



“A BREATH FOR FREEDOM” FOLLOWING THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE GOULAG ESCAPEES’



“A BREATH FOR FREEDOM” WALKING 8000KM IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE GULAG ESCAPEES’ AN EXPEDITION BY TAKLAMAKAN

WHAT IS IT?

Tracing one of the most incredible tales of escape ever, Taklamakan sets out on an 8,000 km journey from the wilderness of north-eastern Siberia - a journey once undertaken by prisoners who escaped the Soviet gulag of Kolyma. Braving the dangers of the taiga, crossing Mongolia, China and even the Himalayas, unbelievable but true, some of these prisoners ended up in India.

From the early 1920's to the late 1960's, massive numbers of people (estimated around 20 million) were sent to the camps of the gulag, some as far as the Kolyma-region in Siberia's north-east. Many people died on the way to their camps or in detention due to their extreme labour, the atrocious living conditions, or due to starvation. Some survived and others took the desperate decision to have the ultimate control over themselves and their lives: they decided to flee in order to escape their "ordered death".

Several groups of prisoners tried to make their way through the Siberian hell. Some failed, some succeeded. Going east from the camps, meant joining another war front with the Japanese conflict, or being stopped by the Bering Sea. The western route led straight back into the hands of the Soviet authorities. And going north would lead nowhere else then to the polar ice!

Heading south, even if long and geographically extreme, was the only possible way. But even then, the escapees still needed to pass through countries under Soviet influence. And, walking, riding, hiding, across steppes and deserts, through swamps and forests and over mountains ranges, they had to overcome innumerable obstacles to pass through the ordeals of their 8,000 km lifetime escape.

Now Taklamakan is reconstructing their epic journey from captivity to freedom. By travelling due south from Kolyma towards India, the expedition wants to pay a tribute to the escapees, with the overall objective of using the lessons of Kolyma - or, the horror of the gulag - to remind us, inhabitants of the free world, what freedom is really worth.

WHAT DO WE WANT TO ACHIEVE?

TAKLAMAKAN.NET wants to retrace the tremendous efforts made by the hundreds of men and women whose only wish was to breathe freely.

We want to find the natural ways they used and ?nally give a map to this route.

We want to face the difficulty of the itinirary in order to better understand what can push an individual to overpass himself under such conditions.

We want to tell their story in order to draw attention..

Because remembering them and their courage to survive is a step closer to understanding our current freedom.

Because with hard work, courage and determination any goal can be achieved.



ITINERARY ESTIMATIONS

SECTION | DURATION | MONTH | AVG TEMP° | RAIN
From Magadan to Aldan | 1 month JUNE | 7° | 33mm-61mm
Siberian Taiga till the Baikal lake on foot | 2 months JULY, AUGUST | 19°-14° | 71mm-53mm
The mongolian step, on foot and horseback | 1 months SEPTEMBER | 20° | 15mm
Gobi desert with horse | 15 days OCTOBER | 20° | 30mm
Across of the chinese Ghanzou on foot | 15 days OCTOBER | 15° | 10mm
Across of the Tibetan L' Amdo on foot | 1 month NOVEMBER | 2° | 15mm
From Lhassa to Calcutta on foot | 1.5 months DECEMBER | 0° | ??

OUR HISTORY

This project has been prepared for the last 3 years.

The latest big expedition's (Paris Kabul) media results were:

Internet: taklamakan.net (2000c/d) | lepoint.fr

(http://www.lepoint.fr/special_paris_kaboul/sommaire.html)lemonde.fr | lemonde.fr

Press: 30 articles | in 6 langages

Film: 5 episodes of 26mn on cable TV | 1 of 92mn in cinemas

Books: «Routes de la soie» Mille et une nuit | «paris kaboul» Hoebeke |

«Patrimoine Afghan» report for Unesco

WHAT ABOUT MEDIA COVERAGE?

Based on our previous experience, we have organized a result focused media plan through:

