Himalayan Kingdoms: Nepal & Bhutan

15 days for $6,674 total price from Seattle
($5,895 air & land inclusive plus $779 airline taxes and fees)

On this exhilarating journey, we discover two distant and devout lands, different in fact yet similar in spirit. Hinduism in Nepal and Buddhism in Bhutan suffuse all aspects of life; in both, tradition and belief abide – and surrounding Himalayan scenery casts a truly awe-inspiring spell.

Your Small Group Tour Highlights

Opportunity to visit two Himalayan countries  •  Kathmandu touring  •  Kathmandu Valley excursion  •  Visit to Buddhist monastery  •  Lunch with a Nepalese family in their home  •  Patan’s traditional arts and handicrafts  •  Hindu shrine at Pashupatinath Temple  •  Thimphu touring  •  Dinner with a Bhutanese family  •  Raising prayer flags at Dochula Pass  •  Beautiful Punakha Dzong  •  Historic Paro  •  Tiger’s Nest Monastery excursion

Day 1: Depart U.S. for Kathmandu, Nepal

Day 2: Arrive Kathmandu  We reach the Nepalese capital tonight and transfer to our hotel.

Day 3: Kathmandu  This morning we meet our fellow travelers and Odysseys Tour Director for a briefing about the journey ahead. Then we get our first look at this landlocked Himalayan nation in Durbar Square, a jumble of ancient temples, palaces, courtyards, and streets. Next we visit hilltop Swayambhunath, the iconic Buddhist temple dating to about 500 CE. A 365-step climb brings us to the sacred UNESCO stupa, with its white dome, gilded spire, and all-seeing “eyes” of the Buddha. This afternoon we travel through Kathmandu Valley to Patan, known for its rich culture and artistic tradition. On a walking tour through the UNESCO site of Patan Durbar Square, we see some of the city’s many Buddhist monuments and Hindu temples. Late afternoon we return to our hotel, where tonight we enjoy a welcome dinner. B,D

Day 4: Kathmandu  Today we see different aspects of Nepali life up close. First, we travel through the beautiful Kathmandu Valley to hilltop Kopan Monastery, home to 360 monks and lamas. With majestic views of the valley below, the monastery and associated nunnery welcome seekers and visitors to study, meditate, and learn about the Mahayana Buddhism practiced here. After our visit we enjoy a small group highlight as we share lunch with a local family in their home. Later we visit Shechen Clinic and Hospice, a humanitarian project that provides sustainable medical services to local residents; then tour Boudhanath, one of the holiest Buddhist pilgrimage sites. B,L,D

Day 5: Kathmandu/Nagarkot  Leaving Kathmandu today, we stop at Nepal’s oldest and holiest Hindu shrine, ornate Pashupatinath Temple. Here we see sadhus and sages who, in following the lifestyle of Lord Shiva, wear loincloths and cover themselves with ashes. We also may witness cremation ceremonies along the river banks; displaying appropriate respect to the mourners is requested of all visitors. We travel on to Bhaktapur, the least developed of the valley’s three cities. Virtually a living open-air museum with its unspoiled ancient square and warrens of medieval streets, Bhaktapur is known for its fine artisans and many temples. We have time to explore then continue the scenic drive to Nagarkot, a hilltop village commanding a spectacular vista of Nepal’s major Himalayan peaks. B,L

Day 6: Nagarkot  Early this morning we have an opportunity for an unforgettable experience: watching the sun rise over the fabled Himalaya from the hotel’s
ruftop observatory. Later, we embark on an easy walk around the village, where we have the chance to meet local people. The remainder of the day is at leisure amid the stunning Himalayan scenery. B,L,D

Day 7: Nagarkot/Kathmandu/Thimphu, Bhutan
We have another chance to see the sun rise over the peaks sacred in both Buddhism and Hinduism. Then we return to Kathmandu for the flight to Bhutan. Upon arrival in the Dragon Kingdom, we travel to the capital of Thimphu and our hotel, where we dine tonight. B,D

