EAST INDIA
Temple Mythology and Mountain Peaks

JANUARY 9–24, 2020
Hosts: Nalini Bhushan, Professor of Philosophy and Richard Millington, Professor of English Language & Literature.
Dear Smith Alumnae,

India’s vibrancy, color and dynamism will be in full display in 2020. Co-hosted by our very own Nalini Bhushan and Richard Millington, this time we go off the usual path and center it around eastern India namely West Bengal, Sikkim and Orissa. This itinerary was recognized by National Geographic Traveler as one of the ’50 Tours of a Lifetime’ in their May 2013 issue.

An important stop is Kolkata (formerly Calcutta) the former seat of the British Raj and home of Nobel Laureate Rabindranath Tagore (Literature, 1913) and Mother Teresa (Peace, 1979). We will experience the cacophony of this city through the eyes and ears of locals as we meander the streets immersed in the arts and culture and, most importantly, getting to know the people of West Bengal.

We make our way into the highlands of Darjeeling (still West Bengal and famous for the tea) and Sikkim- also known as Little Bhutan. These “hill stations” were once favored by the members of the elite class and British administrators seeking to escape the summer heat of the lowlands. The wide expanse of space, the towering mountain range of the Himalayas and Kanchanjunga and the spectacular sun rise and sun sets provide a stark contrast to the controlled chaos that typically defines India.

The world-famous temples that typify Odisha (formerly called Orissa) offer a view into Hindu mythology and temple architecture that make the state justly famous, a place where 21st century modernity meets thousands of years of history.

This program offers a unique experience by merging the academic and the aesthetic, by exploring the ancient history of the region and the modern society of today. We will offer several lectures on the trip. It will be further enhanced by local experts and guides.

We hope you will join us on this memorable program, and since space is limited, we encourage you to reserve your place quickly.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Bigwood
Director, Smith Travel
Office of Alumnae Relations
Nalini Bhushan is the Andrew W. Mellon Professor in the Humanities and Professor of Philosophy at Smith College and has hosted a number of trips for Smith Travel including India and Sri Lanka in the past. She is also a member of the faculty in South Asian Studies. She grew up in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, South India, and received her Ph.D. in philosophy from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

Bhushan regularly teaches courses in the meaning of life, aesthetics, the philosophy of science, the philosophy of mind and language, and Indian philosophy, and has recently taught senior seminars on topics such as cosmopolitanism and the German philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche. In the spring of 2020 she will teach a new seminar on practicing philosophy in the public sphere, focused on the complexity of identity in the 21st century. Her recently co-authored book, entitled Minds Without Fear: Philosophy in the Indian Renaissance, was published by Oxford University Press in June 2017. It explores the intellectual dimensions of the Indian Renaissance (1850–1947) during British rule, in areas such as art, philosophy, politics and religion. She is currently working on a new project in the philosophy of mind tentatively entitled Autistic Selfhood.

Richard Millington is the Helen and Laura Shedd Professor of English at Smith College, where he teaches courses in 19th and 20th-Century American literature and in American Studies. He is the author of Practicing Romance: Narrative Form and Cultural Engagement in Hawthorne’s Fiction, and of essays on Hawthorne, Alfred Hitchcock, and Willa Cather. He has recently been involved in an initiative to re-think the writing curriculum at the College, serving as Faculty Director of Writing and Public Discourse and Director of the First-Year Seminar Program. Richard will join his wife, Nalini Bhushan on this trip further enhancing the experience for Smith travelers through his lectures and insights.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- **Walk and experience** a slice of Kolkata- the former seat of the British Raj in India.
- **Explore** the ornate temple architecture of Odisha and learn about the mythology of the Ramayana and Mahabharata.
- **Visit Kumartulli-** a town of famous potters and Bengali idol art.
- **Witness the sunrises** of the Himalayan mountain range as their peaks rise as if in prayer.
- **Sample the famous tea** of Darjeeling and Bengali sweets.
January 9, 2020 – Depart USA
This is an overnight flight if traveling from the east coast. Please contact the tour operator for flight options.

