

# One of the big highlights on our journey

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Dear SFL news-readers,

Some months ago, my family and myself decided to go on a 3-months travel to Asia & Pacific. We started in June 2019 and had in mind a lot of time for family, for nature, for culture and for intercultural activities. My boss Klaus gave me the hint about SFL, whom I am very thankful about this as it turned out to be one of the big highlights on our journey.

SFL was much more than we expected and we almost stayed a week and made „experiences for life“:

It started off with a warm welcome at the pickup point, where two kids fetched us together with the coordinator Conny with a car. Next day, we participated at the daily good morning ceremony with all pupils. From there on, our two kids Leonina and Finja were integrated into the daily school program and afternoon activities with the other pupils. We hardly didn't see them anymore. ... I mention it already now: at the end of our stay they didn't wanna leave SFL.

My wife and myself learnt from the teachers and pupils about the SFL concept and the life stories of the pupils. We also tried to give a little hand within these few days: Teaching with Teacher Jo, building a biotope in the garden and assisting in the kitchen were memorable activities because we could do it together with the kids and also learnt about them.

Every day there was something special organized. Often we drove to a closed-by location to adventure something. One day we got a bush walk through the jungle where Teacher Boy and the kids learnt us about what eatables the Jungle delivers. Palm hearts, wild mushrooms, herbs and plants which help to

heal. Some other day we participated in a traditional monk ceremony early in the morning. It was fun for us and it seemed also the pupils enjoyed it.

One of the relaxing highlights was an excursion to the nearby lake, where we spent a lovely day, swimming, eating, talking and enjoying a sunny day.

Within these few days our two daughters found especially friendship with *Bumue* and *Tenthai*, and they decided to leap in touch with them on an even more close relationship for the future.

Before we arrived at SFL, we were very excited but also a bit nervous how it will be. It was unforgettable time for us, as we perceived open hearts, smiling children and a spirit that SFL is a real home and big family for those who live here. It felt like we got very close to the one and other in this short period of time.

We would like to thank every pupil at SFL for their hospitality, their friendliness and happiness which we received. Also a big thank to Conny, Teacher Boy and Teacher Jo for taking care of us.

While we continued to travel in Asia & Pacific we got the notice that SFL founder Jürgen Zimmer suddenly died. We would like to take the chance to express our full respect what he has been building up at SFL and are sure, that a lot of hearts will include him in their thoughts with thankfulness, so do we.

My wife, my kids and myself we would like to wish SFL good luck and we will surely come back at one point of time!

Cheers,

**Markus, Ronja, Leonina, Finja**

























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