

Students travel and explore on Caltech Y India Ki Khoj trip



Photo Courtesy of Pushpak Baviskar

Exhausted by the trials of finals week, 10 Caltech students boarded an Airbus 380 and headed off to the opposite end of the globe. After 24 hours of traveling, we were greeted by students from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) at Gandhinagar in the Ahmedabad airport in the state of Gujarat.

For some of us, this trip was a return to India, and for others, it was the first time in a new country. For all of us, however, this brief glimpse of India would unfold into a serendipitous adventure of discovery. We embarked on a journey of India Ki Khoj (In Search of India) to witness the society, culture, economy, and people of India as they are today.

Rita Kothari, an author, linguist, and professor of English in the humanities department at IIT Gandhinagar, and Jai-son Manjaly, an assistant professor in the cognitive science program at IIT Gandhinagar, conceptualized and created an eight-day schedule consisting of trips throughout Gujarat and talks by experts in their respective fields (covering topics such as Indian fashion and the role of caste in India).

Our search was meant to be not a reflection on a preconceived notion of what comprises the nation of India, but rather an opportunity to observe and analyze the shocking, confusing, or exciting moments that make India such a remarkable place to visit.

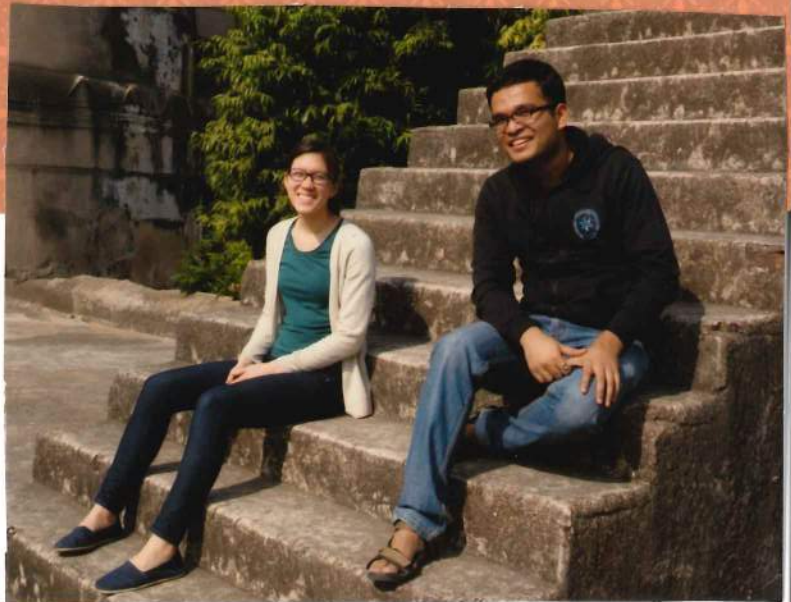
-Aleena Patel

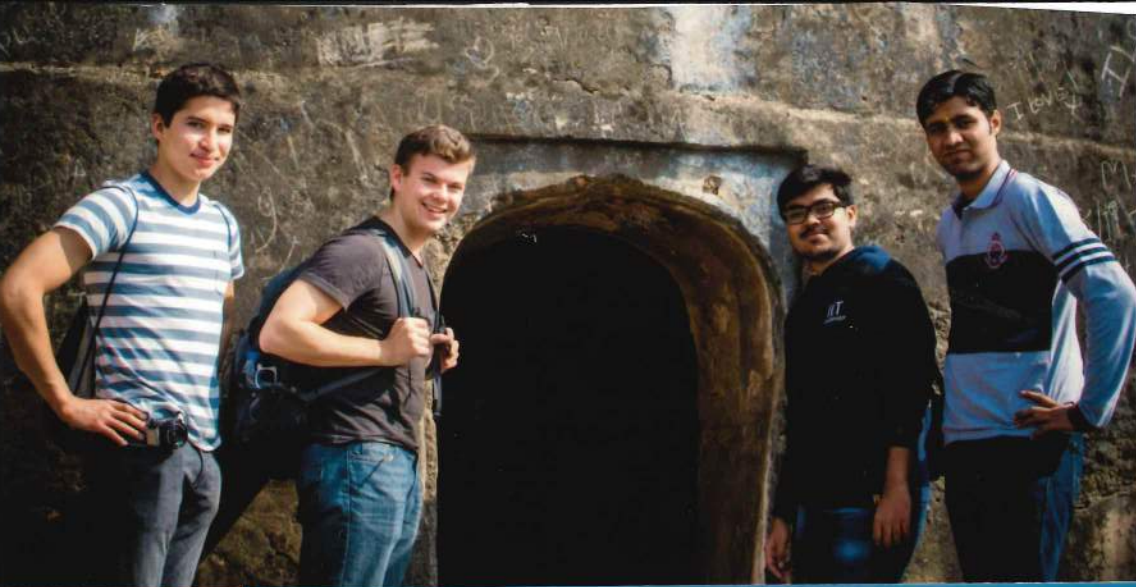
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Caltech
and
I.I.T.
Gandhinagar



