**Testimonials Discover India - 2016**

**Trude Olson**

First and foremost I want to thank you all for the wonderful opportunity I was given by traveling to beautiful India. When we landed in New Delhi we didn´t know what to expect. We were prepared for a lot of poverty, different smells and spicy food. All this proved to be right. Something I was not prepared for was the Indians kindness, gratitude and generosity. This was one of the reasons that I fell in love with the Indian people. On my trip I got friends for life, I became acquainted with a new culture and I got to know myself in a whole new way. The students were the ones who inspired me most during the trip. Their love and kindness made me feel welcome. They wanted my best, they became my friends and they learned me everything about their traditions and country. They didn´t do it because they had to, but because they wanted to, and because they loved it. The students taught me to appreciate life, focus on what you have, and not on what you don’t have.

Not least, I want to thank Divya and Prashanth for letting me be part of this journey and for their patience and helpfulness. Thank you for making it possible for other students to experience India. Although I know that this was not my last trip.

As Prashanth said: “it takes 10 days to fall in love with India, but it takes over 10 years and understand in India”. So I have much more to learn. This was little more than 2-3 lines, but it's hard to tell my experience of India in so few words. India deserves more.

**Mette Kirkhus Dale** .

Thank you so much for everything. I find my words small trying to define the trip I have just experienced. The thoughts, feelings and expressions are hard to transfer into words.

It took me approximately 6 days to fall in love with India. The smells, the sounds, the colors, the chaotic traffic, the loving students and the enthusiastic guides. My absolute favorite thing to do was sitting in the bus looking out the window. Everything was so beautiful! The small things, people doing their everyday chores, cows wandering or dogs sleeping. The big things, Taj Mahal, Qutub Minar, Amber fort. Places so beautiful I almost did not believe my eyes.

This adventure have been eye opening and breathtaking. Given me lots of marvelous memories, friends for life and love for a country I without a doubt will visit again. At this point, I have no more words. This experience will grow with me, and I am feeling more and more grateful for every day that passes.

**AlyssaSchaard**,

Discover India was the most eye opening trip I have ever been on. It was amazing to experience their culture first hand because you can never know what to expect until you are actually there. Meeting the PES students was my favorite part, we were one big family by the time we left!

 **Emily Ager**

Visiting India was an unforgettable experience that really opened my eyes to what a developing country really looked like. But if I get the chance, I would go back in a heartbeat.

**Nicholas Magas**,

 Discover India Statement - The Discover India trip was a mind-blowing experience as we learned about a completely different culture through the guidance and great hospitality of the hosting Indian students. I highly recommend the Discover India trip to current students, it is a great oppurtunity to develop cultural awareness and lifelong friends.

 The elephant ride and visiting the Taj Mahal were once in a lifetime type experiences.

**Halie VanOrd**

I just want to say thank you for all that was done for the India trip. It really was an amazing trip and I will never forget it. It was by far the best experience of my life and I already miss it. It was very well organized and I'm glad I had the opportunity to go.