

Grand Voyage Mathilde et Antoine

26/05/15, Newsletter 13

IN A NUTSHELL :

Date: May 26th 2015 (394th day)

Location: Singapore

Driven km up to date: 44 200.



PHOTOS



VIDEO



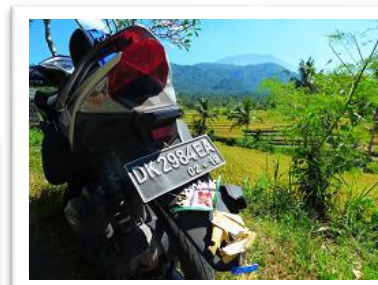
NEWS

Leaving Vientiane and its French community of expats, we headed South East towards the quiet valley of Kong Lo and its serene inhabitants. We really liked **Laos**. Side-stepped by tourists, since it has no access to the sea, in reality Laos counts a huge amount of water sources (rivers, waterfalls). The region of Paksong and its coffee plantations is very green; towns with colonial architecture dating from the French protectorate such as Savannakhet are peaceful. Further South, the Mekong river sets the pace in the region: the 4000 islands are accessible by boat. Don Det is one of them, and provides to its visitors an immediate sense of relaxation.

Cambodia has been a shock to us: phoenix reborn from its ashes, it is a bustling country (the intensive modernization of Phnom Penh illustrates this fact), recovering from the tragedy of the Khmer Rouge (nearly 2 million people killed within 4 years). Le Phare circus wowed us - artistic expression channel for young people suffering, after the genocide. Cambodians are gentle and smiling, eager to regain their pride as in the past. The temples of Angkor, one of the previous capitals of the Khmer Empire (~ IX-XVth centuries), rather than beautiful, are impressive. The crabs from Kampot cooked with pepper from Kep are delicious.

After having sent our van on a cargo from Laem Chabang to Durban, we flew to **Bali** and were not disappointed: traditional costumes, ceremony of offerings to Hindu deities, temples, rice fields, volcanoes, aquatic flora and fauna, cheap and high quality services, nice people (beside the fact that service providers are a little tacky). And here we are now, at Jeanne and Romain's place in Singapore for 10 days.

FUNNY PICTURE



Grand Voyage Mathilde et Antoine



INTENSIVE MOMENTS :

- Crossing by boat a 7-km-long cave
- Invasion of thousands of ants in the van
- Horrifying visit of the S21 prison in Phnom Penh, tragic witness of human stupidity
- Meeting of French expatriates and travelers and interesting conversations about different lifestyles



CURRENT MOOD : This last month has been very busy. We met many people and traveled in several countries. It's time to realize what we've seen and enjoy the sedentary life in Singapore for ten days.



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

COMING : Vietnam, South Africa, France, Namibia, Botswana, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Malawi, Tanzania, and maybe crossing the African continent (Kenya, Ethiopia, Sudan, Egypt).



MAP - ITINERARY :

since the last newsletter

 *Departure*

 *Arrival*



1. Kong Lo (LA)
2. Don Det island (LA)
3. Pnom Penh (CA)
4. Angkor (CA)
5. Cirque Phare – Siem Rehap (CA)
6. Bali (BA)

