JANUARY 4–17, 2020

INDIA
A Spiritual & Cultural Tapestry

with Alain-Philippe Durand and Caleb Simmons
Dear University of Arizona alumni, parents, and friends,

Join Caleb Simmons, Assistant Professor of Religious Studies specializing in Hinduism, and Alain-Philippe Durand, Dean of the College of Humanities, on a special program to India exclusively designed for the University of Arizona. On this spectacular sojourn experience a fascinating region of contrasts from Mughals to Maharajas, Hindus to Muslims, and soaring mountains to arid deserts. Over several millennia, dozens of cultures have entered into India leaving a wealth of distinct artistic and cultural traditions in their wake. Across the land, these rich legacies are evident in the designs of ancient monuments and modern buildings, the techniques of preparing curries and chapatis, and the patterns and styles of the women’s colorful saris.

Our gateway into India is Bangalore, the silicon capital of India, the capital city of the state of Karnataka, and home to extraordinary Victorian buildings as well as the Indo-Islamic architecture of Tipu Sultan’s Fort and Palace. From Bangalore we head to Mysore, where Professor Simmons has lived and done extensive field research. The “Cultural Capital of Karnataka,” Mysore is renowned for its remarkable palaces, temples, and royal buildings that stand testimony to the wealth and grandeur of the Kingdom of Mysore, which held power for nearly six centuries from 1399 until 1956. Excursions from Mysore will lead us to off-the-beaten-path Hindu and Jain temple complexes and sandstone cave temples.

Fly north to Jaipur, the pink-hued city of the maharajas, renowned for its magnificent City Palace, Amber Fort, Palace of Winds, and amazing open-air astronomical observatory. Experience the hauntingly beautiful ghost city of Fatehpur Sikri before arriving in Agra where we encounter the glorious Mughal legacy, including the graceful Agra Fort and India’s most iconic architectural masterpiece, the exquisite Taj Mahal.

Our custom-designed journey concludes in Delhi, the capital of the world’s largest democracy. Old Delhi is a veritable maze of vibrant streets, temples, and shops, while imperial New Delhi, the seat of the British Raj, consists of tree-lined avenues and stately government buildings, including the Presidential Palace and Parliament. Take an exhilarating rickshaw ride through Old Delhi’s colorful bazaars, and see the city’s most important attractions, including two World Heritage sites: the 13th-century Qutub Minar and Humayun’s Tomb.

Interact with local families, farmers, and dancers, unlocking centuries of history and peeling away complex layers of culture. Experts in history, culture, religion, and architecture will enhance your understanding of this complex country, while unique experiences, such as a home-hosted meal in a private residence and personal encounters with craftspeople, will augment your lifelong memories of the subcontinent. Join us for an unparalleled view of India. Space is limited, so sign up early!
DR. ALAIN-PHILIPPE DURAND is Dean of the College of Humanities, Professor of French, Honors College Distinguished Fellow, and affiliated faculty in Africana Studies, Latin American Studies and LGBT Studies at the University of Arizona. His research interests include French and Brazilian literatures, French Cinema, Hip-Hop, and the promotion of the Humanities disciplines in the professions. He is the author and editor of four books: *Black, Blanc, Beur. Rap Music and Hip-Hop Culture in the Francophone World; A Techno World. New Electronic Spaces in the French Novel of the 1980s and 1990s; Novels of the Contemporary Extreme;* and *Frédéric Beigbeder and his doubles*. The French Government awarded Durand the Palmes Académiques. The French publication *France-Amérique* named him among its list of fifty French talents living in the United States. Dean Durand was awarded the UA Honors College’s Five Star Faculty Award.

DR. CALEB SIMMONS is an Assistant Professor of Religious Studies and specializes in religion in South Asia, especially Hinduism. His book *Devotional Sovereignty: Kingship and Religion in Colonial India* (Oxford University Press, forthcoming), examines how the colonial court of Mysore reenvisioned notions of kingship, territory, and religion, especially through devotion. He is currently working on a second book, *Singing the Goddess into Place: Folksongs, Myth, and Situated Knowledge in Mysore, India* that examines popular local folksongs that tell the mythology of Mysore’s Chamundeshwari and her consort Nanjundeshwara. He has publications and continuing research interests related to a broad range of contemporary topics, including ecological issues and sacred geography in India; South Asian diaspora communities; and material and popular cultures that arise as a result of globalization—especially South Asian religions as portrayed in comic books and graphic novels. He teaches courses on Hinduism, Indian religions, and method and theory of Religious Studies.

