

Boot Camp 2022



Student Testimonial & Feedback

DATE :

21st June- 25th June 2022

TABLE OF CONTENTS-

- Acknowledgement
- Start
- Hiking
- Gondola
- Gondola operations
room tour
- Magic carpet and tubing
- Zip lining
- Group activities
- Journey back
- Conclusion



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This boot camp was a special experience for me as this was the first time I was exploring somewhere different than my hometown. Because of this, before I start I would like to thank everyone responsible for making it possible.

I would like to thank Prof. B S Sahay, our honorable Director for authorize the trip. I would also like to thank our faculty Prof. Nitin Upadhyay, Chairperson Doctoral Programme and Prof. Prateeksha Maurya, Assistant Professor in the area of Finance & Accounting for joining us in trip and making it more safe as well as knowledgeble. I

would also like to thank Mrs. Jyoti Upadhyay and Mr. Shashank Upadhyay for their efforts to make this trip seamless and smooth.



START

It all started with an email, much-awaited, with information about the boot camp. I felt a little excited and a little stressed because so much was to be done in half a day. I registered, paid, and packed my belongings for the long journey that lay ahead.

The next day we had our lunch and started our journey at 12:45. We were asked to divide our batch into four groups, each group having 14 members headed by a volunteer. I was in group 1 with Srishti as our volunteer. We completed our four-hour ride by bus which was a very good decision because that way we were able to admire the beautiful journey as much as we did the destination. I enjoyed the ride by listening to some soothing music while watching meandering roads and cloud-covered hills and mesmerizing colored sedimentary rocks.

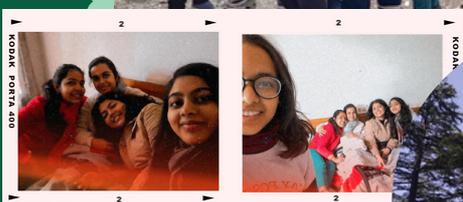


We reached the Alpine hotel atSoon after reaching we were directed to the hall with eating arrangements for us. I was especially happy to see that because at this point I was famished and needed something good to feast on. We were provided with french fries and Chai tea which were much welcomed by all of us. A little later we were asked to get ready for the dinner and then prepare to settle in our respective rooms. After dinner, we were asked to choose our roommates ourselves by our volunteers which was a much-appreciated gesture because that way we could choose a person we were comfortable sharing a room with. After this was decided we were allotted the rooms. Almost all of the girls in the group were unfortunately allotted rooms in Maple Hotel. The first time we all saw our rooms we were a little disappointed, admittedly. The rooms were unhygienic with spots on the bedsheets. The paint on the walls was degenerating, funnily giving it an eerie feeling. Moreover, we weren't provided with a proper dustbin to dispose of the waste. On the bright side, the view from our rooms was of the garden with beautiful Cyprus trees surrounding the Hotel. Being bone tired I slept right after hitting the bed..



The next day we enjoyed a little downtime because of the heavy rain. All of the people in the Maple gather together in a room for breakfast playing games and talking. Although I was looking forward to the adventurous activities for that day which we weren't able to do I was happy because I spent some quality time with my batchmates. After a few times, we explored the places and cafes near the hotel and clicked some pictures. We also talked to the faculties about our problems related to the Maple Hotel with reassurance that things would be taken into account. Two hours after the complaint we were asked to get packed because we were changing the hotels. I was impressed by how fast the decision was made including the decision about our new stay. It was a mere 10-minute ride but with a pretty view. The rest of the day was given to us to rest with dinner being communal with a game of dumb charades following it.

From the next onwards Group 1 started the adventurous activities with the hiking.



