

Bhutan: *A Journey to the Himalayas*

May 11–25, 2024

Faculty Host: Dr. Andrew Bernstein, Associate Professor of History



Lewis & Clark
College





Bhutan or the “Land of the Thunder Dragon” is a country of sprawling forests, venerated monasteries, overpowering fortresses; lush green valleys fed by bountiful rivers and the only carbon-negative country in the world. Cultivated fields surrounded by pitched roof houses with their typical trefoil-shape windows and dzongs (fortresses) dominate the scenery with their sheer size. Bhutan’s alpine pastures, peaks, forests, lakes and flowers make it a paradise for any active traveler all the while surrounded by the immense Himalayan mountain range.

Religious beliefs are woven in all aspects of Bhutanese life. Prayer flags flutter on hillsides offering up prayers to benefit all beings by households flying a small white flag on the roof indicating an offering to appease the local god.

As an alternative to measuring GDP, since the 1970s Bhutan has adopted Gross national happiness (GNH) as a measure of economic and moral progress of the country and the results are woven into the fabric of everyday life.

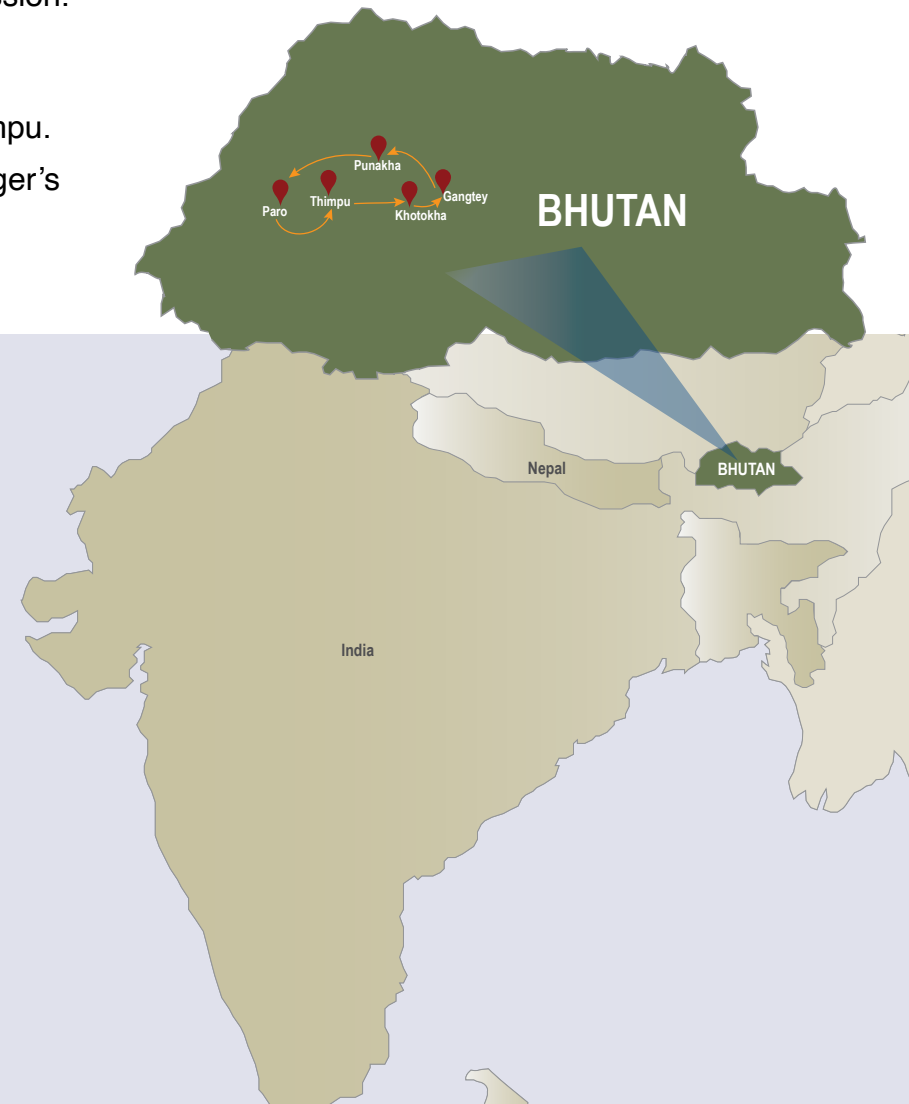


Historian **Andrew Bernstein** has taught at Lewis & Clark for twenty-four years. Andy has traveled widely across Asia including leading a number of overseas student programs. He writes, “my scholarship has been shaped by a fundamental concern for how humans struggle to build and maintain connections to the past in the midst of radical change.” Professor Bernstein is

