

# Grand Voyage Mathilde et Antoine

22/04/15, Newsletter 12

## IN A NUTSHELL :

Date: April 22<sup>nd</sup> 2015 (360<sup>th</sup> day)

Location: Vientiane, Laos

Driven km up to date: 41 000.



PHOTOS



VIDEO

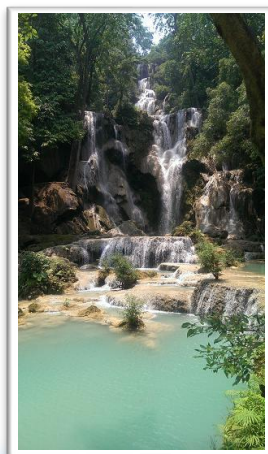


## NEWS

This last month has been spent between northern Thailand and Laos. In **Thailand**, we visited the northern part. First **Mae Salong**, a remote village in the mountains where the Chinese influence is visible. In Pai, funny hippie town, we visited an elephant center and discovered the delicacy of these giants (chicks were walking between their feet). Meeting Jeanne and Romain in Chiang Mai was great! We didn't visit the city that much, but we enjoyed our swimming pool and family bungalow! Our little road trip to go to the Laotian border was very nice: Lamphun and Lampang (temples and wooden houses); Phayao on the edge of a lake; Phu Chi Fa, perched on a cliff, which is a natural barrier between the two countries. Impressive storms scared us at night.

Crossing the border was smooth. We discovered the Mekong! The following week was punctuated by Songkran (Thai) or Pii Mai (Lao): "New Year". Traditionally, a little water is poured on you to purify you for the new year. In reality, it is a huge generalized water fight, where the festivities have few limits. We had a great fun.

In Luang Nam Tha, a trek brought us to the heart of the jungle in a village that made us realise what the comforts of modern life at work and at home really mean. Luang Prabang, a city with French architectural prints, is superb! We discovered the beautiful karstic landscapes of Vang Vieng tubing (tire on which one goes down the river). The French cultural influence is present and appreciated (restaurants, bread, etc.)



## FUNNY PICTURE



# Grand Voyage Mathilde et Antoine



## INTENSIVE MOMENTS :

- Put your head on a one-ton elephant
- Discover ultra-remote villages
- Spend the week-end with some friends
- Be decorated, flooded and invited by local people for Songkran
- Meet French expats in Vientiane and enjoy our home cuisine



**CURRENT MOOD :** The rainy season is reaching us. Hotels for €10 a night are welcome when it is still 35 degrees at 23.00PM. Our Asian road trip is coming to an end (the van will be shipped on May 14th from Thailand). We'll enjoy these 3 weeks.



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

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



## MAP - ITINERARY :

*since the last newsletter*

✈ Departure

★ Arrival



1. Mae Salong (TH)
2. Route Phayao-Chiang Khong (TH)
3. Trek autour de Luang Nam Tha (LA)
4. Luang Prabang (LA)
5. Vang Vieng paysage (LA)

