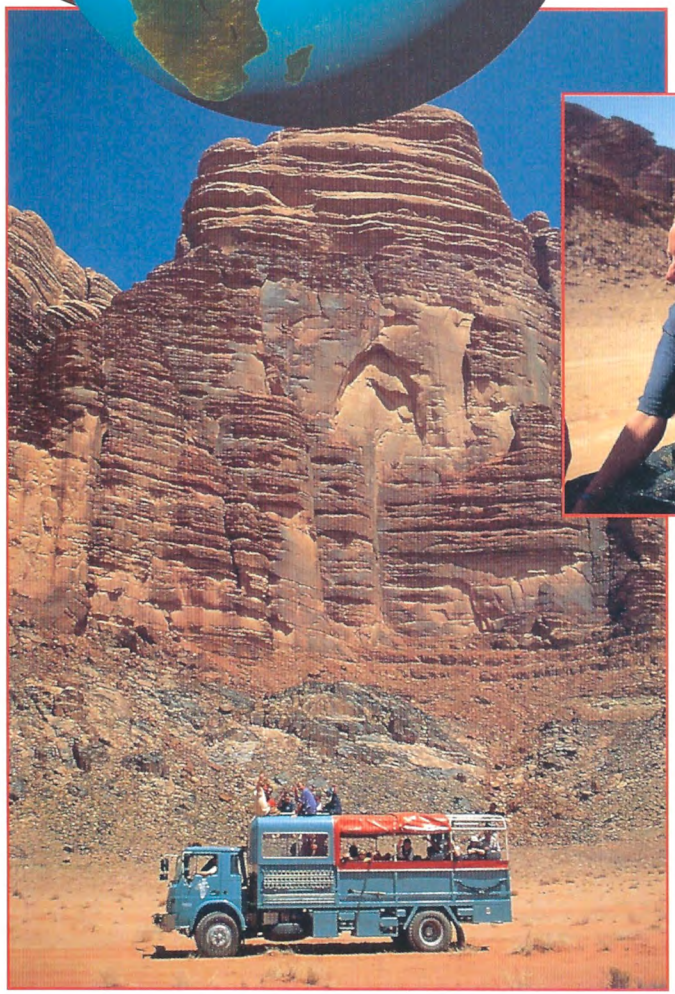
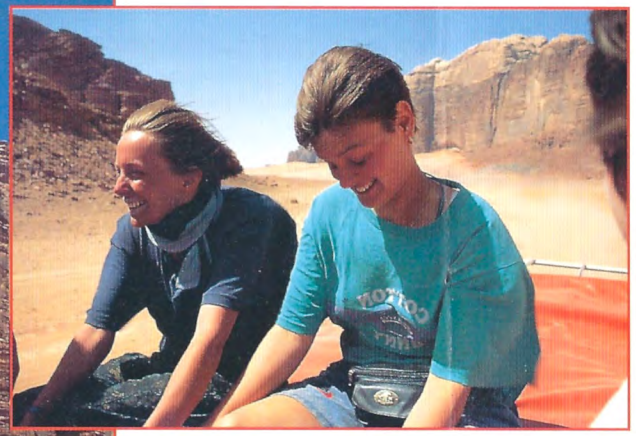
ENCOUNTER OVERLAND

NEWSLETTER–Winter 1994/95

The Adventure Begins....





We hope that this year you will find the time to travel with us to an exotic and exciting part of the world, or perhaps you will be the lucky one and win the cross-word prize on the back page.

