









OUTCULT: CAN YOU TELL US A BIT ABOUT YOUR-SELF? HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOURSELF?

ELENA: My name is Elena Axinte, I'm a Romanian citizen, though I've been living on the road for over five years now. By profession, I'm a stage actress and drama therapist. But today,I'm also a solo world traveler, a motorcyclist, and a speaker.

I travel with my motorcycle, connecting with people and embracing the incredible beauty of Mother Nature. I'm constantly in search of personal growth, human connection, and a sense of belonging.

OUTCULT: HAVE YOU ALWAYS BEEN INTO MOTORCYCLES? DO YOU REMEMBER THE FIRST TIME YOU GOT THE MOTORCYCLE BUG?

ELENA: Not at all. This is actually my first motorcycle. I had never even ridden a scooter before!

I bought this Harley three years before I started my journey. And yes, I remember exactly when I caught the motorcycle bug. I was sitting on the back seat of a Harley, holding tightly onto a lover. It was love at first sight—not just for the person, but for the bike.

That love story ended, but with that ending, a new love began: my love for Harley-Davidson. At the time, I had no idea what I would do with a motorcycle—I just knew I wanted one. And that's how everything started.

OUTCULT: WHAT DO YOU LOVE THE MOST ABOUT MOTORCYCLING?

ELENA: It changed my life. That's what I love most.

This motorcycle transformed everything for me. Thanks to her (yes, she's a "she" to me), I discovered the road, the wind in my chest, and the feeling of flying. Very quickly, that sensation became my new lifestyle.

Over time, my relationship with motorcycling evolved. Now, my motorcycle is more than just a machine—it's a tool to connect with the world, a catalyst for meeting people and discovering cultures. She's a part of me, like an extension of my own body.

OUTCULT: HOW DID THIS JOURNEY START?

ELENA: As I mentioned earlier, it all started with the wind in my chest and that intoxicating sense of freedom.

A year after buying my motorcycle, I took a month-long solo ride through the South of France. When I returned home, I felt completely lost—like I had left a part of myself on the road. The walls of my house felt like a cage. I fell into a kind of depression, unable to shake the feel-

ing that I needed to be back on the road.

Weekend rides and short trips weren't enough anymore. So, I made a decision—I wanted to do something big. Something extraordinary.

One night, without any real planning, I decided I would ride to Africa the following summer. I had no idea why or how, but the idea took hold of me. That same night, I googled "woman alone on a motorcycle in Africa." That's when I found Anna Grechishkina, a Ukrainian rider who was already four years into a round-theworld journey.

I couldn't believe it—someone was already doing exactly what I had been unknowingly searching for my whole life. In that moment, a spark ignited in me.

That night, I made my decision. The following summer, I would go to Africa for four months. After that, I would return home, close all the chapters of my old life, and begin my new life on the road—indefinitely.

Everything unfolded exactly as I planned.

In the summer of 2018, as a two-year-old biker, I set off on my first major journey—crossing seven African countries in four months. And in the summer of 2019, I left for good.

Now, 5.5 years, nearly 200,000 km, and over 40 countries later, I'm still on the road. But numbers don't mean much compared to the thousands of people I've met, the countless homes I've been welcomed into, and the deep connections I've made along the way.

OUTCULT: HOW DOES IT FEELS LIKE TO SPEND OVER FIVE YEARS ON THE ROAD?

ELENA: It feels like I've been doing this forever. It doesn't feel like "a trip"—this is my life.

My home is always moving, like a perpetual motion machine. Just like my feelings, just like my being.

OUTCULT: WHAT'S THE BEST PART ABOUT TRAY ELLING THE WORLD ON A MOTORCYCLE?

ELENA: For me, the motorcycle is part of my identify Even my nickname, Hele Biker (from Elena), is tied to it

This motorcycle is more than transportation—it's a superpower. A part of who I am.

Of course, there's the thrill of reaching places you might not be able to with a car. And of course, there's still that incredible feeling of flying. But above all, it's about what the motorcycle represents to me: freedom, connection, and belonging.

OUTCULT: DO YOU PLAN YOUR TRIPS OR JUST

SERVICE



GO WITH THE FLOW?

ELENA: I almost never plan anything. And I love that.

This is one of my greatest freedoms—the ability to embrace whatever life brings me, without being tied to a fixed plan.

Of course, sometimes I have to follow a direction due to visas or logistical constraints. But most of the time, I have no idea where I'll end up at the end of the day. And that's exactly how I love it.

It feels like I'm biting into every second of life—living fully in the present, with no expectations, just flowing with whatever comes.

OUTCULT: HOW MANY COUNTRIES HAVE YOU TRAVELED SO FAR?

ELENA: Around 40.

I started in Italy, traveled through Eastern Europe, then entered the Middle East via Turkey. I explored all the Arab countries, rode through Iran, and then entered South Asia—Pakistan, India, and beyond. I crossed Tibet and mainland China before reaching Southeast Asia. And now, here I am in Indonesia.

OUTCULT: DO YOU PLAN TO SLOW DOWN ANY-TIME SOON?

ELENA: No plans to slow down—maybe even the opposite.

I have two major goals:

- I. To complete this world journey without ever staying in a hotel or taking a flight.
- To touch all continents without breaking these two rules.

For now, these dreams are my top priority 'daybe once they're complete, I'll allow myself to track differently. Maybe I'll finally take a flight to visit my family, my lover, or accept a work project on the other side of the world. But for now, nothing else comes before these two dreams.

OUTCULT: WHAT DO YOU MISS THE MOST DURING THE JOURNEY?

