

IB 1st Year Hike to Chisapani

By Saurav Marasini and Nora Gurung, IB 1

Duration: Two and half days and two nights.

Purpose: To take responsibilities, learn navigation skills, teamwork and everything you can possibly think you can learn in a hike.

Purpose achieved? - I think so (according to the reflection we all wrote!)

It was a nice, cool autumn morning. We were carrying our elephant sized backpacks which were loaded with stuffs we knew we would never use but were stuffing inside just in case. It was more like we did not care about us having to carry your bag by yourself part, but more about shortage of toilet paper or even dying of cold in the middle of nowhere because we thought it was Chisapani – cold water. So when we left home, we were bound to be prepared in fact more than prepared. Our excited souls bid civilization goodbye and got into our Ullens vans, different than usual because it had loads of bags tied to it. They took us far away from home, fair enough not that far, but to Sundarijal. We met more of “our kind”, our excited, I-don’t-know- what-to-do souls, and got prepared for the climb. We were all dressed in loose fitting quick dry material.



We were given our survival food, lunch boxes, for the day which half of us managed to eat right then and there in fear of more load to carry because by

then we had already seemed to get worried about the immense amount of uphill we had to wall because in front of us were stairs, never-ending stairs, somewhat like those stairway to heaven type of deal. We soon started walking towards the so-seen heaven. We kept walking, and walking and walking and walking and walking just to realize five minutes had

just gone past and we were super exhausted, about to fall apart state with no awareness of the present. Chisapani was more than 22 km near to us. At that very moment, we wanted to throw everything that was on us and yes, it was just the beginning. The nice day turned evil and the autumn weather was not at all cool but instead hot which, on the plus side, was making us sweat out our extra weight.



In no time the huge group separated to small groups, scattered apart in the wilderness. Some were walking alone, others where

resting every now and then, trying to cuddle up some energy just enough to walk a few more steps, and some were just trying to find the right path to our destination. When we had to walk downhill we got all excited that we had no control over ourselves and gravity pulled us along but since we had to get to the top, each downhill meant more uphill. We did wait for the group to cover up a couple of times more than we should have. Not that useful, because they never showed up. The hot sun burning our skin as the day went by making us black, in a more pleasant way: tanned, sucking the energy out of our body, draining the water out of our bottles but a warm sensation like sun bathing in the beach, how we wished we were actually doing so.



After about years of walking uphill, in normal human time about four hours, we reached our destination. To have lunch. The backpack had already been a part of our body, that when we kept it down we felt as though the air would lift us away and we would float into the cool air and that we could travel with the wind. Even though the food which was apparently supposed to be our lunch had been eaten a long time ago that it was already being digested, we were prepared. That was the only time

when we were pleased to have stuffed our bags with food. When some had already eaten lunch others were still arriving. After relaxing our back from the strain, our foot from the pressure, our legs from the pain, and our head from the ache we started to walk yet again! It was as if though the purpose of our life was to walk and walk only.

Now slowly as we were marching up few of the questions were starting to arise. Why were these stairs made? Why aren't their plain roads? These questions were the most highlighted topic of the day. But we even tried to forget this pain of the stairs by singing different songs and entertaining ourselves the primitive way. The hope of reaching our destination was far away. We constantly asked many local people about the distance to get to Chisapani, tragedy struck us as some said it will still take three hours while some said one hour. We had already reached a height where the chilly wind blew and the sun was on its way to the horizon.



Finally, we could hear that our destination was not far. It was just about five minutes away. After hearing these words of heaven we started to run forgetting all our sorrows as each step went by. A feeling of victory and relief ran through our veins. We smiled like never

before, which got creepy. Half of us were still on the way but half of us were getting ready with our jackets to fight with the monster that could freeze us with one blow of its wrath, the wind. We had no time to lose. Exhausted. Souls searching for a cozy warm place to sleep. We set up the tent and quickly made dinner. We were so hungry that it felt like even we amateur cooks had cooked delicious food. Later that night a bonfire was set up, and we did not even have to rub two sticks together. It gave warmth to our about-to-freeze bodies making us cuddle next to it. After stealing some warmth we all planned to enter our tents to get some sleep. But it was hard for us to just sleep. Seeing all our dearest with us for the whole day and night was exciting for us. Some were gossiping and some were gambling. Even though our dreary bodies screamed out the need for sleep, all we really wanted to do was stay up all night but the party killers, the teachers, told us to go to bed.