Heritage Walk





friends!



BHASHA

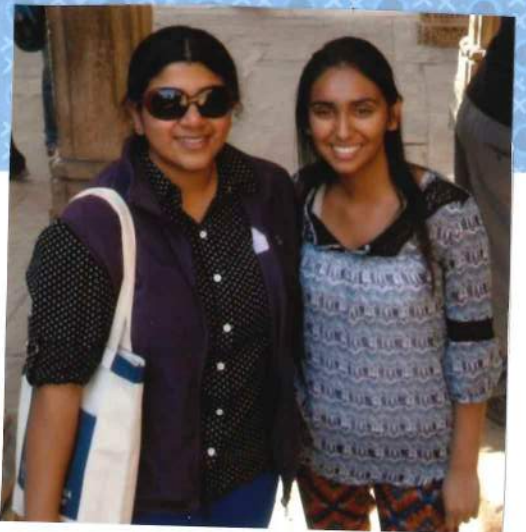
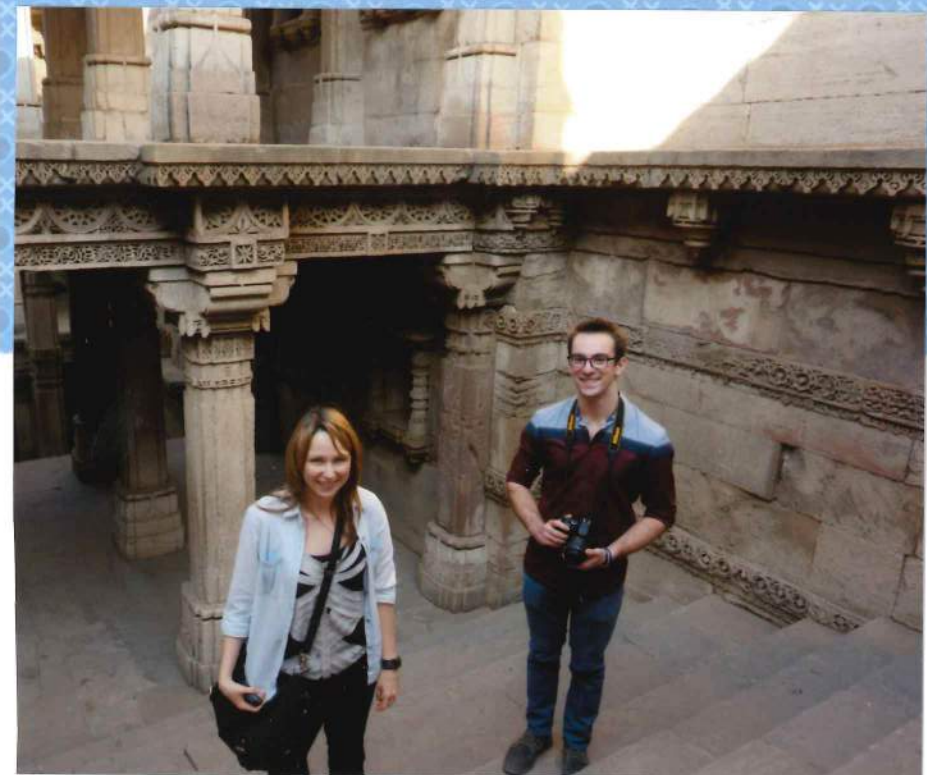


