

Ladakh & Bhutan

HIMALAYAN KINGDOMS

WITH DR MALCOLM DAVID ECKEL



**FAR
HORIZONS**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL TRIPS

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BHUTAN & LADAKH

with Dr. Malcolm David Eckel



Behold the Himalayan Kingdoms

The tiny, isolated Himalayan kingdoms of Ladakh and Bhutan are squeezed between the powerful countries of China and India. For centuries, their monarchs enjoyed absolute power in their mountain strongholds, venerated by their subjects as embodiments of gods, but in the 20th century, the supremacy of these domains fell. In 1947, partition left Ladakh as part of India, and in 2005, Bhutan became a constitutional monarchy.

Join Far Horizons and just 13 other guests on this 18-day journey through these two remarkable Himalayan Kingdoms. The enticing itinerary includes the remote high-altitude beauty and vibrant Tibetan Buddhist culture of Ladakh, one of the highest regions in the world, frequently called "Little Tibet."

From the capital of Leh, drive through dramatic scenery to view elaborately decorated Buddhist sanctuaries, stupas, and former royal palaces found in the nearby rugged valleys and magnificent towering crags. Scattered throughout are traditional Tibetan Buddhist monasteries filled with stunning murals and Hindu shrines of the Nepali people. In Bhutan, emerald rice paddies cascade down the hillsides, remote centuries-old monasteries cling to the cliffs, and massive Buddhist sanctuary fortresses dominate picturesque towns where houses are decorated with magical charms to keep the evil spirits away. It is truly an enchanting part of the world!

Along with Buddhist specialist and The Great Courses lecturer [Professor Malcolm David Eckel](#), delight in a unique adventure through these Himalayan kingdoms on this unforgettable tour.



Daily Itinerary

Day 1

Arrive in Delhi

Arrive in New Delhi, India. Transfer to the 4-star Pride Plaza Aerocity Hotel, located at the airport, for one night.

Day 2

Fly to Leh, visit LEDEG Center

Fly to Leh, Ladakh, with free time to rest and adjust to the altitude. In the late afternoon, we visit the LEDEG Center (Ladakh Ecological Development Group). This Center promotes ecological and sustainable development in harmony with traditional Ladakhi culture.

Overnight for three nights in the 4-star Grand Dragon Hotel. (B/D)

Day 3

Leh: Shanti Stupa, Shankar Monastery, Leh Palace, Central Asian Museum

For centuries, Leh was an important trading center and the capital of the former Himalayan kingdom of Ladakh. Magnificently encircled by soaring mountain peaks, it is one of the highest permanently inhabited cities in the world. The inhabitants of Leh are predominantly Buddhists in the Tibetan tradition, and the old city is a rare example of an intact historic Tibetan-Himalayan urban settlement. We will spend our first day in Leh exploring the city.

Situated on a precipitous hilltop, the white-domed Shanti Stupa offers a panoramic view of the city. The memorial holds relics of the Buddha that were enshrined by the 14th Dalai Lama. Shankar Monastery, of recent construction, is known for the paintings that ornament its walls and doors. Namgyal Tsemo Monastery was founded in the 16th century and boasts a three-story high statue of Maitreya, the Buddha of the future.

Towering over the old town, Leh Palace is the visual symbol of the traditional heritage of Ladakh. Built of stone, it is nine levels high and modeled after Lhasa's Potala Palace. The upper floors once accommodated the royal family, with stables and storerooms situated below. The palace was abandoned during a siege by Kashmiri forces in the mid-19th century. First opened in 2011, the Central Asian Museum, housed in a four-story stone tower that replicates a historic Lhasa mansion, focuses on Leh's role in trade along the Silk Road. (B/L/D)



Daily Itinerary *(cont'd)*

Day 4

Thiksey Monastery, Shey Palace, Stok Monastery, SOS Tibetan Refugee Camp

The massifs around Leh are home to several spectacular Buddhist sites.

