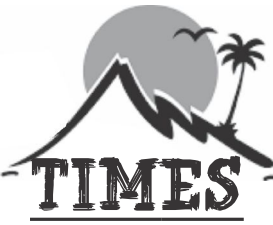




TREKKING

(A special Issue of YPS TIMES, April, 2019)



FIRST THOUGHT

Expeditions
are the
Building Blocks
to Make
Great
Human Beings

- Gurmangat Kaur, IX P

YADAVINDRA PUBLIC SCHOOL, PATIALA

NEWS IN BRIEF

- The annual treks and adventure camps were conducted from April 13 to April 20
- All the students of class IV upwards participated vociferously in the compulsory activity
- A total of 18 groups of boys and girls visited the hills of Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand. 12 treks and 6 camps were organized.
- Students of classes IV –VII attended adventure camps while students of class VIII onwards participated in treks .



(Picture Courtesy - Kot Trek Group)

*" In the midst of the mountain solitude
Where Mother Nature is best viewed
We travelled up a lovely, lonely road
In a joyous and jubilant mood.*

*The beauty of the hills with the fresh breeze
The magnificent pines and the oak trees
All brought alive by these travelling sprees
With the exquisite nature one spies and sees*

*Journeying is a great way to explore
The world and its wonders more and more
Leading us to places long forsaken
Just like this lonely road till it was not taken "*



MAGIC OF THE MANALI MOUNTAINS ! Trekking Experience to Manali



The annual school treks for boys of Class VII were held from 14th to 18th April in the picturesque hill station of Manali. The departure was at 4 o'clock in the morning and the journey was of 15 hours.

We were given packed breakfast on the way. Soon, the mountains cast a pleasant shadow in the sunlight as we passed them. And after a few hours' journey, we could hear the gurgling sound of the Beas river waters. It was not long before we reached our camp which was situated at Bhanu Pul on the banks of the great river. Bhanu Pul is three kilometers away from Manali.

Reaching the camp, the scenic beauty mesmerized us! The Sun shone through the tall coniferous trees. The monkeys danced in the sunlight and the air felt fresh. My heart filled with pleasure when I saw the flowers fluttering in the breeze.



The fact dawned on me that we were in the lap of Mother Nature, beyond the concrete walls of the civilization. The wind in a wicked, playful mood, blew mist in our way, forming an obscured path to follow.

Our camp instructors told us all about the camp and about the area around. There were two mountain ranges surrounding us, Dhauladhar and Pir Panjal. The language of the people was Kullui/Pahadi. We were all assigned our tents almost immediately.

The next day, we got the wake-up call at 6:30 a.m., and after having tea, morning exercise and breakfast, we set out for a 14 km trek up to the 'Snow Point' which is at a height of 2000 metres. It was a tough journey, but the view from the top was worth the arduous trek. The high waterfalls in the backdrop of snow covered mountains offered a breathtaking view. There was snow in some places that paved the way for a playful snowball fight!

Next day, we had adventure activities like the rope course, flying fox and zip lining. We were also taught about knots like clove knot, Figure 8 knot and Fisherman's knot. But soon it started raining and we had to retreat to our tents.

On our last day, we set out to see a waterfall which was 6 km away from the camp. Our arrival at the top offered an intoxicating view of the waterfall surrounded by tall and beautiful Pine and Deodar trees. A beautiful rainbow with its seven different colours at the mouth of the

waterfall, left us awestruck!

The next day, early in the morning, we left the camp site back for our homes, sad but excited to meet our parents.

Overall, it turned out to be an exhilarating, adventurous and a great learning experience!

- Divyam Bansal, VIIN

TREK TO KOT

"A mind stretched by old experiences can never go back to its old dimension"



Trekking is an outdoor activity of walking long distances for pleasure and enjoyment. It is an integral part of our school curriculum as it helps the students gain awareness of their surroundings, test their endurance and inculcate leadership qualities.

Our school organized a 5 day trek for classes VIIIIP and VIIN boys to Kot.

Kot is a small village in Bilaspur district of Himachal Pradesh. Our base camp was 'Agyaatvas', Hatu, Narkanda.

We began with a trek of 8 km to a place called Baghi. Here we were put up in tents. The next day we went for a village walk to an old temple in the vicinity.

