

David's Trip to India

Wednesday, January 9, 2008

Leaving Delhi...

Well, last day here, and last post on this blog! Checking out in 40 minutes and then will have 5 hours til my airport pickup at 8pm. We're all flying out around the same time so we should all be able to sit together before the flights leave around 1:00 am.

Did some shopping today, but pretty exhausted. Everything is difficult and quite draining...certainly not a lay-on-the-beach-all-day type of trip, but a FANTASTIC experience nonetheless!

What I've learned about India (from what I saw of India - which is very little!):

- Delhi was pretty safe overall for tourists.
- Most local people are very friendly - many on the streets would wave to us smiling (even when they were NOT trying to sell things).
- Taxi rides between my hotel and Teresa's hotel (5 mins away) can cost anywhere from 80 rupees to 250 rupees, depending on the driver.
- Tourists are definitely taken advantage of by stores and services.
- Delhi is actually making a very conscious effort to improve - in every capacity, including environmental impact and greenhouse emissions, employment, cleanliness, business, and residential development. Apparently the streets used to be FULL of homeless people, but we've been told it's much better now than 2 years ago. Still many people on the streets though, so it's difficult to imagine what it must have been like!
- The people I've seen wearing doctor's masks on their faces are NOT crazy - the pollution is AWFUL!!!

Anyway, gotta go get ready...home soon!!!!
Love David

Posted by David B. King at 12:49 AM 0 comments 

Tuesday, January 8, 2008

Last night in Delhi

Well, tonight's the last night here...(9:30 pm right now)...the conference ended today and BARELY had a chance to introduce myself to the professor from the University of Florida who I've been talking to...but when I did he seemed very excited to meet me and

said he had been looking for me as well. He asked if I had sent in my application and I said yes, and he told me he'd do everything he could, so we'll see! But was relieved that I got to at least introduce myself.

Okay, my suit came tonight...the jacket seems okay (I'm not sure if I can say much more than that), but the pants were AWFUL!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! They hung so low in the crotch it was ridiculous!!! So the guy took them back and will be returning them tomorrow...I was really not happy overall with it, but maybe once the pants are fixed things will be better...???

So everyone here honks constantly while driving...when they pass someone, when they turn a corner, when they are on the road alone (HAHA)...and we learned today that honking is a courtesy and a form of communication while driving here.

Also the food's been good...no major stomach upsets or anything, but getting a little sick of all the same flavours. But anyway, flight leaves tomorrow at around 1:00 am, so late/early!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Love you!
David

Posted by David B. King at 7:48 AM 0 comments 

Monday, January 7, 2008

BUSY DAY YESTERDAY!!!!

HELLO FROM INDIA!!! Sorry not to post a message yesterday...had a busy day and didnt get back til late. Our dream workshop went very well yesterday...and then did some more shopping in the afternoon. My breathing is getting better, and my cough has stopped!!! (now congested though haha) I think it's just a matter of getting adjusted and climatized to the weather and pollution...

Got in another fight with a cab driver yesterday...tried to charge me double the price. I think when they find out that I'm staying at the Hyatt they increase the charges. But anyway, I was yelling at him and then after he tried to be all nice, asking where I was from. When I told him Canada he said "oh, no one has money trouble in Canada". Then I snapped back and told him I'm a student and that there are in fact poor people in Canada, and at that point the language barrier was back and he couldn't understand me...HAHA so annoying and frustrating!!! Meanwhile I'm arguing over 100 Rupees, which is like \$2.50...

Also had a suit made yesterday...being delivered tonight. I only got one...very worried/anxious about it since I couldn't really see anything other than the material, so hoping the style and fit are right!!!!!!

Not sure if I'll be making it to the Taj Mahal...having a good time with everyone and don't think I wanna spend the last day alone... also it's a 4 hour drive from here, and then my flight leaves that night, so would be a hectic day.

Anyway, going back to the conference for the morning, then going on another tour of the city this afternoon. And hopefully doing more shopping!!! Still things I want to buy!!!! Only 2 full days left!!!

Love,
David

Posted by David B. King at 6:09 PM 0 comments 

Sunday, January 6, 2008

afternoon in the city

Hey...very little time left but not too much to say anyway...was out this afternoon with everyone, did some shopping (but didn't buy much...I'm getting anxious to spend some money!). Had a crazy cab ride...tried to take us to all these places where we didn't want to go... had to get quite angry and finally asked him to just let us out! Then he later appeared at one of the places where we were shopping, following us around. Crazy!

Otherwise though I fell more and more comfortable and safe here as the days go by. My cough has subsided after hacking up some stuff this morning, but still can't breathe the greatest and now stuffed up. I miss the fresh air SOOOO MUCH!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Our talk is tomorrow at the conference...and the we're done with everything!

Oh yeah in case you're curious the time here is 8:04pm right now.

Love lots!
David

Posted by David B. King at 6:20 AM 1 comments 

Saturday, January 5, 2008

first day at conference

Well, today was the first day of the conference...at a great location!

