SAMPLE ITINERARY – INDIA UTTARAKHAND

**Day 1 Departure day.** The departure day is finally here, check your flight details on My World Challenge and make your way to the airport with enough time to check in, pass through customs and board your flight.

**Day 2 Arrive into Delhi and transit to Nainital.** Arriving in India is not an experience you’ll forget in a hurry! You will get your first tantalising glimpses as your plane comes in to land at the airport. You will be tired after your long flight, but you’ll need to locate your pre-booked bus outside the terminal for the 8 hour journey to Nainital. The bus will whisk you through several states from Delhi to the majestic mountainous region of Uttarakhand. Lying at 1938m, Nainital is set in a valley containing a pear-shaped lake and is surrounded by beautiful mountains.

**Day 3 Acclimatisation trek - Nainital to Mountain Quail Camp.** Today you will walk from Nainital up to Mountain Quail Camp (just above Nainital). This is a good acclimatisation walk and if you. Contact Sid, your trekking provider, he can arrange a jeep to transport your luggage to Mountain Quail Camp so you are just trekking with your day sacks.
The route starts from Snowview in Nainital, passing a Hindu temple enroute and taking in the highest peak in the area (Cheena Peak, 2611m) before descending to Mountain Quail Camp.

Once you’ve settled in you may like to explore one of the many short trails around the camp in to the dense oak and rhododendron forests, which are excellent for bird spotting.

Day 4 – 6 Kunjukharak Temple Trek. You will begin your trek in the dense jungle foothills of the Himalayas. Imagine the stories of Mowgli and Balu from Rudyard Kipling’s Jungle Book, as you start your adventure. The area is home to 350 species of birds, including Giant Hornbills as well as large mammals - though you’ll have to be very quiet to see them! You’ll also walk alongside the Kosi River at various points.

Each day, you’ll carry in your day sack all the food, water and spare clothing you need, plus any group kit that the expedition leader has asked you to bring. Each night you’ll camp close to local communities, where you might even get the chance to challenge them to a game of cricket. You will be supported by a team of porters, cooks and a local guide who is extremely knowledgeable.
Day 7 – 9 Community Project. The community engagement phase of your expedition will offer a unique opportunity to immerse yourself in an India, giving an insight into a rich new culture!

In India, the quality of education is linked to many variables including remoteness, the provision of toilet facilities, safety and cultural attitudes.

It is proven that female attendance in schools in particular is strongly linked to having a female specific toilet onsite, and support from the wider family and community. Those families who live too far from their closest school cannot afford daily transport fees, so have no affordable access to education.

Supporting the development of education and training facilities is a key focus of World Challenge’s community projects in India. Improving learning environments helps schools to stay open, enabling children to continue to receive an education.
You will explore local development challenges, by participating in a local project that is aimed at meeting an important community need.

Community engagement in India will offer a unique opportunity to fully engage with passionate local people and organisations seeking to make a positive impact in society, and share in both your cultures - to become Active Global Citizens.

Come prepared with ideas - Photos of your school, community and families are often great ways to make friends! Everyone loves to play sports, share songs and perform dance routines! Be prepared to cook a meal for your hosts, or learn to make traditional dishes. The more you engage with the project hosts the more you will feel part of something bigger - a community. Don't forget to learn some of the local language and dialect, either before you arrive or while you are on expedition - it will be invaluable!

Day 10 – 11 Rest and relaxation in Rishikesh and Haridwar. **Rishikesh** and **Haridwar** sit on the banks of the Ganges about one hour apart. They are very spiritual towns - Rishikesh is known as 'the yoga capital of the world' while Haridwar is regarded as one of the seventh holiest places to Hindus.
There are lots of places that offer yoga and meditation classes - a nice way to relax after your trek.

Alternatively you might like to visit Rajaji National Park, near Haridwar, and take a jeep safari through the grass lands and mountain stretch - you might see wildlife including birds, gorals (mountain goats), spotted dear, wild boar and leopards! A lucky few have previously seen the Royal Bengal tiger!

Tonight you will have the exciting experience of an overnight train to Rajasthan - get ready to wake up tomorrow to the smell of chai tea and the sights and sounds of Bollywood!

**Day 12 – 14 Transit to Rest and Relaxation in Agra.** Of course, no visit to India would be complete without a visit to the world-famous Taj Mahal in Agra.

The monument is most beautiful at sunrise and sunset when the white domed marble mausoleum glows pink and orange. Just remember that the Taj Mahal is closed on Fridays.

Agra is also home to the iconic Agra Fort, which is an impressive sight steeped in history. Entrance to the Taj Mahal will be included in your budget and all additional rest and relaxation activities will be at your own expense.

You will have the opportunity to visit Wildlife SOS, they have 2 sites near to Agra where you can go and see rescued elephants and also sloth bears and hear their stories, help prepare meals for them and possibly even take the elephants for a walk. There are half day and full packages available, you will need to book these in advance.
Day 15 – 16 Transit to Delhi and fly home. It’s time for those last minute jobs before you pack up your kit for the final time and head towards Delhi Airport for the flight back home.
As you take off, spend some time reflecting on your amazing adventure and think about everything you’ve achieved.

Getting off the plane back home, you’ve just experienced something incredible. You’ll be bursting with stories and cherished moments to share with your favourite people back home – we’d love to hear them too! @weareworldchallenge