

# Namibia

*Open Skies & Endless Horizons*



Vassar Travel Program

**Windhoek • Outjo • Etosha • Damaraland • Swakopmund • Sossusvlei**

**June 19 – July 1, 2025**

**Host: Dr. Abigail A. Baird, Professor of Psychological Science on the Arnhold Family Chair**



Dear Vassar Travelers,

A few years ago, I had the privilege of hosting a group of Vassar alumnae/I to Tanzania. So, when the opportunity arose to host another group — this time to Namibia — I immediately jumped on it!

In the summer of 2025, we will set out to explore one of the most enigmatic and stunningly beautiful countries on the African continent and this letter is an enthusiastic invitation to join me and your fellow alumnae/i on a two-week adventure. We are going to see as much of Namibia as possible; and while some areas are a bit off the beaten track and may require a bit more demanding travel, I can assure you that you will have an extraordinary experience and leave with amazing memories that will last a lifetime.

Namibia is renowned for captivating vistas, sculpted red canyons, and some of the most spectacular sand dunes on the planet. The Namib desert, with its shimmering mirages, swirling sand seas, and apricot-colored parabolic dunes, has been described as a technicolor dreamscape. What's more, the mighty power of wind and water is stunningly displayed where desert sands are juxtaposed against roiling swells of the south Atlantic Ocean. On this journey we'll have the opportunity to marvel at these geological wonders and to admire the remarkable wildlife that make their home in this vast and varied landscape — leopards, giraffes, rhinos, zebras, antelopes, and desert elephants.

As a developmental psychologist, I am especially excited to lead this trip. I hope to encourage you to think about how we become who we are. Together we will consider how we learn from each other, explore the importance of resilience, and think about how we share the stories that define our lives. We will also examine how these themes are reflected in the unique geological, ecological, and cultural significance of Namibia. I hope you will join me on this expedition to a breathtaking place on Earth.

Since space is limited, I encourage you to reserve your place quickly.

Sincerely,

*Abigail A. Baird*

Abigail A. Baird '91

Professor of Psychological Science on the Arnhold Family Chair  
Vassar College



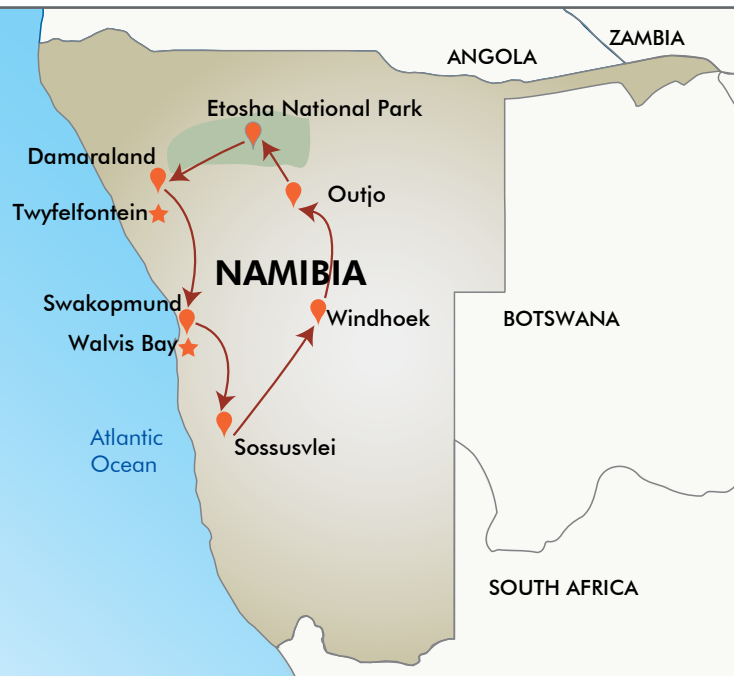
**Abigail A. Baird** is a Professor of Psychology, on the Arnhold Family Chair, at Vassar College. She earned her undergraduate degree from Vassar College and both an M.A. and a Ph.D. from Harvard University. Professor Baird's research examines the brain and behavioral basis of adolescent development. More specifically, her work examines the ways in which social, emotional, cognitive, and brain-based factors drive the processes by which adolescents become adults. The long-term goal of this work is to better identify and prevent psychopathology and further to inform legal and educational policy.

Professor Baird is an award-winning author of two books and numerous peer-reviewed and popular press articles. She is also a sought-after professor whose teaching has received awards from Harvard University, Dartmouth College, and the AAVC at Vassar College. Professor Baird has appeared on several radio and television programs, including two episodes of National Geographic's Emmy Nominated show *Brain Games*. She has also been featured as an expert in several documentaries including, most recently, HBO's *Beware the Slenderman*.

