

Our story started in January 2017 when almost after 6 years of trying to enlarge our family in a biological way with no success, we started getting some information about adoption through a few agencies. My husband had always been convinced about adopting but I was a bit less sure, reason being that I thought we could not afford it. It didn't take much for us to decide to start the adoption process immediately as we got really excited about it as soon as we left the first agency we spoke to. At first India was not at my top list as thinking about travelling so far worried me, but out of all the agencies we spoke to, Agenzija Tama convinced us the most, they assured us that adopting was possible and India was quite fast compared to other countries.

So in February 2017 we started our first meeting with the social worker and after lots of meetings and paperwork, in April we finally got the approval from the Maltese board of adoptions. The approval by CARA followed in June.

So now the matching phase started, and when we least expected it (during a short break at my husband's family in Sicily) we received a call from Shirley telling us that there was a special little girl waiting for us in India. Soon after the call we received an e-mail with the pictures of our precious gem and it was love at first sight. We have no words to explain how excited, blessed and happy we felt. Thank God we were travelling back home the day after and we could immediately start the procedure to accept the match. This was July!

Soon after we accepted the match we were told that we needed to be present in India for court and this worried us a lot, mostly because we had never heard of any other adoption cases in India asking to be present for court, so at first we thought that there could be a problem with our case. By time we learnt that we were not the only case going to India for court but still there was a big chance that we needed to travel to India twice.

Right before Christmas we were informed that the judge wanted us present for court in mid January so we had exactly a month to organise everything. The agency advised us to travel to India prepared for everything, both returning back home alone and having to go back to India to pick up our daughter or returning back home as a family of three 🧑🧒👦

On the 19th January after 3 days of travelling it was time to meet our daughter and after exactly 6 months of dreaming and imagining this moment day and night we found ourselves seated in the office of the orphanage waiting for her to come in. After about 30 minutes of waiting there she was and we just stared at her more in love then ever speechless, we just couldn't believe that we were truly there and that we were finally holding her in our arms.

20th January feast of St Sebastian (patron if our town) we were in court and after a lot of praying, crying and with a million fears the judge confirmed the adoption and the orphanage director told us we could take our daughter to the hotel with us...best day of our life. Once back at the hotel after a long unforgettable day we were video calling our families to proudly introduce our officially daughter Marta Sweta 💞

We ended up staying in India for a month waiting for our daughter's documents to be ready. It was a very long and intense month passed mostly in hotel rooms, laughing, dancing, singing, crying and building a strong bond with our daughter. When we were in India we couldn't wait to come back home but honestly now we miss those days sometimes.

On the 17th February, exactly a month after our departure we landed back in Malta with the most special gift God could have ever given us, our daughter. A lot of relatives and friends came to welcome Marta Sweta, what an emotional moment ❤️

Not even 3 months have passed since we first met our daughter and it seems like she's been with us forever.

We thank God everyday for this incredible experience and we also thank Agenzija Tama (Shirley and Debbie are doing a great job and we couldn't have chosen any better), CARA, the orphanage, our lawyer and the judge in Bhagalpur, Bihar state and India for making our dream come true.

God has now given us the answer to all our questions, Marta Sweta is the answer.

