

Sage Journey NZ Tour

A Journey of the Heart to India

Making a difference

You have two options with this Journey: -

(1) You can Experience Mumbai and Staying in a Shelter with 120 homeless children, both magnificent life changing experiences.

(2) Then (if you choose) - you can stay with the group and visit the amazing Rajasthan. Read on below to find out more.....

This is no ordinary vacation - it is a profound life experience giving you an opportunity to step up and make a real difference while experiencing travel and adventure in a land of paradox.

You will experience India like you have never dreamed before on the most unique, inspiring and soul fulfilling travel adventure.

Come with us to experience India at the grass roots level, staying with the real people of the land. This

journey will stay with you forever. Simply by being on this tour you will save lives and give people hope for perhaps the first time ever. We will combine social responsibility with the adventure of the real India, far from that seen from the windows of a luxury coach.

Experience living in a Shelter which is now home for 120 previously homeless children.



The first part of your adventure begins in Maharashtra, starting in Mumbai - the thriving hub and gateway to India, a cultural melting pot and bustling urban metropolis combined with incredible poverty. A city of over 13 million people and without the infrastructure to support its growth, it's surprising anything is achieved here, but it is and it's absolutely thriving.

Mumbai gets its name from the temple of *Kali Goddess Mumba* or *Maha Amba. Aai* in

Marathi means mother. Kali is the goddess of enlightenment or liberation. You will find spiritual significance embedded right through the Indian Culture.

You will taste India in many ways through food - eating in fantastic restaurants; travel; heritage - temples & forts; the beach; slums and shopping.

Then we will travel out of the craziness of Mumbai traffic onto the Expressway. Leading us up into

The Western Ghats - (the escarpment that leads to the plateau beyond) and on the road to Lonavala - our destination for the next few days. Lonavala's original name, Lenauli - means the places of many caves (lena meaning cave). This trip takes about two to three hours and on the way you will feel a change in the atmosphere as we climb up into the Ghats area. It's usually an exciting ride - as the traffic is undisciplined and runs on rules the Western driver cannot comprehend.

We will arrive at **Shiksham Gram Shelter** for Homeless Children in Malavali.



Here you will also have a chance to chat with Satish and Yogita Moon, the couple whose vision has created this wonderful project which provides care and love to 110 children between the ages of 3 and 18. You will be as inspired as I am I'm sure by Satish's stance on life, education and the importance of giving these children every opportunity

possible.

At the Shelter you will have the opportunity to mix and work with the children to whatever level you choose.

You can join the morning meditation, take a walk in the nature that surrounds the site, visit the nearby meditation centre, wander through the village and visit the schools. There are many things you can do, at the



shelter, from painting, gardening, teaching English, Arts, games, to clearing rubbish. It will depend on your personal skills and desires, what you want to get out of this trip and the needs of the children and shelter at the time of our visit.

One morning we will leave early for a walk to the **famous ancient Buddhist Bhaja Caves** via a local **Buddhist Meditation Retreat** and across the fields. We will also travel to the Karla Caves which were carved out almost 2,000



years ago. Take off on a train trip to Pune - to shop, eat, and see the sights. Pune is home to the famous Rajneesh Ashram - and has many international visitors - some excellent shopping and wonderful food.

If you are up for it we will take the local train, and auto rickshaws once we are there, both are experiences you will enjoy!

After 8 nights at the shelter we will return to Mumbai, back into the noise and bustle of this huge city for 1½ days. We will visit one of **the largest slums in the world, Dharavi** - on this

tour you will experience a wide range of activities: recycling, pottery-making, embroidery, bakery, soap factory, leather tanning, poppadom-making and many more. On our return to our South Mumbai Hotel, we will take an evening visit to the Taj Mahal Hotel for an evening drink, before eating dinner in the local vicinity, or, if you wish you may simply take the evening off and explore on your own or stroll by the



beach.

Our last day and a chance to shop, or simply wander and soak in the energy and vibrancy of this incredible city, Mumbai. You may breakfast in the hotel or for those who like to go out - breakfast at the famous Leopold's Café two blocks away (though I must say the coffee is better at the Barista around the corner)! Then, time to do that last minute shopping before heading home or flying onto Udaipur.

Rajasthan Adventure

OPTION 2 (6 nights)

After your volunteer time at Shikshangram and the hustle and bustle of Mumbai it is time to relax, enjoy and marvel at this ancient land.



Explore, discover, wonder, photograph, eat and shop!

On arrival at Udaipur Airport we will be met and taken to a delightful hotel overlooking Lake Pichola where we will retire for the night. After a good night's sleep and breakfast at the Hotel, you will be free to wander the winding streets of Udaipur drinking in the sights and sounds of this old city for the morning.

We will meet for lunch, then onto a City tour with a local guide



to visit the beautiful complex of the City Palace, the ornately carved Jagdish Temple. Finishing with a sunset boat ride on the lake, before dinner at a lakeside restaurant.

We will visit a Community shop to support local villagers, who work for next to nothing and produce amazing products.

You will get free time to wander the shops, have a massage or simply take a rest.

At sunset we will walk down to the Traditional Dance performance held in a beautiful old building near the lake - a feast for our senses. Later,



dinner (provided) will be shared together at a highly recommended restaurant.

On Third morning we drive through the countryside to the famed Jain Temple at Ranakpur - where you will be astounded at the intricacy of the carved marble. Lunch will be a traditional vegetarian thali served at the temple canteen - a basic but clean facility. After lunch we will continue on to the massive Kumbhalgarh Fort. Spending the later afternoon sightseeing. We stay overnight nearby in a local hotel. This is wild country - fascinating to see, experience and understand the history



steeped in the area. We will go on to Chittorgarh - to stay in the friendly and attractive Padmini Haveli - our hosts a gracious couple with a long family history in the area. The Haveli is the only place to stay within the walls of the fort, nestled into the blue walls of the village houses. It is quite special to stay in the fort as it means once the day trippers have left we have the place to



ourselves alongside the locals.

If it is not too late we begin our exploration of the Chittorgarh Fort - sunset is special from the ramparts of the fortified buildings. (Lunch and Dinner provided). This is a living fort - still with a village within its walls.



The following day we will return to Udaipur and our original hotel.

There should be time on return for more shopping if you so desire or just chill out.

Depart early morning for Mumbai where you can either stay and explore further, fly home or onto another destination.

You will be welcomed back at Shikshangram should you wish to do more volunteer work with the children. Accommodation can be arranged if needed at an extra cost.



To find out cost and more details or to reserve your place on this journey of a lifetime – email us today – sagejourneysnz@gmail.com there are limited places so don't delay.

We will be happy to help you with your flight bookings – so let us know as soon as possible.

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