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## THE GREEDY TRAVELLER

Guilty Pleasures Links

Eating my way around the world....



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Northern Laos-Hill tribes and Water

# February 24, 2012 by gillank



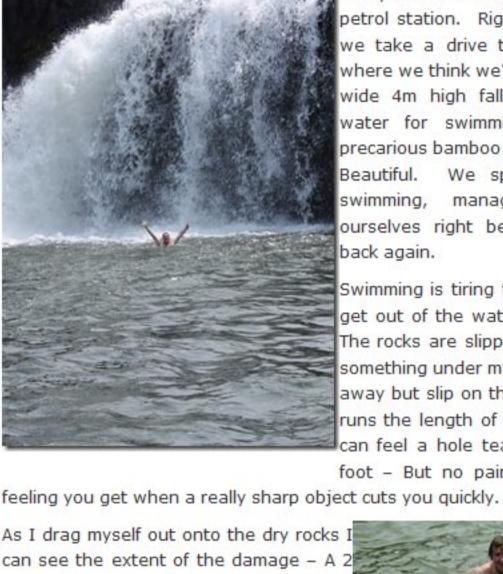
The day started off pretty normal - Rent motorbikes,

relaxation. Or So I thought. Well it was good while it lasted....

drive up to see some waterfalls, find somewhere to swim, eat, drink. Exactly the kind of things I dream about when on holiday. We drove straight up to The largest and furthest away waterfall. But this being the dry season, and a newly built hydro-electric meant no water. Shame, over the fall by the wind, or simply evaporating before it hit the bottom.



After this we hit our first snag – Paul's bike ran out of petrol, but this was easily fixed with a run down to the local



petrol station. Right after this though we take a drive to the Tad Lo falls, where we think we've hit the jackpot. A wide 4m high fall, with crystal clear water for swimming, right along a precarious bamboo ladder/bridge thing. Beautiful. We spend Half an hour swimming, managing to navigate ourselves right behind the falls and back again. Swimming is tiring though, and I try to get out of the water to rest for a bit. The rocks are slippy though, and I feel

something under my foot. I try to move

away but slip on the rocks. As my foot

runs the length of the random object I

can feel a hole tear in the sole of my

foot - But no pain. Just the kind of

can see the extent of the damage - A 2 1/2" slice right into the muscle fibre of my

background. I'm still not in pain, but now I don't know what to do. How am I going to get back over the bridge? There's no way I can navigate that bridge, even with the T-shirt I've now got tied around my foot. Turns out the thing that cut me was a discarded bamboo fishing rod also with line and hooks which luckily I didn't get snagged on.

foot my friend Paul laughing at me in the



my rescue. They've got a decent first aid kit and bandage me up

enough so I can get back over

the bridge to find some help. I couldn't be more thankful that those guys were there to help me. Apparently they are part of a trio travelling around the world, in Lederhosen. Why not. I would appreciate people taking a look at their site......HERE. Back in town the man who we rented the bikes from offers to drive me to the doctor. Another person I'm eternally grateful to. He had a bar full of guests watching a Muay Thai match but left to find me help.

And help we got. The doctor was also watching the Muay Thai and didn't seem too

Falang (or foreigner) was thrown around quite a bit. After opening up the hospital for me and taking off my bandages though, he realised how bad a gash it was. He stitched me up good and tight - with what looked like 20lb fishing line, covered me in iodine – much more pain than the actual cut,

happy to help, the word

gave me antibiotics and anti-inflammatory drugs, and sent me on my way. And all for only \$10, a bargain. It's now been four days and I still cant walk, and it bleeds a little. It's getting better slowly, but I'm in a hammock on an Island in the Mekong – And its a good excuse to do nothing.

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