
THE  TIMES

The pioneer spirit - Travellers' Bulletin Board - Travel tips.

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WANTED - Guinea pigs with a sense of adventure and about #2,500 to spend on a 35-day reconnaissance expedition to areas of Central Asia only recently opened up for tourists. Departing on July 19, the trip is being organised by **Encounter Overland** (0171-370 6845), and if successful will form the blueprint for future tours. Destinations are Pakistan, Xinjiang Province in China, Tadjikistan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. The pioneers will be expected to travel by public bus, Jeep, train and on foot, stay in simple guesthouses and tents, and eat local food - lamb and goat galore.

The itinerary is open to discussion, but should include highlights such as the Sunday markets at Kashgar, the "Golden City" of Samarkand in Uzbekistan, and Lakes Issyk Kul and Son Kul in Kyrgystan.

The price is #1,490 for land transport and accommodation, but not food. Flights are extra, costing from #600.

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