
The Hidden Valleys of the Upper Indus: Ladakh, Nubra, Shyok, Zaskar and the Kashmir Valley

September 12 through October 3, 2015 (arrival and departure in Delhi)



Monastery of Rangdum, watercolor by Stephen Harby (note: prepared from a photographic view. This will be his first visit, as it will presumably be for all!)

We will be returning to India under the auspices of our friends and frequent travel gurus, Praveena Rai and Alok Chandola of Realms. They have put together a wonderful itinerary that will show us the highlights (and certainly high points with respect to

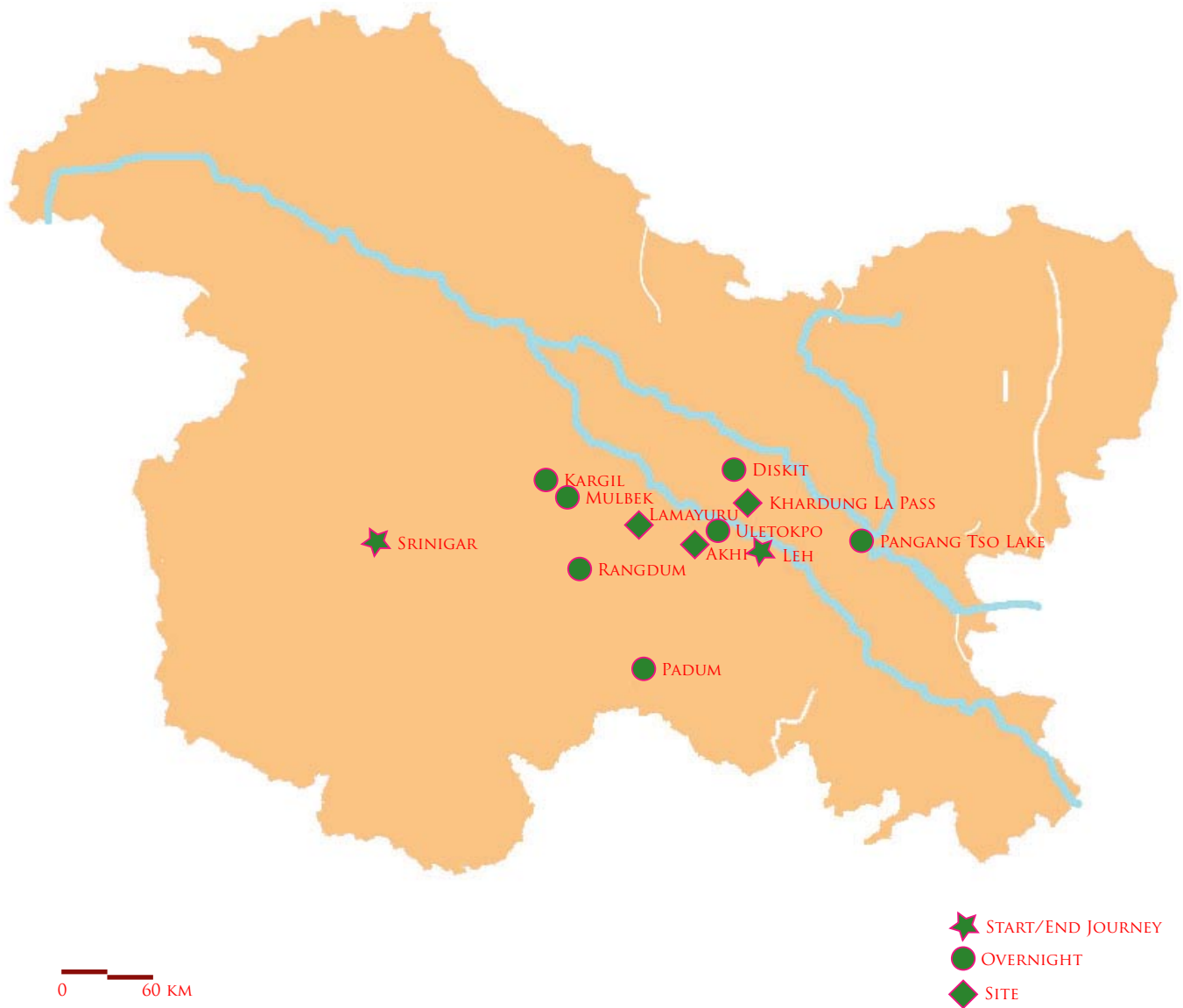


Key map locating the territory to be visited

elevation!). Our 21 night journey will include the world's most breathtaking landscapes and authentic Buddhist monasteries.