Our plan to go to Kot had to be abandoned because of a sudden change in weather. The next day, we headed back to the Hatu Peak. Our stay turned out to be eventful. Besides some adventure activities, we availed the opportunity to visit the famous Hatu Temple. The temple is at a high altitude and affords a mesmerizing view from the top.

The last day we headed back to Patiala. It was an unforgettable experience!

-Anoopinder Singh, VIII P

GIRLS ON THE GO !

THE JALORI PASS TREK

There was sheer excitement when, we, a group of 15 girls, along with our two teacher escorts, left for the famous Jalori Pass.

After breakfast and lunch at Sundernagar, we reached our first stop, a small picturesque place, Jibhi. After a short rest, we trekked to a local temple and a waterfall, which were 5 kilometers away.

The next day we again trekked for 8 km to our next camp at Sojha



, from where we started our trek to Jalori Pass. A sudden change in weather, followed by heavy storm and snow, forced us to trek half of the distance, and we were advised to return for safety reasons.

On the second last day, we completed a short trek to Sarolsar Lake and then headed to Hatu. We had our night stay at Agyaat Vaas resorts. The next day, we bid farewell to that amazing place and reached Patiala at around 7:15pm where our parents were waiting to receive us.

Even though we didn't get luxury rooms to stay or expensive food to eat, we definitely learnt how to live and, enjoy, in difficult conditions. Surely, they are right when they say 'When the going gets tough, the tough get going.'

- Gurnoor Chohan, IXE



WHEN RAIN DID NOT DAMPEN THEIR SPIRITS!

KUARI PASS TREK

Every year in the month of April, a number of treks of varying difficulty are organized for classes four to twelve by the school. This year the Kuari Pass trek in Uttarakhand was selected for the twelfth grade boys.

The trek started on the 13th of April as early as 4 o'clock in the morning when 41 boys assembled along with the teacher incharges.

On the first day we stayed in a town called Maletha and had lunch during a stopover in Dehradun. The next day we again travelled by bus to the town of Joshimath where we stayed for the night in preparation of the trek the next day.

On the 15th of April, we started off in buses and got dropped at the designated point from where the trek was to begin. We trekked for about seven hours and covered a distance of six kilometers to reach the base camp, at a height of 2850 metres. On the way, we climbed through thick forests and passed some small villages.

The next day, we were to trek up to the Kuari Pass which lies at a height of 3500 metres. However, after we had trekked for about two and a half hours, it started to rain heavily. The rain was a part of the freak weather seen in other parts of North India too. We returned by afternoon that day and waited for seemingly endless hours for the skies to clear.

On the 17th, we were to trek downhill and reach Joshimath. We started in the morning under the constant cover of rain. The trek that had taken us six hours going uphill took us only three hours downhill and we reached the starting point of

our trek by late morning. We then travelled to Joshimath and stayed there for the night.

We started in the morning, the next day, for what would be a twelve hour journey from Joshimath to Dehradun and reached the latter in the evening.

The following day, we started for Patiala and reached home in the afternoon, weary but content.

The trek taught us many things. Chief among them are the bonds that we share as well as the joy that adventurous physical exertion brings. As we put our rucksacks in the back of our closets, I hope we bring them out again someday.

-Arjun Guram, XII Arts



THE NAG TIBBA TREK

Trekking is a word that is synonymous to fun, learning and adventure. Trekking in fresh air surrounded by nature and in the company of our peers is what we look forward to the year long!

This year our chosen destination was Nag Tibba. We were girls of classes XI and XII escorted by our amazing teachers. On 15th April we started early in the morning for our first destination, Dehradun where we reached in the afternoon.

The trek to the Nag Tibba base camp next day was tough, but after a 'struggle' of five hours (which meant falling and getting up uncountable times), we finally reached with a feeling of triumph overtaking us.

Everyone was delighted and admired the beautiful hilltop where we had our tents. The rest of the day was spent in going around and capturing the surroundings.



All of us could not sleep that night because the temperature dipped to low minus.

The following day we went for a short trek where we incidentally got stuck in a hailstorm.

We returned to Patiala with a lot of amazing memories with us.

- Bhavya Garg, XI Arts

Trek To Hatu Peak



This was my first Trek ever, so it will always be special! Never had I had the chance to visit far off lands without my family.

