



ENCOUNTER OVERLAND

"If I said to you, have you ever seen a dawn over the Himalayas or manhandled a truck over the Congo, or paddled a reed boat on Lake Titicaca, you might think me a bit bizarre. When you consider it, how many people do you know who have experienced such places?"

"But it is not so extraordinary. You don't have to be some sort of topee-hatted freak with a line of porters behind you to go off and explore. Nevertheless it takes quite a bit of individuality to give up a job, put the demands of a career to one side for a while, tidy up your possessions and take off into the blue. There are people who do it and I have met no-one who has regretted it.

After all what is six months in a lifetime. Frankly it is probably true to say that if you can't plan this in the foreseeable future you never will. Yet in retrospect you may hardly remember the internal struggles that preceded your getting up and going.

It will then seem one of the simplest and most worthwhile things you made up your mind to do.

Your place and part in the future will be affected by your knowledge and understanding of the present and the past. This planet contains millions of us, but comparatively few as fortunate as you and I. And if we don't take an interest, who else can we expect to?

Encounter Overland means an adventurous sense of enquiry and fun, backed by experience and thorough

planning; a group of individuals travelling by a single maxim of wanting to see, to feel and to understand.

It is the practice of organisations to be proving their present prowess by speaking of past successes. E.O. is a remarkable story — over 12 years of experience in more than 70 countries, a story that is unique among travellers. But that is not the point. The point is now. The point is the adventures of '77 and '78, these years of grace, politics and challenge, of ecological warnings and change.

Encounter's got a lot to do with you if you're thinking of doing something properly; if you think that you still have a bit to learn and you're under 35 and adventurous, Encounter keeps the essential balance between sound financial and organisational support and flexibility for the independently minded traveller. It lets the continents themselves supply the challenge, and involves each one of us. The way of life is uncomplicated putting us in touch with nature and realities, people and each other — and it works."

Tony Jones, Encounter Overland



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Why Encounter Overland?

First and foremost because of Encounter's long and total commitment to the aspirations of overland – retaining all the early ideals of co-operation and partnership that are the lynch-pin of each and every E.O. expedition.

Included in the Cost

** Behind each expedition is the most meticulous preparation. Encounter uses only the most suitable proven vehicles, driven and maintained by a very experienced overland team with which Encounter (and no-one else) has pioneered new routes on all three continents.

** En Route the cost takes care of: all transport (in any eventuality), ferry fares, tolls, border fees, etc; really good camping equipment and everything to do with living outdoors comfortably; three meals a day amounting to a good, interesting, balanced diet – these meals are even more a compliment to the group than to the management – and from time to time the leader/driver invites everyone out for a meal.

** The cost of houseboats in Kashmir, East African game parks and Amazon River travel are met in the cost of each of the respective trips. So too, is any medical requirement from a comprehensive medical supply that can deal with any likely situation.

** All campsite costs are covered, so is modest accommodation throughout South America and through Europe in wintry conditions.

** Encounter Overland makes sure you know what is involved, what to expect and how much it will cost. The undertaking is backed by our bank bonded membership of ACTO, the official association of the camping tour industry (recognised by AFTA, TAANT, ASATA and many Australian banks).

The only things not included in the Cost

** Your visas are not included in the cost. But we take on the organising of this. You must effect personal travel insurance, there is a laid-down minimum which is reasonably priced and it no problem to arrange.

** Bring your own sleeping bag; don't own the 'specialist' equipment but good shoes/boots, waterproofs, photo equipment can be blended to pocket and preference.

** Allow some personal spending money; recommended minimum for someone who likes to have a drink, a few nights' living it up and always a little appropriate currency to hand for postage, and so on – A\$3-4 per day should cover it.

Three or four months of expedition travel exploring one of three really diverse and fascinating continents. It's the best value there is. But a really worthwhile experience won't be cheap and won't look cheap.

Our journeys, life-style and vehicles inspire copies but we remain the only organisation with a really soft Trans-African record. That 'special something' that succeeds in Africa, also succeeds in Asia and South America.

