The Story of India: Desert Culture, Festivals & Hill Stations

November 6-21, 2019
Vassar Hosts: Glen Johnson & Sipra Johnson
Dear Vassar Travelers,

Over the last couple of decades, we have had the privilege of discovering India anew with successive groups of Vassar alumnae/i always a rewarding experience for us. We have visited India’s golden triangle, absorbed the more tranquil pace of life in the south, pushed up into the Himalayas, and explored villages and temples, both ancient and modern — all the while discovering and rediscovering the richness and diversity of India’s history and culture.

In the fall of 2019 we will again set out, this time to explore some special sites and events we have greatly enjoyed but not yet visited with Vassar travelers. These rewarding areas are a bit off the beaten track and sometimes require more demanding travel. We invite you to join us on this engaging journey.

A highlight of the trip is likely to be the annual Pushkar Camel Fair in Rajasthan, certainly the largest such fair in India, arguably the largest in the world. We will meet camel and livestock traders and learn how they value their stock and bargain its sale, how assorted service providers engage with varieties of folks from all over India, how traders combine their business with religious pilgrimage, and much more.

We will visit historic trading outposts in Osian and Jaiselmer and stay in a tent encampment as we experience the desert culture and explore the Jain religious traditions of the area.

At Amritsar, in the Punjab, we will join devotees from all over the world at the vibrant Golden Temple, the center of Sikhism.

The British built New Delhi, designed by Lutyens, but Nehru wanted a different sort of planned city and engaged the French architect, Le Corbusier, to design it. We will visit the result, Chandigarh, the capital of Punjab State, where we will reflect on the ways Indians have shaped and reshaped the city to make it their own.

Finally, we will climb into the Himalayan mountains aboard a historic “toy” train to visit Shimla, the summer capital of the British Raj, a small city that retains much of its colonial character.

India is a big country and travel is often over long distances, but these are some of its most remarkable and fascinating destinations. We hope you will want to join us on this exotic journey.

Sincerely,

Glen Johnson
Professor Emeritus of Political Science
Vassar College

Sipra Johnson
Associate Professor Emerita of Anthropology
The State University of New York at New Paltz
Glen Johnson is Professor Emeritus at Vassar College where he was the Shirley Ecker Boskey Professor of Political Science and International Relations. He earned his Ph. D. from the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill. He joined the Vassar faculty in 1964 and served as Chair of the Political Science Department and founding Director of the International Studies Program. He was Acting President of the College in 1997 and again in 2003.

Professor Johnson is the author and co-author of several books and a number of articles on US foreign policy, international human rights, India’s foreign policy and ex-untouchables. He has been a Fulbright scholar in India twice, including three years as Director of the American Studies Research Centre in Hyderabad. In 2017 he was the inaugural recipient of the AAVC Outstanding Faculty/Staff Award honored in part for the many educational tours he has led for Vassar alumnae/i.

Sipra Bose Johnson is Associate Professor Emerita of Anthropology at the State University of New York at New Paltz. She taught anthropology and Asian studies at New Paltz for more than 30 years and also served as Special Assistant to the Academic Vice-President for a five-year term. She has published research on ex-untouchables and on women in professional roles in India. She has lectured widely in India and the United States on these subjects and others.

Born in Kolkata, India, she immigrated to the United States with her family when she was eleven years old. She did undergraduate work in international relations at the University of North Carolina where she was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. She earned a M.A. in anthropology at Columbia University. With her husband, Glen Johnson, she has led educational tours of India for the Vassar Travel Program and the National Geographic Society.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

• Simple pleasures. Soak in the myriad of cultures that make up India.
• Immerse yourself at the world-famous Pushkar Camel Festival among traders, musicians and dancers.
• Rise up in prayer at the Golden Temple in Amritsar.
• Walk among the ramparts of the Jaisalmer Fort.
• Tingle your taste buds. Explore the history of Indian cuisine.
November 6, 2019 – Arrive Delhi
You will be met on arrival and transferred to your hotel.
India’s capital Delhi is one of the most vibrant cities and leads the country in terms of art, culture, culinary experiences, shopping, entertainment and overall standard of living.
Enjoy a welcome dinner with your fellow travelers. Overnight: The Lalit (D)