It was quite early in the morning when we boarded our bus. I was a bit hesitant to take this journey. I was sceptical to leave my family behind, but my friends encouraged me to take this trek.

As it was a long journey, we did not make any stops. We were given

our breakfast on the way and then stopped for lunch in Shimla. We reached Narkanda in the evening from where we had to board taxis to reach our final destination, Hatu Peak. The road towards our destination was very scary and kept us on the edge of our seats.

It was an amazing feeling waking up to the beautiful morning in green mountains. After breakfast, we started our trek to the Hatu Temple. It

was a 5 km trek through a jungles. For the first time I witnessed nature so closely. It was so pure and beautiful!

There was a special bonfire arranged for us that evening.

Next morning, we woke up to a foggy and cloudy weather. After having our breakfast, we had an impromptu snow fight. Later we headed towards adventurous activities where we took part in the zipline and Burma Bridge. After a long tiring day, we decided to kick back and relax.

On the last day of our trek wherein we covered 6 kilometers, we witnessed heavy snowfall.

Finally, the day came when we had to head back home. As I had started this trek, I did not know what to expect of the mountains, but what I got was much more... beautiful mountains, numbing cold, amazing friends, mesmerizing scenery, snowclad mountains and much more.

The experience I gained from the trip has been extraordinary, adventurous and challenging!

- Aaditya Pratap Maudgil, VI E

Hamta Circle Trek



Adventure is something that teenagers love! We look forward to treks every year and our excitement knows no bounds when treks are round the corner!

This year our trek was planned for Hamta Circle, above the pristine Manali town. We were a group of 32 eager class IX graders who set off on 'Baisakhi' day at 6am and reached Manali after a long 14 hour bus journey. We checked into a hotel and the next day, armed with snacks and juice, trudged up hill to our campsite which took us almost 5 hours. There was a lot in store for those who had never slept in sleeping bags, The night proved to be another challenge. However, we got used to it by the second night.

The second day, trek was on a snow covered hill. Walking uphill in snow was a skill that we all had to learn, but soon became adept at that and climbed up enthusiastically. Some students did experience fatigue and decide to rest midway after climbing for 3 hours, but the rest of us continued... eager to see the view from the top. Although the climb was



arduous, the view was breath-taking. We clicked photographs and congratulated each other on achieving what we had set out to do. The journey downhill was even more fun...we came sliding down slopes wherever we could and had a hearty laugh whenever one of us would rumble tumble on the way. Our day ended with exchanging notes around the bonfire.

The third day trek was the most difficult of all. Not only was the hill much steeper than the previous day but the weather also played truant... as a result the snow remained hard and gaining a foothold became challenging. After about 3 hours of climb, we got enveloped in a dense fog and shortly after that it started raining. This added to our woes and even where there was no snow... children started slipping due to the slushy ground. The trek guides held our hands and guided us at every step of the way and we also held each other's hands to prevent from slipping. That day we learnt an important lesson of unity. We cheered and encouraged each other and made it to the top.

That evening we all sat by the bonfire and talked of how challenging the trek had been but how we overcame all the obstacles with grit and determination.

The next day, due to incessant rain, our trek got cancelled and we had to fall back to our Manali hotel. That was also not bad because the following day when the weather cleared, we walked down to the market. The walk of 6 km took us two and a half hours to complete, but it was good fun shopping. The next day we headed back to Patiala. I am sure I will never forget this wonderful trip in my life!

Fateh Singh Sidhu, IXE

10 BEST TRAVEL BOOKS OF ALL TIMES (The list is subjective and based on personal choices)



1. **The Penguin Lessons** – Tom Mitchell
2. **The Life of Pi** – Yann Martel
3. **The Bridges of Madison County** – Robert James Walter
4. **On The Road** – Jack Kerouac
5. **Wild** – Cheryl Strayed
6. **The Innocents Abroad** – Mark Twain
7. **The Island** – Victoria Hislop
8. **In a Sunburned Country** – Bill Bryson
9. **20000 Leagues Under the Sea** – Jules Verne
10. **Marching Powder** – Rusty Young

“The gladdest moment in human life is a departure into unknown lands.”

– *Sir Richard Burton*

DODITAL TREK



On the cool morning of April 14, boys of classes IX N and IX P excitedly embarked for the Dodital trek.

After a nice breakfast and some long travelling, we reached Mussoorie where we were to stay in a hotel.

