

Travellers' University



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Travellers' University is a learning community to support individuals who are interested to travel and learn to deepen their knowledge and understanding of themselves and the world, and are looking for alternative choices in Education. It is a platform to nurture curious minds, encourage questions and push one's thought process by giving them an exposure to traditional knowledge systems, a plethora of sustainable solutions available, varied philosophies, ideologies and realities.

At Travellers' University, we believe the whole Universe is a learning ground and that experiences invoke one's innate curiosity which is fundamental for one's education. It is for individuals to venture outside their academics and work-life to engage with questions that perturb them and work together to find their answers. We provide an opportunity for learners to travel and learn from innovative experiments and real-world experiences, see the world through their own lenses and build their own perspectives through our programs.

Our Philosophy



We believe in the education that provides a learner with an opportunity to connect with self, others, and surroundings. Connecting with self leads to spiritual growth, connecting with each other leads to social wellbeing and connecting with the surrounding leads to a harmony with nature. These three dimensions of connection are integral for a learner to engage in purposeful learning. However, we live in a rapidly transforming digital age where distractions are pervasive and less emphasis is made on slowing down and connecting with our own emotions, interpersonal relationships, and real-world experiences. The existing system instead has several competing goals to focus on like providing skills and knowledge that helps in social efficiency, social mobility and so on. Often in this pursuit, the joy of learning and connection with these essential aspects of life takes a back seat.

The competitive culture nurtured and reinforced by the modern education system is creating distress at multiple levels as it kills creativity, imagination, and curiosity. The focus on scarcity of resources and opportunities not only keeps one away from experiencing the abundance around but also isolates the individual and leads them to a state of fear, anxiety, and stress, which can be well understood from the rising

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number of youth suicides and mental health-related challenges. There is a need to focus on reclaiming one's connection with one's own self, with others and with the ecosystem one is part of to lead to a more meaningful and sustainable life. There is a need to let people become aware of the multiple other possibilities and alternatives available in leading one's life and equipping them to do so.

In this context, we see potential and opportunity in leveraging travel as a medium to create immersive learning experiences. When one travels immersively, one empathizes with the world and barriers are broken; meets new people and exchange their wisdom; and appreciates the abundance and goodness in the world. Idea is to place a learner in a novel and stimulating physical and social environment, present with an opportunity to engage with a real-world problem of their chosen field, provide access to mentors working in those chosen fields and flexibility to carry out one's own experiments. We believe this would lead to deeper learning.

The programs we offer at Travellers University are designed on emergent themes like the idea of swaraj, human-river interconnection, finding alternate forms of education etc. By the virtue of having first hand experience, learners are sensitized about ground realities, encouraged to see the world through their own lenses, and build their own meaning integrating various perspectives. Such holistic experience - physical, emotional, intellectual and spiritual exploration would lead to reorganization of knowledge of the self, society and surroundings.



Our Story



52 Parindey, a yearlong project took Rahul on a journey across the country, meeting with changemakers, sharing a week of his life with each of them and documenting their stories. In between these meetings were meetings unplanned – meetings along the roadside, onboard the bus, at the tea stall and more. Along with movement between places, there was movement within. There was something shifting within. This shift made Rahul realize the transformational power of conscious, slow travel. He realized that travel is not just about moving from one place to another, it is about what happens within while moving between places. There was an intense urge to share this realization with the world, and to promote travel as a tool for serious seeking and learning. And this urge manifested into the creation of Travellers' University.

The startup was launched in June 2018, relying solely on pure conviction towards the idea. As the organization approaches its second anniversary this year, we have successfully organized five yatras and two workshops at different locations across the country and facilitated two travel learners. Though the programs have been designed around various subjects, there have been recurring themes common to all yatras and workshops. Each program attempts to educate the participants about sustainable living

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alternatives; sensitizes them towards injustice and inequality in the society; and provides space for building real connections with local communities and environments. At Travellers' University, we celebrate multiplicity of views and perspectives. Our programs do not follow ideology-driven agendas. The participant or the yatri is exposed to different perspectives, and it is left for the individual to find their own truth, and appreciate or dismiss based on personal understanding. Desire is that the participant is able to explore deep core of the inner self, in the process of exploring the outside, eventually understanding the relationship between the two.