January 10 – Arrive Kolkata
Welcome to Kolkata! You will be met and transferred to your hotel. This former capital of the British Raj is also the third largest metropolis in India and a crucial point of the nation's economy. *Oberoi Grand Hotel (B)*

January 11 – Tour of Kolkata
Experience the influence of the Chinese, Armenian and Anglo-Indians that makes Kolkata a melting point of culture, culinary delights that speak to all your senses. Visit important highlights including the Marble Palace, Mother Teresa Mission and Dhakineswar Temple. Enjoy a welcome dinner with your faculty hosts and fellow travelers. *Oberoi Grand Hotel (B, D)*

January 12 – Kolkata I Bagdogra I Darjeeling (West Bengal State)
Travel by scheduled flight to Bagdogra and drive to Darjeeling located at approximately 7,000 feet. Dotted with Buddhist monasteries, trekking trails, tea estates and inspiring mountain views, this small city was once a summer getaway during the British “Raj” to escape the heat of Kolkata. *Mayfair Hotel (B, D)*

January 13 – Darjeeling
Departure early to visit Tiger Hill to watch the sun rise over Mount Kanchenjunga. Return to the hotel for breakfast and relaxation. After lunch, visit the Zoological Gardens, Himalayan Mountaineering Institute and the Tibetan Refugee Center. *Mayfair Hotel (B, L, D)*
January 14 – Darjeeling
Bring out your inner-child with a short ride on the famous toy train to Ghoom. This is a wonderful introduction to the hill stations of India and the mountainous landscape formerly visited by the aristocracy and now by modern tourists. Later we will visit a tranquil monastery, one of the many so prevalent in the area. Mayfair Hotel (B, L, D)

January 15 – Darjeeling | Gangtok (State of Sikkim)
Continue today to Gangtok, nestled in the lush greenery of the Himalayas. The influence of the Nepalese and Bhutanese population going back generations is vividly on display through showing, their food, clothing and religion. This afternoon, visit Enchey Buddhist Monastery located amid the stunning views of the Eastern Himalayas and the peak of Mt. Kanchenjunga. Norkhill Hotel (B, L, D)

January 16 – Gangtok
This morning visit the Rumtek and Enchey Buddhist Monasteries. This ancient structure was first built in 1717 and then re-built in the 1900s in keeping with the traditional designs of Tibetan monasteries. Norkhill Hotel (B, L, D)

January 17 – Gangtok | Kalimpong
Travel to Kalimpong arriving in the afternoon. Until the mid-19th century, the area around Kalimpong was ruled intermittently by the Sikkimese and Bhutanese kingdoms. It was also a trading route between India and Tibet. Silver Oaks Hotel (B, L, D)

January 18 – Kalimpong
This morning, explore the Pedong Monastery as well as several other prominent ones including the Zang Dog Palri FroBrang, Thonsa Gompa and Tharpa Choling Monasteries. Along the way, see some of the exquisite flowers that are grown for export in this region. Silver Oaks Hotel (B, L, D)

January 19 – Kalimpong | Bagdogra | Kolkata
Fly to Kolkata and overnight. Oberoi Grand Hotel (B)

(B- Breakfast  L- Lunch  D-Dinner)
January 20 – Kolkata I Bhubaneswar (Odisha) I Puri
Fly from Kolkata to Bhubaneswar, State of Odisha (formerly called Orissa). This is the “Temple State of India” on the Bay of Bengal boasting over two-thousand temples and a rich culture dominated by art and dance. *Mayfair Waves (B, D)*

January 21 – Jagannath Temple and Konark Sun Temple Tour
Depart for Konark, a World Heritage Site, to see the Sun Temple and Jagannath Temple (note: non-Hindus are not allowed inside the Jagannath Temple but it can be viewed from a vantage point outside). Explore the medieval lanes and engage with the local people in Puri and Konark, while watching the flurry of worshippers around the temple complex. *Mayfair Waves (B, D)*

January 22 – Puri I Bhubaneswar
Travel to Bhubaneswar and explore the broad tree lined avenues to savor the spirit of this fascinating city. The highlight of the visit are the famous Mukteshwar Temple and the Parasuramesvara Temple with their intricately carved facades. *Trident Hotel (B)*

January 23 – Bhubaneswar I Kolkata
Visit the Udaigiri and Khandagiri caves, one of the earliest groups of Jain rock-cut shelters that are centuries old. Travel back to Kolkata. Enjoy a farewell dinner this evening. *Oberoi Grand Hotel (B, D)*

January 24 – Depart
Depart for your onward trip home or select from the extension below (see Extended Options).
TOUR PRICE

Land package only: $6,995 per person (double occupancy)
Single room supplement: $2,125

INCLUSIONS:
- Accommodation and meals mentioned above.
- All transportation.
- Services of English speaking professional local guides.
- Entrance fees to monuments.
- Domestic flights.

