

## Visit Woodstock

The information provided below is for guidance. The school does not recommend any particular providers, or guarantee the information below.

### Travel Agents

The travel agents listed here have been used by Woodstock staff and alumni. They can assist you with travel within India and offer a variety of touring options. They also can arrange for a car to meet you when you arrive at the airport (many hotels also offer this service). This information is provided as a service to alumni and does not constitute an endorsement or guarantee of the business providers listed.

**President Travel Service**, located in Dehradun and New Delhi

Chugh family-run, originated in Dehradun

Website: <http://www.presidenttravels.net/>

Email: [prestravddn@yahoo.co.in](mailto:prestravddn@yahoo.co.in)

Phone: 91+135+265-5111/-6901/-9611

**Uday Tours and Travel**, located in Karol Bagh, New Delhi

Website: <http://www.udaytour.com/>

Email: [uday@del2.vsnl.net.in](mailto:uday@del2.vsnl.net.in)

Phone: +91-11-4715-1515

### Momo Tours

Owned by alumnus Tenzing Neema

70 M-Block Market, Greater Kailash II, New Delhi

The Shanty Sisters Bazaar, Landour, Mussoorie

Website: <http://momotours.com>

Email: [tenzing@momotours.com](mailto:tenzing@momotours.com)

Phone: 91-11-29213181, 29210216

### VINstring Holidays

2 Commercial Complex, Hanuman Rd., New Delhi

Website: <http://www.vinstring.com/main.htm>

Email: [india@vinstring.com](mailto:india@vinstring.com)

Phone: 91-11-2336-8717/-8759

### Visa Requirements

Visas are essential for visitors from most countries; with few exceptions, these MUST be arranged in advance through your local Indian embassy or consulate – make sure you allow plenty of time. If you were born in China, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, or Bangladesh, regardless of your nationality, the visa process will likely take much longer than usual, so allow extra time.

Tourist visas are issued for six months, and no re-entry is allowed within two months of leaving India (there may be an exception for US citizens – please check). US citizens can also get a five- or ten-year multiple-entry tourist visa, good for stays up to 180 days. This is useful and cost-effective if you are planning

to visit India more than twice during the time period (cost is just more than two regular six-month tourist visas.)

See <https://indiavisa.travisaoutsourcing.com/homepage> for US citizens.

See <http://in.vfsglobal.ca> for Canadian citizens.

See <http://www.vfs-in-au.net> for Australian citizens.

See <http://in.vfsglobal.co.uk/> for UK citizens.

Citizens of other countries should be able to find similar information online.

## Health Information

### Health Information

Information on vaccinations and other health precautions, such as safe food and water precautions and insect bite protection for malaria and dengue fever (if you are travelling in the plains) may be obtained from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's internet home page at [www.cdc.gov/travel](http://www.cdc.gov/travel). Landour Hospital in Mussoorie is available for medical emergencies while on the Hillside. In case of medical need in Delhi, the MAX Healthcare clinics and hospitals are recommended; they are located in multiple areas of Delhi. [www.maxhealthcare.in](http://www.maxhealthcare.in) There is also now a MAX Hospital in Dehra Dun, near the Rajpur Road turnoff.

## General health advice

Do not drink any water except approved brands of drinking water which are readily available for sale (e.g., Neer provided on the trains, Bisleri, Kinley, Aquafina, and others). You should remove the seal yourself. No ice! Be wary of salads, uncooked vegetables, and fruits which you can't peel. Brush your teeth with bottled water or properly filtered water, NOT tap water. It is recommended that you carry bottled water with you for drinking at alltimes. Water in the Woodstock dining room is filtered.

## Typhoid

Here is a little information on typhoid, one of the most important vaccines to acquire before coming:

- Typhoid fever is a potentially life-threatening illness caused by the bacterium *Salmonella Typhi*.
- Typhoid fever can be prevented and can usually be treated with antibiotics.
- *Salmonella Typhi* lives only in humans. Persons with typhoid fever carry the bacteria in their bloodstream and intestinal tract. In addition, a small number of persons, called carriers, recover from typhoid fever but continue to carry the bacteria.
- You can get typhoid fever if you eat food or drink beverages that have been handled by a person who is shedding *Salmonella Typhi* or if sewage contaminated with *Salmonella Typhi* bacteria gets into the water you use for drinking or washing food.
- Once *Salmonella Typhi* bacteria are eaten or drunk, they multiply and spread into the bloodstream. The body reacts with fever and other signs and symptoms.

- Persons with typhoid fever usually have a sustained fever as high as 103° to 104° F (39° to 40° C). They may also feel weak, or have stomach pains, headache, or loss of appetite.

