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Nomads of Rajasthan at the, Pushkar Fair 2019 (49134565726).jpg
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“RAJASTHAN AND GUJARAT” INDIA FROM DELHI TO BOMBAY

21 days, from Tuesday, February 6, to Monday, February 25, 2024

A fascinating exploration of northwestern India, from Delhi to Bombay, with many fabulous sights such as Agra’s world-famous Taj Mahal; picturesque Rajasthan jewels such as Jaipur, Jodhpur, and Udaipur; exotic Jaisalmer, an oasis town in the Thar Desert; the Little Rann of Kutch wildlife sanctuary; Dholavira, Lothal, and other archaeological sites of the ancient Indus River Civilization. Four-star (or in some cases “best available”) hotels, excellent food, and lots of culture and history dispensed by expert local guides and your tour escort, historian Jacques R. Pauwels, author of ‘Beneath the Dust of Time: A History of the Names of Peoples and Places’.

Tour price, based on double occupancy: \$8,995 (CAD) from Toronto – “land only”, from Delhi Airport on 7/2 to Mumbai Airport on 24/2: \$6,925 – single room supplement: only \$675, but very limited availability.

PROPOSED ITINERARY:

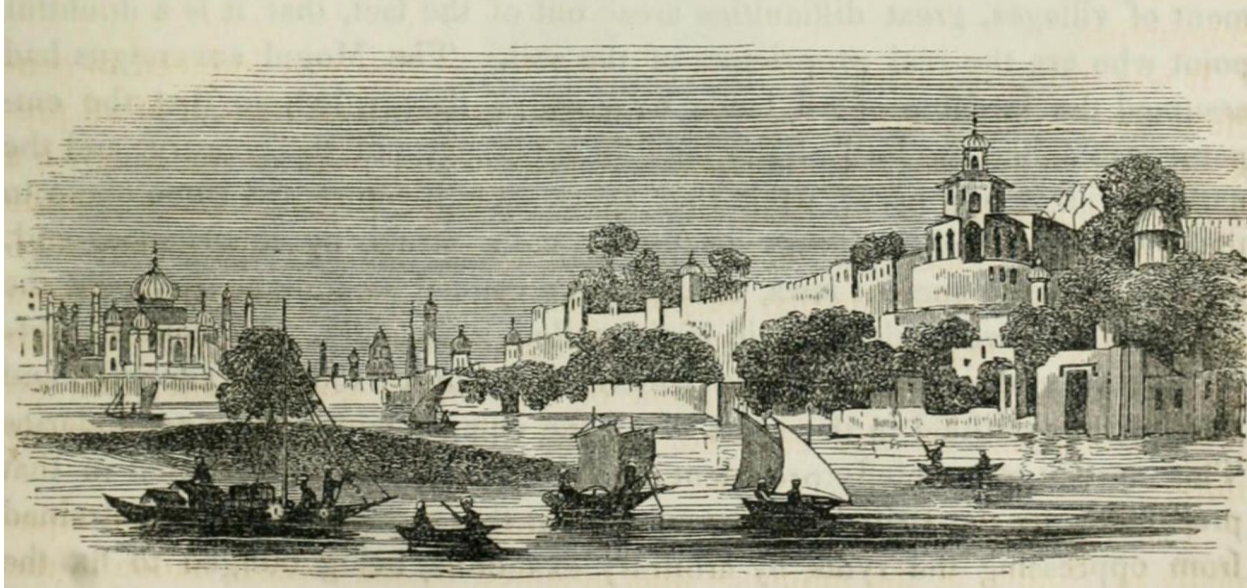
Day 1 – Tuesday, February 6: 1:55PM departure from Toronto to Dubai with Emirates Airlines flight EK 242.

Day 2 - Wednesday, February 7: Arrival in Dubai at 11:40AM. Connecting flight to Delhi, departing at 3:10 and arriving at 7:55PM. Immediate transfer to the hotel Royal Plaza or similar.

