UMOJA ASIA 2017

SEPTEMBER 27 - OCTOBER 23

Umoja Journey by LAND ROVER

Led by DAVID MARSHALL
International Needs Canada

Travel through Bangladesh, India, and Nepal
The Umoja Journey is an adventure that will remain with you for the rest of your life. After you say ‘yes’ to this challenge, the most difficult part of the process will be over, and the fun and excitement can begin.

OVERVIEW OF THE UMOJA JOURNEY

The Umoja Journey is a road trip across Asia. We’ll be travelling in a convoy of Land Rovers, with 4-5 people in each vehicle. The tour highlights the work of International Needs in Bangladesh, India, and Nepal, and gives you the adventure of a lifetime.

The objectives are as follows:

- To give you a glimpse into the development projects in Bangladesh, India, and Nepal.
- To provide funding for the projects we’ll be visiting.
- To invite you to share your expertise and insight with our development partners.

UMOJA JOURNEY COST

The cost of the journey is $20,000 per person, which may be processed as a charitable donation toward the work of International Needs, if your country of residence permits deductions of this nature. You can make a straight contribution, find sponsors, or do some fund-raising.

Your donation will cover the cost of the following:

- Funding for the development projects in Bangladesh, India, and Nepal.
- All travel costs of the trip, including airfare from North America
- You can join us for the whole journey or just one leg. However, the full cost applies.

LOGISTICS OF THE JOURNEY

This itinerary provides the day-by-day details so you know what to expect:

- Destinations and maps
- Travel plans
- Accommodations
- Activities
- Projects we will be visiting
# UMOJA JOURNEY AT A GLANCE

**Bangladesh, India, and Nepal**  
*September 27 through October 23, 2017*

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<td>Bangalore, India</td>
<td>Get ready to travel home</td>
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DAY ONE
Wednesday, September 27

Fly to Dhaka, Bangladesh

DAY TWO
Thursday, September 28

**Destination**
Dhaka, the capital of Bangladesh

**Accommodations**
Pan Pacific Sonargaon (1 of 2 Nights)
A 5-star Dhaka hotel in the centre of Bangladesh’s
Diplomatic Zone and commercial district. We’ll be
staying close to many historic sites and shopping.
www.panpacific.com/en/hotels-resorts/
 bangladesh/dhaka.html

DAY THREE
Friday, September 29

**Activities**
We’ll start the day with a tour of Old Dhaka. The
historic architecture conjures memories of times
past when Dhaka was one of the largest and most
prosperous cities of the Indian subcontinent.
Then we’ll spend some time at Ahsan Manjil (the
Pink Palace), and Tara Masjid (the Star Mosque),
before embarking on a rickshaw tour of the city –
a traditional adventure you won’t soon forget!

**Accommodations**
Pan Pacific Sonargaon (2 of 2 Nights)
DAY FOUR
Saturday, September 30

Visit a Project
Drive 45 minutes to International Needs’ Savar Children’s Village, a girl’s boarding school. The school hosts 250 children from various parts of Bangladesh.

Travel to Bogra City, Bangladesh
200 KM • Approx. 4.5 hours

Accommodations
Naz Garden Hotel (1 of 2 Nights)
www.hotelnazgarden.com

DAY FIVE
Sunday, October 1

Travel to Naogaon, Bangladesh
90 KM • Approx. 2 hours

Visit a Project
The Naogoan Free School is located in rural Bangladesh. Rural people face debilitating poverty, and many children have no families or adults to care for them. When International Needs opened the Naogoan Free School, 250 children signed up, eager to learn how to read, write, and do simple math. Today, there are 400 children attending classes. Through child sponsorship, they receive food, clothing, medical care, and Christian education.

Accommodations
Naz Garden Hotel (2 of 2 Nights)
DAY SIX
Monday, October 2

Travel to Siliguri, India
305 KM • Approx. 6 hours

Accommodations
Sinclairs Hotel in the heart of Pradhan Nagar. After a full day of driving, dine at the multi-cuisine restaurant while taking in the soothing views of the poolside and gardens. For deeper relaxation, spend a few hours in the hotel’s outdoor swimming pool or at the health club, which has a gym, steam room, and sauna. (1 of 2 Nights)
www.sinclairshotels.com/siliguri

DAY SEVEN
Tuesday, October 3

Visit a Project
The Sano Diyo Orphanage, a home and shelter for 37 needy or abandoned girls. The home is located in the foothills of Darjeeling, in Siliguri, West Bengal, and is managed by ACTS staff members Prasanna and Arpana Khaling, a dedicated and devoted couple. (ACTS – an acronym for Agriculture, Crafts, Trades and academic Studies – is the name of International Needs operations in India.)