EXCLUSIONS:
- International flights
- Tipping and gratuities to porters, guides, drivers.
- Drinks during meals (bottled water will be provided)
- Laundry, dry cleaning, telephone, fax, internet
- Travel insurance (recommended)
- Visa and passport services, vaccinations.

Level of difficulty: Moderate.
Due to the nature of the areas we will be visiting, this program involves some walking on uneven terrain or up and down stairs that may be steep and/or without handrails. Altitudes will be as high as 7,000 feet above sea level in some areas. On some days, it also covers long distances by motor coach and small vehicles along mountain passes and switch backs. Every effort will be made to ensure your comfort; however, all participants are expected to be physically able. Participants who are not able to walk unassisted for extended periods or are sensitive to altitudes are kindly advised not to join this tour unless accompanied by an able-bodied companion who will be able to assist you at all times. If you have any questions about your ability to participate, we suggest that you visit your personal physician with this brochure in hand, and discuss whether or not this program is appropriate for you.
OPTION 1:
An Ode to the South
January 24-29, 2020
Immerse yourself in Tamil Nadu, South India’s most vibrant state. Visit the ancient temples of Mahabalipuram- the seventh century port city and wander the former French colony of Pondicherry. This unique city has flavors of French architecture, language and even cuisine although more and more of it has been taken over by the Tamil culture.

ITINERARY:
Jan. 24 – Fly from Kolkata to Chennai. 
Residency Towers (B)
Jan. 25 – AM tour of Chennai and depart for Mahabalipuram. 
Radisson Blu Temple Bay Resort (B)
Jan. 26 – Tour of Mahabalipuram and day tour of Kanchipuram. 
Radisson Blu Temple Bay Resort (B)
Jan. 27 – Puducherry. The Promenade (B)
Jan. 28 – Tour of Puducherry and Auroville. The Promenade (B)
Jan. 29 – Return to Chennai and connect to onward flight home.

GROUND COST:
$2,350 per person (sharing) 
$1,095 single room supplement
Includes: Kolkata to Chennai flights, hotels and meal plan as indicated above, entry fees to monuments and guided tours, full time English speaking Guide.
Excludes: Gratuities, beverages, other meals not included, personal expenses.

OPTION 2:
The Backwaters of Kerala
January 24-28, 2020
Visit Cochin- one of the oldest port cities in the world. It was once part of the ancient spice route that spanned 9,300 miles across thirty-one countries in its 2,000-year old history. Wander the historic streets and immerse yourself in Chinese, English, French and Dutch culture that once thrived here. Visit the famous Kerala Backwaters, a complex maze of water channels that can be traversed by houseboat gliding past small farming villages and endless expanse of brilliant green rice paddies. Indulge yourself in the famous Kerala ayurvedic treatment.

ITINERARY:
Jan. 24 – Kolkata- Cochin. Brunton Boatyard (B)
Jan. 25 – Heritage tour of Cochin. Brunton Boatyard (B)
Jan. 26 – Kumarakom. House boat cruise with lunch and drop off at your lake side resort. CGH Coconut Lagoon (B)
Jan. 27 – Nature based activity in the morning/ guided village walk. Rest of day at leisure. CGH Coconut Lagoon (B)
Jan. 28 – Return Cochin and depart.

GROUND COST:
$2,505 per person (sharing) 
$1,525 single room supplement
Includes: Kolkata to Cochin flights, hotels and meal plan as indicated above, entry fees to monuments and guided tours in Jaipur, Agra and Delhi including a visit to the Taj Mahal, full time Guide.
Excludes: Gratuities, beverages, other meals not included, personal expenses.

OPTION 3:
Royal Rajasthan & Taj Mahal
January 24-29, 2020
One of the most sought after destinations. Admire the magnificent Taj Mahal in Agra- a symbol of undying love; shop for gems in Jaipur- the ‘pink city’; climb to the top of a Mughal fort just how the powerful warriors once did. This is an experience not to be missed by first-time travelers to India.

