Hidden Kingdom in the Himalayas

BHUTAN

TRIP DATES
March 25 - April 1, 2017

Boundless Journeys
800-941-8010 • www.boundlessjourneys.com
A passion for travel. Simply put, we love to travel, and that infectious spirit is woven into every one of our journeys. Our staff travels the globe searching out hidden-gem inns and lodges, taste testing bistros, trattorias, and noodle stalls, and discovering the trails and plying the waterways of each remarkable destination. When we come home, we separate wheat from chaff, creating memorable adventures that will connect you with the very best qualities of each destination.

Unique, award-winning itineraries. Our flexible, hand-crafted journeys have received accolades from the world's most revered travel publications. Beginning from our appreciation for the world's most breathtaking and interesting destinations, we infuse our journeys with the elements of adventure and exploration that stimulate our souls and enliven our minds. Whether you are looking for a challenging physical expedition or a leisurely cultural exploration, Boundless Journeys has exceptional itineraries to match your sense of adventure.

Insider connections. There is simply no substitute for traveling with a knowledgeable insider, and our expert local guides will open doors for you that other travelers miss, like dinner with their extended family in Peru’s Sacred Valley, or meeting a sacred Yi shaman in the hinterlands of China's Yunnan province. Relationships developed over many years allow you to experience our destinations through a well-connected friend.

Small groups. Although the camaraderie of a group of like-minded travelers often enhances the journey, there can be too much of a good thing! We tread softly, and our maximum group size is just 16 guests, allowing us access to opportunities that would be unthinkable with a larger group.

Flexibility to suit your travel style. We offer both scheduled, small-group departures and Private Collection trips so that you can choose which works best for you. Not finding exactly what you are looking for? Let us customize a journey to fulfill your travel dreams.

Customer service that goes the extra mile. Having trouble finding flights that work for you? Want to surprise your traveling companion with a bottle of champagne at a tented camp in the Serengeti to celebrate an important milestone? There is no request that is too big – or too small – for our staff to handle. From your first call, we guide you through choosing your trip, provide advice on preparing for your adventure, and hold your hand until you return home.

Recognized by readers of Travel + Leisure magazine as a top 5 “World's Best Tour Operator” in their annual survey; and by the editors of National Geographic ADVENTURE magazine as one of the Best Adventure Travel Companies on Earth.
We’d like to let you in on a little secret – Bhutan. Typically people we tell about Bhutan ask “Where is Bhutan?” and that’s just the way we like it. It is this anonymity that Bhutan has preserved so well, for so many years, that makes it special. The Kingdom of Bhutan is a hidden gem that is often compared to Tibet before the Chinese invasion, and Nepal without the budget backpackers.

Bhutan lies along the lofty ridges of the Himalayas – a remarkable land where the well-preserved countryside, architecture, and culture appear lost in time. The capital city, Thimphu, is said to be the only capital in the world without traffic lights. Our walks in Punakha reveal impressive dzongs, while Paro’s location along ancient trade routes has created a rich culture, encapsulated by its unique monasteries, such as the striking Tiger’s Nest. Let us introduce you to Bhutan, a truly peaceful kingdom!

HIGHLIGHTS
• Dramatic scenery with spectacular river valleys, snow-capped sacred mountains, terraced rice fields, and striking architecture
• Warm and welcoming people and a devout Buddhist culture
• Temples and monasteries accessible only by foot

DETAILS
DURATION 8-day trip begins and ends in Paro, Bhutan
ACCOMMODATION 7 nights in traditional, authentic hotels
TRIP RATING

1 2 3 4 5
Easy . . . . . . . . . Strenuous
(See page 11 for more details)
COST $1,995 per person
SINGLE SUPPLEMENT $495
INTERNAL AIRFARE $695 per person (BKK-PBH; subject to change)
DAY 1
Arrival in Bhutan; transfer to Thimphu and city exploration by foot

Walking – easy, 1-2 hours on local paths and dirt roads (please note that walking options may change depending on flight schedules).