Accommodations
Sinclairs Hotel (2 of 2 Nights)
DAY EIGHT & NINE
Wednesday, October 4-5

Travel to Dwarikas Dhulikhel, Nepal
454 KM • Approx. 8.5 hours

Accommodations
Dwarikas Dhulikhel Hotel (2 Nights)
www.dwarikas-dhulikhel.com

DAY TEN
Friday, October 6

Travel to Kathmandu, Nepal
33 KM • Approx. 1 hour

Activities
Tour Swayambhunath and Kathmandu Durbar Square – the historic seat of Nepalese royalty.
The Buddhist temple of Swayambhunath, perched on a hilltop west of the city, is one of the most popular and instantly recognizable symbols of Nepal. It is known as the ‘monkey temple’ because of the large tribe of monkeys that guard the hill and amuse visitors with tricks. Watch your stuff – the monkeys will snatch up food, bags, and anything else you may be carrying.

Accommodations
The Dwarikas Hotel (1 of 3 Nights)
www.dwarikas.com
DAY ELEVEN  
Saturday, October 7

Visit a Project
International Needs’ Lydia Vocational Training Centre provides underprivileged young women of Nepal with the basic life skills, literacy, numeracy, and vocational skills to make a living and lead productive, independent lives in their communities. Every year, two cohorts of 30 women spend 5 months in residence at Lydia immersed in sewing, playing music, learning about health, and studying the Bible. At the end of the program the women return to their homes and put their training to use. Each graduate receives a sewing machine, which many use to start their own tailoring businesses. In return, the women commit to passing along their sewing skills to five other women in their communities.

Accommodations
The Dwarikas Hotel (2 of 3 Nights)

DAY TWELVE  
Sunday, October 8

Activities
Visit Bhaktapur, the four-square mile City of Devotees, 14 km east of Kathmandu. It radiates a quaint medieval charm. and visitors are treated to myriad wonders of cultural and artistic achievements. Next stop is Patan, the second-largest city in the valley, just across the Bagmati River from Kathmandu. Their handiwork provides the focus of the stunning Durbar Square, with the largest display of Newari architecture in Nepal. It includes the Royal Palace—don’t miss the spectacularly decorated bathtub—and the two-tiered brick Jagannarayan Temple.

Accommodations
The Dwarikas Hotel (3 of 3 Nights)
**DAY THIRTEEN**  
Monday, October 9

**Travel to Varanasi, India**  
494 KM • Approx. 12 hours

**Accommodations**  
The Nadesar Palace Hotel (1 of 2 Nights)  
Nestled on the banks of the river Ganges in one of the oldest living cities in the world, the Nadesar Palace has hosted royalty, statesmen, and celebrities since 1835.  

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**DAY FOURTEEN**  
Tuesday, October 10

**Accommodations**  
The Nadesar Palace Hotel (2 of 2 Nights)

**Activities**  
Tour Varanasi. Varanasi (Banaras), popularly known as Kashi among Hindus, is considered as the most sacred and holiest of Indian cities. It is one of the oldest inhabited cities in the world and a major tourist attraction for both Indians and foreigners. Kashi is known for its rich cultural heritage, temples and ghats.
DAY FIFTEEN
Wednesday, October 11

Travel to Kachhwa, India
100 KM  •  Approx. 45 minutes

Visit a Project
Kachhwa Christian School, which is widely recognized as one of the best schools in Kachhwa, providing high quality education for children seeking English language schooling at a moderate cost.

Travel to Allahabad, India
110 KM  •  1 hour 45 minutes

Visit a Project
International Needs’ community development programs designed to improve the health of the people and strengthen their families. The program also operates health clinics for women and children in remote villages around Allahabad.

Accommodations
Hotel Harsh Ananda (1 Night)
www.hotelharshananda.com
We will spend 3 nights enjoying an authentic jungle experience, tracking Tigers at Mahua Kothi Jungle Lodge, where just 12 kutiyas scattered around an original homestead disappear into the bamboo fronds. Given over to natural forest, the vast grounds create a park-like atmosphere that guests are free to explore on bicycles invitingly parked in the private courtyards of their jungle suites.

Eclectic Indian handicrafts create humorous touches and original homestead furniture contributes to the feeling of a personal home. Rural accents, like our traditional vegetable garden or baghia, with a bullock cart that doubles as buffet table, or picnic lunches under the mahua tree, enchant and delight. Cocktails or an evening meal served in the light of the moon on the rooftop of the main veranda enhance the beauty of fragrant Indian nights.

**Accommodations**
Mahua Kothi Jungle Lodge (3 Nights)
DAY NINETEEN  
Sunday, October 15

Travel to New Delhi aboard Air India

Activities · Day one of a three-day train journey
Today we assemble at Safdarjung Railway Station to begin the ‘Treasures of India’ rail journey aboard the luxurious Maharajas Express train.  

