



KENSINGTON TOURS ANNOUNCES FIRST FEMALE ADVENTURER IN EXPLORERS IN RESIDENCE SERIES

One Woman's Solo Journey through India – Following the Footsteps of Mirabai



NEW YORK (March 6, 2014) – Shortly after the launch of its well-received [Explorers in Residence](#) series, [Kensington Tours](#) has announced that award-winning travel writer Mariellen Ward is joining the company's collection of bona fide, 21st century adventurers with the addition of a new tour. The Explorers in Residence series is composed of a number of world-renowned scientists, historians, athletes, and authors who embark on Kensington-funded expeditions for extensive research and exploration. Upon their return, these Explorers in Residence lead small group tours on similar expeditions, showing the adventurous traveler how to truly explore the globe.

Mariellen Ward, who is no stranger to India, will embark on her expedition in October 2014, where she will follow in the footsteps of famed 16th century mystic, Mirabai. Known for her unwavering devotion to the god Krishna, Mirabai dedicated her life to praising her god and the composition of countless poems and *bhajans*, many of which are still read to this day. Mirabai was a pioneering example of an independent woman and accomplished all of this despite her family and society's disapproval of her lifestyle of solo journeys. Ward, a self-proclaimed mix between a grown-up Alice in Wonderland and Scheherazade, will spend four weeks traveling throughout Northern India, visiting a number of Mirabai temples, the mystic's hometown, as well as a multi-day festival held in Mirabai's honor.

"With the current trepidation many female travelers feel toward solo travel in India," says Phil Sproul, President of Kensington Tours, "we are thrilled to join Ms. Ward in showcasing a powerful Indian woman's story as she traverses this magical country again, with the independent spirit of this famed mystic."

Upon her return, Mariellen Ward will lead a Kensington Tours [itinerary](#) for travelers looking to uncover the mysteries of Mirabai. Mariellen said of the trip, "I'm excited about showing women the India I love and helping open their eyes to the beauty inherent in the seeming chaos."

In addition to this exciting journey through India, Kensington Tours offers a variety of other unique and adventurous Explorer in Residence trips, including:

- [China & The Tea Horse Road](#) – A unique journey over the Silk Road with renowned explorer, author, indigenous mountain culture expert, and tea connoisseur Jeff Fuchs. (*From \$8,695 per person*)
- [Mysteries of the Masai](#) – A cultural discovery through Kenya & Tanzania with Michael Strandberg (*From \$8,695 per person*)
- [Madagascar & Eco Culture Adventure](#) – An exotic safari through the so-called 8th continent with globally-renowned primatologist, Dr. Travis Steffens. (*From \$9,650 per person*)
- [Additional Explorer In Residence Itineraries](#)

Kensington Tours' *Compass Blog* will feature and follow these fascinating teams of explorers as they continue their ground-breaking exploration around the globe. The [Compass Blog](#) will host articles, field posts, videos and photos that celebrate and chronicle the great tradition of global exploration. Further information on the Explorers in Residence program and reservations for these Small Group Explorers itineraries, are available at KensingtonTours.com or by phone at 1-888-903-2001.

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About Kensington Tours: Kensington Tours offers custom and private guided tours to over 90 countries worldwide. The flexibility of Kensington's offerings results in tailor-made journeys that are carefully handcrafted to deliver personalized adventures like no other company. Kensington Tours was named to "World's Best Awards 2011" by Travel + Leisure Magazine and named one of the "Best Adventure Travel Companies on Earth," by the editors of National Geographic Adventure Magazine.

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