

## Report No. 4: TRAVELING IN INDIA

The best part of being in India was traveling. It was one of the reasons why I chose India as my exchange country. And it did not disappoint. There are so many cities, towns, places in India that you can travel to. I cannot even start to enumerate these places because there are just too many. I can only offer advice for students who want to travel their priority (aside from going to classes) when they visit India:

- Keep your weekends free. I always finished my papers, readings, and homework before the weekend. This ensures that I have my weekends free to travel.
- Find friends who can be your travel buddies. Most of the foreigners that you will meet in India would be exchange students. I traveled with different groups of exchange students when I was in India.
- Do your research. There are different ways to get to a certain place in India. And it is helpful if you know the different ways since in the middle of your trip, your plans may change and it would be very useful if you know a different way to get from one city to another.



Since Hyderabad was located at the southern part of India, I went to most of the southern cities and towns including Hampi (you must go here!), Vizag, Goa, Varanasi, Kannur, Mysore, Rajasthan, Jodhpur, Jaisalmer, among others.



One of the best things in India is overnight buses. After my term ended, I took an overnight bus to Vizag, which is the second largest city of Andhra Pradesh. It's called the Goa of the East Coast, but attracts mostly Indian tourists. This trip's highlight was the food: kebabs and tandoori dishes. In Vizag, we

explored rural towns and visited two Buddhist sites: Bojjannakonda and Lingalakonda (built in the 4th century A.D.).

I also spend a weekend at Varanasi. It was one of the most intense places that I have visited, with all walks of life, every color of the rainbow, and so many species existing in one city, people, cows, monkeys, all living together in harmony along the Ganges. It was full of music and celebration and everyone was all over the town. It remains to be one of my favorites. So, I will definitely be going back to this city. The best websites for booking travel are:

Bus tickets: <http://www.redbus.in/>

Air: <http://makemytrip.com/>

Train: <http://makemytrip.com/>