The next morning we set off for Uttarkashi. After a long journey we boarded jeeps (in groups) to Sangam Chatti, which was our starting point. The same day, we trekked for 8 kilometers to Debda, where after dinner we were accommodated in huts and tents.

The next morning, we started our 12 kilometer trek to Manjhi. On the way, it started to rain, but fortunately, we were ready with our rainwear. The next day, as intended, we could not go to Dodital, due to heavy rain, but we took an alternate route to Sangam Chatti. Although we could not reach our scheduled destination, still it turned out to be one of the most of the amazing experiences!

Before our departure to Patiala, we had a short stay at Dehradun and the last day we started our journey back to Patiala.

- Krish Bansal, IX N



Sketch: Ansh Taneja, IX O

THE HANGING VALLEY OF GODS HAR KI DOON TREK



It was April 13 when 50 young boys, escorted by three robust teachers and two guides, embarked for their journey to the Har Ki Doon Peak.

On the first day, the journey was easy as we headed to Mussoorie, our first destination.

The next day we travelled to Sankari, and the subsequent morning began our 12 km trek from Sankri to Osla, where we reached by late evening and were allotted our tents.

The next day started a little early as we had to complete a 12 km trek to a place called Kalkathiyadhar. This journey proved to be tougher with the sudden onset of rain, causing severe cold and the emergency alert of putting up the tents. The students started to pitch the tents in a hustle, even as the rain was causing mayhem.

On day 5, we were to climb our final destination, the Har ki Doon Peak base camp, which was a 6 km walk. There on the top, we encountered a fresh spell of snowfall. As the snow fall increased, we were advised to leave the Kalkathiyadhar camp. It turned out to be a 17 km walk back to Osla.

On day 6, we took the route back to Taluka with a 14 kilometre trek and thereafter Boleros were waiting to collect and drop us at Sankri.

The last leg of our trek was in Dehradun where we spent sometime in Pacific Mall and had a sumptuous lunch.

With this, our trekking came to an end and a 7 hour journey by bus brought us back to Patiala. The trek was an enriching and an enlightening experience with all its challenges, hardships and, yes, surprises!

- Prabhnoor and Gurjas, XO

THE DALHOUSIE – KHAJJJAR TREK

Assembling at 4 am on April 14 was an exciting moment for us, the class VI and VII girls. Seeing the sunshine through the window panes, and busy GT road, we neared Pathankot. The foot hills presented a different landscape from that of Punjab. Dalhousie being at a higher altitude, is different and has serene surroundings. The hotel stay at Dalhousie was a good experience in understanding each other.

The next day, we trekked to Punchpula, enroute seeing white flowers and naughty monkeys playing. The rainbow effect at a waterfall was a real Nature's wonder! The third day, we reached Kalatop, an adventure camp site, where the

snow-capped mountains and hills far away presented a magnificent sight. We got the opportunity to complete some tasks and adventure activities, following which we trekked to Khajjiar, one of the most beautiful places on earth. The stay at Khajjiar –with its open wide green pasture, the

trees bordering this field and the old lake in its midst -was enjoyable and delightful, to say the least.

The next morning, on April 18, we started our journey back to Patiala with life long memories to share with others.

- Mehar Sidhu and Ersheen, VIP



TRAVEL, DISCOVER AND ADVENTURE ! THE CHOPTA CHANDRASHILA TREK

This year, we, fortunately, got the opportunity to explore the Chopta Chandrashila Trek. A lively bunch of 29 girls was escorted by two staff members at every step of the journey.

The 12 hour long journey was full of twists and turns, narrow roads and some bumps, thanks to the construction work going on, which made it all the more thrilling. It started with a lot of warmth and humidity in the atmosphere, but kept becoming chilly as we scaled heights. Though lip-synching of the songs kept the spirits of the group alive!

The final campsite, situated by a river bed and surrounded by quiet woods, was a treat to the eyes...and to the minds! The site also afforded us a beautiful view of the river, Alaknanda.

The five kilometre trek on the first day brought us up to a majestic lake, Deodital Lake, famous for its myth of fulfilling everyone's wishes. Later, we trekked to a temple where we were enlightened about the history of the holy place. However, the weather conditions had become so hostile the next day that our



exciting trek to Tungnath had to be cancelled. But, we enjoyed our way through the day by playing games and doing some photography as well! The experience was enriching because it helped us to cope with everything around us and make fruitful use of the time. It opened our eyes to so many unexplored destinations in our country which we really need to explore for ourselves.