The country has, over the last one decade, seen a proliferation of travel startups dedicated towards making tourism more responsible with individuals and startups organizing eco-friendly camps and community immersion programs. While we appreciate this as a positive trend, Travellers' University is not so much of a participant in this revolution in the tourism industry. We would much rather be seen as an educational platform, with travel being an important tool to facilitate learning. The focus is more on challenging the mainstream, textbook-centered education systems. We intend to eventually work towards policy changes at national level, with an aim of having travel included in formal curricula. A change like that requires slow movement, and not instant petitions and noise. We see Travellers' University as a small step towards this movement. Having said that, we welcome individuals and organizations to replicate our model and organize similar programs, if they find our work meaningful, if not inspiring.

Travellers' University strives to contribute towards developing a help-friendly entrepreneur community that is free of fears of insecurity and uncertainty. In order to fulfil this larger vision, we aspire to move beyond the ambit of yatras and workshops. There are plans to introduce a variety of programs oriented towards our philosophy. 52 Parindey, for example, is in the process of being launched as an annual fellowship with the aim to popularize sustainable alternatives to livelihood, by celebrating life stories of ford-makers and change agents. We hope to launch it by the middle of this year.

We have been fortunate to have received a lot of love and support throughout this journey and our well-earned social capital over the last two years gives us hope that we will continue to receive it in abundance from friends, well-wishers, and all those who resonate with our philosophy and wish to contribute towards the organization's larger vision. The journey has just begun...

Team



Rahul



Ashik



Ashwini



Preksha

When Rahul embarked on the journey of Travellers' University, he was aware that he needed a team of passionate people who believed in the transformational power of travel. The team started taking shape in October 2018 when Ashwini, a friend and colleague of Rahul from his Jaipur Rugs days who had left his job recently connected with him. He was searching for a kind of work he felt was true to his nature, making space for him to explore his interests and contribute his gifts. He had encouraged Rahul to leave his job in 2015, which led him on his dream journey '52 Parindey' which later led to 'Travellers' University'. Both of them met and after learning about the vision of TU, Ashwini decided to be a part of it.

Ashik is the first travel learner of TU. Rahul met him when he was facilitating Vimukt Shiksha Yatra in Maharashtra, a learning journey organized by the Indian Multiversities Alliance in February 2018. He was working in the domain of School Education and wanted to deepen his own understanding around Education and Sustainability, the alternatives present. TU supported him in designing and facilitating his learning journey across India from July to December 2018. Post his travel, he found synergy in building on the idea of Travellers' University and decided to be a Co-creator.

Preksha, another team member is the second travel learner of TU. Rahul met her and Ashik on the same learning journey in fact. She travelled to explore various education philosophies with the support of TU. After her journey, she became a part of the team and has been actively involved in working on taking the organisation forward. She is currently pursuing her higher education and provides her valuable contribution on strategic and programmatic matters.

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It was in January 2019 at the Learning Societies unConference that all four of us came together for the first time. The six days of togetherness helped us to understand each other, we found synchronisation in thoughts and energies, and collectively decided to walk on this adventure road where we can make some positive difference in the Indian education system. It has been a rollercoaster ride since then.



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2020

January



Swapathgami
Cycle Yatra



Nila Yatra



Transition from
Tourist to
Traveller 2.0



Indian
Multiversities
Alliance
gathering



Team Learning
Journey for
Transit 42



Swaraj Yatra



Ashwini, Ashik &
Preksha
joins Rahul to form
Team TU

October

August

May

April

March

January

2019

2018

February

March

April

June

July

August

October



Travellers'
University
initiated



Idea presented
at the Indian
Multiversities
Alliance
gathering



Incubation
at Lemon
School of
Leadership



Official
Announcement



Ashik starts
#100DaysOfTravel



Transition from
Tourist to
Traveller 1.0



Preksha starts
Yatra on Education



Swapathgami
Cycle Yatra



Vimukt
Shiksha Yatra

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Workshops

-  **August 2018**
Transition from Tourist to Traveller 1.0,
Swaraj University, Udaipur
-  **August 2019**
Transition from Tourist to Traveller 2.0,
Serene Eco Village, Velha, Pune

