 51% | 32% | 31% | 42% |
| Rainfall in mm    |               |     | 23  | 18  | 13  | 8   | 13  | 74  | 180 | 173 | 117 | 10  | 3   | 10  |

AGENT'S STAMP

**OTHER COSTS/EXPENSES**

Return flights .....  
Visas .....  
Vaccinations .....  
Insurance .....  
Personal spending money .....

TOTAL\_\_\_\_\_



JUNE 94