

Day 1: 12th December 2024

We are pleased to share the updates from Day 1 of the IAYP Thar Expedition. On 12th December 2024, our team comprising 36 students and 4 escort teachers departed from VDJS at 6:00 AM, embarking on an exciting journey to Bikaner, Rajasthan.

After a comfortable journey, the team arrived at the hotel at 1:00 PM. The hotel, located within the historic Junagarh Fort complex, offered a unique and enriching experience. The students and staff were warmly welcomed with garlands, setting a positive tone for the expedition.

Following lunch, the team visited the majestic Junagarh Fort, where they marveled at its mesmerizing architecture and explored its historical significance with great enthusiasm.

Later in the day, the group visited the revered Karni Mata Temple, where they sought the blessings of the deity. This spiritual experience added a profound and reflective dimension to the day.

The day concluded with a delightful dinner, after which the team retired for a well-deserved rest.



Day 2: 13th December 2024

On Day 2, the team began their activities with a wake-up call at 7:00 AM, followed by breakfast at 9:00 AM.

At 10:00 AM, the students embarked on a trekking excursion that traversed through rural villages and into the vast expanse of the Thar Desert. The morning trek concluded at 1:00 PM, after which the team rested and enjoyed lunch.

The group resumed their trek at 2:00 PM, showcasing exceptional resilience and teamwork as they covered a total distance of 14 kilometers by 5:15 PM. Upon reaching the Day 2 destination, the students were welcomed with pre-arranged tents that provided a comfortable retreat after the day's challenging yet exhilarating trek.

To unwind, a bonfire and music session was organized, fostering camaraderie and relaxation among the students. The day concluded with a delightful dinner in the serene desert setting, followed by a restful night.



Day 3: 14th December 2024

The Day 3 activities began with a wake-up call at 7:00 AM and breakfast at 9:00 AM.

At 10:00 AM, the team embarked on a trek through the breathtaking Thar Desert landscape. After covering a significant distance, the group paused for lunch at 1:30 PM and rested for half an hour before resuming their journey.

The students demonstrated remarkable endurance and spirit as they completed an impressive 16.5 kilometers by the end of the day. Upon reaching the Day 3 venue, the group was treated to refreshments, followed by a captivating cultural program featuring traditional folk music and dance. The evening's vibrant performances provided a deep cultural immersion, which the students thoroughly enjoyed.



The day concluded with a sumptuous dinner, marking the end of yet another fulfilling and enjoyable trek. The students' enthusiasm and teamwork were evident throughout the day's activities.

Day 4: 15th December 2024

On Day 4, the team started their activities with a wake-up call at 7:00 AM, followed by breakfast at 9:00 AM.

At 10:00 AM, the students embarked on an exciting camel ride and camel cart trek, offering them a unique and memorable experience of the Thar Desert terrain. The group paused for lunch at 1:30 PM, after which they rested briefly before continuing their camel cart trek to the final destination.

Upon completing the trek, the team returned to the hotel, where they refreshed themselves and enjoyed evening snacks. The day concluded with a delightful dinner and a bonfire, providing a warm and cozy ambiance for the students to relax and bond after an eventful day.

Day 5: 16th December 2024

The final day of the IAYP Thar Expedition began with a wake-up call at 7:30 AM. After freshening up, the students proceeded for breakfast at 10:00 AM.

Following breakfast, the students and staff enjoyed a city tour and visited the local market, where they explored and purchased the renowned handloom products of Bikaner. After

completing their shopping, the team began their return journey to VDJS, with lunch arranged en route.

Conclusion

The IAYP Thar Expedition was a resounding success, with the students demonstrating exceptional teamwork, resilience, and enthusiasm throughout the journey. We are pleased to report that the team comprising 36 students and 4 escort teachers has returned safely to VDJS.

We extend our gratitude to all staff members for their support and cooperation in making this expedition a memorable and enriching experience for our students.