

The reality of living in Nepal was quite unlike anything that I have experienced before. Many people do live in homes and had jobs, but the quality of life they have is quite subpar. The food they eat is mainly rice and lentils. It is absolutely normal to lose water in your home for a day or two. Power outages occur for several hours at a time throughout the city, just part of the normal routine. Cockroaches and geckos among other types of crawlers are found *often* in homes, restaurants, stores, et cetera. In spite of this, Nepal is one of the most beautiful places that I have ever seen filled with some of the nicest most welcoming people that I have ever met.



This is a picture of the outskirts of Kathmandu. Our host dad took us here when he was showing us around.

During my stay in Kathmandu, Nepal, I lived with a host family for the first half while I taught English at a local school, called Shree Shitala Secondary School. The teachers that we worked with were very social, kind women.





This is a photo that Samantha, Irene, and I took with the 5th grade class. In general, we taught English to grades 1-8, but sometimes we would also teach math, social studies, or anything else that the teachers asked us to help them with. Many times, students of all different ages would greet us with small flowers that they picked outside, which was incredibly humbling.

During the second half of my service trip, I lived at an orphanage while I helped care for the children there.



We often played many games with the children at the orphanage, and grew very close to them. The picture on the right was en route to the river to wash our clothes. When we said goodbye to these children, many tears were shed on both sides. They were so much fun and I'm going to miss them dearly.

I can say without a doubt that this experience has shaped me tremendously by allowing me to not only become more knowledgeable about another part of the world, but also by enabling me to be incredibly grateful for that life that I have received and by instilling in me an ever-so increased desire to give back to others that are not as privileged.

