



From left: Grant, Noah, Jane and Caroline Adams

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Life on the high seas

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Today, after more than 30 months of constant travelling, what often leaves Jane Adams in awe about the world are the similarities among various cultures in different parts of the world.

The idea of exploring different parts of the world led Marc and Jane Adams to set sail in the first week of November 2008 with their three children.

“We are from Chicago and we have sailed through the Caribbean and the Panama Canal, the Pacific islands, New Zealand, South East Asia, Sri Lanka and the Maldives before reaching here.

This is what my husband always wanted to do. In fact, we had thought of it as something we would do when we retire from work, so we had planned and saved for it. But then we started to learn about other families who set out and did this.

“We had been sailing but we had a smaller boat but once we decided to do this as a family, we purchased a boat equipped for sailing in the ocean and just got our things around and got ready to go,” said Jane.

The longest that the family has stayed away from land is for 20 days while crossing a big part of the Pacific Ocean.

Although the vast expanse of rising and falling waves did cause worries initially about how they would fare, Jane calls it a very calm passage.

“We all did great on it. Normally we are at sea only for a night or two and then we are at anchorage or at a marina for a week or longer.”

While nature has been kind so far, the fear of pirates in the Indian Ocean got the couple to think about the trouble this journey may land them into.

“In the Indian Ocean and in the Gulf of Aden, there has been an increase in the number of pirate attacks on large ships and recently, on some yachts.

Because of the fear, the children and I stayed back here in Muscat while my husband has taken the boat along with a few friends through the waters that are most dangerous.

“We will catch up with him in a few days, perhaps Egypt,” said Jane, who has fallen for the charms of Muscat and has been recommending it to all her friends as a must-see destination in the Middle East. It is the weather conditions that often influence their itinerary.

“While sometimes the weather forces you into different parts of the world, a lot of times, easier availability of visa leads us to visit a country,” said Jane.

Calling her husband the captain of the boat, Jane talked about concentrating on homeschooling the children. “I have been homeschooling them for two years now.

We brought many books with us and some books we got from the countries we visited such as Australia and New Zealand or had friends bring them over to us. We have been very fortunate in meeting a lot of people from the US,” said Jane.

Although the children have different things to say about the world as they see it, the idea of no homework is a winner with all three of them.

Ten year old Grant Adams, whose favourite destination so far has been Galapagos in the Pacific, misses his friends, Caroline, 11, is simply happy about meeting new people and making new friends along the way.

Her favourite place in the world remains New York City while her youngest brother Noah talks excitedly about the wildlife he has seen during their journeys including penguins, sea lions, seals, whales and sharks.

“They are very good swimmers. Most of the places we have been to are warm, so we jump in. We don’t jump in generally in the middle of the ocean but only when we are at an anchorage. That’s one of our favourite activities,” said Jane.

The family plans to be back in the US next year around this time. With a lot of experience and revelations, what Jane cherishes most about the voyage is spending so much time together as a family.

“Although we have seen some incredible places and we still have some beautiful places to see before we get home, my biggest realisation of it all has been that what is truly important in life is the family and the time we spend together.

My perspective has changed in a way. Even though we have seen how huge the world is by going around it, we also have realised how small it is,” said Jane.

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