ITINERARY:
Jan. 24 – Kolkata to Jaipur flight. ITC Rajputana (B)
Jan. 25 – Heritage tour of Jaipur. ITC Rajputana (B)
Jan. 26 – Jaipur to Agra with a stop at the historic Abhaneri Stepwell and Agra Fort. ITC Mughal (B)
Jan. 27 – Sunrise tour of the Taj Mahal. Depart for New Delhi. The Claridges (B)
Jan. 28 – Heritage tour of Old and New Delhi. The Claridges (B)
Jan. 29 – Depart.

GROUND COST:
$2,345 per person (sharing) 
$1,200 single room supplement
Includes: Kolkata to Jaipur flights, transport, hotels and meal plan as indicated above, entry fees to monuments and guided tours in Jaipur, Agra and Delhi including a visit to the Taj Mahal, full time Guide.
Excludes: Gratuities, beverages, other meals not included, personal expenses.

Note: All of the above extensions can be combined with other extensions and also be done before the main trip. Subject to availability.
If you wish to plan a different extension, please contact Immersion Journeys for ideas.
TOUR RESERVATION FORM

To reserve a space, please complete and return this form with your deposit of $1,000 payable to Immersion Journeys. Mail to 455 Main Street, Suite 5M, New York, NY 10044 or fax to 917-210-4093. We will not process your deposit until you are assigned a place on the tour. Please contact 917-686-2620 or 302-743-7005 if you have any questions about the registration process or email us at rumit@immersionjourneys.com.

- Enclosed is my/our deposit check of $____________ ($1,000 per person)
- Please charge my/our deposit of $____________ ($1,000 per person) to my:
  - VISA
  - MasterCard
  - American Express

Card #: ________________________________ Expiration Date: ________________________________

Security Code (4 digits for AMEX / 3 digits for others)________________

Authorized Card Holder Signature: ____________________________ Date: __________

The balance of the trip is due on October 9, 2019 and is payable by check only. Credit card payments will be charged a 3.5% fee.

Please sign me/us up for the following optional extensions to India:
- 5-night Ode to the South
- 4-night Backwaters of Kerala
- 5-night Royal Rajasthan

**PASSENGER INFORMATION**

Name 1 (as on passport): ____________________________

Passport #: ____________________________ Nationality _________________

Issue Date (mm/dd/yy) _________________ Expiration (mm/dd/yy) _________________

Date of Birth: _________________ (mm/dd/yy) Smith Affiliation _________________

Street Address: ____________________________

City: ____________________________ State: __________ ZIP: __________

Home Phone: ____________________________ Mobile: ________________ Work: ________________

Email (write clearly): ____________________________

Name 2 (as on passport): ____________________________

Passport #: ____________________________ Nationality _________________

Issue Date (mm/dd/yy) _________________ Expiration (mm/dd/yy) _________________

Date of Birth: _________________ (mm/dd/yy) Smith Affiliation _________________

Street Address: ____________________________

City: ____________________________ State: __________ ZIP: __________

Home Phone: ____________________________ Mobile: ________________ Work: ________________

Email (write clearly): ____________________________

- I prefer single accommodations (due to limited space this is not guaranteed and if necessary you will be assigned a rooming partner of the same gender).
- I plan to room with ____________________________
  - Double
  - Twin (separate beds)

I prefer to share accommodations (if roommate is not available, I will pay the single rate)

Emergency Phone # and Contact Name (during trip): ____________________________

Please indicate any special needs (diet, health, mobility etc):

By submitting my/our deposit of $1,000 per person, I/we am/are registering for the East India: Temple Mythology and Mountain Peaks program and have read and agreed to the Immersion Journeys Participant’s Agreement. I/we understand that portions of this trip will be moderately strenuous, will include some long drives and may include unpaved paths, steps and will be outdoors. Traveling includes visiting regions with an altitude of at least 7,000 feet and hilly. I/we also agree to be in good physical shape and will be prepared to walk without a full time walking aid or wheelchair. I/we also take responsibility for purchasing our own supplemental travel insurance including medical evacuation coverage.

__________________________________       __________
Signature                                                                     Date

__________________________________       __________
Signature                                                                     Date
Your signature on our tour reservation form will signify your agreement with the following terms and conditions.