Our flight into Bhutan provides spectacular views of the country’s landscape as we approach the airport in the Paro Valley. The valley is a green bowl surrounded by jagged Himalayan Mountains and forested hillsides, crossed by beautiful rivers and dotted with medieval fortresses. The first thing that we notice as we disembark in Bhutan is the absence of noise and a feeling of peacefulness that is rare in most other Asian cities. The Paro Valley has kept its bucolic nature, and is one of the most scenic valleys in Bhutan. The houses are considered to be among the most beautiful in the country, and Paro is believed to be one of the first valleys to have received the imprint of Buddhism.

We are greeted with a warm Bhutanese reception and transfer to Thimphu (approximately 1 hour and twenty minutes), home of the royal family. Before becoming Bhutan’s official national capital in 1961, Thimphu was a simple rural farming valley. Small and secluded, it is unlike any other world capital. The city is quiet, and there are still only a few streets with no traffic lights.

Thimphu is a city ideally explored on foot, and our walk today takes us to many interesting sights. Before the day is through, we may visit the Thimphu Dzong (seat of the government and main monk body), the Memorial Chorten, a peaceful sanctuary frequented by locals offering excellent views of the city, and the Handicrafts Emporium, displaying the rich traditional crafts of the kingdom.

Dinner this evening will highlight Asian-Bhutanese cuisine, either at our hotel or one of Thimpu’s fine restaurants.

Druk Hotel, Thimphu (Meals: L, D)

DAY 2
Cheri Gompa and Choki School of Arts

Hiking – easy to moderate, about 2 hours (3 miles) on local paths and hiking trails with 1,300’ elevation gain and 1,300’ elevation loss (highest elevation: 9,186’).

This morning a short drive through the countryside surrounding Thimphu brings us to the boundary of Jigme Dorji Wildlife Sanctuary, the largest protected area in the country. The park is home to several...
endangered species, including: the takin, snow leopard, blue sheep, tiger, red panda, and the Himalayan black bear. More than 300 species of birds have been catalogued within the park.

Our walk begins from the small village of Dodena. The trail starts by crossing a covered bridge over the Wang Chhu (river), and from here we climb steadily to Cheri Gompa, a small monastery perched on the hill with a view of the Thimphu Valley. Shabdrung Ngawang Namgyal built this monastery in 1620, and this is where the first community of monks in Bhutan was established. The monastery is considered very sacred, as it contains the ashes of Tempi Nima, the father of the first Shabdrung of Bhutan, and beautiful frescoes of Buddhist saints.

After our visit to the monastery, we descend on the same route, keeping our eyes open for the goral (wild goat) that are often spotted on the cliffs nearby. Back at the village of Dodena, we drive to Cabeesa, home of the Choki School of Arts (closed on weekends and holidays). The Choki School is private and provides free, skills-related education in the traditional arts and crafts of Bhutan to Bhutanese children who are unable to complete their formal education. After visiting the school, we return to Thimphu.

This evening before dinner, we will enjoy a Bhutanese cultural teaching delivered by an expert from Thimpu.

*Druk Hotel, Thimphu (Meals: B, L, D)*

**DAY 3**

Transfer to Punakha (approximately 4 hours*); Temple of the Divine Madman

*Nctring – easy, 1-2 hours on local paths with 131’ elevation gain (highest elevation: 4,921’)*.

This morning, after an early breakfast, we say goodbye to Thimpu and transfer to the Punakha Valley, our home for the next two nights. The road to Punakha crosses the Dochula Pass (10,230’), offering a great view of the eastern Himalayan mountains. From the pass, our road descends through magnificent pine and rhododendron forests, and wanders through some of Bhutan’s most picturesque countryside.