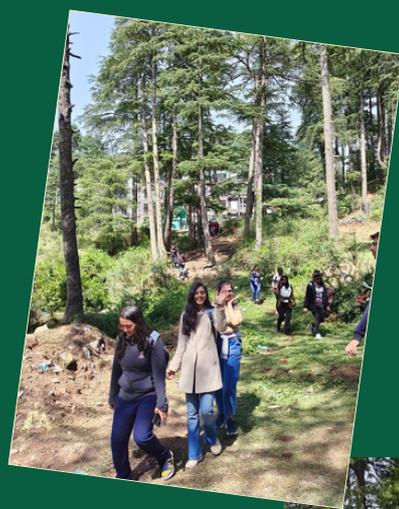
HIKING-

We woke up early in the morning, had our breakfast, and were then introduced to our guide, Mr. Abhishek. He told us that all our adventurous activities will be conducted by Skyview. He asked us some standard questions such as “Does anyone have asthma?” “Does anyone have a fear of heights?” “Is anyone injured?” to keep precautions when necessary. Next groups 1,2 and 3,4 parted ways to do our respective activities.

Before starting our activity, we did a warm-up hike Of 500 meters to reach our starting destination. After reaching there we were told that the whole hike would be about 4.8 km. We also chatted about our places of origin. After all the chatting we were told that usually when people hike, they are trained and know the way they have to proceed. But not us. Hence, he provided us with some techniques to tackle the steep slopes. He asked us not to extend our knees too ahead from our feet while striding forward on a steep slope. This will prevent any pain in the knee while walking. Next, he told us to use small steps while walking whenever tired. He also told us a breathing technique (breathe in while taking a step, breathe out in the next two-step). After this, we started our journey. At the start itself, we found a steep slope so I was using the techniques told by the guide and found it easier to climb. After fifteen minutes climb, we took a short break as our team was scattered. Here the guide told us that we were at 21000 elevations from the sea and that we are surrounded by Devdar trees. He also explained that these trees are water-absorbing and that is the reason why Patnitop is so cold. Next, he asked us about the state tree of Jammu. This answer (Chinar) was given by one of our faculty-Prateeksha Ma'am to that he showed us that tree (planted on a private apple farm right next to us). Seeing the view from there I was only wondering how beautiful would Patnitop look in winters with snow-capped mountains. We started walking again to the dense side of the forest. As we were walking along the edge of the forest, we could almost constantly see the skyline.



Being able to hear my every breath in such a quiet place gave me the peace I've hardly ever felt. Feeling the warm sunlight on my face after such a cold morning, cradled by nature all around made this moment tranquil. I've never felt closer to nature as I did at that moment. As the rest of that batchmates caught up, the quiet died down followed by the sound of them talking. During that time an interesting question came to my mind and I asked Guide the same. During our whole journey Sir had asked us to take only the marked trail but never explained what it is or how to identify one. I asked him just that. He told us that a marked trail is usually one taken by locals and is easily identifiable. A marked trail won't have shrubs or grass growing beneath and there would be a clear path with no trees in the middle to follow. During our whole hike, we took these small breaks to rejuvenate ourselves and to have energy bars and nuts provided in our hiking kit. By the afternoon we reached our destination (the top of the hill). We clicked a few pictures and enjoyed the view. But I got an injury on my hand which wasn't that bad but I was informed that it may provide some complications during my next activities. On the top, we were provided with a little challenge that we had to solve. We were, I believe quite quick in solving that puzzle after which we started our descent back. Here, we were told an interesting trick. The guide told us that whenever we're crossing a steep and narrow strip remember to walk sideways with your back towards the slope so that even If you fall down you fall towards the ground and not the valley. The descent took us less than half the time as ascend because we were moving faster due to gravity. By the time we reached the end, it was time for lunch.



GONDOLA-

Our volunteers asked us to divide into groups of 7 to ride the gondola. Ours was group 2 and we went to the gondola with Prateeksha Ma'am. The seats were at first wobbly which scared me a little but soon enough they stabilized. The gondola is the highest Gondola in India and it felt like it. From that height, I could see miles and the view was honestly breathtaking. Greenery was everywhere and little streams between them glistened like diamonds in the sun. It was one of the most majestic views I've seen in my life.

