

# Colors *of* India



THE LAURA & ALVIN SIEGAL  
LIFELONG LEARNING  
PROGRAM

**January 21 – February 3, 2023**

Study Leader: Venkataramanan Balakrishnan, Dean of the Case School of Engineering





Dear Alumni and Friends,

Join us on an enchanting discovery of India, one of the oldest and most diverse civilizations in the world. Visit awe-inspiring monuments, explore bustling cities, and get lost in local towns and markets. Your trip begins in **New Delhi**- the capital of India. Immerse yourself in the markets and historic monuments of **Old Delhi**; explore **New Delhi**, the fast-paced, cosmopolitan capital that pays tribute to India's rich past, yet boasts modern architecture and sites of political importance. Explore **Humayun's Tomb**, and take a rickshaw ride through the bustling city streets to **Chandni Chowk**, one of the oldest and busiest markets in Delhi.

Continue to the royal city of **Jaipur**, often called "the Pink City" for the pinkish tint on the city's stone buildings. There, visit **Hawa Mahal**, also known as the "Palace of Winds," an unusual structure honeycombed with over 900 niches and windows. Continue to Agra and marvel at two of India's most famous architectural jewels, the **Agra Fort** and the **Taj Mahal**, one of the wonders of the world completed in 1648 by Emperor Shah Jahan in memory of his wife Mumtaz Mahal.

An important stop is **Chennai**- the capital of the state of Tamil Nadu and a leader in information technology with a robust automobile industry. In the temple towns of **Kanchipuram** and **Mamallapuram** we will see 8th century temples and visit weavers and print makers who continue to produce exquisite sarees and other textiles; **Puducherry** will showcase the French influence still very present.

Our final stop is **Kochi**- one of the busiest ports in the south and a melting pot of European, Chinese and Persian influences. Here, wander through the narrow roads and spice shops, try your hand at fishing using the age-old Chinese fishing techniques or buy fresh seafood that will be cooked to your taste almost immediately.

We assure you that this trip will leave you mesmerized and wanting more from this nation of contrasts, color and cacophony. Space is limited, and we encourage you to reserve today by returning the enclosed reservation form.

Sincerely,

*Karen Laurence*

Karen A. Laurence, Ph.D

Director of Educational Programs & Faculty and Alumni Engagement

Laura and Alvin Siegal Lifelong Learning Program

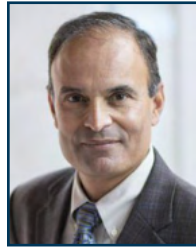
Case Western Reserve University

*CWRU's Luminary Society members may receive additional discounts on CWRU Educational Travel programs. For further information on Luminary Society travel discounts only, please contact The Office of Strategic Giving or 216.368.4460.*





## Study Leader



**Venkataramanan "Ragu" Balakrishnan**, the Charles H. Phipps Dean of the Case School of Engineering, received his B.Tech degree in electronics and communication engineering and the President of India Gold Medal from The Indian Institute of Technology, Madras, India in 1985, graduating at the top of the university. He received an MS degree in statistics in 1992, and MS and PhD degrees in electrical engineering, in 1989 and 1992 respectively, all from Stanford University. He was appointed dean of the Case School of Engineering at Case Western Reserve University in September 2018.

Balakrishnan is also a professor in the Department of Electrical, Computer and Systems Engineering; his research interests are primarily in the areas of control, and the application of convex optimization to problems from systems, control, robotics, communication and signal processing. Balakrishnan has held several volunteer and leadership positions in the systems and control community, including editorial positions at the IEEE Transactions on Automatic Control and the SIAM Journal on Control and Optimization.

## TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

**A warm welcome by 1.3 billion hosts.** Enjoy their warm hospitality and ready smiles.

**Bask in a monument to everlasting love** with a visit to the Taj Mahal- a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

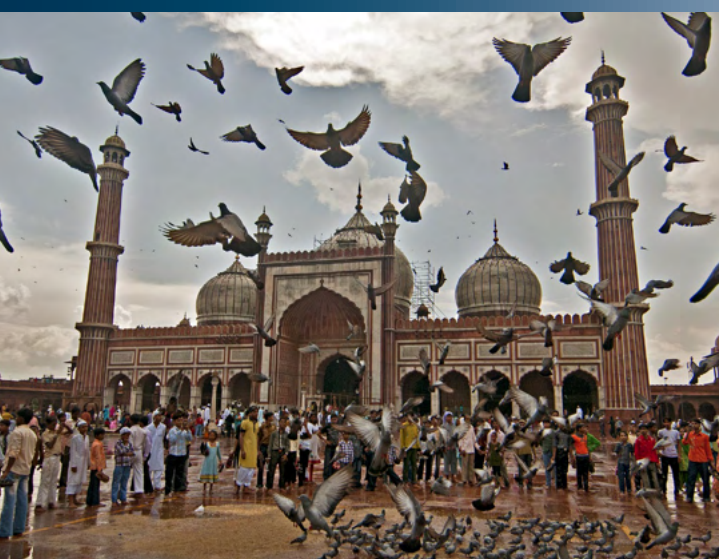
**Experience a slice of Delhi**, the former seat of the British Raj in India and current capital of India.

**Wander around** centuries old temple complexes depicting the Mahabharat mythology.

**Immerse yourself** in the confluence of European, Persian and Chinese culture and religion in Kochi.







## PROGRAM ITINERARY

### January 19/20, 2023 – Depart U.S.A.

Suggested departure for New Delhi. If you wish to spend a few extra days in New Delhi and wish to depart early, please contact Immersion Journeys.

### January 21 – Arrive Delhi

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.

Trip briefing by guide/ tour manager. *Overnight: The Connaught- IHCL SelecQtions (No Meals)*

### January 22 – Delhi City Tour

The historic tour begins at Jama Masjid, the largest mosque in India. Drive past the magnificent Red Fort, a marvel in red sandstone, built on the banks of River Yamuna by the Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan.

The 12th century Qutab Minar is a gracefully hand-carved for its entire height of 234 ft– a engineering marvel back in the day. Visit the mausoleum of emperor Humayun which was a forerunner of the Mughal style of architecture. The tour will also stop at India Gate, the President's Residence, Parliament House and the Secretariat buildings - an interesting blend of the Victorian and 20th century architecture.

Welcome dinner with limited bar. *Overnight: The Connaught- IHCL SelecQtions (B, L, D)*

### January 23 – Delhi | Agra

Depart for Agra- home of the famous Taj Mahal.

Visit the Agra Fort. This fort was built by Emperor Akbar in 1565 and notable for its blending of Hindu and central Asian architectural styles.

Sunset visit to the famous Taj Mahal. Built by the Mughal Emperor Shah Jehan, this is a tribute of love for his favorite wife Mumtaz Mahal. This monument is an amazing feat of human industry and a perfect example of beauty, symmetry and aesthetics. Only when one enters the main gates and gaze upon the Taj, does the enormity of the task of building this mammoth structure hit the visitor. *Overnight: Taj View Agra- IHCL SelecQtions (B, L)*

### January 24 – Agra | Jaipur

After breakfast drive to Jaipur with a stop at Abhaneri Stepwell– one of India's largest and deepest wells and a key water source. Step wells were a prominent feature in arid, desert environments and the main source of water for travellers and local villages for miles around.

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





Their intricate designs signified the prominence and wealth of the region and were often commissioned by local kings.

Arrive in Jaipur popularly known as “Pink City”. Jaipur is considered India’s first planned city where there is a clear segregation between residential and commercial areas. If time permits, the guide will take you on a walking tour through the historic markets and alleys where you will begin to get a sense of the urban design. *Overnight: Jai Mahal Palace (B, L)*

### **January 25 – Tour of Jaipur**

Guided visits to Jaipur’s famous forts and historic places.

Visit the Amber Fort which is a classic, romantic Rajasthani Fort Palace, with its rugged, time-ravaged walls and fascinating palaces inside. Walk the ramparts of this imposing structure. Once you reach the top, you will get unobstructed views of the city below and the hills in the distance.