On the road to Punakha we stop in a small village where a short walk brings us to Chime Lhakang, a temple dedicated to the Lama Drukpa Kunley. Drukpa Kunley is one of Bhutan’s favorite saints, and is more commonly known as the “Divine Madman.” He traveled throughout Bhutan and Tibet using songs, humor, and outrageous
behavior to dramatize his teachings, believing that the stiffness of the clergy and social conventions were keeping people from learning true Buddhism. This site is still believed to hold fertility powers for women wanting to conceive.

Drubchu Resort, Punakha (Meals: B, L, D)

*Estimated based on actual driving times. The total transfer time is longer when taking rest stops, road construction or other possible delays into account.

DAY 4
Khamsung Yuley Namgyel Temple to Punakha Dzong
Hiking – easy to moderate, 3–4 hours on local paths with 656’ elevation gain (highest elevation: 4,921’).

Following breakfast and a drive through the Punakha Valley, our walk today begins by ascending a series of switchbacks to the Khamsung Yuley Namgyel Temple. From here, we are afforded grand views of the Mo Chu River Valley below, before descending on a well-worn path down the valley, passing through rice fields and small villages.

After enjoying a picnic lunch along the river, we continue to the Punakha Dzong. Constructed in 1637, the Punakha Dzong was the second of Bhutan’s dzongs, and for many years served as the seat of the government. Today, it is home to Bhutan’s spiritual leader, Chief Abbot Je Khempo, who, along with 1,000 monks, resides here during the winter months due to Punakha’s relatively low altitude (by Himalayan standards) of 4,000’.

From this imposing dzong we can look back to see the Khamsung Yuely Namgyel Temple, perched on a hillside far in the distance. A short walk from the dzong takes us back to the road where we meet our driver and return to our hotel.

Following our hike, we have the special opportunity to visit the Nalanda Buddhist Institute, just outside of Punakha. There we meet the resident monks and learn about their lives. For those who have an interest, there is the option to take an introductory mediation class (please note that this may also take place in the morning, depending on the monastery’s schedule for the day).

Drubchu Resort, Punakha (Meals: B, L, D)

DAY 5
Transfer to Paro (approximately 5 hours*); visit Kyichu Lhakhang, the Paro Dzong, and Bhutan’s National Museum
Walking – easy, 1–2 hours on dirt roads and local paths.
This morning we return by road to Paro, catching another glimpse of the mighty Himalaya over the Dochula Pass. Upon our arrival in Paro, we visit Kyichu Lhakhang. Kyichu Lhakhang, meaning “twin temples,” is believed to have been built in 659 AD by King Songtsen of Tibet, and reflects the introduction of Buddhism to Bhutan. The temple is one of 108 that were built throughout the Himalayas in one day in an effort to subdue a mighty ogress; it is still believed to hold her left foot in place.

We then make our way by vehicle to the National Museum (closed on government holidays), housed in the round, multi-storied Ta Dzong, built in 1775. The Ta Dzong was once the watchtower for the massive Paro Dzong, built in the 17th century by Shabdrung Ngawang Namgyal. The museum’s collection includes ancient artifacts, weapons, a collection of antique thangka (painted or embroidered religious pictures), textiles, and stamps.

Finally, we head (either by foot or vehicle, depending on timing) to the valley’s magnificent Rinpung Dzong.

If we are fortunate we may have the opportunity to explore within the dzong’s mighty walls. However, if the Administrative Body is in session, we must admire from the outside.

*Raven’s Nest, Paro (Meals: B, L, D)*

*Estimated based on actual driving times. The total transfer time is longer when taking rest stops, road construction or other possible delays into account.*

**DAY 6**

**Taktsang (Tiger’s Nest) Monastery**

*Hiking – moderate to strenuous, 4-5 hours (4.5 miles) on hiking trails with 1,650’ elevation gain and loss (highest elevation: 10,171’).*

This morning we enjoy a hike to the famous cliff side hermitage called Taktsang - “Tiger’s Nest” - a monastic retreat built into a sheer cliff face high above the Paro Valley. Our hike begins on the valley floor and is a steady uphill climb on a wide hiking trail that switchbacks through pine forests, with glimpses of Tiger’s Nest along the way. We pass water-powered prayer wheels and *mani stones* (sacred stone walls with Buddhist prayers etched into them), as well as a shrine where a high lama was supposedly born - all reminders that this is not just a hike, but a spiritual pilgrimage for many.

