

# BEHIND THE SCENES ADVENTURES

## TRIP CONTRACT

I \_\_\_\_\_ am joining BEHIND THE SCENES ADVENTURES

[Hereafter known as BTSA] for the trip to \_\_\_\_\_.

On these inclusive dates: \_\_\_\_\_.

Full payment for the BTSA trip is \$ \_\_\_\_\_, including the \$500 non-refundable deposit.

I will \_\_\_\_\_ or will not \_\_\_\_\_ want a single room supplement at \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (price varies by trip; see website.)

**I understand that my final payment is due 60 days before departure.** (Anyone joining the trip after the 60-day payment deadline date needs to pay the full trip payment at signup.)

### CANCELLATION POLICY

Payment of the non-refundable deposit and signing the application and contract are considered legally binding. The deposit is not refundable but may be applied to any other trip at any later date. BTSA trip prices are based on group rates reserved in advance, thus a cancellation affects all the trip expenses.

**If the trip is cancelled by BTSA for any reason, refund is 100%, including your deposit.**  
**If you need to cancel, your \$500 deposit may be applied to any other future adventure.**

Unused deposits are donated to community projects in the countries where BTSA operates.  
Cancellation 59 or more before departure, refund is 50%, minus \$500 non-refundable deposit.  
Cancellation 30-58 days before departure, refund is 25%, minus \$500 non-refundable deposit.  
No refund for cancellation less than 30 days before departure, unless a replacement participant is found.

We recommend travel and trip cancellation insurance such as that offered by Allianz.com. Trips involving boats and large bodies of water require mandatory travel insurance.

### TRIP DEPOSIT AND PAYMENTS

BTSA is now using a secure payment system called ZOHO. When you decide to sign up for a trip, we will send by email a detailed invoice stating the deposit amount and balance deadline/date and payment guidelines. You may pay the ZOHO invoice easily with a credit card, or you may send a personal check to BTSA at the address at the bottom of this contract. Using ZOHO incurs their 2.9% fee; many people prefer it because they receive Miles or Points, but either payment method is acceptable to BTSA.

### FLIGHTS AND TRANSPORTATION

BTSA does not arrange nor sell any flight tickets except those included for the tour, and stated in the itinerary. Travelers should purchase international flight tickets through a trusted travel agent or online through one of the travel sites. Flights should be planned to arrive and depart on the stated dates on the itinerary, or you may also decide to arrive early or depart after the group departure. Transportation arrangements to the group hotel will be made for early arrivals but travelers are responsible for the cost. Please relay to BTSA your exact flight arrival and departure information several weeks before the trip is scheduled to begin.

Early arrivals or late departures need to make hotel arrangements at the group hotel or another local hotel. BTSA will share the contact information for the group hotel, but is not responsible for the dates reserved or services rendered. **The cost of final departure to the airport is not included in any BTSA trip cost** because travelers are departing at many different times and dates.

## **ITINERARY AND ACTIVITIES**

It is assumed that all participants will be able to receive travel documents and information by email, usually sent as universally accepted .pdfs. We have no provision for sending paper documents by USPS mail or otherwise. Naturally you may print the documents or download them onto a tablet or other device for your convenience.

Before travelers sign up for a trip, the flexible, proposed itinerary will be provided by email. Please examine it carefully. This signed contract and payment of the deposit for any trip indicates your acceptance of the itinerary, as well as acceptance of the possibility that there may be changes.

The itinerary has been prepared thoughtfully and with the intention of giving the group travelers an educational, interesting and well-paced tour. Naturally BTSA endeavors to follow the itinerary and to provide travelers with an excellent cultural experience, but we cannot control the vagaries of life where we travel. Major itinerary changes are rare, but BTSA reserves the right to make route, hotel, itinerary or leader changes, and trip modifications, at any point, as necessary or desirable for any reason such as the comfort, well-being and safety of the travelers, or to improve trip logistics. No claims may be made during or after the tour for missed opportunities or unseen sights.

### **NOTE:**

BTSA reserves the right to decline to accept or retain in the field any person whose health or general conduct impedes the operation of services to the detriment of the trip leaders, other trip participants or the local population. Thus BTSA reserves the right to remove from a trip, at his or her own expense and without any refund, any person it judges to be incapable of meeting the rigors and requirements of participating in the activities, or who it determines detracts from the enjoyment of the trip by others.

### **HEALTH:**

Trips to the Andes involve high altitudes. Trips to West Africa, India and Asia may involve the risk of malaria, and other maladies. We request that everyone who signs up to join a Behind the Scenes Adventure talk to his or her health practitioner about these and other health issues. You may also consult the US Government website at [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov) for current health information for your destination.

### **LUGGAGE**

Signing the Trip Contract also implies acceptance of the luggage size and number limits. Please bring only ONE suitcase, plus a small daypack or large purse. No suitcase can exceed the combined length, width and depth measurement of 54". The limits are important not only for your ease of mobility but also for the space limitations of our transportation vans. It is suggested that travelers bring an empty nylon duffel for extra purchases.

It is accepted to accumulate a reasonable amount of purchases over the course of the trip, as long as there is still space in the storage area of the van. Larger purchases may need to be shipped home. Items stored in the van and not used daily, such as carpets, textiles, and ceramics, will be kept in the safely locked trunk space of the van, and NOT brought into the hotel each night. (Small valuables should be kept in your luggage and brought into the hotel nightly.)

### **RESPONSIBILITY**

While we at Behind the Scenes Adventures take the utmost care to assure the trip participants' safety and well being, the responsibility of BTSA and operators Cheick Oumar (Barou) Samaké and Cynthia LeCount Samaké and others directly employed is limited. BTSA acts only as agents for the trip participant in regard to all travel of all varieties, whether by bus, van, train, taxi, boat, aircraft, pirogue, canoe, camel or other conveyance, and as such, assumes no liability for direct or indirect or incidental damage, bodily injury, death, delay, inconvenience, or other problems which may be caused either through acts of nature, or fire, breakdown of machinery or equipment, or acts of government or other authorities, wars, declared or undeclared; hostilities, riots, civil unrest or disturbances, strikes, theft, acts of terrorism, sickness or epidemics, allergic reactions, rabid animals, Customs regulations, changes in public transportation schedules, or from any other causes beyond the control of BTSA.

Behind the Scenes Adventures shall not be liable for expenses such as additional hotel nights and meals not specified in the trip itinerary, but which may be required to get to or from a trip starting or ending point; expenses due to the delay of a trip for any reason (e.g., cancelled flights, inclement weather, landslides, flooding, sickness, etc.); expenses involved in recovering luggage lost by airlines, belongings stolen or left behind on a trip, or in shipping purchases home from abroad.

**RELEASE OF LIABILITY**

I hereby release Behind the Scenes Adventures (BTSA), Lotus Destinations, India; EIT Travel LLC, Jeff Wilson, Cappadocia Tours, Suleyman Çakir, Cynthia LeCount Samaké, Cheick Oumar (Barou) Samaké, Claudia Avila, Odil Akhmedov, Gerardo Guzman, Nilda Callañaupa, Paulino Alvarez, Loretta Pinto, Mrinal Bengia, and/or any other employees/agents of BTSA from any liability arising from my participation in any segment of the above listed trip.

I understand that the nature of foreign travel may involve numerous risks and dangers including but not limited to those listed above.

I hereby agree to be responsible for my own welfare and to accept any and all risks.

I agree to follow all written and verbal rules of safety or otherwise presented to me by BTSA or the trip leaders.

I have carefully read and fully understand the contents and legal ramifications of this legally binding contract.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Printed name: \_\_\_\_\_