Please peruse the following itinerary and study the links to the sites and places we will stay.

—Stephen Harby



Map of the territory to be covered with major stops.

Brief Proposal—Itinerary

Prepared by Realms and Destinations

Stephen Harby and Friends Invitational Expedition

The Hidden Valleys of The Upper Indus – Ladakh, Nubra, Shyok, Zaskar and The Kashmir Valley

– 12 September to 03 October 2015

Delhi – Leh – Pangong Tso – Diskit – Uletokpo – Dha Hanu – Mulbek – Rangdum – Padum – Kargil – Srinagar – Delhi

Outline Operational Itinerary

Day 1, Saturday, September 12, 2015
ARRIVE DELHI, India

You arrive at Indira Gandhi International Airport, Delhi, by an international flight (arrival flight details awaited) clearing Indian Immigration, collecting your checked bags and passing through Customs control, you exit into the arrival hall and the meeting area outside

START OF SERVICE

you are met, welcomed and assisted by a Realms staff member at the arrival hall meeting area, and transferred to the hotel

Radisson Blu Plaza Hotel (Superior Rooms) <http://www.radissonblu.com/hotel-newdelhi> – this is an ‘airport’ hotel – ROOMS HELD FROM EARLY AFTERNOON THIS DAY

Day 2, Sunday, September 13
DELHI to LEH

checking out at the hotel very early in the morning you are transferred to Delhi airport to board the flight for Leh

fly Delhi/Leh by GoAir flight G8 203 – 0640/0755 (operates daily, direct)

on arrival in Leh <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leh> (3524 m/11562 ft) you are met by our local representative and transferred to the hotel

the remainder of the day is at leisure or free for optional activities allowing you time to get used to your new surroundings and for acclimatization

The Druk (Standard Rooms) <http://www.thedruk Ladakh.com> OR Ladakh Residency (Standard Rooms) <http://www.ladakhresidency.com>

B, L, D

Day 3, Monday, September 14
LEH

in Leh – the entire day is spent in acclimatization and adapting to the elevated altitude of the region you are in – you take a short walking tour of the Shankar Gompa Monastery http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sankar_Monastery in the morning

in the afternoon you walk to the local market and visit the back lanes of Leh town, including the imposing Le Palace http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leh_Palace

in the evening you visit the Shanti Stupa http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shanti_Stupa, returning to your hotel a little before dusk

The Druk (Standard Rooms) OR Ladakh Residency (Standard Rooms)
B, L, D

Day 3, Tuesday, September 15, LEH

in Leh – the entire day is spent in visiting the main sites of the upper Indus Valley – the Shey Palace, and the Hemis and Thiksey Monasteries

you return to your hotel in the late afternoon with time at leisure

The Druk (Standard Rooms) OR Ladakh Residency (Standard Rooms)
B, L, D

Day 4, Wednesday, September LEH to
PANGONG TSO LAKE

early in the morning you set off to drive Leh-Pangong Tso Lake (150 km/06 hrs by car or van), a scenic drive to the Northeastern region of Ladakh

you arrive at Pangong Tso Lake http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pangong_Tso

(4350 m/14270 ft) later in the day with time available to hike along the lakes shoreline and nearby hills – time also to sit by the lakeside and see it's moods change during the course of the day and into the evening and dusk

Camp Watermark (Standard Tents) <http://campsofladakh.com/water-mark.html>

B, L, D

Day 5, Thursday, September 17,
PANGONG TSO LAKE to LEH

there is time this morning for you to hike along the lakes shoreline or the nearby village or shepherd settlements before setting off to drive back to Leh

later in the day you set off to drive Pangong Tso Lake to Leh (150 km/06 hrs by car or van), arriving in the evening to check in at your hotel with time at leisure

