

THE TOP TEN THINGS I LEARNED IN ASIA

- 10) A smile translates in any language. Silly translates too.
- 9) Eating local food from street vendors is like playing Russian roulette. It can be thrilling AND deadly.
- 8) You really don't need a lot of stuff. The lighter the load, the easier the journey.
- 7) There are more western toilets around than you'd expect, but ALWAYS carry a package of tissues with you. You never know.
- 6) Technology has made the world a lot smaller and more homogenized. Truly exotic is harder and harder to find, particularly when you see traditional Balinese dancers texting backstage.
- 5) When your mother said to never cross the street in on-coming traffic, she clearly meant to add, "except in Hanoi."
- 4) It appears if you are a cab driver in Hanoi, you can actually watch TV, talk on two phones at once, and still manage to steer with your elbows.
- 3) Yes, one can visit too many temples in Siem Reap.
- 2) Pictures are great, but better to remember the moment by being part of it.
- 1) Life is full of surprises if you're willing to be surprised.