Thiksey Gumpa, built in 1430, sits atop a mountain about 12 miles east of Leh. As part of the Gelukpa order, it contains several shrines, including one dedicated to the goddess Dorje Chenmo. The largest and most lavishly endowed monastery of Ladakh, the impressive Hemis Gumpa, was built in the 17th century. It is adorned with brightly colored prayer flags that flutter in the breeze and fill the landscape with the blessings of the Buddha.

Shey Monastery and Palace served as the summer seat of the Ladakhi kings. In its inner sanctum, there is an imposing, three-story statue of Shakyamuni, the Buddha of the present era.

Founded in the 14th century, Stok Monastery is particularly well known for its library, housing a collection of 108 volumes of the Buddha's teachings.

In the afternoon we visit the SOS Tibetan Refugee Camp at Choglamsar, built for refugees who fled to Ladakh during the Chinese takeover of Tibet. (B/L/D)



Day 5

Spituk Monastery, Phyang Monastery, Alchi Monastery

This morning we depart Leh for the Sham Valley, visiting two of Ladakh's most sacred monasteries en route. The 11th century Spituk Gumpa belongs to the Gelukpa, or Yellow Hat, order of Tibetan Buddhism and contains an unusual collection of masks used in sacred dances. Perched precariously atop a rocky hill, the monastery is known for its intricate murals, ancient stupas, and breathtaking views of the surrounding landscape.

Phyang Monastery is one of the earliest monasteries in Ladakh belonging to the Drikung Kagyu, Dri-gung-pa or Drigungpa school, one of eight schools derived from the teachings of Phakmadrupa Dorje Gyelpo. Founded in the 16th century, the interior of Phyang Monastery exhibits a series of intriguing frescos and includes a 900-year-old museum with an extensive collection of artifacts, including ancient Himalayan armaments. Continuing our journey, we will stop at the enigmatic Magnetic Hill, where cars seem to defy gravity and roll uphill effortlessly, and Nimmu, where we will witness the confluence of the Zaskar and Indus rivers.

Our final stop is Alchi, the site of some of the most famous and important paintings in Western Tibet. Many are nearly one thousand years old and depict the topography of Buddhist heavens, Buddhist divinities, and scenes of traditional Buddhist life.

Overnight for two nights at Uley Ethnic Resort in Uleytokpo, the first fully solar-powered tourism project in Ladakh. (B/L/D)



Day 6

Lamayuru Monastery, Rizong Monastery, Chulichan Nunnery

Begin today with a visit to Lamayuru Monastery, believed to be the oldest monastery in Ladakh. Take a leisurely walk through the serene monastery complex, admiring the intricate Buddhist wall paintings and statues that adorn its walls, and observe the monks engaging in their daily rituals.

After lunch, our return drive to Uleytokpo takes us to Rizong Monastery. This 18th century spiritual center is known for its stunning architecture and beautiful murals depicting various scenes from the life of Buddha. Explore the monastery's many chambers and chapels, each offering unique insights into Buddhist history and culture.

Finally, we stop at Chulichan Nunnery, a tranquil retreat for female practitioners of Buddhism. Interact with the nuns and learn about their daily lives. (B/L/D)

Day 7

Likir Monastery, Basgo Gompa

Today drive back towards Leh and on to Tegar (seven hours total driving time) via Khardung La Pass, the 2nd highest motorable pass in the world. En route we stop at Likir Gompa. Established in 1065, this monastery is the site of a monastic training school associated with the Central Institute of Tibetan Studies and is the seat of Ngari Rinpoche, the younger brother of the Dalai Lama. Looming over Likir Monastery is a 75-ft-high golden statue of Maitreya Buddha. Our final stop is Basgo Gompa, a 17th-century mudbrick fortress rising over the ruins of an ancient Ladakhi town.

