



FRENCH COUPLE SPEND LIFE SAVINGS TO TOUR THE WORLD OUT OF LOVE FOR THE WORLD

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How much do you need to spend to tour the world by land in a travelling caravan? A French couple have to dig deep into their life savings in order to fulfill their dream of touring the world, with an average of RM4000.00 per month spent in each country visited

Date of arrival at Port Klang coincides with Earth Day

Arriving at Port Klang by the French couple on Earth Day has made the occasion much more significant and meaningful. With their strong desire and determination to tour every corner of the world, they will travel to all parts of the five continents to study the various cultures, ways of life and witness the changes taking place everywhere.

Aged 50 by June this year, Jean and his wife Natalie, 44, arrived at Port Klang 1 week ago and are currently putting up stay at KLANG HISTANA HOTEL. Their travelling van Ford Transit Connect reached Port Klang separately by sea from India a day earlier.

Savings started 30 years ago

Jean worked as a company regional manager while Natalie is a computer engineer. Both started savings since 30 years ago to generate sufficient fund for this round the world trip. They relinquished their high salary employments and set off the journey on 8th May last year.

During the past 11 months, Jean and Natalie had visited 19 countries including Europe, Russia, Middle East and India. Malaysia is the 20th country visited.

Natalie said this is their first time coming to Malaysia. They are immensely attracted to the climate, the cultures of 3 main races and the many varieties of food available here. They estimate to spend 3 to 6 months in Malaysia to get to know better the people's way of life.

Know more about Malaysia through website and travel books

"We are very amazed and impressed with the freedom accorded to the three main races to preserve and practise their individual cultures. This is absolutely not workable in France. Natalie added that

before coming to Malaysia , they had limited impression of the country and only managed to gather some information through the website and travel books. At the same time, coincidentally they met some Malaysia visitors in Iran who strongly promoted Malaysia as a tourist destination.

Jean and Natalie are both very fascinated with the local Mamak culture and they thoroughly enjoyed the so many varieties of food here.

Natalie further pointed out that after their trip to northern region of Malaysian Peninsular, they will travel to Indonesia before returning to Malaysia again to continue their tour to East Coast especially the nearby islands to enjoy diving activity.

From Malaysia, they will move on to Australia, South Africa, South America, United states etc to continue with their world tour which they foresee will complete by 2013 before they finally return to their home country, France.

Creating website to share experiences including photos

Jean and Natalie have jointly created a website (www.natetjean.com) to share their experiences together with photos especially for those who have similar intention to tour the world in the same manner. Natalie explained that they bought the travelling van Ford Transit Connect from car manufacturer Blucamp Grosso at a special discounted price and at the same time it was installed with sleeping bed, washing and eating settings free of charge. She told that this van model is very popular in France. Many retired senior citizens do own such vehicles but they do not know how to go about it even though they too have the same dream to travel around the world.

To invite interested group to enjoy travelling together by land

“ Apart from sharing the experiences through internet, we may consider organizing group tour with those keen to enjoy the fun and excitement in travelling by land.” Natalie described travelling by land as full of fun but there must be adequate budget especially to meet the high cost of sea transportation for vehicle. She further disclosed that their next destination will be Australia and expressed hope to find someone in Malaysia to assist them in sourcing for shipping service for their Ford van.

Warm reception at Klang Histana Hotel

Jean and Natalie were given a warm reception by management staff Brian Ng, Raymond Ng, and Ganesh upon their arrival at Klang Histana Hotel.

According to Brian Ng, this is the 4th time KLANG HISTANA HOTEL has been chosen as a place to stay by similar round the world travelers . Within last year and this year, several such travelers from England and Switzerland had been to Klang as part of their world tour itinerary with their rally vehicle or 4-wheel drive.

Brian Ng opined that being near Port Klang as an international seaport, Klang is strategically located as an entry point for foreign travelers before they proceed to other Asian countries.

To promote Klang as a tourist center

Brian Ng expressed hope that Tourism minister Dato Seri Ng Yen Yen will intensify effort to promote Klang as a tourist centre and attract more foreign visitors to our country. This sentiment has also received support from Jean & Natalie who see Malaysia as a good choice to begin tour around Asia. “The tropical climate condition of Malaysia also enables tourists to come here any time round the year” added the French couple.

Most unforgettable experience ---driving in India

Talking about interesting experiences , Natalie pointed out that driving in India has been the most challenging and unforgettable. Fortunately, and unbelievable to the French couple, there had been no accidents the last 4 months even though having to drive under very unfavourable circumstances. Another unforgettable encounter is about an attempted break-in of their vehicle in Italy, notoriously famous for the high frequency of thefts. The van was damaged but nothing was stolen in view of the extra protection provided by the safety locks installed on the doors. Other than this, Jean lamented that he could only speak French language initially but managed to pick up English bit by bit throughout the journey. Luckily, Natalie started learning English well before they set off the world tour. They realized now that English is a more commonly used language all over the world.