



CLM GREAT ADVENTURES
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HD **GETTING THERE // Unusual transportation is the latest travel trend**
BY Misti Snow; Staff Writer
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Hannibal used elephants, Marco Polo used camels and the pharaohs used feluccas. The contemporary adventurer can use them all - and then some.

In the burgeoning adventure travel market, traveling via unusual modes of transportation from the primitive to high-tech is one of the latest trends. Adventure travel catalogs are brimming with options ranging from yak trekking in Tibet to bicycling in the Andes, dugout canoeing in New Guinea to helitrekking in Nepal, snow-sledding in Antarctica to sailing tall ships around Australia.

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When choosing this sort of adventure trip, according to Don Mitchell, director of Image Journeys in Seattle, clients "should look very closely at the trip description" and know what they're getting into.

"Outfitters don't want to have a client show up who is expecting to be in the Hilton in New Delhi," Mitchell said. "When that happens, it makes it miserable for everybody." He also recommended that potential clients ask the tour company for names of people who have already taken the journey and are willing to talk to potential travelers.

Here is a sampling of the many packaged trips and tours available. What all of these have in common is their unusual modes of transportation.

#Trans-Globe 89, a 63-week around-the-world expedition by truck, Land Rover, coach, Jeep, local bus, train, lake and sea ferry, plane, white-water raft, dugout canoe, elephant, camel, bicycle and foot, is the undertaking of **Encounter Overland**-London. Only 60 participants plus the staff will be included in an expedition that will be divided three ways: a North American group leaving from San Francisco, an Australasian group leaving from Sydney and a European group leaving from London. The itinerary includes three weeks in Europe, 21 weeks in Africa, 19 weeks in Asia, five weeks in Australasia and 15 weeks in the Americas. Staggered departure dates will use seasonal and climatic conditions to full advantage. Departures probably will be in May, July and August, 1989. The cost will be around \$17,000. For information contact Adventure Center, 5540 College Av., Oakland, Calif. 94618; (415) 654-1879.

#Dories, smacks and pitpans will be among the types of boats used by participants in Great Trips tours of the Belizean jungle. The boats will travel in areas accessible only by rivers such as the Belize, Macal, Manatee, Mojo and Monkey. One excursion tackles the Rio Hondo, which forms a natural boundary between Belize (formerly British Honduras) and Mexico. Called the Great Water Trail by the ancient Maya, the river winds through Mexican and Belizean villages, rain forests and swamps. Other tours include visits to Labaantun, a major archaeological site, and Gracie Rock, the site of Geronimo in the

movie "Mosquito Coast." Contact Great Trips, Smith, Kaprosy and Associates, 1616 W. 139th St., Burnsville, Minn. 55337; (612) 890-4405.

#Mustering and driving cattle are the focus of the Never Never Outback Ride in Australia by FITS Equestrian, a company specializing in horseback tours throughout the world. For six days participants riding in saddles built especially for them will cover 100 miles of bush country driving cattle back to yards for branding. Those accomplished enough at riding also can run mobs of wild horses. In addition to rides in the outback, the package includes a cruise on the Great Barrier Reef, a run through a rain forest and an English fox hunt in Sydney. The tour (\$3,900 including air fare from Los Angeles) is for experienced riders able to spend long days in the saddle. Also offered are Hungary by Horseback tours (from about \$1,00 to \$1,300) that start in Budapest and cover such areas as the plains of the Puszta, the lake and hill region of Balaton, the historical Rakoczi region and the Danube Bend area. Contact FITS Equestrian, 2011 Alamo Pintado Rd., Solvang, Calif. 93463; (805) 688-9494.

#Participants in Mountain Travel's Antarctica tour not only cruise to Antarctica on the Argentina polar research/supply vessel the Bahia Paraiso, they also have the option of staying on the continent for an additional two weeks of on-land adventures, including a four-day dogsled trek. The trip is offered in December and costs from \$2,845 (an additional \$2,750 for the two-weeks option).

A visit to the Pushkar Camel Fair, an annual market event for Rajasthani desert tribes in India, is part of the itinerary of a warmer Mountain Travel expedition - a camel safari in the Great Indian Desert in November. The five-day safari is part of a 21-day tour that also includes Jaisalmer, Jodhpur and Jaipur. The cost is approximately \$2,150, excluding air fare. Among Mountain Travel's other offerings are a canoe trip to Angel Falls in Venezuela and a tour aboard a river steamer plying the waters of Brazil. Contact Mountain Travel, 1398 Solano Av., Albany, Calif. 94706; (800) 227-2384.

#A five-day safari via elephant-back and bamboo raft into the hills of northwest Thailand that features home stays with the native tribes is part of a tour called "Tribes and Treasures of Burma and Siam" leaving Dec. 13. Sponsored by the Capers Club (a "travel club for particular professional people") the tour is limited to six people and costs \$5,650 from Los Angeles. Membership in the club is \$50 annually. The club also offers mule/camel safaris in Ethiopia, yak treks in Nepal and upriver visits to Kayan, Punan and Iban tribes in Borneo, Malaysia. Contact Capers Club, P.O. Box 2789, Beverly Hills, Calif. 90213; (213) 657-0916.