Day 8: Thimphu—Today's excursion begins at a local factory where paper is made by hand in the traditional way, followed by the Textile Museum, housing exquisite weavings from the 16th century to modern times. Later we visit Tashichho Dzong, the historic fortress and monastery that today houses temples and government offices, including those of the king; then Memorial Chorten, one of Bhutan’s best-loved religious landmarks. Tonight we attend a Bhutanese cultural performance then dine in the home of a local family. B,L,D

Day 9: Thimphu/Punakha—En route to Punakha today, we visit Kunselphodrang, the recently built Buddha Point where the world’s largest sitting Buddha presides over the Thimphu valley. Then we set out for Punakha via Dochula Pass (alt. 10,000 feet), which offers views of snow-topped Himalayan peaks and where we follow the sacred tradition of raising prayer flags in the name of peace and compassion. We eat lunch here then continue on our way, stopping to visit a local rice farming village. Next: an easy amble through rice fields to Chimi Lhakhang, the temple built by the “Divine Madman” in 1499, now a pilgrimage site for couples struggling with infertility. Late this afternoon we reach Punakha, which sits at the confluence of the Mo Chu (“Mother”) and Pho Chu (“Father”) rivers in a sub-tropical valley. B,L,D

Day 10: Punakha—We embark this morning on an exhilarating rafting trip on the Mo Chu River. This afternoon we visit Punakha Dzong, winter home of the Madman” in 1499, now a pilgrimage site for couples struggling with infertility. Late this afternoon we visit Punakha Dzong, winter home of the

Day 11: Punakha/Thimphu/Paro—We set out early to see more of Thimphu, including the National Library, with an immense collection of Buddhist manuscripts; and the Painting School, where students learn traditional Bhutanese arts. Then we have some free time to explore the local markets on our own. Late afternoon we depart for Paro, nestled in the center of a valley dotted with rice paddies, wheat fields, and scattered settlements. Early this evening we reach our hotel overlooking Paro town and valley and dine there tonight. B,L,D

Day 12: Paro—We begin our tour of this historic town at Ta-Dzong, the national museum showcasing Bhutan’s rich cultural heritage dating from at least 2000 BCE to the present day. Built in 1648 as a watchtower, the cylindrical-shaped museum houses a fine collection of Bhutanese art and artifacts. We also visit Rinpung Dzong, a superb example of Bhutanese architecture. After lunch we call on the sacred 7th-century pilgrimage temple of Kyichu Lhakhang. We dine together tonight at our hotel. B,L,D

Day 13: Paro/Tiger’s Nest Monastery—Today we embark on a highlight of any trip to Bhutan: a visit to Paro Taktsang, the sacred Tiger’s Nest monastery and temple complex perched on a cliff some 3,000 feet above the upper Paro Valley – itself at an altitude of 10,200 feet. We embark on our scenic uphill hike early this morning (rental horses are available to take visitors about two-thirds of the way). Those not wishing to climb all the way up can enjoy excellent views of Tiger’s Nest from a way-station cafeteria. Late afternoon we return to our hotel; tonight we celebrate our Himalayan adventure over a farewell dinner at a local restaurant. B,L,D

Day 14: Paro/Kathmandu, Nepal/Depart for U.S.—We fly this morning to Kathmandu, where we have day rooms, lunch, and opportunities for exploring on our own. Later we depart for the airport and our overnight flights to the U.S. B,L

Day 15: Arrive U.S.—We arrive in the U.S. and connect with our flights home.

“I couldn’t think of a better group of people to have shared this trip of a lifetime with.”

