

India – BICC&I and Brussels Airlines Scriptum Award 2017

First of all, winning this BICC&I & Brussels Airlines award was a great opportunity to explore another part of the world! I am still grateful to the organization that I got the chance to discover a country & culture I have never seen before! Hereby I decided to share this adventure with my boyfriend Yves. At first, it was really difficult to decide where we would like to go in such a big and beautiful country as India!

After some research, we decided to kick off in Mumbai, take a flight to Jaipur to discover the north & afterwards we went to the south. Hereby we discovered different cities & places as indicated on the map below:



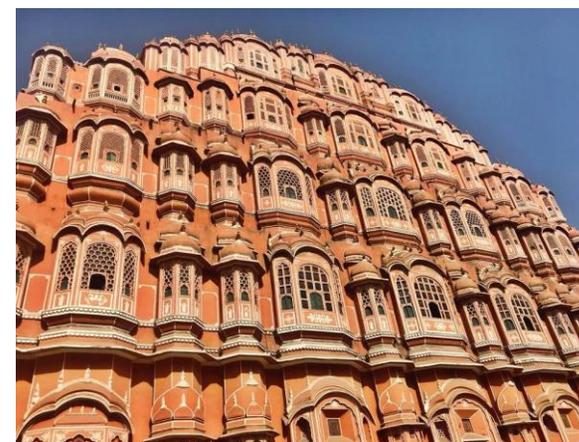
MUMBAI

Our first stop in India was Mumbai. We enjoyed a lovely hotel (T24 Residency) with great service and food! Anyway, we also already experienced that a lot of people are poor in India which was obviously visible in this big city. As I work for a shipping company, namely MSC, I noticed that our local Indian head office was nearby our hotel. Hereby we took a visit to the office which was also very interesting to experience the Indian working environment.



JAIPUR

After Mumbai, we went to the pink city Jaipur. From here on, we discovered the North of India by car with our personal driver Mr. Tau (one of the best drivers in the world – especially if you know the Indian traffic). He would drive & guide us in India for 10 days. We visited different monuments & places like the Pink Palace, the Amber Fort, the Water Palace, Jantar Mantar, and so on. Hereby we also enjoyed an elephant ride at the Amber fort which was an exclusive experience!



PUSHKAR

The next stop was the holy city, namely Pushkar. Here are famous temples and also the Pushkar lake where the Indians go and wash themselves. We also got the opportunity to take a camel ride. This lasted for 2 hours whereby we could enjoy the city and the sunset in the desert. After these few days driving, we also noticed how crazy the traffic is in this country! As our driver Mr. Tau said *"Everything is possible in India"*.



RANTHAMBORE

Furthermore we visited Ranthambore, THE place to be in India to spot tigers! During our car trip from six hours to Ranthambore, we noticed that there are also a lot of road works in India and traffic gets even more insane! But our driver Mr. Tau had everything under control and said *“The government starts with some road works, they put one stone, then they put two stones... And after a while, they forget it and leave it like this for years & years”*. Some situations we cannot even imagine in a country as Belgium.

We enjoyed a tiger safari that started in the morning from 6:30 until 9:30. Unfortunately, we did not spot any of the 80 tigers that are living in the National Park... We spotted peacocks, reindeers, antelopes, monkeys, special birds, porcupines,... Anyway, it was an awesome experience & we will definitely do some other safari's in the future!



AGRA

Afterwards we visited another city of “the golden triangle”, namely Agra. First, we visited the Agra Fort. This was an enormous and impressive red building with a nice view on the Taj Mahal which we would visit later that day. In the fort we also got the opportunity to feed some monkeys, really cute!

At sunset, we went to the Taj Mahal. This is definitely one of the most beautiful things we have ever seen. Especially when the sunlight reflects on the marble stones – stunning view!



DELHI

Delhi was the last city we visited in the north. We were sleeping in a very nice hotel in New Delhi (Le Meridien) whereby unfortunately the contrast was very high with the people on the streets... We saw the huge residence of the president, lovely hotels & colours, but the poverty was the downside of these nice things. Especially when we took the riksja in Old Delhi (an Indian local who takes you to different places as shown on the picture), we noticed the high poverty.

Anyway, it was also a great and learning experience to disclose our journey in the north!



GOA

After our trip in the north, we went to the south to Goa. This was P-A-R-A-D-I-S-E!
We booked a lovely boutique hotel – Ahilya By The Sea – at the coastline where we could see men fishing & watch dolphins jump above the water by our breakfast! It was the perfect ending from a lovely trip to India!



OUR TRIP IN A FEW WORDS...

Unexpectedly, we enjoyed an amazing & great trip to India! We discovered a new continent, land & culture which we will never forget!
Thanks again to BICC&I & Brussels Airlines to offer us such a great opportunity!
Eline & Yves