The Druk (Standard Rooms) OR Ladakh Residency (Standard Rooms)
B, L, D

Day 6, Friday, September 18 LEH

in Leh – the complete day is at leisure with time available to rest and reorganize for the next segment of your journey

The Druk (Standard Rooms) OR Ladakh Residency (Standard Rooms)
B, L, D

Day 7, Saturday, September 19 LEH to
DISKIT

checking out at the hotel early in the morning you set off to drive Leh-Diskit (120 km/05 hrs by car or van)

traveling on one of the highest motorable roads in the world, you cross the Ladakh range of mountains over Khardung La Pass http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Khardung_La 5359 m/17581 ft

on the Northern side of the Ladakh range you descend into the valley of the Shyok River, and it's Northern tributary, the Nubra

arriving at the village of Diskit (3244 m/10310 ft) located a little down valley, you check in at your hotel with the remainder of the day is at leisure or free for optional activities

Hotel Sten-Del (Standard Rooms) <http://www.hotelstendel.com> OR Apple Cottage (Standard Rooms) <http://www.applenubra.com>

B, L, D

Day 8, Sunday, September 20, DISKIT

in Diskit – in the morning you visit and explore the Diskit Gompa Monastery http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Diskit_Monastery, Hundar Village and Panamik/

Samsthaling Gompa Monastery http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nubra_Valley, located in the Nubra and Shyok valleys returning to your hotel in Diskit later in the day your time is at leisure

Hotel Sten-Del (Standard Rooms) OR Apple Cottage (Standard Rooms)
B, L, D

Day 9, Monday, September 21, DISKIT
to LEH

departing early you set off to drive Diskit-Leh (120 km/05 hrs by car or van), retracing your way over Khardung La Pass.

Arriving in Leh 3524 m/11562 ft later in the day, you check in at your hotel with time at leisure

The Druk (Standard Rooms) OR Ladakh Residency (Standard Rooms) B, L, D

Day 10, Tuesday, September 22, LEH to ULETOKPO

in the morning you drive Leh-Uletokpo (70 km/02 hrs by car or van) – en route visiting the monasteries at Alchi http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alchi_Monastery, Likir and Phyang http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Phyang_Monastery

arriving in Uletokpo 3030m/9950ft late in the day you check in at your camp or hotel with time at leisure

Ule Ethnic Resort (Standard Rooms) <http://www.uleresort.com> OR Alchi Resort (Standard Rooms) <http://alchiresort.tripod.com>

B, L, D

Day 11, Wednesday, September 23, ULETOKPO to DHA, HANU and back

in the morning you set off on a full day excursion to Dha and Hanu villages http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dah_Hanu (75 km/02 hrs one way by car or van), returning to your camp or hotel in Uletokpo for an overnight stay later in the day

Ule Ethnic Resort (Standard Rooms) OR Alchi Resort (Standard Rooms) B, L, D

Day 12, Thursday, September 24, ULETOKPO to MULBEK

checking out at the camp or hotel early, you set off to drive Uletokpo-Mulbek (110 km/05 to 06 hrs by car or van)

you stop by en route to visit Lamayuru monastery http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lamayuru_Monastery, and crossing Fotu la Pass 4094 m/13432 ft, arrive at Mulbek 3304 m/10840 ft later in the day

there is time to visit Mulbek Monastery http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mulbekh_Monastery , before

returning to your camp later in the evening

Nun Kun Camp (Tents) http://www.zanskartrek.com/camping_at_mulbek.htm

B, L, D

Day 13, Friday, September 25, MULBEK to KARGIL and RANGDUM

the morning sees you driving Mulbek-Kargil-Rangdum (160 km/06 hrs by car or van). From Mulbek you drive down the valley of a tributary stream of the Suru River, which you meet and cross at Kargil, from where you go upstream along the Suru which drains the Northern ramparts of the Great Himalaya which lie to the North of Kashmir

arriving in Rangdum 3657m/11998ft, you check in at your camp

there would be time this evening to visit the Rangdum Gompa Monastery http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rangdum_Monastery , and you return to your

overnight camp later in the day Nun Kun Camp (Tents) http://www.zanskartrek.com/camping_at_rangdum.htm OR Private Camp (Tents)