GONDOLA OPERATIONS ROOM TOUR-

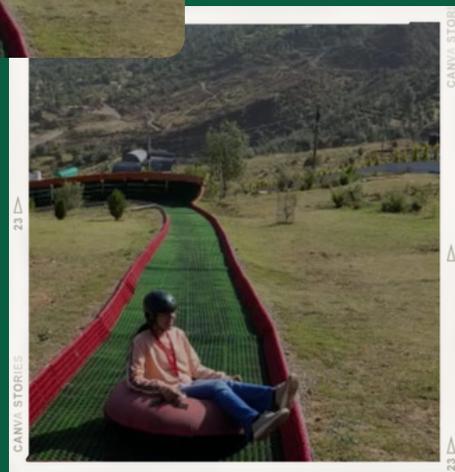
When we arrived at the gondola entry at the bottom, the head of the engineering department and the supervisor of the gondolas greeted us. He addressed us and told us about the Gondolas. It was directly imported from France without disassembling any of the compartments. It was the fastest project of assembling Gondolas in India. Within 3 years, the whole project was constructed. While it has also the highest distance from the ground, CEN (European) Standard certified gondola in Asia. It is also one of the safest Gondolas present in the entire world with over 200+ safety tests done. It was made with the partnership of POMA, a world leader in gondola manufacturing and installation. And it is the only gondola in India with over sixty-five meters of ground clearance and the longest span of 849 meters between two towers. These spacious avant-garde gondolas are custom-crafted for an all-year-round experience.



MAGIC CARPET AND TUBING-

After signing a document accepting the fact that the guides told us about the risk of these adventurous trips and accepting it, we were asked to go to the Magic carpet. There the instructor asked us to lean forward so that we can maintain balance. It was a little tricky at first and I almost fell two times but it was fun.

After the Magic carpet ride, we were asked to stand in line for Tubing. I was ninth in line and had to wait for the second round. I was asked to sit in a tube and instructed to hold the straps tight to regain balance. When I asked them how does the ride work, they told me that the tube is covered with lubricant which reapplied after every ride. If by chance your ride stops in the middle people are standing at every stop to give the ride a push. There were also sidebars to provide safety in the places where the tube takes a turn or moves in speed. As I sat, I was instructed to keep my legs a little high so that it doesn't create friction with the carpet placed below. The ride was a little short but fun. It reminded me of the water rides in water parks. Mine stopped a little early than the end but it was a good experience.



ZIPLINE-

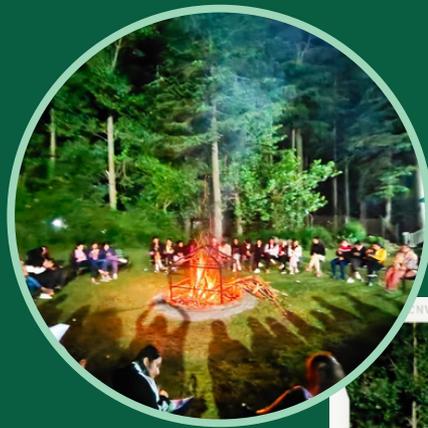
This was one of the best experiences I had on this whole trip. After doing tubing I went to the zip lining section and saw I was the eighth person in the line. I volunteered to be the first eight people to practice for the final zipline. While putting on the harness I was asked how did I get the injury on my hand. When I told them the nature of my injury, they informed me that it can create complications if there is a need for crawling so I should consider that. But I was determined to zip line as I was the most excited about this. So, I thought to take my chances and when to the practice area. We were told the procedure of putting on the pulley on the line and were told to do it ourselves. We were also told about the rule of the PAS Platform and pulley, Arrow, and Sitting position. The rule was to check the platform in front to be empty before attaching the harness to the pulley and the pulley to the zip line. Next, check that the arrow on the pulley is towards your face (this ensured that when you grab the zip line if you stop in the middle which you have to do for crawling, you're not injuring your arm because of that arrow) and then sitting position (lean on your back a little for speed) While practicing the instructor did ask me to try out crawling which hurt a little due to my injury but it was nothing I couldn't handle so I decided to go for the actual zip line. My friends shouted wishes and after I put on the harness at the starting of the line, I asked the second instructor to check it for me. When he found it to be alright, he gave me the green signal and I let go. Now the closest explanation to how it feels is flying I could see the greens pass by me in a flash, felt the cold air woosh on my face, and thought 'this is how it must feel to be flying' because how else are you supposed to think of this experience. The thrill of knowing that you're going at such a speed at such heights. One look to the left and you could see greenery as far as the eyes could see. But towards the end, I used to bring my attention back to the pole as I had to grab it. I had to do this around 6 times with around 7-8 poles. At the last pole, the instructor asked me how was it and I told him terrifying but thrilling.



