To the Roof of the World

The overland journey across the desert wastes of Persia and Afghanistan to India and the High Himalaya is one of the richest and most rewarding experiences within the reach of the adventurous traveller.

If it is a journey not to be missed, so too is it one not to be wasted

An Encounter Overland Expedition into India, Kashmir and Nepal

Crossing the rim of the great salt desert towards Esfahan

ENCOUNTER OVERLAND
12 EGERTON GARDENS,
LONDON, SW3 2BL
01-584 2810

THE ROAD TO KHATMANDU

Europe

It is the early evening in London and a group of people are preparing to leave on a 12,000 mile journey. Goodbyes are said before driving down to take the Dover boat to Ostend. We are on our way.

We travel through Belgium and then south across Luxembourg and The Rhine to the old university town of Heidelburg. The following days take us across the Black Forest and part of Bavaria, and at Salzburg we enter Austria. Soon The Alps close around us and we are climbing the beautiful and twisting Radstadt Pass before descending to Villach.

We leave Austria by the Wurzen Pass and go to the Castle in the lake at Bled in the Yugoslavian Alps. We continue south to Zagreb and Belgrade and travel through Serbia, Croatia and Macedonia stopping to shop in the country markets and camping beside the rivers.

From the Greek border it is only a few hours to the shores of the Aegean. On the way we pass the ancient city of Phillipae where Alexander raised an army of 40,000 Macedonians and marched into Asia.

Along the coast on the way to Istanbul are marvellous beaches and the first chance of a swim. The vehicles are loaded on a boat and we sail to Thassos, one of the most delightful of the islands. Here we can relax, meet the fishermen, enjoy the sea-food and let the ouzo and the bouzouki music work their therapy in the strange luminous air which is Greece.

Shopping in country markets

ENCOUNTER OVERLAND

London to Khatmandu

APPROXIMATE TIMINGS

1st Week:
London - Greece

2nd Week:
Greece - Ismir

3rd Week:
Ismir - Kayseri

4th Week:
Kayseri - Esfahan

5th Week:
Esfahan - Persepolis - Kerman

6th Week:
Kerman - Bamyan

7th Week:
Bamyan - Lahore

8th Week:
Lahore - Srinagar

9th Week:
Srinagar - Jhansi

10th Week:
Jhansi - Patna

11th Week:
Patna - Khatmandu

E. O. Route

alternative routes used when conditions direct.

Map reproduced by permission of Kummerly & Frey (Cartographers) Berne, Switzerland.

The Blue mosque, Istanbul

The theatre at Aspendos

Turkey

Istanbul, port and metropolis, is packed with interest. Three days are long enough to visit the famous mosques and the Topkapi Palace and to explore the waterfront and the labyrinth of narrow cobbled alleys. The famed Grand Bazaar does not thrust real bargains upon those who walk its neon-lit covered-ways; if one is to be found it will need patient search and hard bartering. From the bridges that span the Golden Horn the city skyline is the myriad domes and slender minarets of a thousand mosques; all around is that curious mixing of western culture with the hustle and intrigue of the East.

We cross the Bosphorus into Asia by ferry and head south into a region that has played such an important part in the history of human development. Here in Asia Minor are many of the early Greek city-states where Christianity found a first tenuous foothold. Here fertile minds learned the advanced techniques of the Middle East and sowed the seeds of western philosophy and learning.

Many of the ruins are in a fine state of preservation. Ephesus was the mightiest city in Roman Asia, where Paul the apostle preached and was imprisoned. Inland is Pammukkale where hot mineral springs form huge weird terraces of sediment. Here too are the Roman Baths at Hierapolis where you can still bathe in the warm clear water of the pillar-strewn pool.

The 12th century castle at Anamur

Relaxing beside the Mediterranean

The following evening we reach Antalya on the south coast. Splendid seascapes are studded with the ruins of antiquity: Thermessos, almost inaccessible on cliffs a thousand feet above the sea; Side, a slave centre providing the world's first democracies with their labour force, wretched savages from the mountainous hinterland, and Aspendos with one of the most exciting amphi-theatres in the world. It is easy to imagine people jostling for seats here, or paying homage to their gods in the temples and to imagine the noise of the crowded market and the oratory of the Forum.

