

Grand Voyage Mathilde et Antoine

30/10/14, Newsletter 6

IN A NUTSHELL :

Date: October 30th 2014 (186th day)

Location: Daecheon, South Korea

Driven km up to date: 28 320.



PHOTOS



NEWS

Our experience in **Russia** was very nice until the end. The size of the country is fascinating. We changed time zone five times in three weeks. The Russian conquest of the East by the rail, a nearly federal system, the pride of Russian greatness reminded us of another country, the United States ... irony of history: the Cold War enemies are to some extent alike. The Russians we met were concerned about the image of Russia abroad following the conflict in Ukraine and wanted to highlight the fact that Russia is not in itself a warlike state. We enjoyed the culture and have diversified our activities: hockey, classical concert, visit of a beer factory, visit of a submarine, etc. The Russian system works very well and our red tape was carried out very quickly. Two surprises: 1) over about 8000 km, we have not been stopped once by the police; 2) during one month, we have not drunk a drop of vodka! Russians are friendly and roads are in good state.

We did not expect anything specific before arriving in **South Korea**. It was spontaneously love at first sight! The country is rich and highly developed but full of surprises (food, language, etc.). The Korean lifestyle is very close to the Western one. Seoul is a huge metropolis but still nice. Korean people are a perfect balance between calm and respect on the one hand, and sense of humor and creativity on the other. We believe that this balance is the reason why they manage a perfect urban cleanliness as well as an indisputable technological performance.



FUNNY PICTURE



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INTENSIVE MOMENTS :

- Swim in the freezing water of Lake Baikal
- Nightlife in Vladivostok and Seoul
- Saunas both in the Russian and Korean way
- Korean seafood (spectacular octopus soup)
- Antoine's phone theft and restitution 24h later after an epic adventure
- Yearly party of retired people and meeting with the great Lee family
- Lotte World amusement park in Seoul



CURRENT MOOD : Delighted to be done with visas and big mileage sessions, we fully enjoy Korea. Our eyes, ears and mouths are highly requested in this new country, full immersion in Asia.



COUNTRIES VISITED : Bulgaria, Greece, Turkey, Armenia, Georgia, Azerbaijan, Iran, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Russia, South Korea.

COMING : Japan, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Thailand, Myanmar, Malaysia, Singapore, South Africa, Namibia, Zambia, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Malawi, Tanzania.



MAP - ITINERARY : since the last newsletter

✦ Departure

✦ Arrival



1. Irkutsk (RU)
2. Okhlon - Baïkal (RU)
3. Ulan Ude temples (RU)
4. Khabarovsk (RU)
5. Vladivostok (RU)
6. Ferry (RU-CO)
7. East coast beaches (CO)
8. Seoraksan park (CO)
9. Seoul (CO)