Here then is a lot of what you should know about Encounter Overland, its concepts and its content. And this is what makes the world of difference to the world of difference.

A way of life

Encounter's vehicles are various special types of four wheel drive truck, built, maintained and equipped at our own specialised workshops to meet the very exacting conditions. The Encounter trucks are designed from the outset for convenience, comfort, ruggedness and reliability.

They are diesel powered through eight or ten forward gears. They are usually open, but have a convertible roof that gives complete protection when required. There is uninterrupted vision and plenty of air and sunshine, but dust is kept to a minimum. The roof can either be completely rolled open or kept as a sun canopy when really hot. Ergonomically designed high back seats ensure the maximum degree of comfort and the E.O. truck/trailer unit provides more space per person than any other vehicle used.

People eat well – three meals a day using the stores on board and fresh provisions bought locally. Meals are easily arranged in or

outside the vehicle – cooking on 4-ringed gas stoves. Enough water is carried for all group needs. Expeditions are equipped with specially made two man tents each with a

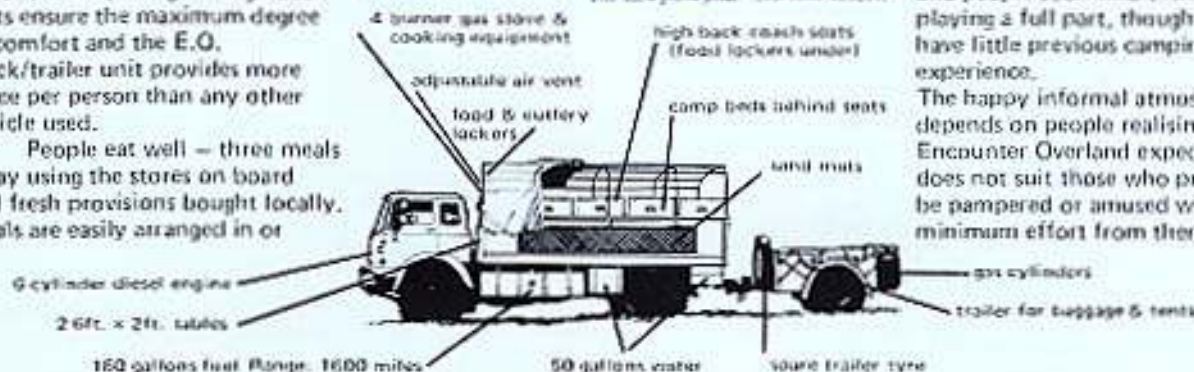
flysheet, two camp beds and room for luggage – although especially in the deserts and tropics, people will want to sleep out under the stars. The truck is equipped for the evening's dark to give plenty of lighting to read and write, to learn chess, or strum a guitar. Wherever there is wood enough and wine, a camp fire crackles.

People of many different nationalities join in ones and twos from all walks of life. Men and women join in fairly equal numbers and people soon find themselves playing a full part, though some have little previous camping experience.

The happy informal atmosphere depends on people realising that an Encounter Overland expedition does not suit those who prefer to be pampered or amused with minimum effort from themselves.



The view from just behind the vehicle.



ENCOUNTER OVERLAND

AFRICA

Johannesburg - London

16 weeks Johannesburg – Nairobi – London
South Africa, (Rhodesia), Botswana, Zambia, Tanzania, Kenya, Rwanda, Zaire, Central African Republic, Camerouns (Chad), Nigeria, Niger, Algeria, Morocco, Spain, France.

Africa is huge – a vast land mass that time has barely changed. Africa – the cradle of man where he still conforms to nature's scheme of things. Africa, a land of extremes that is quite indifferent to the attraction that it has for us.