Continue to Tegar Village. Located in the fabled Nubra Valley of Ladakh, on the banks of the Nubra River, and the last stop of the ancient Silk Route, Lchang Nang Luxury Retreat is our home for the next three nights. (B/L/D)

Day 8

Diskit Monastery, Hunder Monastery and Village

Diskit Monastery offers a unique glimpse into the rich history and cultural heritage of Ladakh. Founded in the 14th century by Changzem Tserab Zangpo, the monastery played a significant role in the spread of Buddhism in Nubra Valley. During the reign of King Grags-pa'bum-lde, an attempt was made to usurp Nubra Valley from the local ruler, Nyig-ma-grags-pa. However, the local ruler, with the assistance of a Gelugpa order advocate, built Diskit Monastery and deified the idol of Tsong Khapa, the founder of the Gelugpa sect. After a walk around the picturesque Hunder Village and a visit to its monastery, which houses rare Buddhist artifacts and offers stunning panoramic views of the surrounding landscape, return to the hotel with some time to rest and enjoy lunch on our own.

In the late afternoon, we embark on a truly authentic experience to visit a local family and learn about their traditions, customs, and way of life. We will enjoy a cooking demonstration using fresh local ingredients, in the warmth of a traditional wood-burning stove. (B/D)



Daily Itinerary *(cont'd)*

Day 9

Samstanling Monastery, Ensa Monastery, Sumur Sand Dunes

Today we visit two important spiritual sites that offer a unique glimpse into Ladakh's rich Buddhist heritage. Samstanling Monastery, located in the village of Sumur in the Nubra Valley, was founded in 1848 and continues to serve more than 50 monks every day. The remoteness of its location adds to the monastery's aura and mystique, and its stunning red, gold, and white exterior makes it stand out against the rugged landscape.

In the afternoon we will explore Ensa Monastery. Perched on a rocky outcrop, its location commands a spectacular vantage point overlooking the convergence of the Nubra and Shyok rivers. The isolation of Ensa Monastery has helped preserve its tranquil and untouched atmosphere, making it an ideal retreat for those seeking spiritual solace and reflection. Inside, ancient murals and intricate frescoes that adorn the walls tell stories of Buddhist lore and teachings.

On our return to Tegar, we make a stop at picturesque Yarab Tso Lake, with time for a leisurely walk around the perimeter to marvel at the stunning reflections of the surrounding mountains on the crystal-clear waters. In the late afternoon, we have the option to experience the thrill of a camel ride at the Sumur Sand Dunes. (B/L/D)



Day 10

Sakti Village and Takthok Monastery, Ladakhi Music and Dance Show

An early morning departure takes us back to Leh over the Wari La Pass (total drive time is six hours). En route, we stop at Sakti Village to visit Takthok Monastery, the only Nyingma monastery in Ladakh. Founded in the mid-16th century, its mountainside location around a cave is said to be where Padmasambhava meditated in the 8th century.

Upon arrival in Leh, we return to the Grand Dragon Hotel for one night. Tonight, we celebrate our time in Ladakh with a traditional music and dance performance before dinner. (B/L/D)



Day 11

Fly to Delhi, Driving tour of New Delhi, Humayun's Tomb

A late-morning flight takes us back to New Delhi and the Pride Plaza Aerocity Hotel near the airport, our home for one night.

In the afternoon, we embark on a driving tour of India's capital to understand its captivating blend of the ancient and modern. During our adventure, we will visit the lovely complex of buildings commissioned by the Mughal Emperor Humayun's wife to house her husband's tomb. We will also stop at India Gate, a monumental sandstone arch in New Delhi, 138 feet in height and dedicated to the troops of British India who died in wars fought between 1914 and 1919.

Return to the hotel with dinner on our own. (B/L)

Day 12

Fly to Bhutan, Transfer to Thimphu

Transfer back to the airport this morning for our flight to Paro. This flight is one of the most spectacular in the entire Himalayas, offering fascinating views of the mountain range from Kathmandu and an exciting descent into the Kingdom of Bhutan. After immigration formalities and baggage collection, we will be met and transferred to Thimphu, Bhutan's capital and largest city.

En route, we will stop at Chuzom, the confluence of the Thimphu and Paro rivers, adorned by three different styles of stupas: Tibetan, Nepalese, and Bhutanese.

