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## PREFACE

What prompted this weather guide?

Basically, a need.

As travel agents we advised numerous people about the best time to visit a country or region to find the sun, to go on safari, to go trekking, to go skiing, or sailing, or cruising or cycling...

Tourist literature published by government agencies promotes their country's attractions but mention of weather is often confined to one paragraph or nothing at all. Similarly, brochures of tour operators promote their tours and destinations but little information, if any, is given about weather. This weather guide is designed to fill the information gap.

Increasing numbers of people are travelling for business and pleasure and many are booking on the Internet. It is important that travel planners are aware of the weather to be expected at their destination. Reduced airfares and low hotel rates may be appealing but if you are booking a holiday in a wet season you should be aware of it in advance. In compiling this weather guide we have described year-round weather and have suggested the best time to travel. To us, the best time is when the weather is sunny, warm and dry.

Over the years we have taken long trips lasting many months, so visiting each country at the "best time" has not always been possible. But it is wise to be aware of the "best time" before you leave.

We have often been in places when it has been far from the best time. We travelled in India during the intense heat of summer, journeyed down the Amazon River during the rainy season, camped in central Australia in May and almost froze in the unseasonably cold weather, and travelled through the Indonesian islands of Bali, Java and Sumatra during the monsoon season. We visited Kenya on a photographic safari in the normally dry month of January when rainstorms bogged us down in the game reserves. We journeyed to the grasslands of Inner Mongolia in late September when freezing Arctic winds chilled us to the bone. We travelled in Mali during a drought when one of our major concerns became seeking water, and we stayed on one of Fiji's small islands in the middle of the cyclone season. A cyclone roared across the island, flattened vegetation, snapped the trunks of palm trees as if they were toothpicks, hurled coconuts through the air and tossed boats onto the beaches.

However, we have also travelled during the "best times" and have enjoyed festivals, animal migrations, beaches, sailing, trekking, wildflower seasons and colorful foliage changes.

Your experiences will be different according to when you travel but the rewards, many.

We hope that this comprehensive, easy-to-read weather guide will help you choose your destination or plan your journey. Enjoy your travels!

Russell and Penny Jennings