Along this coast there are three fine castles, built by the Crusaders who passed this way en route to the Holy Land in the 11th and 12th centuries. They stand silent and deserted, but climb to the battlements and the legends come alive, the sounds of siege mingle with the lapping of the waves on the rocks below. 350 miles of coastal road runs past an endless stretch of rocky coves and unspoilt beaches. Near Tarsus we head inland through a high pass known as the Cilician Gate. In the region around Nevsehir are tiny villages built in the sandstone rock. Life has gone unchanged in centuries; time's only influence seems slow erosion. And here is Goreme, a place of eerie splendour, of troglodyte dwellings and the beautifully frescoed seventh century cave churches of the persecuted Christians.

The landscape becomes steadily more barren as we cross the high plateaux of Eastern Turkey where the Tigris and the Euphrates rise. We reach Erzurum which was a caravanserai on the silk and spice route from India to Europe in the days of Marco Polo. We climb the wind-swept Tahir Pass and with Arrarat's white cap in the background, approach the border with Persia.

Persia

Between the border and Esfahan is the region of empty arid plain known as Azerbaijan, once the kingdom of the Medes. Here and elsewhere in Persia we meet camel trains and sometimes drive across to the black tents of Nomads pitched in the hollows where there is a little grazing. Then we climb into the rugged Zagros mountains, past remote Kurdish villages to Esfahan.

Esfahan is surely the loveliest of all the old Persian cities and is famous for the continuance of its ancient crafts. Nimble-fingered girls work faster than the eye can see, month in month out, tying the million knots that make a persian carpet. The lofty bazaar echoes to the ring of hammers; copper, bronze and silver are all worked here – the craftsmanship as traditional as the legends depicted on trays and vases caught in the shafts of sunlight.

The techniques and motifs of tile ceramics are as old as the first beautiful mosque; delicate as lace, they adorn the ceilings and walls of all the holy places of Esfahan.

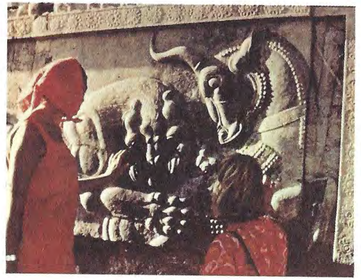
The Tchahar Bagh Mosque stands in its own quiet cloister – the noisy bazaar just outside. At one end of the great Medan – which was

Kurdish Nomads

Techniques as old as the first beautiful mosque

a polo ground in the days of the Caliphs – is the Masjd-E-Shar, perfection of Persian Islamic architecture; domes, minarets, cornices and tilework achieve a rare blue harmony.
Keeping the Zagros Mountains on our left we cross the rim of the shimmering depression which is the Great Salt Desert moving towards the heart of the largest land empire the world has ever known.
Persepolis. From this palace city 2,500 years ago King Darius embarked on campaigns that were to stretch the Persian Empire from the Punjab to the Danube, from the Nile to Samarkand. He acquired Babylon and the Land of the Pharaohs. Reaching Europe his armies clashed with the Spartans who desperately defended the emergent democracies of Greece. Persia dominated the world and the Royal Palace at Persepolis was built accordingly. 20,000 craftsmen laboured to perfect this most eloquent cultural expression of the ancient Near East. The pillars, walls and staircases are enriched with thousands of relief carvings showing the members of subject nations bringing tributes to the king.

Persepolis



Then the tables were turned; Alexander advanced and beat the Persians in battle at Granicus and Issus. 150 years before Athens had been threatened at the battles of Marathon and Salamis; the Greeks took their revenge, they sacked, looted and burned Persepolis.
The most exciting route is now through the region of Fars; through the mountains and down to the shimmering mirages of Dasht-e-Lut, the huge desert region of central Persia. The going is exceptionally rough across blinding white salt-pans and the lands of the Qashgai tribes. Southern Iran is hot and dusty, the people are withdrawn but fascinating. From time to time the arid landscape is broken by the silhouette of a fortified village or softened by a small date palmery or oasis of yucca trees. Villages will have a stream or domed well of clear fresh water that has come underground from the heart of the desert.