excited to journey to Bhutan with our group and explore that very question. To learn more about Andy and his approach to serendipitous discoveries click [here](#).

Trip Highlights

- Benefit from Professor of History Andrew Bernstein's knowledge of Buddhism and travel with curious-minded and adventurous LC alumni and friends.
- Stay at traditionally designed hotels.
- Camp and hike amid the spectacular scenery of the Himalayan mountain range.
- Interact with local Bhutanese; take part in a cooking demonstration by a local farming family in their home and visit a community school.
- Visit the ancient Dzongs (fortress-monasteries) and take part in a meditative evening prayer session.
- Test your aim in a traditional archery tournament in Thimpu.
- Visit the famous Tiger's Nest in Paro.





Program itinerary

May 13 & 14, 2024: Travel to Bhutan

Flight to Paro, Bhutan.

Note that flights to Paro Airport (PBH) are either via Bangkok (Thailand) on Druk Air or via New Delhi (India) on Air India or Druk Air. Travelers will typically need to stay a night in Bangkok/ New Delhi to catch an earlier morning flight to Paro the next morning. Pre and/or post-trip stopovers in either Bangkok or New Delhi can also be arranged via the tour operator.

May 15: Arrive Paro/ Transfer to Thimphu

Arrive Paro, Bhutan (flights arranged by guests).

Met on arrival and transferred to your hotel in Thimphu.

Depending on your arrival time, visit the Tashichho Dzong. Dzongs are fortress-monasteries that dot the Bhutanese landscape. The Tashichho Dzong is located on the western bank of the Wang Chu and is Bhutan's most stately and arguably the most impressive building. It is also the seat of the Drukdesi or 'Dharma Raja' which is the head of Bhutan's civil government since 1907.

Gather for an orientation and presentation by History Professor Andrew Bernstein followed by a welcome dinner.

Altitude: 2,350 m / 7,709 ft.

Overnight: [Norkhil Boutique Hotel](#) (B, L, Welcome Dinner)

May 16: Tour of Thimphu

Visit the site of the huge statue of Buddha Dordenma which offers unobstructed views over the capital. The fifty-one meter tall statue commands the entry to the Thimphu Valley and the massive three-storied base houses a large chapel containing thousands of Buddha statuettes. Later, visit Zorig Chusum. This arts and crafts institute promotes the traditional arts and crafts of Bhutan.

Dig in as we gather as a group to discuss your initial questions about Bhutan and Buddhism with History Professor Andrew Bernstein.

Overnight: [Norkhil Boutique Hotel](#) (B, L, D)

(B-Breakfast, L-Lunch, D-Dinner)

May 17: Thimpu – Khotokha

After breakfast, drive to Khotokha via the Dochu La Pass. On clear days the views of the Himalaya range is spectacular. Tradition calls for a stop at the beautiful 108 chortens built on the hill by the Queen Mother for the security and well-being of the King of Bhutan.

Arrive at Khotokha — a large glacial valley and home to subsistence farmers, monasteries and hermitages. With breathtaking views, these sacred sites are visited by pilgrims from all over Bhutan and beyond. Enjoy a few hours of walking to visit several monasteries. This is the best way to get an understanding of the area and its importance. You may have an opportunity to interact with locals, pilgrims and monks.

Arrive at your tented campsite set up for you.

*Altitude: 3,088m/10,130ft. Overnight: Tented Camp (B, L, D)**

**The tented accommodations are comfortable and set up for tourists and contain portable beds, blankets and pillows, a sanitized communal bathroom and a shower tent (exclusively set up for the group complete with towels, soap and water), experienced crew members and hearty meals.*

May 18: Khotokha

The untouched beauty of deep pine forests in Khotokha offers possibilities for trekking to sacred sites, remote villages bound by scenic beauty. There are many *drupchus* (holy water springs) and *menchus* (healing water) believed to have mystical healing powers.