November 7 – Delhi City & Art Tour
Depart for an art tour of Delhi starting at the Sanskriti Museum led by resident artists. This museum was established in 1984 to create an environment for the preservation of India’s heritage.
Later, visit the National Gallery of Modern Art, which once was a palace of the Maharaja of Jaipur and now has a repertoire of exhibits by contemporary Indian artists. The gallery houses almost 4,000 Indian paintings, sculpture and graphic art, dating from the mid-19th century to the present day.
Return to the hotel after the tour. Overnight: The Lalit (B, L)

November 8 – Delhi | Pushkar
Depart for Pushkar by train— one of the most iconic ways of traveling within India. A tiny little town, almost forgotten by time, Pushkar is located on the edge of the Thar Desert along the banks of the Pushkar River. Pushkar was put on the map because of the annual camel fair where guests can meet camel and livestock traders and learn how they value their stock and bargain its sale. Overnight: Bramha Horizon (B, D)

November 9 – Pushkar
We return to the fairground this morning. The camel fair attracts more than 100,000 head of camel, cattle, sheep, goats and horses with traders from all the across the north, jockeying for space among tourists and buyers. The vibrant and colorful atmosphere is replete with music and dance.
Evening heritage walk through the local bazaar to the famous Brahma temple located on the banks of Pushkar Lake. Overnight: Bramha Horizon (B, D)

November 10 – Pushkar | Osian
After breakfast, depart for Osian, an ancient town located in the Thar desert. Osian was an important trading center between the 8th and 12th centuries mainly dominated by the Jain traders who also commissioned beautiful and intricately carved temples which still stand today.
Overnight: Camel Camp (B, L, D)
November 11 – Osian
Visit the ancient Osian Jain temples, including the Sachiya Mata Temple and the Mahaveera temple—dedicated to the founder of Jainism. Later, visit the historical Katan Baori step-well which was once an important stopping point for traders who relied on its water source for survival amid a harsh desert climate.  
*Overnight: Camel Camp (B, L, D)*

November 12 – Osian | Jaisalmer
Depart for Jaisalmer. Located at the western edge of the country, it is one of the most intriguing and romantic cities in Rajasthan. The city is primarily built using locally mined yellow sandstone that gives it a dull gold finish and the nickname “Golden City.” Named after its founder Maharawal Jaisal Singh, a Rajput king in 1156 AD, it was on the main spice and caravan route and gained prosperity through trade. Signs of its once wealthy heydays can still be seen in the planning of the town as well as the intricately carved *havelis* (villas) that once housed prominent merchants and their families.  
*Overnight: Suryagarh (B)*

November 13 – Jaisalmer
Heritage walking tour of Jaiselmer and the imposing Jaisalmer Fort. This fort, built in 1156 by the Bhati Rajputs, has been the scene of many epic battles for territory. This is a living fort and about a quarter of the city’s population still live inside its walls, giving it a vibrant feel. Later, visit some of the important and ornate *havelis* (villas) once owned by wealthy business owners. The larger and more ornate ones symbolized the great wealth and trading powerhouse the city once was. Many of the *havelis* have intricate designs of birds, animals, and even a steam engine to signify modernity and the industrial age.  
*Overnight: Suryagarh (B)*

November 14 – Jaisalmer | Delhi
Fly back to Delhi for a required overnight stay. The rest of the afternoon is at leisure to enjoy the plethora of restaurants that surround this neighborhood within a short walk or taxi ride.  
*Overnight: Novotel (B)*

November 15 – Delhi | Amritsar
Depart for Amritsar. Located at the border of India, Amritsar is known as the home of Harmandir Sahib or Golden Temple, one of the holiest of Sikh temples and visited by thousands from around the world.

This famous temple is covered in more than 100 kilos of gold and is a stunning sight to see against the setting sun.  
*Overnight: Grand Sarovar (B)*
November 16 – Amritsar
Tour of Amritsar and a visit to Jallianwala Bagh. Now a historic site and memorial, it was where hundreds of unarmed Indian men, women and children were massacred, protesting the British colonial rule in 1919 and a significant moment in the independence movement.

The highlight of the day will be an afternoon visit to the border between India and Pakistan (*Wagah*). As the sun sets, soldiers from both countries march in perfect drill and pageantry full of patriotic fervor, marking the end of the day.  
**Overnight: Grand Sarovar (B)**

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November 17 – Amritsar | Chandigarh
Depart for Chandigarh, one of India’s best planned cities which became internationally renowned for its architecture and urban design. The city acts as capital to two of India’s states—Haryana and Punjab. Chandigarh is where several famous European architects, including Le Corbusier, left their mark with their modernist designs.

