



# Student Journeys

## Testimonials

### **INDIA 2014: Angie Gullan (Gawane & Avalon's Mum)**

Street School Development Journeys was a wonderful opportunity for Gawane and Avalon Gullan to travel abroad in a safe and controlled environment. The tour not only offered them a journey to new and exciting places but more importantly was able to show them the harsh realities of our planet. Having spoken to them in depth about their experiences, they were both truly moved and humbled. I feel that both have grown immensely as human beings and will take the experiences and lessons learned into life as they both embark on adulthood. Many great friends were made and the experiences shared together as brother and sister created an extra special bond. I would like to thank all involved at Street School Development Journeys for making this a reality for our children.

### **INDIA 2014: Linda Adendorff (Tamaryn's Mum)**

Just another big thank you for organizing such an amazing trip for the kids. It was so jammed packed full of exciting experiences and adventures and seemed to run like clockwork. Tammy thoroughly enjoyed it and I know has learned so much. She will always have wonderful memories of her time in India. I wish you well and look forward to the reunion.

### **INDIA 2014: Brenda Zebert (Jason's Mum)**

Thanks Klasie! I truly think that it is a trip they will have fond memories of, for a lifetime! Jason speaks very highly of you so thanks for your wonderful leadership during the trip! I am sure Jason will enjoy getting together with everyone again soon.

### **INDIA 2014: Deirdre Gullan (Avalon & Gawane's Mum)**

Thank you for the most incredible journey to India, both my kids enjoyed it very much and found it to be an enlightening, profound, eye-opening and fun experience. This journey to India will live with them forever! Thank you Klasie, I am very grateful and will be recommending it to other parents for their kids.

### **INDIA 2014: Charolyn Pedlar (Victoria's Mum)**

Victoria was bubbling over with enthusiasm about her experiences on the way back from the airport. She felt extremely privileged to have been able to experience the diversity in the cultures in India and particularly loved her time in Dharamsala. The conversation classes seemed to have left a huge impression on her and she can't wait to share some of the insights that she gained with me (after a good shower and sleep)!

I am most grateful that she had the opportunity to go on the trip with you. I was extremely impressed with how well the trip was planned and the communication that we got from you along the way, really was great for the parents at home. I am sure that the memories will remain with her forever.

### **INDIA 2013: Dev Naidoo (Kevania's Mum)**

Kevania was extremely excited to go on the trip. She was not disappointed. She had lots to share with us on her return and her excitement was palpable. The knowledge she gained and interactions with the people will not be forgotten. As you said in the pre-trip briefing, this journey was an adventure which she enjoyed tremendously and she wouldn't mind going again!

### **INDIA 2013: Janet Pulford (Courtney's Mum)**

Many thanks for the enlightening tour that Courtney enjoyed under your guidance. She thoroughly enjoyed the experience and has been touched deeply by the people that Courtney met in Dharamsala. She feels anger towards the Chinese for inflicting harm and hurt and no respect on the Tibetan people. She will take time to digest all that her heart and mind were opened to and with time she will express and live more and more of her life-learning in India.

### **INDIA 2013: Jemma Potgieter**

I was skeptical of the term 'life-changing' before I went to India. Seeing how the Tibetans in Dharamsala act and think, despite all they've been through, really opened my eyes to all that I have and changed my own way of thinking too. Life-changing! Thank you Streetschool.

### **INDIA 2013: Ziya Bipath**

"Look at the lotus flower, it can grow in the dirtiest places, with absolutely no care, and yet still look so beautiful". A quote that will stay with me forever. For me the trip revealed compassion and wisdom that has been hidden inside an invisible treasure box inside my soul. If I could do it again, I would do it to learn more, not only in a sense of learning about India, or learning how to help people and becoming more giving, but to learn who I am. If there is one thing that I took out of trip, it was finding out who I am as an individual and that's one thing I know many other people would want to discover. I've been living in a cradling bubble that has protected me from the real world, going to India may have popped that bubble, but it definitely exposed me to reality and allowed me to step out of the imaginary world that has been created. "In order to be wise, you will need to be experienced".