— Stacy Garfield, UW Friend

Your Tour Price Includes
• Round-trip air transportation from listed cities; all flights within itinerary
• 12 nights’ accommodations in Deluxe, Superior First Class, and First Class hotels
• 31 meals: 12 breakfasts, 9 lunches, 10 dinners
• Extensive sightseeing as described
• Services of Odysseys Unlimited Tour Directors
• Private motorcoach transportation throughout your trip
• Luggage handling for one bag per person
• Gratuities for local guides, dining room servers, airport and hotel porters, and all drivers
• $100 frequent traveler credit towards your next UW/Odysseys Unlimited tour ($200 after three tours; $300 after 10 tours)

For reservations call Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. toll-free (888) 370-6765 M-F, 9:00am-7:00pm, Eastern Time

Tour Departures: November 10, 2020
Prices include international airfare and all taxes, surcharges, and fees

New York, Washington, DC $6,074
Atlanta, Baltimore, Boston, Chicago, Cleveland, Detroit, Miami, Orlando, Philadelphia, Tampa $6,474
Charlotte, Cincinnati, Dallas, Houston, Los Angeles, Minneapolis, San Francisco $6,574
Denver, Phoenix, Portland (OR), Seattle $6,674
Land Only (transfers not included) $4,895

Please call if your city is not listed. Prices are per person based on double occupancy and include airline taxes, surcharges, and fees of $779, which are subject to change until final payment has been made.

Single travelers please add $1,195. All 2020 tour prices above (excluding airline taxes, surcharges, and fees) are guaranteed. Depending on flight schedules, certain U.S. departure cities may require a departure one day prior to the schedule listed above.

Business Class upgrade on round-trip Trans-Atlantic flight: $5,795 per person in addition to the above costs (upgrade is subject to availability and pricing is subject to change).

Please note: This trip involves considerable walking uphill and on uneven terrain. You should be in good physical condition to enjoy the tour to the fullest. While elevations are not severe, the relatively high altitude of Nagarkot (7,000 feet) and Thimphu and Paro (both 7,500 feet) could pose problems for travelers with certain health conditions. You should consult your physician if you have concerns.
Tour Prices
Tour prices quoted are guaranteed through December 31, 2021, and include accommodations based on double occupancy; airfare from your departure city; airline taxes, surcharges, and fees, and port charges and cruise line fees (where applicable), which are subject to change until final payment has been made; internal air, rail, and motorcoach transportation; meals, sightseeing, and transfers as described; hotel taxes; entrance fees for included sightseeing; the services of an Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director; luggage handling for one bag per person; and all gratuities as described below. Please note that the cost of air upgrades is subject to change.

Gratuities
Tour prices include all gratuities for local guides, dining room servers, airport and hotel porters, and all drivers on base tours and on optional extensions when accompanied by an Odysseys Unlimited representative. Please note that gratuities for the Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director and shipboard personnel (if a cruise is included in your tour) are not included. These tips are optional and should be extended on a voluntary basis. Gratuities are not included on “On Your Own” optional extensions.

Not Included in Your Tour Price
Airfare from your hometown to your departure city; costs of passports and visas; personal expenses such as beverages, laundry, room service, and meals not specified; immunizations and inoculations; communications charges; airport transfers when purchasing a land-only package; gratuities to your Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director and shipboard personnel (if a cruise is included in your tour), which are at your discretion (suggested gratuities $10-$15 per guest, per day); and a Travel Protection Plan. Additional baggage fees levied directly by the airline(s) may apply and are subject to change at any time. You should confirm directly with your airline(s) prior to departure.

Registration and Payment
A deposit of $500 per person confirms your reservation. Full payment is due at least 95 days prior to departure and may be made by personal check or credit card. Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. reserves the right to cancel any reservations that are not paid in full at any time after final payment is due. If you make your reservation after the final payment date, payment in full will be required upon reservation.

Cancellations and Refunds
If you must cancel your tour, the effective date of cancellation will be upon our receipt of your notification. Refunds for cancellations are subject to the following per person charges:
For all tours (except as noted)

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<td>95 days or more:</td>
<td>$200</td>
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<tr>
<td>94-65 days:</td>
<td>25% of tour price</td>
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<td>64-45 days:</td>
<td>50% of tour price</td>
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<td>75% of tour price</td>
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<td>29-0 days:</td>
<td>No refund</td>
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For Africa’s Wildlife, Egypt & the Eternal Nile, Southeast Asia Odyssey, Ethiopia: Cradle of Civilization, Southern Africa Odyssey

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Please note that we will not refund the cost of any unused portion of your tour package. If because of low participation Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. cancels your tour, you will receive a complete refund of all payments you have made to us.

