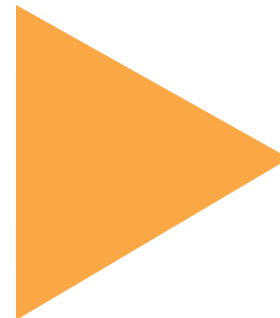


MUSE

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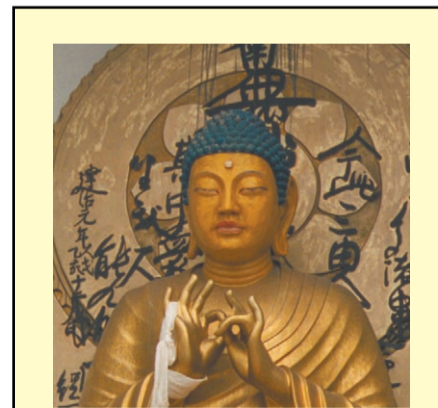
Travel. These days, everybody's at it. Whether it's Prince Will's trip to Chile on his gap year or yer Gran's coach trip to Cornwall, you just can't avoid tales of exotic adventures around this planet we call home. So, it's time to get your own back. As thoughts of exams and essays vanish into the sun kissed air, we face the prospect of fourteen glorious weeks with fuck all to do. Sure, there may be summer rent to worry about, jobs to hold down and

money to be earned, but who's worrying about the details? *nouse* invites you to extend your overdraft, sign up for that credit card and be inspired by these tales of epic adventure from around the globe. Less a guide, more page filling fun to inspire you to globe trotting greatness, grab a beer and wack on the sun lotion as you read our epic tales. First up is Jamie Willard, dreaming of his eastern adventures in India. Can't you just smell the spice?

Already the sun was quite high in the sky, it was 5am, blinking I unzipped the tent flap door, tentatively stepping outside, still half asleep. I was relieved to find that my tent was where I had pegged it down the evening before, it hadn't been washed away by the torrents of water that had cascaded past the tent in the aftermath of the previous night's thunderstorm.

Immediately I realised what it meant to literally wake up on the roof of the world. With all its stunning beauty and majesty, crystal-clear blue skies dotted with the occasional cloud, Nimaling, nestled 5000 metres up, is pretty awe-inspiring. God this sounds trite and clichéd, and yet... well I'm not going to apologise – quite simply if I had to pick one moment to encapsulate all that was good and memorable about trekking in the Indian Himalayas, high up above the Markha Valley,

that would be it. It was simply breathtaking. India was always a place that I wanted to visit. Ladakh, or 'Little Tibet' as it is known, struck



Above: The Buddha effigy at Shanti Stupa.

The intricate decoration is typical of the Buddhist icons which are found throughout Ladakh.

me as somewhere different. Somewhat off the beaten track, away from the hordes that travel through Kathmandu, into the Nepalese region of the Himalayas. In contrast, Ladakh was somewhat more peaceful (well at least in terms of tourist numbers), primarily due to its proximity to the disputed province of Jammu and Kashmir, a subject of tension practically ever since Pakistani independence.

'Little Tibet', as the name suggests, for centuries has always been heavily influenced by Tibetan culture with Buddhism flourishing in the region.

Continued on Centre spread

Turn to the M10 + M11 for more travel...