# Grand Voyage Mathilde et Antoine 29/01/15, Newsletter 9

### **IN A NUTSHELL:**

Date: January 29<sup>th</sup> 2015 **(277<sup>th</sup> day)** Location: Khao Lak, Thailand Driven km up to date: **34 400**.







### **NEWS**

Our **end-of-year celebrations** went well. We celebrated Christmas in a good beef restaurant and New Year with very cool Australians in Hakuba. We were overwhelmed by the snow in the **Japanese Alps**, rather acrobatic without chains... Skiing in two Japanese resorts was a real pleasure for us and helped us face the freezing cold nights in the van.

After a stop in front of the majestic **Mount Fuji**, we prepared the van for its 3-week trip and left it in Yokohama. Our homeless adventure began. We enjoyed living the sedentary life for a week at Gaspard's in Tokyo, met great people (En, Ryoko, Kiriu, Julian, Yudgi, etc.) and visited the city (electronics district Akiba, Senso-ji Temple, Shibuya by night!, overlapping roads, Ghibli museum). Then, we imerged ourselves into public transports to **Singapore** and **Thailand**: plane, taxi, bus, touktouk, scooter nicknamed "pétarou". We also shared some beautiful moments with our friends (to whom we made nice surprise visits): Jeanne and Romain in Singapore; Rémi and Cyril on **Koh Chang** in Thailand; Aurélie and Jonath in **Khao Lak** (and Francis and Salva). Going back to heat, flip flops and shorts is being very pleasant after the cold we had!

And... we got our Pavan back on Monday (26<sup>th</sup>) after quick formalities at the harbour (well prepared in advance). Staying in hotels with AC or fans was good, but we have to be cautious about the budget...







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#### **INTENSIVE MOMENTS:**

- Waking up in the van covered with snow and skiing
- French pancakes and cider in Tokyo
- 4L drive in Shibuya with our friend En
- Faces of Jeanne, Cyril and Aurélie who we visited by surprise
- Evenings with our friends
- Relaxation in the Merlin Hotel





**CURRENT MOOD:** We are all relaxed and happy to have seen our friends and to have had a very sociable month. We start our Southeast-Asian adventure with the idea to enjoy its beaches, exotic nature and flavors (yummy...good fruits!).



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

**COMING**: Cambodia, Laos, (Vietnam), (Myanmar), (Malaysia), South Africa, Namibia, Zambia, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Malawi, Tanzania.



### MAP - ITINERARY : since the last newsletter





- 1. Hirayu (JP)
- 2. Tokyo (JP)
- 3. Koh Chang (TH)
- 4. Khaosan road district in Bangkok (TH)
- 5. Khao Lak (TH)