Learning Journeys

-  **October 2018**
Swapathgami Cycle Yatra,
Mewar, Rajasthan
-  **October 2018**
Vimukt Shiksha Yatra,
Karnataka, Tamil Nadu & Pondicherry
-  **March 2019**
Swaraj Yatra, Maharashtra
-  **October 2019**
Nila Yatra, Kerala
-  **January 2020**
Swapathgami Cycle Yatra,
Central Kerala

Talks & Events

-  **Nov 2018, Dec 2018, April 2019**
Open mics, Cafe Shakespeare,
Thrissur
-  **June 2019**
Travelsations
St. Xaviers College, Mumbai
-  **August 2019**
Travelsations, Thrissur
-  **November 2019**
Indica Yatra Conference, Varanasi
-  **January 2020**
NITTE Institute of Architecture, Mangalore
-  **January 2020**
Azim Premji University, Bangalore

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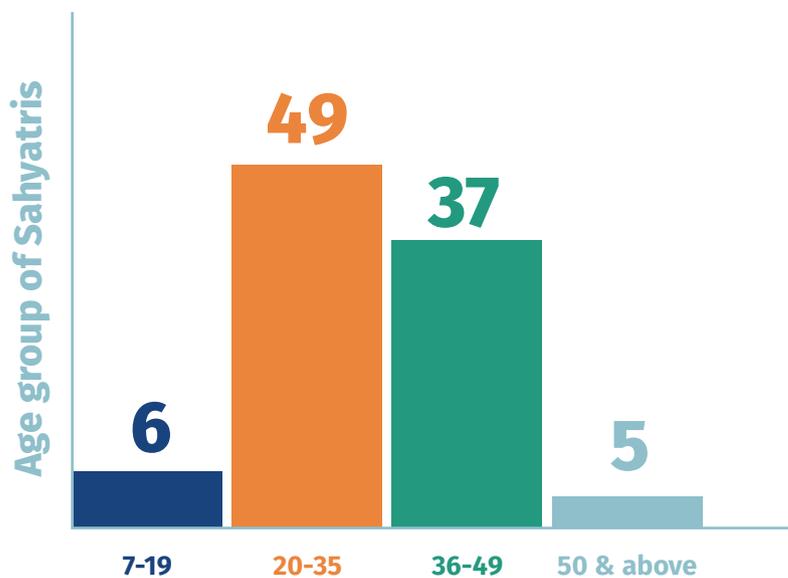
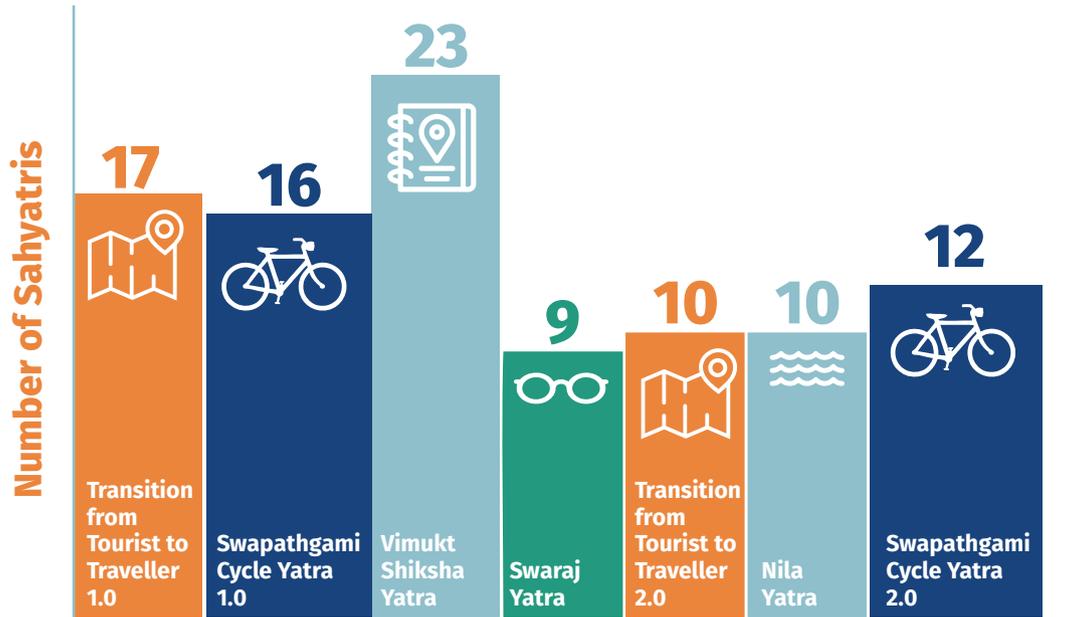
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Travel Learners