Phase one – the African Plains (approx five weeks) includes days at the Victoria Falls and nights beside the Zambezi, a journey up the 'Hell run' from Lusaka to Dar es Salaam and the terrific beaches and bathing of the Indian Ocean. The near-deserted Arab slave port of Bagamoyo adjacent to Zanzibar. The snows of Kilimanjaro and a crack at climbing it, if you wish, with a fair chance of success.

The bustle of Mombasa's busy seaport and the elegance of Nairobi.

Most of all the plains are the greatest preserve of animal wildlife. The truck allows us a completely uninterrupted view. It isn't all laid on – no guarantees – but the chances are excellent of seeing Lion, Cheetah, Leopard as well as all types of Gazelle, Buck, Giraffe, Elephant, Rhino, Hippo, Buffalo, Crocodile, Flamingo, Stork and Crane. Indelible is the raw beauty of Africa's wildlife and its blazing sunsets.

Phase two – the Equatorial Forests

(approx five weeks) includes winding through Africa's snow

capped Ruwenzori mountains on the eastern rim of the great Congo Basin and descending into these dense green forests covering central Africa. We climb Nyrangongo, to watch the eruptions of livid red lava in Africa's only

continually active volcano. Tiny jungle paths tunnel through the undergrowth of the Ituri forests to Pigmy villages. The many tributaries of the great river are crossed on rickety bridges or archaic ferries, and axle-deep mud can keep progress to less than 60 miles a day.



In the Zaire jungle we touch on the "main road", unimproved

cupped Ruwenzori mountains on the eastern rim of the great Congo Basin and descending into these dense green forests covering central Africa. We climb Nyrangongo, to watch the eruptions of livid red lava in Africa's only continually active volcano. Tiny jungle paths tunnel through the undergrowth of the Ituri forests to Pigmy villages. The many tributaries of the great river are crossed on rickety bridges or archaic ferries, and axle-deep mud can keep progress to less than 60 miles a day.

Phase three – the Sahara

(five weeks). Seemingly unattainable horizons stretch ahead; all eyes strain for the occasional market. The sky may darken, the wind blasting the sand in our faces. Digging, pushing and sand matting are needed across this soft sand sea. Here one should sleep out in the cool night, the desert proportioned only by the galaxies above. At the desert's centre are the moon-like Hoggar Massif and the Touareg – mysterious 'people of the veil'.

Nestled among the great dunes of the North are the oasis towns. We leave by the mountain road through the Atlas across the fertile valleys of Morocco, arriving at the

Fez Medina which is probably the most fascinating market place in Africa. We leave at Ceuta to cross the straights and the final week is travelling through Spain and France to London.

The great African journey spans 6000 miles of unmaintained track which is no small achievement. No one crosses Africa easily.

DEPARTURES 1977 AND 1978

NORTHBOUND				SOUTHBOUND			
CODE	DEPARTS JOBURG	ARRIVES LONDON	AUSS	CODE	DEPARTS LONDON	ARRIVES JOBURG	AUSS
ENJ 61	08/2	07/6	1495	ENA 81	12/2	08/5	1250
ENJ 62	01/3	28/6	1495	ENA 82	19/3	02/7	1250
ENJ 63	22/3	19/7	1495	ENA 83	17/5	20/8	1250
ENJ 64	26/7	22/11	1495	ENA 84	20/8	03/12	1300
ENJ 65	13/9	10/1	1495	ENA 85	01/10	14/1	1300
				ENA 86	05/11	17/2	1300
CODE	DEPARTS NAIROBI	ARRIVES LONDON	AUSS	CODE	DEPARTS LONDON	ARRIVES NAIROBI	AUSS
ENN 70	19/2	14/5	1135	ENS 74	16/4	09/7	1130
ENN 71	12/3	04/6	1135	ENS 75	20/8	11/11	1170
ENN 72	09/4	02/7	1135				
ENN 73	24/9	17/12	1135				

INCLUDED IN FARE: Land transportation, 3 meals per day, camping accommodation, services of Expedition Leader, 2 person tents and camp stretchers, Game Reserve entry fees. **NOT INCLUDED:** Visa fees, sleeping bag, insurance, flights, personal spending money. THE DEPOSIT FOR THIS TRIP IS \$100. THIS DEPOSIT IS NON-REFUNDABLE.