Witness and participate in a full reconstruction of the popular Tshechu dance — a traditional Bhutanese dance of highly stylized masked dancers rituals. Attendees adorned in astounding color gather from around the village to receive blessings from this sacred ceremony from the monks. This is a great way for travelers to interact with the locals.

Overnight: Tented Camp (B, L, D)

May 19- Trek to Gogona and drive to Gangtey

This hike begins from the beautiful Khotokha valley towards the Phobjikha valley. This moderate hike will stop at villages along the way, passing through meadows and fields of juniper, magnolia and

rhododendrons which are typically in full bloom in May. The total hiking time including stops is estimated to take up to 6 hours.

Arrive at Gogona which is a small village with an amazing monastery under the care of the Gangtey Gompa. After a brief rest stop depart by road to Gangtey. Gangtey is a glacial valley on the western slopes of the Black Mountains and a designated conservation area and one of the most important wildlife preserves in Bhutan.

Check into your hotel and later visit the Gangtey Gompa Monastery complex. This complex of five temples is one of the two main centers of the Nyingmapa school of Tibetan Buddhism in Bhutan.

Altitude – Gangtey: 3,000 m / 9,842 ft

Overnight: [Dewachen Hotel](#) (B, L, D)

May 20: Gangtey

Visit local Bhutanese farm houses that are ever-present in this area. Immerse yourself with the local family to understand their lifestyle and participate in a cooking and tasting demonstration. Later, visit a community school in the village and interact with the local children.

Later, join the evening prayer session in a monastery which is home to approximately 250 novice monks. This experience is quite meditative as the monks chant their prayers in unison. Guests are invited to chat with the novice monks after the prayer session before returning to the hotel.

Overnight: [Dewachen Hotel](#) (B, L, D)

May 21: Gangtey – Punakha

Depart for Punakha. Enjoy a 20 minute easy walk through the village to the Divine Madman's Monastery or Chimi Lhakhang which is famous for its fertility shrine. Later visit the Punakha Dzong located on the island of the Pho Chhu (male) river and the Mo Chhu (female) river. Couples looking to having children are drawn to this area to receive blessings for a safe delivery of their offspring.

Gather as a group for a facilitated discussion about Bhutan with Andrew Bernstein.

The remainder of the day is at your own leisure to explore.

Altitude: 1300 m / 4265 ft Overnight: [Zhingkhams Resort](#) (B, L, D)



May 22: In Punakha

Take an invigorating hike to Khamsum Yulley Namgyal Chorten (commonly known as stupas). This is a fine example of Bhutanese architecture and artistic traditions. This hour long hike through a moderately inclined trail is surrounded by pine trees offering beautiful views of the Punakha Valley below.

Return to the hotel where the remainder of the afternoon is at your own leisure.
Overnight: Zhingkham Resort (B,L,D)

May 23: Drive to Paro

Return to Paro and visit the Paro Dzong and National Museum of Bhutan. The Paro Dzong is one of the most popular and well known dzongs in Bhutan and is also the administrative seat of the district.

The National Museum of Bhutan houses over 3,000 works of Bhutanese art, rich holdings of various creative traditions and disciplines that represent a remarkable blend of the past with the present.

Altitude: 2250 m / 7382 ft Overnight: [Tenzinling Resort](#) (B, L, D)



May 24: Taktsang Monastery (Tiger's Nest)

Depart from your hotel for a hike to Taktsang Monastery (approximately 4.5 hours with multiple stops). Perched on the side of a vertical cliff at an altitude of 3,000 meters (9,800 feet), this beautiful monastery also known the Tiger's Nest is the most famous and most recognized symbol of Bhutan.

The monastery is a pilgrimage site for both tourists and locals and the journey up to the monastery is filled with spiritual bliss. Guests are not expected to complete the full hike but rather enjoy the journey as far as they can.

