

**RRCC Short Term Study Abroad Field Trip ANT101/PHI116
INDIA Himalayas Preliminary Itinerary May 2015 – subject to change, it is India!**

Coursework: Wednesdays, 4-6pm, April and May of 2015.

Travel: May 17th Sunday thru Friday May 29th

International flight leaves from Denver, CO, USA

1st Information Meeting: OCTOBER 15th

Wednesday, 5-6pm, EA2301 RRCC Main Campus

Detailed Itinerary

18th May - Day 01

19th May - Day 02 Arrive Delhi @ 0030

Arrive by International flight, after traditional '**Swagat**' (Welcome) our representative would assist you at airport & transfer to hotel for check in and a short rest before a hardy day of sacred site visits.

Delhi is a bustling metropolis, which successfully combines in its folds the ancient with modern. Its strategic location was the prime reasons why successive dynasties chose it as their seat of power. In fact, more mythological cities are believed to be here, like the city of **Indraprastha** from the Hindu epic Mahabharata, founded around 5000 BC. Numerous monuments were built over several centuries by different rulers like Qutub-ud-din Aibek, Alauddin Khilji, Tughlaks, Humayun & Shah Jahan, who built the Walled City **Shah Jahanabad**.

Later in first half of 20th century much of New Delhi was planned by Sir Edwin Lutyens, who laid out a grandiose central administrative area as a testament to British rule in India. The division in walled city & New Delhi also marks the division in life styles.

Stops are planned at Ghandi's Hindu **Birla Temple, a Jain Temple, a Sikh temple and Bangla Sahib Gurdwara**
Overnight Hotel – Delhi (B)

20th May - Day 03 **Delhi**

Full Day Tour

Today we take a guided tour of **Old Delhi**, the 17th century walled city of Shah Jahanabad, Visiting the great **Jama Masjid**, the principal mosque of Old Delhi. Built in the year 1656 AD by the Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan, it is the largest & best known mosque in India. Later we **walk** down or take a **rickshaw ride** through **Chandi Chowk**, the old marketplace of Shah Jahanabad now a picturesque bazaar to reach **Red Fort**, built in the year 1648 by Shah Jehan.

In **New Delhi**, we visit **Raj Ghat**, memorial to the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi. It is a simple black marble platform that marks the spot of his cremation on 31 January 1948. Further we drive past **India Gate**, memorial built in the year 1931 to commemorate the Indian soldiers who died in the World War I & the Afghan Wars. The names of the soldiers who died in these wars are inscribed on the walls.

President's House, the official residence of the President of India, built in the year 1931. Until 1950 it was known as Viceroy's House & served as the residence of the Governor-General of British India. We will also visit **Humayun's Tomb**, memorial of Mughal Emperor Humayun, built in the year 1562. The complex is a **World Heritage Site** & the first example of this type of Mughal architecture in India. **Qutub Minar**, built in the year 1206 by Qutub-ud-din Aibek. It is the tallest (72m) brick minaret in

the world, an important example of Indo-Islamic Architecture. Qutub Minar & its monuments are listed as a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**.

Overnight Hotel - Delhi.

21st May -Day 04 Delhi- Agra -Delhi (225 kms - 4 hrs one way)

Today we take excursion to **Taj Mahal**, symbol of eternal love, which stands on the banks of River Yamuna. It was built by the 5th Mughal Emperor, Shah Jahan in the year 1631 in memory of his wife, Mumtaz Mahal. It was completed in 22 years.

Further we visit **Agra Fort**, taken over from the Lodhis by the Mughal Emperor Akbar in the late 16th century. The Fort can be more accurately described as a walled palatial city. It was built from red sandstone, often inlaid with white marble & intricate decorations. We will also visit **Sikandara**, Akbar's tomb. His son Jahangir completed the construction of the tomb in the year 1613.

later drive back to Delhi, arrive Delhi check into the hotel.

Overnight Hotel - Delhi

22nd May - Day 05 Delhi - Leh (by flight)

Today morning we will transfer you to Delhi airport to board flight for Leh. Arrive Leh receive upon arrival and drive to hotel. Afternoon at leisure in Leh, where we can take a walk to the colorful bazaar with goods from across Asia.

Overnight Monastery

Note: Some monastic communities have 1000-2000+year old history and materials. Follow strict guidelines for preservation.

