Confetti Of Literary Thoughts

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Taste of Life Out side India: Exploring the Fun Aspects of Wanderlust

Thasneem PC Dr. Poornima R

Travelling can be an incredibly exhilarating and rewarding experience, but it can also be quite scary and nerve-wracking at times. Whether you're exploring a new city or venturing into the great outdoors, there's always a certain element of risk and uncertainty involved in travel. But despite the potential challenges and dangers, many people continue to seek out new and exciting travel experiences, pushing themselves out of their comfort zones and embracing the unknown. This can be a thrilling and life-changing experience, one that can open your eyes to new cultures, perspectives, and ways of life.

According to Sandhhya Iyer, there is no greater high than travelling the world, no better therapy and means of being close to God. The shutters of mind opened to embrace new people, new cultures, new places, new sights and sounds. All is that there is something called wanderlust which can strike anytime, and then everything else is secondary. No amount of security, stability, not even friendship or love, can compensate for the thrill of the unknown and the unexpected. *Wanderlust: My Experiments with Travel* explores the fun aspects of travel along with the life outside India while offering the ambience of places visited.

Through an analysis of the travel literature *Wanderlust: My Experiments with Travel*, we will examine the ways in which travel can be a source of fun and adventure. We will explore how travel writers capture the excitement and wonder of discovering new places, and how they convey the sense of joy and fulfilment that comes from experiencing different cultures. We will also examine the ways in which travellers themselves can find joy in travel, whether it be through trying new foods, engaging in local traditions, or simply taking in the beauty of their surroundings. The main goal is to offer insights into the fun part of travel, and to show how it can be a transformative experience that enriches our lives and broadens our perspectives. By examining the experiences of others, we hope to inspire readers to embrace the joy and excitement of travel and to discover new things about themselves and the world around them. "To travel is to make a journey, a movement through space. Possibly this journey is epic in scale, taking the traveller to the other side of the world or across a continent, or up a mountain; possibly, it is more modest in scope, and takes place within the limits of the traveller's own country or region, or even just their immediate locality. Either way, to be any

journey or, indeed, simply to set foot beyond one's own front door, is quickly to encounter difference and otherness. All journeys are in this way a confrontation with, or more optimistically a negotiation of, what is sometimes termed alterity or more precisely, since there are no foreign peoples with whom we do not share a common humanity, and probably no environment on the planet for which we do not have some sort of prior reference point, all travel requires us to negotiate a complex and sometimes unsettling interplay between alterity and identity, difference and similarity'(Thompson, 9).

At the heart of the fun part of travel is the joy of discovering new things. Whether it be stumbling upon a hidden gem in a city, witnessing a breath-taking natural wonder, or simply meeting new people, travel offers endless opportunities for exploration and discovery. Travel writers have long sought to capture this sense of wonder in their works, conveying the excitement and awe that comes from experiencing the world in new ways. One example of this is found in Bill Bryson's "A Walk in the Woods," in which he describes his experience hiking the Appalachian Trail. Throughout the book, Bryson revels in the beauty and diversity of the American wilderness, capturing the sense of joy and wonder that comes from exploring new terrain Similarly, in Elizabeth Gilbert's "Eat, Pray, Love," the author captures the sense of joy and fulfilment that comes from engaging with different cultures. Her descriptions of the Italian cuisine, the Indian ashram, and the Balinese traditions convey the sense of excitement and wonder that comes from experiencing new things.

One of the most rewarding aspects of travel is the opportunity to experience different cultures, to witness different ways of living, and to learn about the world in new ways. For many travellers, this is the fun part of travel, the chance to explore different customs, traditions, and beliefs and to gain a deeper understanding of the world around them. In "The Motorcycle Diaries," Ernesto "Che" Guevara and Alberto Granado set out on a journey across South America, seeking to explore the continent and to gain a deeper understanding of its people and cultures. Throughout their journey, they encounter people from different walks of life, from peasants to indigenous tribes, and they immerse themselves in the cultures of the places they visit. Similarly, in "Wild Swans" by Jung Chang, the author describes her experiences growing up in China and her eventual journey to the West.

The fun aspects of wanderlust are numerous and varied. From adventure to relaxation, travel can bring joy, excitement, and new experiences into our lives. In *Wanderlust: My*

Experiments with Travel, Sandhya Iyer explores the fun aspects of travelling, especially when venturing outside of India.

Wanderlust is a wonderful exploration of the joys and challenges of travelling. "I could see that I was attracting some attention. Surely, they weren't eyeing a fellow Indian with suspicion" (Iyer, 109).

