

ENCOUNTER 5000 KILOMETRE CLUB

We have had a huge response to our 5000km Club which was introduced in 1996. Over a quarter of the members have travelled with us again or are about to. They have come from many different countries such as Iceland, Sweden, Italy, Austria, New Zealand, South Africa and Denmark. Therefore if you are not already a member and have covered 5000km with Encounter please complete the registration form TODAY and return it to Encounter.

To all those who have travelled with Encounter for 5000 Kilometres or more you will qualify for free membership of this exclusive club. By registering your details in the box below you will receive the following benefits:

1. A 5% discount off the brochure price of any future project.
2. A further 2½% discount to you off that project, should you bring a friend or relation.
3. Upon booking that project you will receive a free Encounter 5000km Club 'Holiday' bag.
4. Plus regular updates on new projects or special offers.

Name: _____
Address: _____

State previous trips(s) and start dates _____

Return to Encounter 5000km Club, 267 Old Brompton Road, London, SW5 9JA, England

ENCOUNTER THE WEB



On the 1st September our fantastic web site will be on line.

The site will feature all the special choices that are presently available to people seeking an adventure with Encounter. Furthermore our links to other projects and services will also add to the professional advice we can now offer.

Visit us on, <http://www.encounter.co.uk>

Contact Encounter Overland at:
267 Old Brompton Road,
London, SW5 9JA

Phone:
(0171) 3706845

E-mail:
adventure@encounter.co.uk

PHOTO COMPETITION WINNERS

In the last Newsletter we ran a competition for photographic contributions from past project members, the result was an incredible selection of shots. The prize winners for each section are seen. We also now have a great scrapbook album in the London office of all entries—pop in and see it sometime if you're passing by...

Terric Kelly, Australia (Local People)



Kim Kelly, Australia (Overall Winner)



Christof Abt, Germany (Landscape)



Susanne Khe, Germany (Group!)



Frank Olaf Brandes, Germany (Wildlife)



25 YEARS IN SOUTH & CENTRAL AMERICA

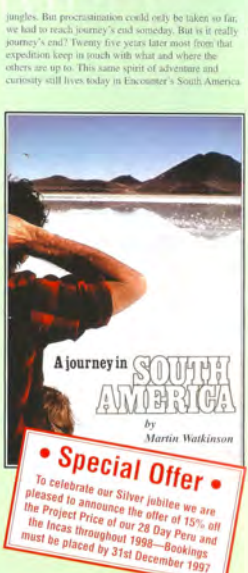
In 1972 Encounter became the first overland operator to set foot in Latin America, having already spent almost a decade touring Asia and Africa. We were Australian, American, British, Canadian, Dutch, German, Irish, New Zealand and South African, with as many backgrounds and stories. We met in Buenos Aires for a 10 week overland journey to Los Angeles. Since it was a re-visit to an expedition, a first on the continent, it was a little surprising that we eventually took 26 weeks! Good maps and reliable information on road conditions in the continent were almost impossible to find in 1972. What, in a cartographer's line through the Andes, looked like 100 kilometres according to the scale turned out in reality to be 300 kilometres of curves, twists and hairpin bends. A day's drive would sometimes be no more than descending from 4,500 metres to the valley floor, a steep, forgotten Spanish colonial market town to explore, then back up the opposite slopes to the high peaks, from where you could look across the canyon, 5 minutes as the condor flies, to where you had slept the night before. But it was not just the roads and the convoluted distances, nor the landslides and slippery salt flats that delayed us. We were just as much responsible, because South America presents another kind of another wonder whichever way you turn. One thing leads to another, and it's a shame not to follow your curiosity. Most of us are only three miles. We side-tracked and detoured to hidden river settlements and crystal mountain lakes, to tea mini-pressed by time and progress, to wild Indian festivals and the wildswamp solitude of the gaucha's pampas. First glazing downs in the snow peaks of the high Andes and the flash of vivid colour in the hot Amazon

Newsletter

Edition 2—August 1997

The True Story

From the previously unpublished true diaries of Martin Watkinson who led that first journey (Due to threats of National Security)



Special Offer: To celebrate our Silver Jubilee we are pleased to announce the offer of 15% off the Project Price of our 28 Day Peru and the Incas throughout 1998—Bookings must be placed by 31st December 1997



perhaps advisable to see in a lifetime, and it was time to head for higher ground. Watkinson staff adeptly took La Paz to see if even a train with limited wagon could be engaged and dispatched to carry us out of our mess. But La Paz was far too busy running a railway to reply.

Lima welcomed us, the British embassy said 'What a delightful way to see South America, why didn't you think of a better' and took us all out to lunch. Through Ecuador and Colombia the quiet farming valleys, lush greenery, market towns and a backdrop of whispering volcanoes half way into an easy, idyllic, sportive way of life. One day it is much like another and it's hard to imagine them getting much better. Except for the rather intriguing thought that the expedition was supposed to last 16 weeks, it was now the 16th week and Los Angeles was only 5000 kilometres away...!

