

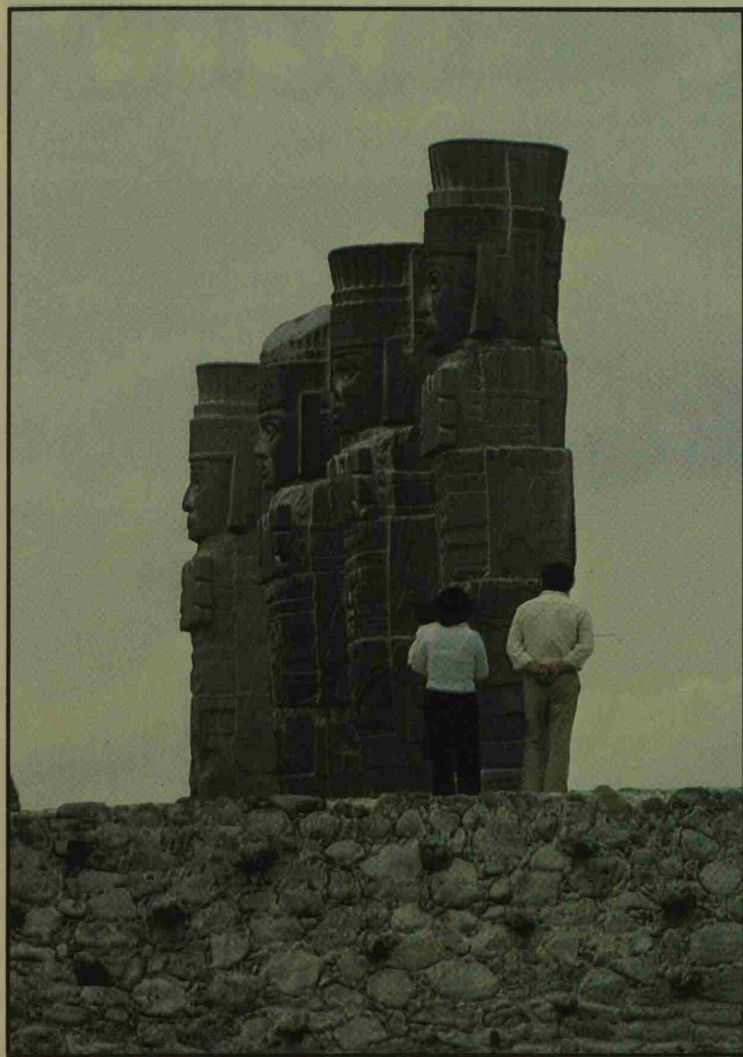
ranging from 25 to 33 feet. July and August are high season months; April, May, September and October are the low. As an example of rates, two people chartering a 29 foot sloop for a Lycian Coast high-season departure in late July would pay £770 each, while the rate for five sharing the same boat would be £390 each. The same boat chartered for a late September depart-

ture would cost £585 each for two, or £320 per person for five. Rates are reduced £50 for each person if charter flight arrangements are not used.

Full information is available from the Sailing Secretary, Yacht Cruising Association, Ship Street, Old Stone House, Judges Terrace, East Grinstead, Sussex RH19 1AQ (tel. 0342 311366).

In search of the past

by Diana Petry



SERGIO DORANTES

To anyone with an eye for the unusual and a mind seeking to look back into history rather than forward into the unknown, the combination of holiday and archaeology can provide the experience of a lifetime; and you do not have to be an expert in the field to appreciate it.

Among far-flung places, Latin America contains many attractions. Twickenham Travel cover a wide field: Peru and Colombia, Brazil and the Amazon, Mexico and Guatemala, the Galapagos, too, for wildlife enthusiasts. Varied tours of Peru and Colombia, for instance, are spread throughout 1983, costing in the region of £1,900 or so for 18 days. Visits include the Land of the Incas; the Machupicchu;

North of Mexico City is the pre-Columbian city of Tula, where giant Atlantes surmount a pyramid.

Bogota's noted Gold Museum; the impressive ruins of the Augustin Archaeological Park, and much more besides.

Specialists in visits to Mexico include Viking International Travel, and the recently devalued peso indicates bargains. Combining beach life with old cowboy towns makes for relaxation and fun; and 16-day two-centre holidays, ranging from £678 to £1,381, ensure the best of both worlds and include excursions to notable historic sites. Mexico City apart, visits are made to places such as Teotihuacan, with its 7 square miles of massive pyramids,

temples and courts.