- Sarah Gupta, IXE

‘PEAK’ HOUR

Peaks summited by YPS mountaineers in recent times –

1. **Shatidhar Peak (summited twice)** – This peak lies in the Manali region in Himachal Pradesh and stands at a height of 17, 200 feet
2. **Stok Kangri Peak** – Stok Kangri Peak is the highest mountain in the Stok Range of the Himalayas in the Ladakh region of north-west India. The height is 20,917 feet.
3. **Friendship Peak (summited twice)** – Friendship Peak is one of the most famous summits for trekking in the country. It is located in the Pir Panjal range in Himachal Pradesh and stands tall at 17,348 feet.
4. **Jagatsukh Peak (summited twice)** – Jagatsukh Peak, once again, lies in the Pir Panjal region in Himachal Pradesh at a height of 17,170 feet.
5. **Yunam Peak** – One of the most unexplored summits, Yunam Peak stands imposingly at about 20,775 feet.
6. **Norbu Peak** – Norbu Peak is in the state of Himachal Pradesh, standing at a height of over 20,689 feet.
7. **Unnamed Peak** – The peak is in the Lahaul Spiti region of Himachal Pradesh, towering at a height of 17, 600 feet.



“THE BEST VIEW COMES AFTER THE HARDEST CLIMB!”

GABBA TREK



Our school organized a 4 night/5 day trek for girls of class VIII to Gabbha- a total of 36 girls with 2 escort teachers accompanying them.

The journey from Patiala began at 6:00 am. The journey was comfortable, the girls were given refreshments on their way and it took us 8 hours to reach our first destination, Rajgarh. The stay

arrangements at Rajgarh were comfortable and a group of 5 girls were allotted a tent each.

The next day the girls completed a trek of 8 kilometers which they enjoyed thoroughly. They learnt to face the hardships and understood the value of team spirit. The girls returned to the camp area by noon, rested for a while and enjoyed a bonfire session in the evening.

In the following days, the girls did activities like rappelling, flying fox and zip lining.

During their stay, we also got an opportunity to visit a local Jam factory. To sum up, not only did we enjoy the trek, but also learnt to take care of ourselves and overcome difficulties. We learnt the lesson of 'never giving up', no matter how hard the situation is. The most important thing we learnt was to bear the brunt of harsh weather, fearlessly!

-Samaira Singh, VIII P and
Punya Arora, VIII O

Beas Kund Trek

Being a newcomer in the school this was my first trek. The school had organized a trek to Beas Kund (ahead of Manali). We, a group of 38 boys accompanied by two teachers, left in the early morning hours of April 14.

Our first halt was at Manali where we reached after a 15 hour long journey.

The next two days we completed two treks to Sloan Valley which is 8 kilometer trek to Solang Valley and the second to Dhundni. On reaching the latter, we were allotted our tents which were, surprisingly set up on a base of snow flanked by river Beas gushing with ice cold water. The weather was turning bad, so we decided to trek back to Manali.

The next two days, we went trekking to some areas around Manali and also visited some famous places of the city.

In the end, I can safely say that all the experiences I gained from this

excursion have been extraordinary, challenging, adventurous and relaxing! I got a chance to see things that a common man may not get to see in daily life. I shall be waiting eagerly for more such treks in the days ahead. Thank you, YPS, for this wonderful and memorable experience!

- Navtej Singh Jaggi, XI Accounts



TRIVIA ON TRAVEL

1. 23 year old teacher, **Eamonn**, holds the record of travelling the maximum distance of 2000 kilometres bare feet.
2. **Alison Teal**, also known as Indiana Jones is believed to have travelled 40 different countries, riding a camel.
3. **Julie Berry** and **Kasey Stewart** hold the world record of travelling all the 7 continents in just 4 days.
4. **Robert Wheeler** is believed to be the oldest man to have scaled Mount Kilimanjaro. He was 85 years when he achieved this feat.
5. **Robert Thompson** travelled 7000 miles from Switzerland to China on skateboard.
6. **Mr Graham** of South Sudan became the first man to visit all 201 nations without flight.
7. **Oh Eun Sun** became the first woman to climb the top 14 mountain peaks of the world.
8. **Robert Gaside** became the first person to run around the world. He started from New Delhi and finished his journey in 6 years.



