



# HIMALAYAN MULTI-DISTRICT-INDIA

"A LEARNING ADVENTURE CAMP 2017"

5<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2017



Hello Surinder,

I am the chair of the Youth Committee of Newport Uskmouth Rotary Club and I would like to thank you for the incredible time you and your group gave to Hope.

Some weeks ago she staffed a stall at our District Assembly with Gen and another young person and the three of them spoke during the plenary session. The enthusiasm of Hope and Gen was obvious and they were tremendous ambassadors for the scheme.

Hope has recently spoken at the club and engaged us all with her descriptions of her adventures. She described it as an experience of a lifetime which it certainly was. It was wonderful that she experienced India at first hand, even the railway journeys. She was full of praise for yourself and your colleagues.

Hope has also retained contact with many of the other young people that were with the group. At the District Assembly Hope said that one of the things she had learnt was that young people are the same all over the world with the same interests and the same aspirations. I am sure that the experience will stay with her for years to come and hopefully the international contacts she has made will stay with her for the rest of her life.

Thank you and your colleagues for looking after "our" Hope so wonderfully and for giving her such a wonderful range of experiences. I am sure she will never forget them.

Best Wishes

Dear Surinder

First and foremost thank you for taking the time to plan the trip, and for being with us for these two weeks, I know it wasn't an easy task but still you took it.

The trip itself was an experience that I won't forget.

The friendships, the places, the fun. The Real India. One may think that I didn't get to enjoy it as much as my friends because I've already lived in India for 6 months as an exchange student, and they just arrived. But truth is it helped me open my eyes to see the beautiful India I still have 3 more months of. Either it is watching the mountains in Pelling or the in beach of Puri, or just sitting in the train with the best company you could have.

This was the trip to make see India for what it is, with its contrast, climate, food, dances, costumes and welcoming people.

I know we caused a bit of problems during the trip, and I also know that taking care of 30 foreigners is also hard, it gets even harder when those 30, become so united that they don't want it to be over.

The goodbye was very painful, seeing everyone leave; being left behind and alone again was hard. But surely I don't regret anything,

I can't explain how does it feel to come back after such an adventure, after meeting such amazing people, the friendships I made are sincere and I hope, everlasting.

"it's better to travel well than to arrive"

-Buddha

Thank you sincerely

Paola Berdeja

Mexico

Dear Surinder,

I have to begin by saying thank you from the bottom of my heart for giving me this experience and opportunity to discover a completely different culture, religion, nation. It took me a while to get used to being at home by myself again, and I have to be honest, I am writing to you with tears in my eyes remembering my first encounter with everybody at the Saturday Club.

Before leaving home I thought 2 weeks is a long period of time, but it went by so fast and it was so hard to go back home, because I left a tiny bit of myself in every new friend that I made, friendships that I'm certain that will last a lifetime. I am still in contact with most of the people from the camp, and as I said before, I am still quite sad that it's all over now, however we are now thinking of a way to see each other again.

The mere thought of coming to India was exciting and quite frightening at the same time, but you were right, you can only know what India is truly about by visiting it and interacting with the locals. I tried to get rid of all my expectations based on what I had been told prior to my departure, just like you suggested and it is better that I did so because what I saw, smelled, tasted and felt was completely different from what I was told.

These two weeks are a milestone in my life, I have learned so much from you and from this camp as well as becoming a member of an international family. Thank you again for everything that you have done for me during these two weeks, especially having arranged the retrieval of my Sikkim papers and organizing something special for my birthday. I'm looking forward to hearing from you soon.

Lots of love from Romania,

Andreea

Believe Nothing,  
no matter  
where you read it  
or who has said it,  
not even  
if I have said it,  
unless it agrees  
with your own reason  
and your  
own common sense.

-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. From there on to the picturesque Himalayan State of Sikkim, in the city of Pelling and Gangtok, visiting the oldest monasteries, interacting with the Lamas. Browse in the only Buddhist University in the world, engage in discourses with the monks within the breathtaking Rumtek Monastery.