Introduction: These are the terms and conditions applicable to the tour packages provided by Immersion Journeys LLC (collectively “Immersion Journeys”, “we”, “us” and “our”). The terms “client” “you” and “your” refer to each person who purchases and/or uses a tour package provided by Immersion Journeys.

Benefits of Tour Packages: Our tour packages offer services of a professional tour guide, accommodations, meals as outlined in the itinerary, transportation as specified in the itinerary and excursions and tours as outlined in the itinerary. Immersion Journeys may, from time to time, offer you optional services or benefits. By using those services and/or benefits when they become available, you agree to be bound by any supplemental terms applicable to those services or benefits We will send final documents and tickets by overnight or registered mail approximately two (2) weeks prior to the start of the tour.

Rates and Exclusions: The rates and charges for tour participation are those established at the time the tour is booked with Immersion Journeys. We reserve the right to increase tour prices to cover increased costs, tariffs, taxes and V.A.T. received after prices are published and to reflect fluctuations in foreign exchange markets. Published rates and charges are typically “per person,” based upon double occupancy with en suite bath (unless otherwise stated). Single rooms are subject to a single room supplemental charges which are stated in the proposal. Expenses and terms not specifically identified in the applicable Immersion Journeys produced quotation are not covered. These include any paperwork or charges associated with: passports, visas, immunization, meals other than those specified, optional excursions, trip protection coverage, alcoholic beverages (beer, wine and liquor), all beverages excluding those provided in Immersion Journeys vehicles, telephone calls, room service, laundry, personal items, baggage handling, international airfare unless otherwise stated, gratuities and transportation to or from any departure gateway and any other costs that might be incurred not stated in tour package. Some governments charge departure taxes and/or fees. These fees are the responsibility of each passenger traveling to the designated country and are not included unless stated.

Payment. We accept the following forms of payment: major credit cards, bank transfer or checks drawn on a U.S. Bank. Credit cards will incur a service fee of 3.5% paid by the client. You must promptly pay the following fees and charges for participation in an Immersion Journeys tour.

Airfare: Full payment per person is due in order to purchase airline tickets. Airline cancellation policy shall apply. Discounted airfare quote (if available) is subject to purchase of ground package.

Ground Package: A deposit of $1,000 per person per tour is required immediately to secure the tour and services. This amount may vary depending on the destination, accommodations and services.

Balance: The balance of the tour price is due 120 days before departure.

Cancellation by You: We must receive your cancellation notice in writing by email, fax, or overnight courier, and your cancellation date will be the date on which we receive your notice. Simultaneously with your notice, you must pay the following cancellation charge based upon the amount of notice provided. In addition, airline cancellation policies shall apply for cancelled tours involving air transportation:

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<th>Penalty Notice</th>
<th>Number of Days of Advance Written Notice</th>
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<td>$750 per person</td>
<td>Ninety-one (91) or more</td>
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<td>50 percent (50%)</td>
<td>Between Sixty (60) and ninety (90)</td>
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<tr>
<td>One hundred percent (100%)</td>
<td>Less than ninety (90)</td>
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There is no refund for unused portions of a tour once it has commenced, and you are solely responsible for costs incurred by you due to missed, canceled or delayed transportation. Your decision not to participate on the tour due to State Department warnings, fear of travel, illness or any other reason will be deemed a cancellation. If a flight or other delay for any reason prevents you from joining the tour on the tour departure date and time, you will be considered a no-show, and we cannot provide a full or partial refund or credit toward a future tour, but you may join the tour late if you wish.

Insurance: Immersion Journeys recommends that you purchase trip cancellation, medical, and baggage insurance to cover penalties and cancellation charges. Smith Travel will send an insurance application upon receipt of reservation and deposit, although you may select any insurer of your choice. However, any questions about what travel insurance does or does not cover should be addressed directly to the travel insurance company. If you decline insurance coverage, you will personally assume full responsibility for any financial loss associated with your travel arrangements, and you could lose your travel investment and/or have to pay more money to correct the situation.
CANCELLATION OR SUBSTITUTION BY US: We will make commercially reasonable efforts to keep the itinerary as it has been published; however, the final itinerary may vary due to availability and factors beyond our control. We may in our sole discretion substitute services such as hotels or goods of similar quality for any service or good stated in the itinerary. If a tour is cancelled, our liability is limited to a full refund of your payments, and we will not be liable for any other costs, damages, or refunds of any kind for any loss, delay, inconvenience, disappointment, or expense whatsoever in such circumstances. If for reasons beyond our control, a tour in progress must be interrupted or cancelled, we will refund a portion of the price depending on our actual costs incurred.

