Discover the intersection of religion, art, and culture on a custom-curated journey to the northern Indian Himalayas and Bhutan. The Himalayas, derived from Sanskrit for “snow abode,” stretches from northern India’s foothills to the Tibetan Plateau. Explore Dharamshala, a serene hill town, home to the Dalai Lama and the seat of the Tibetan government-in-exile. In Rishikesh, visit sacred sites near the headwaters of one of the planet’s most important rivers, the Ganges. In Bhutan, explore Paro and Thimphu, and hike to the revered Taktsang Monastery, a place so holy that all Bhutanese try to visit it in their lifetime. Join us for a 16-day luxury tour to the Himalayas featuring special Brandeis excursions and private encounters, where you’ll discover insights into the intricate tapestry of religion, art, and culture in northern India and Bhutan.

Package pricing from $10,690 per person based on double occupancy. International airfare from your departure city is additional. To reserve, or for trip questions, please contact Criterion Travel at 888-328-2089 or email res@criteriontravel.com.
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BRANDEIS FACULTY LEADER: Harleen Singh

Harleen Singh is Senior Associate Provost for Faculty and Global Affairs, Director of the Women’s Studies Research Center, and Associate Professor of Literature and Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at Brandeis. Born and brought up in India, she received her undergraduate degree from Sweet Briar College in Virginia and an M.A., M. Phil. and Ph.D. in Literature from the University of California, San Diego. Her work focuses on British colonialism in India with a special emphasis on literature written by women. She has published widely on novels, films, popular culture, art, and music and is a frequent contributor on issues of gender, politics, and culture in the media.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Explore the town of Rishikesh and some of the holy sites peppered around the headwaters of one of the planet’s most important rivers, the Ganges.

- Hike to see the famous Taksang Monastery, a place so holy that all Bhutanese try to visit it at least once in their lifetimes. The monastery’s white temples dramatically cling to a cliff at nearly 10,000 feet.

- Pre-tour extension in Agra includes World Heritage Sites of Agra Fort and the Taj Mahal.

Northern India & Himalayan Kingdoms
ART, RELIGION, AND CULTURE March 22 – April 6, 2025

Per person, sharing accommodations $10,690
Per person, single accommodations $13,140

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NOTE: Much of this itinerary takes place at moderately high altitude. Some participants may experience some symptoms of altitude sickness, including headache, fatigue, and insomnia. In addition, higher altitudes can exacerbate health issues you already have. This will be a fast-paced, active program covering rugged terrain, with considerable walking and several rigorous travel days with early departures. Daily excursions involve one to three miles of walking, including stairs without handrails, high thresholds, and cobbled uneven paths. Motorcoach rides to remote locations are sometimes long and over bumpy roads, occasionally lasting up to seven hours, and briefly reaching an altitude of 12,000 feet.

PRE-TRIP EXTENSION IN DELHI AND AGRA
March 19 – 23, 2025

Arrive in Delhi, India and transfer to the luxurious Taj Ambassador hotel. Enjoy a full day exploration of Old and New Delhi before departing for Agra. Visit the iconic UNESCO World Heritage sites of Agra Fort and the Taj Majal before returning to Delhi to join the main program.

Please contact Criterion Travel directly with trip inquiries and to make a reservation. Note that Criterion Travel will require each tour participant to review and sign a detailed responsibility and terms and conditions statement prior to departure. Criterion will provide these forms to participants upon registration and are available in advance, by request.

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