### Highlights

- Join Caleb Simmons, who has extensively studied Hindu religion, on a fascinating sojourn in India.
- Luxuriate in beautiful five-star hotels throughout, including the Jai Mahal Palace, a stunning heritage hotel in Jaipur.
- Experience the splendor of the Taj Mahal on an in-depth tour of this architectural Mughal masterpiece.
- Travel by rickshaw through Old Delhi, finishing with a visit to Jama Masjid, India’s largest mosque.
- Absorb the vibrant images of Indian life, from bustling village markets to lavishly adorned temples to vibrantly colorful saris.
- Sample savory curries and masalas and taste a variety of regional Indian cuisines.
- Observe India’s master artisans at work, and see marble and semi-precious stonework, silk textile weaving, and traditional wooden toymakers.
- Interact with local families, farmers, craftspeople, and musicians, unlocking centuries of history and peeling away complex layers of culture.
Custom Itinerary
This custom travel program has been created uniquely for the University of Arizona College of Humanities.

Saturday, January 4, 2020

Depart the U.S.

Depart the United States on overnight flights to Bangalore (BLR).

Sunday, January 5, 2020

Arrivals in Bangalore

Arrive at Bangalore’s airport and meet an airport escort who will accompany you to the five-star Taj airport hotel, just a quarter of a mile from the airport terminal. Retire for the evening.

Taj, Bangalore

Monday, January 6, 2020

Bangalore Palace & Temples

In the late morning, set out to explore Bangalore, a center of colonial rule in South India during the British Raj and today’s hub of India’s IT industry. See beautiful Indo-Islamic architecture with intricately sculptured teak arches, pillars, minarets, and balconies at Tipu Sultan’s Palace, the summer residence of the Mysorean ruler. Admire the enormous monolithic granite bull idol at the Nandi Temple, one of the oldest and most revered temples in Bangalore and the world’s biggest temple dedicated to Nandi, Lord Shiva’s bull vehicle. Drive 4.5 hours to Mysore, and get settled in for a four-night stay at the five-star Radisson Blu Plaza Hotel Mysore, arguably the city’s best hotel, centrally located and offering gorgeous views of the Chamundi Hills. Relax over a welcome dinner in the hotel’s restaurant specializing in the cuisines of southern India.

Radisson Blu Plaza Hotel Mysore (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

Tuesday, January 7, 2020

Mysore Grandeur

After a morning breakfast lecture, set out for a marvelous day of exploration in Mysore, famous for its palaces, arts, culture, festivals, and parks. Begin at Chamundeshwari Temple, which sits atop Chamundi Hill offering magnificent panoramic views of Mysore. See the enormous statue of Mahishasura bearing a sword in his right hand and a cobra in the left and a sculpture of Chamundi within the temple’s sanctum. Continue to one of the tallest churches in Asia, St. Philomena’s Cathedral, a neo-Gothic Catholic church constructed in 1936 that was inspired by the Cologne Cathedral. Be awed by the unrivaled grandeur of the Palace of Mysore, built in 1912 in the Indo Saracenic style and one of the largest of its kind in India. Enjoy free time in the afternoon to relax before heading to dinner at a popular restaurant.

Radisson Blu Plaza Hotel Mysore (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)
Wednesday, January 8, 2020

**Temples & Holy Waters**

Drive 45 minutes north of Mysore to Srirangapattana where the legendary warrior Tipu Sultan built his island fortress and Summer Palace. Visit the celebrated Ranganathaswamy temple one of the most important Vaishnavite centers of pilgrimage in south India. The temple was built by the Ganga dynasty rulers of the area in the 9th century; the structure was strengthened and improved upon architecturally some three centuries later, and today’s temple offers a medley of temple architectural styles. Following a relaxing lunch, visit the Gombaz and Kauveri river confluence (Triveni Sangama in Kannada). River confluences are very sacred places for Hindus as they believe the water can wash away sins. Observe the faithful gathering at this confluence to make offerings and dip in the holy waters. Return to the hotel for an afternoon at leisure, or join an optional afternoon excursion to observe worship ceremonies in the ancient temple dedicated to Shiva in Nanjangud.

