



HIMALAYAN MULTI-DISTRICT-INDIA

"A LEARNING ADVENTURE CAMP 2016

21st MARCH - 4th APRIL 2016



Dear Surinder,

after my recovery I want to thank you for all you have done for us in this amazing two weeks in India.

Even though you do this for so many years and know so many people from all over the world you still had the will and felt pleasure by getting to know every one of us and his character traits and always tried to make every small part of India experienceable for us.

You did not only do this by organizing things all the time but also with your way to be always there to explain things to us and take care of us.

I really felt like a big family in this days with you as our head.

Thank you for making this happen and please keep on doing it as long as you can enjoy this because we young people from all over the world do really enjoy spending time with you!

You got your heart on the right spot.

Thank you Surinder,

love

Johannes

Dear Surinder,

first of all, I would like to apologize for not having written earlier; I came back home just before my final exams, and soon after that I started a journey with my father to Slovakia, Romania and Moldavia.

Thank you very much for a wonderful trip that you organized for us and for your care and attention. I have made a lot of new friends and memories of the time we all spent together will remain for a long time!

It was great to be able to experience the culture, where people we met were all friendly, happy and helpful. The visit to the tiger resort, then a trip to temple in the ancient city of Puri was an amazing and unforgettable experience. The best, however, was a visit to Sikkim, which has been the best place I visited in my life so far. The Himalayas are unbelievable and the view of Kangchenjunga was totally breathtaking! I would like to go back there one day and spend more time in the mountains. I was amazed with the performances of Gutu Pao, and I am grateful for the possibility to learn and practice yoga in India, which is a dream for many people! And, eventually, the White River rafting—the best end for our stay possible.

Thank you very much Surinder for this trip and I hope that you visit Poland too!

Warm regards to you and your family,

Jan

Dear surinder,

It is been about a month since we came back from one of the places that has fascinated the most my borther and I.

Traveling to India has meant for us to know new cultures, new people, new life, new food ... a myriad of experiences that have impacted us both and that have made us grow as human people, as well as we have learned to appreciate more the things both material and spiritual.

India is a country full of contrasts. Its landscapes are breathtaking, starting with the blue of the Indian coast, through the lush green forests of the interior up to the thick, white snow in the mountains of the Himalayas.

Its people are different but unique, with a culture and a lifestyle completely different from the European. You can find a different philosophy, a different mentality, I would say much more open than ours, as far as you live in harmony with a great diversity of religions and cultures in mutual respect.

Those two weeks were intense, there were moments of and for all, but all of them unique and special. Meet people, both native and fellow Rotarians from other countries with which we made a great friendship was a great experience. We learned a lot. We enjoy and savor every moment in India.

Thank you for everything Surinder. You were a great guide throughout the trip and at the end, you actually became a great friend too. We will remember you next to thins amazing trip for the rest of our live and we hope to meet again sometime back!

Sorry for the delay of these few words about our experience of the trip. We were catching up in our universities studies and we had no enough time. I hope to have express in some words at least a small part of everything we experienced and felt in the amazing country India.

Ariadna and Roger Corredera

"No-one saves us but ourselves, No-one can and no-one may, We ourselves must walk the path" - Buddha



Once again an unforgettable experience specially designed for the adventurous who would like to combine their time spent gaining knowledge with having fun! Learn about the

ancient culture and religions- Hinduism and Buddhism-at the holiest city of Puri, with its marvelous temples dating from 3rd century, situated at the exotic sea resort in the Bay of Bengal while engaging in discourses with the monks who will also teach YOGA. From there on to the picturesque Himalayan State of Sikkim, in the city of Peling and Gangtok, visiting the oldest monasteries, interacting with the Lamas. Browse in the only Buddhist University in the world, within the breathtaking Rumtek Monastery.



Visit the world's largest mangrove forest in the back waters of Bay of Bengal, far from the mad-



ding crowd, cruise in the river and lucky to sight a tiger in the wilderness. Along with 41 exchange students we were so fortunate to sight one in 2011. It has left an unforgettable deep impact!

