



interesting excursions into the surrounding countryside to see local people who may as well be living in another century. Elephant tours are available too! Myanmar, Thailand's neighbor to the west and formerly known as Burma, is unique in having been closed to the West for so long. Although many outside influences are now being allowed into the country, the capital, Yangon (formerly Rangoon), still retains a 1950's quaintness. Cambodia's star attraction is the extensive ruin of Angkor Wat. Anyone who can imagine Karnak Temple in a jungle setting will be well on his way to visualizing these massive temples which are truly a treasure of world heritage. Angkor Wat is situated near the Cambodian town of Siem Reap, to which there are daily nonstop flights from Bangkok. Vietnam, to the east of Cambodia, is also on the tourist map nowadays. Bustling Ho Chi Minh City (formerly Saigon) in the South contrasts with the more staid Hanoi



in the North; and interesting antiquities can be visited in the former capital of Hue which lies in the middle.

The North African countries of Tunisia and Libya, like Egypt, are best toured during the winter season. Tunis's Bardo Museum boasts what are perhaps the world's best Roman mosaics, and some modest Classical antiquities can be viewed outside the capital. Tourists can also drive a rental car to the Tunisian oases of Nefta and Tozeur with their springs and pretty date palm groves. Libya, on the other hand, offers incredible Roman-era antiquities near Tripoli and Greek-era antiquities near Benghazi. Long closed to tourism, in the last year Libya has begun to open its doors quite a bit wider. While touring in Libya is not cheap, the tourist will usually enjoy the prestige of being the first on his block to have visited that country!

East Africa and Ethiopia also enjoy a high winter tourist season. While photographic safaris may or may not have been invented there, Kenya now stands head and shoulders above its neighbors in the number of tourist arrivals. Kenya



shares the Serengeti Plain with Tanzania, which lies to the south. Mt. Kilimanjaro, while situated in Tanzania, is clearly visible from Kenya's southern Amboseli Park. If there is one reason to take a safari in Tanzania as opposed to Kenya, it is the amazing, 20-km-wide Ngorongoro Crater, which contains a captive wildlife population within its 600-meter walls. While Uganda is interesting for its safaris to view elusive mountain gorillas, Ethiopia is unique for its cultural tourism. Ethiopia's "Historic Route" includes: Lalibela with eleven rock-cut churches dating back as far as the

KENYA: BEST WEATHER FROM DEC. TO MAR. Wildebeeste migration from JUL. to SEP. Nairobi EGP 3,000 on Egypt Air. 6-night minimum stay. Nairobi EGP 3,350 on Kenya Airways. 5-night minimum stay. Masai Mara Park, Amboseli Park, Samburu Park, Tree Hotels, Lake Nakuru, Mt. Kenya, Mombasa, Lamu.

ETHIOPIA: BEST WEATHER FROM SEP. TO FEB. Addis Ababa EGP 2,850 on Ethiopian Airlines. No minimum stay. Addis Ababa, "Historic Route" (Lalibela, Axum, Bahar Dar, Gondar).

MALDIVES: BEST WEATHER DEC.-MAR. & ALSO NOV. Male EGP 4,710 on Emirates. Minimum stay 7 nights. Beaches, scuba diving.

twelfth century. Axum, an ancient capital with granite monoliths; Bahar Dar, where the falls of the Blue Nile are situated; and Gondar, another former capital with ancient palaces. Addis Ababa, Ethiopia's capital, hosts the largest open market in Africa!

ABOUT TED COOKSON:

Egypt's most widely-traveled travel agent, Ted has been to every country in the world! He has also visited 307 of the 317 destinations on the list of the Travelers' Century Club (visit www.eptours.com and refer to World Travel Club). A travel agent in Cairo since 1986, Ted manages EGYPT PANORAMA TOURS, a full-service travel agency, at 4 Road 79 (between Roads 9 and 10, near the "El Maadi" metro station) in Maadi.

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