Radisson Blu Plaza Hotel Mysore (Breakfast, Lunch)

**Thursday, January 9, 2020**

**Jainism at Shravanabelagola**

Take a jaunt into the countryside and drive two hours to Shravanabelagola to reach the entrance of the temple that houses the world’s tallest monolithic stone statue representing Bahubali, a Jain preacher. Hike 600 steps or take palanquins to the top! Following lunch, meander back to Mysore, stopping along the way to interact with farmers and villagers at local markets. Or enjoy an optional free day to relax at the Radisson Blu, and perhaps visit the Mysore Market.

Radisson Blu Plaza Hotel Mysore (Breakfast, Lunch)

**Friday, January 10, 2020**

**From Bangalore to the “Pink City” of Jaipur**

Break up the drive to Bangalore airport with a stop at Channapattana to meet traditional wooden toy makers, a tradition founded by Tipu Sultan who invited artisans from Persia to train the local artisans. Following lunch, fly nonstop to the “Pink City” of Jaipur known for its fascinating bazaars and opulent salmon-colored palaces. Check into the five-star Jai Mahal Palace, an opulent 18th-century palace set amidst 18 acres of landscaped Mughal gardens, and enjoy Rajasthani cuisine over dinner together.

Jai Mahal Palace, Jaipur (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)
Saturday, January 11, 2020

Jaipur’s City Palace & Rajasthani Dance

After a morning breakfast lecture, set out for Jaipur’s City Palace complex, a superb blend of Rajput and Mughal architecture, and see the Maharajas’ private collection of miniature paintings, fine carpets, royal costumes, and musical instruments. Explore the fascinating open-air astronomical observatory, Jantar Mantar. Be treated to lunch at a beautiful historic haveli, a splendid example of regal Indo-Saracenic architecture. Return to the hotel or join an afternoon excursion to Gaita Ji Temple, an ancient Hindu pilgrimage site where a natural spring flows downward, filling a series of sacred kunds (water tanks) in which pilgrims bathe. The site is colloquially known as the Monkey Temple because of its large monkey population. Enjoy a Rajasthani dance performance while enjoying dinner together.

Jai Mahal Palace, Jaipur (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

Sunday, January 12, 2020

Amber Fort & Local Crafts

Enjoy a free morning to sleep in or ascend to the palace of the Amber Fort, an exquisite structure boasting expansive views over the former Rajput kingdom. Examine delicate inlay work, colorfully painted walls, carved candle niches, mirrored halls, and elegant gardens. After lunch rest at the hotel or enjoy optional visits to the craft studios of Jaipur—from gem cutting and polishing to hand-block printing textiles.

Jai Mahal Palace, Jaipur (Breakfast, Lunch)

Monday, January 13, 2020

The Chand Baori Stepwell & the Mughal Empire

Drive through spectacular scenery en route to Agra, observing decorated camel carts, roadside vegetable markets, and women in multicolored saris, and see two superb sites. First drive 2.5 hours to Chand Baori Stepwell, one of the largest and most beautiful stepwells. Built more than a thousand years ago to harvest water, this geometrical marvel features more than 3,500 narrow steps arranged in perfect symmetry, which descend to the bottom of the well. Continue 2–2.5 hours to Fatehpur Sikri, and after stopping for lunch, see this hauntingly beautiful ghost city, the temporary capital of the Mughal Emperor Akbar and its remarkable synthesizing of Hindu and Islamic architectural styles. Continue to Agra, and after checking into the five-star Trident, enjoy a lecture on Mughal history and architecture followed by a relaxing dinner featuring Mughal cuisine in the hotel’s restaurant.

Trident, Agra (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)
Tuesday, January 14, 2020

**Taj Mahal & Hindustani Music**

Visit the resplendent Taj Mahal and experience the Taj at sunrise, when the marble façade embellished with inlaid semi-precious gems is most spectacular. Enjoy a late breakfast and free time for rest. Continue resting with a leisurely afternoon at the hotel or venture to the impressive red sandstone Agra Fort to hear about Shah Jahan’s imprisonment by his son and the subsequent decline of the Mughal empire. Meet a master artisan who will demonstrate marble inlay techniques. Meet sitar and tabla musicians who will explain their instruments and introduce you to Hindustani classical music. Dine together at a popular local restaurant.