GROUP ACTIVITIES-

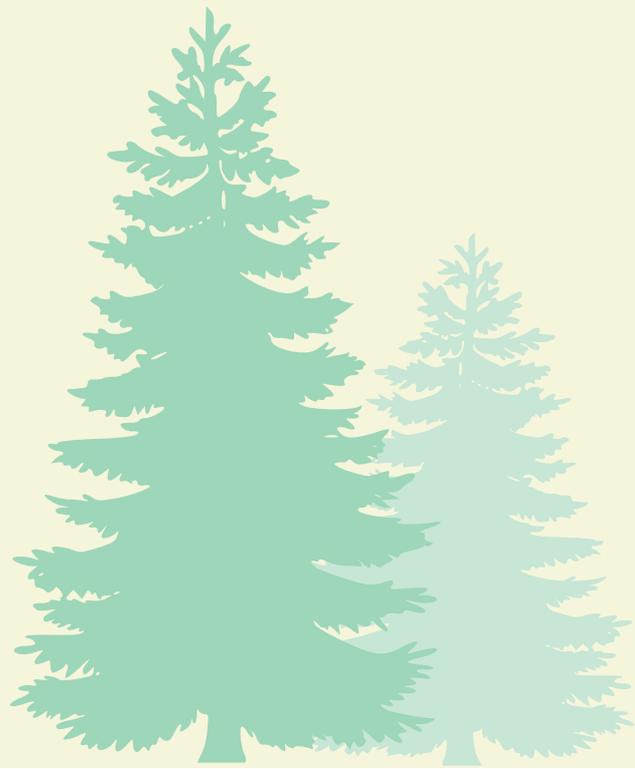
In group activities, we had a bonfire night and went to explore the temple and market. Being injured from the zip lining I wasn't able to attend the bonfire night completely and was only able to attend a few moments. I saw people dancing and singing while the whole class sat in a circle around a big bonfire in the middle. Although I went back a few minutes after, I could hear people laughing and singing till the time I fell asleep.

We also went to the temple with or whole class. We started our journey on foot in the evening. Ergo I found the journey as pretty as the destination. Walking in the twilight with friends joking, and laughing surrounded by nature was one of the purest feelings. Although girls weren't allowed inside the temple I prayed from the outside. We asked the priest the reason why girls weren't allowed in the temple and heard a fascinating story. After prayer, I did my parikrama and went outside to buy trinkets and souvenirs for my family. The faculty helped me to bargain which again was fun. The carvings and toys were so intricately designed that I was feeling like buying the whole shop for home. Regardless, I did my shopping and then we headed back to the hotel



JOURNEY BACK-

We were supposed to leave on 24th but unfortunately due to landslides, we weren't able to. Due to this unforeseen accident, there was a lot of hubbub and tension amongst the students. I had to cancel our flights and train tickets which cost me a lot of money. Moreover, I wasn't very sure if I'll be able to visit my parents at all, and hence I was very agitated. But by the evening things looked a bit hopeful. The next day we got clearance to move and hence started our journey back. Although we all did get a little sick but we came back unscathed and were doing fine till we came back.



CONCLUSION-

At last, I would again like to thank everyone responsible to make this experience memorable for me as well as our batch. The memories I made here are not only cherishable but also informative. I got to learn new things that may be very helpful in the future. From hiking to zip-lining I learned information that otherwise I wouldn't have and hence I'm thankful for this opportunity.