Travel experiences personal growth and learns valuable life lessons. In dialogue on the benefits of travel, she states, "Travelling opens up new horizons and perspectives, making us more adaptable and resilient". She learns to step out of her comfort zone and try new things, such as skydiving and hot air ballooning. She also gains a deeper understanding of herself, as she reflects on her experiences and learns from her mistakes. In her dialogue on self-discovery, she says, "I decided to learn how to live

life from my British friends, I just wanted to enjoy myself for a change" (47).

Travel gains a greater appreciation and understanding of different cultures through the journey. Travelling allows us to immerse ourselves in different cultures, learn about their traditions and customs, and gain a new perspective on the world. She experiences the hospitality and warmth of local people, such as the Bedouin tribespeople in Jordan and the family she stays with in Leh, India. She also learns about the history and heritage of different places, such as the ancient city of Petra in Jordan and the temples of Angkor Wat in Cambodia. "It was entirely new experience. Something to look forward to every day, new places to see, new friends and new bonds. And the novelty brought a spring to my step every single day" (37).

Through travelling, understand a broader global perspective and learns about the interconnectedness of the world. Travelling helps us to understand the challenges and opportunities facing our world, and to work towards creating a more sustainable and equitable future for all. Travel also helps to meet people from different countries and backgrounds, forming connections and breaking down barriers. "The snowflakes looked beautiful and enticing from the window. After all, it was

February, peak winter in the UK" (27). Sandhya Iyer's experience in the UK, as shared in her book *Wanderlust: My Experiments with Travel*, provides a delightful insight into the fun aspects of travelling. Travelling has always been a fascinating activity for people who seek

adventure and excitement in their lives. *Wanderlust* is a collection of travel stories that demonstrate the fun aspects of travelling.

Visiting historical sites can be a fun and enriching experience as they provide insight into the culture and history of a place. Travelling is a popular leisure activity that allows people to explore new places, learn about different cultures, and create unforgettable memories. While travelling be a source of stress and anxiety, it can also be a lot of fun. Iyer's travel experiences include visits to various historical sites in different countries. She explored the Tower of London, Stonehenge, and Windsor Castle while in the UK. She was fascinated by the stories and histories of these places and enjoyed learning about the past while exploring them. " As for me, I decided to collate some interesting facts about London" (65).

One of the most exciting aspects of travelling is trying new foods. Iyer indulged in the culinary delights of different countries, including the traditional English breakfast, fish and chips, shepherd's pie, and black pudding. Trying new foods is a fun way to immerse oneself in a new culture and experience the local cuisine. One of the most enjoyable aspects of travelling is trying new foods.

Travellers can indulge in local cuisine, savor traditional dishes, and discover new flavours and tastes. For example, in Thailand, travellers can try the famous pad thai, green curry, and mango sticky rice. In Japan, they can sample sushi, ramen, and tempura. Trying new foods is a fun way to experience the culture and traditions of a new place. "I went to the restaurant one more time before I left the UK, though it was at least two hours away from Worthing. But it was definitely worth it" (65).

Travel will make new friends and met locals while travelling. Sandhhya struck up conversations with fellow travellers and even made a connection with a fellow Indian traveller who introduced her to the joys of street food in London. Meeting new people and making friends from different cultures is a fun and rewarding aspect of travelling. Enjoying the scenery of a new place can be a fun and relaxing experience. Iyer enjoyed the scenic beauty of different countries, from the picturesque countryside to the bustling city of London. She went on walks and hikes, taking in the rolling hills and verdant landscapes. She also explored the streets of London, marvelling at the architecture and the hustle and bustle of the city. "The first impression was that of a sea of humanity on the streets, walking briskly and determinedly" (111).

Trying new activities can be a fun and exciting way to experience a new place. Sandhya Iyer's travel experiences demonstrate that travel is fun. Her experiences highlight the fun aspects of travelling, such as visiting historical sites, trying new foods, meeting new people, enjoying the scenery, and trying new activities. Iyer tried new activities while travelling, such as taking a boat ride on the Thames River, visiting a pub and watching a football match, and attending a theatre performance in London's West End. Travelling can be a fun and enriching experience that allows one to learn about different cultures and make lasting memories. "I never thought I would see gypsies in my lifetime" (87).

