

ENCOUNTER OVERLAND

SPECIAL EASTER VAC. EXPEDITION

TO

THE HIGH ATLAS & SAHARA

## HIGH ATLAS and SAHARA

## ENCOUNTER OVERLAND

## AIM

THE AIM of this expedition is to travel to some remote and lesser known regions of North West Africa, specifically the High Atlas and the Jebel Sarhro of Morocco and penetrate the Algerian Sahara to the oases of El Oued, Touggourt and Ghardaia.

## INTRODUCTION.

ENCOUNTER OVERLAND began in 1963 and has since gained experience organising many expeditions to remote and fascinating areas of Asia and Africa.

Most members of our groups are young and all have a spirit of enquiry that puts up with a little discomfort and contributes so much to the success of an expedition. The organisers are men with broad experience in the many different aspects of overland travel and encourage adventure that is sensible and safe.

## COST.

When you join an Encounter Overland Expedition you have paid an inclusive price. The cost takes into account air and overland transport, ferry fares, food, accommodation (which is mostly camping), and travel insurance. There are no hidden extras, and this leaves you with your £50 allowance intact, some of which would probably be spent on an occasional local meal, gifts and souvenirs.

## A FEW FACTS ABOUT CAMPING, VEHICLES AND FOOD.

CAMPING along almost all the route is pleasant. The timing and route taken avoid almost all winter conditions in Europe and the intolerably long hot Saharan summer. In Europe and Morocco organised camping sites are often used and in outlying areas police outposts are sometimes available. Tents, camp-beds, etc., are all supplied; you need only your own sleeping bag.

OUR VEHICLES, 1½ ton four-wheel-drive Austins powered by 3.8 litre British Leyland diesel engines are extensively modified and especially equipped for our very exacting requirements. They are rugged and dependable yet fast and spacious. Frequently there are two vehicles travelling together. Within the framework of the itinerary they are independent, but there is the support one can give the other.

The trucks seat twelve people travelling in comfort with their belongings and the equipment, food, water, etc. Cooking can be done inside and there is room to stand up and prepare food on gas stoves and for the group to sit down around a table and enjoy it.

GOOD FOOD is an essential part of a good trip; most of our provisions are taken with us supplemented with fresh food bought en route.

#### THE GROUP LEADER.

LEADERS have a wide scope of expedition experience and of working with a group. They are familiar with the particular region. As skilled drivers their concern is the safety of the group and the maintenance of the vehicle.

#### THE GROUP.

MEN and WOMEN who are interested in a journey like this and realise what is involved are able to contribute enormously. We are not looking for a particular 'type' but for people who will help in their different ways to make the expedition enjoyable. The full success of the expedition will depend on the co-operation of each member of the group.

#### THE EXPEDITION.

THIS EXPEDITION is to be a great adventure properly informed, prepared and equipped, and it will be an exciting and often hilarious experience. Adventure is combined with good organisation and what is undertaken is sensible and safe.

It is an adventure only for a particular type of traveller; one in whom stirs fascination as much for brooding mountains as bustling bazaars, for a journey beyond the edges of isolation and for exquisite, almost microscopic beauty in an almost infinite waste.

The Sahara is considered the most absolute desert on earth. It is a region of extreme temperatures and dry winds. Yet in this wilderness are to be found places and objects of nature and antiquity, haunting and beautiful and - almost out of reach.

## ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

**THE COST.** The inclusive cost of the expedition per member is £78.

**TIME and SPACE.** The expedition will take 28 days. It will cover approximately 6,000 miles.

**BOOKING.** A deposit of £18 should be sent with the Booking Form. This assures you your place. You will receive an official receipt. The balance is due ten days before departure. Cheques should be made payable to Encounter Overland.

**REFERENCE.** For your reference our bankers are Lloyds Bank Ltd., Cox's and King's Branch, 6 Pall Mall, London, S.W.1. Other references will be supplied on request.

**INSURANCE.** Included in the cost of the expedition is Travel Insurance for each individual member, of £2,000, Personal Accident; £200 Medical Expenses and £100 Personal Effects. The Insurance Form will be sent to you on receipt of your deposit and should be filled in and returned to us. You will receive your policy before departure.