Pre-Departure
After reserving your tour, you will receive pre-departure mailings that include a detailed itinerary, visa requirements, and reading list. We will send your final tour documents, including airline itineraries (with e-ticket numbers) two to three weeks before departure.

Single Travelers
We welcome single travelers, and offer a limited number of single accommodations on each tour. Because hotel and cruise rates are priced by the room or cabin, the per person cost for accommodations occupied by one person is higher than that shared by two people. We will endeavor to keep single supplements at a reasonable cost. Please note that single rooms in many foreign hotels may be smaller than those to which you are accustomed.

Changes to Your Reservation
We will not charge a fee for any changes made to your reservation outside of 95 days before departure. From 94 to 30 days before departure, if you make any changes to your reservation, a $100 per person administrative fee will apply, in addition to any fees or penalties imposed by airlines, hotels, or other third parties. Changes are subject to availability and cannot be guaranteed. If your reservation changes from double occupancy to single occupancy for any reason or at any time, you will be charged the single supplement.

Please note that no changes to your reservation can be made within 30 days of departure.

Required Information
Upon reservation, we will need to obtain from you the following, in accordance with the Transportation Security Administration’s (TSA) Secure Flight program (for details, please visit www.tsa.gov), as well as for our travel partners: for international tours – your full name as it appears on your passport, date of birth, and gender; for domestic tours – your full name as it appears on the accepted form of government-issued photo identification that you plan to use, date of birth, and gender. In addition, airlines may require that we provide them with your contact information prior to departure. In the event an airline ticket is issued with incorrect information you have provided, or if you use a different passport (international tours) or other form of government-issued photo identification (domestic tours) than originally cited, you will be responsible for charges associated with the ticket’s reissue.

Travel Documents
A passport valid for at least six months after the completion of your tour is required for U.S. citizens on all international tours in this catalog. If your tour requires a visa(s), we strongly recommend that you have at least six blank visa pages available; for tours not requiring a visa(s), we recommend that your passport have at least three blank visa pages. We will send you specific visa and entry requirements after you make a reservation. You are responsible for obtaining these documents. If you are not a U.S. citizen, please contact your embassy or consulate to ensure you obtain the proper documentation.

Smoking
For the convenience of the majority of our travelers, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. has a No Smoking policy (including e-cigarettes and vaping) on all tour buses. We will arrange sufficient rest stops so those who wish to smoke may do so.
Health and Medical Issues
We welcome all travelers, but request that you be in good health to participate in an Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. tour. All of our tours involve a reasonable amount of walking (typically two to three miles per day), often uphill or on uneven or cobblestone streets. **You must be able to get on and off motorcoaches and boats on your own.** We regret that we cannot provide individual assistance if you require the use of a wheelchair or have other personal needs; in such cases you must be accompanied by a companion who will assist you. Please note that a number of our itineraries cannot accommodate wheelchairs. Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. and the University of Washington Alumni Association (UWAA) reserve the right to remove anyone whose physical condition or behavior, in our opinion, compromises the operation of the tour or detracts from the enjoyment or safety of the other tour members. In that event, UWAA and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. assume no financial responsibility for any unused portion of the tour. In addition, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. and UWAA reserve the right to decline to accept the trip application of any prospective traveler who, in the opinion of Odyssey Unlimited, Inc. or UWAA, is incapable of successfully completing the trip. While we do our best to accommodate food allergy concerns, we cannot guarantee zero cross-contamination.

