

Grand Voyage Mathilde et Antoine

22/12/15, Newsletter 20

IN A NUTSHELL :

Date: December 22nd 2015 (604th day)

Location: Mulanje, Malawi

Driven km up to date: 59 530.



PHOTOS



VIDEO



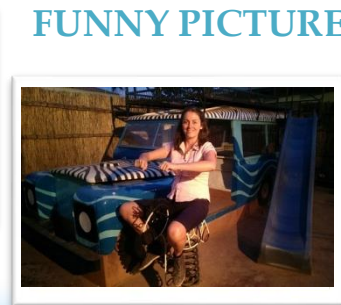
NEWS

We've spent the last month in **Malawi**, country of long shape in Southern Africa, with approx 15 million people, bathed by Lake Malawi also called Nyasa, the third largest lake in Africa. The main ethnic groups are the Chewa, Ngoni and Yao. The *Gule Wankulu*, Chewa traditional dances with significant symbolic masks present at every major life ritual in the villages is classified as a UNESCO World Heritage. The country is primarily agricultural (mostly maize), crowded and suffers from deforestation.

We spent our first night in Malawi in a village, intensive experience (surrounded closely by many pairs of eyes, an African classic that can be a constraint when living in a van). In Lilongwe, we've been quick – not a very attractive city. We have greatly enjoyed Lake Malawi and its beautiful beaches. Our visit and stay at the **Catholic mission in Mua** enabled us to get more familiar with the Chewa culture, thanks to Father Boucher, who dedicated his life to the local arts and cultures.

We have appreciated the **hilly and green area of Zomba**. We met precious villagers who invited us in their home to cook and try the *nsima* (national dish made with corn flour). Torrential rains began to encircle us but are also bringing a pleasant freshness.

In **Blantyre**, counting a few pretty historical buildings and an attractive downtown, was the last big town we visited before we head to the under-developed Northern Mozambique, so we did some food shopping. We were driving to the border to cross to Mozambique when we met Barbara and Daniel who have been hosting us in their lovely home at the foot of the **magnificent Mount Mulanje** for the last three days. Tomorrow, we will visit one of the large tea plantations of the region.



FUNNY PICTURE

Grand Voyage Mathilde et Antoine



INTENSIVE MOMENTS :

- Dancing with the Mua troupe;
- Birthday in a good Italian restaurant;
- Swimming in the crystal clear water of Lake Malawi;
- Failed attempt to teach the rules of the French kids game *123 sun* in a village to fifty children;
- Several nights in a good bed and a real room.



CURRENT MOOD : After a small motivation drop, due to some accumulated tiredness, less spontaneous amazement and relatively superficial exchanges with locals, we're plainly back on the road thanks to great people we've met.



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, Namibia, France, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Malawi.

COMING : Mozambique, Tanzania, Rwanda, Uganda, Kenya, Ethiopia, Sudan, Egypt, Israël?, Jordan?, Libanon?, Europe.



MAP - ITINERARY :

since the last newsletter

★ Departure

★ Arrival



1. Senga beach (ML)
2. Mua mission (ML)
3. Cap McClear (ML)
4. Zomba (ML)
5. Mulanje (ML)

