

REPORT ON TRIP TO UDAIPUR AND KUMBHALGARH FORT

"Take only memories, leave only footprints." - Chief Seattle

In our school's continuous endeavour to promote hands-on learning, an educational trip to **Udaipur** and **Kumbhalgarh Fort** was organized from 12 to 16 October 2018 for the students of classes VII to XI.

On 12 October 2018, thirty-two students accompanied by four teachers, boarded an air-conditioned AC Coach for Udaipur, also known as the '**City of Lakes**'. As expected, the ambience was of excitement and enthusiasm. Dinner was served en route in a sophisticated bistro.

We reached Oriental Palace Resort, our hotel, early in the morning on 13 October 2018. The rooms were assigned to children on four-sharing basis. After some rest and quick bite, we visited Maharana Pratap Smarak, Fateh Sagar Lake and Sahelion Ki Bari in the evening.

The Fateh Sagar lake was picturesque and the tranquility of the place was enhanced against the orange beams of the evening sun. The students enjoyed boating in the lake and admired the fountains and manicured gardens with a plethora of blooming flowers in Sahelion Ki Bari.





Boating at Fateh Sagar Lake and Haldi Ghati

However, the **Maharana Pratap Smarak** was the best of all. The exquisite, larger-than-life idol of the great Rajput on his horse was magnificent to behold. It was further glorified when the guide told the students the story of the Battle of Haldighati and one couldn't help but marvel at the courage of the king. By the time dinner was served at the hotel, everyone was looking forward to the next day.



At Maharana Pratap Smarak



Engrossed in an interactive session

On 14 October 2018, the students visited **Jagdish Temple and the City Palace**- a museum with endless exhibits of the place down the ages, including amazing memorabilia of the royals.

The view of the whole city was visible from the palace and its scenic beauty left everyone spellbound.

With shimmering **Lake Pichola** and a wide range of mountains in every direction, Udaipur is indeed one of the most beautiful and royal city of Rajasthan. In the evening, we returned to our hotel to appease our appetite and enjoyed a groovy DJ night.



Exploring the City Palace

The next day, the students were excited to go to **Haldighati and Kumbhalgarh Fort**. Haldighati is a historic place which had witnessed the unforgettable battle between the Mughals and Maharana Pratap. The students visited the museum which tells the tale of one of the brave kings of Mewar, **Maharana Pratap** and his favourite horse **Chetak**. The King's courage, valour and his sacrifices for his state have been beautifully showcased by murals, hand paintings and a short animated film. The students also witnessed the various aspects of Maharana Pratap's life through light and sound shows. One couldn't avoid the goose bumps while listening to the historic battle fought at Rakt Talai. The visit to Haldighati was undoubtedly enriching and informative.



Witnessing the Legacy of Maharana Pratap at Haldi Ghati Museum

In the afternoon, we all departed for **Kumbhalgarh Fort**, the birthplace of Maharana Pratap, the great king and warrior of Mewar. The fort is humungous with a wall over 22 miles long. It is spread across a vast area and is among the largest wall complex in the world. The students also visited the Nav Durga temple inside the fort, where a flame has been burning since seven centuries.



<u>Besotted by the architectural marvel of</u> <u>Kumbhalgarh Fort</u>

After an overnight journey, we arrived at the school on 16 October 2018.

The trip was an excellent exposure for the students to understand and appreciate the language, culture, traditions and practices of another state. The students will forever cherish the memories of this trip which enabled them to get acquainted with Udaipur's rich heritage.

Apart from the knowledge, such excursions bring the spirit of camaraderie and friendship to the fore.

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