Our home for the next two nights will be the 5-star Taj SeleQtions Yarkay Hotel, which seamlessly blends Bhutanese influences with modern comforts. (B/D)



Day 13

Thimphu: Tashicho Dzong, King's Memorial Chorten, Craft Bazaar

Today is dedicated to exploring Thimphu and its unusual mixture of modern development and ancient traditions. Thimphu maintains a strong national character in its architectural style, evident by our first visit to Tashicho Dzong, a massive, fortified monastery standing on the western bank of the Wang Chu River. Built in 1641 by the political and religious unifier of Bhutan, Zhabdrung Ngawang Namgyal, it was reconstructed in the 1960s in the traditional Bhutanese manner, without nails or architectural plans. Since 1952 it has served as the seat of government and contains the throne room and offices of the king.

Next, we stop at the King's Memorial Chorten, a shrine dedicated to Bhutan's third king, Jigme Dorji Wangchuk, who is known as the father of modern Bhutan. The large, whitewashed structure is crowned with a golden spire dedicated to World Peace and is continuously circumambulated by people, murmuring mantras, and spinning their prayer wheels.

Before returning to the hotel, we will take a leisurely walk to the local craft bazaar, offering genuine Bhutanese arts and crafts that promote, protect, and preserve traditional arts. (B/L/D)

Day 14

Changangkha Lhakhang, Dochula Pass, Gangtey Monastery, Black-Necked Crane Information Centre

As we leave Thimphu, we will stop to see Changangkha Lhakhang, a fortress-like temple built in the 12th century on a promontory overlooking Thimphu. The white-washed outer walls are equipped with long lines of metal prayer wheels. Dominating the inner sanctum is a statue of Chenrezig, the 1000-armed bodhisattva of compassion.

We ascend through dramatic mountain scenery of dense evergreen cypress forests, and then a profusion of colorful prayer flags fluttering in the wind as we reach the summit of the 10,200-foot Dochula Pass. With the snow-clad mountain peaks of the Himalayas above, we will stop at the crest to view the 108 red-banded chortens built to honor the Bhutanese soldiers who were killed in the December 2003 battle against Assamese insurgents from India. Our destination is the RKPO Green Resort in Gangtey (total drive time is 5 hours), our home for one night.

Today is the Gangtey Tshechu! Held in the large courtyard of the Gangtey Monastery, the festival celebrates the 8th-century Tantric master Guru Padmasambhava who introduced Buddhism in Bhutan. Festooned in flamboyant costumes, the masked dancers twirl and spin as they showcase the many stories and legends of the culture. Around the edges of the courtyard, people from nearby communities, dressed in their finest clothes, gather to witness the mesmerizing performances.

Time permitting, we will stop in the Black-Necked Crane Information Centre to learn about the rare, black-necked cranes that migrate annually to this valley from their home on the high Tibetan plateau. (B/L/D)

Day 15

Gangtey Tshechu: Throngdal Ceremony, Chimi Lhakhang, Punakha Dzong

Early this morning, we will return to the Gangtey Tshechu to see the Throngdal Ceremony where a large appliquéd religious banner, a sacred Thongdrel, is unrolled and displayed once a year for a few hours on the last day of the festival. Composed of several layers, mostly of silk, it typically depicts a seated Guru surrounded by holy beings and is the largest form of thangka painting in the tradition of Tibetan Buddhism. The mere viewing of the unfurled Thongdrel is said to cleanse the viewer of any sins.

We will then walk to the Chimi Lhakhang, or Fertility Temple, originally erected in the late 15th century for the maverick saint Drukpa Kunley. Known as the “Divine Madman” for his unorthodox ways of teaching Buddhism, he adopted the phallus as his symbol. Childless women come to the monastery to be blessed with a thump on the head by the Lama with a large replica of a penis. The sanctuary is the repository of the original wooden phallus brought to Bhutan by Drukpa Kunley, and the interior is adorned with replicas of the icon. Standing nearby is a huge Bodhi Tree that is believed to have been brought as a sapling from Bodhgaya in India.