Now, every Motor Range Rover supported by a bit of money and a good portion of the resources of the British Army, had even managed to cross the jungle and over the Andes.

Daren Gop on the narrow railway, separating South and Central America. It would have been a lot more mud and a whole heap unacceptably... pampas... typical... So we didn't bother. We had arranged for our friends in Buenos Aires to take the train to Panama City, from there to Los Angeles. The final day had ticks, hairy that only worked from Los Angeles.

The Gang Back is another story!

Our exciting new brochure new adventures and worlds to encounter



January saw the launch of Encounter's new brochure covering Africa, Asia, South and Central America with over 50 exciting projects—many all lasting three weeks or less. We have not only improved our current programmes but also introduced several new itineraries through new and untouched areas.

ASIA—With our 'Trans Bornco Crossing' (Pg 25) you can now extend your itinerary by 5 days and fly to Banjarmasin to see the floating markets and diamond mines before continuing to see the Orangutans in Tanjung National Park. Or why not experience the coast, rice fields and colourful people of Vietnam—the cultural wealth in the province in China—before heading up high into Tibet and viewing Everest as you enter into Nepal on Encounter's 'South China Sea to the Roof of the World' (Pg 49). A trip for all types of adventurous holiday seekers. If time is short why not find out the secrets of Nepal and Tibet on our 'Highland to Likas' (Pg 24), with the option to extend for 1 week and trek with yaks along the old pilgrim routes. For the white water rafting fans we have introduced a new 12 day trip called the 'Wild Water of the West' (Pg 21) which spends 8 days rafting down the Karnali river in the Western region of Nepal.



SOUTH & CENTRAL AMERICA—The 'Expedition Foscolouria' (Pg 9) has been improved introducing a two day white water rafting project and time on the picturesque Pacific Coast as well as relaxing in the hot springs of Buenos before exploring the jungle. The best kept secret in South America is Bolivia and with Encounter's 21 day project 'The Bolivia and Amazonas' (Pg 11) you not only get to the Andes, but also the remote jungle which very few have been privileged to enter before.

AFRICA—Morocco, High Atlas & Oases' (Pg 12) trip is a real treat for 2 week adventure, getting off the beaten track and seeing the colours of Casablanca, Fez and Marrakech, as well as marvelling at the vastness of

Oman Explorer



ARABIA—An exploratory expedition through Oman

In association with MG Leisure, we are offering an opportunity to just a few participants wishing to join a 25 day journey from Muscat, Oman into the little known sectors of the Arabian Peninsula. Oman is the most characterful of the Arabian Gulf countries with its wide range of landscapes and surprising array of wildlife. With large areas still wilderness, it is truly one of the last virgin destinations on the globe. The aim of this expedition is to travel across the interior of Oman and explore its five main regions: the mountains of the north, the Wahiba Sands and the east coast, Dhofar, the Emery Quarter and the central plains. We cover around 3000km 'off road' using long wheephase 4x4s and the terrain varies considerably throughout the trip.

There are many historical sites dating as far back as 5000 years and we spend time visiting some of these areas of interest. The hot city of Dhofar (debatable but definitely old, and one lost), discovered by Finnes is also one of our camps.

In the South there lie the fertile hills of Dhofar region where the monsoon catches every June, July and August. This area boasts lush green hills and trees for much of the year and offers a pleasant change from the heat of the north. To the south-west, the enveloping shifting sand dunes and open plains of the Emery Quarter, where Thengier marched for months, and dominates the land that borders the UAE, Saudi Arabia and Oman. Further north lies the central plains where the re-introduction of the Oryx, the horned antelope, has been taking place over the last few years. This conservation project is sponsored by the Sultan who



takes a great interest in the environmental issues of Oman. The East Coast is an ornithologist's haven. In particular the salt flats of the Barr al Hickman are a phenomenal sight during migration, which takes place each Autumn and Spring. Travelling north along the coast, the vast dunes of the Wahiba Sands appear, seemingly out of the sea beyond. This barren, unproductive but beautiful woodland stretches 200km north and disappears abruptly into the Al Hajar Ash Shami mountains to the Northeast. On this coastline many of the breeding beaches for turtles can be found. Muscat, the capital of Oman, is in the north contrasting the rest of the country with its hot climate and modern architecture. The main city of Muscat was once an ancient port where traders came to trade for pearls, spices and incense but this is now only a small part of the continually expanding city. **Why not be one of the first to visit!**

N.B. Regrettably due to very limited space this project is only available in the U.K. Directly through Encounter. However we hope to repeat this offer in March 1998, worldwide.