AIRCARES: Airlines and airfares included in any brochure are subject to change without notice. Please check with Immersion Journeys or your travel agent for conditions applicable to your airline ticket. Even after you have paid, tours with scheduled air transportation within or from the United States are subject to supplemental price increases that may be imposed by the supplier and/or government. You hereby consent to any such price increase. We will not change your requested seat assignments on commercial aircraft without permission. However, airlines often change seat assignments to satisfy their loyalty members or because of equipment changes (aircraft type). We are not notified of these changes in advance, and often clients are not made aware of these changes until they arrive at the airport. We are not responsible for seat assignment changes made by the airline. Frequent flyer programs are private agreements between airlines and passengers, and we cannot be held responsible for mileage discrepancies involving airline loyalty reward programs.

PASSPORTS AND VISAS: International travel requires a passport valid 6 months beyond your intended return travel date. In many cases, you will also need to have multiple consecutive blank visa pages within your passport (the number varies depending on the destination). Many destinations also require that visas be obtained prior to travel. Please speak with us if you are unsure about the visa requirements for your travel destination, but you are solely responsible for complying with passport and visa requirements.

SECURITY AND SAFETY: We are strongly committed to protecting your security and well-being. However, travel, safaris and sightseeing endeavors are inherently dangerous activities. Immersion Journeys strongly recommends that you exercise extreme caution when participating in tour events. Parts of your tour may involve high altitudes, hiking, cycling and/or driving over rough and dusty terrain.

All tour participants booking with Immersion Journeys certify that they are in good health, fit to travel and have no specific medical problems. It is the responsibility of each tour participant to obtain health and medical certificates, inoculations and vaccinations. Any physical disability that may require special attention or treatment must be reported in writing at the time your reservation is made. Passage may be refused to any person whose state of health or physical conditions render them, in the opinion of the tour company or its suppliers, unfit. Children under eighteen (18) years of age must be supervised by parent(s) or guardian(s) who will bear ultimate responsibility of their actions. Immersion Journeys recommends that you purchase insurance to cover medical expenses, trip cancellation and interruption, and loss of baggage. Please contact Immersion Journeys for further details.

INFORMATION: Information that Immersion Journeys publishes in its brochures, collateral material and on its web site is believed to be accurate and reliable. Immersion Journeys makes no representations or warranties regarding such information or any information provided by a third party. Unless expressly stated in writing, Immersion Journeys does not endorse the products or services offered by any company or person identified in its brochures, collateral material or web site, nor is Immersion Journeys responsible for any content published by a third party.

VENDOR ACTS OR OMISSIONS: We act only in the capacity of agent for the suppliers of the travel services named in your itinerary or otherwise providing services or goods in connection with the tour (the “Vendors”), such as airlines, hotels and other lodging providers, local hosts, sightseeing tour operators, bus lines, car rental companies, driving services, restaurants, and providers of entertainment. We assume no responsibility for any personal injury, property damage, or other loss, accident, delay, inconvenience, or irregularity which may be occasioned by reason of any act or omission of any of the Vendors or airlines providing flights to or from your tour.

CONDUCT DURING THE TOUR: You are also responsible for respecting the authority and following the directions of the tour guide and the laws of the countries in your itinerary. We may exclude you from participating in all or any part of the tour if, in our sole discretion, your condition or behavior renders you unfit for the tour or unfit for continuation once the tour has begun. Unfitness may include, without limitation, any behavior that, regardless of its cause, is inappropriate or offensive or interferes with the delivery of tour services, or may constitute a hazard or embarrassment. In such case, our liability shall be strictly limited to refund of the recoverable cost of any unused portion of the tour. Should you decide not to participate in certain parts of the tour or use certain goods included in the tour, no refunds will be made for those unused parts of the tour or goods.