Visit the seven-terraced Pinjore Gardens. The highest first terrace is where the Shish–Mahal palace was built in Rajasthani–Mughal style. Subsequent terraces are also home to prominent palaces, each with their unique significance: Rang Mahal (Painted Palace), Hawa Mahal (Palace of Winds) and Jal Mahal (Palace of Water).  
**Overnight: Lemon Tree (B)**

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November 18 – Chandigarh
City tour of Chandigarh. See the city through the eyes of great architects who made significant contributions to its urban fabric. Some of the tour will be by foot.

Evening cooking demo and dinner.  
**Overnight: Lemon Tree (B,D)**

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November 19 – Chandigarh | Shimla
Depart by train to Shimla. It is a fantastic way to see the countryside as the sun rises. Shimla is a quintessential ‘hill station’ and once was the summer capital of the British Empire. Even today, one can still see remnants of Victorian and Tudor style architecture along its hilly streets and beautiful mountain scenery.  
**Overnight: Radisson Jass (B, D)**

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November 20 – Shimla
Heritage walking tour of Shimla. During this walk you will see the beautiful Christ Church, Gaiety Theatre and other heritage buildings, giving you a glimpse of the British heritage which is still very prominent today.

End the day with a farewell dinner.  
**Overnight: Radisson Jass (B, L, D)**

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November 21 – Shimla | Chandigarh | Delhi | Depart
Return to Chandigarh for a flight to New Delhi. Overnight rooms have been arranged for guests. Depart for your onward journey home or to one of the extensions to continue your India adventure (see below).  
**Overnight: Novotel New Delhi Aerocity**

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**(B- Breakfast   L- Lunch   D-Dinner)**
$6,845 per person (double occupancy)  $1,995 single room supplement

**INCLUSIONS:**
- Accommodations as indicated above.
- Meal plan as indicated above.
- All transportation and full time English-speaking national guide/trip manager.
- Tickets for domestic flights and local trains.
- Entrance fees to all monuments and historic sites.
- All gratuities/tips to the local team (guide, drivers, porters, hotel staff).

**EXCLUSIONS:**
- International flights to New Delhi (DEL).
- Travel insurance.
- Alcoholic and bottled soft beverages during meals.
- Any additional meals not mentioned in the program itinerary.
- Any additional services not mentioned in the program itinerary.

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 or without handrails. On some days, it also covers long distances by bus. Every effort will be made to ensure your comfort; however, all participants are expected to be physically active and not be an impediment to others on excursions. 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. 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:
Golden Triangle and Taj Mahal
November 22-26, 2019

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:
Nov. 22 – Drive Delhi to Agra.
Nov. 23 – Agra/ Taj Mahal
ITC Mughal (B)
Nov. 24 – Abhaneri Stepwell and travel to Jaipur.
ITC Rajputana (B)
Nov. 25 – Jaipur City Tour. Rajputana (B)
Nov. 26 – Return Delhi, overnight hotel and departure transfer.

GROUND COST:
$1,675 per person (sharing)
$695 single room supplement

Includes: Transport, hotels and meal plan as indicated above, entry fees to monuments and guided tours, visit to the Taj Mahal, full time Guide

Excludes: Gratuities, beverages, other meals not included, personal expenses.

OPTION 2:
An Ode to the South
November 22-27, 2019

Immerse yourself in Tamil Nadu, South India’s most vibrant state. Visit the ancient temples of Mahabalipuram- the 7th 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:
Nov. 22 – Fly from New Delhi to Chennai.
The Trident Chennai
Nov. 23 – AM tour of Chennai and depart for Mahabalipuram. Radisson Blu Temple Bay Resort (B)
Nov. 24 – Tour of Mahabalipuram and day tour of Kanchipuram. Radisson Blu Temple Bay Resort (B)
Nov. 25 – Puducherry. The Promenade (B)
Nov. 26 – Tour of Puducherry and Auroville. The Promenade (B)
Nov. 27 – Return to Chennai and connect to onward flight home.

GROUND COST:
$1,815 per person (sharing)
$695 single room supplement

Includes: New Delhi to Chennai flights, hotels and meal plan as indicated above, entry fees to monuments and guided tours, full time Guide.

Excludes: Gratuities, beverages, other meals not included, personal expenses.

