

Grand Voyage Mathilde et Antoine

25/03/15, Newsletter 11

IN A NUTSHELL :

Date: March 25th 2015 (332nd day)

Location: Chiang Rai, Thailand

Driven km up to date: 38 500.



PHOTOS



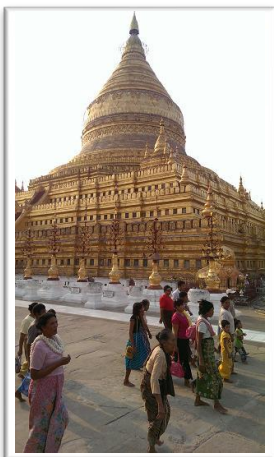
VIDEO

NEWS

Leaving Pavan alone on a parking lot for ten days was not easy, but did not regret it. Our experience in **Myanmar** was great. As soon as we arrived, things started to strike us: men wear longyis (kind of long skirt); women wear a natural cream on the face as make up, tanaka; and betel is widely chewed by people who smile with teeth tainted red.

After **Yangoon**, stunning city due to its multiculturalism and its disordered street markets, we again immersed into transport modes: VIP and local buses, scooters, bikes. Backpacking allowed us to socialize with other travelers. **Mandalay** has seduced us with its authenticity and the beauty of its hidden treasures, such as the **island of Ava** or Mahumani. A 3-day trekking from **Kalaw to Inle Lake** (without shower) allowed us a nice immersion - meals and stay in the villagers' bamboo houses on stilts. The life in the village is really basic (no water, no electricity). We had good fun with our walking fellows Sandra, Zoe, Toli, Tristan and Quentin. Burmese are extremely smiley and rather bright. We discovered a new mode of agriculture with floating gardens in Inle.

In Bangkok, we were happy to find Pavan back in perfect state. Heading west, we visited **Erawan** waterfalls, the museum of **Hellfire Pass** (forced construction of a railway line during WW2), and the village of Thong Pha Phum, where we've been received by Kay as if we were her children. Sukhothai and Si Satchanalai (former capital of Thailand for 200 years) are pretty historical sites.



FUNNY PICTURE



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INTENSIVE MOMENTS :

- Celebrate Baba Marta at the beach.
- Land in Myanmar, walk eyes wide open and get large smiles back.
- Walk 60km between Kalaw and Inle: we suffered a bit from the heat and from the poor condition of our shoes, but it was awesome!
- Get a natural pedicure by fish in Erawan.
- Bathe in the river in Thong Pha Phum and have dinner at Kay's, nice woman.



CURRENT MOOD : We suffer from the heat (stormy with the first rains)! We're beginning the last part of our Asian trip before the next chapter.



COUNTRIES VISITED : Bulgaria, Greece, Turkey, Armenia, Georgia, Azerbaijan, Iran, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Russia, South Korea, Japan, Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia, Myanmar.

COMING : Laos, Cambodia, (Vietnam), South Africa, Namibia, Zambia, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Malawi, Tanzania, and maybe crossing the African continent.



MAP - ITINERARY :

since the last newsletter

✦ Departure

✦ Arrival



1. Yangoon (BIR)
2. Mandalay (BIR)
3. Inle lake (BIR)
4. Museum WW2 Hellfire pass (TH)
5. Thong Pha Phum (TH)