**PASSPORTS.** Passports must be valid for the length of the trip and have sufficient pages for border stamps. Citizens of the U.K. do not require any visas.

**MEDICAL FORMALITIES.** You must be vaccinated against smallpox and hold an International Vaccination Certificate.

**MEETINGS.** Special meetings have been arranged at the Royal Overseas League in London during March for those joining the expedition. Contact us to find out when they are and try to get along, see the special vehicles used and clear up any points you may have. Though these meetings are useful and enjoyable they are not essential, and of course people join our expeditions who have not been able to meet us beforehand.

Alternatively come and see us at our office and workshops at Wren Park. People are always welcome here though prior notice is preferred.

**OTHER DETAILS.**

A guide to clothing and personal equipment, final departure arrangements, mailing addresses, etc. will be provided at meetings or by post.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUERIES OR WANT FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT US.



## I T I N E R A R Y

## LONDON to GIBRALTAR

- 5 days  
 ' From Calais the route will take us through Rouen, Chartres, Tours and Angouleme to Bordeaux. We will cross the flat region of Landes to Biarritz and St. Jean de Luz a fishing town just four miles from the Spanish border.  
 ' In Spain we go through San Sebastian and Tolosa and the old cathedral town of Burgos. After crossing the Puerto de Somosierra we arrive in Madrid and then cross a desolate plateau and the Sierra Morena through Jaen to Granada, and over the Sierra Nevada to the coast.
- 1,500 mls  
 ' MALAGA We follow the Costa de Sol from Motril through Malaga and Marbella to Algeciras. Across the bay is the Rock of Gibraltar and discernible on the southern horizon is the coast of Africa.  
 ' 3 days MOROCCO and THE HIGH ATLAS.  
 ' 460 mls. From Ceuta (Sebta) where we land we drive along the coast to Tetouan and inland over the Rif Mountains to Chechouen and on to Meknes to visit the town and Volubilis and Moulay Idriss, ruins of a Roman past.
- MARRAKECH We reach Marrakech through the forests on the northern slopes of the Atlas Mountains and from its teeming streets and bazaars, we will go south into the Massif of the High Atlas across the Tizi-n-Tichka (pass) at 8,000 ft. and descend to Quarzazate.  
 ' 3 days We will then follow the Dadess Valley with the mass of the High Atlas to the north and the Djebel Sarhro to the south.  
 ' This is the land of the Berbers and it is here in the regions around Zagora and Erfoud that we will travel in the shadow of the mountains to the oases that straddle the streams as they drain into the wastes of the Sahara. We arrive in Erfoud from out of the desert across the camel trail from Zagora 170 miles away in the south-east. Erfoud is the terminus of the trans-desert caravans and a remote trading place. We will follow the Ziz Valley north before turning westwards again across more desert to the sealed road close to the Algerian Border and on to Oujda.
- 400 mls.  
 ' ERFOUD  
 ' 2 days  
 ' 390 mls.

## ALGERIA and THE SAHARAN OASES.

TLEMCEM We are now back in a Mediterranean climate and Tlemcen is  
 ' likened to old Spanish towns with its Andalusian influence  
 ' and even older Roman remains. Nevertheless there is a  
 2 days delightful Arab Quarter full of life and colour. We meet  
 ' the coast at Tenes and follow the sea for 140 miles to  
 ' Algiers, the capital of Algeria that still retains from  
 380 mls colonial days much of the atmosphere of metropolitan France.  
 '

ALGIERS We shall leave Algiers to go into the mountains again and to  
 ' Bou Saada and Biskra and descend into the Great Saharan  
 5 days Depression. We shall now journey to several of the oases;  
 ' El Oued, Touggourt, Quargla, Ghardaia past legionary forts  
 ' and date groves.  
 900 mls.  
 '

MASCARA The expedition will return to the coast through the oases  
 ' of Laghouat and climb the Eastern Atlas to the Col des  
 2 days Caravanes to Mascara. We shall cross back into Morocco and  
 520 mls. take the road of the great Arab invaders along the ridges of  
 GIBRALTAR the Rif Mountains back to Chechaouen. We shall recross the  
 Straits of Gibraltar and spend the final six days returning  
 through Europe.