We facilitate an individual's self-initiated learning journey in the chosen area of interest through this program. We have had two Travel Learners so far.



Ashik Krishnan

Ashik set off on #100DaysOfTravel across India in July 2018, exploring the various Alternative Education models that are in place and the philosophy of Sustainability. He met with individuals, initiatives and organisations working in these domains, as an attempt to understand the different realities and philosophies which they operated in. Post his yatra, he found synergy in building on the idea of Travellers' University and decided to be a Co-creator.

Preksha Singh

Preksha's core interest was to understand various Education systems and philosophies relevant to the Indian context. On her 50 day's journey in the southern part of India starting August 2018, she volunteered at 3 schools and studied educational philosophies of J Krishnamoorthi, Sri Aurobindo and M.K Gandhi. Later she worked on curating content for Curiosity Module, a part of the Integral Education Curriculum that is being developed in Auroville based on the thoughts of Sri Aurobindo and the Mother. Before starting her travel, she was a Gandhi Fellow working on systemic improvement and process redesign in schools of Thane Municipal Corporation. She is now pursuing a Master of Education at Harvard University with a focus on learning sciences and neurodevelopment.

Workshops



Transition from Tourist to Traveller workshop is designed in the spirit of supporting the participants to travel the world frugally and to guide them through the path of slow and sustainable travel by means of stories and experiences of people who have already traversed those paths. It is beyond just a travel workshop and more on the lines of exploring travel as a way of life, as one cannot travel in a sustainable or frugal fashion until and unless they lead a sustainable or frugal lifestyle. We have conducted 2 workshops to date.

- **Transition from Tourist to Traveller 1.0, Swaraj University, Udaipur | August 2018**
- **Transition from Tourist to Traveller 2.0, Serene Eco Village, Velha, Pune | August 2019**

Learning Journeys



In the ancient Indian context, Yatra means a pilgrimage to holy places such as confluences of sacred rivers, temples, mountains, places related to folklore and mythology. India has been a country of pilgrimage where people have travelled for spiritual understanding and self-exploration from time immemorial. Spiritual beliefs, cultural values and heritage wonders are the major reasons that have influenced the pilgrims to plan an expedition in India.

With changing times there is a need to reimagine and redefine the concept of Yatra, add more places and people to it, create newer routes and experiences which are contextual to the current time. We design and offer Yatras or Learning Journeys ranging over a period of five to ten days, exploring various themes, subjects and philosophies in sync with today's needs, where the participants get to learn experientially. Over the last one year, we have curated experiences and facilitated journeys exploring multiple facets such as Reimagining Education, Rethinking Money, Self-governance, Ecology, etc.

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Swapathgami Cycle Yatra, Mewar, Rajasthan | October 2018

The cycle yatra conducted in the Mewar region of Rajasthan was a unique experience for the yatris , exploring gift culture, understanding abundance and to feel the energy of love from the universe, by cycling in a group for 5 days without money, mobile phone or any other gadgets.

Vimukt Shiksha Yatra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu & Pondicherry| October 2018

The 8 days journey involving 23 yatris from across India and the world exploring and reimagining different aspects of Education was organised with the 'Indian Multiversities Alliance'. The group visited alternative educational institutions and learning spaces in Karnataka, Tamil Nadu & Pondicherry, and engaged in discussions to understand the various philosophies and realities in which they operated in.