bus fun



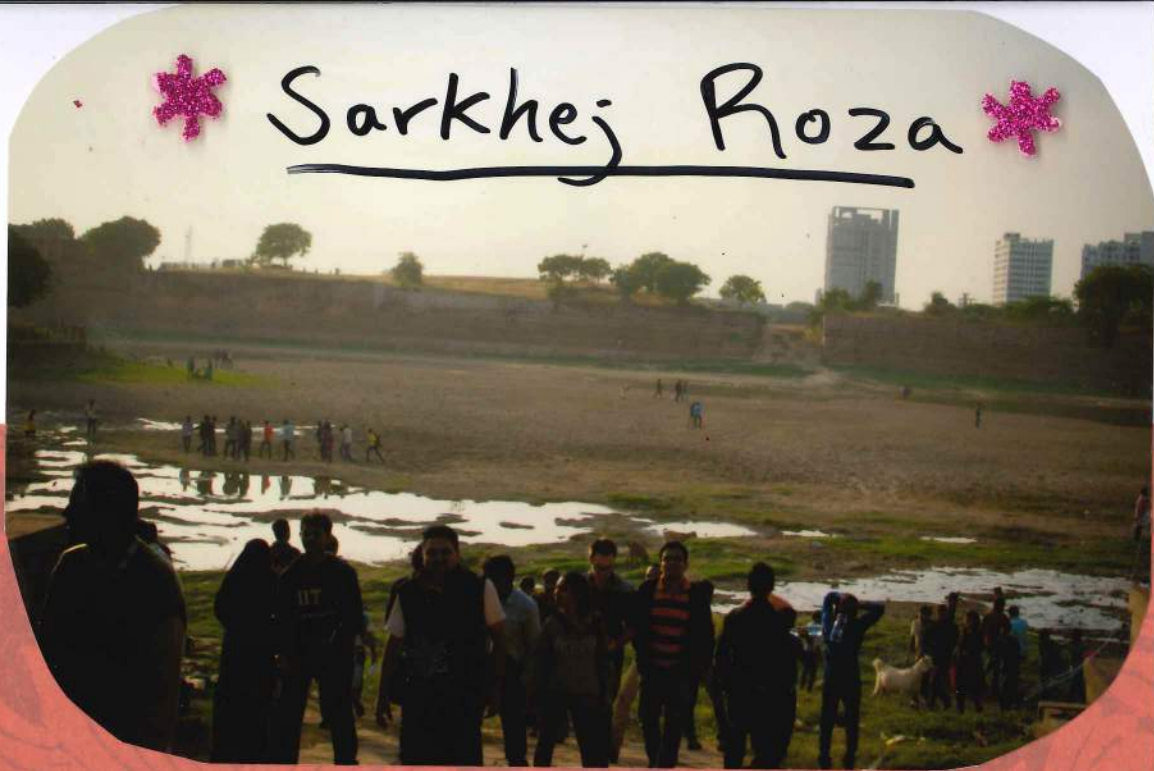


Adalaj ~
~ Stepwell





Sarkhej Roza





food





Agashiye
and
Vishalla....



