

Grand Voyage Mathilde et Antoine

23/06/15, Newsletter 14

IN A NUTSHELL :

Date: June 23rd 2015 (422nd day)

Location: Kokstad, South Africa

Driven km up to date: 45 650.



PHOTOS



VIDEO



NEWS

After Singapore, we headed towards **Vietnam**. Andy and Shelley warmly welcomed us into their new apartment. We spent 3 days in **Ho Chi Minh** city and 3 days riding scooters in the **Mekong Delta**. Phuc, our guide, made us discover the delights of Vietnamese cuisine (crab, shrimp, fish, shellfish, eels, etc.). The *phô*, local soup noodles, is light and tasty. The delta is a very agricultural region, where many fruits grow and in which rice fields are of dazzling green color. The surrounding villages are populated by hospitable and smiling people. After a turbulent twentieth century, Vietnam reunified itself and is today turned towards growth and modernity.

Our **plane ride** was striking: in 14h we crossed from Asia to Paris and in 10h from Paris to South Africa. That's what we had driven in 14 months with Pavan and what we'll be driving within the next 10 months. Conclusion: 1h by plane = 1 month by car ! After our stopover in Paris with Mathilde's parents, here we are in **Africa**.

Our arrival in **Durban** has been very tumultuous: big port surcharges, heavy red tape, Pavan burglarized, logistical problems (gas, battery, counters). Fortunately, we find a country we like a lot already: very wide Ocean beaches, European-style food in the supermarkets, friendly and very curious people (Johnny and Gabriella: thank you for your welcoming!), game reserves full of animals (**Hluhluwe, Mkhuze**). We're also making our first steps in discovering the South African history of the last two centuries (Boers, English, Zulus, Indians, origins of the apartheid).

FUNNY PICTURE



Grand Voyage Mathilde et Antoine



INTENSIVE MOMENTS :

- Travelling on mini ferries by scooter.
- Having our Pavan burglarized.
- Going on safari in our own car with rhinos, giraffes, buffaloes, hippos, monkeys, antelopes, zebras, wild pigs, etc.
- Passing across the Lesotho border walking in the Sani Pass (20km, 3000m altitude, 6h).
- Making barbecues with great meat and red wine.



CURRENT MOOD : After a month being out of the van and logistical concerns, we're back on our cruise speed. We'll enjoy it intensively before a 2-month break in August (France) and September (Namibia).



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, Vietnam, South Africa, Lesotho.

COMING : Namibia, France, Botswana, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Tanzania, Rwanda, Congo (maybe), Kenya, Ethiopia, Sudan, Egypt, Europe.



MAP - ITINERARY :

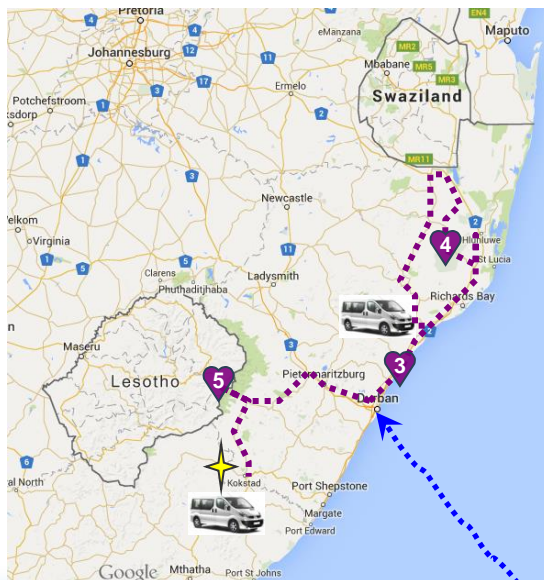
since the last newsletter

 *Departure*

 *Arrival*

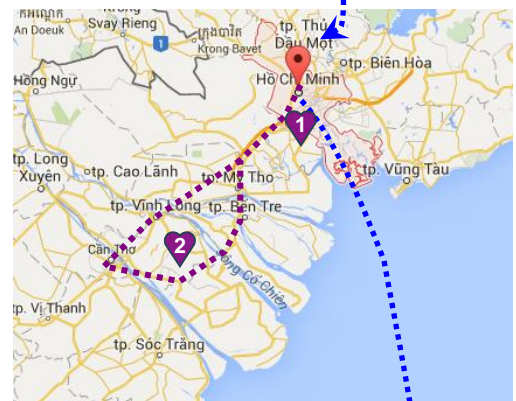


1. Ho Chi Minh (VI)
2. Mekong delta (VI)
3. Umdloti (SA)
4. Hluhluwe – Mkhuze (SA)
5. Sani Pass (SA)



South Africa

 Singapour



Vietnam