Swaraj Yatra, Maharashtra | March 2019

The yatra designed along with 'Expressive Arts' through the villages of Maharashtra was to explore, understand and dive deeper into the Gandhian philosophy of Swaraj. The group met with individuals, communities and villages who have been consciously operating on the philosophy of Swaraj or Self-rule or Self-governance in their lives. The internal processes during the yatra were designed so as to guide the yatris to define their own Swaraj.

Nila Yatra, Kerala | October 2019

The yatra in collaboration with 'Vayali Folklore Group' explored the interconnectedness of humans and river along the course of river Nila in Kerala. We delved into various themes such as community, livelihoods, culture, history, arts and crafts associated with the river during the one week of yatra and as well tried to establish the connection between various systems such as Ecology, Economy and Education.

Swapathgami Cycle Yatra, Central Kerala | January 2020

The week long yatra took the yatris through the villages of central Kerala, experiencing rivers, picturesque landscapes, diverse cultures, crafts, history and community. The yatra was a unique opportunity for the people to experience gift culture, real connections (without mobile) and real power (without money).

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Swaraj Yatra



Nila Yatra



Swapathgami Cycle Yatra

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Vimukt Shiksha Yatra

Talks & Events



Open mics at Cafe Shakespeare, Thrissur | November 2018, December 2018, April 2019

Cafe Shakespeare is a social cafe in Thrissur, Kerala where team TU has had the chance to conduct multiple open mic sessions. Ashik shared his unlearning journey and about the self-directed learning journey of #100DaysOfTravel in November 2018 at the cafe, followed by another talk 'Outliers' in December 2018 about his experiences with different tribal communities in Odisha and the stories he gathered from there. Ashwini shared about his slow and immersive travel experience in Bhutan at the cafe in April 2019.

Travelsations at St. Xaviers College, Mumbai | June 2019

Team TU had an interactive session with students of the Department of Inter-Religious Studies, St. Xaviers College on the importance of taking responsibility for one's education in one's own hands. We shared stories from travel that moved us and inspired us in building the idea of Travellers' University. We delved into multiple topics such as Education, Travel and Socio-ecological Justice.

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Travelsations, Thrissur | August 2019

Team TU hosted an open conversation on travel at Chithrasoudham Art Gallery in Thrissur, Kerala where we shared our journeys, people and places that inspired us, the experiments we undertook and how the individual yatras of the co-creators converged to form Travellers' University.

Indica Yatra Conference, Varanasi | November 2019

Our co-creators Ashwini Shah and Ashik Krishnan represented Travellers' University at the first-ever Conference on Yatras organised by the Indic Academy in Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh. At the conference for storytellers and scholars, we presented our philosophy of travel, journey so far and future yatras in the plan.

NIA Conversation at NITTE Institute of Architecture, Mangalore | January 2020

Our Co-creator Ashik Krishnan had an interactive session with students and faculty of NITTE Institute of Architecture in Mangalore. He shared about his self-directed learning journey #100DaysOfTravel and the journey of Travellers' University so far.

Kaapi and Charcha at Azim Premji University, Bangalore | January 2020

Ashik Krishnan engaged in an interaction with the post graduate students of Azim Premji University in Bangalore at the 'Kaapi and Charcha' event organised by the institute. We shared about travel as an educative process, experiences of various yatras curated so far and upcoming offerings.



Kaapi and Charcha at Azim Premji University, Bangalore

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Travelsations, Thrissur



Travelsations at St. Xaviers College, Mumbai



NIA Conversation at NITTE
Institute of Architecture, Mangalore



Open mic at Café Shakespeare, Thrissur

Love Notes



"If you are a veteran, the joy of meeting like-minded and the joy of seeing your clan of gypsies expand with the new explorers and if you are a naive beginner then the joy of finding the untrodden path of liberation makes you go back to this workshop again and again. The 'Transition from tourist to traveller' is a workshop for everyone who loves travel in any form and want to explore it further."

Preetee Oswal | TTT 1.0, 2018

"The cycle yatra gave me the experience of mindfulness. With no materialistic distractions, nothing to gain or lose from the materialistic perspective, it was an extraordinary learning experience due to a true bonding with people and nature."

