



>> Sumitra Senapaty the founder of WOW (top left) and the group at Haridwar station (top centre)

>> The Wanderers along with Sumitra (in green) after planting a tree at SwaSwara in Gokarna, Karnataka (top right) and in Bhutan (bottom right)

Photos courtesy WOW

GLOBAL GALS

Travel is very much on the to-do list of most women and this is why Sumitra Senapaty founded the all women's travel club called Women on Wanderlust — WOW. Rhea Dhanbhora finds out more from this globetrotter...

Women want to see the world, and they're packing their bags and hopping on planes to make it happen. And with Women on Wanderlust (WOW), doing that has just gotten easier. You can say goodbye to travel agencies and the nitty-gritty of booking a hotel because WOW's got it covered. Also, let's face it girls, sometimes it's good to leave the men (and kids) behind to reconnect with who you are and have a holiday where you get what you want to do. Sumitra tells us more about WOW...

Tell us a little bit about what Women on Wanderlust is all about...

WOW is a travel club of women, for women and by women. It's a social platform for women to travel around the globe. It is a single window contact and service point, free of the worries of safety, and single occupancy supplement, well researched itineraries, with elements that are attractive to a well informed and evolved woman. Besides travel, there are several WOW occasions to renew friendships with your travel companions over movies, lunches, wine evenings and weekend outings.

Why did you decide it had to be a woman oriented club?

As a travel writer, I travelled across the world. Women would often say how lucky I was, and how they wished they could travel. I saw genuine

passion for travel in them. Men did not seem to need any platform; families were being served by innumerable travel agents, with whom women were not comfortable, especially if they were travelling on their own. And so, I decided to use my knowledge of travel destinations, and decided to share some of my luck with the women by providing a platform like this for them and the rest is history.

Was it difficult starting out?

The only difficulty was spreading the word around. But, I am very thankful to the press, who saw something special in WOW, and decided to spread the word. And then there was word of mouth. As women went on their perfect holidays at down to earth prices, with personalised service, they spread the word in the right circles. However it did take a while for it to catch on.

How do you'll decide where to go and what place to visit next?

We stay away from the run of the mill destinations, since our client profile is well travelled, well informed, mentally and financially emancipated women. We have visited Morocco, Egypt, South America, Greece, Tanzania, Ladakh, Andamans and even East Europe.

It must be entertaining travelling with a group of women from different walks of life. Could you share any interesting/ funny anecdotes about

anything that has happened on these trips?

In Jaisalmer, we went into the desert to watch the sunset over the sand dunes. All the camels had been tied to one another during the trek. Each camel had two people sitting on it and the camels were tied to each other — nose to tail. We reached our destination and one of our camels decided to pee on a fellow Wanderer, Rupali! A little later we settled down on the dunes waiting for the famed sunset... but meanwhile a bunch of young tribal girls started hassling us for money. To divert our attention, Nita (another WOW Wanderer) stated, matter of factly, "My camel had bad breadth..." It was the sweetest and silliest thing ever and we rolled on the sand in laughter for her sheer comic timing.

Tell us how we can be a part of these Women on Wanderlust tours...

Very simple! Visit the website. Go to upcoming tours. You will get the name of places and dates of the tours that we have for the next 6 months. Choose the one you like, and make sure that you are free to travel during that period, and then drop us a line. Put down the deposit, and we do the rest for you, right down to getting your air tickets, the Forex, the tour plan, finding your room partner and getting your visas. We make the procedure simple by declaring one single price, in Indian Rupees.

Have the sudden urge to travel? For more details, log on to www.wowsumitra.com



DON'T MISS...

You may know where you want to go and whereas choosing the best places to visit can be a bit of a chore, Sumitra breezes us through some of the places she'd recommend that are definitely worth a visit...
East Europe
Tanzania
Ladakh
Alaskan Cruise
Bhutan
London

YOUR SUMMER TRIP SCHEDULE

Want a vacation and don't know where to go? Take a look at WOW's itinerary for the next couple of months...

Domestic Trips

Simply Ladakh **May 17**
Leisurely Ladakh **May 27**
WOW Wellness Week, Gokarna **June 25**

International Trips

China with Lhasa with a journey on the highest train in the world **May 22**
Live it in London **June 03**
East of West Europe **June 15**
Tanzania, the Great Migration **June 18**