B, L, D

Day 14, Saturday, September 26, RANGDUM to PADUM

in the morning you drive Rangdum-Padum (100 km/04 to 05 hrs by car or van, including a sightseeing halt en route)

your drive today over the Pensi La Pass http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pensi_La 4400 m/14436 ft , on the far side of which you stop en route to visit Sani Gompa Monastery http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sani_Monastery arriving in Padum 3669 m/12037 ft <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Padum> later in the day to check in at your hotel with time at leisure

Hotel Zambala (Standard Rooms) OR Marq Hotel (Standard Rooms) <http://marqinnzanskar.com>

B, L, D

Day 15, Sunday, September 27, PADUM

in Padum – the entire day is at leisure allowing you time to explore the notable monasteries and important sites of this region

Hotel Zambala (Standard Rooms) OR Marq Hotel (Standard Rooms) <http://marqinnzanskar.com>

B, L, D

Day 16, Monday, September 28, PADUM to KARGIL

in the morning you set off to drive Padum-Kargil (240 km/05 to 06 hrs by car or van)

arriving in Kargil 2,676 m/8,780 ft <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kargil> you check in at your hotel with time sat leisure

Hotel Jan Palace (Standard Rooms) <http://janpalacekargil.com> OR Zojila Residency (Standard Rooms) <http://zojilaresidency.com/about.html>

B, L, D

Day 17, Tuesday, September 29, KARGIL to SRINAGAR

early this morning you drive Kargil-Srinagar (205 km/05 hrs by car or van)

you cross the Great Himalaya over the Zoji La Pass 3528m/11575ft, descending to the Kashmir valley and arriving in Srinagar 1730 m/5700 ft later in the day checking in at your hotel overlooking Dal lake, your time is at leisure or free for optional activities

Vivanta By Taj DalView (Deluxe Delight Rooms) <http://www.vivantabytaj.com/Dal-View-Srinagar/Overview.html>) OR Deluxe Houseboats (Deluxe Rooms)

B, L, D

Day 18, Wednesday, September 30, SRINAGAR

after a leisurely morning you cruise through Dal Lake – drift along through a network of canals to the enchanted floating gardens of Nishat and Shalimar, the notable Mughal gardens, built respectively by Asaf Khan in 1636, and Jehangir for his beloved Nur Jahan in 1619

also visit the ‘old city’ of Srinagar, and the Shah Hamdan Mosque, and enjoy the walk through the narrow bazars of the city

returning to your hotel in the afternoon or evening, your time is at leisure

Vivanta by Taj DalView (Deluxe Delight Rooms) OR Deluxe Houseboats (Deluxe Rooms)

B, L, D

Day 19, Thursday, October 1, SRINAGAR

early in the morning you visit the floating vegetable market on Dal Lake by shikhara boat. This is a colorful and unique market where the local people purchase vegetables from the nearby farmers. In some deals they also use the barter system in buying and selling their produce

the afternoon is at leisure or free for optional activities

Vivanta by Taj DalView (Deluxe Delight Rooms) OR Deluxe Houseboats (Deluxe Rooms)

B, L, D

Day 20, Friday, October 2, SRINAGAR to DELHI

checking out at the hotel in the morning you are transferred to Srinagar airport to board the flight for Delhi

fly Srinagar/Delhi by Indigo Air flight 6E 554 – 1110/1240 OR GoAir flight G8 190 – 1205/1340 (both flights operate daily, direct)

arriving in Delhi you are met by a Realms staff member who will transfer to your hotel

the remainder of the day is at leisure or free for optional activities

Radisson Blu Plaza Hotel (Superior Rooms) <http://www.radissonblu.com/hotel-newdelhi> – this is an ‘airport’ hotel –