Day 3 - Thursday, February 8: Sightseeing tour of both Old Delhi with its narrow streets and bustling bazaars and memories of the Mughal Empire, in the morning, and New Delhi, conjuring up the British Era as well as Independent India, in the afternoon. Highlights will include the famous Red Fort and Humayun’s Garden Tomb,

both UNESCO World Heritage Sites; Jama Masjid, the greatest mosque in India; the towering minaret of Qutab Minar, another UNESCO World Heritage Site; India Gate; the Presidential Palace, and Gandhi's Tomb.

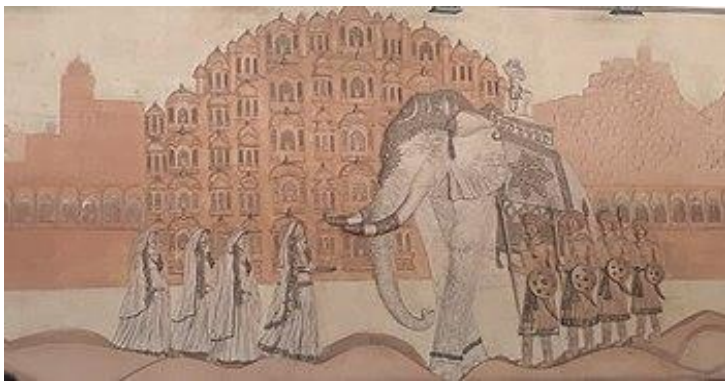
Day 4 - Friday, February 9: After breakfast, departure for the historical city of Agra, located in the state of Uttar Pradesh, a glorious city linked with the Mughal rulers and especially Shah Jahan, who built the Taj Mahal, zenith of Mughal architecture, in memory of his wife, Mumtaz Mahal. Arrival in Agra and check into the hotel Clark Shiraz or similar. Afternoon visit to Agra Fort, constructed for the Emperor Akbar in the 16th century, when Agra was the Mughal capital. The Fort is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, as is the city's other marvel, the Taj Mahal.



Ancient drawing of Agra, with the Taj Mahal on the left and the Fort on the right

Day 5 - Saturday, February 10: (260 km, 5/6 hours) Early morning visit to the world-famous Taj Mahal, one of the world most wonderful travel experiences, especially at sunrise! Return to the hotel for breakfast, followed by departure for Jaipur. En route visit to Fatehpur Sikri, founded by Emperor Akbar to serve as his capital but abandoned because of an inadequate water supply, thus morphing into an impressive ghost town, an intact masterpiece of Muslim architecture. Then we cross into the state of Rajasthan and head for the historic city of Jaipur, the "City of Victory" founded in 1727AD by, and named after, the great ruler Sawai Jai Singh II who was also a poet and an astronomer. Accommodation in Hotel Shahpura House or similar.

Day 6 - Sunday, February 11: After breakfast, we ride an elephant to 18th-century Amber Fort, the city's paramount attraction, perched high on a ridge. Afternoon tour of the "Pink City", with the imposing City Palace, where the local Maharaja still lives, but we may visit many rooms featuring antiques and artefacts belonging to the ruling family, including a collection of weapons.



We will also visit Hawa Mahal, "Palace of the Winds", and the open-air Jantar Mantar Observatory to see the impressive astronomical instruments.

< Artist's impression of Jaipur

Day 7 - Monday, February 12: After breakfast, departure for Bikaner. As always when travelling through India, you will find the ever-changing countryside fascinating, with countless picturesque

villages, people working in the fields, and camels, donkeys, horses, and other animals – a true feast for the eyes! Located in the vast Thar Desert and sometimes referred to as "camel city", Bikaner is another jewel of Rajasthan. Sightseeing upon arrival, with sights such as Karni Mata temple, Junagarh fort, and a camel breeding farm. We stay in the Lalgah Palace or a similar hotel.