Afghanistan

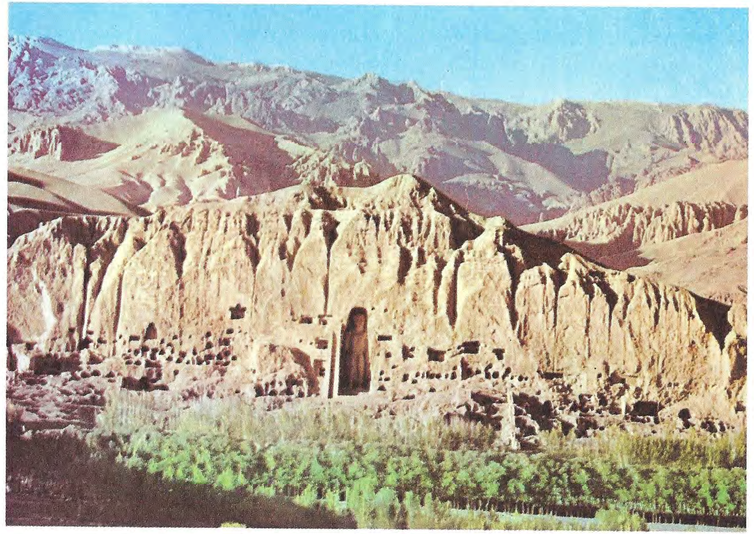
The frontier posts with Afghanistan can be some of the wildest outposts of officialdom in Asia. This land has been the cross-roads of Asia throughout the centuries but few have settled here – the warm nights of summer and autumn belie the bitter winter winds from the Hindu Kush.
Herat is a bustling semi-desert town to the north. Tribesmen, nomads, merchants and trappers of many different races converge on its hectic mainstreet; horses and buggies move among lumbering gaily painted ancient lorries.
Kandahar is a sleepy bazaar town in Baluchistan to the south that is linked with Quetta by the Spin Baldak Pass.
The centre of Afghanistan is the huge massif of the Hindu Kush, quite out of reach of all but a few well equipped travellers. We shall be going to the very heart of the Kush, to the lakes of Band-i-Amir set like turquoise deep in old gold. Here too in these stark mountains are the great Buddhas of Bamyan. We will make our way over streams and through narrow valleys and up over high passes. The track which is mainly used by mules and impassable in winter is in a terrible condition and going is slow and bumpy. It takes us through wonderful scenery and past little villages into this unspoilt part of Afghanistan: one of the few parts of this world where landscape is quite unscarred by progress.
Two giant and incredible Buddhas are carved in the face of a sheer 400 ft. cliff. The Buddhas are about 2,000 years old and are considered to mark the western extent of traditional Buddhist influence.
From Kabul it is only a short day's drive through wild mountain scenery to the borders of Pakistan. The road follows the Kabul river through a deep ravine and snakes down to the level of the plains.

The Indian Subcontinent

Pakistan

From the customs post at Torkham the road winds up past the forts of The Khyber Pass and it is not hard to see the strategic importance of the place nor to understand its romance. The Khyber has been silent witness to many great and awful events – astride the invasion path to India it has seen the Aryans, the Persians under Darius, the Greeks of Alexander, Ghengis Khan, the White Huns, Tartars, Moghuls and Afghans – conquerors all. Then the British came to secure this remote north-west frontier and to try to keep the peace among the fiery Pathan. Around the Frontier Agency Post armed Pathan tribesmen sit talking and joking in the sun. Beyond is Peshawar and the fertile Indus valley.
In Peshawar are the bustle and colours and smells that will become so familiar as we travel throughout India. We cross the Indus at Attock and pass through Rawalpindi to Lahore to see the Shalimar Gardens and the Red Fort and to find the old siege cannon known as 'Kim's Gun'. At the shady place called Banda Singh Wala is the check point into India.

One of the Great Buddahs of Bamyan



A Pathan tribesman of the Khyber

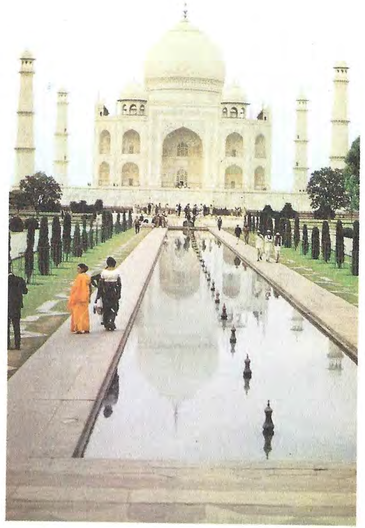
India (Punjab)

Once in the Indian Punjab we go to the old capital Amritsar which is the holy city of the Sikhs. Its heart is the Darbar Sahib – The Golden Temple – set in an artificial lake stocked with giant golden carp. We must remove our shoes and cover our heads before crossing the causeway to the holy-of-holies where musicians and singers softly chant and the air is filled with the intoxicating fragrance of incense and musky flowers.