For a tour covering a fine selection of Mexican highlights, Serenissima Travel feature an 18-day holiday conducted by an expert, Professor Julian Pitt-Rivers; basic cost, £1,795. Four days are spent on a familiarization tour of Mexico City, followed by excursions to the pyramids and giant figures of Atlantes at Tula; the shrine of Guadalupe; more giant pyramids, shrines and temples at Teotihuacan. Internal flights and coach drives take in Oaxaca and the ruins of Zapotec and Mixtec civilizations; Tuxtla Gutierrez, capital of Chiapas; the Indian towns of Chamula and Zinacantan; the ruins of the Mayan city of Palenque, and more ruins at Chichen Itza to name just a selection.

Encounter Overland run specialized expeditions by modern truck backed up by luggage- and provision-carrying trailers, and for accommodation there are high quality tents. There is a certain amount of DIY, so that participants become involved in everyday chores. Highly popular is a four-week visit to Peru and the Incas, costing £450. This is the price for the Lima-to-Lima land expedition. Since the appeal is international air fares necessarily depend on points of departure, and Overland will quote and arrange flights.

Happily Ethiopia is back on the traveller's map after an absence of some nine years. It is an astounding country to explore, everything at high altitudes, starting with Addis Ababa at some 7,000 feet, and massed mountains rising to 15,000 feet and more. Serenissima Travel offer a 10-day conducted tour, first 1983 departure January 28, costing around £1,080. There is leisure for birdwatching on Lake Tana, source of the Blue Nile; boat excursions to island monasteries, and the dramatic Tisat waterfall. At Gondar, once Ethiopia's capital, 16th-century grouped castles and fine churches emphasize its early importance. And there is a drive to the remote village of the Falashas or "Black Jews", who live a totally self-contained existence, and for souvenirs make brittle black pottery, a favourite being the figure of the Lion of Judah topped by the Star of David. At Lalibela 12th-century monolithic churches, some still in use, have been deep-hewn

out of the rock.

Ethiopian tours following a similar route are also featured in the programme of Hayes & Jarvis, with mule treks included for those so inclined. A week's tour can also be combined with safaris in Kenya or Tanzania. Binoculars and camera will undoubtedly be imperative additions to basic luggage, which necessarily—in all these tours—includes comfortable footwear.

Abercrombie & Kent specialize in tours in various parts of Africa, but also in Egypt, where ancient history is endlessly apparent. For those whose time is limited a week's tour costing from around £862 starts at Cairo with visits to the splendid Museum of Antiquities and the massed gold from the tomb of Tutankhamun, followed by excursions by air and Nile boat to Abu Simbel, the great dam at Aswan, the temples at Karnak and Luxor and the necropolis of Thebes, desert burial ground of the Pharaohs. Other exploratory visits include Nile cruising, with shore excursions to massive temples, and a sail in traditional Nile boats (feluccas) to Elephantine and Kitchener Islands. Nile cruises can be combined with Kenya game safaris.

Explore Worldwide are as good as their name with escorted tours for small groups (eight–16) giving their holidays a personal angle. Countries include Greece, Turkey, Tunisia, Ethiopia, Peru, Mexico etc. The modes of travel within the country vary—for example, train, minibus, boat, camel, walking. A 16-day holiday in Turkey costs £320 including a flight from London.

Twickenham Travel Retail, 22 Church Street, Twickenham, TW1 3NW (tel 01-892 7606). Viking International Travel, Perrymount House, 40/42 Perrymount Road, Haywards Heath, West Sussex RH16 3QS (tel 0444 458811). Serenissima Travel, 2 Lower Sloane Street, London SW1W 8BJ (tel 01-730 7281). Encounter Overland, 271 Old Brompton Road, London SW5 (tel 01-370 6951). Hayes & Jarvis, 6 Harriet Street, London SW1X 9JP (tel 01-235 3648). Abercrombie & Kent, 42 Sloane Street, London SW1X 9LU (tel 01-235 9761). Explore Worldwide, 31a High Street, Aldershot, Hants GU11 1BH (tel 0252 319448).

On safari

by Carol Wright

Safaris have a Hemingway image: life a little raw in tooth and claw, but after the hunting—now with zoom lens camera, not a gun—a tented camp of comfort with cold gin, hot food and running bearers. Though there are more packaged than individual safari holidays now, there is still an extensive choice available with wildlife experts to guide you into the bush. Stays are in simple, isolated tented camps.

There are plenty of hotel and lodge bases in game parks for those who like to take their animal viewing a little more sedately. The Hollywood of safari pampering is the Mount Kenya Safari club. The Zululand Safari hotel at the gates of South Africa's Hluhluwe park in Natal, the Bumi Hills in Zimbabwe overlooking Lake Kariba with viewing platforms from the bedrooms, and wilderness safaris in