Visit the world's largest mangrove forest in the back waters of Bay of Bengal, far from the madding crowd, cruise in the river and be 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 pay homage to a modern Saint. The city which once was 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 spellbinding, a 11th century masterpiece! And in Sikkim, Gangtok, flower show with some of the best orchids. One of the world's highest lake, 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 1000 of dialects. Melting pot of different 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.



Dear Surinder,

I've been trying for some days to write this letter, but so far I couldn't find the way to do it as any attempt to put into words the two weeks in India is poor and inconsistent.

First of all, I want to thank you profoundly for organizing this trip, for taking care of us and showing us the real side of India, making us accustomed to the different religion, culture, lifestyle, nation we were facing. Maybe two weeks weren't enough to discover all the enigmas of India, but it was enough to create special bondings, lifetime friendships through the participants. The people I've met and got to know during this trip will always remain in my heart as each of them taught me a lesson and left a piece of themselves with me when we said the final "good-bye". It's hard to think back without smiling and wishing to go back for just one more day.

India is the country of surprises and contrasts. A trip to India is everything it promises to be... and more!!! People who have been there all offer -oddly enough the same sage advice: "Look beyond the underlying poverty and let yourself be 'seduced' by this extraordinary country and its people" as yourself, Surinder, told us before departure. This turned out to be my case... and that of all those who accompanied me on this extraordinary trip to India. It marked a 'Before and After' in my life and most assuredly I am anxious to return. I was mainly impressed by the people. I would say that it would be hard to find a more hospitable, open and gracious people than the Indians. With a broad and ready smile, they seem to be more than willing to help you, accompany you to where you are going or even pose for a photo.

Even now, after one week, I am still impressed by everything I've experienced, by the incredible friends I've made and of course, by the wisdom and knowledge you lovingly shared with us.

Thank you very much Surinder for this trip and everything you've done for me, for us and I hope our paths will cross again in the future.

With lots of love from Romania  
Mindi

Hello Surinder,

I would like to thank you for 2 wonderful weeks I spent in India. It so glad that I could make many lasting friendships and I thank YOU for giving us this opportunity. My first impressions when I got to India were great. I mean, I met a lot of new people, really nice people, I was really surprised, even shocked by India, but honestly who wouldn't be. India impacted me a lot and I will definitely come back.

Thank you.  
Martin Sys (CZ)

For me, travelling to India with the Rotary club as part of the youth exchange programme was a once in a lifetime opportunity. Mainly though, it was a trip of contrast, both in the physical reality of India and the mental dissimilarity of the mundane life of an A level student. India itself is country of contrasts, from the hustle and bustle of the large cities like Kolkata and Puri, to the more mountainous, serene environments of Sikkim and the border to China. Travelling around these different areas with young people from ten different countries including Romania, Germany and Bulgaria, was almost a surreal experience as it was something I never thought I would do as an 18 year old student. The programme included everything from tiger trekking in the mangroves of the Sunderbans in the Bay of Bengal to trekking the Himalayas on the border on Nepal. For me the most surreal experience was one when white water rafting on the border of China. It was when I was floating down the river with a small group of my closest friends that I had made from around the world and it suddenly struck me that this is something that most people don't ever get the opportunity to do! I would like to say a huge thank you to Surinder, the rotary clubs in both Kolkata and Gangtok and also to all 29 new friends that I made from around the world for making this trip such a wonderful experience that I will never forget.

Hope Johnson, UK

Dear Surinder,

First I want to say thanks for organized this amazing camp. The 2 weeks which we were spend in India were some of the best weeks of my life. And I will never forget on them. We visited loads of places in India. And we had an opportunity to know how the people live, travel, what they eat and how is the religion in your country. And that you have given us an experience that we will carry throughout our lives. I also want to say big thanks, that you took care about me when I was sick a few days. In this camp I met loads of awesome people, which became my friends for life. All of us are from different countries, but we had the fate to met in India and met each other and had loads of fun and made loads of memories. I really hope, that one time I will go back to this huge, colorful and diverse country. I am so happy, that you spend 2 weeks with us. You are so kind, willing and good man. And for me it is an honor to have met you.

