



Moose on the Loose

World traveler...

Student of life...

Moose Extraordinaire...

By Monty Moose

What excitement... I met another Belcarra friend who loves to travel! "Auntie Rosemary" and I were first introduced at one of the Barnacle newsletter editing sessions. After hearing about my lovely holiday with Mayling, she invited me to go to India with her! Don't you wish YOU fit in a suitcase?

Our first stop was Hong Kong. Wow! They certainly have a lot of beautiful orchids there (Mum would be jealous!) The jade shops were fantastic too (but I didn't let on that we have great jade here in B.C.!) The noise from all the birds for sale was a little loud for me, but I certainly appreciated their bright colours. I hoped they would find good homes, but I have to admit that I wasn't sure that they all would.

Next stop (after a loooong ride) was INDIA. I have to tell you straight up that I am still pretty ticked at the officials at the Taj Mahal. Can you believe it... they confiscated me and stuffed me in a back room! What a disappointment! Fortunately, Auntie Rosemary took a great photo of the OUTSIDE, because that's ALL I got to see!!! The rest of Agra, including the Agra Fort, was a beautiful display of the cultural heritage of the Mughal era. Another tourist spot is the Jantar Mantar Observatory, in New Dehli. It was built to determine the movements of the sun, moon, and planets. (Hmmm... my astrological sign is Sagittarius... known for being jovial and honest, but also blindly optimistic!)

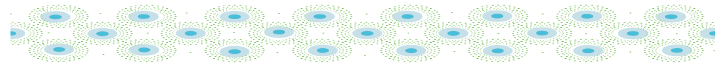
One of my favorite stops was the beach in Goa. I got to lay back in the sun and recuperate from all that travel time. It's exhausting... even Auntie Rosemary would agree on that! We took in a little sand and sun... unfortunately I forgot my swimsuit and was a bit shy to go "in the buff". After all, there aren't a lot of moose (Sacred Moose?) in India!

In Vishnoi, we got to meet a family at their farm. They do live a simpler life... the house had a dirt floor and the kitchen had no table, chairs, or even a fridge! The cow is sacred in India and so they do not eat beef. The milk and butter are a source of nutrition and cow dung is a source of energy as well as fertilizer for the soil. You might be surprised to hear that the cow patties are odorless, burn without scorching, and the smoke repels mosquitos! They can also be packed on the outside walls of a house to insulate it for both summer heat and winter cold! Hmm... BEAR patties for us?

When we reached our final destination in Setrawa, at the Sambhali Trust Fund school, I could tell that Auntie R. was a little dismayed by some of the living conditions in India. As well as having a holiday, she was there to help at the Trust Center and to teach the girls how to make handbags to sell as a living. The girls had obviously never had a loving home like we are used to in Canada. They always seemed afraid that someone would hit them... isn't that sad. (I felt really sorry about that, and tried to give as many "moose hugs" as I could!) Auntie R. was very patient teaching them

how to sew and quilt, but they had to undo a lot of stitches in the beginning! (I would have helped more, but my hooves aren't too good with needles and thread!) In the end, the girls had some beautiful handbags to sell, and when Auntie Rosemary and I left to come home, she had a new "mission"... to buy some more sewing machines for the center!

A BIG thank you to Auntie Rosemary
for taking me on my India holiday!
You might want to contact her if you want to
DONATE to her "sewing project" in India!



Moose Tracks on the Internet

You can see some photos of our trip on my website.

<http://www.teacherwebshelf.com/canozconnection/montymoose/gallery/11-india>

SETRAWA PROJECT: "Our aim is to establish a free school for the local children in Setrawa Village and self sustainable art