- Compiled By : Sarah Gupta, IXE

Trekking Experience to Patalsu Peak, Manali

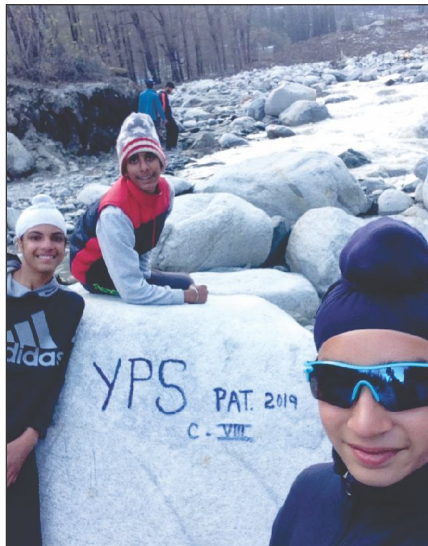
The annual treks began in the second week of April and, this time, the boys of class VIII O and VIII E were bound for the Patalsu Peak Trek in the vicinity of Solang Valley, Manali. Three teachers in charge were our guardians on this memorable trip.

Patalsu Peak is a 13,400 feet (4,100 metres) high peak.

We reached Manali at 9 pm and stayed there overnight. The next day, we trekked to our first base camp in Manali, which was in a temperate region. Here we stayed in tent houses. We vigorously participated in adventure activities like zip lining and flying fox which gratified our spirit of adventure, besides teaching us survival and mountaineering techniques and the skills of endurance and strength. The more petty issues such as overcrowding in a single tent were agreeably resolved. Staying away from technology and our daily comforts was also a challenge we learnt to adapt to.

During our stay, we were often taken for short treks to a nearby forest (where we collected dry pieces of timber, so we could light a bonfire in the bitter cold of the night) and to some villages like Burwa and, once, to an old temple.

On the fourth day, we began our trek to the final base camp in the



mountains of Shagadugh, but the bad weather and the increasing cold and rain meant that we couldn't make it to the top of the peak. The early retreat to the hotel was, certainly, unexpected and disappointing!

As for the lessons, during our trek, we learnt several lessons we could never have learnt in our classes and in the plush environs of our homes. Primarily, we learnt to live together as a team and build respect for each other.

I must share an interesting incident. We walked to the banks of the river Beas, where as a memento, we left engraved the words, 'YPS, Patiala, 2019' on a big boulder. This was for the future tourists and trekkers to know of the exciting times we had had in the mountains and the wilderness of Himachal!

Gurkirpa Singh, VIII O



Sketch: Inayat Ranwa, XII Arts

JUNIOR SCHOOL JAUNTS!

CAMP AT MASHOBRA (CLASS IV BOYS)

This year class IV boys went for their first trek. When our teachers told us that we will be going for trekking to Mashobra, we all felt very excited.

On April 15, we boarded the bus and started our journey from the school at 6.30 am and reached Mashobra at 5 pm.

We had to shift into smaller buses to reach our campsite, 'Mashobra Greens'.

We were amazed to see the beautiful campsite. We stayed in beautiful bamboo cottages. The next morning, we did various activities like zip lining, valley crossing, Burma Bridge and Commando Net. Many indoor activities like tug-of-war, musical chairs and blind fold were also organized.

Each morning we had yoga session and in the evening we

enjoyed the DJ party. The environment was amazingly clean and beautiful! I just wished that we also had such a lifestyle where there were no gadgets, but just different

physical exercises. The teachers took great care of all the kids. We came back on April 18 with beautiful memories of our first trek!

Jaiveer Singh Walia, IVO



CAMP AT KUFRI (CLASS V BOYS)

The long awaited day, finally, came! On April 15, as the Sun was still rising, along with our excitement, the YPS gates opened to welcome us aboard our buses.

After warm goodbyes, our journey began. We stopped at Chandigarh for breakfast and at Solan for our lunch. Finally, we reached our campsite, 'Kufri Greens' late in the evening.

The first morning we woke up to

a heavy rain, which, fortunately, reduced to a drizzle. The same day, we hiked up a long trail. Next morning we walked up to the local market and, on return, we had a bonfire accompanied by DJ.