ENCOUNTER OVERLAND

ASIA

Kathmandu-London

11 weeks Kathmandu – London

Nepal, India, (Kashmir), Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iran, Turkey, Greece, Yugoslavia, Austria, Germany, Belgium.

By sticking to the well used tourist routes you can cross Asia and reach a familiar lifestyle on the other side. But you will have sensed little of the essence of the East, bypassing its mysteries and its strange truths. You will have missed something. Something alien but beautiful that lies in Asia's wastes and its obscure villages, something that can be felt and experienced as well as seen, something that should be lived if one is to begin to understand.

Encounter's journey through central Asia keeps well off the beaten track and for this reason expeditions only take place at times of year when the weather is right (no trips before March for example).

Kathmandu, high in the sunny clear air of the Himalayas, is the start of our journey, where EOers meet having arrived mostly from S.E. Asia and perhaps having taken part in a Himalayan trek with us. We camp below the peaks of Annapurna and wind down through the jungle towards the Indian plains.

We reach the city of Benares on the Ganges where in the narrow alleys between the temples ash-smeared pilgrims and gurus mix with the sauntering holy cows in unashamed colour.

In central India we see the erotic carvings of Kama Sutra at Kajarharo, the empty Moghul city of Fatipur Sikri and at Agra the breathtaking Taj Mahal.

Along the byways of rural India, monkeys chatter in the trees, a girl draws water from a village well, and an elephant stops to watch us with a kindly eye. There is everywhere an almost apathetic gentleness and a sense of drama, an awe of life which pervades the sights and sounds of India like the ubiquitous sunlight. Often there are stays of a day or two in various places. A week aboard houseboats moored on the Lotus Lakes in Kashmir-the misty, mountainous Shangri-la.

We go to the Hindu Kush of central Afghanistan out of reach to all but a few well equipped travellers – the tracks are as bad as any in Africa. We pass the huge quarried Buddhas at Bamian and the desolate lakes of Band-i-Amir.

We cross the mostly uncharted Dasht-e-lut, the great salt and sand desert of Iran, miles from modern roads, past crumbling caravanserais, dust-blown and decaying since the days of the silk and spice trade. There is Esfahan, the loveliest of all old Persian cities, of domes, minarets and exquisite art.

We retrace the invasion route of Alexander from the remains of Persepolis to the Greek cities lying in splendid ruin among the dramatic seascapes of Asia minor, past troglodyte cities of early Christians and Crusader castles, coves and beaches. The remaining two weeks are spent in Istanbul and on the little Greek island of Thassos, then across the Alps, following the Rhine and crossing the Channel to London.



A holy man, dazed to ash, meditates by the Gange.



There's no shortage of festivals along the way.

DEPARTURES 1977 AND 1978

WESTBOUND				EASTBOUND			
CODE	DEPARTS KATHMANDU	ARRIVES LONDON	AUSS	CODE	DEPARTS LONDON	ARRIVES KATHMANDU	AUSS
ENK 31	01/3	16/5	870	ENL 51	14/4	27/6	800
ENK 32	15/3	30/5	870	ENL 52	28/4	11/7	800
ENK 33	27/3	06/6	870	ENL 53	26/5	10/8	800
ENK 34	12/4	27/6	870	ENL 54	16/6	31/8	800
ENK 35	19/4	04/7	870	ENL 55	11/8	26/10	830
ENK 36	03/5	18/7	870	ENL 56	18/8	02/11	830
ENK 37	12/7	26/9	890	ENL 57	01/9	16/11	830
ENK 38	26/7	10/10	890	ENL 58	08/9	23/11	830
ENK 39	23/8	07/11	890	ENL 59	15/9	30/11	830
ENK 40	13/9	28/11	890	ENL 60	22/9	02/12	830
				ENL 61	29/9	14/12	830

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