

THE MIDDLE OF THE ROAD

STUNNING SCENERY AND SEARING HEAT AS THE INDIANS HIT 10,000KM

The Great Australian Roadtrip, in which three Indians are circumnavigating the Australian continent (Vol 57 No11) aboard Hyosung GT650Rs, has reached the halfway point with just over 10,000 of the 20,000km adventure travelled.

On its 41st day, Sundeep Gajjar, Aditya Pande and Kulpreet Singh were in the Northern Territory and had been surprised by the straight roads and the conditions that come with it.

"The main problem that we faced in the unbelievable straights of the Northern Territory were the crosswinds," explained Gajjar.

"They were unbelievably harsh and omnipresent. A couple of times we got gusts of wind which almost pushed us off the other side of the road — and with the oncoming

roadtrains, the whole physics of the surrounding air is changed in a second."

The roadtrip participants have also been amazed by the diverse Australian landscape.

"The greenery and sweeping curves of the roads in Victoria and New South Wales were matched by the blue waters of the Whitsundays, the stunning arrow straights and the rustic arid beauty of the Northern Territory," said Gajjar.

The riders described their visual highlights for this leg of the trip as swimming in the Whitsundays, sighting a rainbow over Uluru, a bush fire and the changing scenery.

"One thing that caught our eye was the drastic change in vegetation from just before Katherine to after it," continued Gajjar. "It was rustic, gold, open nothingness to lush, green

vegetation flanking the roads."

The riders are currently stuck in Darwin due to a problem with a laptop computer. They have been promised searing temperatures up to 47°C when they hit Kununurra during the next leg of their journey.

"Besides this [laptop], the trip has been smooth so far," said Gajjar, "if you don't consider the intense heat and now the humidity, too."

We'll continue to bring you regular updates of the Indians' 80-day adventure throughout Australia, but the riders are updating a regular blog with pictures and videos that can be found at www.xbhp.com/gar.

Similarly, Matho just spent three weeks travelling through India's Himalayas on a Royal Enfield — turn to page 120 for the full feature.