As we near the monastery, we stop by a small teahouse for snacks and tea and take in our first up-close view of Taktsang. From here our hiking trail levels out for a short while, before we begin climbing down steps and cross a bridge, eventually leading us to this most impressive sacred site.

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**THE JOURNEY continued**

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**THE BOUNDLESS JOURNEYS DIFFERENCE**

Walking in Bhutan allows you to slow down and immerse yourself in the landscape and picturesque villages. Along the way, you’ll have the chance to stop for a cup of tea in a local home, visit a rural school, and climb to hill-top monasteries.

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“Dawa, our guide, was always professional. He took such good care of all of us – BUT – he also knows how to be fun and funny. This made him so important to us and made a lasting impression. He is truly a gem of a guide and a person.”

—S.P., Chambersburg, PA
The journey continued

Legend has it that the Tibetan Buddhist saint, Padmasambhava, flew across the Himalayas on the back of a tiger and landed here, bringing Buddhism to Bhutan. Entry into the monastery feels like stepping back in time and we have the chance to visit several shrines that comprise the temple complex. During our exploration, our guide brings Tiger's Nest to life with the tales of Buddhism that make this one of the most famous pilgrimage sites in all of Bhutan.

After a trail-side picnic lunch, we return to the valley floor, where our vehicle and driver meets us for our drive back to our hotel. If time allows, we will visit the Drukgyel Dzong, a ruined fortress where Bhutanese warriors fought Tibetan invaders centuries ago. This dzong was built in 1649 to commemorate Bhutan's victory over Tibetan invaders, and sits at the point where the trail from Tibet enters the Paro valley. Bhutan's dzongs are perhaps the most visibly striking aspect of the kingdom, and these huge citadels dominate the landscape of the major towns and act as the administrative headquarters for their respective regions. If we are lucky and the weather is clear, we may have the opportunity to view the sacred Mt. Chomolhari (23,977’), which lies along the border of Tibet and Bhutan.

We have some time this afternoon to unwind and relax after our hike. There will be the option to stroll the Paro market, or you can simply rest at the hotel before dinner.

Raven's Nest, Paro (Meals: B, L, D)

Day 7
Cheli La Pass to Kila Gompa

Hike - moderate, 2-3 hours on hiking trails and dirt roads with 1,300’ elevation loss (highest elevation: 12,500’).

The day's adventure starts early as we set out on a road that climbs almost 5,000' above Paro's valley floor to Cheli La (12,500'). Towards the end of our scenic hour and a half journey, we emerge from the blue pine and rhododendron forest into windswept highlands favored by yaks. Here, we'll enjoy a view of Himalayan wild flowers, with fields of azaleas, edelweiss, and perhaps even the famous blue poppy at certain times of the year. If the weather is clear, we'll enjoy tantalizing glimpses of some of Bhutan's highest peaks. Upon reaching the pass, western Bhutan appears before us, with its unspoiled Haa valley, the mountains of Sikkim to the west, Mt. Chomolhari and Tibet to the north, and the patchwork fields of the Paro Valley to the east.

Leaving the prayer flag-swathed col and our vehicle behind, we strike off along the ridge, passing through meadows, before reentering forests of larch, spruce, hemlock, fir and rhododendron. After a little under two
hours, we see the Kila Gompa, seemingly suspended in rock crags. Home to approximately 30 nuns, this place has served as a retreat for meditation since the 9th century. Kila means “spiritual dagger,” and a visit to the temple is often thought to tame the negative emotions of anger, ignorance and greed.