The city Of Joy-Calcutta-Rev. Mother Teresa's Tomb to pay homage to a modern Saint, city which was the capital of India during British Rule, with its monuments and the oldest Rotary Club in Asia. Not to miss the shopping, which you will find to be delightfully cheap.

A meeting with Master Sculpturer and visit to his art gallery and workshop in Puri. A visit to an ARTISANS village, declared a world heritage VILLAGE, where each home is an artist's workshop. The Sun Temple of KONARK will we spell-binding, a 11th century masterpiece! And in Sikkim, Gangtok, will also be a flower show with some of the best orchids. One of the world's highest take, Tsongo, is a spectacular site situated at a height of more than 4000 mts. With view of the world's highest peaks! Added to all this will be white river rafting in the river teesta.



The adventure does not end here. The tremendous varieties in food, the people with 18 official languages, with 50 more and 100s of dialects. Clothes, culture, religions which coexist and not speak of different folk and classical dances. Memorable two weeks which will leave its imprint for a long time.

Memories penned down

Dear Surinder

It took me a long to write you a mail to thank you just because I didn't know to do it!

Everything we've seen in India made a deep impression and I'm still thinking about it every day.

Sometimes I have the feeling that I just do not have words to explain what I thought and felt up there with you in India.

We have seen a lot of people and we have been talking to a lot of people and there is certainly 1 thing that I will remember for the rest my life: you don't need a lot to be deeply happy and proud, It's my second week back to school and for my exam I will speak about the Sunderban and the tigers because I'm fascinated about it!!

I just want to thank you to show us such a great India. It was important as you said to come with an open mind and just experience the country. I really have another vision about India now (a better one) I'm so happy that I joined you on this trip and I'm thankful that you guided us there.

I'm missing the worm weather, the nice people etc.

Thank you very much Surinder for this great experience. Lo° of Love from Belgium

Louise



Dear Surinder,

Coming back to Romania was pretty hard because I feel that I left a part of myself in India. It is so hard to express what we have experienced in these 15 days. Words are not enough.

First of all, the people! I haven't even once felt threatened. Everyone is so friendly and kind. And most of the people are simple but as you said, poor and happy. They don't know more than that. And this is good. It made me realize that I complicate my life with so much more and don't actually leave enough time for what it matters to me. Indian people are fun, they love music and dancing and always smiling. This is what I loved. I didn't even need English to have a conversation with them. It was always so much fun to see how they were amazed by our "foreign" presence and us so intrigued by them. Even the simple things like all of them wanting to take photos with us and thanking many many times for that! I have always felt welcomed.

And then comes religion. I am still not sure in what I believe. I am young and searching for truth. But India always gave me a sense of mystique. A feeling that there is more than I could ever understand around us. The yoga and learning about Hinduism, and the talk with the Buddhist monk opened my eyes. It was great and changed me in a way that now I want to find balance in myself. In a way that makes me want to do more for the people, be better, calmer and happier with what I have. For example I try to meditate every morning and solve my worries and problems through that.

Then the food! Oh my god! It was great! So so flavorful and so simple. Mostly vegetables with a wide variety of spices. Healthy and SPICY. I simply loved it and thank you for giving us the chance to try so many things.

What can I say more! The drivers! Fun people. Talented.

And... you, Surinder. Talking with you, spending time with you and seeing how dedicated you are to this camp, to Rotary, to the people, always wanting to do good and always being so open minded, left a deep positive impression on me. You did so much. From arranging the cabs, the hotel rooms, ordering food, the rides, always phone call, making sure that everyone is happy, talking about your culture in such a way that everyone understands every details of it. In such a way that people saw the true face of India! That is quite something! You are an extremely good man and you have taught me a lot. Not only about India, but about life. About how to be a good person. You are an example for me and thank you, thank you for making this experience possible.

There are way more things I would like to say and still, I don't know how to. It was life- changing and incredible at every moment. Please always stay young like now and happy. I will definitely come one day again in India, hopefully with a medical degree:) And please, please, come to Romania you are more than welcomed and I promise you will have a really good time among friends.

Again, thank you.