We will also see Punakha Dzong, the second oldest and second largest dzong in Bhutan and one of the country’s most majestic structures. Overnight at the Dhensa Boutique Resort in Punakha for one night. (B/L/D)



Daily Itinerary *(cont'd)*

Day 16

Drive to Paro, Kyichu Lhakhang

This morning, we return to picturesque Paro (total drive time is 4 hours), the location of Bhutan's international airport.

In the afternoon, we visit the imposing Kyichu Lhakhang. The heart of this temple is said to have been built in the 7th century by Songtsen Gampo, Tibet's first Buddhist king, to mark the southern boundary of his Tibetan empire.

The 5-star Le Meridien Paro Luxury Hotel, located on the edge of the Paro River and offering stunning views of the Eastern Himalayas, is our home for the next two nights. (B/L/D)



Day 17

Optional Hike to Tiger's Nest, Ta Dzong, Rinpung Dzong

Embark on an optional hike to Tiger's Nest, or Paro Taktsang, a sacred Vajrayana Himalayan Buddhist monastery high on a cliffside of the upper Paro Valley and Bhutan's most iconic landmark (NOTE: this hike departs in the early morning and will take up to 6 hours roundtrip; you may miss one of the afternoon visits outlined below as a result).

In the afternoon we visit Ta Dzong, positioned on a hill overlooking Paro and built in the 17th century in a circular shape to serve as a fortified watchtower. Formerly used as an ordnance depot for a rural militia in the event of war, it now is the National Museum of Bhutan displaying more than 3000 pieces of Bhutanese art and historical objects.

After surveying this treasure trove of artifacts, we move on to Paro Dzong, also known as Rinpung Dzong, just down the steep slope. Built in the 17th century, this fort protected the Paro Valley from frequent Tibetan invasions. Both the exterior and interior of the fortress are richly decorated with murals. Below is a wooden covered bridge that crosses the Paro River.

Enjoy a festive farewell dinner at the hotel. (B/L/D)



Daily Itinerary *(cont'd)*

Day 18

Return flight to Delhi, International flights home

A morning flight takes us back to New Delhi, India to connect to the international flights back home. Day-use rooms at the Pride Plaza Aerocity Hotel, located at the airport, will be provided until 9 pm. (B)

PLEASE NOTE: This is a sample itinerary that is typical of our trip offerings. In general, you can expect a very similar program, though days may be swapped depending on availability, opening hours, and other affecting factors.

Pre and Post Trip Extensions

Far Horizons offers pre or post extensions for many of our trips. We can also arrange extra nights at the arrival and departure hotel should you wish to arrive early or depart later. Please contact us for details.



Why Take This Tour?

Led by Buddhist specialist and Great Courses lecturer, Professor Malcolm David Eckel

Tour the Himalayan Kingdoms of Ladakh and Bhutan

Join the festivities at Gangtey's Tashichho Festival

Optional trek to Bhutan's iconic Tiger's Nest

Limited to 14 participants



Tour Information

Pricing

For current pricing, please visit farhorizons.com and navigate to our trip page.

Inclusions

Price based on double occupancy and includes:

- Internal flights during the trip (if applicable/unless otherwise noted)
- The accompaniment of your scholar throughout the entire trip
- Local English-speaking guide
- Hotel accommodations (3 or 4 stars; or best available based in the area)
- Ground transportation
- Airport transfers for arrivals and departures
- Most meals as noted in the itinerary
- Entry fees to all included sites and museums
- Gratuities to guides, drivers, and restaurant and hotel staff
- Coordination for any private presentations or tours

Trip prices are based on a minimum number of participants. If this minimum number is not met, trip prices are subject to change. Should the prices need to change, Far Horizons will reach out to registered guests to discuss directly.

Single Supplement

Should a roommate be requested and one not be available, the single supplement will be charged.