25 DAYS
(8th November - 2nd December)
ONLY £1495

- The price of £1495 includes all land and air transport to Oman which we cover throughout the duration of the project.
- 21 days of accommodation in 4-5 star hotels and camps.
- The expedition will arrive around midday on 8th November and will depart around 12.00 hours on 2nd December.
- Daily prices in excess of 50000 are payable on arrival.
- Insurance is included in the price.
- There are no airfares to be paid on return.
- Please see our website for full details.

CAIRO TO TUNIS

A unique opportunity to be the first on an exploratory journey crossing the deserts of North Africa.

In March 1998, Encounter will set off from Cairo, Egypt to reconnoitre a route through the deserts and remote oases of Egypt, Libya and Tunisia. This journey has not been possible (for political reasons) until now—so it is time to do it and we'll just get our 'well blazing tyres' and enjoy the view....

So if you're seeking adventure into the unknown, a part of the blind leading the blind and most importantly a challenge, then come along, you'll be most welcome.

At this time, the intended itinerary is very vague—it wouldn't be exploratory if we knew exactly where we'll go! The expedition's planning is in its infant stages—but we envisage taking 40 to 45 days to cover the route. Approximate timings being 7 to 8 days in Egypt, 18 to 22 days in Libya and 10 to 15 days in Tunisia.

NORTH AFRICA DESERT RECONNAISSANCE EXPEDITION
Cairo to Tunis (via Libya)

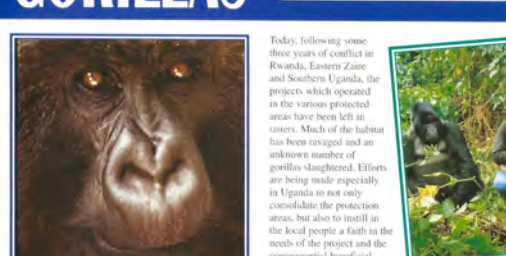
Departure Date in Cairo: 2nd March 1998 (Mon)
Approx. Arrival Date in Tunis: 15th April 1998

oasis communities who have seen very few 'Westerners'. In Tunisia the spectacular desert terrain of the southern region was portrayed in the recent filming of the Oscar award winning movie 'The English Patient'.

Further details of this journey are being prepared in a simple Project Dossier which will soon be available on request from Encounter and our main agents.

The cost of the project will be:
UK/Europe: £1,225
US (& outside Europe): \$1,805
Canada: \$CAD 2675
Australia: \$AUS 2635
New Zealand: \$NZ 2880

MOUNTAIN GORILLAS



Now that we can return to Rwanda, how about a trip to encounter the mountain gorillas

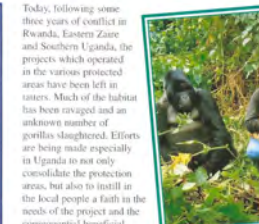
The mountain gorilla in their limited habitat high on the densely forested slopes of the Rwenzori mountains, which stretch from Uganda into Zaire and Rwanda, are fast becoming one of the most endangered species in the world. Encounter has recently received the lion with Fauna and Flora International who operate the International Gorilla Conservation programme in order to support them in a concerted effort to save these wonderful, but threatened creatures.

In the late 1970s, when it was slowly being recognised that the mountain gorilla was more under threat, Encounter led but one organised group of travellers a year, to go in search of several habituated family troops high on the mountainside of 'Parc Des Volcans' in Rwanda. The plight of the gorilla was probably best publicised in the late 80s by the book and film 'Gorillas In The Mist' following the desperate efforts of Dian Fossey.

Contact: Fauna and Flora International, Great Eastern House, Tennis Road, Cambridge, CB1 2JF, UK. Phone +44(0)1223 571000. Fax +44(0) 1223 461481



Today, following some three years of conflict in Rwanda, Eastern Zaire and Southern Uganda, the projects which operated in the various protected areas have been left in tatters. Much of the habitat has been razed and an unknown number of gorillas slaughtered. Efforts are being made especially in Uganda to not only consolidate the protection areas, but also to instill in the local people a faith in the needs of the project and the consequential beneficial returns. Tourism in Rwanda and Eastern Zaire during the 80's and early 90's flourished because of the mountain gorillas, today it is virtually non-existent in both countries. It is hard to convince displaced local people that the gorilla care is a priority! Fortunately the efforts of the International Gorilla Conservation Programme have again raised the profile of the plight of the gorilla and the seriousness of the problem and thus Encounter is fully supporting their work in all these countries.



Our present brochure now features a 7 day Mountain Gorillas option that operates between June and March of each year. This can be taken separately or added on to the end of our 14 day East of Africa Safari, Nairobi to Capetown, B.U.—Whatever you do, please support the International Gorilla Conservation Programme.

Hey miss, you dropped your copy of the new Encounter brochure

7 Days Kampala to Kampala, see page 13 of the new brochure