**Testimonials Discover India - 2017**

**Katie Swauger**

The testimonial about the Discover India 2017 trip that you asked for is below. Thank you again for such an incredible experience, I think I speak for all of the students when I say you do an excellent job and the trip wouldn't be possible without you, we all appreciate the work that you do so much! It was the experience of a lifetime and I will definitely be telling everyone in the cohort below us that they don't want to miss it!

"Discover India was the experience of a lifetime. I encourage absolutely everyone to attend the trip in the future, if you are even considering it – just go! You certainly won’t regret it. The bonding experience that you have with the members of the group is incredible and you make memories that last a lifetime. The trip is non-stop, you experience so much in just twelve days, and it is worth every cent. India is a country that has such a rich culture, and is filled with incredible people. Everything about the country is so different than the U.S. I firmly believe everyone should experience it. The Discover India trip will leave you feeling in awe, it’s a once in a lifetime opportunity and one that you certainly don’t want to miss!"

**Jennifer Brand**

The following is my paragraph for Discover India. Thank you again for the amazing experience!
The Discover India program is a once-in-a-lifetime experience. Even though I've traveled abroad before, India was a completely different country than any I've visited. It was a totally new culture, language, people, cuisine, etc. The best way to get the most out of Discover India is to not have any preconceived notions and to take advantage of every opportunity during the twelve-day journey. Our group became so much closer and learned so much more about each other throughout the trip. We toured palaces, temples, and the Taj Mahal (one of seven world wonders), ate authentic Indian foods, and met and spoke with the local people. The best part of the trip was meeting the PES students and participating in cultural activities with them. The students were some of the nicest and most hospitable people I've ever met. I can't wait to return the favor in the fall and welcome them to IUP.

**Regine Hall**

When people ask me how was India, I only have one word, AMAZING. India is a country of great spirituality and most importantly brotherhood. Something that I wish we had more of in the U.S. Every place we went to the people were so welcoming. While in America I am always looked at as a "black girl" but in India I was simply looked at as American. There are many things that America can take from India and acceptance of all people is one of them. Thank you India, I will be back sooner than later.

**Erica Grabenstein**

Discover India was hands down the best experience I've had through

IUP, it was amazing and eye opening to travel all the way to India and

experience their culture. I learned so much about myself and my fellow

IUP students on this trip. I loved meeting the PES students, they

treated us like we had been life long friends even though we were only

able to spend a few days with them. My favorite part of this trip was

riding the elephants up to the palace! India was absolutely stunning;

the food was amazing and everyone made us feel at home, I can't wait

to come back!

**Daniel K. Costa**

My experience in India was something that I will truly never forget. Having traveled all over the world I have seen many places and shared experiences with many people. However, India is much different. You won’t see feats like the Roman Colosseum, or explore the beautiful beaches like the South of France. What you will find are the most genuine, most hospitable people on this earth. You will see herds of cows, watch elephants, monkeys, dogs, and camels roaming the streets. You will get to explore Jaipur, which if you have ever watched movies where they travel to ancient ruins and palaces, it is completely different and indescribable feeling to be doing that yourself. Most importantly, you will have the chance to create life-long friendships. Meeting the PES students was by far the most enjoyable part of the Discover India Program. You do not just meet them once and never see them again. You have the time and plenty of opportunities to build strong bonds with people from half way around the world. This trip has been incredibly humbling and with so much diversity and complexity that is woven throughout India’s past, and present, it makes me want to return in the future and experience the absolute joy of standing in a country where you will see the best of society and the worst of society. India can be described in one word. Magical. I would highly recommend anyone to explore this unique, once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that the Eberly College of Business has to offer.

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**Liam Augustine Carlin**

    "When I got off the plane at the Delhi Airport I had no idea what

to expect. I surely didn't know I was in the for the trip of a

lifetime. From the moment we landed in India until the time we left I

had an amazing experience. I got to see some of the most beautiful

places in the world, learn about a culture with a strong and deep

history, and interact with some of the kindest most welcoming people I

have ever met. I forged life long friendships and made ever lasting

memories. I would encourage everyone to participate in the Discover India Program!’’