Kashmir

We travel on through Jammu and begin a climb through green hazy foothills to 8,000ft. The road goes into a mile-long tunnel. On the other side we can look out across the Vale of Kashmir. We are away from the heat of the plains to where the air is clear, to a land of beautiful and brilliantly contrasting seasons, remote from the outside world.

On the lakes and on the river near Srinagar the famous houseboats are moored. We are expected and will be honoured with the finest Kashmir hospitality. The food both Indian and European, is excellent and at last a real bedroom and bath. The idea in Kashmir is to really relax – a complete change in the mode of life – six days in which to go pony trekking or walking in the mountains – the boatmen will pack you a lunch – take a 'shikara' out on the lovely lotus lakes, swim and water-ski and just wander the fabulous bazaars.



'Shikaras' are the usual means of transport around Srinagar

India

We return to the plains and go into the region of the great rivers Jumna and Ganges. After two days in Delhi, India's colourful capital, we go to Agra. Here on the banks of the Jumna stands the Palace fort of the Moghuls. From a balcony above the grim ramparts the ageing Emperor Shah Jahan would gaze across the broad sweep of the river to the great mausoleum that he had built to fulfill a promise. He had vowed that he would raise over the grave of his queen an edifice worthy of her love in their eighteen years of marriage. Shah Jahan died at the fort in 1666 and his body was taken by barge to the mausoleum and interred there beside that of his beloved queen. Her death had separated them for thirty years but now they lie together beneath the high marble dome of the dream-white Taj Mahal.

Not far away is Fatehpur Sikri for a time the Moghul capital. It stands today almost perfectly preserved as on the day the source of water finally dried up and the last occupants drifted away.

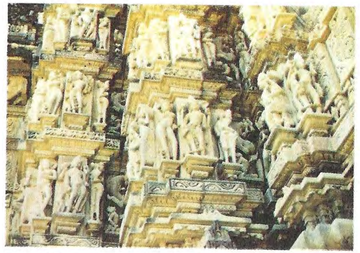
For years the temples of the Kama Sutra at Khadjuraho have been mentioned only in whispers. The celestial beauties of this reconstructed heaven are shown in provocative attitudes, yet transcending their sensuality is a graphic and dynamic form and a sublime impression of gaiety and happiness.

Along the byeways of rural India monkeys chatter in the trees, a girl draws water from a village well, a bullock cart creaks slowly to the roadside, an elephant stops to watch us with a kindly eye. There is everywhere a closeness to the rhythm of time, an almost apathetic gentleness and a sense of mystery and drama—an awe of life which pervades the sights and sounds of India like the ubiquitous sunlight.

At Benares the river Ganges comes slowly to life as the first rays of the sun touch the ghats along the western bank.

To the temples close by the river pious Hindus are brought to die and in the early morning their bodies are burned on sandlewood pyres. But the daily ritual enacted here is not only for the dead, the river ghats are a kaleidescope of Hindu life. Ash-smeared

holy men, sooth-sayers, gurus, pilgrims, cows and goats all mix in unabashed colour. From all over India pilgrims come to Benares to bathe and be spiritually cleansed. Men and women make floral offerings to the river and sprinkle its holy water on effigies of their divinities – extensions of their hopes and fears.



Detail from a temple at Khadjuraho

Nepal

The group moves on across the Ganges near Patna and into southern Nepal. Almost at once the scenery changes. At first it is still flat but the dry plain is behind us and we are driving through tropical vegetation with frequent fast-flowing streams. The Nepalese call this low-lying jungle area 'Terai'. Horizons are close as we begin the long climb into the foothills of the high Himalaya. Then as we reach the crest of the pass at 9,000 feet, we can see, from west to east, the highest mountains in the world thrusting their peaks up into the thin atmosphere.