When we arrive in Agra – the City of Love – we will visit the legendary Taj Mahal.

DAY TWENTY  
Monday, October 16

Activities · Day two of a three-day train journey
Disembark to see the Agra Fort or the Itmad-Ud-Daula. During lunch on board the Maharajas’ Express, we will travel to Sawai Madhopur to experience a thrilling Jeep Safari at the Ranthambore Tiger Reserve, once the private hunting ground of the Maharajas of Jaipur. This adventure will whet your appetite for dinner back on board the Maharajas Express as we journey to Jaipur.

DAY TWENTY-ONE  
Tuesday, October 17

Activities · Day three of a three-day train journey
After the onboard breakfast in Jaipur, prepare to be amazed as you explore the forts, palaces, and colourful bazaars of the beautiful, historic capital city of Rajasthan. After Amber Fort and the Jantar Mantar Royal Observatory, relax at the exquisite spa facilities at Palace Hotel, enjoy a round at the Rambagh Golf club, or take in the Exhibition Elephant Polo Match.
DAY TWENTY-TWO
Wednesday, October 18

Destination
New Delhi

Accommodations
Imperial Hotel in Delhi (1Night)
www.theimperialindia.com

Recognized as one of the top city hotels in Asia, recently ranked as the Best Hotel in Delhi, and listed among 15 Legendary Hotels around the world by Fodor's Travel. Built in 1931, the Imperial is New Delhi’s landmark Hotel, located on Janpath – steps away from the shopping district and the city’s major attractions.

DAY TWENTY-THREE
Thursday, October 19

Travel to: Bangalore (by plane)

Visit a Project
ACTS Secondary School in Bangalore provides high quality English Language education to 1400 lower-middle class children ranging from three to sixteen years old. The school features digital smart classes and a modern computer lab. While keeping fees at a moderate level, ACTS provides the best educational experience possible for these students. The school operates at a profit, which is invested into others schools in the ACTS system.

About Bangalore - Officially known as Bengaluru, it's the third-most populous city in India, with more than 8.4 million residents. Located on the Deccan Plateau, at a height of over 900 m (3,000 ft.) above sea level, Bengaluru is known for its pleasant climate throughout the year.

Accommodations
Leela Palace Bengaluru Hotel (1 of 2 Nights)
www.theleela.com/locations/bangalore
DAY TWENTY-FOUR
Friday, October 20

Visit a project
Today we will visit two ACTS schools catering to under privileged children: Nirmala Vidyalaya, Gattahalli is a village school in Bangalore with 400 kids; Nirmala Vidyalaya, Rajendranaga, a slum school with 60 extremely poor kids. Profits from other ACTS projects are used to provide these children with a good education that will prepare them for the workforce or for higher education.

Activity · Celebrating Astha Guitars and Umoja
In the evening you’ll be invited to attend a special concert to celebrate Umoja and the official launch of Astha Guitars by internationally acclaimed musician Mr. Raghu Dixit. Astha Guitars is a social enterprise partnership between the ACTS Group of Institutions and renowned Swiss guitar entrepreneur Lukas Bruner, designer and maker of world famous Brunner Guitars. Lukas has agreed to train Indian craftsmen selected by ACTS in the art and science of making state-of-the-art guitars using the finest Indian woods—Rosewood, Maple, Walnut and Mahogany. These Astha Guitars – Guitars of Hope – will be sold to discriminating musicians around the world, and the profits will be used to support the education of vulnerable children in ACTS schools. www.asthaguitars.com

Indian Folk Music Legend, Raghu Dixit
In support of the Astha Guitars social enterprise venture, internationally acclaimed folk guitarist Raghu Dixit has graciously committed to serve as an ambassador of the Astha Guitar project in his travels. Dixit performed for Queen Elizabeth II and the Duke of Edinburgh at a Diamond Jubilee Pageant marking 60 years since her accession to the throne. Umoja Journeys and celebrations will be used to promote Astha Guitars to music enthusiasts in various markets – Europe, North America, and around the world.
www.raghudixit.com

Accommodations
Leela Palace Bengaluru Hotel (2 of 2 Nights)
DAY TWENTY-FIVE
Saturday, October 21

Travel to Kabini, India
195 KM • Approx. 4 hours

Activities
Our journey to Kabini is a unique opportunity to explore the vibrant social tapestry of the Kadu Kuruba tribe while enjoying the wildlife. Relax, unwind, and reflect on your Umoja journey as you prepare to make your way home.

Accommodations
Kabini Resort (1 of 2 Nights)
www.orangecounty.in/kabini-resorts

DAY TWENTY-SIX
Sunday, October 22

Activities
Relax at the resort

DAY TWENTY-SEVEN
Monday, October 23

Travel to Bangalore airport
195 KM • Approx. 4 hours

Evening Flight Home