*Trident, Agra (Breakfast, Dinner)*

Wednesday, January 15, 2020

**Mathura: Birthplace of Lord Krishna**

Check out of your hotel and drive to Delhi. Approximately 2 hours into the drive, stop in Mathura, the birthplace of Lord Krishna, and see the most magnificent temples dedicated to him. After lunch, continue driving 3.5 hours to Delhi, arriving in the afternoon. Check into the five-star luxury Lalit Hotel ideally located close to Connaught Circle in New Delhi.

*Hotel The Lalit New Delhi (Breakfast, Lunch)*

Thursday, January 16, 2020

**Historic Old Delhi**

After a morning breakfast lecture, take an exhilarating rickshaw ride through Chandni Chowk, Old Delhi’s famed market, finishing at the Jami Masjid. This grand mosque, with three imposing black and white marble domes, was built in 1656 by the Emperor Shah Jahan and took six years and 5,000 workers to construct. After lunch, visit Humayun’s Tomb, a World Heritage site, the first garden-tomb on the Indian subcontinent, and a precursor to the Taj Mahal. Also see the 13th-century Qutub Minar, also a World Heritage site that is most famous for its amazing 240-foot red sandstone tower. Bid farewell to India during a lovely Indian farewell feast in an upscale restaurant, and then head to the Delhi airport for overnight flights back to the U.S.

*Aloft (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)*

Friday, January 17, 2020

**U.S. Returns**

Arrive independently back into the U.S.
INDIA: A SPIRITUAL & CULTURAL TAPESTRY

DATES: January 4–17, 2020

TOUR COST:
Land Package ................................................................. $5,295
Single Supplement .......................................................... $995

Tour price is per person based on double occupancy, with a minimum of 15 paying participants. Land prices are calculated as of May 2019 and are subject to change.

ACTIVITY LEVEL: Moderate, good walking ability advised, includes standing and walking for about two hours at a time.

DEPOSIT & FINAL PAYMENT: A deposit of $1,000 per paying participant will be required to guarantee participation in the program. This may be paid by check, or by Visa or MasterCard. Final payment will be invoiced and is due on September 26, 2019. Final payment must be made by check payable to International Seminar Design, Inc. Registrations will be accepted beyond this date on a space-available basis with payment in full by check only.

FLIGHTS: Airfare is not included in the tour price. Participants are responsible for all aspects of their air arrangements, round-trip into Bangalore and out of Delhi.

TERMS & CONDITIONS: International Seminar Design, Inc. (ISDI) acts only as an agent for the participant with respect to transportation, accommodations, and all other services relating to this tour. ISDI, the University of Arizona Alumni Association, the College of Humanities, and/or their agents assume no responsibility or liability for any act, error or omission, or for any injury, loss, accident, delay or irregularity, which may be caused by any defect in any aircraft, ship, train, bus, or other carrier, or through neglect or default of any subcontractor or other third party, which may be used wholly or in part in the performance of their duty to the participants of the tour. ISDI, the University of Arizona Alumni Association, and the College of Humanities reserve the right to cancel any tour prior to departure for any reason including insufficient numbers of participants, as well as the right to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of the tour at any time. If bookings fall below the minimum required, passengers will be advised of additional costs or itinerary alterations before departure date.