Responsibility
The liability of Odysseys Unlimited, Inc., as tour operator, is strictly limited. Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. purchases transportation, hotel accommodations, restaurant and other services from independent suppliers not under its control. It serves only as an agent for these suppliers in securing tour arrangements, and therefore will not accept responsibility for wrongful, negligent, or arbitrary acts or omissions of these independent contractors, their employees, agents, servants or representatives. Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. is not liable for injury, damage, loss, accident, or delay that may be caused by events not within its control, including without limitation, acts of terrorism, war, strikes, the defect of any vehicle, or the negligence or default of any third party. All coupons, receipts, and tickets issued are subject to the terms and conditions specified by the air carriers, cruise line, and other independent suppliers. Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. will make every effort to operate our tours as planned, but we reserve the right to make itinerary changes as necessary. If unforeseen circumstances require us to change a hotel, we will select alternative accommodations of the same or better quality. Cruise itineraries may change due to factors such as government regulations, water levels, or weather conditions. See also the UWAA's Release of Liability, Assumption of All Risk and Binding Arbitration Agreement form which you have to sign as a condition of your going on this trip. This form is sent to all participants upon placing a tour deposit and needs to be returned within 30 days after receipt or at least 60 days before the beginning of the trip, whichever is sooner. This document can be found at www.UWalum.com/tours or by emailing uwaatour@uw.edu.

Air Transportation
Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. includes in its tour price round trip economy air from designated gateway cities as shown and contracts with those airlines they feel provide the level of service, routings, and value necessary for your entire trip. While another airline may offer more direct service, it may be at a price unavailable at the lower group rates that enable us to offer you the best possible travel value. You will receive your preliminary air schedule approximately 2½ months prior to departure. **Please note that seat assignments on your flight are usually done at airport check-in. Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. is unable to guarantee any seat assignments.** Due to the nature of tour operator tickets, other restrictions apply, including but not limited to, frequent flyer mileage accrual, stopovers, alternate travel dates, upgrades, and airline taxes and fees. If you prefer to make your own travel arrangements, Land Only is available on most tours. Since international and domestic air schedules are subject to change at any time, we recommend that if you choose to make your own airline reservations, you do not purchase non-refundable tickets or those with high penalties for changes. In addition, we recommend that you not purchase your tickets until final payment is due. If you choose to make your own air arrangements, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. and the UWAA will incur no liability for any loss resulting from cancellation of this tour or changes therein. In any event, neither Odysseys Unlimited, Inc., nor the UWAA is responsible for losses, direct or indirect, or missed components of a trip which result from air delays, cancellations, rerouting or any other air-related problem.
Enclosed is my/our deposit for $______($500 per person) for ____ person/people on the tour listed below. I/we understand the final payment is due at least 95 days prior to departure. Payment may be made by American Express, Discover, MasterCard, or VISA or by personal check. Please make check payable to Odysseys Unlimited, Inc., and send, along with completed reservation form, to: Odysseys Unlimited, Inc., One Newton Place, 275 Washington Street, Suite 300, Newton, MA 02458. For more information, please call Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. toll-free at 888-370-6765.

Tour Name ____________________________________________________________
Departure Date ________________________________________________________
Pre- or Post-Tour Extension (as described on tour page): Please sign me/us up

Full Passport Name _____________________________________________________ Date of Birth ______________ Gender ______
Full Passport Name _____________________________________________________ Date of Birth ______________ Gender ______
Address ________________________________________________________________
City __________________________ State ___________ ZIP _______________
Home Ph. (_____) ______________________ Cell Ph. (_____) __________________
E-mail ___________________________________________________________ Badge Name(s) __________________________
Please book my/our air from __________________________ I/we request an air upgrade to __________________________
I will share a room with __________________________ I request a single room (limited availability)
I/we request an upgrade to tent category ________ (for Africa’s Wildlife only)

Please Note: UWAA Membership: While you do not have to be a UW grad to join this tour, we ask that one person, per reservation, join the UW Alumni Association. Member dues help support our travel program, making these tours possible. UWAA membership details are available at www.UWalum.com

Please Note: The undersigned has read the schedule of activities for this trip and agrees that their signature below represents their acceptance of the General Terms and Conditions:
Signature _________________________________________________________________________ Date ______________

Method of Payment
☐ Check ☐ American Express ☐ Discover ☐ MasterCard ☐ VISA
Account # ___________________________________________ Security Code ___________ Exp. Date _________
Name of Cardholder _________________________________________________________________
Signature

Final invoicing will be sent by our tour operator, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. The balance of the program price must be paid to Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. Final payment is due 95 days prior to departure and can be paid by check or credit card.