Vladimer Filip

Maximum participation will be 30 and on first come basis. Age 16-25 years. Registration Rupees 75,000 INCLUDES: Traveling on trains (airconditioned with sleeper berth), local transport. Site-seeing. Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner. Accommodation-3 to a room with attached bath all in reasonably good hotels and resorts DOES NOT INCLUDE: Cold drinks, mineral water, laundry, telephone, ENTRY FEE TO SOME MONUMENTS, WHITE RIVER RAFTING and anything extra which is not included in the above. All train and hotel reservations have to be done three months in advance.

HENCE IT MUST BE A FIRM COMMITMENT

CONTACT PERSON:

PDG Surinder Singh Sahni, Bombay Motor Co. Chas 827013, Bokaro-Jharkhand, India.

Tentative detailed itinerary:

1st Day

Participants to report on 21st March by 8.00 am. at Kolkata International



Airport. Emirate Airways has convenient flight from their hub in Dubai, which has connections to most countries. Check into Hotel. Debriefng and orientation.

2nd Day: Depart for Sunderbans after early Breakfast 5 Hours journey by Bus and Boat.



Arrive in Sunderbans Tiger Resort. Cruise on the backwaters. Evening "Jumer" Folk dance followed by camp fire.

visit a authentic village. Evening A folk ballet "Yatra", followed by camp fire.



3rd Day : Early morning Cruise, Breakfast on boat. After lunch

4th Day : Early morning Cruise. Check-out and depart for Kolkata to catch evening Depart by train to Puri.



Visit Art Gallery and the workshop c) Beach Market. Return to Resort.

5th Day :

Arrival Puri Check into Resort. Beach Activity. After Breakfast Visit Meditation Centre. After Lunch - Visits to a) Ancient City of Puri b)

6th Day : Yoga, Beach activities, After Breakfast visit Famous 11th Century Sun Temple "Konark". after Lunch visit to village evening free time.



After dinner depart by train for siliguri Rickshaw Adventure. Evening Famous GUTI PAO dance.

7th Day : Check out Late evening to train to NJP. Arrive in SILIGURI by evening and check intu hotel overnight stay in Hotel.



8th Day : Morning leave for Peling. A beautiful picturesque town up in the Himalayas with ancient Buddhist Monasteries. 4-5 hours picturesque drive. Stay in Norbu Gang Resort. After lunch Hinking.

9th Day : Early Morning trek followed by visit to monasteries.

10th Day : Early Morning Breakfast and depart for Gangtok. On way visit a Tea Garden and Tea processing plant. Arrive Gangtok and check in Hotel Sonam Pagley. After Lunch visit Tibetan Museum. Evening free time to explore the town.





11th Day : After early breakfast, depart for Tsongmo Lake. One of the highest in the world. Again drive through the most spectacular view of the Himalays. Return to hotel for lunch. Evening free for exploring the town and shopping.

overnight train for Kolkata.

13th Day : Arrive Kolkata in morning and Whole day sight-seeing, Victoria Memorial, St. Paul's Church, Indian Museum and shopping. Also a possible meeting with Rotary Club.



12th Day : Early Breakfast and check-out. Visit Rumtek Monastery, seminary for the Lamas and the only Buddhist University. Interact with the Lamas and learn about Buddhism followed by White River Rafting. Evening catch



14th Day : Depart for your countries and home, as per your schedule.



IMPORTANT:

1. PARTICIPANTS MUST HAVE INSURANCE AGAINST ILLNESS, ACCIDENTS AS PER ROTARY INTERNATIONAL GUIDELINES
2. While applying for Indian Visa, you must get "Visit to Sikkim" included.
3. Bring copies of your passports with visas, along with copies of your photograph for obtaining permission to travel in restricted areas.
4. Travel as light as possible, include one formal outfit, beach wear, walking shoes. A windcheater for Sikkim, where it will be cold. Otherwise will be quite warm 30-38° celsius.
5. Please don't bring expensive jewelry etc as we will not be responsible.
6. Registration amount bring in Cash or transfer by Western Union.

To apply for this camp, please contact the Camps Coordinator
Alistair Knox - email: camps@youthexchange.org.uk