In addition to her primary research interests, Professor Baird has also been studying African elephants' social, cognitive, and emotional development. Her expertise on both elephants and developmental psychology led to her working with author Jodi Picoult on her *New York Times* best-selling novel entitled *Leaving Time*.

## Trip Highlights

- Climb the towering red sand dunes in Sossusvlei.
- Stand amid the petrified forest in the Namib—the world's oldest desert.
- Experience a wildlife safari in the famous Etosha National Park.
- Meet with conservationists working to save the endangered rhino and Africa's Big Cats.





## PROGRAM ITINERARY

### **June 19, 2025 — Depart for Windhoek**

Depart the U.S. for Windhoek, Namibia (flights not included. Please contact the tour operator if you need assistance.)

*\*You have an opportunity to arrive a day early. The cost of the early arrival hotel is \$315 per night inclusive of breakfast and taxes. Please contact Immersion Journeys to make your arrangements.*

### **June 20 — Arrive Windhoek, Namibia**

Welcome to Namibia! Windhoek (“wind corner” in Afrikaans) is the commercial and legislative capital of Namibia. Developed around a permanent water source by the indigenous pastoralists, it was later modernized by the Germans in the 1840s. One can still see the German influence in architecture and food when in the city. Welcome dinner at hotel and safari briefing by your guide.

*Overnight: [Windhoek Luxury Suites](#) (Welcome Dinner + 2 glasses wine, beer or soft drinks)*

### **June 21 — Windhoek | Outjo**

Depart for Outjo. On the way, stop at the AfriCat Foundation located in the Okonjima Nature Reserve. Experience the work they are conducting to protect leopard and cheetahs and reintroducing them into the wild.

Onward to Outjo. Your lodge is home to the endangered rhino. Here you will see firsthand the conservation work being done to protect these gentle giants. Evening game drive.

*Overnight: [Kifaru Bush Camp](#) (B, L, D) \* Drinks on purchase.*

### **June 22 — In Outjo**

Enjoy a day of rhino tracking and behind-the-scenes access to their Rhino Momma Project.

*Overnight: [Kifaru Bush Camp](#) (B, L, D) \* Drinks on purchase.*

### **June 23 — Outjo | Etosha National Park**

Continue north to your lodge situated on the outskirts of the Etosha National Park. Arrive in time for a late afternoon game drive in the Etosha National Park.

Etosha meaning “place of dry water,” encompasses a huge, flat calcrete depression (or “pan”) of about 5,000 square-kilometers. The pan provides a great, parched, silver-white backdrop of shimmering mirages to an area of semi-arid savannah grassland and thorn scrub. The pan itself contains water only after very good rains and sometimes for only a few days each year but is enough to stimulate the growth of blue-green algae that lures thousands of flamingos. Etosha attracts all the major predators as well as the endangered black rhino. It is a scene from “Noah’s Ark” as herds of animals take their turn at the watering holes. *Overnight: [Etosha Safari Lodge](#) (B, L, D) \* Drinks on purchase*



### **June 24 — Game drive in Etosha National Park**

Full day game drive in the Etosha National Park with a picnic lunch.

Overnight: [Etosha Safari Lodge](#) (B, L, D) \* Drinks on purchase

### **June 25 — Etosha | Damaraland**

Continue to Damaraland. This area is a huge, untamed, and ruggedly beautiful region of Namibia leaving most travelers in awe. Here one can see prehistoric watercourses with open plains and grassland, massive granite koppies and deep gorges. Stop at a Himba village. The Himba are semi-nomadic herders and have managed to maintain much of their traditional lifestyle. You will also visit two geological wonders: Burnt Mountain — created by solidified lava some eighty million years ago, and the Pipe Organs. These are rock formations that comprise a group of columnar basalts which resemble organ pipes.

Overnight: [Twylfelfontein Adventure Camp](#) (B, L, D) \* Drinks on purchase.

### **June 26 — Day Trip to Twylfelfontein**

Day trip to Twylfelfontein. This area has been inhabited for 6,000 years, first by hunter-gatherers and later by Khoikhoi herders. Both ethnic groups used it as a place of worship and a site to conduct shamanist rituals. In the process of these rituals at least 2,500 rock carvings were created, as well as a few rock paintings. Displaying one of the largest concentrations of rock petroglyphs in Africa, UNESCO approved Twylfelfontein as Namibia's first World Heritage Site in 2007.

Overnight: [Twylfelfontein Adventure Camp](#) (B, L, D) \* Drinks on purchase.

### **June 27 — Damaraland | Swakopmund**

Continue South to Swakopmund — a beautiful coastal town on the Atlantic ocean. Founded by the Germans in 1892 in an effort to establish a deep sea harbor, today it remains a thriving town with strong European influences as seen by the architecture and also a place for locals to come during the hot summer season because of its proximity to the ocean. The rest of the day at your leisure to enjoy on your own.

