

DEFEATED BY TRAFFIC: FOREIGN TOURIST ON WORLD TOUR

- * poor roads send cyclist to hospital
- * traffic system in tourist city is responsible
- * doctor suggests 1 month bed rest



Sonya admitted in Emergency

Agra, Jagran Representative:
The vehicle flashes his lights from the front, while the vehicle from the back blows his horn. Motorists just do not respect bicycle riders.

Sonya and Aaldrik have experienced this in Agra. In fact the traffic system is all they have experienced in this tourist city. Sonya and Aaldrik are on world tour and have cycled from The Netherlands but they didn't make it into to Agra. Sonya began feeling poorly and the road situation didn't help. After being hospitalised, doctors recommend at least one month bed rest.

Fourty-three year old Sonya from The Netherlands along with her husband, Aaldrik, are on a world bike tour. They have travelled through many countries and left Pakistan on 13 September to enter India and cycle through to Amritsar. After that the hassles started. Apart from the road being bad, you also have to cope with unmanageable traffic.

Even though they ride along the shoulder, cars and motorbikes still blow their horns and create a major disturbance to the cyclists. From Amritsar they struggled through Chandigarh, Delhi, Jaipur, Pushkar, Ajmer and Bundi until they reached Sawai Madhopur. From here they departed for Agra. Sonya says that the roads and traffic are horrific and didn't help the pain in her back. She was eventually brought by taxi to Agra. According to Aaldrik, we were forced to leave the bikes at the hotel and come here by rickshaw.

The couple are bewildered by the fact that in India, the road status of a person is determined by their vehicle. Car and motorcycle riders do not respect bike riders. Sonya mentioned that as soon as she is better, the couple's next destination will be Nepal followed by Thailand, Malaysia and Singapore. They will then fly to Japan.

JAGRAN HINDI DAILY NEWSPAPER AGRA: 1st NOVEMBER 2007

Thanks to Mr Deep at World Ways for the translations:

Worldwide Travel Consultants - Taj Mahal East Gate - Agra - worldways@mail.com