Below is Khatmandu, virtually cut off from the rest of the world. Houses overhang the narrow streets, the ritual music of many temples comes from every direction. Idols, images and carvings are part of Nepal's long-standing heritage; not abandoned relics of the past but a vital part of the living present. Pagodas are topped in beaten gold and everywhere the eye is instructed upward.

Beyond the Khatmandu valley the folds of the hills roll away towards Tibet. Everest and Katchenjunga are there in the east and to the west is the Annapurna Massif. **This is the Roof of the World.**

Khatmandu

ENCOUNTER OVERLAND

Since 1963 Encounter Overland has earned the reputation as the most experienced team organising small group projects in Asia and Africa; not only expeditions to India and Napal, but to the Sahara and High Atlas, to Syria and Jordan, special reconnaisance expeditions including the first crossing of the entire Salt and Sand deserts of Persia and to Nuristan and the Hindu Kush. There have been expeditions into South East Asia including the first journey from the U.K. to Laos and Cambodia, and every year there are Trans-Africa expeditions across Sahara and Zaire (Congo) to East Africa and Johannesburg.

In Encounter we keep alive the spirit that inspired those early days and E.O. groups, like those that pioneered ways to the Orient, still search out the remote and interesting. Each year as the more usual routes become congested with itinerant Westerners each E.O. group considers the seasonal conditions then goes the best way – off into the wilder parts to which E.O. groups, vehicles, indeed our whole way of life is so ideally suited.

Encounter groups have scope to see and savour something of life in all the countries en route, and to make many friends among the inhabitants. We travel in easy stages with time for exploration and relaxation. Occasionally there is a long day's drive over a less exciting stretch and groups leaving in the Autumn must sometimes expect to drive a while after last light, but the very nature of the project means we are not committed to any hard and fast itinerary or schedule.

AN ENCOUNTER GROUP is equipped to be independant and self-contained; there is none of the daily pressure of having to find a bed and a meal, of haggling over the price, of failing to find peace and quiet in the evenings. There is instead a sympathetic environment that enhances contact and friendship and stimulates discussion and a sense of physical and mental well-being. Here is the best group basis and a lot of opportunity for meeting local people.

The young group who take part in the journey are able to contribute enormously to its success. People join us in ones and twos and nobody needs worry about coming on their own or about lacking camping experience. The informal atmosphere simply depends on people realising that an E.O. group does not suit those who prefer to be pampered, amused, entertained or stimulated with minimum effort from themselves.

Groups are about equally men and women and the average age is 26. (With great respect, under no circumstances can people over 40 be accepted.) People are from all walks of life and invariably groups consist of Australians, New Zealanders, Canadians, Americans as well as English, (with no preponderance of anyone) and usually there are some from other European countries.

Expedition Life

E.O. VEHICLES are the now famous 3-ton four-wheel-drive Bedford trucks that E.O. build to exclusive expedition specification for work with cross country trailers in Asia and Africa. They are powered through eight forward gears by five litre diesel engines and the whole expedition truck and trailer unit is meticulously equipped at our workshops to meet the very exacting requirements. The unit is enormously rugged, powerful and dependable, with a cruising speed in usual conditions of 48 m.p.h. and with giant fuel tanks giving an average range of 1,200 miles.

Dawn in India

The trucks are designed for a group of 18 that includes driver(s) with belongings and equipment, food etc. stowed on the vehicle and on the trailer. The trucks have specially built convertible tops that give complete protection when required but which are usually rolled open. There is uninterrupted vision and plenty of air and sunshine, but dust is kept to a minimum. The roof can either be rolled back or kept as a sun canopy when really hot, while in colder weather the view from the enclosed truck is through clear perspex. They have luxury high-backed coach seats and are very comfortable indeed.

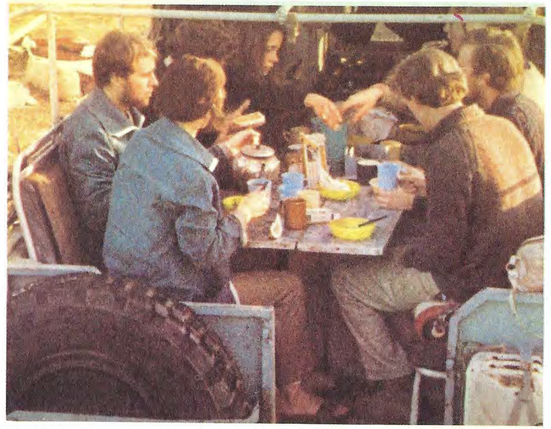
There is more leg and head room in E.O.'s vehicles and far more space per person and room to move around than in any other expedition vehicle used.