Join the group for a farewell dinner. *Overnight: Tenzinling Resort (B, L, D)*

May 25: Depart Paro

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for your flight to Bangkok or New Delhi. On arrival connect to your flight home*

**Depending on your flight arrangements, hotel accommodations can be arranged in New Delhi or Bangkok. Please contact the tour operator should you require any assistance.*



Ground costs

Bhutan Visa: Visa for Bhutan is processed prior to arrival in the country by the tour operator and issued a few weeks prior to arrival date. Proof of trip insurance is mandatory in to apply for a Bhutan entry visa and will be requested by the tour operator. Trip insurance is not included in the cost of this trip and can be purchased independently by the guest.

\$9,550 per person (double occupancy.)

\$1,130 single room supplement.

Included Features

- All arrival and departure transfers in Paro, Bhutan.
- Accommodations and meals as indicated (all meals are inclusive of mineral water).
- Alcoholic beverages will be served at the welcome dinner.
- All the sightseeing tours and transfers as per the itinerary with English speaking local Bhutanese guides.
- All sightseeing in Bangkok as per itinerary.
- Bhutan Visa Fees.
- Bhutan Sustainable Development Fee & one-time entrance/monument fees.

Excludes

- International flights to/ from Bhutan.
- Any pre and/or post trip stop overs in New Delhi or Bangkok.
- Any additional meals not mentioned in the above itinerary.
- Items of personal nature such as bar bills, alcoholic beverages with most meals, laundry, telephone calls, gratuities/ tips to guide, porters, drivers etc.
- Mandatory trip insurance. Proof of trip insurance is mandatory to obtain a Bhutan entry visa and will be requested by the tour operator.
- Tips/ gratuities to guides and drivers.
- PCR tests (currently all COVID entry requirement into and out of Bhutan have been relaxed. However, guests should be prepared to show proof of being fully vaccinated if requested).

Level of difficulty: Easy to moderate. Traveling in areas of high altitude and mountain/ hill ranges.

Travel will be in a combination of coaches and small vehicles over winding mountain passes. You will be traveling in altitudes ranging from 4,200 feet above mean sea level to 10,000 feet above mean sea level. There will be days that involve moderate hiking on pathways of varying topography and we expect guests to be in generally good physical condition and be able to walk without a full time walking aide (canes, walkers, wheelchairs). Accommodations in Bhutan are often built on hillsides and changing landscape requiring stairs and ramps and guests should not expect conveyances that they may be used to in their country of origin. Also note that part of your itinerary includes tented accommodations (cot beds) with communal bathrooms. Every effort will be made to ensure your comfort however it will be the responsibility of the guest to advise the tour operator and Lewis & Clark College regarding any concerns you may have. Please consult with your doctor regarding this trip, its length and location and share this brochure with them.

Tour Reservation Form

To reserve a space you sign up online by clicking on this [link](#) or complete and return the form below with your non-refundable deposit of \$1,000 payable to Immersion Journeys. Mail to 455 Main Street, Suite 5M, New York, NY 10044 or email: info@immersionjourneys.com. We will not process your deposit until you are assigned a place on the tour. Please contact 917-686-2620/ info@immersionjourneys.com if you have any questions about the registration process.

Enclosed is my/our non-refundable 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 February 13, 2024 and payable by check or bank wire. Credit card payments on the balance will incur a 3.5% fee.

Passenger Information

Name 1 (as on passport) _____ Name 2 (as on passport) _____

Passport # _____ Nationality _____ Passport # _____ Nationality _____

Issue Date (mm/dd/yy): _____ Expiration (mm/dd/yy) _____ Issue Date (mm/dd/yy): _____ Expiration (mm/dd/yy) _____

Date of Birth _____ Lewis & Clark Affiliation _____ Date of Birth _____ Lewis & Clark Affiliation _____

Street Address _____ Street Address _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip _____ City: _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Mobile _____ Home Phone _____ Mobile _____

Email (print clearly) _____ Email (print clearly) _____

I prefer single accommodations (please note that single accommodations are limited and subject to availability.)

