To be added at the end of the Grand India Panorama! Orient Odyssey – *Journeys beyond the ordinary*™

Optional Extension to Nepal

Tour Code: Nepal Ext. for INP - 2015 / 2016

Inclusive Cost \$ 860 per person double occupancy (if a single room is required, single supplement \$289) + Round Trip Airfare between Delhi – Kathmandu – Delhi from \$180 per person



B-Breakfast, L-Lunch, D-Dinner, F-In flight snacks & meals, SL / SD-Special local flavor meal or banquet

Day17 Delhi – Kathmandu, Nepal

Say good-bye to India, as we check-in for *Jet Airway*'s flight 9W264, leaving at 1:45 p.m., arriving in Kathmandu Tribhuvan International Airport at 3:45 p.m.. After immigration and customs, our guide will greet and accompany us to the 5 star, luxurious, *Hyatt Regency Kathmandu*. Kathmandu has long been regarded as one of the far corners of the world.

The British writer, **Rudyard Kipling**, captured its mystique when he wrote "the wildest dreams of Kew are the facts of



Kathmandu". For centuries Kathmandu was forbidden to outsiders. But since opening its doors to the world in the early 1950s, it has become one of the traveler's most desired destinations. These days Kathmandu is a large, bustling, madly colorful city, a fascinating



juxtaposition of medieval and modern. We enjoy remaining of the day as free days to rest, or to explore at our own pace the winding lanes and ancient courtyards of this enchanting capital. B/F

Day18 Kathmandu and Surrounding Area (Swayambhunath, Pashupatinath and Boudhnath) Today we set out to explore the treasures of Kathmandu. Nepal's capital is a delight to the senses and the imagination. In the morning we will visit Kathmandu's old and current heart, Durbar Square and Hanuman Dhoka, a beguiling



complex of buildings, temples and courtyards, thronged with street merchants, wandering holy men, pilgrims, wide-eyed rustics from the hills, and businessmen worshipping at any of a score of little shrines. Not to miss is the Temple of Living Goddess - if we are lucky, we might catch a glimpse of her exquisite beauty, as she

frequently acknowledges the greetings of the devotees from the balcony of her temple residence. We continue our sightseeing with a visit to the Buddhist stupa of Swayambhunath, begun over 2,000 vears ago and regarded as the mythical origin of



Kathmandu. The stupa is dedicated to the Adi

Buddha or **the Buddha of the cosmic axis** and is an active center of pilgrimage. The main structure is composed of a solid brick and earth. It supports a lofty conical spire capped by a pinnacle of copper gilt. There are seeing eyes of **Lord Buddha** painted on all four sides of the base. Next we proceed to the east bank of sacred <u>River Bagmati to view Pashupatinath</u>, a pagoda style structure with gilded roof and richly carved silver doors. It is the center of annual pilgrimage on the day of Shivaratri which falls in February and March. Our next stop is Boudhnath, one of

the biggest stupa in the world of its kind. Four pairs of eyes are painted facing four cardinal directions, keeping watch for righteous



behavior and human prosperity. The octagonal base is surrounded by prayer wheels and flags. B

Day19 Excursion to Bhaktapur and Patan

After breakfast, we pay a visit to Bhaktapur, also called Bhadgaon, meaning "*City of Devotees*". Said to have been designed in the ninth century to resemble the form of **God Vishnu's** conch shell, Bhaktapur is Kathmandu Valley's most



medieval city. Today it still retained much of its old character and identity. Its preserved state is probably why it was chosen as the location for much of

the film, **The Little Buddha**. Here we will marvel at the ancient temples and palaces adorned with intricately carved windows and latticework. The structures showcase some of the best of **Newar** craftsmanship. Its Durbar Square and array of temples are overlooked by

the impressive palace of 55 windows, built by **King Bupatindra Malla**. The famous Nyatapola Temple is guarded by striking figures – two famous strong men, two elephants, two lions, two griffins and two goddesses, all standing on each



of its five terraces. Later afternoon we head for <u>Patan</u>, the city of fine arts, which is sometimes

called "*the town with a thousand golden roofs*". Located just south of Kathmandu, Patan is one of the three ancient **Malla** Kingdoms, and remains a center for craftsmen and artists anxious to preserve their traditions. We will visit the beautiful Hiranya Varna Mabavihar and



Mahadouddha Temple, and enjoy a leisurely stroll on the bustling Durbar Square. B

Day20 Kathmandu – Delhi - USA

After the breakfast, we have time to savor the memory of our thrilling Grand India and Nepal Panorama Odyssey. The guide will escort us to the airport and assist our check-in for *Jet Airways*' flight 9W261 leaving at 4:45 p.m., arriving in Delhi at 6:15 p.m.. Connect with our homebound transpacific flight out of Delhi, we will reach USA on the next day depends on the flight schedule. B/F

Kindly refer to General Terms & Conditions

