

My Project GO Story

Today we went to the Taj Mahal. Our tour guide told us that everything complex about the building is symmetrical, and that the emperor built the Taj Mahal as a tomb for his favorite wife. We also learned from the guide that the emperor planned on building a black Taj Mahal across the river to serve as his own tomb, but he died before it could be completed.



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Memorable Moments

Most challenging: The heat was real! It was hard to be hydrated all the time, and the heat made us very tired.

Cultural Differences

A typical evening included... eating dinner very late in India while watching a lot of cricket during supper.

Favorite Foods: Momo and Parantha. Momo are dumplings stuffed with chicken or vegetables, whereas Parantha are similar to pancakes stuffed with potatoes or garlic.

Least Favorite Food: Most of the sweets. They were so sweet that you couldn't eat a lot of them without feeling sick.

New Perspective

What I learned from my homestay family...

They were very friendly and respectful. Respect goes a long way in this culture, even amongst people who may disagree.

What I couldn't learn anywhere else: You *will* adapt to your environment. Don't say "I could never live in a place like that." You can if you are willing to learn new things and apply them.

A "must see/do:" Visit the Swaminarayan Akshardham. Swaminarayan Akshardham at Gandhinagar is a mandir – a Hindu house of worship, a dwelling place for God, and a spiritual and cultural campus dedicated to devotion, education and unification.

Advice to students considering this program: Practice speaking on the street as much as possible.

How this experience will help me in my future career: I want to be a pilot, and I would love to work in an area where Urdu is used.