I plan to room with _____ Double Twin (separate beds)

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

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

*By submitting my/our non-refundable deposit of \$1,000 per person, I/we am/are registering for the **Bhutan: A Journey to the Himalayas** 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 most activities will take place outdoors. I/we also understand that I/we will be in areas of high altitude and 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

Participant's Agreement

By signing our tour reservation form, or otherwise indicating your assent in writing, you agree to the terms and conditions set forth in this document. These terms and conditions apply to the Tour, the itinerary for the Tour and payment for the Tour

INTRODUCTION: These are the terms and conditions applicable to the tour packages provided by Immersion Journeys LLC, and Lewis & Clark College (collectively "Immersion Journeys," "Lewis & Clark College," "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.

RESERVATIONS AND PAYMENTS: A prepayment non-refundable deposit \$1,000 per along with a completed and signed Tour Reservation Form, and copy of passport are required in order to confirm your reservation. Upon receipt of these forms and your deposit, we will confirm your trip. This Agreement. The signed Reservation form and the signed Credit Card Authorization section of the Tour Reservation Form are all part of your agreement with us.

The balance of your Tour cost is due of 90 days prior to departure.

TRAVEL INSURANCE: We strongly recommend that you purchase trip cancellation insurance. In the event that you must cancel your participation in a Tour, trip cancellation insurance may be the only source of reimbursement. Trip cancellation insurance is available for comprehensive coverage of such expenses in conjunction with cancellation due to illness or accident, and damaged or lost luggage.

Please contact Andrew McPheeters, mcpheete@LClark.edu, (503) 768-7936 for insurance information.

CANCELLATION AND REFUND POLICY: Our cancellation charges are based on the stringent payment policies of our suppliers of local services and therefore represent a reasonable estimate of our loss. Cancellation charges are expressed as a percentage of your total trip cost (excluding commercial airfare) and also depend on the day you cancel and the day of your scheduled departure from your home. Our cancellation charges are in addition to whatever the airline may charge you:

Penalty	Number of Days of Advance Written Notice
Non-refundable	Ninety (90) or more
50 percent (50%) of total tour cost	Between eighty-nine (89) and sixty (60)
One hundred percent (100%) of tour cost	Less than sixty (60)

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, cancelled or delayed transportation. Your decision not to participate on the Tour due to State Department or Centers for Disease Control advisories or warnings, fear of travel, or for 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 start date, you will be considered a no-show. No refunds will be available, but you may join the Tour late if you wish. Commercial airline tickets must be paid in full at the time of ticketing. Airline cancellation charges are set forth on the invoice.

Not Included: Taxes; passport, visas and associated fees; personal expenses such as laundry, telephone calls and Internet access; accident/sickness, trip cancellation, and baggage insurance; gratuities to ship and hotel personnel; optional sightseeing excursions; baggage charges on aircraft; local departure air/airport tax(es); airfare and associated local taxes, airport facility and security taxes and federal inspection fees not listed as included in the travel Tour; transfers and baggage handling to/from airport/hotel/ship on day(s) of arrival and/or departure; any overnight on land due to flight schedule(s); meals, alcoholic or other beverages and all other services not specifically mentioned as included in the travel Tour

AIRFARE: Airfare is subject to change and availability and, depending on the fare basis, likely is non-refundable. Your airline ticket constitutes a contract between you and the airline, even if purchased through Immersion Journeys or their airline ticketing partners.

BAGGAGE: Luggage allowance policies are set by the airlines and may change without notice. Baggage is at owner's risk throughout the trip. Airlines, buses, vans and other modes of transportation may all have weight and size restrictions on luggage. It is your responsibility to comply with all baggage restrictions

PRICE INCREASES: Destination countries increase their VAT taxes from time to time. Some suppliers impose energy surcharges or other price increases. Prices are also subject to increase due to currency fluctuations. Any such increases will be applied to your total due at the time of final payment.

PASSPORTS, VISAS, and OTHER ENTRY REQUIREMENTS: International travel requires a passport valid 6 months beyond your intended return travel date. In most cases, you will also need to have multiple consecutive blank visa pages within your passport (the number varies depending on the destination(s)). Many destinations also require that visas be obtained prior to travel. If one parent or guardian plans to bring a minor child without the other parent or parents, some countries and airlines have strict documentation and permission requirements. Birth certificates may be required for children under 18. Some nations require proof of vaccinations for all travelers. Please speak with us if you are unsure about the visa requirements for your travel destination. You are solely responsible for complying with passport, visa, and other foreign entry requirements and vaccinations.