ELENA: I often feel like I miss everything and nothing at the same time.

There's always something to miss—family, close friends, my lover, the people I've connected with in

different countries, places in nature that have deeply touched me.

But I've learned to live with this feeling. It's part of me now.

OUTCULT: WHAT HAS YOUR EXPERIENCE BEEN LIKE RIDING IN INDONESIA?

ELENA: Indonesia! I don't usually make a list of favorite countries, but this time I can say it—Indonesia is my favorite place in Southeast Asia.

I arrived here during a difficult personal moment, and from the first moment, Indonesia embraced me with warmth. It was exactly what I needed. It reminded me of my dreams, my purpose, and why I'm on this journey.

Sumatra, in particular, holds a special place in my heart.

The way I connect with people in Indonesia — it feels like they've been waiting for me for a long time.

As for the riding itself? Yes, it's challenging. The distances feel much longer than they are. But other than that, it's just incredible. You just need a little extra patience and understanding. And the views along the way? Absolutely breathtaking.

OUTCULT: CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT THE CRAZIEST MOMENT YOU'VE EXPEREINCED DURING YOUR TRIP? HAVE YOU EVER BROKEN DOWN IN THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE?

ELENA: I know my story isn't very "technical" for a motorcycle magazine—it's mostly emotional and personal. But for this question, let's focus more on the technical side.

When you say "crazy," I immediately think of the most extreme places I've taken my motorcycle—which, by the way, is not an adventure bike. It's a 2016 Harley-Davidson Sportster Iron 883.

When I first set out on this journey, people in the motorcycle world told me I was crazy to do it with this bike. They said I'd be too limited, that I wouldn't be able to go everywhere. My answer was simple: "I will go wherever this bike can take me. There's no need to go everywhere."

Yet, after six years of traveling, I've ridden this bike everywhere I wanted—even in places no Harley had ever reached before. I crossed Rub' al Khali (the Empty Quarter), the largest uninterrupted sand desert in the world. I rode sand trails, made a stupid mistake that broke my bike in the middle of the desert, and ended up being rescued by the army. I reached one of Nepal's toughest off-road mountain trails—Mustang Road—becoming the first Harley rider to make it there. I crossed

Tibet in winter, riding over seven passes above 5,000m, with many others over 4,000m, camping and riding at -20°C. I reached some of the most beautiful and remote beaches. I rode through scorching heat at +50°C.

These are just a few of the wild things my bike and I have been through. So, hats off to her!

OUTCULT: HOW DID YOU MANAGE TO FUND THE TRIP? DID YOU SAVE UP BEFORE STARTING, OR DO YOU WORK ALONG THE WAY? HOW DO YOU BALANCE FINANCES WHILE CONTINUING THE JOURNEY?

ELENA: I started with a modest budget—my savings and the money from selling my car. All I knew was that I had to start; I would figure things out along the way.

The plan was to sustain myself using my profession as a drama therapist. Surprisingly, my initial budget lasted much longer than expected, and during that time, I slowly became a story—a story I don't sell through vlogging or books. Instead, I often get invited to share my journey at motorcycle and travel events or give motivational talks at companies.

Sometimes, I collaborate with brands. For example, I've been a brand ambassador for Dainese and have worked with Harley-Davidson Asia during my Southeast Asia exploration. I also receive support from local Harley-Davidson dealers for motorcycle maintenance as I travel—like in Jakarta, where Indomobil Harley-Davidson generously helped me with servicing my bike.

Balancing finances isn't too difficult because, from the start, I didn't see this journey as a temporary trip but as a way of life. I didn't start with the goal of reaching a final destination—I started to live on the road. And like in any life, working is part of the process. If I ever run out of resources, I know I can simply pause and work for a while.

OUTCULT: RIDING LONG DISTANCES REQUIRES A COMBINATION OF RIDING SKILLS, SURVIVAL SKILLS, AND PERSISTENCE. HOW DID YOU PREPARE YOURSELF BEFORE STARTING THIS JOURNEY?

ELENA: When I started, I had none of those skills—no off-road experience, no survival training, nothing. But what I did have was a huge dream. And honestly, that dream was (and still is) stronger than any skill I could have learned beforehand.

I didn't do much preparation. I got my vaccinations, learned the basics of my bike, packed my life into three bags, and that was it. I wasn't a highly skilled rider, and even after 200,000 km, I still wouldn't call myself an expert.

But I've gained a few "secret powers" along the way. One is resilience—maybe it's in my nature, or maybe it's fueled by my dreams. Another is intuition—I've developed a strong instinct for navigating the road, reading situations, and making decisions. But this kind of instinct takes time and confidence to develop, so I wouldn't necessarily recommend relying on it without experience.

For everything else? There's always a solution. When challenges arise, I deal with them at the moment. We can't prepare for or predict everything. If we wait until we feel "ready," that moment will never come. We are only ready when our heart is ready. The rest, we figure out on the way.

OUTCULT: ANY TIPS FOR PEOPLE WHO WANT TO DO A SOLO-LONG DISTANCE MOTORCYCLE TRIP?

ELENA: There's no right way to do it. There's no perfect motorcycle.

There's no single approach that works for everyone.

You have to find your own way.

I found mine—it suits me perfectly. But you don't have to live on the road for five years uninterrupted to feel fulfilled as a motorcycle traveler. You don't even have to be a long-term traveler at all.

What truly matters—whether you travel or not—is to find your own path in life. Don't let life pass by in front of your open but sleeping eyes. Wake up. Find what brings you fulfillment, harmony, and happiness.

It is possible. Why not go for it?

Hele Bike - #sheridestheworld



