

Grand Voyage Mathilde et Antoine

20/5/14, Newsletter 1

IN A NUTSHELL :

Date: May 20th 2014 (22nd day)

Location: Kars, East Turkey

Driven km up to date: 3 300.



PHOTOS



NEWS

On **April 28th**, we started driving towards **Sarti** in Greece, village on the seaside that we appreciate a lot, after having spent a month in France and a last week-end in Sofia.

Our ambition was to relax and get used to leaving in the van while enjoying the region. We have settled our camp on a bay where we have made lots of tests: toilets, shower, cooking, sleeping, and other technical stuff.

Pros: we have everything we need inside + the feeling of living integrated in our surrounding environment + magnificent views from our bed. Cons: doing 1000 times the same movements in a very small space. We have to get used to our new daily life.

With most of the things set on **May 8th**, 2014, we decided to start driving towards **Turkey**. A logistical problem with the closing system of our roof has blocked us for 3 days before Istanbul. Finally, we headed straight East.

This has been the occasion to understand how big Turkey is, discover its mountains, historical villages and Black Sea coast. History in the region isn't a piece of cake: rich and complex (conflicts and population displacements, past influence of great empires). As we initially hoped, inhabitants have been very welcoming and often inviting us for a tea. The language barrier clearly limits our communication with people, but we learn how to remain open minded and catch / provoke opportunities to feel human warmth.

FUNNY PICTURE



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INTENSIVE MOMENTS :

- A barbecue shared with a family of friends in their field of olive trees with a private lesson of Greek dances;
- Local-style hair cuts in Greece for Mathilde and Turkey for Antoine;
- A nice trekk to a 3000m summit and an invitation to have a tea by some villagers.



CURRENT MOOD: After all the logistics we have been through, we only feel now that the adventure has begun.



COUNTRIES VISITED : Bulgaria, Greece, Turkey

COMING: Armenia, Georgia, Azerbaïdjan, Iran, Turkmenistan, Tadjikistan, Kirghizistan, Ouzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Russia, Japan, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodgia, Thaïland, Birmania, Malaysia, Singapore, South Africa, Namibia, Zambia, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Malawi, Tanzania.



MAP - ITINERARY : since the last newsletter