Exclusions

- International round trip airfare
- A separate donation check of \$150.00 per person to a designated donation project
- Passport or visa fees
- Required vaccines or tests
- Airport or departure taxes
- Alcoholic drinks, beverages or food not included on set menus
- Excess baggage charges
- Personal tips and hotel incidental expenses
- Laundry or other items of a personal nature

Donation Checks

As a tour company that benefits from the cultural and natural riches of our destinations, we have a policy of donating to the scientific and cultural sites and projects which we visit. This has created a bond between Far Horizons and the academic and local communities that has helped us establish an extensive list of lecturers and contacts in each of our destinations. We ask that each participant donate to the noteworthy project we designate. The donation amount is \$150.00 per person. Note that the donation is required as part of your registration for the trip and that it is non-refundable.

Exchange Rate Fluctuations

Prices are based on currency exchange rates keeping below a projected level. While it is unlikely, if the exchange rates should change substantially, Far Horizons reserves the right to charge an additional amount to the trip cost.

Registration

A deposit of \$1000 per person is required along with your registration & health forms, which will be linked in the email confirmation you receive once you pay your deposit on our booking platform. Final payment is due 120 days before departure. Prior to departure, you will be sent a reading list and a tour bulletin containing travel information.



Tour Information *(cont'd)*

Cancellation

Cancellations received in writing at least 120 days before departure will receive a refund less a \$500 per person administrative fee. Cancellations received less than 120 days before the departure date will not receive a refund. If for any reason you are unable to complete the trip, Far Horizons will not reimburse any fees. Upon registering for the tour, the purchase of travel protection with both trip cancellation and emergency evacuation is strongly advised. Links to recommended insurance policies will be included in the email you receive confirming receipt of your deposit.

Expectations During Travel

Our trips are designed for flexible, energetic people who like to be active, have a spirit of adventure and a positive attitude. We have designed this trip to be as comfortable as possible, while also aiming to visit some remote or unique sites that other companies do not attempt to include in their itineraries. There may be days where we have very long drives and the conditions of the roads may vary. Hotels and transportation in some remote areas may not be up to western standards. There may be times when no bellhops are available; please pack with the understanding that you need to be able to handle your own luggage at times. Sometimes we may be walking over uneven trails for a mile or more; hiking boots are strongly recommended. Not every meal will be haute cuisine and several lunches may be picnics or box lunches. By maintaining a flexible attitude we will soon be captivated by the beauty of the natural scenery, the hospitality of the local people, and the fascinating sites we will see. Your flexibility and patience will be appreciated.

Air Ticketing

International round trip flights are not included in the cost of the trip. If Far Horizons must change the trip dates or cancel the trip for any reason, Far Horizons is not responsible for any air ticket you may have purchased. Please send your complete air schedule as soon as you have it. NOTE: Please contact Far Horizons if you would like for us to handle your air ticketing.

Private Tours and Talks

The private tours of archaeological sites and talks by specialists are scheduled in advance and include a donation to each. Specialists working at these sites are excited about showing their work to interested enthusiasts. However, please be aware that there may be times when the director or a member of the staff may not be on site when our groups arrive due to other commitments.

Walking and Standing

Far Horizons expects all participants to be physically active and able to walk and climb independently throughout the full touring days. This includes walking over uneven terrain (uphill and downhill) for 2 miles or more at each site. You should expect to be on your feet for much of each day, averaging as much as 5 miles of walking per day. **As such, each participant should be able to walk unaided at a pace of 3 miles per hour for at least an hour at a time, and to stand unsupported for at least 60 minutes.** Bearing this in mind, we suggest that, if you have not already done so, you begin walking several miles every day, ideally including stairs and hills. If you have questions about your ability to keep up with the group or the strenuous nature of this trip, please contact the Far Horizons staff.



Tour Information *(cont'd)*

Travel Insurance

We strongly recommend that you consider purchasing travel insurance. Should illness or an unforeseen event force you to cancel your travel plans after your final payment or during your trip, it would be doubly unfortunate to incur a significant financial loss. Trip cancellation protection will enable you to be reimbursed for the loss of your payment if you are unable to travel for any of the covered reasons in the "Outline of Coverage" section, or should you have an accident or suffer from any medical conditions during the trip.