Following our visit and picnic lunch, we head downhill on a dirt road that winds its way through conifers and rhododendrons, catching occasional glimpses of Cheli La, where we began. After about 45 minutes, we arrive at our private vehicle to return to Paro. Along the way, if time allows, we’ll break our journey with a short walking detour to Dzongdrakha Gompa and its fine stupa (a dome-shaped Buddhist monument). This rocky aerie is the site of the annual and more intimate local Paro dromoche (masked dances), the precursor to the grander Paro Tsechu, or festival. Here, we may also have the opportunity to see some of the local residents: Grey Langur monkeys.

This evening, we celebrate our journey through this magical kingdom, and the kind welcome we have received from the generous people of Bhutan.

*Raven’s Nest, Paro (Meals: B, L, D)*

**DAY 8**

**Departure from Paro**

We are transferred to the airport for an early morning departure from Paro. From here we say farewell before our journey home, or continue on to other exciting destinations.

*(Meals: B)*
JOURNEY AT A GLANCE

DAYS 1-2
Our adventure begins on our flight to Paro, Bhutan. Transfer to the capital city of Thimphu to explore the city’s many interesting sights, hike to remote temples and visit a private, traditional school for the arts.

DAYS 3-4
Visit the Punakha Dzong, Bhutan’s most impressive fortress, and hear our local guide spin tales of the unorthodox teachings of the legendary Divine Madman. Spend time hiking to remote villages and meet resident monks at a Buddhist institute.

DAYS 5-7
Explore the Paro valley and stop by a farmhouse to learn about the traditional way of life. Hike to Kila Gompa and Tiger’s Nest monastery.

DAY 8
Depart from Paro.

WHAT’S INCLUDED

Just pack your bags – we’ve got you covered! When you’re on a Boundless Journeys adventure, every detail is taken care of for you, so you can relax and truly experience each moment. Put your wallet away, leave your travel books behind, fold up your maps, and BE there. Your Boundless Journeys adventure includes:

- Expert leadership
- All accommodations
- All meals
- Local wine and beer with included dinners
- All on-tour ground transportation
- Bhutanese visa fees and departure taxes
- All activities as noted in the itinerary
- All gratuities except for those for your guide and driver, which are at your discretion

International airfare is not included in the price of your trip. Please contact your local travel agency or the airlines directly to make any arrangements you may need to and from Bangkok. If you would like assistance with booking your flights or other travel plans, please contact Boundless Journeys directly at (800) 941-8010 for a referral to our partners who will best fulfill your needs. Boundless Journeys will purchase your airline tickets between Bangkok (other regional airports upon request) and Bhutan for you. The cost of these tickets is $695 (subject to change) and you will be required to pay this amount at the time you reserve your trip.
OVERVIEW
Accommodations in Bhutan are somewhat basic and this itinerary includes a combination of the standard and deluxe hotel options available in Bhutan. Although the hotels in Bhutan cannot be compared to international standards, they are comfortable and offer all necessary facilities. We believe that any inconveniences due to these modest accommodations are far outweighed by the unforgettable experience of visiting Bhutan.

Nights 1 & 2:
HOTEL DRUK
Thimphu, Bhutan
Tel 011-975-2-32296
Email: drukhotel@druknet.bt

Nights 3 & 4:
DRUBCHU RESORT
Punakha, Bhutan
Tel: 011-975-02-376237/38
Email: drubchhu@gmail.com
Web: www.drubchhu.com

Nights 5, 6 & 7:
RAVEN’S NEST
Paro, Bhutan
Tel 011-975-8-270244/45/46/47
Email: ravensnestbt@gmail.com

Confirming hotels: We have done our best to select the country’s most comfortable and beautifully situated hotels of this category for this journey; all have private baths. However, due to the unique tourism policy in Bhutan, we are unable to confirm which hotels we will be using until four weeks prior to departure. The above accommodations will most likely be what we can expect, but may alter due to availability.

