



TRIP TO AMRITSAR-DALHOUSIE

A school trip had been organized for the students of class XII to Amritsar and Dalhousie from 27th May 2023 to 1st June 2023 by ITL Public School.

ITL is a firm believer in fun-based experiential bonding. Having fun is crucial for school students as it promotes a positive and enjoyable learning experience. It enhances their engagement, motivation, and creativity, making the learning process more effective. Fun activities also reduce stress, improve overall well-being, and foster a love for learning that lasts a lifetime.

The school trip inculcated visits to important historic and adventure-based landmarks in the northern states of Punjab and Himachal Pradesh.

On the first day i.e. 27th of May, the students assembled at the school campus in great excitement at 8:30 pm for attendance. They then boarded the buses at 10 pm for an overnight journey to Amritsar. From Delhi to Amritsar several stops were made for the students and teachers to rest and freshen up. The next day, 28th May, the buses reached 'Comfort Inn' around 9 am. The students were served breakfast upon arrival and given time to check in, freshen up, and make themselves comfortable at the hotel. The students then had a hearty lunch at 1 pm before departing for the daily Attari-Wagah border parade presented by the army.

The patriotic spirits flew high as the students marveled at the presentation and joined other guests on the border road for a dance session. After photographing these memories, the students left for 'Sadda Pind' and arrived there at 8:30 pm. Sadda Pind is a Punjabi village living museum spread across 12 acres of land. It brings you a chance to experience the authentic culture, colors, and flavors of Punjab's traditional village in one place. After getting an entry pass, the students and teachers were allowed to roam around and enjoy the culture and colors present in the atmosphere and relax. The stay was enriched with rides, games, and shops along with paraphernalia from 20th-century Punjab. At 9:30 pm, everyone gathered for dinner where they appreciated the long-awaited north Indian delicacies. Soon after, they and the sacrifices of the martyrs. At 1:30 pm, the students assembled again, having enjoyed the local ice cream, Amritsari kulchas and shopped for local souvenirs. They returned to the hotel for lunch and then boarded their luggage on the bus again for the journey to Dalhousie, excited about the Himalayas and forested regions.

After 4 hours of a fun-filled bus ride, kilometers of straight uninterrupted straight road contrasted by the twisting and turning asphalt laid onto the hills of Himachal, the students appreciated the beauty that surrounded them. After 1 stop at a local dhaba, including evening tea and a photo session students and teachers boarded the bus once again to complete their journey. The rain had begun in the second part of the journey and as the sun set, violent winds and raindrops surrounded the bus. No one minded the delay in the journey because they got to see the beautiful rain and thunder in all its glory. The sky burst so close to them that they could feel the thunder around them. It was an exhilarating experience for all of them.

The buses arrived near the hotel, 'SS Resorts' at 9.30 and students were transported to the dining area for dinner. After this, they were escorted into their rooms where they got to rest after a long journey and recharge for another fun-filled day. Their first morning in Dalhousie started with breakfast at 8.30 am. The students then took a drive to Khajjiar, a valley surrounded by green rolling hills. Students stopped at a local shelter nearby due to heavy rains, however, the mood wasn't soured as students went back to the hotel and reached around 10 pm to finally rest and end the day.

The next morning, 29th May, the students were up and about at 7 am and were gathered for breakfast around 8 am. The students were assembled for a visit to the holy Golden Temple and Jallianwala Bagh. They also had the opportunity to visit the famous market surrounding the area. The way to the temple was made convenient for all through E-rickshaws which gave the students a chance to experience the local life at Amritsar. Upon reaching, the students were given 2 hours to visit the entire area. The experience of the place was surreal and entrenched all in history and faith. All the students along with the teachers were awe-struck by the beauty of the temple on the day and Jallianwala Bagh filled us all with immense respect for the freedom struggle they turned up the music to enjoy. Maggie and tea were arranged for students and teachers and they made memories for life.

The sun finally greeted them at 12.00 as they entered the gates of Mini Switzerland, with soft winds blowing entrenching the place in Petrichor. Students were allowed to roam around and have fun in the various activities that took place there. Students also bought various items from local handicrafts. They reported back to the group around 1.30 where a quick photo session was conducted followed by the journey back to the hotel. They were greeted by lunch when they arrived at the hotel and students were allowed to rest for a few hours.

At 5.00 students left for Dalhousie Mall road which showed them the rich culture and tradition of the place combined with the convenience and accessibility of a marketplace. It had various types of food, handicrafts, collectibles, and clothing. Students were given 2 hours to experience the same and gathered back together at 7 pm to walk back to the resort. Upon reaching back to the hotel students were given time to get dressed for the dance party which was to be conducted in the hotel party hall at 8:30 pm. The entire hotel was bursting with expectation and energy. At 8.30 pm the event started and music could be heard throughout the hotel.

Students shook the floor and ceiling with their enthusiastic and high-spirited dancing. Dinner was served early around 9:30 pm. After a quick orientation session by the teachers, students were sent back into their rooms to rest up for the day that followed.

The next day started late at 9 am with breakfast. The entire hotel had been engulfed under a cloud and rain poured down delaying the plans for the day. Students were allowed to roam around and have fun in the hotel until the weather permitted more activities.

Students went to the St Francis church at 10.30 even under heavy rain to experience the sanctity of the holy institution. The Father of the Church greeted students with his wise words telling them the importance of religion, culture, and tradition as well as the values of selflessness and honesty. He conducted a quick prayer that echoed in the silence of the church into the minds of students and teachers. At 12.30 students journeyed back to the hotel. The plan for the waterfall had been replaced to ensure student safety in weather conditions. Instead, the students themselves considered alternatives and after a zesty debate, in the end, students ended up enjoying each other's company for a few hours to put a close to their stay at Dalhousie. Around 2 pm students gathered in the hotel reception with their belongings to start their journey back to Delhi. The bus

stopped around 4 pm and 5 pm respectively for breaks. Later the buses stopped at a Mcdonald's where students were provided with a quick dinner around 9 pm. Then the buses stopped again at 10:45 pm at the Haveli in Jalandhar, the students were given half an hour to refresh and get fresh air. The bus started again at 11.30 for a continuous drive to Delhi. Students arrived in Delhi early in the morning.

The trip ended on a bittersweet note as although they were saddened that the experience was over, but also joyous at the memories made. This was surely a trip to be remembered for a lifetime, and to carry in everyone's hearts in the last year of school.



