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Today's Question Where can I learn to whitewater kayak? answer

Any good suggestions for an extended backpacking trip in the Alps? answer

Any cool outdoor summer camps out there? answer

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Outside Magazine February 2005

Best Trips 2005 The High Road Asia

Intro | The Caribbean, Mexico, and Central America | Asia | Africa | Eastern Europe and the Caucasus | Western Europe | Polar Regions | Oceania | North America | South America | The Trip of the Year | The Trips of 2006

India Rajasthan on Horseback Price: \$4,800 Difficulty: Strenuous

When film producer Alexander Souri's first expedition of "Relief Riders" trotted into a remote Indian village last fall, the caravan of nine Marwari horses, four pack camels, 50 goats, and 15 people caused quite a stir. "Across India it became front-page news," says Souri, 35, whose inaugural Rajasthan Relief Ride delivered supplies like antibiotics and eye drops by horseback to five villages in northwestern India, and had doctors on board for impromptu clinics. Hardy travelers can join the next cavalcade on a 15-day journey carrying goods deep into the Thar Desert. You'll saddle up in Mukandgarh, about six hours from New Delhi, then ride about 20 miles per day, camping or staying in 400-year-old forts en route to Jaipur.



High Point: Seeing villagers receive knowledge—such as AIDS education—plus food and supplies that they desperately need.

Low Point: Watching people wait in line at the clinics for hours in the midday heat.

Travel Advisory: Three to five hours per day is a lot of time in the saddle. Be sure your skills (and your posterior) are up to the task.

Outfitter: Relief Riders International, 413-329-5876, www.reliefridersinternational.com

When to Go: February, October

Sri Lanka Wildlife Expedition Price: \$1,099—\$1,390 Difficulty: Easy

Sri Lanka is serious about protecting its endangered elephants—the penalty for killing one is death. On this eight-day loop around the island, starting and ending in Colombo, you'll witness the slow recovery of the species—thousands of these mammoth mammals now roam the jungles of Yala National Park. En route to the two-day park safari, you'll visit Kandy and Polonnaruwa, two of Sri Lanka's oldest cities, and an elephant orphanage, and stay at an Edwardian manor house amid the tea fields of a former British hill station.

Outfitter: Big Five, 800-244-3483, www.bigfive.com When to Go: October to March

Tsunami Relief Want to help out with the tsunami relief effort? Click here for Outside's in-depth coverage of the tragedy, including organizations accepting donations.

Tibet Photo Exploration Price: \$4,695

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