Meals are easily arranged inside the vehicle – there is room to stand up and prepare food on the 4 burner gas stove and for us all to sit down to breakfast and supper around the long tables which are used outside the vehicles at lunch time. Plenty of water for all group needs is carried in special tanks and its thrifty use for washing and washing-up need only apply in deep desert. There is never any need to conserve drinking water. In the evening there is plenty of lighting by which to read and write.

CAMPING is pleasant at these times of year. In Europe and near the big cities of Asia organised camping sites are often used. In some outlying tribal areas the facilities of mission hospitals and police outposts are available to us, and wherever there is wood enough (and wine) camp fires crackle. The expedition is equipped with specially made tents each with two comfortable camp-beds and room for luggage. Quite often, especially in the desert areas, people prefer to sleep out under the stars.

Not all nights are spent camping; six are spent aboard the fabulous house-boats in Kashmir, two more are spent in New Delhi's Tourist Hostel and around India several nights are spent at Dak bungalows.

GOOD FOOD is an essential part of our expedition and we base our planning on three meals a day – a cooked breakfast, a light lunch, and a three course supper. The large supply that is carried on the vehicles gives a good variety of diet and menu. This is then supplemented with fresh provisions – such as fruit, vegetables, eggs,



Breakfast

bread – that we will be buying from the villages. Thus usually we shall be cooking our own meals, eating well and avoiding the perils of 'Delhi Belly'. Each week we'll find an interesting restaurant with some night life (!) and enjoy some of the best local dishes.

The Expedition

This expedition is a great adventure. Informed, prepared and equipped, it is an exciting and sometimes hilarious experience.
We will find our way through many wonderful and varied sights of nature and through places rich in culture and antiquity. We will visit the ruins of ancient civilizations and meet people of many different races. We will see for ourselves a world of more even tempo, of different philosophical origins. At the end we will have covered 12,000 miles, been together more than 10 weeks and will have travelled **to the roof of the world.**

This will have been one of the most exciting times of your life. You will have acquired that experience and knowledge that mark you a traveller. You will have learned a lot about people – and no small amount about yourself.

ADMINISTRATIVE & PRACTICAL INFORMATION

— From Decision to Departure

The Cost

One of the most important principles of Encounter Overland is that the cost of each project takes into account all the expenses involved; transport and ferry fares, food, including the occasions we eat out, and accommodation, including camp sites, hostels, Dak Bungalows and the house-boats in Kashmir, as well as the considerable pre-departure and administrative costs. The cost of visas and personal insurance, however, is not included as these requirements vary from person to person.

See the Booking Form for exact expedition cost, dates of departure and conditions of contract.

Joining

Those interested and eligible to join us should complete the E.O. booking form and return it together with the required deposit. We shall acknowledge your booking within 7 days and all payments will be receipted.

The balance of the cost of the expedition is due not later than 30 days before departure.

Passports and Visas

Passports must be valid for the duration of the expedition and have sufficient pages (eight at least) for visas and border stamps.

Visa requirements vary depending on your nationality. On receipt of your booking we will be sending you full details. Visas are not a problem; no-one needs more than four, and should it be necessary, these can be obtained in a very few days prior to departure, or even en route. The total cost would not be more than £2, or $5.

Inoculations

Vaccination against Smallpox and Cholera is required. International Health Certificates must be shown at several borders. You should contact your doctor or local hospital. T.A.B.T. inoculation (against Typhoid, Para-typhoid, and Tetanus, and as a general measure against Bacillary Dysentery) is also strongly recommended and is usually obtained at the same time.

Insurance

All members of expeditions are required to have personal travel insurance. Details of a policy specially underwritten for Encounter Overland are available. Cover can be obtained immediately to be effective as long as necessary. Alternatively, members of expeditions can make their own insurance arrangements. Insurance MUST cover the following: Personal Accident £2,000; Medical expenses £500.

Cancellation insurance is recommended as is insurance of valuable items of property.

Medical

Every vehicle has a comprehensive first-aid kit. Anti-Malaria tablets, water purifying tablets and antibiotics are also carried.