**Mitchell O’Shell**

 Throughout my years in the United States, I have seen many different states, national parks, cities, etc. Prior to India, I had yet to visit another country, and I’m thankful that I had the opportunity to visit India first. First off, India is a beautiful country, with such rich culture, religion, family values, landscapes, and meaningful historical sites. While visiting India, our honors business group could experience these aspects. The most enjoyable part of the trip for me, was experiencing something I have never experienced, and may never experience again. Visiting a completely different culture and country, was very eye opening, and I’m very thankful for everything I have, as witnessing immense amounts of poverty can give you a new perspective on life. The people we met, food we ate, and places we traveled to were all new experiences for me. That’s what life is about, taking the opportunity to experience new things, because if you don’t, you can get caught up in remaining idle in one place, and if you ever visit India, you’ll know that’s not how traffic works there. I’m forever grateful to have been given the opportunity to “Discover India.”

**Robert Lee Schwartz Jr.**

 Discover India was undoubtedly the best endeavor I had taken part in during my first three years at the Indiana University of Pennsylvania. The opportunity to travel abroad for an intense and eye-opening immersion into the culture and business of a completely different society was absolutely incredible. The connections made with students from our partner university, PES, made the trip one worth remembering. The ultimate benefit to the trip, however, has been the undeniable friendships that have lived on as sustainable across borders, cultures, and lifestyles; friendships that will continue as our PES partners come to experience IUP, American culture, and everything the United States has to offer. I highly recommend Discover India to any and all Eberly College of Business and Information Technology students, for it will transform them into more marketable and thoroughly educated young professionals.

**Michael Hoare**

 At first, I was very nervous about traveling abroad and especially to a developing nation like India. Despite my doubts and anxiety, participating in the Discover India program was an incredible life-changing experience and has added a new level to my undergraduate studies by being fully immersed into a new culture. My favorite part about the program was interacting with the PES students in Bangalore. They were all extremely friendly, hospitable, and fun to be around. I created many life-long friendships and wonderful, unforgettable memoires during my time in India. I would strongly, strongly recommend this program for anyone who has the opportunity.

**Samantha L. Adams**

 "Discover India was not only an educational trip, but it was truly life-changing. Having the opportunity to be fully immersed in a culture so different from my own gave me a chance to grow as a person in ways I couldn’t have ever imagined. I was shown a vibrant and historic culture filled with kind-hearted people. This trip gave me an opportunity to connect with my peers here at IUP as well as the students who will be coming here in the fall. I know for a fact that I now have friends for life from all over the world and all walks of life. I am forever grateful for the opportunities this trip gave me."

**Erika Garcia**

Discovery India far exceeded our expectations. This business program was very well organized from the beginning to the end; thanks to Dr. Bharadwaj and Ms. Divya who make this unforgettable learning experiences possible for us. India has been a wonderful journey; visiting majestic temples and palaces in different cities through this amazing country. Indeed we all got immersed in the story of love and passion behind one of the seven wonder of the world: Taj Mahal. The trip wouldn’t have been as perfect as it was if it were not for the pleasant welcome we received from the PES students who made us feel at home. I can’t wait to strengthen these new friendships and create new memories with our Indian peers when they come to IUP. Dhanyavaad India!

**Adam M. Grutkowski**

I have never been to any other country besides Canada and wasn't really sure what to expect in experiencing a new culture. I felt super welcomed in India and very blessed for the opportunity. Getting to see a new culture gave me a new perspective on how other people live and put me a little out of my comfort zone. I have learned to see things in different ways and not always think things need to be routine. This trip has now made me want to travel more and learn about other cultures throughout the world.

