# aardvark EXPEDITIONS

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DEPARTURE DATES

JULY 12th 1976
DECEMBER 5th 1976
APRIL 6th 1977

OUR DECEMBER 1975 SOUTH AMERICAN EXPEDITION HAS RECENTLY RETURNED BRINGING WITH THEM FILM OF THE GALAPAGOS ISLANDS IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN VIEWING THIS, PLUS MORE ROUND SOUTH AMERICAN FILM (including carnival in Belem) THEN YOU ARE INVITED TO CALL IN ON FRIDAY EVENING AT 7.30

For those interested in our Nairobi trip via the Middle East. We are showing film of YEMEN, this rarely visited but facinating country, on Tuesday evening at 7.30.

Thanks for your enquiry. Here is the brochure and some details about flights to South America.

The cheapest way to get to Venezuela, the starting point of our trip, is to fly via the Trinidad to MATURIN in Eastern Venezuela. This return airfare costs £198 at the moment, but are sold for July. We will book 10 seats for Nov 30th, returning late March In order to obtain this cheap airfare you must book 67 days in advance.

The next cheapest way to get to Venezuela is to fly to Barbados and then on to Trinidad and Maturin. This air fare costs £240 return on July 6th and has the advantage of only needing a few weeks to book. We can also help you to get a single flight to Venezuela for £168, as long as you take trains and the ferry over to Luxembourg from Britain

THE AIM OF THIS JOURNEY.

To see as much as possible of South America within 3 months. But remember that's 3 months plus problems..!

COUNTRIES VISITED.

(TRINIDAD) VENEZUELA, COLOMBIA, EQUADOR, PERU, BOLIVIA, PARAGUAY, ARGENTINA, BRAZIL.

VEHICLES.

We use a strong Mercedes Benz diesel coach for travel in South America. Since we first started doing overland trips in 1967 we have almost invariably used Mercedes Benz, both four wheel drive trucks and buses. The major reason for this is that Mercedes Benz are the best vehicles available and have spare

We use a bus rather than a truck or mini-bus because it is more spacious and people can move around inside. It also helps to keep out the extremes of weather - snow blizzards in the Andes, dust storms in the Chaco of Argentina and the hot sun of Amazonia.

We never fill all the seats and make a policy of leaving the back seats free so that if you fall ill there is always a bed for you to lie on.

People intending to join this trip must be warned that it is not a coach tour in any way and they should be prepared to help push and pull the bus if need be, out of the Amazonian mud!

Mechanical know-how counts for a great deal on a journey of this kind and we always have as co-driver an experienced diesel mechanic.

ACCOMMODATION AND CAMPING.

We stress that this is not a total camping trip because hotels and restaurants are cheap and plentiful and we have found that pure camping trips tend to become a little inbred. Half the fun of travelling is to experience the different native foods and in the towns it is a break for everyone to wander off by themselves, or with a few friends, to sample the restaurants or hotels.

We do, however, take two-man tents with flysheets and sewn in ground sheets which can be completely sealed to keep out any bugs and pests and we tend to stay in these in the remoter areas. Basically it is up to you whether you sleep out or stay in a small hotel. In the larger towns, however, we would prefer everyone to hotel it.

HOW FAR DO WE DRIVE EACH DAY.

Depends on what there is to see and the terrain. In bits of Amazonia in the rainy season it might be a ten hour struggle to go fifty miles a day and the same goes for the steep mountain passes of Peru and Bolivia. But our normal days are between five and ten hours, about seven to eight hours usually, driving plus stops for drinks, light lunch, sight-seeing, swims and the loo.

We do feel that these kind of trips need to keep up a certain momentum. People must realise that crossing continents involves quite a lot of driving and that four or five days a week is quite continuous travelling. 900-1000 miles a week is our average. That is, in fact, much the same as other overland companies. We just state it a bit more clearly. One should accept that these kind of half tours/half expeditions are meant as, and can only be, introductions to countries as vast and varied as South America.

FOOD.

Throughout South America food is cheap and plentiful. We find that during the day, as we travel, people usually prepare sandwiches or salads for themselve (remember to bring your own personal eating utensils) and in the evenings go to a cheap local restaurant. In Argentine you can buy steaks for 20p!

Bargaining in the colourful local markets is an exciting aspect of the trip and a quick way to discover the complexities of native trading.