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gwalia's

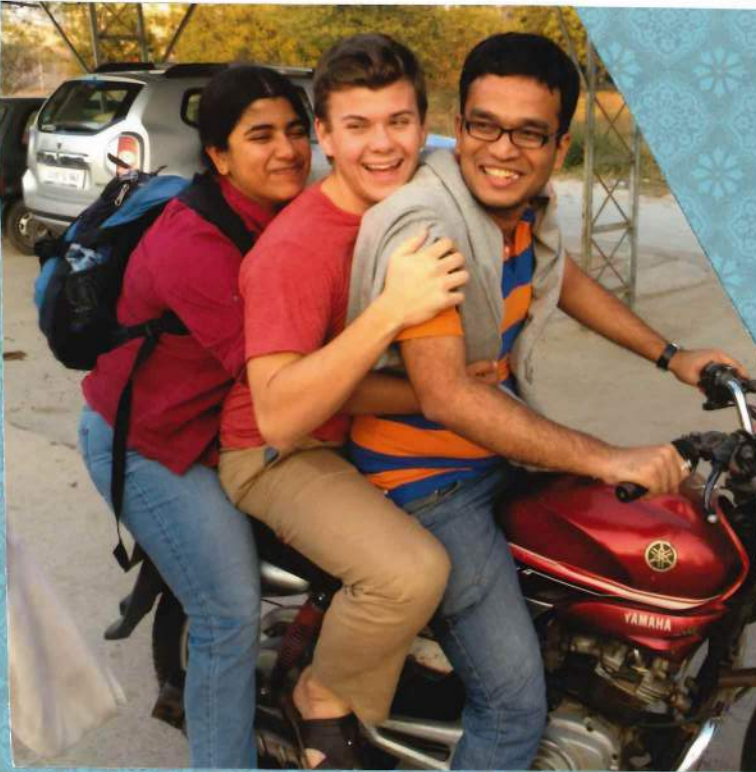




River front Park



Motorcycles & Manek Chowk



Sabarmati Ashram

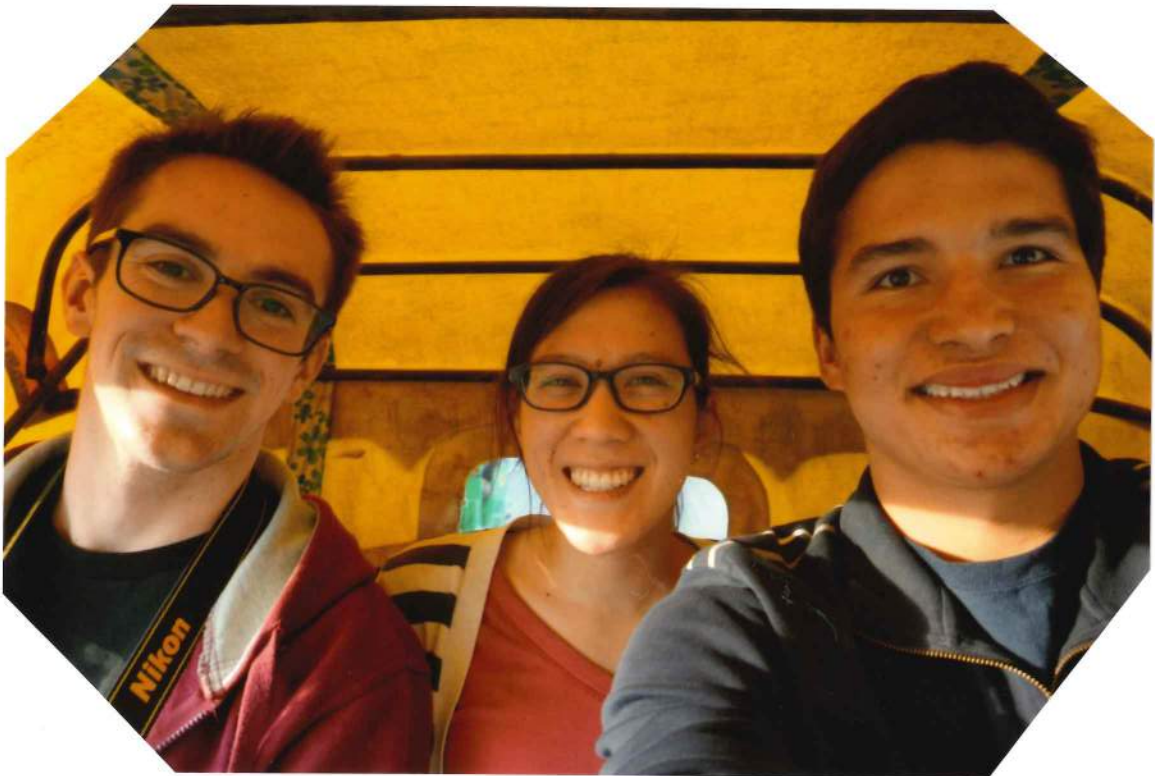




