An Ode to the South
Tamil Nadu & Kerala

Study Leader: Kristin Kelly ‘74
October 29 - November 12, 2016
Dear Bryn Mawr Alumnae and Friends,

Once again I would like to invite you to India. After a successful trip to East India in 2014 this time we will visit South India led by our very own Kristin Kelly ’74.

An important stop is Chennai- the capital of the state of Tamil Nadu and a leader in information technology with a robust automobile industry. Here we will celebrate Diwali- the festival of lights as well as visit several churches and temples including some bustling bazaars.

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. The famous master chefs of Chettinad will leave you hungry for more of the aromatic cuisines whose recipes are passed down from generation to generation. The world-famous and enormous Meenakshi Temple in Madurai will leave you in awe as you make an attempt to absorb the thousands of intricate carvings that cover all the surfaces.

In the highlands and green misty hills of Munnar enjoy a cup of delicious tea that makes this area so famous. We will visit a spice farm where you will see first hand some of the ingredients that you have been eating and Kerala’s largest export. A lazy afternoon on a traditional houseboat on Lake Vembanad will give you a chance to observe traditional village life and the endless sea of brilliant green of the rice paddies. 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.

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

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

Sincerely,

Wendy M. Greenfield
Executive Director,
Bryn Mawr Alumnae Association
Study Leader: Kristin Kelly

Kristin Kelly will be the Bryn Mawr study leader on our trip to South India. Kris left the J. Paul Getty Trust in 2008 after eighteen years—nine at the J. Paul Getty Museum as the Manager of Administration, and nine at the Getty Conservation Institute (GCI) in various positions responsible for public education about the conservation of cultural heritage. She graduated from Bryn Mawr College in 1974, and earned a Ph.D. in art history and archaeology from Columbia University. From 2009 - 2011, she was the chief consultant to a heritage center devoted to the history and culture of the Sikhs in Punjab State, India which opened in the fall of 2012. She is the author of The Extraordinary Museums of Southeast Asia (Harry N. Abrams, 2001) and travels to Southeast Asia to research its art, archaeology, and culture as often as she can.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

• Travel with Kristin Kelly ’74 and share her love of India.
• Take part in a Diwali festival celebration.
• Watch weavers and printmakers prepare exquisite designs of saris and textiles.
• Wander around centuries old temple complexes depicting the Mahabharat mythology including the world famous Meenakshi Temple in Madurai.
• Relax amid the tranquil tea and spice estates of Kerala; take part in a cooking demonstration and savor the aromatic culinary delights of South India.
• Immerse yourself in the confluence of European, Persian and Chinese culture and religion in Kochi.
October 29, 2016 – Arrive Chennai
Welcome to Chennai. Met on arrival and transferred to your hotel. Because guests’ arrival times may vary, no activities or meals have been planned today; on your own to explore the area surrounding our hotel or simply relax. Chennai, formerly known as Madras is located on the Coromandel Coast off the Bay of Bengal. It is the capital of the Indian state of Tamil Nadu and has a rich history of rulers and of course the influence of the British who once ruled this city. Today, this vibrant and ever-expanding city is known more for its information technology and car manufacturing industry and ancillary businesses. 
Overnight: Residency Towers

October 30 – Chennai
Today is also ‘Diwali’- the festival of lights. While predominantly celebrated in the north and west of India, we will have an opportunity to see some of the South Indian celebrations associated with this festival.
We will visit Fort St. George’s - the first English Fortress in India built in 1644 as well as San Thome Basilica built in the 16th century by the Portuguese. We will have an opportunity to walk amid the hustle and bustle of the markets on this auspicious day.
Evening welcome dinner hosted by Bryn Mawr. 
Overnight: Residency Towers [B, D]

October 31 – Chennai | Kanchipuram | Mamallapuram
Kanchipuram is also known as the Golden City of 1,000 Temples and one of the seven holy pilgrimage sites for Hindus. Here we will explore several 7th and 8th century temples that depict the Dravidian style of architecture. It is a city that is known for its weavers where you see exquisite silk saris come to life. After the visit continue your drive to Mamalapuram where you check in to your beachside hotel for an evening at leisure. Overnight: Radisson Blu Temple Bay Resort [B, L]