B, L, D

later in the night you are transferred to the Indira Gandhi International Airport, Delhi, to board the flight to your onward international destination

departure assistance and send off outside the departure terminal

END OF SERVICE

Day 21, Saturday, October 3, DEPART DELHI

– clear Indian Immigration and Customs before boarding the flight depart Delhi for your onward international destination by an international flight (departure flight details awaited)

Terms and Conditions as per Realms

The per guest twin sharing Land Cost quote for the above tour covers:

- Accommodation, total 21 nights at hotels and camps indicated in the itinerary with private facilities and including applicable taxes per tax structure prevalent at the time of quoting
- All meals as indicated in the itinerary (B=breakfast, L=lunch, D=dinner), preplanned fixed menu buffet meals at most hotels; bottled water and local (Indian made) soft beverages at the table with meals only at the hotels coffee shop or restaurants and dining areas, and inclusive of all applicable taxes per tax structure prevalent at the time of quoting
- The cost of transportation/transfers/sight-seeing excursions using an air-conditioned Force Traveller large van or mini coach in the plains (Delhi, Srinagar and Agra) and non air-conditioned Toyota Innova and/or Mahindra Scorpio large cars or non air-conditioned Force Traveler large vans in the mountains (Ladakh, Nubra-Shyok and

Zanskar); bottled water during sightseeing visits, excursions and long drives

- The services of English speaking local guides at places where sightseeing and excursion visits are involved, inclusive of guiding fee payable
- Still camera fee, applicable entry charges and sundry tips at monuments and other places of visitor interest
- Tips/gratuities to drivers, restaurant waiters, and to porters and bell boys for two pieces of baggage per person
- The services of Realms Tour Director throughout the journey
- Professional, planning, communication and supervision costs of an Indian tour operator

The Internal Airfare indicated is for Coach/Economy Class travel by a scheduled domestic airline flights for the Delhi/Leh and Srinagar/Delhi air sectors only; permissible free baggage allowance being 15 kg. per guest.

COST EXCLUSIONS

The above tour quotes do not include:

- Food and beverage (including soft drinks and bottled water) taken at hotel bars, in the room, or from the hotel room mini bar
- Expenses of a personal nature such as laundry, telephone calls, alcoholic beverages, etc.
- Costs involved in obtaining visas and insurance, expenses incurred as a result of sickness, ill health and accidents involving hospitalization and rescue/evacuation by any means of transportation, etc.
- Video camera fees payable at monuments and places of visitor interest, which will be extra
- International, regional or domestic airfares to Delhi at the start of the tour, or while departing from there at the end of the program

BOOKING CONDITIONS

Our current general booking conditions apply, a copy of which is already with you and, therefore, not being appended. Please, however, note that domestic airfares are based on actuals. Should there be an increase in these between now and tour dates, we shall advise you of this and request that a supplement be paid, as may be applicable.

New Delhi / 03 March 2015

REGISTRATION FORM

The Hidden Valleys of The Upper Indus, **September 12 to October 3, 2015** (dates of arrival/departure at Delhi)

Yes, I would like to attend this journey! Tour price is estimated at \$6,800 per person double occupancy, \$1,700 single occupancy based on a group of at least six participants.

Costs have fluctuated unpredictably this past year due to changes in fuel costs and exchange rates. The above costs are based on market conditions as of March, 2015. They are subject to increase should market conditions change.

To register please complete this registration form and send it with a deposit of \$2,000 (per person) by check to Stephen Harby, 718 Cedar Street, Santa Monica, CA 90405-3810. Only written registrations, including appropriate payment will be accepted. You may complete, scan and e-mail a copy of this registration form, and request payment by credit card, and an invoice for payment through PayPal will be issued.

Final payment of balance will be due by July 1, 2015.

Also, please send a photocopy of the picture page of your passport.

Name

Name

Address

City

State

Zip/Postal Code

Home phone

Alt. phone

Email

Please select one of the following:

double occupancy with 2 beds

I would like to have assistance booking my flights

double occupancy with one bed

single occupancy

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

WHAT IS INCLUDED

Hotels as indicated on the itinerary based on double occupancy. A limited number of single rooms are available at an additional supplement. We reserve the right to substitute other hotels of a similar quality.