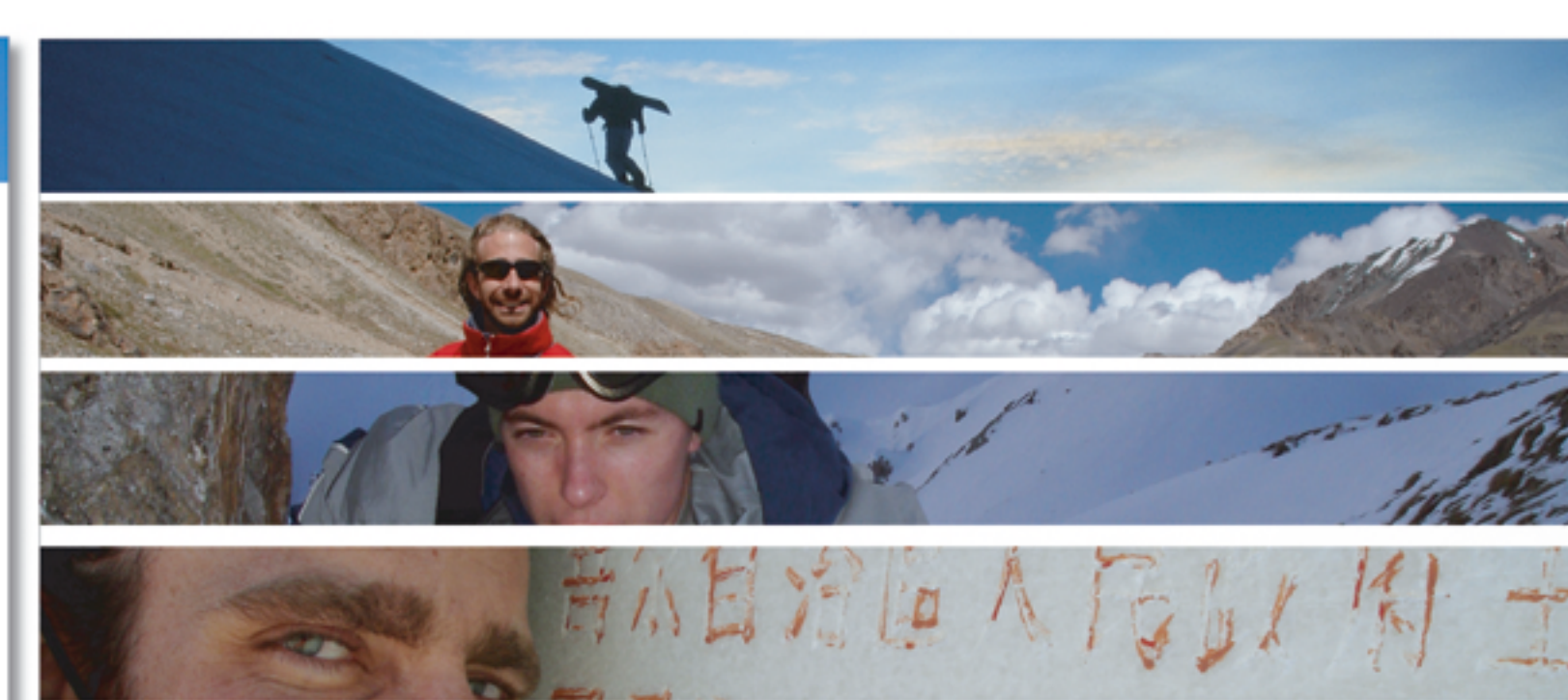
Internet: The taklamakan.net website is updated via Satellite phone every four days. It helps building suspense, scenario and addiction to the website!

Press: on the internet (le Point) or paper, we are used to deal with articles by having professional pictures and writers. Our PR agent makes sure we are seen in the European and American press.

Film: Our producer comes on several occasions during the expedition with his team. We also prepare interviews and a 'making of'. We are usually broadcast on cable television.

Our latest film had 5 episodes of 26min broadcasted.

Books: a major picture book is planned, with coloured panoramicwide pictures.



INTERESTED IN BECOMING A PARTNER ?

We can offer you three media packages according to your needs and to our media plan.

The project budget is available upon request. So feel free to contact us:

> by email: cyrildg@taklamakan.net | mroest@taklamakan.net

> website: www.taklamakan.net

> or post: TAKLAMAKAN EXPEDITIONS | Chemin de borne, Villemartin | 73350 Bozel, France.

> by tel: +33 (0) 870.445.366 | mobile: +33 (0) 612.25.30.22

WHO IS DOING THIS ?

Two members of Taklamakan organisation will be walking:

Cyril DELAFOSSE, a modern adventurer and entrepreneur, who has done over 8 international expeditions. Born in 1978 he has lived abroad for the last 24 years and with his passion for history and geography, he founded Taklamakan. "Hard work, courage and determination are the keys of success that made them [escapees] survive."

Guillaume TOURLOURAT, young sportsman based in the Alps. Born in 1982, snowboard and surfing traveller, he has built up a solid experience in travelling alone. Calm and determined, he is the best outdoor mate. "The challenge of experiencing the loneliness and toughness of the journey is a deep motivation to understand the escapees' mind."

And a whole professional team will join us 3 times during the quest:

> Film crew: one cameraman, one sound engineer from FML Production

> One photographer

“ Because UNDERSTANDING
Is a step closer to FREEDOM ”

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