Pocket Money

In order to make the most of the trip with Encounter one ought not to have less than £40 or $100 for personal spending and from this people usually contribute about £2 to a wine kitty. Travellers cheques are, of course, safest but a small cash amount in dollars or sterling is useful.

Weather and Special Equipment

The departure dates of E.O. trips and the routes we take are based on our experience in Asia and are related to the prevailing climatic conditions. No groups are en route in the severe Winter conditions found from Turkey to Afghanistan during December-March. The group leaving in the Spring should have excellent weather though will meet part of 'the rains'. 'The rains' come as a relief to India after the oppressive pre-monsoon period. For us it means hour-long, heavy afternoon rain during a week in central India. The Summer group will find similar conditions but it will be very hot in the desert regions. Late Summer and early Autumn trips will probably have the best weather of all. The group leaving in October must expect some cold weather on high ground in Turkey, Persia and Afghanistan.

You will need to supply your own sleeping bag. This can be lightweight for the Summer but should be a warm down-filled one for the Spring and Autumn. A waterproof anorak is needed for all trips.

Musical Instruments

We would like people who play instruments to think about bringing them. If, though, they are either delicate, expensive or big, please contact us first!

Photography

No special arrangements or precautions are necessary for either cameras or film, but cameras should be well protected in a strong case and it is best and cheapest to take your expected film requirement with you.

Other Details

All members of the expedition will be sent a suggested clothing list and copies of the mailing addresses en route which include our expected dates of arrival. Invitations to special group pre-departure meetings and details of departure arrangements will follow later.

E.O. at Home

Throughout the year E.O. in London have informal meetings to tell people about our various expeditions and will sometimes be showing 'To The Roof Of The World', the film we made in 1969 which, with up-to-date comment, gives a good insight to the journey.

The Overlanders' Guide to Connecting Travel

This special publication is produced by Encounter Overland annually. For people travelling across Asia the following information will be of particular interest:

Connecting travel between India, Nepal and Burma, Thailand, Malaya, Singapore, Indonesia, the Far East and Australia. Also shipping, special flight concessions and hints on travelling not only between but within countries. Details too of visa and vaccination requirements and useful addresses.

Also details of connections with Europe, America (both through Europe and across the Pacific) and East and South Africa.

TO ALL MEMBERS OF ENCOUNTER OVERLAND EXPEDITIONS THIS INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE FREE AND IN ALL INSTANCES WHERE SPECIAL REDUCTIONS ARE AVAILABLE THEY ARE PASSED ON.

THIS INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE TO OTHERS BUT A SMALL CHARGE IS GENERALLY MADE.

Encounter Overland— Khatmandu-London

The expeditions from London to Khatmandu are complemented by similar journeys from Khatmandu to London. All details of the expedition are the same and, as with the Khatmandu-bound groups, departures take place only at the most suitable times of year.

Footnote

More and more people now realise that the E.O. way works best, and as a result there are organisations who copy E.O. itineraries, imitate expedition details, and mimic our specialised trucks. We feel it is in your interest that this is pointed out though E.O. has no real objection, after all imitation is the sincerest form of flattery.

CONDITIONS OF CONTRACT
as on Booking Form

(Please read these conditions carefully)

1. The deposit is made at the time of booking. The fee is accepted as a first instalment of the inclusive fare and will not be refunded unless the applicant cannot be offered a place.

2. The accepted applicant will pay the balance of the inclusive fare not later than 30 days before departure.

3. If the applicant cancels his/her booking less than 30 days before departure no money can be refunded unless the place is subsequently filled.

4. The organisers reserve the right to cancel any expedition without prior notice. In this case all monies paid will be refunded in full.

5. Tour prices and itineraries are subject to alteration without previous notice due to influences beyond the control of the organisers, e.g. exchange rates, epidemics, and political disputes.