Two basic actions can protect you from typhoid fever:

- Avoid risky foods and drinks
- Get vaccinated

There are two types of typhoid vaccines:

- Inactivated vaccine (given in shot form): must have a booster every 2 years
- Attenuated (weakened) vaccine given in pill form: must have a booster every 5 years

### **Altitude effects**

Mussoorie is located at an altitude of 7000 feet, and this does present problems for some people, particularly in the first few days – you may have some symptoms of altitude sickness:

- Gastrointestinal symptoms, such as anorexia, nausea or vomiting
- Fatigue or weakness
- Dizziness or lightheadedness
- Difficulty sleeping
- Headaches.

Here are some tips: to reduce the effects:

- Drink lots of water.
- Avoid over-exerting yourself, especially the first day.
- If you feel the effects of the altitude, be sure to make yourself breathe out all the air you can, then take in new air.
- To avoid sleeplessness, you might want to take something like Tylenol PM (Acetaminophen or Paracetamol with the antihistamine diphenhydramine) or Sominex at bedtime. Melatonin and lavender oils are good “all natural” herbal alternatives for difficulty sleeping

### **Currency**

The exchange rate of the Indian Rupee fluctuates. [XE](http://www.xe.com) (link: [www.xe.com](http://www.xe.com)) is a website that offers up-to-date exchange rates.

By far the simplest way to manage your money is to use a credit or debit card. There are ATMs in the arrival hall at Delhi Airport, and they are common throughout the city. In Mussoorie, VISA and MasterCard ATMs are available in multiple locations, from the Clock Tower to Library Bazaar. There is an Axis Bank ATM in the Business Office at Woodstock. Payment by credit card is accepted at many hotels and major shopping establishments. To avoid hassles once you are in India, notify your bank in advance that you will be traveling. It will help to avoid triggering a stop-payment on your card. As one example, [here is what Visa suggests](http://usa.visa.com/personal/card-benefits/travel/preparation-faq.jsp) (link: <http://usa.visa.com/personal/card-benefits/travel/preparation-faq.jsp>) for using their cards abroad.

Currency can be exchanged at the Delhi Airport on arrival (not necessarily the best rate). US dollars, Euros and GB pounds can be exchanged at the State Bank and the Bank of Baroda in Mussoorie. There are also many legitimate money changers in Delhi, which are quicker and easier to use than at a bank. Travellers' cheques can be very time-consuming to cash; they are not widely accepted. If you must use them, travellers' cheques can be cashed at the State Bank (American Express and Thomas Cook), and at the Bank of Baroda (Visa), both of which have branches in Mussoorie.

## Communications

You may want to telephone Woodstock or a hotel from home before you come. To make a call to India from the US or Canada, precede the number with 011 (for an overseas connection) and 91 (the India country code). The connection code will vary in other countries. From the UK you need to dial 00 91 and then the number.

An Indian phone number beginning with 9 is a mobile number and you can enter it following the India country code. For landlines, you need to follow the 011-91 with the area code, which may or may not be included when you get a number (135 for Mussoorie, 011 for Delhi).

All over India you will notice businesses advertising STD, ISD, and PCO (public call office). These are public phone booths where you can make calls within India (STD) and internationally (ISD). They are always staffed and you pay per call; they are quite easy and inexpensive to use. If you have a SIM-unlocked GSM mobile phone (common in Europe, not so much in US), you can purchase a prepaid Indian SIM card. Check with your phone provider if you have an international phone. Visitors who stay for a longer period of time sometimes purchase an inexpensive Indian mobile phone with prepaid SIM. Any SIM-card purchase requires photos and copies of your passport and visa, so bring extra ones if you expect to do this.

Most hotels in Delhi provide Wi-Fi internet access. In all areas, there are internet cafés where you can log onto a PC or, sometimes, use your own laptop. There is a good internet café right on Mullingar Hill and a couple more in Kulri Bazaar (down the road behind Green's restaurant). Alumni visitors to Woodstock can log onto the guest wireless service with their laptops while on school grounds. Skype is accessible on this network.

India's electricity is 220 volts. If you have electronic devices that accept 110/220 input, all you need is a two-prong plug adapter, readily available here and from overseas travel suppliers. Just check the fine print on your power adaptor.

## Travel Within India

**Flights** from New Delhi to Dehradun depart three times a day in each direction and are run by Jet Airways, Spicejet and Air India. The Dehradun airport, Jolly Grant, is 25km east of Dehradun (about 70km/two hours' drive from Mussoorie).

**Train** is still the preferred way for most people to travel between Delhi and Dehradun. Most popular is the Shatabdi, which leaves New Delhi Station at 6:50am and arrives in Dehradun at 12:40pm fare is Rs. 585. The reverse trip leaves Dehradun at 5:00pm and arrives in Delhi at 10:45pm. A/C Chair Car prices are about Rs. 670. The Shatabdi ticket includes meal service (breakfast or dinner) and a bottle of drinking water. At the New Delhi station, the platform is on the Ajmeri Gate side; have your taxi take you to that entrance to save a lot of steps above the platforms.

