

Hyderabad: Day 2 - Saturday

Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh, India - February 9, 2008

Amy:

Brent and I slept late, ate, and relaxed for most of the day. The farthest we ventured out all morning was to the roof of the apartment building, which had a ping-pong room, a beautiful pool, and an exercise room! There's even a large patch of grass growing (I don't know how) and a fountain.



Amy's new abode

Brent took some pictures from the roof and also found a doorway, which we thought led to an office or something. He opened the door, saw that it looked more like an apartment than an office, and tried to close the door. Unfortunately, he realized that he



View from a room

couldn't shut the door b/c the deadbolt was locked, so he had to go in the apartment, unlock the deadbolt, and then close the door. I was unaware of all of this b/c I was looking

off the roof into the expanse of the city. When I walked near the door, Brent said, "you should try to open the door and see what's inside". So I walked in, down the hall of what was the penthouse apartment! I thought it was an office, but I had been tricked into walking into someone's apartment! I walked quickly out of the apartment, and then we raced down the elevator, pressing the "NS" button (nonstop) back to Tapas' 2nd floor apartment. (we're hoping that no one saw us...)

In the afternoon, we went with Tapas, Madhumanti, and Akanksha to the mall, a brand-new mall with 5 floors.



Roof with a view



Family portrait

The mall was the most American-ish place we've been to in India.

Except for the security gate at the entrance (and having my bag searched), and McDonald's having "Chicken Maharaja Mac" on the menu we could have been home. There was a hoola-hoop contest on the 1st floor, but we took the elevator up to the 5th floor, where there was an arcade with Akanksha's favorite game: balls are thrown into various animals' mouths causing them to make wild animal sounds. We all played the game, which was fun. There were many Muslim women, dressed in head-to-toe black garments – we saw one Muslim woman (in full attire) playing air hockey, which I thought was kind of funny.



McIndia

Brent and I walked around for a while trying to find some vitamins (we were unsuccessful). We did find some cookies, though, and a coke machine. We bought a

Fanta (my staple in India) and got back 35 rupees (the soda was 30)! Very exciting. We went back up to the arcade, and then we all went downstairs to a bookstore-café. We bought a book that was recommended called “Shantaram” by the Australian ex-fugitive who lived in the Mumbai slums (the guy who showed Madonna around Mumbai). I’m excited to read it. We also found a Paul Theroux book, but decided to buy that at home.



at the mall

We went back home, and I continued to do make plans online for our trip to Kerala. I rarely make plans at the last-minute, so I was starting to get a little worried that we’d have to sleep at something other than a 5-star hotel (we would not be able to manage anything less after being pampered so at Tapas and Madhumanti’s house).

Brent went on a long walk down the street, up the main drag and back. I’ve now become scared of crossing the busy streets, b/c cars don’t stop, there are no traffic lights or cross walks. On rare occasions, there are men in uniform directing traffic, but even they are often ignored by cars.

We ate sandwiches and chickn noodle soup that Madhumanti had prepared (delicious!) and finished the meal off with some cake. Another delicious meal in India. I can’t understand how people get sick! Our only worry now is not being able to fit into our pants back home (we’ve thankfully been wearing lots of elastic waistbands).

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