

# THE GREAT NORTHERN HORIZON

On the road - 06

Taiwan

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April - May 2017



## “WELCOME IN TAIWAN!”



The Yang family welcomes us warmly, a friendship that began 3 years ago. This family will be the centre of all the opportunities, encounters, discoveries of another face of Taiwan, and a special connection to the population, that of generosity and open-mindedness. Received as family members, we spend two weeks in their home. Engineer, he and his wife created the company SunUp eco, producing dynamos for bicycles. His new creation is a dynamo for the front wheel, producing an incredible energy without friction. Xavier will thus have the honour of trying the new prototype.



# The new generation of dynamo with SunUp Eco

It is a real pleasure to see Yang work. He is constantly looking for improvement, problem solving, new projects, all with a smile and contagious enthusiasm. We bring him the dynamos that we used over more than 20'000km. He looks at them with pride and joy. We are moved by their incredible generosity and unconditional welcome.







## Rikulau

Being in Taiwan is also exciting, we are getting new bikes, after 60,000 km it was time. We meet Chengnon Hsu for the first time. Tall, warm-hearted and dynamic, he created a small company of about ten people who work in the manufacture of Rikulau bicycles, “More than a bike: a lifestyle”. It is one of the only companies in the world to create stainless steel bike frames. And its bikes are superb, with elegant lines.







Chengnon charms us with his open-mindedness and enlightened vision of the world and Taiwan. Then come the moment when he tells us about the legend of Rikulau. This clouded leopard moves like the wind in the deep forests of this mountainous island. 700 years ago, this animal guided the Rukai people by its footprints to its sacred land. It is the incarnation of agility, speed and style.





## Source Solution a bicycle for Nayla

Nayla will also receive a new bicycle. We meet Venica from Source Solutions, which offers us a partnership. An aluminium bike with a belt, child-friendly brakes and high-quality bearings. Nayla is euphoric, she can finally try the bike. After many laps in the parking lot, she jumps into the arms of Venica to say *thank you*. She is a good ambassador.





## Cynthia and Nayla



Today is the Tomb-sweeping day in Taiwan. Here, the ancestors are part of everyday life and have a very important role in the hearts of the families. During this day, extended families meet to clean and honour the graves. We are invited at Alfin's parents. At five o'clock in the morning, the Grandma got up to start preparing the twenty or so dishes that will make up the meal, all composed of fish, seafood, chicken and pieces of meat, from organs to cartilages. This will especially be an opportunity for Nayla to create a connection with Cynthia and Stella, who will become her close friends in Taiwan.





# A SOUL JOINED US

Inside me, life vibrates. Pure tenderness of a crystalline soul. This soul marvels at every sensation that inhabits us. She/he is nurtured by the scenery we are passing through. We need to live this pregnancy between us, to cherish it. It is a movement in slowness, a return to my deep self, necessary in order to welcome this being who grows in me.



She/he brings some teachings as if it were essential to reinvent a part of me, to align and harmonize it between the spontaneity of my inner child, the woman within me and the mother within me. A rightness to be found in order to radiate Life.



Thus we open our heart  
to hear and feel through  
all possible channels, our  
senses, our intuition, our  
perceptions, what this  
soul tells us.



We are on the east coast of Taiwan.  
Here, the nights are delicious. In the  
tent, we feel the vibration of the Earth,  
its song, its energy carries us. We can  
feel the life force circulating  
throughout our body. In the morning  
we get up with the sunrise, the birds  
accompany us. We are then connected  
with the smells, the symphony, the  
light breeze. Instantly time is different.  
It is no longer limited, it is free...



# ON THE EAST COAST



On the east coast, the high mountains covered with dense forests have superb lines, which plunge from the cumulus to the ocean. The sea is blue azure then indigo. It is powerful, and carries the strength of the Pacific. There is “nothing” thousands of miles away. The waves then form large rollers that dies on the black sandy beaches. Sometimes it makes the little pebbles sing. The rice fields in the East Rift Valley are impressive. Pure intense green, they create a stunning landscape, with a ray of the sun that illuminates them.



# SHOSHO AND EDDIE

Shosho and Eddie, two cycling enthusiasts, take Xavier for a ride. The first travelled for three years, from Asia to Africa through Europe. The second is one of the founding fathers of cyclo-tourism, here in Taiwan. He is the reference person for the itineraries on this island, which he has been discovering for more than 15 years already. Xavier is excited to go on the adventure with these two characters. And their days are sprinkled with laughter and a great touch of humour.





# BUNUN FESTIVAL



In Taiwan there are 16 indigenous tribes. We have the chance to take part in a festival of great importance for the Bunun tribe. It is the Ear-Shooting festival. It was the rite of passage of the young boys in order to become adults and thus to join the hunters. The children take part in sporting games related to hunting and millet cultivation. There is archery, agility, millet preparation and the creation of a trap for animals. Of course, the Bunun songs are also part of the contest.





During the festival, the atmosphere is jovial. Everyone is dressed in traditional clothes. Women with brightly coloured outfits. The typical food is cooked, like the dried meat of muntjac, a kind of deer. It is the celebration of the Bunun culture.





# ZHANGHU SCHOOL



We climb into the heart of the Nantou mountains. Everything is green, from betel palm plantations to the terraced tea and steep slopes covered by a dense jungle. In the heart of these mountains, we discover a particular school. Created in the heart of tea and coffee plantations, Zhanghu School stands out for its new pedagogy, learning by discovery, which is a real revolution for Taiwan's education. One of the specificities is also learning the tea ceremony as well as coffee making.





Surprisingly when we left Taiwan, Xavier and I feel a subtle, indescribable sensation of liberation. As if it were time to leave, as if something imprisoned us on the Taiwanese soil, maybe this powerful link to family, ancestors and respect for traditions; Maybe is it the birth that calls us in another place...







Merci à tous  
nos partenaires



followme



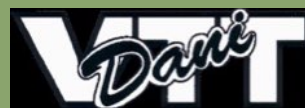
mont-bell



BRODY



MET



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