

## **Go as far as the road takes you** by Sanjyoth Paracha



When I first came to the USA it was to the island of Hawaii to Honolulu. Hawaii is famous for its circle island tours and one can go around the whole island of Oahu in eight hours. The islands were so mesmerizing that my husband and I circled almost all the Hawaiian Islands to explore rainforests, live volcanoes, craters and even deserts. In eight months, we had to leave paradise and move to mainland USA and landed in LA. Our host family in LA knowing our passion for exploring new lands drove us to San Diego to experience the wonders of the ocean, docks and lighthouses. After this brief holiday we moved to school again in the heartland of USA to little Apple, Manhattan, Kansas. My Husband being a car fanatic to say the least bought our first car a pre-owned and pre-loved Nissan Sentra. These were the humble beginnings of my journey in mainland USA and set the tone for years to come.

Every long weekend or holiday we chose a place to drive to, from nearby Wichita, rural Alma, Lincoln Nebraska further away to Kansas City, and to see the Ozarks in St. Louis. We drove far east all the way to Buffalo to cross over to Canada and see the spectacular Niagara Falls and visited many cities in Missouri and Illinois. We drove as far south as San Antonio to enjoy the river walk, battling thunderstorms and visiting Dallas and Houston on the way. On route in all our journeys we visited old friends and family and made new friends. We explored varied terrains through many climates, meeting new people and soaking in the sights and sounds of America. Our story is not different from the story of countless other Asian American immigrants who take an opportunity by its horns and explore it to as far as the road can take them. A small bank balance or limited time and commitment are the least of our deterrents. To me America gives the freedom and opportunity to explore to my boundaries and go as far as the road may take me...