RESPONSIBILITY AND ASSUMPTION OF RISK: Immersion Journeys, its employees, shareholders, subsidiaries, affiliates, officers, directors, successors, and assigns (collectively "Immersion Journeys"), do not own or operate any entity which is to or does provide goods or services for your Tour including, for example, lodging facilities, airline, vessel, or other transportation companies, safari or guide services, local ground or safari operators, providers or organizers of optional excursions, food service or entertainment providers, etc. All such persons and entities are independent contractors. As a result, Immersion Journeys is not liable for any negligent or willful act, failure to act, financial failure or other defaults of any such person, entity, supplier or any other third party.

In addition and without limitation, Immersion Journeys is not responsible for any injury, financial or other loss, death, inconvenience, delay, or damage to person or property in connection with the provision of any goods or services whether resulting from, but not limited to, acts of God or force majeure, acts or orders of government, acts of war or civil unrest, insurrection or revolt, bites from or attacks by wild or domestic animals, insects or pests, strikes or other labor activities, criminal or terrorist activities of any kind or the threat thereof, sickness, illness, epidemics or the threat thereof, the lack of availability of or access to medical attention or the quality thereof, overbooking or downgrading of accommodations, mechanical or other failure of airplanes, vessels or other means of transportation, or for any failure of any transportation mechanism to arrive or depart timely or safely. Further, I release Immersion Journeys from its own negligence and assume all risk thereof.

We have no special or unique knowledge regarding the financial condition of the suppliers of services, unsafe conditions, health hazards, weather hazards, or climate extremes at locations to which you may travel. For useful information regarding your destination, we strongly recommend reviewing the destination-specific information at www.travel.state.gov, and the Centers for Disease Control at www.cdc.gov/travel.

If due to weather, flight schedules or other uncontrollable factors, you are required to spend an additional night(s), you will be responsible for your own hotel, transfers and meal costs. The right is reserved to decline to accept as a Tour participant, or remove from a Tour, without refund, any person Immersion Journeys judges to be incapable of meeting the rigors and requirements of participating in the activities, or who is abusive to other Tour participants, leaders or third parties, or who Immersion Journeys determines to detract from the enjoyment of the Tour by others. Specific room assignments are within the sole discretion of the lodge or hotel.

Assumption of Risk of Exposure to COVID-19: you agree to fully accept all known and unknown risks, including the potential risk of exposure to respiratory illnesses or other illnesses, diseases, or conditions, including but not limited to the coronavirus known as COVID-19. The coronavirus COVID-19 is primarily transmitted via exhaled respiratory droplets, most often through coughing, sneezing and breathing in close proximity to another person. These droplets can travel up to six feet and are more commonly transmitted between persons rather than from equipment to persons. You understand and agree that (a) COVID-19 is extremely contagious and there is an inherent risk of exposure to COVID-19 in any place where people are present; (b) no precautions, including the protocols that will be implemented as part of the trip, can eliminate the risk of exposure to COVID-19; (c) people of all ages and health conditions, including healthy young people, have been adversely affected by COVID-19; (d) certain people have been identified by public health authorities as having greater risk based on their age or underlying medical conditions; (e) exposure to COVID-19 can result in being subject to quarantine requirements, illness, disability, and other short-term and long-term health effects, including death, regardless of a person's age or health condition. You understand and agree to hold the Immersion Journeys, its officers, vendors and suppliers harmless and not liable for any real or perceived symptoms of COVID-19 or any other disease, illness, or condition, nor for exacerbating any existing symptoms of any illness, disease or condition, and you fully agree to accept these and all other known and unknown risks of receiving services from Immersion Journeys.