Day 8 - Tuesday, February 13: This morning we motor from Bikaner to Jaisalmer, a drive of just over 300 km through the Thar Desert, a tentative UNESCO World Heritage Site, featuring sand dunes but also lakes and oases. En route, your tour host will tell you about the history of the Sarasvati, the “lost river” whose disappearance created the Thar Desert and the demise of India’s first great civilization. Before our arrival in Jaisalmer, we enjoy a camel ride in the sand dunes of the Thar Desert. Hotel Mandir Palace or similar.

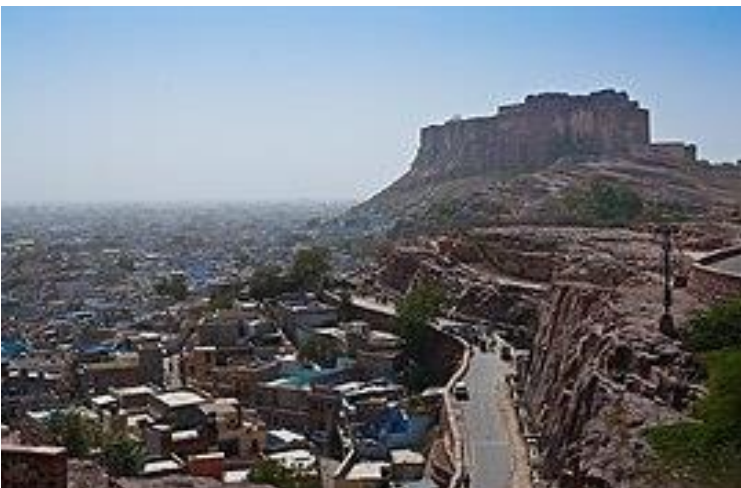
Day 9 - Wednesday, February 14: A full day of sightseeing in small but exotic Jaisalmer, the “golden city of the desert”, situated in the middle of a desert that stretches westward to the unfriendly Pakistan border, closed to foreigners as well as Indians. Jaisalmer is known as the last settlement in one of the outermost parts of India. The prime attractions here are Sonar Kila, a “living” or “working” fort with hotels and shops; the town’s famous *havelis*, museum-like homes of wealthy merchants and artisans; the cluster of Jain Temples, built in the Middle Ages and beautifully carved; Ghadsisar Lake, the city’s ancient source of water, surrounded by temples and tombs of saints; Manak Chowk, a popular bazaar; and Gyan Bhandar, a library featuring ancient manuscripts, some written on palm leaves, and paintings. The afternoon is free to shop or explore Jaisalmer on your own.

Day 10 - Thursday, February 15: Today we drive about 300 km to another great Rajasthan city, Jodhpur. We will take our time, enjoying the scenery and stopping occasionally to witness life in villages and towns such as Ramdevra, Osiyan, and/or Mandore. It will hopefully also be possible to visit Khichan with its sanctuary for thousands of cranes. Late afternoon arrival in Jodhpur, yet another beautiful and fascinating Rajasthan urban centre, known as the “Blue City” because most of the houses are painted in that colour. Hotel Ranbanka Palace or similar.

Day 11 - Friday, February 16: Morning sightseeing in Jodhpur, with focus on Mehrangarh Fort, a mighty citadel perched on a steep rock hill, allowing for a superb panorama of the bustling city below, as well as Jaswant Thada, royal cenotaphs built in white marble in a picturesque location near a lake.



Cranes in Khichan



< *Mehrangarh Fort in Jodhpur*

be used as the setting of many movies, including James Bond blockbusters.

Day 12 - Saturday, February 17: Our destination today is Udaipur, 250 km from Jodhpur, a trip that will offer another kaleidoscope of impressions of Indian nature and culture at their best! En route visit to the Ranakpur Temple, cradled in a verdant valley Aravalli Hills, on the banks of the river Maghai, one of the holiest places of the Jain faith. Dinner and overnight in Hotel Howard Johnson or similar in Udaipur, a city whose palaces, forts, temples, gardens, and lakes in romantic backdrops caused it to

Day 13 - Sunday, February 18: Morning city tour, with as highlights the enormous City Palace. Afternoon at leisure, and boat tour on beautiful Lake Pichola in the evening.