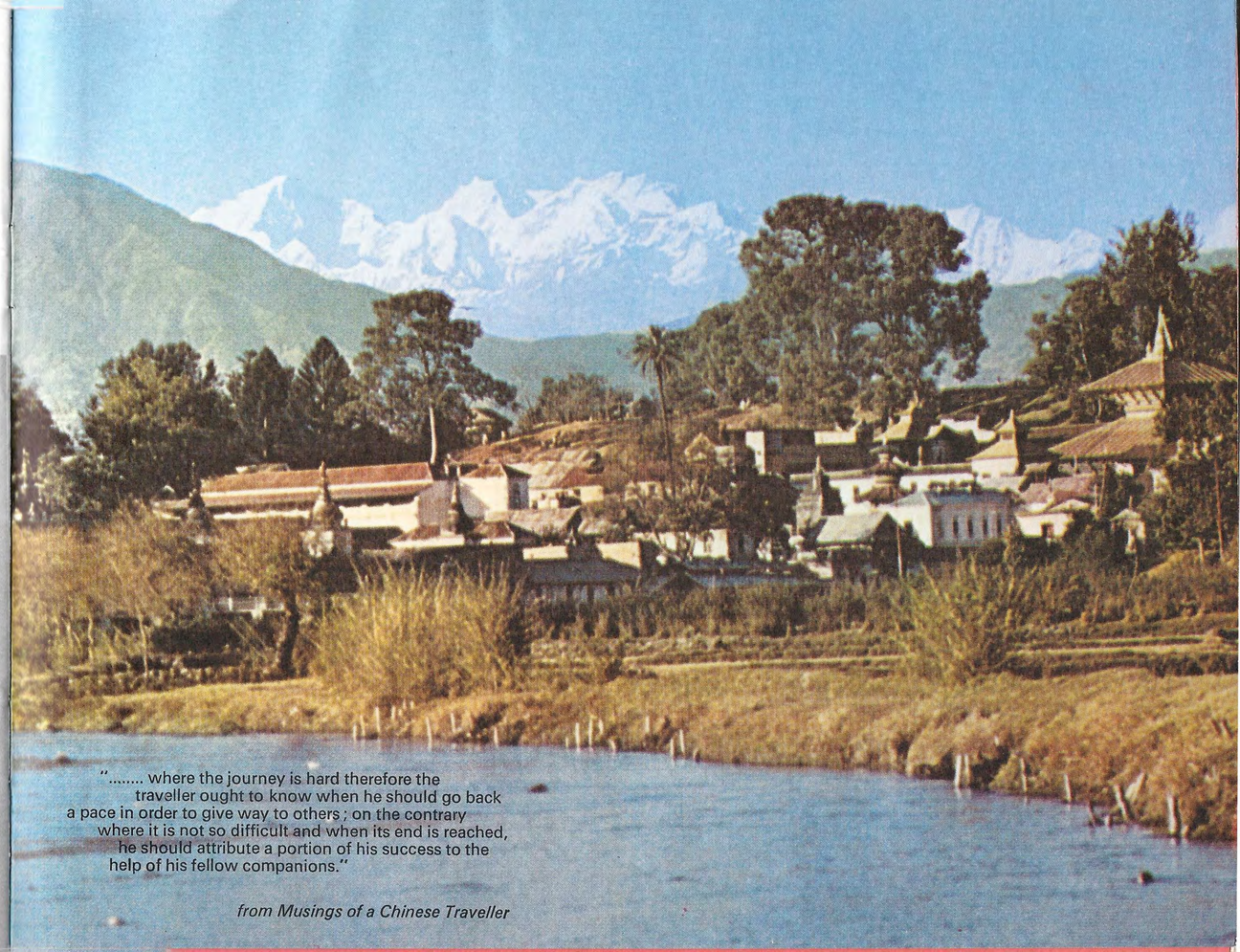
6. Charges quoted include: living and travel by the means and route indicated or as may necessarily be altered by the organisers. Unless otherwise stated in the expedition details the price of visas, personal insurance, laundry, admission fees and purely personal spending is not included.

7. Clients will comply with all legislation and customs and foreign exchange regulations of the countries visited. Should there be any contravention the client may be asked to leave the vehicle.

8. Transport in England is provided free.

9. Clients, their baggage and personal property will travel insured entirely at their own risk and subject to the terms and conditions above. Neither the organisers nor the organiser's staff nor their agents nor any organisation or carrier with which they are co-operating will be under any liability whatsoever in respect of any illness, accident or loss.

10. This contract is subject to English law and is to be interpreted under it.



".....where the journey is hard therefore the traveller ought to know when he should go back a pace in order to give way to others; on the contrary where it is not so difficult and when its end is reached, he should attribute a portion of his success to the help of his fellow companions."

from Musings of a Chinese Traveller

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