#Bush plane, raft and foot will be the transportation on an 11-day expedition down the Kongakut River in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, Brooks Range, Alaska, June 28 to July 8. The cost is \$2,100. Contact Image Journeys, 540 NE. Northgate Way, Suite 533C, Seattle, Wash. 98125; (206) 364-9916. Image Journeys also offers a free quarterly newsletter called Off the Track, a review of unique adventure travel opportunities worldwide.

#White-water rafting in Siberia is among the adventures of Sobek Expeditions, P.O. Box 333, Angels Camp, Calif. 95222. Ten days of rafting on the Katun River, a Class III river, will begin with a helicopter flight over glaciated peaks and valleys. An exploratory, first Western descent of a Class V river, the Bashkaus, also is available. Costs begin at \$5,000. Trips are available from June through October. Sobek also offers rain forest rafting in Sumatra and river tripping in China. Call (209) 736-4524.

#Bicycle tours are available practically anywhere from the Swiss Alps to the Soviet Union, Italy to Tahiti, but some of the newest tours are in China. Midwest Mountaineering offers a 20-day bike and rail tour exploring Beijing, Yangtze Valley, Shanghai, Guilin and Hong Kong. Departure dates are available March through October. The cost from Los Angeles ranges from \$2,395 to \$2,445. Contact Midwest Mountaineering, 309 Cedar Av. S., Minneapolis, Minn. 55454; (612) 339-3433. A Mongolian Adventure, featuring 20 days of bicycling in Mongolia, is among several Chinese bicycling packages offered by China Passage, 168 State St., Teaneck, N.J. 07666; (800) 247-6475.

#A series of cruises called Seas of the Old World Explorers features sailing on expedition ships along the routes of early mariners. It begins April 5 with a transatlantic sailing from Cayenne, French Guiana, to Dakar, Senegal. Expedition stops include Devil's Island and the Cape Verde Islands. On April 14 African Voyages of Henry the Navigator sets sail. Highlights include a beach and bush safari in Gambia, the Moorish city of Nouadhibou and Marrakesh and Casablanca, Morocco. The 16-day voyage ends in Lisbon. Other cruises later in the year include Lisbon to Malaga; the Costa del Sol to Rome; Rome, the Homeric Islands and Malta, and the Iberian Coast and Rivers of France. Some of the same cruises or similar ones also will be offered in 1989. Prices start at \$1,290. For details contact Society Expeditions, 3131 Elliott Av., Suite 700, Seattle, Wash. 98121; (206) 285-9400.

#The Highland Prince, an elegant Pullman-style railway train, will be the travel mode for travelers choosing to cross the heart of the Scottish Highlands in style. The train embarks from Aberdeen, wends its way along Loch Ness to Fort Augustus and the Kyle of Lochalsh. The three-day, three-night tour,

which is limited to 42 passengers, is available at about \$1,400 from May through early October. For details contact your travel agent or Ghillie Personal Travel, Ltd., 64 Silverknowes E. Rd., Edinburgh, EH4 5NY, Scotland.

#The Wolong Wilderness Walk is for those wanting to travel by the most basic method of all - walking. For three days participants will hike through the Wolong Panda Wildlife Preserve in China, the world's largest refuge for the giant panda. Participants also will hike Mount Emei, a sacred Buddhist mountain, and Qingcheng, a sacred Daoist mountain. The hiking portions are part of a 23-day tour. Departures are from May through October. The cost is \$2,990, including air fare from the West Coast. Contact China Passage, 168 State St., Teaneck, N.J. 07666-3516; (800) 247-6475.

#Sailing off the Kenyan coast in a traditional Arab dhow is part of the Oceanic Society Expedition's Kenyan wildlife safari and coastal sail expedition Sept. 11 to 28. Highlights include the Aberdare Forest and Treetops, a lodge overlooking a water hole frequented by elephants, buffalo and rhinos; Masai Mara, and Amboseli National Park, in the shadow of Mount Kilimanjaro. During the sail in the Indian Ocean, participants will search for whales and dolphins. The cost is \$1,950 plus air fare. Contact Oceanic Society Expeditions, Fort Mason Center, Building E, San Francisco, Calif. 94123; (415) 441-1106.

#Helicopters are becoming part of the adventure offerings, including helitrekking in the Himalayas and helicoptering into the Arctic. HeliTour Alaska offers a 5 1/2-to-6 1/2-hour tour to Mount McKinley. The tour lands at Talkeetna, the staging area for many Mount McKinley expeditions. After exploring the town, tour members helicopter to Denali along cathedral spires, snow-covered ridges and glaciers to Mount McKinley. Dinner at a wilderness lodge is included. The cost varies from \$299 to \$699 depending upon the number of persons. For information contact HeliTour Alaska, 6400 S. Airpark Dr., Anchorage, Alaska 99502; (907) 243-1466.

Misti Snow is editor of the Star Tribune's Mindworks, a monthly young people's feature.

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