Book as soon as possible before our **NEW PRICES ARE PUBLISHED ON 1ST MARCH 1995.** At this time we will be producing our 1996 departure dates. Remember, once you have booked a trip with Encounter Overland and paid your 10% deposit, then the price is **GUARANTEED.** We do **NOT** surcharge after a booking has been made. Also we do **NOT** have **KITTIES** on our trips. Food, game parks, entrance fees, local guides etc. are all included in our prices. With Encounter Overland you get **VALUE FOR MONEY.**

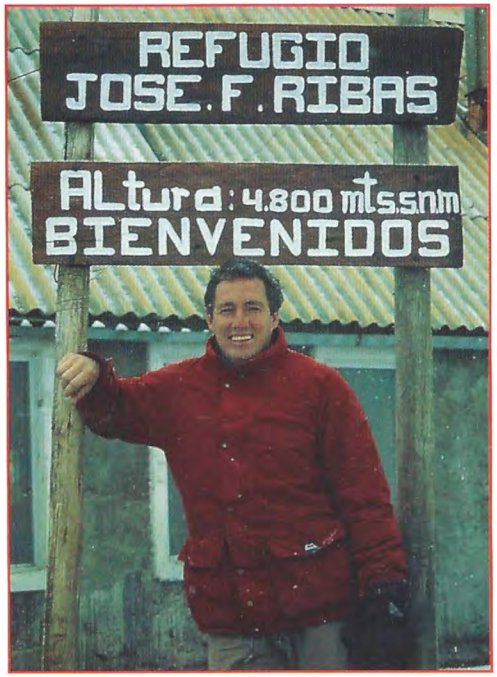
The **BIG NEWS** in this newsletter is a reconnaissance trip we are organising from Nairobi to Cairo, travelling through Kenya, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Sudan and Egypt, there are 20 places available to willing participants. This route has been followed in recent times, but only southbound, so for the adventurous spirited this is a great opportunity.

BARGAIN HUNTERS look no further. On the next page you will find some fantastic offers on Trans Africa, India and Egypt. In some cases nearly a **20% discount.**

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND PROJECT DOSSIERS WITH FULL DETAILS OF EACH TRIP, PHONE NOW ON

0171 370 6951

LETTER FROM SOUTH AMERICA.



Letter from Brendan Gibbons.

An Encounter Overland project leader for seven years, Brendan has led almost every trip in our brochure and has written to us about one of his more eventful South American journeys.

So this is overlanding! We left Quito on a beautiful sunny August day for a pleasant 6 hour drive to the thermal springs of Papallacta—and indeed it was lovely, until the last hour when the heavens opened and, guess what? Yes, the truck got bogged in the mud! Half an hour later, muddy and wet, we got going and set up camp. We had an enjoyable evening under the Ecuadorian stars and settled in for a restful night. Some hope! The winds turned into a gale and the next morning we crawled out of the few tents that remained standing.

The following day we set off along the muddy road from the high Andes towards the Amazon jungle—our destination a small village called Misahualli. Well, we went on our way for as long as we could until the road was blocked by a landslide. The locals were completely unperturbed by this landslide and we were informed that it would take three days to clear. The Ecuadorians, in typical Latin American style, settled in calmly for the duration. Luckily the landslide only took a few hours to clear so we reached Misahualli that evening and—guess what? Yes, it was still raining.

Our jungle trip was delayed until the following day because the rivers were running very high, so there was little to do all day except drink with the locals in the cantina. We drank beer and the very brave and uninitiated tried the village jungle juice.

The next day we left on the jungle trip in canoes. The sun was out and we floated off down the Rio Aguararico. The banks were alive with birds of every colour and description; there were turtles basking on rocks, Howler monkeys shrieking from the trees—what a peaceful, enjoyable way to travel.

That was quite a start to the trip, everyone thoroughly enjoyed the stormy adventures, after which everything went as planned .....at least that was until the salt flats of Uyuni in Bolivia, but that's another story.

SPECIAL OFFERS

Encounter Overland has some fabulous special offers this Winter.

It was 25 years ago that Encounter Overland set off from London to South Africa. We are offering an amazing journey through incredible and diverse scenery from the Sahara desert, through the jungles of Zaire, past the Mountains of the Moon to the great plains and Game Parks of East Africa. Then travelling on via the relaxing waters of Lake Malawi, past the magnificent Victoria falls, through the Okavango Delta, over the sand dunes of Namibia to South Africa and the Cape.