23rd May - Day 06 Leh Monasteries

After breakfast we leave on a full day tour of the monasteries around Leh and visit **Shankar, Spituk** and **Phyang monasteries**. Later in the afternoon we walk around **Leh town** and visit **Leh Market, Leh Palace ruins, Leh Gompa & Shanti Stupa**.

Overnight Monastery

24th May - Day 07 Leh

Excursion to Shey, Thiksey, Hemis

Today we proceed for Indus Valley monastery tour. We start with a visit to **Shey** the ancient capital of Ladakh. The monastery here has a huge gold-gilded statue of Buddha Sakyamuni with a large silver lamp burning in front of the statue.

Then we visit **Thiksey Gompa** an impressive complex rising tier upon tier on a hill above the village. The monastery has a beautiful 30 m high gold-plated statue of Maitreya Buddha, the Buddha of the future. Drive further to visit the famous **Hemis Gompa** founded in 1630's by Stag-tsang-ras-pa under the royal patronage of Sengge Namgyall.

Hemis is one of the largest and richest gompas of Ladakh. The two-day festival of monastic dance in June-July has raised the reputation of Hemis particularly high. The festival is dedicated to Guru Padmasambhava, popularly known as second Buddha and responsible for spreading Buddhism in the Tibetan world.

Later in the evening we drive back to hotel. Dinner and overnight at the hotel

Overnight Monastery

25th May - Day 08 LEH TO PANGONG LAKE (06 HOURS APPROX.)

After an early breakfast we leave for Pangong Lake through Changla pass 5486 meters (19,000 feet). Pangong Lake, situated at 14,000 feet (4,267 m). A long narrow basin of inland drainage, hardly six to seven kilometer at its widest point and over 130km long, it is bisected by the international border between India and China. A few years back the government decided to open it to tourists though the lake and

its surrounding is under army surveillance. Enjoy the landscape in the back drop of the Lake. One rarely feels so close to nature and environment and the scenery is unforgettable. Evening at leisure and overnight stay at the camp near lake.

26th May - Day 09 PANGONG LAKE TO LEH (06 HOURS APPROX.)

Morning at leisure to explore the beauty of lake and later we drive back to leh and check in to hotel

Overnight Hotel - Leh

27th May - Day 10 Leh

Day at Leisure/shopping etc

Overnight Hotel - Leh

28th May - Day 11 Leh - Delhi (By flight)

Delhi - Departure @ 0100hr

Today we will transfer you to Leh airport to board flight for Delhi, arrive Delhi receive by our representative and transfer to hotel.

COST OF THE PACKAGE INCLUDES:-

- 10 Accommodation on double occupancy basis
- At Monastery on sharing basis (3 or 4 student in one room)
- Breakfast
- Daily breakfast and dinner at Leh
- All meals at Pangong
- Transportation by non-ac maxi cab
- In Delhi and Agra transportation by 27 seater coach
- Inner line Permit to restricted / protected areas
- Sightseeing in Leh is accompanied with a English local speaking guide.
- Monument & Museum Entrance Fees at Ladakh only
- Our goal is to make the package as inclusive as possible but be prepared for the additional costs listed below

The above COST OF THE PACKAGE Does not Include:-

- Any Kind of Personal Expenses
- Anything not specifically mentioned under the head "Prices included".
- Tips-Very necessary in India
- India Travel Visa – Required
- Laundry & Phone Calls
- The Services of Vehicle is not included on leisure days & after finishing the sightseeing tour as per the Itinerary
- Any Kind of Drinks (Alcoholic, Mineral, Aerated)
- Medical & Travel insurance
- Additional costs due to flight cancellation, road blocks etc

Hotels to be used

Destination	Standard hotel
Delhi	Metro View/Fortuner
Leh	Noble house (2 night)
Leh (Sabu)	Choeje Togden Rinpochey Residence (3 night)

Pangong	Camp
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TOTAL ESTIMATED COST: 3,000 \$ U.S. plus tuition & books.

****STUDENTS may use Financial Aid to help pay for trip and course tuition. Contact your financial aid advisor to learn more.

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[To Go on Trip---](#)

- 1) Fill out application at RRCC Study Abroad Webpage for India 2015 trip.
- 2) Deposit \$ 500 with RRCC Cashier office and keep receipt. This reserves one of 20 available spots. 1st come 1st served! Due by **11/15/14**.
- 3) Next 1,000 \$ due by **2/1/15**. This allows time for Financial Aid awards.
- 4) Final 1,000 \$ due **3/1/15**.
- 5) 20 total spots available.