CANCELLATIONS AND POSTPONEMENTS BY IMMERSION JOURNEYS: Immersion Journeys reserves the right to change the itinerary, the lodges or hotels utilized or any Tour features at any time and for any reason, with or without notice, and Immersion Journeys shall not be liable for any loss of any kind as a result of any such changes. Immersion Journeys may cancel or postpone a Tour (or an option) for any reason whatsoever. Seasonal changes (for example, from low to high season) may result in higher prices. In any event, for cancellations (or postponements) based upon acts of God or force majeure, acts or orders of government, epidemics or the threat thereof, pandemics, terrorism or the threat thereof, strikes or labor disturbances, demonstrations, riots or civil unrest, criminal activity, supplier default or insolvency, or other similar circumstances, its sole obligation is to issue credits in the full amount of moneys paid to Immersion Journeys, but only to the extent its suppliers are crediting Immersion Journeys with those monies paid by Immersion Journeys to them. Under no circumstances is Immersion Journeys obligated to refund the cost of any purchased travel insurance. Immersion Journeys is not required to cancel any Tour for any reason including without limitation, United States Department of State, Centers for Disease Control, World Health Organization or other Warnings or Advisories of any kind. Immersion Journeys is not responsible for fees assessed by air carriers resulting from operational and/or itinerary changes, even if Immersion Journeys makes the flight arrangements or cancels the Tour. Immersion Journeys reserves the right to substitute lodges, hotels, vessels or attractions for those listed in the tour description if same is required by circumstances beyond its control or for the convenience or well-being of clients.

OTHER TAXES AND FEES: 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.

FORCE MAJEURE: Immersion Journeys assumes no responsibility for any personal injury, property damage, financial or other loss, accident, delay, inconvenience, or irregularity which may be occasioned by reason of any matter beyond our control including but not limited to a delay or cancellation of a flight that causes you to miss all or any portion of the Tour, acts of God, acts or orders of government, epidemics, war, terrorist acts, riots, disaster, weather events, or strikes.

INDEMNIFICATION: You shall indemnify, defend and hold harmless Immersion Journeys and Lewis & Clark College and its 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.

PHOTO RELEASE: You consent to our use of pictures or video of you in our marketing materials without compensation.

Physical Accessibility: All Tours require physical independence and mobility. Any physical or mental condition that may require special medical attention or physical assistance (for example, the need for a wheelchair) must be reported in writing when you make your reservation. Participants must be able to embark or disembark vans or motor coaches alone or with minimal assistance from your traveling companion and climb stairs and step over raised thresholds without assistance. Participants requiring assistance must travel with a companion who will be responsible for handling equipment. Please understand that the Americans with Disabilities Act does not apply outside the United States.

CONDUCT DURING 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. This includes the requirement to wear a face mask and other health and sanitization requirements. 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 from any liability for medical attention arranged or not arranged on your behalf. Immersion Journeys assumes no liability regarding provision of medical care or evacuation services.

CHANGES: Changes in this Agreement may be made only in writing, signed by an officer of Immersion Journeys.

BINDING ARBITRATION: Any dispute concerning, relating or referring to this Agreement, the brochure or any other literature concerning the Tour, or the Tour itself, shall be resolved exclusively by binding arbitration pursuant to the Federal Arbitration Act, 9 U.S.C. Sections 1-16, either according to the then existing Commercial Rules of the American Arbitration Association (AAA) or pursuant to the Comprehensive Arbitration Rules & Procedures of the Judicial Arbitration and Mediation Services, Inc. (JAMS). Such proceedings will be governed by substantive (but not procedural) State of New York law and will take place in New York City, New York. The arbitrator and not any federal, state, or local court or agency shall have exclusive authority to resolve any dispute relating to the interpretation, applicability, enforceability, conscionability, or formation of this contract, including but not limited to any claim that all or any part of this contract is void or voidable. Please understand that by agreeing to these terms and conditions, the participant and Immersion Journeys are waiving the right to a trial by jury. Any arbitration commenced against Immersion Journeys must be on behalf of only the signatory to this Agreement and his or her immediate family members who travelled with signatory, such as a spouse or child. Under no circumstances can participant be part of a class or other joint action.

By signing the Tour Registration form, you agree to the terms of this Terms and Conditions, Release of Liability, Assumption of Risk and Binding Arbitration Agreement. Your Agreement extends to any tour to which you may transfer. If you party includes a person under 18, then you represent that you are that person's parent or legal guardian.