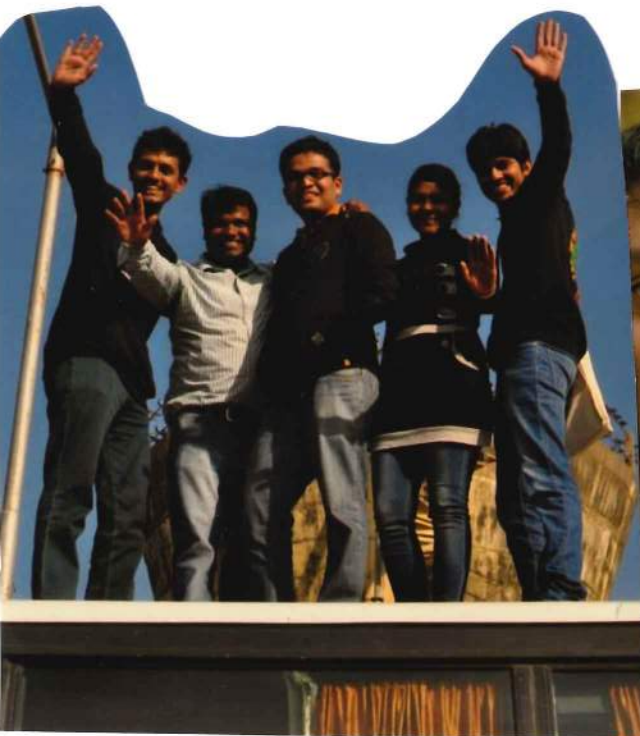
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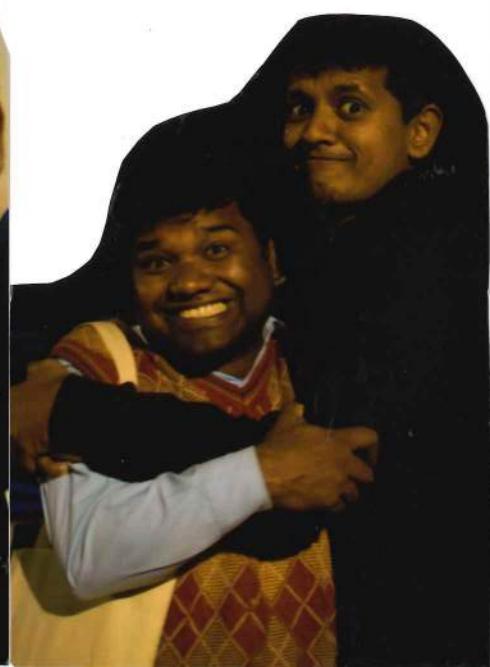
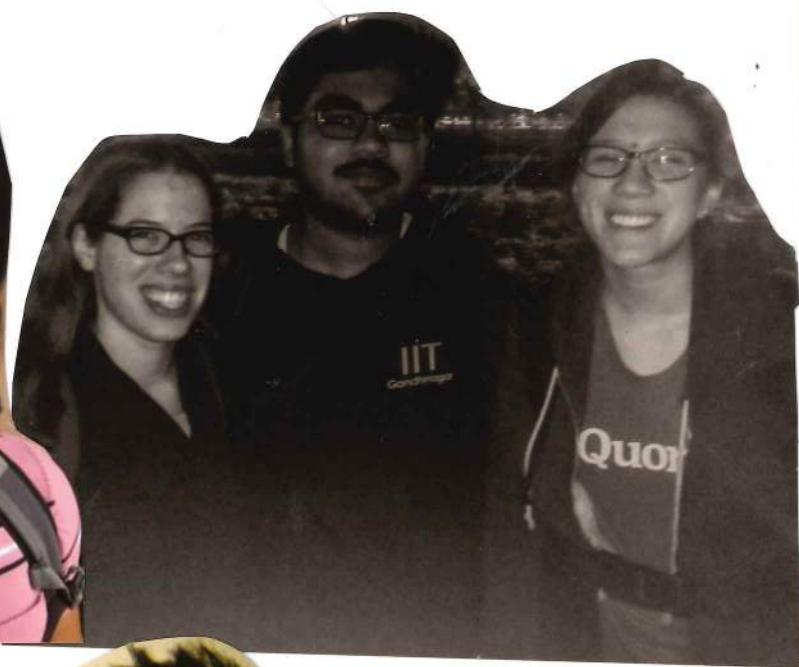


selfie !!!