The NDLS-DDN AC Express overnight train departs New Delhi station at 11:55pm and arrives at 5:40am. The Mussoorie Express overnight train departs Old Delhi station at 10:20pm and arrives at 8:00am. Getting to/from the Old Delhi station can be difficult and we encourage booking the Mussoorie Express only when there is no other option. There are similarly-timed overnight trains for the return trip. You should plan to book the A/C 2-Tier car on overnight trains, which costs about Rs 725. . Bedding is provided. A/C 3-Tier ( Rs. 525 ) is also good, just more crowded.

Booking Indian trains from anywhere in the world by credit card is very easy at travel sites such as [Cleartrip](#). Note that there are discounts for senior citizens and women. Recent changes to the ticketing through Cleartrip have made it more difficult, as setting up an account with Indian Railways asks for an Indian mobile phone as part of the security process. [Here are some instructions](#) that make it possible to set up the account outside India. Cleartrip is a good site for finding trains and timings.

**Car/taxi:** Travelling between Delhi and Mussoorie by car takes longer and is more difficult than train, but does offer flexibility in departure and arrival times. For booking, we recommend using one of the Mussoorie taxi services as listed below. They can meet you in Delhi at the airport or a hotel, or in Dehradun at the airport or train station.

**Mussoorie local taxi services:**

Kulwant – 0135 -263-2717, mobile 0983-700-6518,, 09758032465

& 09675202667 (Kulwant Singh, Harmeeek Singh)

Shiv –0135- 263-3846, mobile 0983-737-4335, 789-572-5545 (Shiv Singh)

Friends – 0135-263-1252, mobile 0983-790-0625 (Bunty)

Davey Travels – 0135-263-2938, mobile 0983-702-3144, 0941-035-3314 (David Aurora)

**Standard rates as of Summer 2014:**

Delhi Airport to Mussoorie one way/round trip: Rs. 7000/9500 + other state tax.

Dehradun to Woodstock one way /round trip Rs. 900/1500

Woodstock to Top of Hill one way /round trip Rs. 250/500

Woodstock to Bazaar one way /round trip Rs. 200/400

A full listing of approved taxi rates is available from the Alumni Office.

Getting Around Delhi

Traffic in Delhi continues to increase exponentially and getting around the city by car or auto rickshaw is time-consuming and frustrating. The Delhi Metro is clean, fast, inexpensive, and convenient to most areas. You can purchase a Metro card, tourist card (one or three days) or a token per ride. Read more about [Delhi Metro Rail](#). Scroll down at the MetroRail website for information on one-day or three-day travel cards for tourists.

Taxis from the airport are readily reserved at the Prepaid Taxi Booth on the traffic island just outside the Arrivals Hall. Make sure you get your change – they tend to give you your ticket and let you walk away!

Taxis and scooter rickshaws are readily available everywhere. Meters are not in general use, so you should determine a fare before getting in. There are several metered radio cab companies that can be called. These are generally very reliable. [Meru Cab](#) (011-44224422 or through the website) is one.

## Mussoorie Accommodation and Food

Mussoorie is a town of hotels, far too many to list them all. Here are a few where visitors have stayed:

### **High end (Rs. 5,000/night and up):**

[Jaypee Residency Manor](#), Barlowganj (below Landour) [263-1803/-1800/-3818]

[Hotel Claridges Nabha Palace](#), Barlowganj [263-1427/-1426]

[Kasmanda Palace](#), Kulri (above Mall Road) [263-2424/-3949]

[Imperial Square Hotel](#), Library Bazaar [124-678-6203]

[Rokeby Manor](#), near St Paul's Church (alumni-owned, special mid-range rates for WS) [263-2390]

### **Mid-range (Rs. 2,500 - 5,000/night):**

[Brentwood](#), near Picture Palace [263-2102/-2126]

[Hotel Filigree](#), Camel's Back Road, Kulri [263-2380/-2360/-1380/- 2390]

[Doma's](#), above Mullingar [263-4873/-4874/-0734]

[Carlton's Plaisance Hotel](#), Happy Valley Road beyond Library [263-2800, 925-969-3633]

[La Villa Bethany](#), near Kellogg Memorial Church, Landour [135 2630054]

### **Budget but comfortable (below Rs. 2,500/night):**

[Ivy Bank Guest House](#), halfway between Mullingar and Char Dukan [263-1433/-2938]

[Himalaya Castle](#), above the road between Kulri and Landour [263-3665]

[All Seasons Guest House](#) ("Winky's"), Kulri below Picture Palace [263-0694/-1672 or 983-704-6543]

Woodstock has guest rooms for alumni visitors for a maximum of five nights, as available. The rate is Rs. 1,000 per person per night and includes all meals. [Email](#) us for information.

