



Adventures in India

1 *I have spent a year in India on a student exchange program. These diary entries deal with the good and bad times I have been through there. They will give you an idea of what it is like to live in this country.*

January 10

- 2 We got on the train, slept, read, talked, ate, watched the countryside, and before I had realized what was happening, the 27 hours of journey were behind us, and we had arrived in Delhi.
- 3 I really enjoyed that journey. We had a compartment nearly to ourselves. I slept surprisingly well, despite the noise — I guess the train rocked me to sleep. The only problem was my painful stomachache.

March 12

- 4 I am suddenly overcome by the feeling that I am alone in this unknown town. The stress of the last weeks has been gently adding up, and I am feeling quite miserable. I met a Japanese student from England, and it is a great relief to be able to share my feelings with somebody who has lived in the same world as me. Of course, my Indian friends are very understanding, but I guess that you cannot really understand how distressing India can be for a foreigner if you are not a foreigner yourself.

June 23

- 5 The monsoon seems to have started. We have had occasional rain these last weeks, but for the past couple of days, we have been waking up to find our garden flooded. All this rain brings me back to my arrival here and the terror that I felt.

September 9

- 6 A new group of students arrived today. Seeing them all clean, fresh, and bewildered reminds me of my arrival in India so many months ago. I suddenly realize how much I have learned and how accustomed I am to this new country. I am no longer lost and ignorant. I know my way through town, public transportation, hotels and restaurants. It is quite a good feeling to be the one “who knows” — even though I don’t know *that* much.

November 18

- 7 The last weeks have run by like goats on the street. I have only a month left in this country, so much to do, and so little time. My room is filled with things to pack, and my head is trying to summarize my “Indian experience.” As days go by, I try to fix in my memory all the things that I will soon forget. Small, daily, unimportant events that would have seemed incredible a year ago.

December 15

- 8 As my departure gets closer, I’m tired and looking forward to going home. I want to see my country and family again — although I dread leaving India. It’s not like the homesickness I was feeling last winter. Now I wish I could take India back home with me.