November 1 – 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 Resort [B, L]

[B- Breakfast   L- Lunch   D-Dinner]
November 2 – Mamalapuram | Chennai | Trichy | Tanjore

Transfer to the airport to connect your flight to Trichy and then a drive to Tanjore. Tanjore (formerly Tanjavur) was the capital of the Chola Empire from the 10th to 14th centuries. Later it became part of the Vijayanagar kingdom. Later it passed into the hands of the Marathas and finally to the British. For ages it has been the chief political, literary and religious center of the south.

This evening visit a center for arts where you can see artists make the traditional Tanjore paintings using gold and stones on wood. *Overnight: Ideal River View Resort [B, L, D]*

November 3 – Tanjore | Chettinad

Visit the celebrated temple of Brihadeshwara, which was built by the Chola king Raja the Great during the 11th century. The 107-paragraph long inscription on the walls accounts for the contributions of Raja Chola and his sister Kundavai to the Thanjavur temple. We will stop by the Saraswasti Mahal library, which dates back to the time of the Marathas, and accommodates a rare collection of books and manuscripts on paper and palm-leaf. The museum in the Nayaka Palace houses a rich collection of Chola sculpture, including famed bronzes.

Continue on to Chettinad (also known as Karaikudi). Chettinad is the home of the Nattukottai Chettiyars, a prosperous banking and business community who later migrated to Sri Lanka, Myanmar and South East Asia. The culture of the region lives on through its architecture, temples and cuisine. Chettinad also means a social caste specializing in the preparation of food and the Chettinad cuisine is one of the most aromatic in India. You will have an opportunity to sample some of the cuisines at dinner prepared by master chefs whose skills have been passed down through generations. *Overnight: The Bangala [B, D]*

November 4 – Chettinad

Chettinad is rich in cultural heritage, art and architecture, and is well known for its houses and 18th century mansions embellished with marble and Burma teak, wide courtyards and spacious rooms.

Visit the beautiful palace in Kanadukathan. Built by Dr. Annamali Chettiyar, founder of the Indian Bank and the Annamalai University in Chidambaram, this palace is distinctive for its use of material and decorative nuances from the Far East and Europe.

You also visit the beautiful temples of Chettinad that were built by the Cholas- an early Tamil dynasty. Distinctive in style, each temple has its own tank called *oorani* where water lilies are grown and used in holy rituals.

Walk through village markets that spring up around the temples. The location of the markets depends on the day of the week and pilgrimage calendar. You will also get a
chance to see the making of the handmade athangudi tiles whose techniques were imported from Europe and now known world over; intricately carved wood work, beautifully sculpted brass and silver ware, hand-woven Kandangi sarees and baskets woven from date-palm leaves directly from the artisans who bake, sculpt or weave them.

This evening we will take part in a cooking lesson and prepare a Chettinad banquet. Watch the chefs as they explain the spices used and the flavor they generate to come up with the most mouth-watering dishes.

November 5 – Chettinad | Madurai
This morning after a leisurely breakfast drive to the temple town of Madurai. This is the second largest city in Tamil Nadu. The name means honey and as legend goes the Hindu god Shiva shook nectar from his locks to purify and bless this 2,500 year old city. It is a city that was laid out in accordance with ancient temple customs.

The rest of the day is at leisure to walk around the town. 

Overnight: Heritage Hotel [B]

November 6 – Madurai
This morning after breakfast you will be taken for a city tour of Madurai. Visit the city’s impressive 17th-century royal palace, now a museum and a lovely island temple oasis. Relax at your hotel this afternoon

Early this evening, we visit the fabulous 17th century Meenakshi Temple located in the center of the city. It is one of the biggest temple complexes in India and has put the city on the map. The enormous temple complex includes a bazaar that bustles from dawn to nightfall. The high point of the Meenakshi temple is Hall of a “Thousand Pillars”. Non-Hindus are not allowed in the main Sanctum Sanctorum but can see the elaborately decorated temples from the outside. 