Day 14 - Monday, February 19: Early morning departure, as there will be lots to see today on our trip of 350 km! Entering the State of Gujarat, we visit a UNESCO World Heritage Site in the fortified town of Patan: an intricately carved stepwell of no less than seven levels, dating back to the 11th century AD, silted over by the nearby Sarasvati River, rediscovered in the 1940s, and restored in the 1980s; it was designed as an inverted temple, highlighting the sanctity of water. This will also include a visit to the Sahasralinga Tank, a medieval artificial water reservoir. On to the village of Modhera to inspect the famous local Hindu Sun temple, dedicated to the solar deity Surya located at Modhera village, another tentative UNESCO World Heritage Site, and late afternoon arrival in Bajana, a village in a region known as the Little Rann of Kutch. Accommodation in Hotel Royal safari Camp or similar.



Rani Ki Vav stepwell and the Sahasralinga Tank in Patan

Day 15 - Tuesday, February 20: Rann means “desert” and Kutch (or Kuchhh) is a district of Gujarat. The Rann of Kutch, consisting of the Little and the Big Rann of Kutch, is a vast region of salt marshes straddling the border between the State of Gujarat and Pakistan’s Sindh Province; it is a flat region, very close to sea level, watered by many rivers and flooded annually during the monsoon season, i.e. from June to September’ the waters evaporate during the long dry season, leaving the Rann dry again, morphed into salt desert but also grassland, both of which attract wildlife. Today we enjoy a full-day jeep safari into the Little Rann of Kutch, a salt marsh and biosphere reserve that is home to the Asiatic Wild ass, popularly known as Ghudkhar, as well as many species of migratory birds, e. g. cranes, ducks, pelicans, spoonbills, and flamingoes, falcons, eagles, and vultures, as well as mammals such as the Indian wolf, desert fox, gazelles, jackals, and nilgai, Asia’s largest type of antelope. The Wild Ass Sanctuary of Little Rann of Kutch has been placed on the UNESCO’s tentative list of World Heritage Sites.

Day 16 - Wednesday, February 21: After breakfast, we leave Bajana and motor a relatively short distance (200 km) to the town of Dholavira, located on an island in the middle of the Big Rann of Kuch, at times a white, salt-covered wasteland, where we will explore the fascinating and historic ruins of one of the many urban centres of the Harappan Civilization, also known as the Indus Valley Civilization IVC), a Bronze Age high culture similar to those of Egypt and Mesopotamia, that flourished in the third millennium BC but disappeared under circumstances that have become better known recently but continue to be the object of much controversy, as your guides will explain. Locally called Kotada Timba, the site is the second largest IVC site in India and fifth largest in Indian sub-continent. (Harappa and Mohenjo Daro, the best-known centres, are located in Pakistan.) Dholavira was recently (2021) adopted by UNESCO as a World Heritage Centre. Dinner and overnight stay in simple but comfortable accommodations, the Dholavira Tourism Resort (<http://dholaviratourismresort.com>)



Flamingos near Dholavira

Day 17 - Thursday, February 22: On the road again, and today's destination is another relatively small town, located about 300 km from Dholavira, Gondal, once an important one of the princely state that became part of British India but continued to be ruled by its lords of the Rajput dynasty. Upon arrival there, we will visit their Naulakha Palace, built in the 17th century and known for its stone carvings and exquisite balconies, before checking into Hotel Orchard palace.



< Artist's impression of ancient Lothal

Day 18 - Friday, February 23: Departure from Gondal after breakfast. After a drive of about 180 km, we reach the extremely important archaeological site of a 4,500-year-old city of the IVC, Lothal, discovered only in the 1950s. Here, we will inspect the impressive ruins of massive docks, warehouses, drainage systems, etc., showing clearly that this used to be a busy and sophisticated seaport, involved in trade with lands as far away as Mesopotamia. Lothal has been placed on UNESCO's tentative list of World Heritage Sites. After our visit, continue for dinner and overnight in Hotel Lemon Tree or similar in the big and bustling city of Ahmedabad, approximately an 80 km journey.