Breakfast, lunch and dinner as mentioned in the itinerary (all meals are included).

Admission to all sites as described in the itinerary.

The handling of no more than two medium size suitcases per person

Private Coach transportation throughout.

Use of personal headset to facilitate hearing of on-site lectures and commentary.

WHAT IS NOT INCLUDED

International air transportation to Delhi. Incidental expenses such as for telephone calls, fax communications, a la carte orders or items not on the set menus, alcoholic drinks, laundry, and any other items not specifically mentioned as included.

TRIP INSURANCE

In the event participants cancel their trip, all non-refundable payments will be forfeited. Trip cancellation insurance is recommended for this purpose.

REQUIRED TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

A passport with validity for at least six months beyond end of stay, along with an Indian Tourist Visa.

TOUR COSTS

Costs have been calculated on the basis of charges and exchange rates as of March, 2015. Should these change, Stephen Harby reserves the right to make appropriate adjustments to the tour cost.

ALTERATIONS TO ITINERARY

Stephen Harby reserves the right to alter, modify or withdraw the itinerary if air schedules and/or events beyond his control deem it necessary. Itinerary changes made by local travel providers are beyond the control of Stephen Harby and should such changes be made the participant will be bound accordingly.

ITINERARY DEVIATIONS

Stephen Harby assumes no liability or responsibility for any participant deviating from the group tour. Participants arriving and departing independently are responsible for their own transfers.

CANCELLATION

Should cancellation occur prior to 90 days before departure, full refund will be granted less a \$200 service charge; within the following days prior to departure, the specified percentage of tour costs is non-refundable: 60-89 days - 20%; 45-59 days - 30%; 30-44 days - 50%; 29 days or fewer - 100 % Forfeiture of entire tour cost). Cancellations must be submitted in writing; trip cancellation insurance is strongly recommended. There will be no refund for any tour accommodation, service, or feature not taken, or if participant cancels for any reason while tour is in progress. Any additional costs due to leaving the tour are the responsibility of the departing passenger. In these times of uncertainty in the international realm, we also have to add that should cancellation or alteration of the program occur due to civil disturbances, acts of terrorism, war, natural disaster, and other events of force majeure or acts of God (including threat or fear of same), refunds will be made only to the extent that they are recoverable by Stephen Harby, and that such cancellation or alteration may result in the total loss of funds paid by participants. Many destinations may pose a normal risk of political instability, civil unrest, etc. It is assumed each participant has reviewed same with respect to their own comfort level of risk and personal safety, A decision to withdraw from the trip for these reasons or any others will be bound by the same terms of cancellation.

RESPONSIBILITY

Stephen Harby and /or agents assume no responsibility or liability in connection with the service of any train, carriage, aircraft, motor coach, or other conveyance or hotel which may be used wholly or in part, in the performance of the tour. Neither will they be responsible or liable for any injury, loss, accident, delay or irregularity which may be occasioned by reason of any defect in any vehicle or through neglect or default of any company or person engaged in conveying or accommodating the passengers; nor for any delays, injuries, damages or losses resulting directly or indirectly from any acts of God, acts of governments, de jure or de facto, wars whether declared or not, hostilities, civil disturbances, terrorist activities, riots, thefts, pilferage, epidemics, quarantines, medical or customs regulations, or from any causes beyond the control of Stephen Harby, and /or agents. In the event it becomes necessary for the comfort or well being of the passengers to alter or modify the itinerary or arrangements, such alterations may be made without penalty to the tour operator and are not grounds for cancellation with refund. Additional expenses, if any, shall be borne by the passenger. The sole responsibility of the airline used is limited to that set out in the passenger contract evidenced by the tickets. This agreement becomes effective upon acceptance into the tour by Stephen Harby. These Terms and Conditions shall be governed by the State of California.

Your signature below confirms that you have read the Terms and Conditions and accompanying itinerary and agree to abide by its contents.

Date

Signature