Overnight: Heritage Hotel [B]

November 7 – Madurai | Munnar (Kerala)
Depart to Munnar located in the state of Kerala.

Located at an altitude of 6,000 feet, Munnar is surprisingly different from the rest of Kerala. Surrounded by tea plantations, this town is a great place for walks, bird watching and of course the elusive elephant sightings. The British developed this city as an idyllic summer getaway and the imprint of those colonial days has been retained here. The area around Munnar is filled with spice farms. The beautifully landscaped expanse becomes cloaked in clouds giving the whole place a romantic atmosphere.

We will visit the Protestant Christ Church, built in 1910. The church is built completely of stone that gives it a very rustic look with interiors that contain extremely beautiful rosewood pews, stained glass windows and an elegant feel that reflects the impact of the British in India. The walls of the church are richly decorated and have brass plaques honoring the tea planters of the area. After this visit the Tata Tea Museum where you can see the process of tea manufacturing from leaf to cup (subject to harvest season). After returning to the hotel, the evening is at leisure to enjoy the tranquil surroundings.

Overnight: Lakesong [B, L]

November 8 – Munnar | Kumarakom
We will visit a spice farm. Spice farms and Kerala are synonymous. Generations of farming families have survived on their products that are exported globally.

We will continue to Kumarakom. The village of Kumarakom is a cluster of little islands on Lake Vembanad and is part of the Kuttanad region. An enchanting backwater destination, Kumarakom is a perfect leisure getaway. Here you can see how people have adapted their lives to the waterways and do everything on these winding canals.

Overnight: Lakesong [B, L]

November 9 – Kumarakom
Early morning visit to Kumarakom Bird Sanctuary for a nature walk. The naturalist will guide you through the sanctuary talking to you about the indigenous and migratory birds that you can see here. Return to the hotel for breakfast and relaxation.

Later, 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 backwaters, is today a relaxed and romantic way to cruise down the state while getting an up close and personal look of how life is lead in this state. Each houseboat is fully equipped with a lounge with a sun deck, usually one bedroom with an en-suite bathroom and a kitchen. The houseboat has a staff of three, the driver, the guide and the cook, who are all work towards making your stay as comfortable as possible and catering to your every need. Lunch will be served.

Evening is at leisure.
November 10 – Kumarakom | Kochi

We depart for Kochi (formerly called Cochin). Stop en-route to visit a coir factory where you can see workers make everything from rope to carpets from coconut husk. Here we will see how coconuts are treated, dried and then woven into rope. This area is the largest producer of coir in the world. Arrive in Kochi and check in.

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.

Afternoon tour of Kochi. Visit the Dutch Palace, the Jewish synagogue, St. Francis Church and the Santa Cruz Basilica. Try your hand at the Chinese fishing nets- a technique introduced hundreds of years ago and still used today; walk through the historical Dutch and Portuguese buildings.

Overnight: Brunton Boatyard [B]

November 11 – Kochi

Tour of Hill Palace. This is the largest archaeological museum in Kerala and once was the administrative office of Kochi Rajas. Built in 1865, the Palace complex consists of 49 buildings in the traditional architectural style, spreading across in 54 acres. The complex has an archaeological museum, a heritage museum, a deer park and a pre-historic park. The campus of the museum is home to several rare species of medicinal plants and presently the palace has been converted into a museum by The Kerala State Archaeology Department.

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 hosted by Bryn Mawr Travel.

Overnight: Brunton Boatyard [B, D]

November 12 – Depart

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

TOUR PRICE:

$6,695 per person (shared basis)

Single Room Supplement: $2,035

Inclusions:

• Accommodation & meals mentioned above.
• All transportation
• Domestic flights

• Services of English speaking professional local Tour Guide/Director
• Entrance fees to monuments

Exclusions (main trip and all extensions):

All international airfare, gratuities to guides, drivers, porters, visa and passport services, vaccinations, personal items, beverages (soft drinks, alcoholic and non-alcoholic), travel extension, travel and medical insurance, laundry, communications (telephone, internet, fax).
**OPTION 1: Golden Triangle & Taj Mahal Tour**

$2,695 per person  
$1,550 single room supplement  
NOVEMBER 12 – 15, 2016

Visit New Delhi- India’s capital and immerse yourself in the diversity of old and new. Wander the narrow lanes of Chandni Chowk; admire the magnificent Taj Mahal in Agra- a symbol of undying love; shop for gems in Jaipur- the ‘pink city’; climb aboard an elephant caravan to the top of a Mughal fort just how the powerful warriors once did. This is an experience not to be missed by first timers to India.