ACCOMMODATIONS

“Where do I begin? This trip was truly amazing... even surpassing our expectations! Prior to our arrival in Bhutan, we all discussed how attentive and responsive you and your colleagues were to us prior to our departure. Certainly during our stay we had the best guide anyone could hope for. Dawa was organized, prompt, thorough, knowledgeable and funny. Our accommodations in every city were clean, bright and comfortable. Our food was excellent and we always knew we were in good hands with Tshering at the wheel. Our activities were varied, authentic, interesting and enlightening! When people ask me what were the highlights of our trip I say, Bhutan—all 12 days! Although there were some special moments that stood out for me, like the Paro Festival, seeing the King, our visit with a monk, our hike to the Tiger’s Nest, and our table picnic in the Himalayas, everything about our time in Bhutan was spectacular and will be life-long memories. All of the planning by Boundless Journeys made this possible. I look forward to booking additional trips with your company for future travels, and have already highly recommended this tour and your company to friends and relatives. I would personally like to thank you and your colleagues at Boundless Journeys for providing us with such a wonderful experience! Thank you!”

- S.G. Great Neck, N.Y
WHAT TO EXPECT

TRIP RATING
Boundless Journeys trips are designed for energetic and flexible individuals who like to be active and have a spirit of adventure and a positive attitude. *Hidden Kingdom in the Himalayas* is rated 2, easy to moderate, on a scale of 1-5 (with 5 being the most strenuous). The walks and hikes on this trip are easy to moderate, generally from 2-5 hours in length, with minimal vehicle support. Some of the hikes will involve some steep ascents and descents, however the terrain is not technical. A few days involve drives on narrow, winding roads.

PREPARING FOR THIS TRIP
It is very important that you realistically assess your physical condition with regard to the demands of this trip. The more well-prepared you are for the activities, the more you will enjoy yourself. As a general guideline, we suggest that you engage in easy to moderate aerobic activities (such as walking, hiking, jogging, or cycling) for at least 30-45 minutes several times a week for 4-6 weeks before the trip. If you live in a flat area, try to incorporate some stairs into your workout, or use a treadmill with varying incline capability (consult your doctor before undertaking any new fitness program). Please contact us if you have any doubts regarding your physical match with this tour.

THE ALTITUDE
Our trip begins and ends in Paro, which is situated at 7,300’ in the foothills of the Himalayas. Our hotel in Thimphu is at approximately 7,500’. We then move to the Punakha Valley, which offers a relatively low elevation of approximately 4,300’. Our walks and hikes will take place at elevations from 4,300’ to 12,500’. There is time to move at a comfortable pace, allowing the group to adjust to the altitude and mountain air. Staying well-hydrated, avoiding excessive alcohol, eating frequent, light meals, and getting plenty of rest will help with any effects of altitude that you may feel.

WEATHER
The mountainous areas of Bhutan have pronounced rainy and dry seasons. The driest weather and clearest skies are typically in October and November and it is the harvest season. During March through May, beautiful flowers are in bloom and it is the panting and ploughing time of year. The months of December through February are clear and cool (can be below freezing at night) and it is the shoulder season, so you will encounter fewer visitors. June through August is the monsoon season and it is generally not recommended to travel to Bhutan at this time of year.

See the chart below for monthly average temperatures in Paro, Punakha, and Thimphu.

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<th>MAR</th>
<th>APR</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Paro</td>
<td>58/33</td>
<td>64/40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Punakha**</td>
<td>76/48</td>
<td>76/53</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thimphu*</td>
<td>61/39</td>
<td>68/45</td>
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*highest elevation ** lowest elevation

You may obtain more detailed weather information at www.weatherbase.com.

WHEN TO GO
Bhutan is generally delightful for hiking in the spring and fall. The driest weather and clearest skies are typically in late September, October, and November. In the months of March, April, and May, beautiful flowers are in bloom, and you will encounter fewer travelers.