Seema Jain | Swapathgami Cycle Yatra, 2018

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"Yatra gave me a chance to meet some amazing people at different walks of life. It was a marvellous experience to be with nature, question my age-old beliefs and helped me make some changes to my lifestyle for good. I highly recommend everyone must experience the beauty of Cycle Yatra at least once and I bet you won't go again!"

Janhavi Palande | Swapathgami Cycle Yatra, 2018

"Yatra was a powerful way to refresh my thinking and practices and also a way to weave a fabric of relationships around the world that will be the invisible structure for the global process of universities and humanity's knowledge systems."

Traian Bruma | Vimukt Shiksha Yatra, 2018

"Sometimes some journeys not only help you find solutions to your long-standing questions but also help you get a direction. Needless to say that they by making your travel outside, help you see within. Swaraj Yatra was one such Yatra I undertook."

Samiksha Agrawal | Swaraj Yatra, 2019

"An insightful journey from external to internal Swaraj. The Yatra induced the spirit of freedom at an experiential level."

Mahima Thakur | Swaraj Yatra, 2019

"Thanks to all the program facilitators and my fellow participants. What an amazing 6 days of learning. The inspiring stories from all corners of India, Bhutan, Myanmar, Thailand, Iran, Russia, South America, and more felt like I saw them through your experiences. Your passion to share your experiences and convert more tourists to travelers was amazing. Thanks for the books, movies, ideas, music, and more. Let's make more of these stories."

Shashidhar Gurumurthy | TTT 2.0, 2019

"Nila yatra made me understand how ecosystems thrive around a river, how much commitment, persistence and hard work goes into producing a pot, a grass mat, a cotton cloth. Coming across any art form in the future, I would be more appreciative of the work and certainly curious about the context and stories behind the products that I so mindlessly consume."

Navnee Bagaawat | Nila Yatra, 2019

Changed Realities



साल भर हो गए होंगे। उस वर्कशॉप में मैं इत्तेफाकन ही आ गया था। लेकिन उस इत्तेफाक ने मेरे भीतर कुछ सुंदर फूल खिला दिए, छोटे छोटे जंगली फूल। आप मिले। दीपा मिलीं। और साथी मिले। एक से एक। **LSUC** का पता मिला और राजस्थान कबीर यात्रा की राह भी। मैं तो जानता ही न था कि ऐसे लोग भी हैं इस दौड़ती - भागती - हाँफती दुनिया में। कोई मेहता साहब हैं जिन्होंने बंजर को जंगल बना दिया। कोई मनीष जैन हैं जिन्होंने उस जंगल में स्वराज यूनिवर्सिटी का वट वृक्ष लगा दिया। कोई राहुल है जिसके पास 52 परिंदे हैं और ख्वाबों में ट्रैवेलर्स यूनिवर्सिटी। कोई तौतिक हैं जो अपनी प्यारी पत्नी के साथ पैसे का नहीं इस धरती का आलीगंन कर रहे हैं। कोई दीपा हैं जो इस दुनिया को न सिर्फ नई आंखों से देख रही हैं बल्कि देखने की आँख भी दे रही हैं। एक बहुत प्यारे दोस्त भरत ठाकुर भी उसी वर्कशॉप में मिले।

आप लोगों ने उस वर्कशॉप में बहुत कुछ सिखाया, बिना जताए। सिखाया कि कैसे कम से कम में जिया, रहा और इस प्यारी पृथ्वी को घूमते हुए प्यार किया जा सकता है। कि कैसे अजनबी वर्षों पुराने दोस्तों जैसे लगने लगते हैं। कि कैसे देते हुए जीने से जिदगी भरती चली जाती है। कि कैसे खेलते खेलते हममें जीवन खेलने लगता है। कि कैसे वालंटियर ज्यादा हो जाते हैं और काम कम। कि कैसे साथ खाने में स्वाद साथी हो जाता है। कि कैसे कोई तौतिक 5 रुपये की फेवी क्विक से एक चप्पल 5 साल चलाता है। कि कैसे दीपा के छोटे से झोले में सारा संसार समा जाता है। कि कैसे राहुल की साइकिल हाईवे से परे की दुनिया के दिल में समा जाती है। बहुत प्यारे दिन थे वे मेरे दोस्त। कि फिर से 'जीने' का मन करता है।