## **INDIA 2013: Heidi Segeren (Kirsten's Mum)**

Kirsten had an amazing journey. Thank you for looking after her so well and for all your assistance. She has returned relaxed and happy, and she has the utmost respect for the monks that she met in Dharamsala and for the forgiveness they display. She is going to join the organization "Students for a Free Tibet". Judging from her photos and what she told us, I believe she has had an amazing experience that will stay with her always.

## **INDIA 2013: Ilhaam Bheekoo**

"The key to happiness is contentment" and "the lotus flower can grow in such terrible surroundings but it still looks beautiful".... I would go on this trip again because it made me feel like I truly benefited the Tibetan people in some way, right now in this present moment they could be talking about what I taught them and that really touches me... I learnt a lot about a different culture (Buddhism) and I learnt about the Tibetan problems, and if not for this trip I would never have known any of this and for that I am grateful because now in SA I want to make a change. I would definitely recommend this trip to people because it is eye-opening, India is completely different to any other country and the values the trip can teach you are very powerful. For me it was a truly amazing experience and I miss Dharamsala so much. I want to go back!

## **INDIA 2013: Kevania Naidoo**

My quote for the trip would be "A catalyst allowing for a mind and soul enlightening paradigm shift". The reason I would go on this journey again is because it is an opportunity for one's self to grow and experience new things. Being human, there's always room to expand our knowledge. From this journey I definitely learnt one thing, simplicity. It's not complicated, you just live your life to the best of your ability.

## **INDIA 2013: Karin Coode**

I experienced the trip as a continuing and awesome series of contrasts. Unfinished brick and paint work and chaotic traffic and tranquil, picturesque woman in saris working the wheat fields. Polluted streams and barking dogs and serene golden sunsets with ice capped Himalaya mountain peaks as the backdrop. Being a creature of comfort, order and aesthetics, I experienced an utter sensory overload on arrival but this soon gave way to a "reckless abandonment" and inner peace to soak up each sight, smell, sound... opening up completely to new experiences and new possibilities. It was an awesome, unforgettable adventure. Can't wait for the next one!

## **INDIA 2013: Abubacar Jabbie**

Below is what I feel about the trip. It's my epiphany, not only of what I learned from all the people and places we went to in India but also of what I learned from EVERYONE on the trip, thus I'd like to share it with them.

In the past few weeks, I have learned that life is like an unscripted, unrehearsed cabaret with no second takes, where the cast and crew are also performing their own shows, on the same stage, creating a synchronous production that joins the souls of all living beings across eons of time and infinite space. It's not enough to just Be; one needs to live life live, in the now, in the moment and in the present with an unshakable stubborn resolve to attain peace and happiness. Because when the curtain comes down on your current role and performance, the rolling credits will be your life play-back, but the show will surely go on... and you will again find yourself on a different stage, in a different role, because we live a Karmically predetermined life, of which we are the directors and chose the roles we play. So choose wisely!

## **INDIA 2013: Yolande van Wyk**

I miss our India trip so much, it was our sacred wonder world for 10 days... India, to me, was about contrast – old and new, clean and dirty, rich and poor. The diversity of the Indian cultures, religions and languages were an example of the diversity of everyone in our group, we all went there for a different reason, we also got to experience certain situations through others eyes and learn to appreciate each point of view.

My personal journey was about stuff, unnecessary stuff that we carry without knowing why and just because "what if" we need it. I literally and figuratively speaking left stuff behind. To start appreciating the small things in life again, to really enjoy the priceless gestures of compassion and kindness and to find the time to also give the kindness and compassion – to pay back... I was inspired by the way they live their religion and how it's part of everyday life, the ritual, the chanting, the ceremonies and the passion with which they do it. They showed us how to have a full life with almost none material possessions and only nature and people to help you.