

## India General Surgery Elective

**Exchange rate:** In April 2013 the exchange rate was roughly 50 rupees for 1 dollar.

**Travel:** I flew United Airlines via Lufthansa Airlines stopping in Germany on my way to New Delhi (US to Germany ~ 9 hrs 45 min, Germany to New Delhi ~ 7hr 15 min). On my return trip, I flew directly from Delhi to Newark (~ 15 hours). The round trip flight cost ~\$1700. There are multiple travel options from Delhi to Lucknow including flight, train or bus. I flew from Delhi to Lucknow (1 hour) and purchased this ticket separately for ~4100 rupees (~\$80). Keep in mind the luggage weight limit is 20 kg. I was charged about 2500 rupees (~\$50) for my additional luggage weight. I have heard the trains can be pretty comfortable but the trip is about 5 hours. The major buses are comparable to older greyhounds with ac and reclining chairs, but there are no power outlets or a restroom on the bus. When I took the bus on a separate trip, it took multiple bathroom and food stops. At the airport, KGMU had arranged transportation for me. There is a booth near the airport exit where you can get a prepaid taxi to take you to KGMU. Prepaid taxis are recommended because then you avoid having to haggle over pricing with someone that may not speak English.

**Things To Take:** In addition to the obvious passport and other necessary travel documents, the following are things that I would recommend taking: towel, body wash, loofah, bar of soap, toilet paper, scrubs, white coat, over the counter anti-diarrhea, plug adapter (I purchased this at the airport in Delhi), water, comfortable walking shoes and casual warm-weather clothing for some sight-seeing, nice casual for outing. There is a major mall with a grocery store about 15

interested in international academic cooperation. (He has spent time in many other countries and rotated through MD Anderson.) Our rounds usually started at 10 am and were performed in English. Rarely in the academic setting did I