You can make this journey (or part of this journey) if you join us on either the **"Africa A to Z"** or **"The Great Safari"** to celebrate 25 years of Encounter Overland in Africa.

WE ARE OFFERING BOTH OF THESE EXPEDITIONS AT THE 1994 PRICE FOR ALL THOSE TRAVELLING WITH US IN 1995

THE GREAT SAFARI (16 WEEKS) ONLY £2,575

AFRICA A TO Z (26 WEEKS) ONLY £4,175

These both represent great savings and of course we have **NO KITTIES.** Food, camping fees, game Park fees, local guides etc are included in the above prices.

If you do not have the time to set off on such a long journey then we are offering a very special price on three of our shorter trips.

Have you ever been to the desert? Well you can go there on our 21 day "Egypt" trip. On this we combine a number of modes of transport, from camels in the desert and feluccas on the Nile to our sturdy expedition trucks. Here, apart from sand seas and oasis villages, we also see some of the greatest sights in the world—the incredible world of ancient Egypt. Finally we spend a couple of relaxing days on the shores of the Red Sea exploring the beautiful coral reefs. There is even time to take a one day diver's certification course. Book before 31st March 1995*.

SAVE NEARLY 20% ON "EGYPT" (21 DAYS) ONLY £525

India has to be one of the most beautiful and fascinating countries in the world. The north of India is very popular with travellers wishing to visit the Taj Mahal, though the south is much less discovered. Here we travel by truck from the beaches of Goa to the hill station of Ootacamund, then through tropical palms to the very southern point of India, Cape Comorin. We are offering a special reduction in Southern India if you book before 31st March 1995*.

SAVE NEARLY 20% ON "GOA & SOUTH INDIA" (23 DAYS) ONLY £520

Also great savings on our 52 day journey travelling the length of India from Madras to Kathmandu or vice versa. Book before 31st March 1995 for any 1995 departure.

SAVE NEARLY 10% ON "ALL INDIA" (52 DAYS) ONLY £1260

*for any 1995 departure

25 YEARS IN AFRICA

"THE BLUE NILE AND BEYOND"

Nairobi to Cairo (8 weeks)

KENYA, ETHIOPIA, ERITREA, SUDAN, EGYPT

As a part of our Africa celebrations we are running a Reconnaissance expedition from Nairobi to Cairo, following the Nile route through the horn of Africa. A few companies have successfully run trips southbound, but none has recently attempted a northbound route. So if you have a great sense of adventure and like to be there first, this is a must. The text below is a rough itinerary.

Because this is a reconnaissance trip for Encounter Overland there will be a great deal of group participation—helping to obtain permits, permissions and visas and also gathering information.

We leave from Nairobi visiting Lake Naivasha, on a foot safari in Hell's Gate National Park. Then our path heads north to Mt Kenya and the Kaisut Desert, the wild and undeveloped tribal territories of the northern frontier. Marsabit is the town in the north, a market and meeting place for the Rendille, Boran and Galla people. From here we cross the border onto the climbing roads of the central highland of Ethiopia, along the chain of Rift Valley lakes.

To hot springs at Shashemene, to Bale National Park and the Sof Omar Caves. This is an area of immense natural beauty with an abundance of birds and flora. Enormous trout are found in the rivers. The market in Addis Ababa is one of the liveliest in Africa, with everything from beer and vegetables to gold and silver jewellery, frankincense and myrrh. North of Addis Ababa we come to Lalibela and its beautiful monolithic churches built in the 12th and 13th Centuries; one of the unrecognised wonders of the world.

