



From: Mr I Fishpool : The Senior Teacher & Head of Geography

19 September 2014

Dear parents

Geography Department trip to India

For the fourth year running we are proposing to run a geography fieldtrip to India. The overall focus for this trip is Globalisation and Inequality: these are major themes central to our A2 specification in the upper sixth. India is a fantastic country which still allows all one's senses and emotions to be teased. We aim to expose the group to the extremes that can still be found in terms of the social and economic landscape. The proposed itinerary, outlined below, offers a flavour of the trip. It is fair to say that the experience is far greater than the outline suggests. A very brief report on the trip this year has just been posted on the Abingdon School website along with a small selection of my photographs.

Proposed itinerary:

Day 1 : Arrive Delhi (probably by Jet/Kingfisher flights arriving in the morning time). Half day to acclimatize. Post lunch tour of New Delhi city with visits arranged at Rashtrapati Bhawan plus Parliament Museum. The tour shall give the overview of Indian democracy. We shall also try to visit the Parliament as well but shall be subject to permission and also that the parliament should not be in session at that time. Whilst we are in Delhi we hope to be able to visit a top public school which will contrast later with the school visit in Dharavi in Mumbai.

Day 2 : Old Delhi with visits to Rajghat (memorial to the father of nation – Mahatma Gandhi a strong believer of non-violence), Chawri Bazaar (Asia's biggest wholesale market), Chandni Chowk (Silver Square) with rickshaw ride to interiors of Old Delhi (a highlight for the students we have taken in the last 2 years). This walk-through tour will give an insight into the strong trading business established since Mughal time that has not changed much in its style over the period of time.

Day 3 : Visit to satellite town of Delhi on the outskirts 'Gurgaon' to see the development and urbanization that has taken place here in the past 20 years – a very western model of development. All major MNC's have their offices in this place, the strong service sector has emerged here. This cycle of visit from crowded lanes of Old Delhi to modern area of Gurgaon will give the complete insight into the development the Country and the city has gone through.

Day 4 : Roadtrip from Delhi - Agra (225 Kms/5 hrs) with enroute stop at Lord Krishna temple in Mathura. Rickshaw ride around Mathura – visiting temple steps along side the river (another very memorable visit in the past 2 years). Witness the devotion of people. Stay in Agra.

Abingdon School, Park Road, Abingdon, Oxfordshire, OX14 1DE

Tel: 01235 521563 Fax: 01235 849079

www.abingdon.org.uk

Day 5 : Roadtrip from Agra - Jaipur (250 Kms/5 hrs) : Dawn view visit to the famous Taj Mahal. Leave Agra after breakfast to Jaipur, passing Fatehpur Sikri (Mughal fortress) followed by a lunch in a village.

Day 6 : Jaipur : City tour visiting the Amber Fort on an elephant back. The Royal Astronomical Observatory (Jantar Mantar) that is still very accurately working, the City Palace complex. There will also be the opportunity to explore the local bazaar of Jaipur.

Note: The visit to Agra is purely for tourism purpose and will give an insight into the history of India prior to British rule. However, at Jaipur we can also experience the growth of a Tier II city of India.

During our stay in Jaipur we also visit (1/2 day) a small rural community to experience the rural atmosphere which will contrast so much with modern fast pace India.

Day 7 : Jaipur - Mumbai : Morning visit to Sanganer to witness the making of the handmade paper in a factory. Further, transferred to Jaipur airport to board flight for Mumbai.

Day 8 : Mumbai : City tour of Mumbai visiting the Elephant Caves by ferry, the Afghan Church, Dhobi Ghat - outdoor laundry and the Prince of Wales museum. Evening walk through the Marine drive to chowpatty.

Day 9 : Mumbai : Visit to the Slums of Mumbai (perhaps the major highlight of the whole tour) – Dharavi including workshops. Interaction and visit to a school in the slum area. It is hoped that this year we can arrange a visit to an orphanage along with the Cow sanctuary which was added to the itinerary last year. Evening free for last minute shopping.

Day 10 : Mumbai : After breakfast, transfer to airport for flight back home.

Dates: these are yet to be confirmed but will hopefully be the equivalent time to the trip last year. Departure Friday 14 August - return to the UK on Monday 24 August 2015. These dates are still subject to confirmation because flight schedules have yet to be released. Hopefully, departure and return will be within 24 hrs of those dates stated.

Airline: Qatar Airways (2012), Virgin (2013 & 2014) and I hope to use a similar airline next year. This has yet to be confirmed.

The provisional cost of the trip will be £1670.00.

This price is based upon a minimum of 10 – 16 students joining this trip.

This costing includes:

1. Air flights from London to Delhi and return flights from Mumbai to London.
2. Transfer and return journeys from Abingdon and airport in the UK.
3. Accommodation for nine nights – triple sharing basis.
4. Daily buffet breakfast at all hotels. Lunch and dinner in quality restaurants during sightseeing and drives.
5. Travel Pals representatives on arrival and departure from each city.
6. Airfare for the sector Jaipur – Mumbai in normal economy class.
7. Transportation by deluxe mini/large coach for all arrival, departures, sightseeing and inter-city drives.

8. Rickshaw ride in old Delhi.
9. Excursion on elephant back to Amber Fort, Jaipur.
10. Ferry ride to and from Elephant caves, Mumbai.
11. Entrances to all monuments as per the itinerary.
12. Visit to the Lord Krishna temple, Mathura.
13. Visit to the Sanganer paper factory.
14. Visit to slum school in Mumbai.
15. All presently applicable taxes.

Additional costs not included:

1. Photography charges at some of the monuments – payable locally.
2. Indian Visa fees – currently £92.20. This will need to be arranged individually: it is not possible to arrange a group Visa.
3. Drinks with meals
4. Health & inoculation arrangements – again these need to be arranged in consultation with your GP.

This trip will be covered by the Schools' Comprehensive travel insurance policy. As you can see from the itinerary we are attempting to include a wide variety of experiences in this trip which help prepare our students for the Globalisation and Inequalities modules studied at A2. In addition, there are a number of touristic experiences that, having experienced them for myself, will no doubt be an unforgettable. Rickshaw rides and the elephant ride to the Amber Fort stick vividly in my mind!

If you would like to reserve a place for your son on this trip I will require a deposit of £250 along with the slip attached to this email. This is refundable if the trip does not go ahead but non-refundable once the process of booking the trip commences. Two additional payments to make up the remaining balance can be made on the Lent term and Summer term school bills. Obviously, the final payments will be confirmed once the size of the party is known.

Please note that by completing the consent form (providing the trip proceeds) you are committing to the total cost of this trip, the non refundable deposit secures your son's place, but thereafter the School will proceed to make bookings and reservations to procure the best possible deals. The payment arrangements offered are a means of spreading the cost rather than a reflection of when liabilities are incurred.

The geography department has a small fund to which applications can be made to secure some extra funding to help towards payment of the final balance. This fund was created to help those families who might otherwise find it difficult to meet the full cost of a geographical trip. For more information concerning the fund you should contact Clare Butcher in the Bursary.

If you have any further enquiries about this trip please do not hesitate to contact me – email is probably the best method.

Yours sincerely



Ian Fishpool

The Senior Teacher & Head of Geography
ian.fishpool@abingdon.org.uk