After a few songs and some lullabies we went to sleep. Around 6:30 we could hear every teacher telling us to get up. It was so hard for us to wake up. We were aching from top to toe. The starting of the day was not so good but when we just came out of the tent and watched the surrounding, we were all in awe. The view was extravagant. We all just wanted to capture that in our hearts, the beauty of our country. The rising sun was the best part of that place. Now we came to realize that we were one of the luckiest among the world. It was really windy we could literally see the clouds moving with the wind at furious pace. Some friends were already into the stoves and into the breads and eggs that we got for the breakfast. So even our group hurried and we could not tolerate the breakfast of the students who were eating. So we made our breakfast with full energy. We made some sandwiches and coffee which looked and were better than others. So after having breakfast we divided our works like packing the tent, cleaning the dishes and started for it. We four of us finished our work and packed our bags. Now again we finally brought up all those energy and excitement that we had yesterday and started our walk again into the adventure of the unknown.



After hearing that the road was not the same as yesterday was like unwrapping Christmas presents on Christmas night. Now we moved slowly as we started off towards our destination Jhule. After hearing that the place was not that far, we walked very calmly. This time we really enjoyed ourselves and could see the smiles in the faces. After walking for four hours we reached to a place where there was no guide to tell us the way, and there we could see two paths. We were stuck. We were lost. We were helpless. We could not see anyone far or near. So we had to open our map. Something we thought we would never even touch. This was the most adventurous part. So through the help of the map and scale

After hearing that the road was not the same as yesterday was like unwrapping Christmas presents on Christmas night. Now we moved slowly as we started off towards our destination Jhule. After hearing that the place was not that far, we walked very calmly. This time we really enjoyed ourselves and could see the smiles in the faces. After walking for four hours we reached to a place where there was no guide to tell us the way, and there we could see two paths. We were stuck. We were lost. We were helpless. We could not see anyone far or near. So we had to open our map. Something we thought we would never even touch. This was the most adventurous part. So through the help of the map and scale

we could find the way but still we were not sure. We walked towards the way we thought. And after shouting and calling our friends name for five minutes we could hear the sound of few boys. We all again ran with the full speed and excitement to see the place. We finally met the lodge. We had the lunch out there. That was the best lunch I have ever had because



that was the only day when we had the chance to have daal bhat without any efforts done. Having a rest for around half an hour, we were allowed to roam. We walked with a camera in our hands and a wish to discover the site. We walked up to a place. A place where it seemed like the whole world was visible in front of our eyes. Then after having the site scene we decided to prepare our tent and rest for a while. Teachers ordered us the places for the tents. After looking at those places we all became shocked as we could just see the

bushes around there. But there was no any other place where we could fix our tents. So we all started to jump upon those bushes like Kangaroos. Those were the really funny moments captured forever by our inner selves. After jumping for around ten minutes we managed to fix our tents. After resting we were called by the teachers . After listening to the instructions we started to feel like it was school all over again. We had to do the CAS reflection so after holding we took a pen and a paper we sat down and wrote the points which we had achieved in that trek.

Writing for around half an hour it was already evening and the sun was already settling down. The view of the sky which could reflect like a once in a lifetime view, we all just wanted to capture it in our heart and never wanted to let it go. After a



few minutes it was totally dark and we slowly settled for preparing the dinner. This time I could feel that there was the total support and understanding between friends. Everyone was helping each other whether it was the work of chopping or cooking. Now after this we decided to spend some few time with Miss. Hannah and with her we played interesting games. It was total fun and it was even successful in making us forget that we even got our parents and a different life. We were happy in having all those close friends together. So after playing the game and cracking a lot of jokes, we were ordered to sleep. We all went to sleep and slowly we entered freezy, icy sleeping bags.



This was our third day and the last day in this trip. We packed our bags with a feeling that the fun days were over now for a certain period of time. And for the very last time we made our breakfast. We ate and were ready to go back to our normal life where there is just a school and you yourself.