Alok Pandey | TTT 1.0, 2018



TTT has been a wonderful and alluring experience for me which I think I can't express in words but still giving it a shot. It has been a life-changing experience. I not only learned to travel slow and got so many important tips but I also travelled miles within myself. Since then I have built the courage to move around along with my 9-year-old daughter. We visited different places and met people who in their own ways helped me evolve as a person and I observed my daughter blossoming beautifully.

For the first time in my life, I made so many friends during my travel and places I visited in just four months which I never did in my 38 years of life till now. I had always been hesitant and reserved. My heart feels light and content to travel and wants to be like this forever and now I can't picture myself without travelling. The most important thing along with learning about travelling which highly impacted me was the love, warmth, trust and support I received from not only the facilitators Deepa, Tautik, Rahul, Ashik and Ashwini but also from all the participants in those 6 days. And the friendship continues with the same feeling is a treasure for me that I will keep for my whole life. I actually have no words to express my gratitude to each and every person from TTT and so my travel will continue now all my life.

Nidhi Majumdar | TTT 2.0, 2019



I started wearing organic Indian attire for formal meetings. I now don't judge people directly, but try to understand the situation from their perspective. I'm not afraid to drink outside water as we drank water from so many places and nothing happened. I've fallen more in love with forest after that forest tour we did. I have started to understand the structure of society with so much more clarity. I feel more connected to myself following a lot of important lessons from Swaraj Yatra. I have left almost all daily use products. I as well feel less scared about interacting with animals now.

Chinmay Dhiman | Swaraj Yatra, 2019



As part of homeschooling our 8-year-old son, we travel frequently. Nila Yatra was the most eventful and educative of all the trips we have been so far. It was a very meaningful trip of learning. We got an experiential awareness of many things throughout the trip, mainly the human connection with the river and pollution that is happening in the name of development. Our path towards an alternative and sustainable way of living got deeper with a lot of insightful experiences. The diversity in the group brought different perspectives and was an eye-opener. The trip was thoughtfully planned and at the same time, it was not tightly structured.

Nandini KS | Nila Yatra, 2019



As a child born in village, inside our own home and schooled at the town nearby the village. But most of my long summer & Diwali holidays including all short holidays, I have been experiencing & living the rural culture. Having this background, I know any new face seen around in villages, was and to some extent is considered a guest of a village. So they treat that person or persons like a guest.

Likewise, in our cycle yatra, we have experienced village people's generosity & willingness to share. And we were so overwhelmed & touched by their hospitality & love. While this emotional & self-introspection happening in the thoughtful mind, one thing I realised that definitely these village people may not be giving the same love & the willingness, generosity to share their commodity with their neighbours or cousins.

So, I felt very strongly - " Let me carry with me from this cycle yatra, that I will inherit the kindness, love for all fellow humans & generosity to share especially in my daily life with all living beings around me.

Vivek Mahajan | Swapathgami Cycle Yatra, 2018

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Being from a middle-class family and engineering background, I never had a chance to explore much about life, nature and people. I always did whatever society/family asked me to do. Never questioned on anything. But there was a bug inside me who keeps telling me to follow some unconventional paths. After quitting my job in the corporate world, I got a chance to meet Rahul Karanpuriya, cofounder of TU through one of our mutual friends. And that's when I realized that there are people who are not caring about society but listening to their heart. Through TU, I met a whole community where people are doing so many unconventional things and learning more deeply about life, nature and people. These are the people around us but we never bothered to know them because we were so busy in our lives.

I was still exploring me as a person travelling to different places and meeting new people like Himachal Pradesh, Pune, Goa etc under the guidance of TU. I learned that people around the world are the same and it depends on us that how we judge them. Basically everyone is our reflection. So the very first change starts from ourselves and this world is a way more beautiful than it appears. I always questioned that how people travel so frequently and still managing everything. That myth was broken down when I attended this workshop "Transition from Tourist to Travel" hosted by Traveller's University. And it was again a chance to meet great facilitators. Learning the art of slow travel and sustainable travel so that you're not exploiting the community and nature of that place.