**Summary Itinerary:**

- November 12 - Cochin- Delhi. *Le Meridien Hotel*
- November 13 - Delhi City Tour. *Le Meridien Hotel (B)*
- November 14 - Agra via Fatehpur Sikri. *ITC Mughal (B)*
- November 15 - Taj Mahal tour and travel to Jaipur.  
  *ITC Rajputana (B)*
- November 16 - Jaipur City Tour. *TC Rajputana (B)*
- November 17 - Return Delhi and depart.

**Includes:** Domestic flights, hotels and meal plan as indicated above, entry fees to monuments and guided tours, visit to the Taj Mahal.

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

*Note: Tour can be combined with other extensions and also be done before the main South India trip. Subject to availability.*

**OPTION 2: The Rajputs of Rajasthan**

$2,695 per person  
$1,050 single room supplement  
NOVEMBER 12 – 17, 2016

Travel to Rajasthan- the land of the famous Rajputs- a powerful warrior class of yesteryear and defenders of freedom. Travel to Udaipur- one of the most romantic cities in India; wander the massive palace complex that still contains a fantastic collection of silver; enjoy a sunset boat ride on Lake Pichola. Visit intricately designed Jain temples and step wells dot the countryside in Ranakpur. A stop in Jodhpur gives you a glimpse of its contribution to international fashion and textiles; from the famous Mehrangarh Fort perched high on a hill one can see the complete vista of this ‘blue city’.

**Summary Itinerary:**

- November 12 - Cochin to Udaipur. *Ananta Spa & Resorts*
- November 13 - Udaipur tour. *Ananta Spa & Resorts (B)*
- November 14 - Narlai via Ranakpur. *Rawula Narlai (B,D)*
- November 15 - Jodhpur. *Ajit Bhawan (B,L)*
- November 16 - Jodhpur tour. *Ajit Bhawan (B,L)*
- November 17 - Jodhpur- Delhi- Depart

**Includes:** Domestic 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 South India trip. Subject to availability.*

**OPTION 3: The Buddhist Caves of Ajanta & Ellora (Aurangabad)**

$1,995 per person  
$550 single room supplement  
NOVEMBER 12 – 15, 2016

The importance of Aurangabad is great, owing to its proximity with world heritage sites of Ajanta and Ellora consisting of Buddhist, Jain, and Hindu temples going all the way back to the 21st century.

**Summary Itinerary:**

- November 12 - Cochin- Aurangabad. *Vivanta by Taj*
- November 13 - Tour of the Ajanta Caves.  
  *Vivanta by Taj (B)*
- November 14 - Tour of the Ellora Caves.  
  *Vivanta by Taj (B)*
- November 15 - Auragabad- Mumbai- Depart.

**Includes:** Domestic 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 South India trip. Subject to availability.*
TOUR FORM

To reserve a space, please complete and return this form with your deposit of $850 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 info@immersionjourneys.com.

- Enclosed is my/our deposit check of $________ (850 per person payable to Immersion Journeys)
- Please charge my/our deposit of $________ (850 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 August 29, 2016 and payable by check only.