The City Palace is the former residence of the royal family and now a museum. Built in the style of a fortified campus, the palace covers almost one-seventh in area of the old city. One of the major attractions in the museum is the Armory Museum housing an impressive array of weaponry. Stop at Jantar Mantar, one of the largest stone and marble crafted observatory in the world. The observatory has seventeen large instruments, many of them in working condition.

**\*Due to animal cruelty concerns, Immersion Journeys refrains from offering elephant-backed rides while ascending and descending Amber Fort. *Overnight: Jai Mahal Palace (B, L)***

### **January 26 – Jaipur | Chennai | Mamallapuram**

Flight to Chennai. Met on arrival and travel by road to Mamallapuram.

This historic town of Mamallapuram (formerly known as Mahabalipuram) has various monuments built largely between the 7th and the 9th centuries, and has been classified as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The reigning kingdom in that era traded with China and Indonesia- a tradition expanded by the succeeding empire. Visit Arjuna’s Penance, an open-air bas-relief sculpture is built on a massive scale and depicts an episode from the Hindu epic, the Mahabharat; the Shore Temple, which is built close to the shore along the Bay of Bengal consists of five chariots, depicting one of the protagonists in the Mahabharat. Each imposing and greatly etched chariot is built out of a single rock.

*Overnight: Radisson Blu Temple Bay (B, L)*

### **January 27 – Day Trip to Kanchipuram**

Kanchipuram is also known as the Golden City of 1,000 Temples and one of the seven holy pilgrimage sites for Hindus. Explore several 7th and 8th century temples that depict the Dravidian style of architecture. It is a city that is known for its silk weavers where you see exquisite saris come to life. *Overnight: Radisson Blu Temple Bay (B, L)*

(B- Breakfast L- Lunch D-Dinner)





### January 28 – Day trip to Puducherry

Formerly known as Pondicherry, this important trading port gained prominence as a French colony (1664 – 1962) and it's influence can be seen in the city planning, houses, language, traditions and of course food.

Puducherry's fame is also the presence of Auroville Ashram and international township and is probably one of the most successful communes in the world where you can meet people from all over the world of different professions residing here and contributing to the community.

*Overnight: Radisson Blu Temple Bay (B, L)*

### January 29 – Chennai

As you return to Chennai, an important stop is at the Dakshina Chitra- a non-profit center for artists whose aim is to showcase a broader, more inclusive culture of the South Indian states. Take a walking tour of Chennai through a wholesale market teeming with life, color, cacophony exuberance. A visit to the heart of George Town is an experience as you navigate this neighbourhood and learn about its history, mythology and folklore giving you a glimpse of a “living” India. *Overnight: Taj Coromandel (B, L)*

### January 30 – Chennai | Kochi | Kumarakom

Take a flight to the coastal port city of Kochi. Met on arrival and travel by road to Kumarakom. The village of Kumarakom is a cluster of little islands on Lake Vembanad and an enchanting backwater destination for is a perfect leisure getaway. *Overnight: Taj Kumarakom (B,L)*

### January 31 – Kumarakom

Early morning visit to Kumarakom Bird Sanctuary for a guided nature walk to see indigenous and migratory birds.

The allure of Kerala are the small organic farms and their revolutionary methods of ensuring quality product. Visit one such place run by two women who follow strict guidelines on organic farming. It is a wonderful sanctuary away from the hustle and bustle. Enjoy lunch made of the freshest ingredients before returning to the hotel. The rest of the day is at leisure for you to enjoy the facilities and activities offered by the hotel. We highly recommend you try the various ayurvedic treatments on offer. *Overnight: Taj Kumarakom (B, L)*

### February 1 – Kumarakom | Allepy | Kochi

Board your very own *kettuvallam* or houseboat that will take you through the famous Kerala backwaters traversing through paddy fields and villages and finally into the magnificent Vembanad Lake. The houseboat, which was earlier used for transporting goods across Kerala's