It feels that the way we live is fulfilling the needs of our body but not our soul. So I would say TU is one of those communities where you get a chance to explore a truly YOU with the help of their amazing journeys.

Thank You :)

Mohit Gupta | TTT 1.0, 2018



I believe I have been pushing the boundaries of the concept of comfort zone through minimalistic, wholesome travel experiences. Recently though, I participated in a week long cycle yatra, which is by far the most unconventional travel I've undertaken. Money-less, gadget-less 5 days of cycling on a basic non-g geared cycle through central Kerala.

The idea was to experiment with gift culture, where we would rely on all our needs to be fulfilled by the universe (through kind strangers on the way) either selflessly or in exchange for some help we could offer them.

Planned by Travellers University, who believe in learning through travel, this 1 week away from my phone, money, chemical products, and only carrying 3 sets of clothes was transformational in more ways than even I understand at the moment.

Countless moments of immense gratitude towards strangers who offered us bananas, meals, water, biscuits, places to stay amongst other acts of kindness.

I'm inspired, overwhelmed and changed! Thank you Travellers' University's Rahul, Ashik and Ashwini!

Keep doing what you guys are doing! You guys are incredibly kind, thoughtful and revolutionary.

Here's to learning and friendship!

Aishwarya Phadke | Swapathgami Cycle Yatra 2020

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We are excited to begin the next phase of the journey with the experiences and learnings assimilated so far. We intend to grow in our work by building programs to cover broader themes and create opportunities for deeper exploration. We also intend to reimagine and redesign our previous programs based on feedback received. Here is how the year ahead looks for TU.

Workshop

- Transition from Tourist to Traveller 3.0

Learning Journeys

- Swaraj Yatra
- Nila Yatra
- Swapathgami Cycle Yatra
- Desert Yatra
- Yatra exploring tribal practice systems

Travel Learners

We are looking forward to facilitating the journeys of at least two Travel Learners in their desired areas of interests, supporting them in deepening their understanding of their chosen domains of interest.

Working with Institutions

We as well intend to design programs for schools, colleges, universities and organizations to spread the travel learning revolution even wider. This can be either specially curated programs as per the needs of the institutions or the programs designed and implemented previously can as well be recreated.

Fellowship Program

52 Parindey Fellowship

52 Parindey is in the process of being relaunched, where the fellows would collect stories of changemakers who are working on eco-conscious career and document the Alivelihoods they have created for themselves. Alivelihoods are the careers that can heal oneself, society and the planet. Our world is changing at a rapid rate and humanity is becoming more disconnected from its surroundings day by day. A large number of people are losing the vision for a healthy planet which our ancestors had at some point in time. The '52 Parindey' project would lead to the creation of a platform for the larger mass of people to educate themselves about the various Alivelihood options they can choose for themselves.

(To know about the 52 Parindey program visit <https://52parindey.in/>)

Transition Programs

Aagaaz-Ayatra exploring the Self through the World

A two weeks transition program for young individuals to relook at their real needs and interests. To see if one's needs are arising from within - self - or external influences such as media and popular narratives. The yatra takes the yatris through the domains of Ecology, Economics, Education and Social Justice, guiding them to identify the space they need to work on in alignment with their own self and with the requirement of current times.

Yatra of Alternatives

A three weeks journey to explore the Alternative Landscape in India' to give exposure to 50 young individuals about the alternative movements and initiatives in India and strengthen their understanding of Alternatives. There are not enough structural processes for young innovators who intend to create an alternative around various environmental and humanitarian crises we are facing in today's world. The yatra would be an opportunity for them to meet real-life innovators, get acquainted with ground realities, exchange thoughts about their ideas and understand the challenges of working on the field. The yatra will be followed by incubation of five projects based on planet-centric approach for a period of one year.

Gratitude Wall

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S. S. Shah & Kamala Shah Edomyas Solomon
Ramanathan Sundararaman Nikhil Seth Deepak Menaria Sonika Gupta
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