

Grand Voyage Mathilde et Antoine

24/12/14, Newsletter 8

IN A NUTSHELL :

Date: December 24th 2014 (241th day)

Location: Kyoto, Japan

Driven km up to date: 32 200.



PHOTOS



VIDEO



NEWS

The end of our stay in Mina Mata was just as nice. We accomplished new tasks: orange tree cutting, Christmas bamboo decoration workshop, cooking pizzas with bambou charcoal. We also enjoyed the life in proximity with our neighbors.

Then, we jumped again in our van to start conquering Japan. We have seen thousands of cranes in a park (migration for the winter). We enjoyed many Japanese delights: excellent food, tasty beer, "onsen" (hot thermal water baths, great when outdoor under the snow), Buddhism, countless magnificent temples, Zen gardens, culture of green tea, automobile fleet (cars are often cubic and narrow, just like in Nicky Larson!), manga / animes and the culture of cos play (people disguising as manga characters), kimonos and wooden tongues, the delicacy of Japanese craft works, houses with sliding doors, geishas (spotted in the street), everyday politeness (verbal and physical, by bending the body forward), the art of festivals, calligraphy, history (such as the museum of the atomic bomb in Nagasaki, terrifying consecutive diseases, 135,000 deaths).

The country is more mountainous than we imagined, and not so crowded in many areas. The Japanese are very respectful of the rules and very rarely leave the beaten paths. We have seen in them a tendency to stress. One can note that Japan today is not as flourishing economically as it used to (Korea now exceeds Japan in many areas) and has a tendency to withdraw into isolation.

FUNNY PICTURE



Grand Voyage Mathilde et Antoine



INTENSIVE MOMENTS :

- On-matsuri festival in Nara,
- Celebration of Mathilde's birthday,
- Koya-san, mystical walk to a temple through a forest of century-old cedars while snow was falling,
- Onsens and the feeling of deep warmth afterwards,
- Extraordinary lobster diner (Ise ebi),
- December 21st market at Tori, in Kyoto.



CURRENT MOOD : For the end of year, we feel a bit far, but we'll overcome it... It's cold, but we enjoy this before moving towards South East Asia.



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

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



MAP - ITINERARY : *since the last newsletter*

★ Departure

★ Arrival



1. Mt Aso
2. Nagasaki
3. Osaka by night
4. Koya san
5. Ise jingu and ise ebi
6. Nara on-matsuri
7. Kyoto

