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## tailored TREKS

For many travelers, nothing beats one-of-a-kind trips that cater to their particular interests, however luxurious or off-the-wall

BY LARRY OLMSTED

This art is the reason why almost all the top bespoke travel providers have particular areas of expertise. No travel expert can claim to know the entire world intimately. "I lived and worked in Hong Kong for seven years, and my business partner lived in Asia for many years as well," says Catherine Heald, cofounder of Remote Lands. "We know Asia very, very well. We don't know Europe, we don't know South America. I think with this whole customization trend in travel, it is better to specialize, and this is especially true in Asia, where you are going to need more help than if you go to London."

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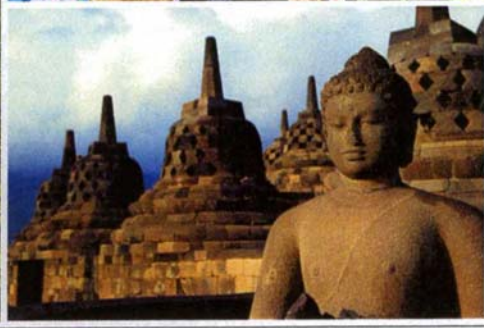
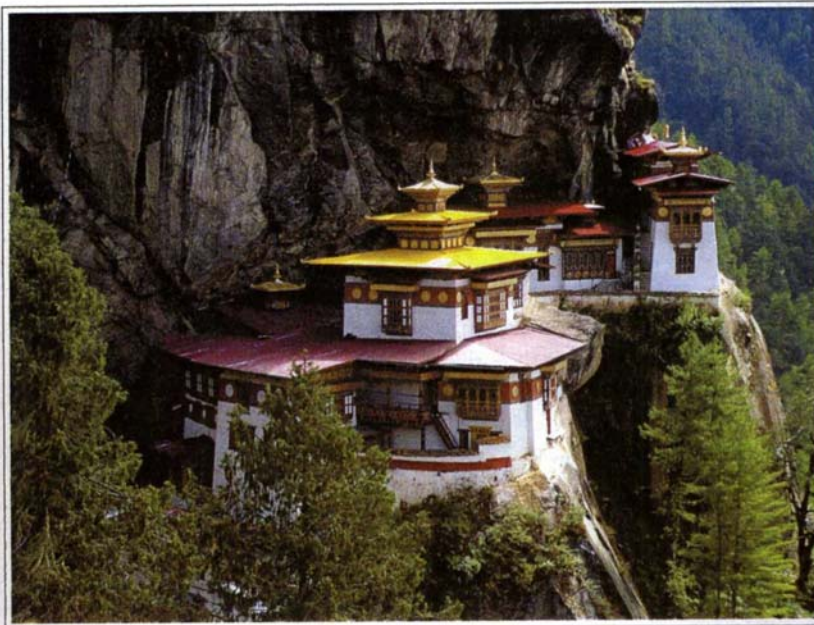


# THE TAILORS OF TRAVEL

The top bespoke travel providers specialize in particular regions or activities. Here are some of the best:

**Remote Lands:** Barnard College graduate Catherine Heald lived in Asia for seven years before founding Remote Lands with fellow Asia aficionado Jay Tindall, in 2006. The company is entirely Asia-focused and its customized trips feature locals, from monks to maharajas, fishermen to financiers, and nomads to nobility. (646-415-8092, [www.remotelands.com](http://www.remotelands.com))

“A lot of our clients want to meet local people during their travels, not celebrities, but rather to visit a Scottish castle and not just see the castle, but sit down to tea with the 16th earl.” Catherine Heald of Remote Lands notes that “it could be palaces with royalty one day and sitting down to a dinner at a remote indigenous village the next. “The point is to have a profound, life-changing experience.”



New York-based Remote Lands is entirely Asia-focused with trips in which travelers can mingle with (clockwise from top right) Naxi women in Yunnan province, China, and visit the Buddhist shrine in Borobudur, Central Java, Indonesia, and the Tiger's Nest Monastery in Paro, Bhutan.