MEDICAL PROXY: If you are unable to authorize your own medical attention and treatment, you authorize Immersion Journeys or its subcontractors or agents to authorize medical attention and treatment on your behalf. You agree to hold harmless and release Immersion Journeys and Smith College from any liability for medical attention authorized by them, their subcontractors or agents on your behalf. Immersion Journeys assumes no liability regarding provision of medical care or evacuation services. Any of our staff or subcontractors who may provide or seek emergency medical care on your behalf may not have had formal medical or first aid training and are acting only as a good Samaritan.
Limitation of Liability and Damages: In no event will we be liable for any injury, loss, claim, damage, or any special, punitive, exemplary, direct, indirect, incidental, or consequential damages of any kind, whether based in contract, tort, strict liability, or otherwise, that arise out of or are in any way connected with the tour, even if advised of the possibility of such damages. In no event will our aggregate liability exceed the total tour price set forth in the itinerary.

Force Majeure: We assume no responsibility for any personal injury, property damage, or other loss, accident, delay, inconvenience, or irregularity which may be occasioned by reason of any matter beyond our exclusive control including but not limited to a delay or cancellation that causes you to miss all or any portion of the tour, acts of God, acts of government, war, terrorist acts, riots, disaster, weather extremes, or strikes. We have no special knowledge regarding the financial condition of the Suppliers, unsafe conditions, health hazards, weather hazards, or climate extremes at locations to which you may travel. You understand that health care standards, facilities, and services abroad may be different or even inadequate for treating health conditions. For information concerning possible dangers at foreign destinations, we recommend contacting the Travel Warnings Section of the U.S. State Department at (202) 647-5225 or www.travel.state.gov, and click on “Travel Warnings.” For medical information, we recommend contacting the Centers for Disease Control at (877) FYI-TRIP or www.cdc.gov/travel.

Indemnification: You shall indemnify, defend and hold harmless Smith College, Immersion Journeys and their officers, employees, directors, suppliers and agents, in their individual capacities or otherwise, from and against any Losses arising out of: (i) your negligence; (ii) your failure to comply with applicable law; or (iii) your failure to comply with these terms conditions.

Miscellaneous: Immersion Journeys may assign its rights and/or delegate all or a portion of its duties under these Terms and Conditions to any third party at any time without the consent or permission of any parties to these Terms and Conditions. If there is a conflict between these Terms and Conditions and one or more terms contained in another agreement between you and Immersion Journeys, these Terms and Conditions will control. No alteration, cancellation, variation of, or addition to these terms and conditions shall be of any force or effect unless reduced to writing and signed by Immersion Journeys and the Client. If there is a conflict between any part of these terms and conditions and any present or future law, the part that is affected shall be curtailed only to the extent necessary to bring it within the requirements of that law.

Any controversy or claim arising out of or relating to these Terms and Conditions, to the limits on Immersion Journeys responsibility clause, to the brochure, to the proposal, to any information relating in any way to the trip, to the trip itself, or to any products or services related to the trip, shall be settled solely and exclusively by binding arbitration in the State of New York, in accordance with the Commercial Arbitration Rules of the American Arbitration Association, except that (a) in lieu of a personal appearance at arbitration, the arbitration may be conducted by telephonic means, (b) arbitration is the exclusive forum for dispute resolution (no court actions), and (c) except as otherwise provided by statute, each party shall bear its own costs and expenses and an equal share of the arbitrator and administrative fees. You agree to present any claims against us within 90 days after the tour ends and to file any arbitration request within one year of the incident, and you acknowledge that this expressly limits the applicable statute of limitations to one year.

You hereby consent to our use of pictures or video of you in our marketing materials without compensation. Facsimile or scanned transmission of any signed document shall be deemed delivery of an original.

ASSUMPTION OF RISK AND RELEASE: You acknowledge that you have voluntarily applied for this tour. You understand that you may travel to countries and areas that are inherently risky. You are prepared to assume risks associated with this tour including; forces of nature; terrorism; civil unrest; war; accidents; and transportation including land vehicles, boats, and aircraft that are not operated and maintained to the standards found in North America, and you hereby assume such risks. You also assume risks associated with altitude, illness, disease, physical exertion, and alcohol consumption, knowing that access to evacuation and/or suitable medical supplies and support may not be available. By signing this document, you agree to take full responsibility for your own actions, safety and welfare. You also understand that you will be a member of a group and will conduct myself in a way that will not endanger the group or yourself. You understand that if you fraudulently represent yourself as fit for this tour, you may be removed prior to or during the tour at your own expense.

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