We travel on to the northern town of Bahir Dar on Lake Tana, the source of the Blue Nile. The islands offshore are dotted with monasteries dating from the 11th to the 14th centuries. Here also are the Blue Nile Falls—very impressive indeed. Gondar was the capital of Ethiopia from the 17th to the 19th centuries and the city has numerous castles and palaces built during this era; some bear a close resemblance to both Moroccan and European styles.

Axum, the holy city of Ethiopia dates back some 2000 years, although this now can only be recognised in the giant granite monoliths, including the largest in the world. From here it is on to the newly formed country of Eritrea. To Mitsiwa and, we hope, to the Dahlak Islands—reputedly very beautiful. Then onwards to the Sudanese border at Kassala, a city famous for its fruit and jebels. The bizarre sugarloaf jebels can be seen on the horizon from a long distance and add a certain mystical beauty to the city. To Wad Medani and north to Khartoum following the Blue Nile.

Khartoum conjurs up all sorts of images—whirling Dervishes, General Gordon and the confluence of the Blue and White Niles. We will spend some time here exploring the city and the sister cities of Omdurman and North Khartoum.

To the north we travel through the Nubian Desert to Dongola, famous for its palm groves, which are a welcoming sight after hundreds of kilometres of desert. Also found here is the ancient Temple of Kawa. From here as we follow the Nile north there are many ancient sites and temples, a new found treasure around every corner. Desert mile follows desert mile until we finally reach the border at Wadi Halfa.

From Wadi Halfa we travel into Egypt. Our mode of transport will be decided at the time, either ferry boat to Aswan or by road to Abu Simbel via the amazing Temples of Ramses II. The small city of Aswan is idyllic and very peaceful, pottering around on feluccas enjoying the river breeze. In Luxor we find many of the great splendours of ancient Egypt—the valley of the Kings and Queens and the ancient Temples of Karnac.

Then we follow a route via the Western Oases and the Egyptian desert to Cairo, a throbbing cosmopolitan city. Here, apart from the treasures of Tutankamun, are also found buzzing markets and a multitude of excellent restaurants and cafes to sit in and remember the weeks gone by.

ROUND THE WORLD NEWS

The winner of the last crossword was Fiona Flintan, who has chosen to do a trip to Nepal and Tibet in April 1995. Congratulations Fiona, and many thanks to everyone who participated.

See overleaf for the next prize crossword. The 1st prize is a place on our 21 day Egypt trip travelling to the remote western desert and visiting the great sites of ancient Egypt.

The second prize is 15% off any trip in our brochure, so if you're thinking of doing the Great Overland Encounter, you could save £740 by winning the second prize.

"THE BLUE NILE AND BEYOND"

"THE BLUE NILE AND BEYOND" LEAVES NAIROBI ON 29TH APRIL 1995 AND IS SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE IN CAIRO ON 23RD JUNE 1995.

THE COST IS £1,190 PER PERSON.

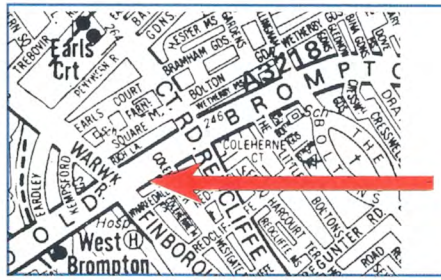
FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 0171 370 6951 NOW.

SLIDE EVENINGS IN CENTRAL LONDON

Every other Wednesday at 7.00 pm we have an informal evening at our London office, 267 Old Brompton Road, London SW5 9JA, (see map), during which we have a few drinks and show some fabulous slides. We often have a fully equipped expedition truck parked outside our office. It is at this time that we hope we can answer all your questions, even those you haven't thought up yet!

WEDNESDAY

4 January	18 January	1 February	15 February	1 March	15 March
29 March	12 April	26 April	10 May	24 May	7 June



ENCOUNTER OVERLAND
267 Old Brompton Road
London SW5 9JA
Tel. 0171 370 6951

PRIZE CROSSWORD

1st Prize 3 Weeks in Egypt with Encounter Overland. Travel by truck, felucca and camel, through amazing desert scenery and along the timeless passage of the Nile. (Land arrangements only).