Far Horizons offers customized protection plans through Travel Insured International (a Crum & Forster Company) with the following benefits:

- Trip Cancellation and Trip Interruption for covered reasons
- Trip Delay
- Baggage Loss and Baggage Delay
- Emergency Medical Expenses and Emergency Medical Evacuation
- 24-Hour Accidental Death & Dismemberment
- 24-Hour Travel Assistance & Concierge Services
- Option to upgrade to 'Cancel for Any Reason (CFAR)

We recommend reviewing the language in detail so you are aware of specific parameters; Depending on the policy, to waive the Pre-Existing Medical Condition Exclusion or to upgrade to CFAR coverage, the plan must be purchased within 14 to 21 days of the initial trip deposit, full trip cost must be insured, and traveler is medically fit at time of plan purchase. Otherwise, coverage may be purchased at any time prior to departure.

To obtain a personalized quote and/or purchase a plan through Far Horizons/Travel Insured International, simply click [HERE](#). For specific questions regarding the Worldwide Protector Plan, please contact Travel Insured International's Customer Care Center at 1-800-243-3174 or by email at customercare@travelinsured.com, and refer to Far Horizons' account number: 54070.

Itinerary Changes

Changes in our itinerary, accommodations, and transportation schedules may occur while traveling. While we are committed to keeping as close to the published details as possible, sometimes it is simply not possible. Weather events, government affairs, or other factors out of our control sometimes come into play. A good book to read as well as patience, flexible attitude, and a sense of humor are essential.





Meet Your Study Leader...

Dr. Malcolm David Eckel

After receiving a B.A. from Harvard, Malcolm David Eckel studied Religion and Sanskrit at Oxford before receiving a PhD from Harvard University in comparative religion, with special emphasis on the Buddhist traditions of South Asia.

He is Professor of Religion at Boston University, where he teaches courses on Buddhism, comparative religion, and the religions of Asia. Professor Eckel has been a recipient of a National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship and the Metcalf Award for Teaching Excellence, Boston University's highest award for teaching. He also has served as Director of the Institute for Philosophy and Religion, Director and Dean of the Core Curriculum, and Distinguished Teaching Professor of the Humanities.

Professor Eckel is a popular lecturer on [The Great Courses' lecture series](#). In addition to many articles, he has published three books on Buddhism: *To See the Buddha: A Philosopher's Quest for the Meaning of Emptiness*; *Buddhism: Origins, Beliefs, Practices, Holy Texts, Sacred Places*; and *Bhaviveka and His Buddhist Opponents*.

His deep experience as a traveler in India and Southeast Asia, and his knowledge of Buddhism and Hinduism, the two religions that dominate the cultures of South Asia, make Professor Eckel particularly suitable to lead his trips.





What People Are Saying About...

Dr. Malcolm David Eckel

“David’s scholarship & deep appreciation of the culture made him perfect for leading this trip. His gentleness & sense of humor added reality.”

- MEG ANDERSON

“David was one of the reasons I took your tour since I enjoyed his Great Courses lectures on Buddhism. He was friendly and approachable.”

- SUSAN BEZMAN



Why Travel with Far Horizons?

With over forty years of experience, and an 85% customer return rate, we have stood the test of time. Remind yourself what makes Far Horizons so unique.

✦ Scholar Led Tours

Every tour is led by a well-respected PhD scholar with expertise in the subject & regions we visit.

✦ Trusted Partnerships

Trusted Partnerships: Every tour is led by a well-respected PhD scholar with expertise in the subject & regions we visit.

✦ Behind the Scenes Access

Our groups have private access to closed areas and on-site specialists.

✦ Unique Trips

Our itineraries are designed to showcase sites that are off-the-beaten path; we explore places that many travelers never see.

✦ Personalized Service

We love knowing our guests and helping with the decision process. We are here to assist you.

✦ Small Groups

Our tours have a maximum of 14 travelers. So you can trust that you will have a boutique experience every time.



Ladakh & Bhutan HIMALAYAN KINGDOMS

WITH DR MALCOLM DAVID ECKEL

Email with Questions

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