Day 19 - Saturday, February 24: After breakfast, we start our sightseeing program in Ahmedabad, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, which will include as many as possible of the following sites: Gandhi Ashram, a former house of Mahatma Gandhi, from where he began his historic 1930 protest march against a salt tax imposed by the British, now a Gandhi memorial and pilgrimage site; the Calico Museum, featuring a wonderful collection of handmade antique and modern Indian textiles; the Jama Masjid Mosque, built in 1423 by Ahmad Shah in 1423; Jhulta Minara, the mysterious swaying minarets of the Siddi Bashir Mosque; and Akshardham Temple, a splendid Hindu house of worship and a spiritual and cultural campus. Then we head for Ahmedabad airport in time for the departure of our short flight to the metropolis of Mumbai, formerly known as Bombay, the capital city of the State of Maharashtra. Arrival and transfer to the Hotel Fariyas or similar.



The Elephanta Caves



Old and new architecture in Mumbai

Day 20 - Sunday, February 25: All-day sightseeing in Mumbai, popularly known as “the city of dreams”, as people from across the country seek their fortune here. We start with a side trip to a UNESCO World Heritage Site, the Elephanta Caves, located on a nearby island, featuring temples carved from solid rock dating back to the 7th century. In the afternoon, tour of the city centre, with many buildings in the Victorian Neo-Gothic and Art Nouveau style, collectively classified as a UNESCO site, the monument known as the Gateway to India, the Towers of Silence, and Marine Drive. We finish with a visit to Malabar Hill, an upscale residential area known for the Hanging Gardens, a hillside park with a wonderful view of the city and the Arabian Sea. At the end of the tour, transfer to the airport in time for our departure for Dubai at 10PM, arriving just before midnight.

Day 21 - Monday, February 26: Flight Dubai to Toronto, departing at 3:55 AM and arriving at 9:15AM

**Tour price, based on double occupancy: \$8,995 (CAD) from Toronto – “land only”, from Delhi Airport on 7/2 to Mumbai Airport on 24/2: \$6,975
Single Room Supplement: \$675, but very limited availability.**

Included in the price are:

- International flights from Toronto - Delhi; Mumbai - Toronto. Domestic flight from Ahmedabad - Mumbai.
- Accommodation based on double occupancy, in first-class/4-star or “best available” hotels.
- Overland transportation by coach and/or minibuses.
- Breakfast, lunch, and dinner daily as outlined in the itinerary.
- All visits and sightseeing as outlined in the itinerary.
- Hotel taxes and gratuities.
- Services of local guides as well as a Pauwels Travel tour escort.

Not included:

- Mandatory Tourist Visa for India: approximately \$140 plus postage. Please click [here](#) or call the office for information on how to apply when Visa services reopen.
- Gratuities for local guides and drivers, in total approximately \$125 USD, to be collected by the tour director for disbursement as needed.
- Travel insurance.

REGISTRATION FORM

Please book _____ seat(s) on the “RAJASTHAN AND GUJARAT: India from Delhi to Bombay” tour on February 6th to 25th, 2024.

I wish to book on **group flights** _____ or **land only** _____.

If booking land only, please send the office a copy of your flight details.

Please be prepared to pay a deposit of **\$1200 per person and any applicable insurance premium** at time of registration. Balance is invoiced no later than 45 days prior to departure.

WE REQUIRE A COPY OF YOUR PASSPORT (INFORMATION PAGES ONLY) VALID 6 MONTHS AFTER TOUR TO BE SENT IN WITH YOUR REGISTRATION FORM.

NAMES AND INFORMATION: Please provide names as they appear on your passport.