### **Restaurants – a few of many options:**

Landour Bazaar – Clock Tower Café, Golden, South Indian  
Chakker (top of hill) – Char Dukan tea shops, Rokeby Manor  
Kulri Bazaar – Tavern, Four Seasons, Green's, Madras, Rice Bowl, Nirula's,  
Domino's, Café Coffee Day

### **Delhi**

Delhi offers a wide range of hotels. Woodstock visitors have stayed at the facilities mentioned below, but there are many other options. Travel agents can book you into any of these; some of them also can be booked on-line at their websites or at [Cleartrip](#).

Karol Bagh is three Metro stops from Connaught Place. It is an area of many mid-range, nice hotels that run about Rs. 2,000 - 4,000 with A/C and Wi-Fi. Popular ones include the [Florence Inn](#) and the [Swati Hotel](#). Karol Bagh is an area where many Indian business travellers stay, with a large Indian bazaar and many good restaurants.

Paharganj is the area where backpackers and budget travellers flock. Popular hotels include [Cottage Yes Please](#), [Hotel Relax](#), [Chand Palace](#), [Ajanta Hotel](#) (Arakshan Road) and more. These places will run about Rs. 1,000 - 2,000 for a double room with A/C and Wi-Fi. Close to the Ajmeri Gate exit from ND station is the [Ginger Hotel](#). Most can be booked online.

South Delhi is a major residential, leisure and business area. The [Saket B & B](#) is popular among Woodstock staff; the proprietor knows the school. About Rs. 4,200/double, A/C and Wi-Fi, not far from the Qutb Minar and a Metro stop. Discount available for Woodstock-related visitors.

[YMCA Tourist Hotel](#) and [YWCA International Guest House](#) [Note: this link is an agency; the YWCA does not have its own website] are both in the Connaught Place area. They are convenient and the cost for a double room with private bath runs Rs. 2,500 - 5,000. You may find them less comfortable and more expensive than you remember. Both have A/C but no Wi-Fi; internet terminals are in the lobby. The YMCA tariff includes breakfast and dinner. The YWCA has a decent restaurant on site.

There are many high-end hotels in Delhi, priced Rs. 10,000 and up, located from the airport to Connaught Place. Many travel guides and websites have more information.

### **Dehradun**

Dehradun offers a number of hotels if you want to spend the night – especially if you have a very late or very early departure/arrival. The most popular among Woodstockites is the [President](#) in Astley Hall, about Rs. 3,000 - 3,500 for a double room.

Alumni Activities at Woodstock School

In the introduction, we referenced the security around the school and basic visitor information. Some activities you might want to participate in are shown below. All these suggestions require advance planning and notice, so please contact us as soon as possible if you wish to take advantage of these opportunities.

- Alumni children can attend classes
- You can take a guided school tour
- You can join the staff for afternoon tea under the Lyre Tree (no prior arrangement necessary)
- We encourage you to interact with students while you are here, especially around matters of college guidance and career guidance (we can put you in touch with the guidance office)
- The Hanifl Centre, The Turner Organic Garden and the Bob Fleming Nature Trail (formerly known as "The Eyebrow") are areas you may wish to visit and learn more about

Students are not allowed to leave boarding during the semester without advance notice and written parental permission. Contact the residence supervisor well in advance to see what can be arranged if you wish to issue an invitation to a current student.

### Planning a Class Reunion

We recommend at least a year of pre-planning, nine months at a minimum. Be in touch with the [Alumni Office](#) for assistance and advice early in the planning process.

### Responsibilities of the class organiser(s):

- Become familiar with the Visitors' Guide on the WS website. Especially note the sections Alumni Activities, Woodstock and Mussoorie Accommodation and Food.
- Determine names and number of people attending.
- Keep track of individual arrivals and departures in Delhi.
- Make Delhi hotel arrangements coming and going.
- Book transportation to Dehradun (see note on train travel below).
- Be prepared to pay for taxis arranged by Alumni Office.
- Send all information to [alumni \(at\) woodstock.ac.in](mailto:alumni@woodstock.ac.in).

### The Alumni Office can help with the following:

1. Arrangements for taxis from Dehradun to Mussoorie.
2. Assistance in reserving group accommodations at the Hanifl Centre or local hotels.
3. Assistance with group meal arrangements at the school and/or Hanifl Centre. For groups staying at Hanifl, meals can be served there with ten or more in your group; smaller groups will have meals at the school dining room.
4. Arranging of campus tours.
5. Setting up meetings with principal, students, Hanifl Centre, Winterline Centre for the Arts, etc., as desired.

6. Arranging for any special events (Distinguished Alumni presentations, assemblies, other).
7. In case of a large group travelling together by train, the office may be able to assist with group reservations.