

Memories written by participants of the study visit 2018

to Malpi International School in Nepal

illustrated by Maksymilian Mazgaj



My time spent in Nepal was definitely well spent. It wasn't my first time to visit Asia, but it was very different from what I've seen and experienced on my previous trips to the continent.

When you think Nepal you think Mount Everest, but what I've learned is that Nepal is a country of happiness. The people that live there seem to be happy even if living under the most unimaginable conditions. Nepal is a beautiful and fascinating country. Nepali people are also very hospitable, welcoming and grateful for every day. It's them, who made this trip such a good experience.

Visiting Nepal taught me how to look at life from a different perspective and gave me a lot of things to think about. It was also great fun and I'll surely remember it forever.

By Natasza Bryksy



When you ask somebody what does he know about Nepal, he will probably say that Nepal is famous for its high mountains. I thought the same before visiting. I think that Nepal is a beautiful place and it ought to be more popular. Beautiful views, delicious cuisine, fabulous temples and the most hospitable people in the world - are all features which make Nepal wonderful.

I also learned some new things from my visit to this fantastic country. I was shocked when I saw that, despite how hard people worked, they were still happy and did not complain about anything. I started to appreciate that even though I live in Kraków I can travel to such a unique place. The visit to Nepal changed my way of thinking about everyday life, and provided many fantastic memories.

By Tymoteusz Biedroń

The trip to Nepal was life-changing and eye-opening. Not only did we have an amazing opportunity to see picturesque landscapes and climb the Himalayas, but also to witness the day to day life of Nepali people. Their positive attitude made me appreciate and cherish little things. We were met with great kindness and openness and this is what I will be forever grateful for. We felt like a home away from home.

Photo and text by Olga Oracz



The trip was absolutely amazing! Nepal has a beautiful landscape and a very friendly people. My favorite part was the trek to Ghandruk. It was definitely worth waking up at 5:30 in order to see the Himalayan Mountains. I was able to take some wonderful pictures. I also enjoyed the sightseeing in Kathmandu. It was a real honor to meet the Vice President of Nepal and the Polish Ambassador. I really loved this student exchange and will defiantly go again ! *By Emilia Kosiba*

I have been to a few countries, but until now I had never been outside of Europe, so the huge cultural and natural difference I experienced on this trip left a strong impression on me.

To start with, the nature is completely different. It is normally rare to see birds of prey flying in pairs over busy city roads, and urban centres, but not here. Steep, tree-covered mountains are home to wild monkeys. Occasionally, snakes and lizards can be spotted, and the butterflies, like the spiders, are the biggest ones I have ever seen. But the human differences can also be striking at times. For example, the reversed meaning of the nod and shake of the head lead to a few misunderstandings, and the kind of local food necessitated eating with your hands, which is normally considered rude in my home continent. I think that the biggest difference though is the way people deal with the life situations. Most of the people in my everyday surroundings have a tendency to overreact, and constantly seem to like to feel despondent, and therefore they don't really pay attention to you, whereas all the Nepali people smile and are extremely cheerful to everyone they meet. This might just be a difference in the nation's mindset, but to me it seemed connected with their way of practising their religion. Most Catholics treat practising like a chore, whereas the Nepali Hindu community treat it as a sort of special activity which brings them closer to their ideals, and it seems that they really do believe in their gods.

All in all, I think that on this trip I learned many things and also simply had fun, and I really recommend long distance trips like this to everyone. *By Sean Byrne*

It was my first trip, to a country in Asia. I was very pleasantly surprised by the openness of all the people we met, not only the people from the Malpi International School but passers-by and shopkeepers as well. I got to know the local culture and saw many beautiful views. I think it was really worth spending these two weeks in Nepal. *By Robert Kossowski*

The trip to Nepal was one of the best adventures I've ever had, even though within the last couple of years I've been to many places including India and China. Before the exchange, I thought that everything would look similar to Delhi or Beijing and nothing would surprise me, but it seems that I was completely wrong.

Nepal is a beautiful country where even from school windows you can see the mountains. The food is delicious (although spicy), and the people there are always positive and have big smiles on their faces. After coming back to Poland, I've realized, what great memories I had made while trekking in the Himalayas, doing shopping for souvenirs in the traditional market in Kathmandu, taking a boat in Pokhara, and even while riding a bus. When you looked out of the window you could see a long river surrounded by mountains and big colorful trucks passing by, honking all the time.

I think I'll never forget this adventure. *By Amelia Budzińska*

I only knew a little bit about Nepal before I left - Almost nothing. When I heard that there was a possibility to visit this country, I immediately decided to go. The trip, in a form of an exchange, was a incredible opportunity to get to know the country from the inside and to learn about its culture and people. It took as about 19 hours to get to Nepal with a stopover in Dubai where we also did some sightseeing.

In Nepal we had an opportunity to live in many interesting places. One of them was on the campus of the Malpi International School. The other was in Pokhara which in my opinion was phenomenal. In Kathmandu we had the opportunity to meet the vice-president of Nepal and in Ghandruk we saw beautiful places in the mountains. A unique experience was to see Annapurna peak. That view made a great impression on me.

We had an opportunity to see how Nepalese people live, what they do every day and what difficulties they face. I could see that the people were extremely nice, cheerful and always tried to help. They don't look at someone from different country like a stranger, but they smile to them and are very open to making new acquaintances. On this trip, I met two amazing students from Malpi International School, who told me about their culture and everyday life.

This exchange allowed me to get to know Nepal from the side of people living in there not just from the side of tourists. I am very grateful that I was able to experience such an adventure. From this trip I brought back a lot of wonderful memories and unforgettable impressions and I strongly encourage everyone to go to Nepal .

By Aleksandra Banasik

