

India 2004 English note

The Himalaya range was really beautiful, unbelievable, huge, difficult, everything I wanted to see/do. We cross Himalaya in 5500m at Shangri La pass. It took as 6 day ascending to reach this point from Zanskar Range (North) to Himalaya Range (North-East). Then we went down for another 3 days. The whole hike was really difficult. I had 20kg and Misa 15kg bag with tent, cooking stuff, clothes. Unfortunately, the fucking Lonely Planet crap Trekking in Indian Himalaya wasn't true in all important matters like food supply, distances, times, etc. Because of that we had almost no food for the 113km long trek (4 noodles-soup, 1/2kg of muesli, some vitamins. There were 2 days without food at all. We also had a little altitude sickness but we've been well prepared so we didn't die there;)

Anyway, Himalaya is really BIG range with HUGES mountains and rocks, just paradise for a guy like me. People in there (all refugees from Tibet) are calm, nice, friendly and open-minded. I love them, it was really interesting to see how people lives in there and how difficult life they have.

After the trek we moved a bit South to town called Manali. Because of unexpected weather change the monsoon came into this area (1st after 57 years) so everything was muggy and wet, many death accidents on the roads happen because of flood. We've decided to go to Dharmasala (McLeonGanj) from there to see Dalajlama (it's his vicinity). It's quite nice place but already cracked by tourist business so you can feel everywhere the power and importance of money. But at all, it's really nice place, especially Dalajlama's residence. Wit bad luck, he wasn't there in that time so I haven't seen the Top One Buddhist;)

Then we moved to New Delhi with a plan to go to Jaipur and other middle-earth towns. New Delhi is a piece of shit at all. Dirty, smelly, unpleasant and full of people who are always trying to get something from you. There are some nice British-conserved buildings so some historical-feeling should be found in there. From Delhi we went for a day-trip by British railway to see Taj-Mahal. It's an amazing building, honestly one of the best I've ever seen. Because of too expensive entrance we just seen it from outside but it was enough.

Unfortunately, we get a parasite in there so for about 7 days we had a big problem to stand up so we just slept in the hotel and tried to get up. We thought that it was a parasite and at home, after some tests, we found that it's giardia lamblia (see attached picture). Currently, we're trying to get it out from our body. It's not dangerous but it creates a smelly farts and, of course, a diarrhoea.

When somebody asks me for me feeling about India, I always separate it to the two parts: Himalaya (nice but hard) and Delhi (shit). Now I'm thinking about India as about a 3rd World country because I've seen how really people live in there. Full of dizzies, misunderstanding and poverty, that's my feeling about India.

The Northern part and Buddhists are nice and open-minded people who cares about each other. The Hindu people are just the opposite side of a coin. I don't like them.

Well, I must be honest - all people we met was always nice and friendly (Buddhists, Hindu), helpful. The rest just jerks. India is the country I don't want to go again, that's the end.