aardvark expeditions
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Every now and then we sit down and work out a few air fares that may be of interest to past and future fellow travellers.
Mainly concerning South America, where of course we have the best trip round that beautiful and varied continent. (we're quite safe to say that because we are still the only folk going round it..)
We go round it partly because air fares in and out the same city are much cheaper than fares "in one end and out the other".
AT THE MOMENT (and of course we have no control over airlines raising prices e.g. in summer.
The most practical in and out city, we suggest, is
BOGOTA £299 return via Miami, valid 5 months from and back to Miami, as long as you like there
Quito or Guayaquil are £337 return
LIMA at £390 gets you into the Inca regions quickly.
(NB buy the ticket to/from Cuzco outside Peru,- there's a tax on it inside Peru.
LA PAZ £460. The one way fare of £230 is useful for "in one end & out the other" travellers.
RIO £496 ret.
SANTIAGO or BUENOS AIRES £520 ret.

Cheapest in one side and out the other combinations are
to Cartagena and from La Paz £402
to Bogota and from Cuzco £430
to Cuzco and from Rio £491
to Bogota & from Rio £480

Cheapest flight to New Zealand via S.America is £430
" " " Australia " " " " £399 But these are via L.A.
" " " NZ & Aus. via Santiago Easter Island Tahiti etc is £662-£664

Aus via L.A. but not S.America FROM £216.. BUT obviously a few conditions!
DARWIN & PERTH direct from £241
Syd, Melb & Brisbane from £254
Perth ret from £318
Syd ret " £ 334
} But these are the notorious BA/Qantas fares, designed to keep Laker out of Australia, and be almost unobtainable for any rational period or length of stay...
So £310 very approx is what you should reckon on each way with a stop in Bangkok or Singapore
NAIROBI ret. APEX 250 , FROM £145 o/w .. via Russia??!
Rather than fly to Delhi for £145
we suggest Karachi @ £135

MEXICO 93 o/w

Georgetown Guyana ABC's from £252, but 45 days advance booking & fixed date returns up to 4mths

Greece from £66-£90 depending how near high summer you want to go.

Israel £128 , approx

Cairo and various Mid-East cities have youth fares for under 26's of from £79

All fares correct as of 22.3.79

We can arrange any of these fares or explain how to build up e.g. flights to Monterrey, Mexico for only £93 (till May)
From time to time there are special bargains which deserve a mention. e.g. (again till May) if two people travel together to Lima they each save £54 (but they must travel back together too..)
If you can find any lower fares please let us know.

AARDVARK'S first trip to MEXICO and GUATEMALA

ON July 28th we begin (from Houston) our first "half tour half expedition" through Central America. The trip can be joined a week later in Mexico City, if Texas, Monterrey and the eastern Sierra Madre mountains are not of surpassing interest to you.
On this first trip there will be a few options as to how long you stay with the (American school) bus,- you can fly back or on from Merida or Mexico City. Houston to Merida and Mexico City round back to Mexico City are both 4 weeks, so Houston to Merida AND Mexico City will be 5 weeks, Houston back to Houston will be 6 weeks.
Price for 3 weeks is £235.. for 4 weeks is £260, for 5 weeks is £280, for 6 is £295..
Plus £3-£4 a day for meals in local restaurants and drinks every day, hotels in cities about half the time and a few modest souvenirs like ponchos. Obviously the day or two in Texas will be double this.We provide tents but the (few) campsite fees are extra.
From Mexico City with its exceptional museum and its modern murals at the University and its inevitable bustle we visit Teotihuacan with its impressive Pyramids of the Sun and the Moon. Then off over the hills to Taxca, an unspoilt colonial town, and down to Acapulco's beaches and cliffs, where local divers risk life and limb plummetting 100 feet into a few feet of water. Several days of sun and surf here and along the coast to Puerto Angel, then back over hills to Oaxaca, the chosen valley of Cortez. Fine ruins at Monte Alban and Mitla nearby.
Several interesting markets on the way to Guatemala, but the best known one is in this beautiful little country. Chichicastenango's fame has spread as far as travel brochures have ventured. Nearby Lake Atitlan has become a home from home for the remnants of the flower power generation.
From Guatemala City ardent ruin-viewers can hop over the border (but at their own expense) to Copan in Honduras, but equally fine ruins await us at Tikal, near the pleasant lake-island town, Flores. You will see plenty of ruins in Yucatan, but the 4th-10th century city of Tikal is something special, one of the peaks of Mayan civilisation.
The only trouble with this area is the rainy season
When the tracks are passable we prefer to drive via Belize to the beaches and temples of Yucatan.
Tulum on its clifftop site, Chichen Itza and Uxmal are all on our route to Merida.
But this isn't purely a cultural tour of Central America. We will be stopping at most of the beaches we pass and hope to get in a bit of diving round the cays of Belize or the islands off Quintana Roo. The coral reefs here are some of the finest in the Caribbean, and needless to say the marine life is psychedelically coloured and fascinating.
A dip in the turquoise waters followed by a barbecue on the beach with a few rum and cokes can't be bad.
The bus returns from Merida to Mexico City via Campeche and the ruins of Palenque in the Tabasco jungle, Vera Cruz and Puebla, yet another old colonial town.
Various continuations through the Americas will suggest themselves to you.. back to Houston and London... or northwest to Los Angeles, from where amazingly cheap airfares go via South Pacific paradises-or should it be paradi?- to Sydney and New Zealand...

Or on to South America. We have devised an interesting combined Central and South American route that is built round the low cost air fares in to Houston and out of Barbados back to Europe. This would give you most of the above Mexican and Guatemalan journey plus a taste of the Andes, the crater lake of Guatavita, where the Mochica Indians' chieftains were covered in gold dust every mid-summers day and ritually bathed in the green water. This ceremony gave birth to the legend of El Dorado,- the Golden Man. And incredible inhumanity of man to man as greed possessed the Spanish and German and British freebooters.
Caracas is as modern a city as one can hope to avoid anywhere. But the beaches at Higuerote nearby are superb and one of the wildest dances we ever chanced on in years of South American travelling was here. Ciudad Bolivar on the Orinoco is the airport for the flights to Canaima near the Angel Falls. These 3000 foot falls are the highest in the world, but the plane can only circle them. The trek to them is quite an undertaking, but we can put you in touch with Jungle Rudi or El Sid, who can mount these canoe-excursions. Canaima is one of the most beautiful spots in South America, with views past fine beaches and jungle and waterfalls to the sheerscliffs of one of the Tepuys, the mesa-like bluffs that give Roraima its eery feeling and the strange reputation that has spawned such books as Green Mansions and Conon Doyle's Lost Worlds. Please don't feed the dinosaurs.
And so back across the Orinoco to Maturin, a short hop to Trinidad, an overnight boat to Tobago a day or two on that Robinson Crusoe island, boat back to Port of Spain, fly to Barbados and as long as you like there before the plane to Luxembourg.. (and train to London).
Could be interesting!
Especially a first trip...