## GROUND COST

**\$6,499 per person (double occupancy)**

**\$2,299 single room supplement**

### **The above cost includes the following:**

- Accommodation as per the itinerary.
- Daily breakfast, 12 lunches including 1 mineral water bottle.
- Welcome dinner (Delhi) and farewell dinner (Kochi) at a local restaurant with 2 glasses house wine, local beer & soft drinks.
- All the airport meet and greet and transfers.
- English-speaking Guide/Escort
- Entrances at the monuments (single visit), as per the itinerary and camera fees.
- All currently applicable taxes
- Domestic flights (economy)
- RT-PCR test to exit India.

### **The above cost does not include:**

- International flights to/ from India.
- Expenses of personal nature like tipping to driver, guide, naturalist, alcoholic beverages and other table drinks, medical expenses, laundry, table drinks, telephone calls, fax or any other items not mentioned above.
- Any other meals not mentioned above.
- India visas and passport services.
- Travel insurance.
- RT-PCR Test to enter India.
- Any services other than the ones mentioned above.

backwaters, is today a relaxed and romantic way to enjoy the tranquillity of the area. Lunch will be served on board.

Arrive in Kochi. The allure of a small seaport, the swaying of coconut palms, old buildings, and quaint streets all come together to make Kochi a lovely city. Kochi is also a natural harbor and because of this, people from around the world came here to trade, work and live and the influence of the Chinese, Dutch, French, Portuguese and British can be seen here. A great city to walk in, Kochi surprises you at every turn, greeting you with heritage buildings, old churches and temples, beaches dotted with Chinese fishing nets, small village schools, tiny restaurants and much more. *Overnight: Taj Malabar (B, L)*

### **February 2 – Tour of Kochi**

Depart for a historic tour of Kochi with stops at the Dutch Palace, the Jewish, St. Francis Church and the Santa Cruz Basilica. Try your hand at the famous Chinese fishing nets which dot the harbor front; stop at Fort Kochi which was one of the original settlements built by the Dutch and Portuguese traders.

Enjoy a Kathakali dance performance this evening. Kathakali is as much a tribute to God and a form of prayer, as a folk dance. Kathakali dancers don elaborate costumes and masks to portray scenes from the Hindu epics Ramayana and Mahabharat and using intricate facial expressions and dance movements, to tell stories of love, valor, morality and adventure.

Farewell dinner with limited bar to close out this memorable trip.

*Overnight: Taj Malabar (B, L, D)*

### **February 3 – Depart Kochi**

Check out and transfer to the airport to connect your International flight back home or extension (see options on the next page).

*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.*

## PRE/POST TRIP EXTENDED (a minimum of 2 guests are needed to run the trip)

### OPTION 1:

#### The Golden Temple of Amritsar January 18-21

(Note: this itinerary is only offered as a pre-tour)

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 backdrop of the setting sun.

##### ITINERARY:

**Jan. 18** – Arrive New Delhi. *Pullman (B)*

**Jan. 19** – Flight to Amritsar and evening visit to the Golden Temple. *Taj Swarna (B)*

**Jan. 20** – Tour of Partition Museum (subject to it being open), Jallianwala Bagh and Wagah Border (to watch the daily rituals of the closing of the border between India and Pakistan). *Taj Swarna (B)*

**Jan. 21** – Return to Delhi and join the main trip

##### GROUND COST:

\$995 per person (sharing)

\$450 single room supplement.

**Includes:** Delhi-Amritsar-Delhi flights, hotels and meal plan as indicated above, entry fees to Sunderbans, daily safari in the Sunderbans, guided tour of Kolkata.

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

### OPTION 2:

#### The Ancient Caves of Ajanta & Ellora February 3-6

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:

**Feb. 3** – Fly from Kochi to Aurangabad. *Vivanta by Taj (B)*

**Feb. 4** – Tour of Ellora Caves. *Vivanta by Taj (B)*

**Feb. 5** – Tour of Ajanta Caves. *Vivanta by Taj (B)*

**Feb. 6** – Aurangabad-Mumbai and depart.

##### GROUND COST:

\$1,445 per person (sharing)

\$450 single room supplement.