Surname _____ First _____ Middle(s) _____

Date of Birth (ddmmmyyy): _____

Surname _____ First _____ Middle(s) _____

Date of Birth (ddmmmyyy): _____

Address: _____ City: _____

Postal Code: _____ Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email: _____

If traveling alone, please indicate if a **single room** is required: Yes _____ No _____

If sharing, please indicate your bed preference: twin (2 beds) _____ double (1 bed) _____

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS: Please list any dietary requests, allergies, special physical needs, or frequent flyer numbers etc., below. We cannot ensure requests made 30 days or less prior to departure will be possible.

INSURANCE: Review plans and rates by clicking [here](#) or calling the office. Record your quoted premium below:

All-Inclusive: _____ Emergency Medical: _____ Non-Medical/Trip Cancellation: _____

Decline Insurance: _____

PAYMENT: Cheque payable to Pauwels Travel, e-transfer to tours@pauwelstravel.com or call the office to provide credit card information (Visa, Mastercard, American Express) to Sandra or Jessica.

Amount To Pay: _____

CONSENT: “I/we agree to the terms and conditions attached to the program, have indicated our insurance choice, indicated any special requests and included payment.”

Date _____ Signature _____

Date _____ Signature _____

PAUWELS TRAVEL BUREAU LTD.

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TERMS & CONDITIONS

RESERVATIONS AND DEPOSITS:

Reservations should be made as early as possible to ensure the departure of your choice. No reservations will be accepted without a deposit and signed registration form. Deposit amounts vary by tour and are listed in the registration form.

REFUND OF UNUSED ARRANGEMENTS:

Because the rates of Pauwels Travel Bureau Ltd. are based on group participation, no refund can be made for any tour accommodation or tour service, or tour feature not taken. If cancellation occurs while the tour is in progress, no refund can be made for the tour portion not taken. We strongly advise that every client travel with all-inclusive insurance to allow for any unexpected contingencies.

CANCELLATION POLICY:

Refund of deposit is made if cancellation is received in writing by Pauwels Travel Bureau Ltd. more than 90 days prior to the departure date of the tour less a \$250.00 non-refundable administrative fee per person. For cancellation received in writing 90 days prior or less the following cancellation charges apply: 90 days to 61 days before departure: 35% of tour cost; 60 to 31 days before departure: 70% of tour cost; 30 – 0 days prior to departure: 100% of tour cost.

RESPONSIBILITY:

The acceptance of the initial service to be provided under the tour shall be considered an acceptance by the tour member of those conditions. We also reserve the right to decline, to accept or retain any person as a member of the tour. We reserve the right, without notice, to withdraw any part or all of the tour. Factors such as airline schedule changes, hotel overbookings, inclement weather, travel warnings by the Canadian Government etc. may necessitate changes in the itinerary. There may also be other circumstances in which changes become necessary or advisable. By commencing the tour, I agree to the release and agreement as included below.

RELEASE & AGREEMENT:

By placing my deposit, submitting my registration, and commencing the tour I understand and agree to the following:

1. That all tours are delivered in conjunction with other service providers, including but not limited to travel agent and booking services, airlines, hotel and accommodation providers, transportation providers including but not limited to coach, train and ferry services, restaurant providers, and local guides. We shall not be held responsible for the failure by any person or company to render any transportation, lodging or other travel service to be provided on the tour. All hotels, transportation and other travel services are provided subject to all the terms and conditions under which they are offered to the public generally.
2. I know that tour programs include walking and may include hiking and fitness programs that have potentially hazardous activities associated with them. I should not participate prior to approval by my physician. I assume any and all other risks associated with these events included but not limited to falls, contact with other participants, the effects of the weather including high heat and/or humidity.
3. To release, indemnify and hold harmless Pauwels Travel Bureau and their affiliates (which term shall include parents, subsidiaries, officers, directors, shareholders, agents and employees of Pauwels Travel Bureau as well as Pauwels Travel themselves) (the "Released Parties") from, and agree not to sue the Released Parties for, any claims that I may have arising from, or in connection with, any personal injury, bodily injury, mental anguish, emotional distress, physical, property or other damage that I may suffer from any cause whatsoever related in any way to my participation in this tour. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, I release, indemnify and hold harmless the Released Parties from, and agree not to sue them for any personal injury, bodily injury, mental anguish, emotional distress, physical, property or other damage that I may suffer from the Released Parties' negligence other than from intentional or reckless acts by such parties. I further agree to release, indemnify and hold harmless the Released Parties from any and all acts of

