

# **Jeff Currier** *global fly fishing*

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9:52 PM

Agra, India

Dear Friends,

Sorry to send a mass email it's not my usual style as I have specific things to mention to all of you, but the computer systems in India don't allow for a lot of time. Anyhow,



**Jeff playing with a young Asian elephant at a animal rehabilitation center**

Granny and I are in Agra, India. Literally at the base of the Taj Mahal, only at the moment we are having some Very Beat!! money problems and don't dare spend the 1500 rupees to enter until we know that this can be solved. My credit card pin # hasn't worked all trip and we are getting into emergency mode. Could probably solve it a long time ago but it seems Nepal and India is always on Holliday and banks

are never open. They suck to deal with anyway.

Enough worrying about that. We are having a great trip nonetheless. It's far from easy. As some of you know because you heard from us from Katmandu (many of you didn't because some Nepal computer glitch) we began on Oct 7th on the Everest Trek. Our plans changed on the 1st day of which Maoist Rebels attacked the town we were starting in. Then we flew to Lukla on a twin otter and began there. (Derek you know that landing strip!) Its a landing strip at a 30 degree angle and very short. Anyhow, Granny and I hiked up up ad up until we reached Everest Base Camp at 17,800 ft and then

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during the next 10 days summited Kala Patar 18,050 ft (best view of Everest in the world) and Gokyo Ri peak 17,900 ft and crossed the dangerous Cho La Pass through pretty bad snow conditions. We made it back to Katmandu around the 30th of Oct. It was an unbelievable 3 weeks in the Himalaya but no fish.

I fished my but off hoping for Mahseer near Lukla in a raging river at about 8,000ft but no luck. Wouldn't trade a minute of the hike for anything though. All I can say is the Tetons are amazing but the Himalayas are in a class way way by themselves.

Can't be explained. Nor can our next adventures.



**Granny getting ready to wash an elephant**

We bused to Chitewan national park in southern Nepal and did 4 days of Safari. One would wonder how the Currier's could afford such a thing but believe it or not it only cost us \$110 for our Hotel, meals, safari (by our own elephant!) and even beer. Riding elephants in search of Asian Single Horned Rhinos and Asian elephants are pretty wild to say the least. We saw both of these (rhinos rule!) but no tigers. Oh I guess that we did do some work to earn our keep also to offset our price. The work was we had to wash our elephant for his master each day at noon. It may have seemed like work for our elephant master but to us it was so much fun you can't imagine. It was like being in the tank at Sea World, that's after you got used to being in a fast moving river diving off the back of an elephant. Cool stuff!

Since then our fun and relaxation has left us, however not the cultural experience. We bused to Sunauli Nepal and crossed into India. You know what India stands for? I'll Never Do It Again! Ha it's really not that bad but boy is this place a filthy nightmare. We had to begin our India adventure with an all night local bus from the border to Varanasi. 12 hours Ouch!

Varanasi is the holy city for Hindus on the Ganges. People bathe in the dirtiest river in the world on these magnificent Ghats. There is putrid garbage floating everywhere along

with sewage piped in everywhere and dead animals floating around like logs, cows, dogs goats even saw 2 monkeys. No big deal until the humans turn up. We had to stroll past



**Jeff and Granny at the Taj Mahal Agra, India**

the crematory everyday in which there were a minimum of 6 bodies going at all times. Sounds disgusting? Well it is to us but to be cremated on the banks of the Ganges as a Hindu is the greatest thing that can happen. Morbid creatures that we are, Granny and I couldn't help but watch it quite a bit. Got some stories about it.

Last night we took our first Indian train ride. An all night 12 hour job. It started out grim but soon you get comfy and somehow you sleep and guard your luggage with your life all night. And so here we are in Agra India. After we straighten out our situation we will get on with our trip, planning on a camel ride in Western desert region of Rajasthan then its all about serious fishing for mahseer.

I've got 4 days under my belt in Nepal. Haven't landed a damn thing, but I lost some weird small fish and then got my but kicked (physically) by some air breathing snake fish. Kind of looked like a bowfin. Lots of stories to tell. Until next time,

Be Cool,

Jeff and Granny