And many more adventures...





the best part was spending time with all of you!



Thank you so much for your incredible hospitality during India Ki Khoj.

I loved learning about India from all of you and I appreciate you taking us shopping, to the sweets shop and The Gandhi ashram. You were such amazing hosts! I hope to see you in LA someday.

Thanks,
Liz Jackman



Hello IITGN friends!

Thank you so much for being such generous hosts during our time in Andhra. I definitely felt at home with ~~the~~ you, from shopping adventures to dancing in the Adra.

The next time I am in Andhra and have a chance to be in Bhubaneswar, I will make it a point to stop by IITGN to see good friends.

If you are ever in the San Francisco Bay Area looking for home-made Indian food, shoot me an email, and I will open my doors to you as warmly as you have done for us. Best wishes, and until we meet again, Lekha

Viswanadhram

Thank you so much for hosting us in India-Ki-Khoj!

I had so much fun learning from you and going!

discussing all the talks over chai together. Also thanks for taking us out at night to the markets. I will never forget that pani puri; it was so good. Let us know if you ever come to California!

Thanks,
Jackie



I hope everyone is doing well! Thank you so much for giving us a wonderful time in Ahmedabad! To this day, I think of our times fondly as an amazing, eye-opening, and revolutionary experience with a lot of new friends. Please let me know if you ever come to the United States so ^{we} can return the favor!



Warmly,
Ann Wang

Hello friends,

Thanks again for spending so much time showing us your beautiful country and making new memories with us! You guys were so receptive to all of my questions, and that allowed me to get so much more out of the trip. Your hospitality and willingness to explore with us were also so impactful in letting us experience the non-touristy side of Ahmedabad. I hope ~~that~~ I can be as good of an ambassador as you ^{am} if given the opportunity! - Jean McKenna



Hi everyone!

I hope that you all doing wonderful and not too busy with work! I really want to thank you for making India Ki Khoj such a memorable and enlightening Khoj! Just being with you all was a ton of fun, whether it was watching Hindi movies in the lounge or sipping chai in the streets of Ahmedabad. Not just that, but having all of you around really made me learn so much more about India! Listening to the music you have on your phone, for instance, or riding with you on motorcycle to your favorite street food market; whatever it was, it was so valuable to my Khoj! Keep Khojing! Emil Khalibouline



Dear Friends,

India Ki Khoj was truly a once in a lifetime experience. Thank you for the warm hospitality, fond memories, and newfound friendships. Hope to see you all again! Keep in touch! Boyu

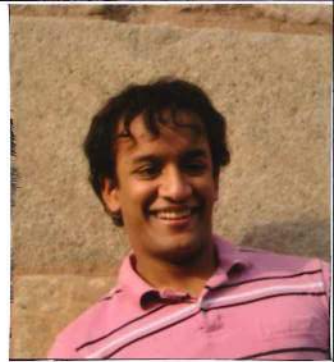
Thank you from one half of I.K.K. to the other half! I really enjoyed getting to know you guys, bus-ride conversations with everyone, and the fun times we had together. We couldn't have asked for better hosts, not to mention a great group of friends.

- Zofii





Dear Friends from IITK,
 I cannot thank you all
 enough for your immense
 Indian hospitality and
 for the fond memories
 I truly did not
 expect to have so
 much fun and to make
 newfound friendships in such a
 short time. You all represented
 India, IIT, and yourselves
 very well. I look forward to
 hearing what amazing things
 each of you will do in the
 future. I hope to see you
 again in any corner of the
 World! Warm Regards, Aleena



Hi Everyone,

Thank you all for
 a great time, and
 for hosting Caltech

Aditya

Modiji!!!



Thank you for
 your hospitality!

- Nico

Til We
 Meet

Again ...