God, war (whether declared or undeclared), terrorist activities, incidents of politically motivated violence, illness or quarantine, strikes or government restrictions or the acts or omissions of any other agents over which the Released Parties have no direct or indirect control, including, without limitation, airlines, railways, bus companies, hotels, shipping companies, guides and sub-contracted agents or tour operators. This release also includes activities not offered that may be considered risky. I further release any Tour Directors, bus drivers or other individuals involved in my tour.

4. That the air carrier's liability for loss of or damage to baggage or property, or for death or injury to person, is limited by their tariffs, or the Warsaw Convention, or both.

5. That Pauwels Travel Bureau shall have no liability or responsibility for me when I am absent from activities, such as visits to friends or relatives or during pre-tour/post-tour option periods if the pre-tour/post-tour period does not include the services of a Tour Director.

6. To abide by the directions of my Tour Director or other leadership personnel during my tour. Failure to do so may result in my termination from the tour immediately. I understand that to disobey such rules or directions is to waive the right to any refund, and that I may be sent home at my own expense. The participant and family undertake full financial responsibility for any damage caused by the participant and agree to pay his/her return home on the first available flight, should his/her behavior be deemed detrimental to the welfare of the group.

7. To abide by all local laws when in Canada and abroad, including those concerning drugs and alcohol. (Minors must have parents' permission to use alcohol even if the local law would otherwise permit them to). I understand that if I abuse or disobey such laws, even unintentionally, I waive my right to a refund, and Pauwels Travel may send me home at my own expense. I also understand that should local authorities be involved; I will be subject to the laws of the country I am visiting.

8. That if I become ill or incapacitated, Pauwels Travel and its employees, or a designated chaperone may take any action they deem necessary for my safety and well-being, including securing medical treatment (at my own expense) and transporting me home. In the event of a medical emergency, Pauwels Travel will attempt to cause appropriate treatment to be administered, and the traveller authorizes Pauwels Travel to do so. Pauwels Travel, however, makes no warranty that it will be able to cause effective (or any) emergency treatment to be administered.

9. That Pauwels Travel may use any film likenesses taken of me and any of my comments while on a tour for future publication and use my contact information for future Pauwels Travel communications.

A WORD ABOUT GROUP AIRFARES:

Please note that when booking one of our air inclusive tours, Pauwels Travel has negotiated reduced rates with the airline that we are able to confirm and lock in up to 359 days before travel. While it is wonderful to share the savings and flexibility this provides with you, our valued guests, the privilege does come with some restrictions. In some cases, it may not be possible to collect frequent flyer miles, you may not be able to check in online 24 hours before travel, or you may need to try checking in with your ticket number rather than your booking reference. Additionally, most airlines do not allow advanced seat-selection on group airfares. It is the airline's policy, not ours, that prevents us from assigning specific seats. If a request is made, it is passed on to the airline by our staff when they submit the names to the airline 60 days prior to departure but no requests are guaranteed. Our staff will not be able to aid in advanced seat selection if the airline does not allow it on the group airfare. If a certain type of seat is indispensable to you, we suggest that you book our tour on a "land only" basis and make individual flight arrangements, in which case you may be able to get the seat of your choice; Pauwels Travel would be happy to assist you with that reservation. We will offer you the best fare available, but please note that this can only be done once a tour is a guaranteed departure because individual airfare conditions are stricter than the conditions of the group airfare rate. We thank you in advance for your kind understanding of the above!