DEVELOPMENT IN BHUTAN
Although visiting Bhutan in many ways is like stepping back in time and has been a longtime favorite of Boundless Journeys’ travelers for this reason, it is important to understand that this evolving society is also eager to keep pace in the modern world. While the government is approaching the development of their country with a sensitivity towards preserving the environment and culture, you can still expect to encounter some of the less positive signs of modernization. Some examples include: road construction projects that may hinder driving or cause noise and dust; litter in developed areas; and begging. We ask
you to visit Bhutan with an open mind and leave any rigid expectations about the pristine nature of the country behind. It is important to embrace what you see and experience without judgment and recognize that Bhutan, just as any country, is struggling to be a part of this complex and rapidly changing world. We are confident that with this attitude, the Bhutan you experience will be a fascinating and memorable place.

ROAD CONDITIONS IN BHUTAN
Due to the ongoing road-widening project taking place on the national highway from Thimphu to Samdrubjongkhar, you can expect some delays and rough roads especially for those traveling towards central and eastern Bhutan. If you are prone to motion sickness, please come prepared with medication and request to sit towards the front of the vehicle.

WHEN TO RESERVE
It is important to reserve your trip early, as the Bhutanese national airline will only accept reservations with full payment of the ticket. Therefore we are unable to hold group seats in advance of reservations. At this time, seats are available for all of our departures, but they can only be confirmed upon receipt of your deposit, as well as the payment of $695 (subject to change) for these flights. Please contact our office with any questions regarding these policies.

TRAVELER’S RESPONSIBILITY
Trip participants have certain responsibilities to both Boundless Journeys and your fellow travelers. This includes understanding the conditions described in the trip itinerary and making sure it is appropriate for your interests and abilities, based on a review of the trip ratings, consultation with Boundless Journeys’ staff, and perhaps your doctor. In addition, trip participants are responsible for preparing for a trip by undertaking the proper fitness training. At the guide’s discretion, a participant may be asked to leave the trip if the guide feels that the person’s further participation may be detrimental to the individual or to other trip participants. If you have any questions about the difficulty level of the trip you have chosen, please contact Boundless Journeys to speak with one of our Destination Managers.

GROUP TRAVEL
Small group travel affords us the opportunity to seek out the most remote and exotic destinations on the planet. Often we are exploring these locales with just 6-12 guests. The nature of active group travel is such that not all participants have the same ability level or interests. Traveling at a pace that is comfortable for the entire group, with a spirit of flexibility and adventure are all part of this shared experience.
With a Boundless Journeys guide, your experience is that of friend and local adventurer. We believe strongly in working with local guides, experts in the areas to which we travel, and they hold the keys to unlocking the hidden delights of your chosen destination. Although you will never know they are at work – the mark of a truly great leader – our guides make magical things happen and add a dimension to your trip that you could not experience on your own. Over the years we have forged bonds with some of the best guides in the world, and we typically work with a small team of guides in each region. You will be informed of the guide for your trip one month prior to your departure.

Meet some of our guides in Bhutan:

DAWA TASHI
Dawa has led a variety of Boundless Journeys tours, from treks in the mountains to festival celebrations in the valleys. His local knowledge and amicable personality make him a real treasure to have on the trail. Whether hiking at high altitude or exploring local towns in the lowlands, Dawa ensures that our guests come away with an outstanding experience, providing them with a deep appreciation of his country and culture.

KINLEY TSHERING
Kinley (or Kelly, as he is known among his Bhutanese coworkers) joined our local staff of guides after completing extensive training in 2006, and has led many tours for Boundless Journeys, becoming a favorite among our guests. Very friendly and down to earth, Kinley is extremely knowledgeable and always determined to make your trip special.

What other guests have said about our guides in Bhutan:
“Dawa was excellent, especially on the walks and hikes; very helpful. He was also extremely knowledgeable about Buddhism. We were very fortunate to have Dawa!” – S. M., Cambridge, MA

“Kinley Tshering was the most amazing guide. His patience, knowledge and good humor made every day special for us. He never tired to explain details to us or find a cup of tea. He is full of life and his love for his country showed greatly.” – G.M., Baltimore, MA
NEXT STEPS

TO MAKE A RESERVATION
You can call Boundless Journeys at 800-941-8010 or request a reservation online. We will confirm your spot with a deposit of $500 per person and the payment of internal airfare, payable by check or credit card. The balance for your trip is due 90 days prior to departure.

