

Dosti on Wheels rides to 18 countries

MADHUBONI BANERJEE

Manas and Anuradha Dewan, two ardent travel enthusiasts, recently covered a 20,000 km journey on a Ducati Scramble motorbike spanning the continents of Europe and Asia, a project which they call "Dosti on Wheels". Manas Dewan is a marketing and communications professional while Anuradha Dewan is a philosophy professor and consultant. The couple began their journey on June 9, 2017 to September 16, 2017, a travelling experience lasting nearly 4 months. Their passion for backpacking and roadtrips across countries drove them to travel in 18 countries- starting from Spain, to Portugal and France- moving towards Germany, Czechia, Austria, Switzerland, Liechtenstein to Italy and Vatican in Europe, also covering eastern European countries of Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia Herzegovina, Montenegro, Albania and Macedonia and ending their motorbike trip in Greece and Turkey.

Manas Dewan is a marketing and communications professional while Anuradha Dewan is a philosophy professor and consultant. The couple began their journey on June 9, 2017 to September 16, 2017, a travelling experience lasting nearly 4 months. Their passion for backpacking and roadtrips across countries drove them to travel in 18 countries- starting from Spain, to Portugal and France- moving towards Germany, Czechia, Austria, Switzerland, Liechtenstein to Italy and Vatican in Europe, also covering eastern European countries of Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia Herzegovina, Montenegro, Albania and Macedonia and ending their motorbike trip in Greece and Turkey.

Manas and Anradha had picture perfect lives in Oman- a private beach villa, friends from 22 countries and nationalities as neighbours, and regular sport activities like kite surfing, paddling and yoga, sometimes even an occasional visit to an opera house. However, they felt a certain zing, a thrill missing out of their lives, and decided to fulfill their long cherished dream- that of backpacking across countries in Europe. "We wanted to get ourselves out of the golden trap, that perfect bubble of life and add a zest and that's the reason both of us embarked upon this journey," says Anuradha Dewan.

Manas, who headed an entire marketing division at OTE(Oman Trading Establishment) gave in his resignation then because he believes, "All dreams come with an expiry period. If not now, then when?"

The aim of their ride was to step out of the comfort zone, and explore, embrace, experience and bond with the unknown, which led them to cover not just the main cities, as well as the quaint, tiny villages.

They met with extremely hospitable and friendly people throughout their journey and all of them became friends for life. Anuradha Dewan recalls, "We had met Thomas and Ruth on our journey to this tiny place near Bern, Switzerland. They accommodated us and took care of all the requirements. They even took us sightseeing, and in the end they refused to take money from us because Manas and me had become family. Thomas and Ruth were both travel enthusiasts, and the kindness and generosity that they had experienced, they wanted to pass it on to everyone they met. This is an experience that would forever be etched in my mind."

Manas and Anradha had picture perfect lives in Oman- a private beach villa, friends from 22 countries and nationalities as neighbours, and regular sport activities like kite surfing, paddling and yoga, sometimes even an occasional visit to an opera house. However, they felt a certain zing, a thrill missing out of their lives, and decided to fulfill their long cherished dream- that of backpacking across countries in Europe. "We wanted to get ourselves out of the golden trap, that perfect bubble of life and add a zest and that's the reason both of us embarked upon this journey," says Anuradha Dewan.

The aim of their ride was to step out of the comfort zone, and explore, embrace, experience and bond with the unknown, which led them to cover not just the main cities, as well as the quaint, tiny villages.

They met with extremely hospitable and friendly people throughout their journey and all of them became friends for life. Anuradha Dewan recalls, "We had met Thomas and Ruth on our journey to this tiny place near Bern, Switzerland. They accommodated us and took care of all the requirements. They even took us sightseeing, and in the end they refused to take money from us because Manas and me had become family. Thomas and Ruth were both travel enthusiasts, and the kindness and generosity that they had experienced, they wanted to pass it on to everyone they met. This is an experience that would forever be etched in my mind."

"No fulfilling roadtrip is complete without challenges, but the planning & preparation for the journey helped them overcome their difficulties, says Anuradha Dewan. "Europe had their hottest summer this year. In some countries, the temperatures went up to 50-55 degree Celcius, while in some, the temperature were 5 degrees. But, our physical, mental and spiritual strength helped us to not to give up and remain determined. Our vehicle had been vandalized on a late night trip in Vatican, while once it had broken down near the Turkey border. But I believe the goodwill and wishes of our friends and family helped us complete this trip unscathed."

"No fulfilling roadtrip is complete without challenges, but the planning & preparation for the journey helped them overcome their difficulties, says Anuradha Dewan. "Europe had their hottest summer this year. In some countries, the temperatures went up to 50-55 degree Celcius, while in some, the temperature were 5 degrees. But, our physical, mental and spiritual strength helped us to not to give up and remain determined. Our vehicle had been vandalized on a late night trip in Vatican, while once it had broken down near the Turkey border. But I believe the goodwill and wishes of our friends and family helped us complete this trip unscathed."

"Europe had their hottest summer this year. In some countries, the temperatures went up to 50-55 degree Celcius, while in some, the temperature were 5 degrees. But, our physical, mental and spiritual strength helped us to not to give up and remain determined. Our vehicle had been vandalized on a late night trip in Vatican, while once it had broken down near the Turkey border. But I believe the goodwill and wishes of our friends and family helped us complete this trip unscathed."

"Europe had their hottest summer this year. In some countries, the temperatures went up to 50-55 degree Celcius, while in some, the temperature were 5 degrees. But, our physical, mental and spiritual strength helped us to not to give up and remain determined. Our vehicle had been vandalized on a late night trip in Vatican, while once it had broken down near the Turkey border. But I believe the goodwill and wishes of our friends and family helped us complete this trip unscathed."