2nd Prize 15% off a trip of your choice. Either from a trip you have already booked with us, or one you book direct with us prior to 1st May 1995.

3rd Prize An Encounter Overland T-shirt.

Fill in the crossword and send it to us by 31st March 1995, when we will draw the winners.

Name .....

Address .....

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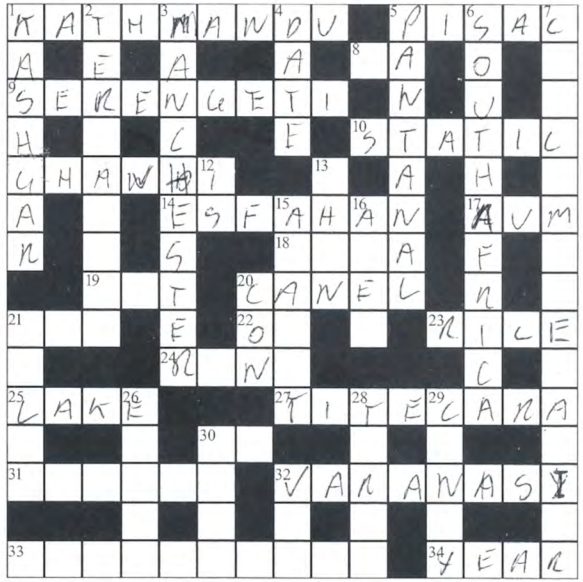
Telephone .....

ACROSS

1. Capital of the Himalayan Mountain Kingdom from where we set off for the white water of the Sun Kosi river. (9)
5. Colourful Sunday market in old Inca village near Cusco. (5)
8. Egyptian Sun God. (2)
9. Huge National Park in Tanzania, famous for the Wildebeest Migration. (9)
10. This kind of electricity makes your hair stand on end. (6)
11. Famous dhoti wearing Indian, considered by many to be the father of independent India. (6)
14. Ancient Persian city, unforgettable because of the cool blue tiles covering the mosques' domes. (7)
17. An alcoholic beverage made from an infusion of malt. (3)
18. An Indian Prince. (4)
19. His wife turned into a pillar of salt in ancient times. (3)
20. Both Egypt and Panama have one of these. (5)
21. First name of the Ismali leader. (3)
22. Word used to link alternatives. (2)
23. Grain that makes a good accompaniment for curry. (4)
24. Frog or Rajput Prince. (4)
25 & 27. Highest navigable lake in the world, visited on many of our South American trips. (4, 8)
30. Hamlet's indecision. (2)
31. Formerly Salisbury. (6)
32. Holiest of Hindu cities on the banks of the Ganges. (8)
33. Wild, uncultivated land. (10)
34. 1995 is one of these. (4)

DOWN

1. Ancient market in western China, we visit it on our "Gates of Tartary" project. (7)
2. Large venomous hairy spider. (9)
3. English city that contended for 2000 Olympic games. (10)
4. Fruit from a type of palm. (4)
5. Vast wetland, a huge wildlife preserve in Brazil, we travel here on the "Amazon & Andes" expedition. (8)
6. Country where the southbound "Africa A-Z" ends in the diocese of Desmond Tutu. (5, 6)
7. Crusader castle found in Syria. (4, 2, 9)
12. Abbreviation for Island. (2)
13. The Ismali leader's second name. (4)
15. The mountain in eastern Turkey on which Noah's ark supposedly landed. (6)
16. Partly open. (4)
20. Name given to a person who swindles. (3)
21. Islamic word for God. (5)
26. South African antelope resembling an Elk. (5)
28. Long winged aquatic birds. (5)
29. Confectionery. (5)
30. Baloo is the Hindi for one of these. (4)
32. To contend. (3)