I would like to thank you for everything you have done for us. I wish you everything the best. Loads of love from Czech republic.

Anežka Hornová



Maximum participation will be 30 and on first come basis. Age 16-25 years. Registration Rupees 80,000 (current rate is 1 Euro = ₹72/-) 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.**

**Cell : 94311 28183/9006765483. ssss3250@gmail.com**

### Tentative detailed itinerary:

#### 1<sup>st</sup> Day:

Participants to report on 5th April by 8.00 am. at Kolkata International Airport.

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



#### 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

#### 3<sup>rd</sup> Day :

Early morning Yoga. Under guidance Yoga teacher. Cruise, Breakfast on boat. After lunch visit a ethnic village. Evening A folk ballet "Yatra", followed by camp fire.



#### 4<sup>th</sup> Day :

Early morning Cruise. Check-out and depart for Kolkata. Evening Depart by train for Puri overnight journey.

#### 5<sup>th</sup> Day :

Arrival Puri Check into Resort. Beach Activity. After Breakfast Visit Meditation Centre. After Lunch - Visits to a) Ancient City of Puri b) Visit Art Gallery and the workshop c) Beach Market. Return to Resort.

#### 6<sup>th</sup> Day :

Morning-beach activities. After Breakfast visit Famous 11th Century Sun Temple "Konark". Typical Indian style Lunch. Followed by visit to the heritage village GUTI PAO dance.



#### 7<sup>th</sup> Day :

Morning beach activities - check-out 12 p.m chinese lunch. Depart by train for Sikkim. Arriving following day at 12.40 p.m.

#### 8<sup>th</sup> Day :

Arrive in Siliguri afternoon and depart for Peling. A beautiful picturesque town up in the Himalayas with ancient Buddhist Monasteries. 4-5 hours picturesque drive. Stay in Norbu Gang Resort.

#### 9<sup>th</sup> Day :

Early Morning breakfast followed by trek to ancient monasteries. Return to resort for lunch. Followed by another trek.

#### 10<sup>th</sup> Day :

After Early Morning Breakfast depart for YAKSAM. Return to resort by evening.

#### 11<sup>th</sup> Day :

Check out After Early breakfast. Depart for





Gangtok. Visit Buddha Dham at Reva Bangla. Also visit Temi tea garden and factory arrive in Gangtok hotel check in evening visit Tibetan museum.

**12<sup>th</sup> Day :**

After early breakfast, depart for Tsongpo Lake. One of the

highest in the world. Again drive through the most spectacular view of the Himalaya. Return to hotel for lunch. Evening free for exploring the town and shopping.



**13<sup>th</sup> Day :**

Early Breakfast and check-out. Visit Rumtek Monastery, seminary for the Lamas and the only



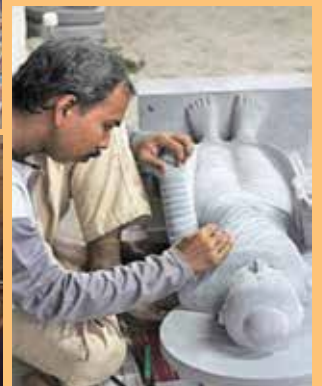
Buddhist University. Interact with the Lamas and learn about Buddhism followed by White River Rafting. Evening catch overnight train for Kolkata.

**14<sup>th</sup> Day :**

Arrive in Kolkata check in hotel after lunch home stay with Rotarian family. Evening farewell dinner.

**15<sup>th</sup> 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 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 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 convenient to change here.

**Feel free to contact for any further clarifications :** Himalayan Multi-District-India

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

Cell 0091 94311 28183/90067765483 Mail : ssss3250@gmail.com