ONCE YOU RESERVE
As soon as you confirm your adventure, we will provide you with an extensive, detailed trip planner that includes arrival and departure instructions, a complete packing list, regional information, required documents, a reading list, and other details.

TRIP CANCELLATION INSURANCE
In addition to your detailed trip planner, we will email you a quote for Travel Guard trip insurance. Please let us know if you would like us to purchase a policy on your behalf. Boundless Journeys strongly recommends purchasing travel insurance.

CANCELLATION & REFUND POLICY*
If it becomes necessary to cancel your trip, the following schedule applies to your land cost and is determined by the day that we receive written notification:
• >90 days prior to the trip will be charged $100.
• 90-61 days prior to the start of the trip will be charged 25% of the trip price.
• 60-46 days prior to the start of the trip will be charged 50% of the trip price.
• <45 days prior to the start of the trip will be charged 100% of the trip price.

QUESTIONS? WONDERING WHICH TRIP IS RIGHT FOR YOU?
Adventure travel may involve exotic destinations, unusual levels of physical exertion, and activities that may be new to you. If you have any questions about the level of comfort, difficulty, or activities included on your trip, please call Boundless Journeys at 800-941-8010, or email us at info@boundlessjourneys.com. Our travel experts look forward to helping you select the perfect adventure.

VISIT US ONLINE AT BOUNDLESSJOURNEYS.COM
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• special promotions
• detailed itineraries
• inspiring photos
• guide bios

EXTEND YOUR TRIP...
Many of our trips are designed to be paired with a trip extension. Consider:
• LAOS: Highlights of Luang Prabang
• CAMBODIA: The Temples of Angkor

YEARNING TO EXPERIENCE NEW CULTURES? CHECK OUT...
• MYANMAR: Ancient Passages
• TURKEY: Istanbul to the Turquoise Coast

PREFER A PRIVATE TRIP?
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THE WORLD’S GREAT ADVENTURES
RESPONSIBLE TRAVEL
At Boundless Journeys we are committed to exploring the world in a responsible way and continually seek ways to tread lightly across the unique landscapes and diverse cultures on this planet. Here are just some of the ways we aim to travel responsibly:

MAKING CONNECTIONS
On some of our trips, our guests have the opportunity to visit organizations working to protect the environment and improve the livelihoods of local communities. Whether it is bathing elephants at a conservation center in Myanmar, or enjoying a farm-fresh meal at a family-owned organic farm in Costa Rica, our guests form meaningful connections with the people and places they visit.

GOING LOCAL
Whenever possible, we use small, locally operated hotels that have sound environmental practices; groups dine at restaurants that feature fresh and authentic regional cuisine; we choose partners that strive for the highest standard of responsible practices; and we employ local guides and support local economies.

CONSERVING WILD PLACES
On many of our trips, we explore stunning natural landscapes where conservation is of the utmost importance. As visitors, we not only tread lightly, but actively contribute to the conservation of parks and protected areas. Our membership with the International Galapagos Tour Operator’s Association is one of the many ways we support conservation.

LOOKING FOR INSPIRATION?
Here are just a few examples - one more involved, and one quite simple - of how our travelers give back to the places they have explored with us:

• The Botswana School Project was created in 2012 by Boundless Journeys guests who saw that there was a need for books, supplies, and computers in schools they visited in northern Botswana.

• A Bhutan guest donated baby outfits to families she met on mountain trails and in rural communities and schools.

• Two sisters who traveled to Peru donated school supply kits to a local school we visit on our Sacred Valley & Machu Picchu tour.

To learn more about Boundless Beyond visit: www.BoundlessJourneys.com/sustainability-commitment.