CANCELLATIONS & REFUNDS: All cancellations must be received in writing by ISDI, and charges are calculated as of the day notification is received in writing by ISDI. If a tour member cancels, the following scale of charges is incurred:
- Written cancellation received by ISDI on or after November 21, 2019: no refund. After the tour has commenced, it is not possible to issue any refunds. No refunds for any unused portion of the tour including, but not limited to, occasional missed meals or any missed sightseeing tours. Costs for promotion, staff, and other group expenses are not refundable. In the case of cancellation, substitutions are not acceptable. The tour cost is non-transferable, and no substitutions are allowed. If ISDI, the University of Arizona Alumni Association, or the College of Humanities cancels the tour due to low registrations, active registrants will receive a full refund of all tour payments.
- Written cancellation received by ISDI on or after October 21, 2019: full refund minus $500 per person administrative fee.
- Written cancellation received by ISDI between September 27, 2019 and November 20, 2019: full refund of any recoverable land costs, less $2,500 per person cancellation charge (includes administrative fee).
- Written cancellation received by ISDI on or after November 21, 2019: no refund. After the tour has commenced, it is not possible to issue any refunds. No refunds for any unused portion of the tour including, but not limited to, occasional missed meals or any missed sightseeing tours. Costs for promotion, staff, and other group expenses are not refundable. In the case of cancellation, substitutions are not acceptable. The tour cost is non-transferable, and no substitutions are allowed. If ISDI, the University of Arizona Alumni Association, or the College of Humanities cancels the tour due to low registrations, active registrants will receive a full refund of all tour payments.
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TRAVEL INSURANCE: ISDI, the University of Arizona Alumni Association, and the College of Humanities strongly recommend the purchase of trip cancellation insurance. The University of Arizona Alumni Association will send you travel insurance information upon tour registration. In the event that you must cancel your participation in a travel program, trip cancellation insurance may be the only source of reimbursement.

TOUR PRICE INCLUSIONS: Accommodations, as outlined in the itinerary; breakfast daily, 10 lunches, 7 dinners; one group airport transfer on arrival and departure as outlined; transportation by private motorcoach as outlined; one economy-class ticket: Bangalore to Jaipur; entrance fees to sites per itinerary; services of ISDI Tour Manager; expert, local English-speaking guides; gratuities to local guides and drivers; 2 glasses of wine or beer with welcome and farewell dinners, beer with dinners, if available; bottled water daily; taxes, services, and porterage fees.

TOUR PRICE EXCLUSIONS: Airfare, airline taxes, and fuel surcharges; airport porterage; excursions, activities, or meals during traveler’s free time; personal items; personal services; travel extensions; personal insurance for health, baggage, and tour cancellation; passport fees; visa fees; gratuities for hotel housekeeping staff.

FOR QUESTIONS OR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: International Seminar Design, Inc.
Tour Director: Sinéad Walshe
Tel: 202-244-1448 | Email: sinead.walshe@isditravel.com

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(above and registration page background) Qutub Minar detail / Swaminathan
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Please send your deposit and this form to: The University of Arizona Alumni Association, Attn: Alumni Travel, 1111 N. Cherry Ave., Tucson, AZ 85721-1009. You may reserve spaces by calling Lisa Valentine at 520-621-5333 or 1-800-232-8278 with a credit card.

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City State Zip

Daytime Telephone Cell Phone

E-mail Address | ☐ please send mailings to my email to receive information more quickly

# of persons Amount Enclosed

LAND PACKAGE DEPOSIT ($1,000 PER PERSON):

☐ Check  Make check payable to International Seminar Design, Inc.
☐ Visa   ☐ MasterCard

Card Number Exp. (mm/yy)

Name as it appears on credit card Billing Zip Code (if different from above)

ROOMING OPTIONS: (please select)

☐ Double Occupancy; I will share a room with
☐ Single Supplement ($995)
☐ I would like a roommate but will pay the price of the single supplement if one cannot be found.

EACH PARTICIPANT MUST SIGN (registration invalid without signature)
The undersigned has read the tour itinerary and recognizes and accepts any risks therein. The undersigned also understands and hereby agrees for and on behalf of his/her dependents, heirs, executors, administrators and assigns to abide by the conditions set forth in the terms and conditions listed in this brochure and to release and hold harmless the University of Arizona Alumni Association, the College of Humanities, International Seminar Design, Inc. (ISDI) and any of their officers, trustees, agents, licenses, or representatives from any and all liability for delays, injuries, or death or for the loss of and/or damage to his/her property however occurring during any portion of, or in relation to, this tour.

Signature Participant 1 / Date Signature Participant 2 / Date

COMPLETE AND RETURN THIS FORM TO:
The University of Arizona Alumni Association
Attn: Alumni Travel
1111 N. Cherry Ave.
Tucson, AZ 85721-1009

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