

# UNCW PLS STUDENTS ABROAD

**Student:** Lauren Prema

**Country:** India

**Duration:** UNCW spring 2010 semester course on Indian politics and development followed by two weeks travel to India in May 2010.



**Photo:** Lauren in front of the Taj Mahal, one of India's most remarkable monuments



**Photo:** Lauren hiking Periyar Park, Kerala, India

While in India, we learned a great deal about development and culture in India. We were able to visit the temples and monuments in addition to places involved in development, like a biofuel research park.

We covered all dimensions of the overpopulated, culturally preserved, and economically booming state of India, which we were able to experience first-hand.

The Indians we met were extremely easy to converse with, providing there was not a language barrier, and I am grateful for our assignment to journal and interview various locals throughout the trip.

I learned a great deal about myself, as well as a new community to which I had never been exposed. I also enjoyed the fact that our travel group was so small because it felt much more personal and easy to open up.

Though I discovered my distaste for curry, I am very grateful for the opportunity to participate on this trip, as it was by far the biggest cultural experience of my life. (**Editor's note:** Lauren had earlier done semester study abroad in both France and South Africa, so that last statement says a lot!)



**Photo:** Lauren and another trip participant having their hands painted with henna.