

KNOW YOUR HISTORY

TALES FROM FOOTBALL'S PAST



AROUND THE WORLD

Deadly snakes, tigers, jungle camps, pyramids and a broken down bus - welcome to football's biggest and most extreme global tour!



SETTING OFF

Each year, football clubs go on summer tours to get warmed-up for the new season. Most only last a few days and involve just a handful of matches. But back in 1937, one club set off on an incredible tour that **lasted eight months and involved 95 matches** - and took them all the way around the world!

The club were the **Islington Corinthians** (known as the ICs), an amateur team from London. Air travel was too expensive back then, so the players made the whole journey by bus and boat. The first stop was Europe, where the ICs didn't lose a match. But the adventures really began when they reached **Egypt**, where they met the king and visited the awesome pyramids.



95 MATCHES



HOMeward BOUND

The ICs moved on to **Malaysia** and **Singapore**, where there were more animal adventures. The team bus was chased by a **leopard**, which chewed the tyres and jumped on the bonnet, terrifying the players.

After visiting **China** and **Japan**, the ICs sailed to **Hawaii**, then **Los Angeles**, where they visited **Hollywood** and met movie stars.

The final leg of the tour took them through **Canada**, then across the **Atlantic Ocean** back to England.

When they got home, the president of the FA told the exhausted players: "You have put football on the map of the world!" The ICs had won 65 out of 95 matches, drawn 22, and lost just eight. Most importantly, they had completed the biggest tour football has ever seen!



ANIMAL ADVENTURES

Next up was **India**, where the ICs faced teams that played in bare feet. Crowds of 100,000 watched games, with supporters climbing trees for better views.

The players rode on elephants and slept in jungle camps surrounded by tigers. One player found a **deadly cobra** in his tent. When their bus broke down, the team had to swim across a **crocodile-infested river** in their kits. Then they were confronted by a tribe – luckily they were friendly, and wanted to watch the ICs play.

ROUTE MAP