Was very surreal actually being there, after so much discussion of it... also had some AMAZING opening speeches by some very significant individuals. Spent the afternoon with everyone and had dinner with Teresa and Heather at their hotel. Not much else to report... spending tomorrow morning at the conference then the afternoon at Conaught Place, one of the big shopping centres here.

My cough is so bad...I can't breathe well at all!!!! But all is good! :-)

Starting to become very comfortable here...could definitely see myself coming back!

David

Posted by David B. King at 8:14 AM 2 comments 

Friday, January 4, 2008

good morning!

Don't have much time left on my internet this morning, so will make this one quick...off to the conference today to register, etc. Carlyle and MaryJane (the other professor from Trent for those who don't know) got here last night, so had dinner with them and going over to the conference with Carlyle today. Nice to have some familiar faces around!!!!

my asthma is getting bad...I now have a constant cough and my throat is irritated...so much pollution!!!!!! There's a continuous haze/fog over the city from dawn to dusk...it's awful!

Also, everyone at the hotel (when I call for things, etc.) is referring to me as Dr. King!!! Quite nice I must say!!!!!!

Oh yeah, and one interesting story from yesterday that I forgot to mention...we were at the Mahatma Ghandi memorial on our tour... and in our group was a young German girl (around 13yrs old), very pretty with blonde hair....and at the memorial there were hundreds of school girls on a field trip...and although some of them said hello to the rest of us, they swarmed this German girl!!!! Shaking her hand, wishing her happy new year, giving her flowers....they were so in awe of her!!!! And although it was sweet and amazing for her and seemed quite nice at the time, it was disturbing to think of the reasons behind it...the fact that they idolize these Western ideals and images of women...quite sad really, but a testemant to how Westernized the rest of the world is.

Anyway, gotta go!

Later!

Lots of love!

David

Posted by David B. King at 8:37 PM 0 comments 

Day in Delhi

Hey again! Wanted to see the Taj Mahal today but of course fridays are the only day it's closed...so took a group tour into Delhi for the day, saw all the major sightseeing attractions and monuments. Was pretty good...although our tour guide talked to much and so slowly I was getting bored! Driving around was pretty crazy...no one follows any traffic laws or even keeps in their own lanes. Running red lights when the cross traffic is already moving seems to be the norm, and everyone drives like an inch from the next car! Crazy!

The day was split into two parts: New Delhi and Old Delhi. Both are dirty, but Old Delhi seemed far more unsafe...much more poverty and many unwelcome stares. Felt very safe everywhere else though. Many sad sights of course...a little boy followed us for a while grabbing our arms, pointing to his mouth (wanting money for food)... and on one of the streets, when stopped at a street light, all of these little kids (like 4-6 yrs old) came running out amongst the cars, their faces painted like clowns and these spinning toys attached to their hats...performing for the passengers! Very strange and disturbing sight for sure. MANY kids and people sleeping on the streets, in parks and on roadsides. And everywhere you go, in the middle of the streets and everything, people have clothing hanging out drying. I even saw a guy sitting on the side of the road bathing and washing his arms. So yeah, many sad sights. OH!!! And we saw an Indian tansvestite! Very unexpected!!! HAHA!

Anyway, surprisingly enough, when we were at our last stop, walking out, I saw Teresa and Heather! What are the chances in such a massive city???? SO was nice seeing some familiar faces.

That's about it! Got lots of great pictures!!!! Tired though...was quite exhausting.

Later! Love everyone!

David

Posted by David B. King at 5:30 AM 0 comments 

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David's Trip to India

Thursday, January 3, 2008

FINALLY HERE!!!

Well, I finally made it...after boarding 2 planes only to get off both and spend the night in Chicago, I finally got into Delhi around 3:30pm their time. The smell: India smells like a combination of cigarettes and burning plastic - very strange and smells like this everywhere! My taxi pickup was waiting for me with a sign, which was great, so no problems there. The hotel is GORGEOUS!!!!!! Took a shower and was trying really hard not to let any water into my mouth...haha, and they do in fact have lots of toilet paper here. From what I saw of the streets on the way here: debris EVERYWHERE....mounds of rubble and stone and kids playing in it.... VERY dirty! When we were landing you could barely see the ground due to the smoke and smog. Everything's in English though....even most of TV...commercials are all for AMERICAN products but with Indian actors...anyway, that's about all I have to say at this point! Internet is only costing \$10 US per 30 mins, so not so bad....I'm in Room 364 if anyone calls. Will have more to say tomorrow! Planning on either going to the Taj Mahal or into Delhi...haven't heard from anyone else yet so we'll see what happens. Love everyone and talk to you later!

David

Posted by David B. King at 7:32 AM 2 comments 

Monday, November 26, 2007

Pre-Trip Post

Just testing things out...trip is only a month away!

Posted by David B. King at 8:04 AM 1 comments 

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