Wanderlust is a desire to travel and explore new places. It is a desire that many people share and often embark on adventures to explore the world around them. In her book, *Wanderlust: My Experiments with Travel*, Sandhya Iyer shares her experiences of travelling outside of India. "Every trip is an opportunity to learn something new about yourself and the world around you". Trying new foods is a fun way to immerse oneself in a new culture and experience the local cuisine. One of the most exciting aspects of travelling is trying new foods. Iyer explored different cuisines while travelling outside of India, such as the traditional English breakfast, fish and chips, shepherd's pie, and black pudding while in the UK. She also tried the famous Belgian waffles and chocolates while in Brussels.

Exploring new places can be a fun and rewarding experience as it allows one to see different cultures and lifestyles. Iyer's *Wanderlust* took her to different countries such as the UK, Europe, and Southeast Asia. She explored the historical sites of London, the picturesque streets of Paris, the tranquil canals of Venice, and the vibrant markets of Bangkok. Travelling allows people to explore new places, discover hidden gems, and learn about the history and culture of a destination. For example, visiting the Eiffel Tower in Paris, the Colosseum in Rome, or the Great Wall of China are all thrilling experiences. Exploring new places can be a fun and rewarding experience as it broadens the mind and exposes travellers to new ideas and ways of life. "The sovereign freedom of travelling comes from the fact that it whirls you around and turns you upside down, and stands everything you took for granted on its head" (Iyer, 4).

Meeting new people and making friends from different cultures is a fun and rewarding aspect of travelling. Travelling offers the opportunity to meet new people, make new friends, and form connections with people from different cultures and backgrounds. Whether it's striking up a conversation with a local vendor or bonding with fellow travellers over a shared

experience, meeting new people is a fun and enriching aspect of travelling. "I did feel that travelling together was helping to bond" (63).

Travelling provides travellers with the opportunity to enjoy breath taking landscapes, beautiful architecture, and stunning natural wonders. Enjoying the scenery of a new place can be a fun and relaxing experience. Iyer enjoyed the scenic beauty of different countries. She went on walks and hikes, taking in the rolling hills and verdant landscapes of the UK and Europe. She also explored the beaches and islands of Southeast Asia. For example, exploring the beaches of Bali, hiking in the Swiss Alps, or taking a hot air balloon ride over Cappadocia all offer unique and unforgettable experiences. Enjoying the scenery of a new place is a fun and relaxing way to take in the beauty of the world. "Springtime is one of California's most beautiful times of year when hillslides are covered with lush green grass and wildflowers" (144).

Trying new activities can be a fun and exciting way to experience a new place. Travelling allows travellers to try new activities, such as adventure sports, cultural performances, and local festivals. For example, in New Zealand, travellers can bungee jump, skydive, or go white-water rafting. In India, they can attend Diwali celebrations or watch a Bollywood movie. Trying new activities is a fun and exciting way to experience the local culture and traditions of a new place. Iyer tried new activities while travelling outside of India, such as taking a boat ride on the Thames River, visiting the Eiffel Tower in Paris, exploring the Vatican in Rome, and going on a hot air balloon ride in Cappadocia. "Opportunity knocks just once! Never refuse it, specifically one which involves travel, it will teach you more than you have ever learnt in your lifetime" (93).

Travelling is a fun and enriching experience that allows one to learn about different cultures and make lasting memories. Sandhya Iyer's *Wanderlust* experiences offer a taste of life outside of India. Travelling is like a reset button for the soul. It clears the mind, opens our heart, and makes us feel alive. Iyer's book serves as an inspiration to those who seek adventure and excitement in their lives. "The best friends on my trips were made as soon as I landed. They were the taxi drivers" (203).

Travelling provides individuals with the opportunity to explore new cultures, traditions, and ways of life. It allows them to step outside their comfort zone and taste life outside their familiar surroundings. Sandhya shares her experiences of travelling to different parts of the world and how it has broadened her perspective on life. Travelling is not just about seeing

new places, it's about experiencing new cultures, trying new foods, and learning new things. One of the best ways to experience a new culture is through its food. Sandhya Iyer's travels have taken her to different parts of the world, allowing her to taste a variety of cuisines. She shares her experiences of trying sushi in Japan, fish and chips in London, and poutine in Canada. These culinary adventures allowed her to explore the local food scene and appreciate the diversity of flavours and tastes.

The cultural immersion will help to gain a deeper understanding and appreciation of different cultures. Sandhya Iyer's travels have also allowed her to immerse herself in the local culture. Whether it's attending a traditional dance performance in Bali, visiting a local market in Thailand, or participating in a homestay in Kenya, she has experienced the local way of life. These were allowed her to appreciate the natural beauty and architecture of different parts of the world. The joy of travelling is not in reaching the destination, but in the journey itself. One of the most enriching aspects of Sandhya

Iyer's *Wanderlust* experiences has been interacting with locals. Sandhya Iyer's travels have also involved participating in various adventures and activities. Whether it's snorkeling in the Great Barrier Reef in Australia, going on a safari in Kenya, or attending a music festival in Europe, she has tried new experiences and stepped out of her comfort zone. These adventures have allowed her to push her limits and gain new insights into herself and the world around her.