The following morning, we packed our haversacks and trotted to the buses for our return. Our bus broke down on the way and we were shifted into another bus. Once we reached Patiala, we were excited as

we picked our luggage and ran towards our parents.

It was a memorable trip!

- Angad Bir Singh Sarao, VP



CAMP AT BAROG (CLASS IV AND V GIRLS)

The much-awaited treks for classes IV and V girls scheduled for April 15, finally began. We, the girls of classes IV and V, were excited as we were going to Pine Hills Eco Camp, Barog. We had 6 teachers accompanying us. The jubilant girls boarded the bus and left the school campus at the right time.

During our journey, we sang songs and played games. We were given breakfast enroute.

On reaching Barog, we were thrilled to see the tents pitched for us.

It was, certainly, a wonderful experience to stay in the tents! During our stay, we did many exciting activities like zip line, Burma Bridge, mountain climbing, adventure obstacles and many more. There was a lovely musical evening

and bonfire arranged for us.

The day we were to return, we had mixed feelings as we wanted to stay there more, but also return to our homes. Finally, on April 18 we reached our home town, Patiala, safely!

Jaanya Ahluwalia, IVN





TREKS THEN AND NOW

Times have changed and so has trekking! A comparison between the present and the times gone by-

<u>THEN</u>	<u>NOW</u>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. School teams travelled by public transport buses 2 Walkmans (and a collection of carefully chosen old time cassettes) was an essential part of every student's baggage 3. Students communicated with their families through inland letters. Each student was supposed to carry at least two such inland letters with him/her 4. Haversacks were issued to the students before the start of the treks by the school. 5. Staff and students put up in PWD and Forest rest houses. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All travel is done through specially organised buses. 2. Walkmans (sadly) are a thing of the past. Students now, if allowed by school authorities, choose to carry music in I-PODS. 3. The school and the families are kept informed through Whatsapp groups, SMS messages and telephone calls. 4. The students now carry their own bags and rucksacks (which, certainly, lack the toughness and coarseness of the old haversacks) 5. Staff and students now stay in tents and cottages.

FACE-OFF – TREKS VS. CAMPS



TREKS

Most students feel that treks are better. I cannot agree enough ! Treks , to begin with , offer a lot more activities and physical exposure than camps ever do . On treks, we are always on the move. We pitch tents, cook our food and try to survive in the heavy wilderness. And, to top it all, the feeling of scaling a new peak everyday is truly epic!

Treks put to test our physical stamina and help our survival instincts grow .They are, in fact , full of both risk and excitement which , I feel , is a legendary combination !

- Uday Pratap Singh, VI P

CAMPS

Treks and camps always bring a feeling of excitement and enthusiasm!

But if I were to choose one , it will be camping!

Camps , first of all, have beaucoup perks that make them an ideal activity for people who thrive on both escapade and leisure. Camps enhance our social skills as we make ourselves familiar with Mother Nature.

Camping allows us to use facilities, while, at the same time , teaching us survival techniques. This, certainly, makes camps better than the 'harsh' treks – with all those ' heavy loads' on our backs!!!

- Mallik Arjun Ahluwalia ,VI E

WHAT IS IT TO TRAVEL?

“The world is a book, and those who do not travel read only a page,” said Saint Augustine.

Whether it is long- distance or just an hour away, travel is very important for our character- building . Not to forget , the experiences we gain with every new place we visit and the new people we meet.

Traveling is the best way to get out of our comfort zone and experience life in its truest and purest form!

On the surface, travel may appear to be just about seeing new places , but it is so much more- opening up of new horizons to new cultures, customs, cuisines and landscapes. While photographs become the proof of where we went and what we saw, it's the transformation that takes place within that is often the strongest evidence of why travelling is important.

One sentence that sums up the significance of travel is “So much of who we are , is where we have been.”

So my dear friends,

Travel because...

“Travel is the only thing you buy that makes you richer.”

Travel because...

“ It leaves you speechless, and then turns you into a storyteller.”

Travel because...

“ It makes you see what a tiny place you occupy in this world.”

Travel because..

“ If we were meant to stay in one place , we would have roots instead of feet !”

- Inayat Grewal, IXE



Sketch : Sanchita Gupta, XI Arts