PASSenger INFORMATION

NAME 1 (as on passport): ___________________________ Passport #: ___________ Nationality: ___________
Issue Date: ___________ (mm/dd/yy) Expiration: ___________ (mm/dd/yy)
Date of Birth: ___________ (mm/dd/yy) Bryn Mawr 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) Bryn Mawr 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 ____________________________________________
- I prefer to share accommodations (if roommate is not available, I will pay the single rate)
- Double □ Twin (separate beds)

Emergency Phone # & Contact Name (during trip): __________________________________________

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

Please sign me up for the following extension (check box):
- 5 night Golden Triangle  □ 5 night The Rajputs of Rajasthan.
- 3 night The Buddhist Caves of Ajanta & Ellora

By submitting my/our deposit of $850 per person, I/we am/are registering for the Ode to the South: Tamil Nadu & Kerala and have read and agreed to the Immersion Journeys terms & conditions. I understand that portions of this trip will be moderately strenuous, will include some long drives and may include unpaved paths 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: __________________
Your signature on our tour reservation form will signify your agreement with the following terms and conditions.

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

**BENEFITS OF TOUR PACKAGES:** Our tour packages offer services of a professional tour guide, accommodations, meals as outlined in the itinerary, transportation as specified in the itinerary and excursions and tours as outlined in the itinerary.

Immersion Journeys may, from time to time, offer you optional services or benefits. By using those services and/or benefits when they become available, you agree to be bound by any supplemental terms applicable to those services or benefits. We will send final documents and tickets by overnight or registered mail approximately two (2) weeks prior to the start of the tour.

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

**PAYMENT:** We accept the following forms of payment: major credit cards, bank transfer or checks drawn on a U.S. Bank. Credit cards will incur a service fee of 3-5% paid by the client.

You must promptly pay the following fees and charges for participation in an Immersion Journeys tour.

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

**GROUND PACKAGE:** A deposit of $850 per person per tour is required immediately to secure the tour and services. This amount may vary depending on the destination, accommodations and services.

**BALANCE:** The balance of the tour price is due 60 days before departure.

**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>Fee</th>
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<td>$650 per person</td>
<td>Sixty (60) or more</td>
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There is no refund for unused portions of a tour once it has commenced, and you are solely responsible for costs incurred by you due to missed, canceled or delayed transportation. Your decision not to participate on the tour due to State Department warnings, fear of travel, illness or any other reason will be deemed a cancellation. If a flight or other delay for any reason prevents you from joining the tour on the tour departure date and time, you will be considered a no-show, and we cannot provide a full or partial refund or credit toward a future tour, but you may join the tour late if you wish.
INSURANCE: Immersion Journeys recommends that you purchase trip cancellation, medical, and baggage insurance to cover penalties and cancellation charges. Please contact Immersion Journeys if you wish to purchase such insurance. 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. Please contact Sarah Doody with the Bryn Mawr College Alumnae Association at sdoody@brynmawr.edu or 610-526-5316 for further information.

CANCELLATION OR SUBSTITUTION BY US: We will make commercially reasonable efforts to keep the itinerary as it has been published; however, the final itinerary may vary due to availability and factors beyond our control. We may in our sole discretion substitute services such as hotels or goods of similar quality for any service or good stated in the itinerary. If a tour is cancelled, our liability is limited to a full refund of your payments, and we will not be liable for any other costs, damages, or refunds of any kind for any loss, delay, inconvenience, disappointment, or expense whatsoever in such circumstances. If for reasons beyond our control, a tour in progress must be interrupted or cancelled, we will refund a portion of the price depending on our actual costs incurred.

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 endeavors are inherently dangerous activities. Immersion Journeys strongly recommends that you exercise extreme caution when participating in tour events. Parts of your tour may involve high altitudes, hiking, cycling and/or driving over rough and dusty terrain.

All tour participants booking with Immersion Journeys certify that they are in good health, fit to travel and have no specific medical problems. It is the responsibility of each tour participant to obtain health and medical certificates, inoculations and vaccinations. Any physical disability that may require special attention or treatment must be reported in writing at the time your reservation is made. Passage may be refused to any person whose state of health or physical conditions render them, in the opinion of the tour company or its suppliers, unfit. Children under 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 interruption, and loss of baggage. Please contact Sarah Doody with the Bryn Mawr College Alumnae Association at sdoody@brynmawr.edu or 610-526-5316 for further information.

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
You understand that health care standards, facilities, and services abroad may be different. For medical information, we recommend contacting the Centers for Disease Control at (877) FYI-TRIP or www.cdc.gov/travel.

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

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

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

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