**Includes:** Kochi-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.

*This itinerary also be experienced before the main trip.*

### OPTION 3:

#### The Tigers of the Sunderbans February 3-8

The large expanse of the mystical mangrove swamps formed by the confluence of the Ganges, Brahmaputra and Meghna Rivers are also home to the endangered Bengal tiger.

##### ITINERARY:

**Feb. 3** – Fly from Kochi to Kolkata; boat to Sunderbans. *Sunderbans Tiger Camp (B, L, D)*

**Feb. 4 & 5** – Safari in the Sunderbans *Sunderbans Tiger Camp (B, L, D)*

**Feb. 6** – Return to Kolkata.  
*Oberoi Grand (B, L)*

**Feb. 7** – Heritage Tour of Kolkata.  
*Oberoi Grand (B)*

**Feb. 8** – Depart.

##### GROUND COST:

\$2,085 per person (sharing)

\$1450 single room supplement.

**Includes:** Kochi-Kolkata flights, hotels and meal plan as indicated above, entry fees to Sunderbans, daily safari in the Sunderbans, guided tour of Kolkata.

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

*This itinerary also be experienced before the main trip.*



# TOUR RESERVATION FORM

To reserve a space, please complete and return this form with your deposit of \$1,000 per person payable to **Immersion Journeys**. Mail to: **Immersion Journeys, 455 Main Street, Suite 5M, New York, NY 10044** or fax to: **917-210-4093** | Email: **info@immersionjourneys.com**. Please provide a copy of your passport biometric page and proof of COVID vaccination. 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 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 November 23, 2021 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 Temple of Amritsar** (offered as a pre-trip only) ☐ **The Ancient Caves of Ajanta & Ellora**  
☐ **The Tigers of the Sunderbans**

## 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: \_\_\_\_\_ (mm/dd/yy) CWRU Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ (mm/dd/yy) CWRU Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_

Email (write clearly): \_\_\_\_\_

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 **Colors of India** program and have read and agreed to the Immersion Journeys terms & conditions. I understand that portions of this trip will be strenuous, includes unpaved and uneven paths, and steps. I also agree to be in good physical shape and can walk without a full time walking aid or wheelchair. I am/ we are also taking responsibility for purchasing our own mandatory supplemental travel insurance including medical treatment coverage and adequate medical evacuation in order to participate in this travel program. I/ we are also fully vaccinated against COVID-19 and understand that it is a requirement to participate in the trip.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
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, Engaging Journeys, Inc., Case Western Reserve University (collectively "Immersion Journeys", "Engaging Journeys", "Case Western Reserve University" "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 deposit \$1,000 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, a copy of your passport biometric page, proof of COVID vaccination 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 60 days prior to departure.

**TRAVEL INSURANCE:** Travel insurance is **mandatory**. In the event that you must cancel your participation in a travel 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. We will send you an application upon receipt of your reservation. In addition, medical evacuation coverage may be required as a condition of booking. **Please contact Sarah Doody at sxd618@case.edu or 904-432-3141 with any questions.**

**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                      | Sixty (60) or more                       |
| 50 percent (50%)           | Between forty-five (45) and sixty (60)   |
| One hundred percent (100%) | Less than forty five (45)                |

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, Immersion Journeys.

**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. Please speak with us if you are unsure about the visa requirements for your travel destination. Birth certificates may be required for children under 18. Some nations require proof of vaccinations for all travelers including the COVID-19 vaccine. You are solely responsible for complying with passport, visa, vaccination and other foreign entry requirements.

**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.

**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. You also agree that you are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 in order to participate in this program. 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, Engaging Journeys, Case Western Reserve University 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, Engaging Journeys, Case Western Reserve University 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.

**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 including local health laws on wearing masks in public places, tourist sites and sanitary regulations such as hand washing. 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.



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Photo Credit: India Tourism Office Immersion Journeys, Anuradha Sarup

