

Thailand

March 2016

It was my first time backpacking alone in another country. After I finished my yoga and meditation retreat in the south of Thailand, I decided to hitchhike from Bangkok to Siem Reap, Cambodia. I wanted to visit Angkor Watt, the largest religious site in the world.

Before my trip to Cambodia began, I posted on Couchsurfing.com, a social network for international backpackers. I was asking other travelers if they would like to hitchhike together. Luckily, I met a Canadian lady who wanted to join.



We took a low-budget train from Bangkok to the border of Thailand-Cambodia. As they say, **if you throw peanuts you get monkeys*, so the train wasn't comfortable. It was very crowded and sometimes we had to stand. But it was fun because we could meet local people from small towns and have some chat with other backpackers.

It was in the middle of the night when we arrived at the border.

The train trip took a very long time. It was impossible to hitchhike and we were too tired to find a hotel. So, we ended up staying at the nearest house of a local and gave them some gifts for letting us stay.



In the morning, we continued our journey to Cambodia. Hitchhiking was more difficult than I thought! There was a car that took us an hour away from the border. Then, we had to find a different car that could drive us to Siem Reap. Unfortunately, there were none, but we were still 3 hours away from the destination. I was a bit desperate. Suddenly, there was a kind man who offered to take us to Siem Reap on his motorbike. He didn't speak much English, so I tried to talk to him in simple sentences and with expressions.

Is he sure he wants to take us all together three people and two big backpacks?

* if you throw peanuts you get monkeys (英語のことわざ) : 安物買いの銭失い と似た意味