The experiences will allow to appreciate the diversity of the world and gain a deeper understanding of different cultures. Sandhya Iyer's *Wanderlust* experiences have provided her with a taste of life outside India. From trying new foods to immersing herself in different cultures, exploring new places, interacting with locals, and participating in adventures and activities, her travels have broadened her perspective on life. "The UK is very different from India and you will enjoy the difference" (13). "So, travel, at heart, is just a quick way to keeping our minds mobile and awake. As Santayana, the heir to Emerson and Thoreau with whom I began, wrote, "There is wisdom in turning as often as possible from the familiar to the unfamiliar; it keeps the mind nimble; it kills prejudice, and it fosters humor." Romantic poets inaugurated an era of travel because they were the great apostles of open eyes. Buddhist monks are often vagabonds, in part because they believe in wakefulness. And if travel is like love, it is, in the end, mostly because it's a heightened state of awareness, in which we are

mindful, receptive, undimmed by familiarity and ready to be transformed. That is why the best trips, like the best love affairs, never really end" (Iyer, 15).

The Importance of fun in wanderlust cannot be overstated. Fun is an essential element of travel that can make the experience all the more enjoyable and memorable. When we travel for pleasure, we seek new experiences, excitement, and adventure, all of which contribute to the fun of the journey. By embracing the fun aspects of travel, we allow ourselves to let go of our inhibitions and enjoy the experience to the fullest. We may try new foods, participate in cultural activities, or go on adventures that we wouldn't normally have the opportunity to experience at home. The fun of travel can also help us create lasting memories and connections with the people we meet along the way. "So, finally I had cracked it, the source of everlasting happiness, Travel" (179).

Additionally, fun can help us recharge and refresh our minds and bodies. Taking a break from the routine and monotony of daily life can help us reduce stress and improve our overall well-being. The fun of travel can provide us with a sense of rejuvenation and invigoration, leaving us feeling energized and ready to take on new challenges. Overall, the importance of fun in wanderlust lies in the fact that it can make the experience more enjoyable, memorable, and transformative. It can help us broaden our horizons, create lasting memories, and recharge our minds and bodies, making travel a

truly enriching experience. "Never say never to anything" (211).

The chapter about the fun part of travel has explored various aspects of travelling that make it an enjoyable and enriching experience. From trying new foods and immersing oneself in local cultures to exploring new places, interacting with locals, and participating in adventures and activities, travelling provides individuals with the opportunity to step outside their comfort zone and taste life outside their familiar surroundings. Sandhya Iyer's wanderlust experiences, as depicted in her book *Wanderlust: My Experiments with Travel*, provide a testament to the transformative power of travel. The chapter encourages readers to embrace the fun aspects of travel and embark on their own wanderlust adventures.

It has explored the importance of fun in wanderlust and the transformative power of travel.

Through Sandhya Iyer's personal experiences and anecdotes in her book, *Wanderlust: My Experiments with Travel*, we have seen how travel can broaden our horizons, expose us to

new cultures, and provide us with an opportunity to recharge and refresh our minds and bodies. By embracing the fun aspects of travel, we allow ourselves to let go of our inhibitions and enjoy the experience to the fullest. Whether it's trying new foods, participating in cultural activities, or going on adventures, fun is an essential element of travel that can make the experience more enjoyable and memorable. The chapter has emphasized the importance of travel in expanding our perspective, cultivating empathy, and appreciation for different cultures. It encourages readers to step outside their comfort zone and embark on their wanderlust adventures.

The intersection of fun and fear in travel is a fascinating topic that has captured the attention of scholars and travellers alike. While fun and fear may seem like opposing emotions, they are often intertwined and can enhance one's travel experience. Fun activities like adventure sports, cultural experiences, and exploring new places can be thrilling and provide a sense of accomplishment. However, there are also risks associated with these activities that can evoke fear and anxiety. Research has shown that fear can actually enhance the fun factor in travel by making the experience more memorable and exciting. It can also lead to personal growth and self-discovery as travellers face their fears and overcome challenges. On the other hand, excessive fear can hinder the enjoyment of travel and even deter some individuals from pursuing certain activities.

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