Overnight: [The Delight](#) (B, Lunch en route) \* Drinks on purchase.

### **June 28 — Swakopmund | Walvis Bay Excursion**

Depart to Walvis Bay for a full day excursion on a catamaran in search of the Marine Big 5: whales, dolphins, mola, leatherback turtle and seals. The route approaches Pelican Point known for its 60,000 resident Cape fur seals. In season (July to November), larger mammals such as the Southern right whale and humpback whales are often spotted, while other whale species, such as the gray whale and the pygmy right whale have made appearances. A light lunch will be served on board.



Later, head to Sandwich Harbor which boasts two distinct wetlands and associated mudflats. One is aquifer-fed and supports typical emergent vegetation, but is slowly disappearing due to natural causes. The second, under tidal influence, consists of mudflats and raised shingle bars. Wedged between the sea and the Namib Dunes, it is one of Namibia's most important coastal wetlands, supporting eight endangered species among the large numbers of wading birds. Several archaeological sites dating back 1,000 years exist within the site. *Overnight: [The Delight](#) (B, Lunch on the cruise) \* Drinks on purchase.*

#### **June 29 — Swakopmund | Sossusvlei (Namib Desert)**

Fly by small bush plane to the Sossusvlei area followed by a short road transfer to your lodge. The sand dunes of Sossusvlei in the Namib Desert are often referred to as the highest dunes in the world. Various arguments are laid out to support this claim, but all miss the point, which is that Sossusvlei is surely one of the most spectacular sights in Namibia and well worth the visit. Enjoy a nature drive this afternoon.

*Overnight: [Desert Grace Lodge](#) (B, L, D) \* Drinks on purchase.*

#### **June 30 — Sossusvlei**

An early morning departure to Sesriem– the entrance to the Sossusvlei Dunes. This is the best time to see the dramatic colors of the dunes change as the sun rises over the horizon. The drive to the heart of Sossusvlei is around 60km and en-route you will find one of the highest dunes known as Dune 45.

Explore the beauty of the petrified trees of Deadvlei and ascend these dunes. Considered some of the tallest dunes in the world, even surpassing those of the Sahara, these monumentally high star-shaped dunes are a sought-after destination for photographers and artists. The warm tint of the sand contrasts with the dazzling white surfaces of the clay pans in the surrounding areas. The hues constantly change with the sun rising from deep apricot to warm red and all shades in between.

*Overnight: [Desert Grace Lodge](#) (B, L, D) \* Drinks on purchase.*

#### **July 1 — Sossusvlei | Windhoek | Departure**

Fly back to Windhoek. Met on arrival and assisted with airport check-in formalities for your onward flight back to the U.S. or onward adventure to Cape Town (see next page).

## TOUR COST

**\$8,250 per person (double occupancy)**

**\$1,150 single room supplement** *\*Single room requests are not automatically approved as they are extremely limited and MAY NOT be available to all. A decision will be made upon receiving your reservation.*

### Included Features

- All ground transportation and airport transfers.
- Domestic flights: Swakopmund – Soussevlei – Windhoek.
- Accommodations and meals as indicated above.
- Day trips and excursions indicated above including all entry fees.
- All game drives and game viewing with professional wild life guides
- In-country specialist guide

### Excludes

- International flights to Windhoek.
- Beverages.
- Visas (if applicable).
- Tips to local guide/tour director, airport transfer drivers, coach driver, hotel and lodge staff.
- Vaccinations (if applicable).
- Meals not indicated above.

### Level of difficulty: Easy to 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 possibly without handrails. Participants who are not able to walk unassisted for extended periods 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. Accommodations will be in luxury properties, but note that they are located in remote locations, operating under challenging natural conditions (weather systems and animal movement) and may not offer all the amenities that big city based luxury hotels provide. Travel between places of interest will be by a combination of a coach, small plane and safaris will be conducted by 4x4 specially equipped safari vehicles often over bumpy and dusty terrain. Some days will involve long drives through desert landscape. Outdoor temperatures in June/ July will range from 50°F-75 °F depending on the time of the day with bright sunny conditions. Every effort will be made to ensure your comfort; however, it will be the responsibility of the guest to advise the tour operator and Vassar 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.

## Optional Extension to Cape Town (minimum 2 guests)

**July 1–4, 2025**

**\$1,850 (double occupancy)**

**\$475 single room supplement**

### Cost Includes:

- 3 nights at a luxury hotel with daily breakfast.
- Full day privately guided city and wine lands tour inclusive of wine tasting and lunch.
- Half day privately guided Cape Point tour.
- Windhoek to Cape Town flight (one way; economy fare).
- All airport meet and greet and round trip airport transfers in Cape Town.

**Cost excludes:** tips/ gratuities to drivers, cars, hotel staff, beverages, meals not included, visas (if applicable), vaccinations (if applicable).