**Alexandra Witherup**

"The Discover India trip that IUP allows us to experience was an incredible opportunity. We don’t often find ourselves in situations where you can go half across the world, but this trip was much more than this. I saw economical differences, heard the different languages all around me, and had the chance to try so many crazy spicy foods that I would have never had the chance to try. This is experience was more than just learning about the culture, not only did I make some new great friends from IUP I always made great friends from the PES program. The experiences I had in India I will take with me no matter where I go in the world."

**Jordyn C. Johnson**

There is just so much to say about the Discover India trip! I love to travel and out of all the places I’ve been, I have NEVER seen anything like this country before. Wild pigs on the streets, monkeys, cows, camels, and tons of stray dogs; this place is definitely populated, and not just with people but with animals to! Even through all the craziness and the wild drivers and constant honking, this country is absolutely amazing. The people are the friendliest and most welcoming people I’ve ever met and they LOVE to dance. My favorite parts of the trip were definitely the Taj Mahal and riding the elephants at Amber Fort. That is something not many people can say they did. This trip was an incredible learning experience. I learned about the culture, toured some successful companies, and I essentially learned more about myself. When a person is put in a culture that seems almost the opposite of theirs, they really become more understanding, patient and open-minded about the world. They learn the culture first-hand rather than reading it in a textbook. It definitely changed my perspective and I am sure I am not the only one. I made so many friends and so many different memories and I am just so grateful of all the people that put this program together—it really was one of my favorite trips and one that I will never forget

**Nicholas Conforti**

 As my trip to India through the Discover India program approached I had many expectations but at the same time I was also very unsure of what to expect in a country so different and far from America. My trip surpassed and shattered all expectations and pre-conceived notions I had before stepping foot in India. The aspect of the trip that impacted me the most was the hospitality of the Indian culture. I have never felt so welcome and at ease in such a different environment and this was due to the hospitality shown by the Indian culture, specifically the PES students who helped make our trip so memorable. These students and the countless other people we met on our journey always made sure that we were comfortable, well fed, and most importantly, happy. I can honestly say that my fellow travelers and I made valuable and lasting friendships with the Indian students from PES and we are beyond excited for them to come to IUP so we can try to welcome them as well as they welcomed us to India. They were an amazing resource to help educate us about the Indian culture and they were always excited for us to talk about our American culture with them so we could learn from each other. Accompanying the wonderful people we met we were able to see numerous astounding sites throughout India. Some of these sites included the Taj Mahal, Amber Fort (my personal favorite!), and a large amount of other temples, palaces, and landmarks. I can honestly say that the Discover India trip was not only the most valuable trip I have ever been on but it was also the best and most memorable trip I have ever taken.

**Kaleigh Lowers**

I have travelled all around the United States, but traveling to India was the first time I have ever traveled outside of the United States, and it was more incredible than I could have ever imagined. I didn't go in with a lot of expectations, and I'm glad I didn't. The land was absolutely breath taking and all the sights that we saw were incredible. The rugged, ancient architecture ranging from the elegant Taj Mahal to the hidden Amber Fort palace within the mountains of Jaipur, are structural miracles people could only dream of seeing. But the most amazing thing about the entire trip, was the people. Every single person I met, from the hotel staff to the small store owners, were so kind and welcoming. Everyone in India has a smile on their face that is so big, you couldn't help to smile back. The relationships that were formed with the PES students is something that I will treasure forever. They're not just students that I met in India & will occasionally chat with on Facebook, they're friends of mine & I can't wait to spend time with them when they come to IUP. If anyone is even considering going on the trip, I would highly encourage them to go, because it's an amazing opportunity that they might never get again. India was an absolutely incredible experience for me and I wouldn't trade the journey for anything.

I just wanted to say thank you again for providing not only me, but everyone else on the trip, the amazing opportunity to travel to India. None of it would have been possible without your hard work & dedication. Please never give up your dedication to the Discover India & other discovery programs, because any student that takes part in them will be changed forever.