

**ADVENTURE**

# Around



# Gaia

SINCE 2013

## with a stop at Linex

Gaia is the Greek god of the Earth, described in Wikipedia like this “Gaia is the ancestral mother of all life: the primal Mother Earth goddess.” It’s also an ancient Greek term for “The Earth”, and if you really want to know more look it up on Google, although we must warn you it is quite confusing, with lots of references to Uranus and other confusing Greek mythological

names. For instance the Titans were born out of a union between Gaia and Uranus (pronounce this carefully). If you spend a bit of time reading all this stuff you will come to the conclusion that the Greeks obviously spent lots of time partying with lots of wine, women and song, not to mention some dubious stuff in their after-dinner smoking rooms.

**THE ROUTE TAKEN UNTIL TODAY:**  
 10000000  
 1000000  
 100000  
 10000  
 1000  
 100  
 10  
 1

**START:** 17 APRIL 2013  
**CURRENT LOCATION:** USA  
**KILOMETERS:** 137,619  
**COUNTRIES:** 42

**PROJECT: AROUND GAIA**  
 A journey to a single destination where we intend to cover all the continents, fight wind and solar power, and enjoy the beauty of the world.

**COUNTRIES VISITED UNTIL NOW:**

| STATE   | MONTHS    | TRAVEL | WEATHER | TOUR  | TRAVELLERS |
|---------|-----------|--------|---------|-------|------------|
| ALABAMA | APRIL     | 10000  | 10000   | 10000 | 10000      |
| ALASKA  | MAY       | 10000  | 10000   | 10000 | 10000      |
| ARIZONA | JUNE      | 10000  | 10000   | 10000 | 10000      |
| ARIZONA | JULY      | 10000  | 10000   | 10000 | 10000      |
| ARIZONA | AUGUST    | 10000  | 10000   | 10000 | 10000      |
| ARIZONA | SEPTEMBER | 10000  | 10000   | 10000 | 10000      |
| ARIZONA | OCTOBER   | 10000  | 10000   | 10000 | 10000      |
| ARIZONA | NOVEMBER  | 10000  | 10000   | 10000 | 10000      |
| ARIZONA | DECEMBER  | 10000  | 10000   | 10000 | 10000      |

**TRAVELLERS**  
 Matt, Martina, 1980  
 Matt, Tina, 1980

**MOTORBIKE**  
 Yamaha, Yamaha XT600Z





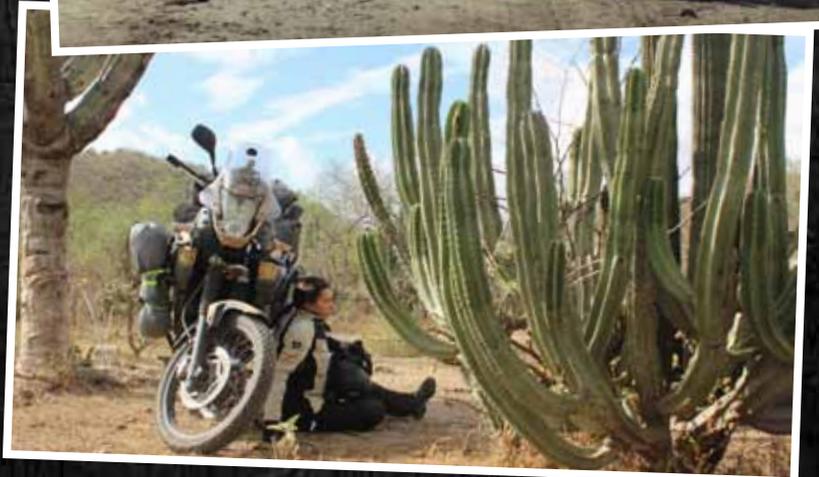
Anyway, all of this was sort of the subject of one of Linex Yamaha's famous entertainment evenings they put on every month. This particular evening Linex invited Ivana Colakovska and Manuel Torres, a couple who have spent the past three years travelling on a journey around the World, hence "Around Gaia" So far they have travelled over 120 000 km through 42 different countries.

"Ok, you are telling yourself, so what? Lots of people have the same dream, and many of them actually manage to complete the trip. What makes Ivan and Manuel's trip a little different is that most people put a lot of planning into their trip, and probably do a whole lot of research before they leave. They then set themselves targets of where they will go, how long it will take and how much it will cost.

Not Ivana, who comes from Macedonia, and Manuel, who is Spanish. They must have met at one of those old time Greek parties, and in the aftermath decided travelling around the World would be a good idea. Their only planning was to do it on a motorcycle, never sleep in a hotel, never use a GPS or a map, and spend the very little money they have on important stuff like fuel for the bike.

How they actually decided this is also shrouded in mystery as initially Ivana could only speak Macedonian, and Manuel who only speaks Spanish. They decided to talk to each other in English, which neither of them speak well either, but they manage somehow to communicate quite well. Just before they set out they decided to get married, hoping Ivana could get a Spanish passport, although that hasn't happened yet. The next thing they did was go to the nearest bike shop, which luckily sold Yamahas, and bought a 660 Tenere', a set of panniers and some spare tubes, and off they went.

After a brief loop through Morocco, when Manuel learned to ride, they set off Southwards through Europe and eventually crossed to Australia. From Melbourne they shipped their bike to South America and crossed the continent from South to North. From there they rode up to Canada, and back down to the city of New York. Then they



airfreighted the bike and themselves to Johannesburg. Before setting off on the next leg of their trip they popped in to Linex for a service before setting off for Cape Town.

Danny Mulder, owner of Linex, says the Yamaha Tenere' was in remarkably good condition considering the distance it has covered, most of it in pretty tough conditions. "But," he says, "that's actually what this bike was made for".

What is even more remarkable is that, as Ivana explains, Manuel has no mechanical knowledge or skill whatsoever, None. Nada. Even on the few occasions they have been stopped by a puncture they simply wait until someone comes along to help them. What's more, someone always does, even in the remotest places!



Of course along the way they have had many extraordinary experiences, especially as they are often put up in the homes of people they meet along the way. They have even shared barns full of animals, winter stocks of vegetables, food for animals and much more.

By far the worst experience was taking a tumble in Argentina where Ivana was trapped under the bike when it fell over, breaking both legs badly. A hospital in Argentina plated and screwed the bones together. Even that experience, she says, had its' positive side because of the people they met at the time. Also, she says, it made them decide that they needed proper boots and other protective gear. Fortunately Forma, Rev'lt and Schubert all came to the party and provided them with the right stuff.

On a slightly downbeat note Ivana mentioned that the most difficult of the 42 countries they visited when it came to getting a visa was South Africa. Only after two solid weeks of visiting the South African Embassy in New York did they eventually get the paperwork sorted for the start of their African adventure. However Manual went on to say that once the paperwork was done our customs and emigration took only minutes to clear them.

They say a picture tells a thousand words, so here are some pics of their journey so far. We look forward to hearing how they get along in Africa.

Follow their progress on their "Around Gaia" page on Facebook.