**Please note that the tour operator can customize any pre or post trip tour. Please contact Immersion Journeys.**

# Tour Reservation Form

To reserve a space, please complete and return this form with your deposit of \$1,000 (\$1,250 per person if including Cape Town extension) payable to **Immersion Journeys**. You may also fill out an online reservation form. See [link](#) to the on-line reservation.

Mail or e-mail the paper registration to: **455 Main Street, Suite 5M, New York, NY 10044**/ E-mail: [info@immersionjourneys.com](mailto:info@immersionjourneys.com). We will not process your deposit until you are assigned a place on the tour. Please contact 917-686-2620 if you have any questions about the registration process.

Enclosed is my/our check of \$\_\_\_\_\_ (\$1,000 per person/ \$1,250 per person including Cape Town extension)

Please charge my/our deposit of \$\_\_\_\_\_ (\$1,000 per person/ \$1,250 per person including Cape Town extension) to my:

VISA  MasterCard  American Express Card #: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Security Code (4 digits for AMEX/ 3 digits for others) \_\_\_\_\_ Authorized Card Holder Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please sign me/us up for the Cape Town extension.**

**The balance of the trip is due on March 10, 2025 and is payable by check only. Credit card payments for the balance will be charged 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 \_\_\_\_\_ Vassar Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Vassar 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 (**Extremely** limited and only on first come basis)

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 (\$1,250 with Cape Town extension), I/we am/are registering for the **Namibia: Open Skies & Endless Horizons** 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. Travelling will be in a combination of coaches, 4x4 safari vehicles and small bush planes. I/we also agree to be in good physical shape and will be prepared to walk without a full time walking aid or need a 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*

**1. INTRODUCTION:** These are the terms and conditions applicable to the tour packages provided by Immersion Journeys LLC and Vassar College (collectively "Immersion Journeys," "Vassar 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.

**2. RESERVATIONS AND PAYMENTS:** A deposit of \$1,000 (or \$1,250 per person including Cape Town extension) of the total Tour cost, along with a completed and signed tour reservation form are required in order to confirm your reservation. Upon receipt of these forms and your deposit, we will confirm your trip. Your signature on the tour reservation form confirms that you have read this Participant's Agreement. The balance of your Tour cost is due of 90 days prior to departure.

**3. 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. In addition, medical evacuation coverage may be required as a condition of booking. **Trip insurance information will be sent upon receipt of the deposit and trip reservation. To purchase travel, please contact Immersion Journeys at (917) 686-2620 or [runit@immersionjourneys.com](mailto:runit@immersionjourneys.com)**

**4. 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
\$750	Ninety-one (91) or more
50 percent (50%)	Between ninety-one (91) and sixty (60)
One hundred percent (100%)	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.

**5. 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

**6. AIRFARE:** Airfare is subject to change and availability and, depending on the fare basis, likely is nonrefundable. Your airline ticket constitutes a contract between you and the airline, even if purchased through Immersion Journeys.

**7. 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

**8. 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.

**9. 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 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.

**10. 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](http://www.travel.state.gov), and the Centers for Disease Control at [www.cdc.gov/travel](http://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.

**11. 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.

**12. 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.

**13. 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.

**14. INDEMNIFICATION:** You shall indemnify, defend and hold harmless Immersion Journeys, Vassar 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.

**15. 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.

**16. 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. 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.

**17. 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.

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

**19. 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.

**20. SUPPLEMENTAL RELEASE:** This Supplemental Release is supplemental to and not in limitation of the Agreement and Release from Liability, Assumption or Risk and Arbitration Agreement (“Release”) I/we previously signed. Except as modified herein, that Release remains in full force and effect.

I understand that Immersion Journeys, LLC. (“Immersion Journeys”) does not own, operate, control or supervise any person or entity which provides hot air balloon trips or hot air balloon equipment and that it makes no representations whatsoever as to the adequacy or safety of any such person or entity or of any such equipment. In addition, I understand that Immersion Journeys is giving me information about this trip, or booking it only as a courtesy to me.

I understand there are various risks of injury, inconvenience and death associated with hot air ballooning. These include, but are not limited to, crashes, uncontrollable wind currents which, among other things, could cause hard landings (dragging of the balloon which in turn could cause injury or death), the possibility of a fire as a result of a drag or crash, landing in an area different from that anticipated, defective equipment, etc. I assume all such risks and specifically release Immersion Journeys from any and all claims of negligence, gross negligence, breach of contract or any other claim with regard to my hot air ballooning trip.

I further understand that medical aid may be unavailable during the course of my balloon safari, evacuation to any medical facility difficult and lengthy, and that any such facility (or medical personnel) may not be of the quality of facilities or medical personnel in the United States.

**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.**