OPTION 3:
The Ancient Caves of Ajanta and Ellora
November 22-25, 2019

Visit one of the largest rock-cut monastery-temple cave complexes in the world and a UNESCO World Heritage site. Ajanta and Ellora consists of ancient Buddhist, Jain and Hindu temples and rock carvings which will leave you in awe.

ITINERARY:
Nov. 22 – Fly from New Delhi to Aurangabad. Vivanta by Taj
Nov. 23 – Tour of Ellora Caves. Vivanta by Taj
Nov. 24 – Tour of Ajanta Caves. Vivanta by Taj
Nov. 25 – Aurangabad-Mumbai and depart.

GROUND COST:
$1,445 per person (sharing)
$450 single room supplement.

Includes: New Delhi-Aurangabad-Mumbai flights, hotels and meal plan as indicated above, entry fees to monuments and guided tours.

Excludes: Gratuities, beverages, other meals not included, personal expenses.

Note: Tour can be combined with other extensions and also be done before the main trip. Subject to availability.
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 September 6, 2019 and is payable by check only. Credit card payments incur a 3.5% fee.

Please sign me/us up for the following optional extensions to India:  
- Golden Triangle and Taj Mahal  
- An Ode to the South  
- The Ancient Caves of Ajanta and Ellora

### PASSENGER INFORMATION

**Name 1 (as on passport):** ____________________________________________

Passport #:_________________________ Nationality ________________

Issue Date (mm/dd/yy) _______________ Expiration (mm/dd/yy) __________

Date of Birth:________________ (mm/dd/yy)  Vassar 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)  Vassar 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 # & 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 The Story of India program and have read and agreed to the Immersion Journeys Participant's Agreement. I 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. I/we also agree to be in good physical shape and will be prepared to walk without a fulltime 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

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, Vassar College (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 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.

Revisions: A fee of $125 per booking for each change made sixty (60) days or more prior to the start of the tour. The cancellation fees set forth below apply to changes made less than sixty (60) days prior to the start of the tour.

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</th>
<th>Number of Days of Advance Written Notice</th>
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<tr>
<td>$750 per person</td>
<td>Sixty-one (61) or more</td>
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<td>50 percent (50%)</td>
<td>Between thirty (30) and sixty (60)</td>
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<td>One hundred percent (100%)</td>
<td>Less than thirty (30)</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 and must pay an additional operational expense if applicable such as, but not limited to special transport arrangements, hotel accommodations and local staff to assist.

Insurance: Immersion Journeys recommends that you purchase trip cancellation, medical, and baggage insurance to cover penalties and cancellation charges. Vassar College 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.

Once your registration is processed, you will receive information on trip cancellation from Vassar College. Please contact Susan Quade at suquade@vassar.edu or 845-437-5453 with any questions.

Cancellation or Substitution by Us: 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 canceled, 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 canceled, we will refund a portion of the price depending on our actual costs incurred.
Airfares: 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(s)). 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 endeavours 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 sixteen (16) 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 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.

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 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.

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 of 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 understand and acknowledge that, if you participate in activities during your trip, certain risks and dangers may arise, including, but not limited to, the risk of accidents in remote places without access to medical facilities, transportation, or means of rapid evacuation and assistance; the hazards of traveling in unsafe or politically unstable areas or under unsafe conditions; the dangers of civil disturbances, war, extortion, kidnapping, and terrorist activities; Tour activities that may involve increased risks including, but not limited to, gorilla trekking and walking safaris; dangers and risks inherent in activities in underdeveloped countries; dangers of local law enforcement activity; attacks or bites by animals, pests, or insects; quarantine; epidemics; injury or death while on activities sponsored by lodging facilities or third parties; sickness; lack of appropriate medical care; or criminal activity. YOU DO HEREBY EXPRESSLY ASSUME ALL OF THESE RISKS AND DANGERS, AND YOU DO HEREBY EXPRESSLY AGREE TO FOREVER RELEASE, DISCHARGE AND HOLD US AND OUR AGENTS, EMPLOYEES, OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, ASSOCIATES, AFFILIATED COMPANIES, GUIDES, GROUP LEADERS, AND Subcontractors harmless against any and all liability, actions, causes of actions, suits, claims, and demands of any and every kind and nature whatsoever which you now have or which may hereafter arise out of or in connection with your trip or participation in any activities in which you participate.
Vassar Travel Program
Educational Excursions for Alumnae/i, Family & Friends

The Story of India:
Desert Culture, Festivals & Hill Stations

November 6-21, 2019
Vassar Hosts: Glen Johnson & Sipra Johnson