

Social and solidarity round-the-world trip 2016-2017



In collaboration with



Backpacks & Bridges: the project



Backpacks & Bridges, is a social and solidary-based trip to build bridges and break barriers open!



A 17 month long trip

A passion for photography



Staying with locals

Meeting people and finding projects that change the world



Supporting education for all



Why TalkTalkbnb supports us



Backpacks & Bridges is a **social and solidarity-based trip**, focusing on **participation** and **collaboration**, to build bridges and break barriers open!



Proeun Prim, Director of
Cours avec Moi!

Our goal: **act positively** in a changing world and **create connections** during our travels across 4 continents: Middle-East, Asia, North and South America.

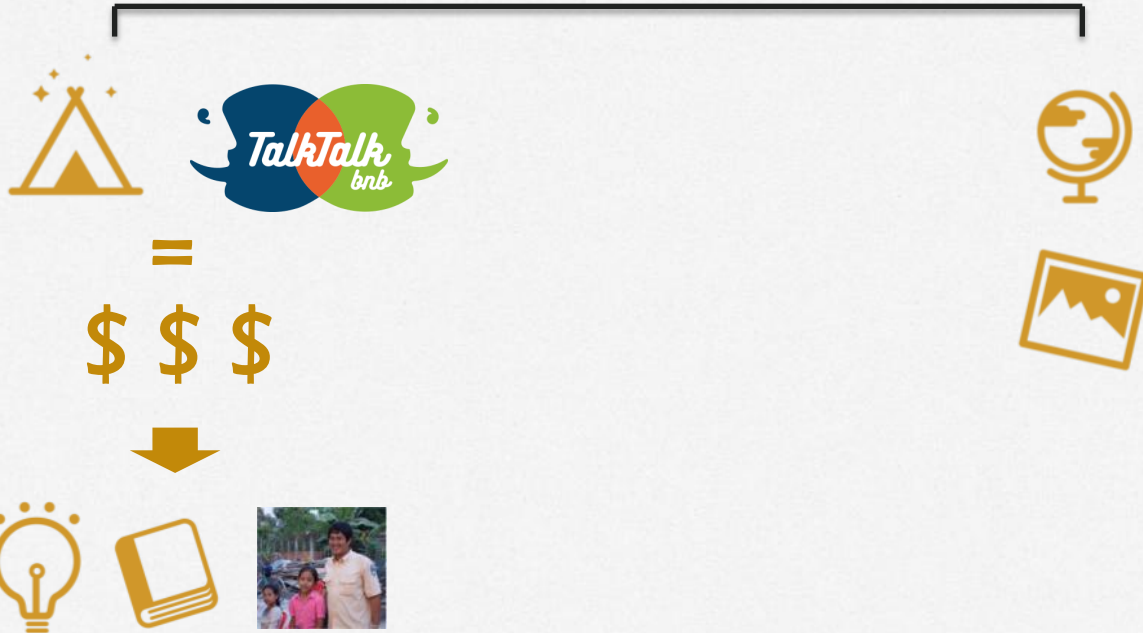
To **create bonds and give meaning** to our trip, we will support and communicate on local and social initiatives, notably the **Cours avec Moi!** project in Cambodia. For each night we are hosted by a local for free, we will donate between 10€ and 20€ per night (depending on the country) to the project. Backpacks & Bridges is a **solidarity-based B&B!**



This is why TalkTalkbnb supports us: to help us reach more people to be hosted in the countries we will visit!



The partnership with TalkTalkbnb gives more power to our project



Who we are: Pragmatic utopians

Stephanie, the utopian

Country: France

Age: 32

Diploma: ESC Toulouse

Professional experience: 8 years in project management at media agencies

Founded the [Areenii](#) nonprofit in May 2015 and has supported 4 solidarity and social projects in one year... and it's far from over!

Stéphanie also has the honor of being [TWAM Ambassador](#), to carry the twaming flag up high!

Hobbies: drawing, painting, literature, backpacking

Role in the adventure: the utopian! Project design, communication, writing articles, identification of social and local initiatives, documentation

Her +: bilingual in Spanish



Emmanuel, le pragmatique

Country : France and USA (native in both languages)

Age:32

Diploma : ESCP Europe

Professional experience : 2 years at a music label, 5 years at a media agency, 1 year in offline media management for an advertiser, freelance translator on the side since 2011

Hobbies: photography (the official [Backpacks & Bridges](#) photographer), music, political sciences, travel (backpacking or not)

Role in the adventure: the pragmatist! Equipment selection, budgeting, blog development, photography, English translation

His +: native French and American speaker and negotiating!

Timeline: 15 countries in 17 months of travel

2016

OCT

Israel : departure on Sept. 28th, 2016 for Tel Aviv – 2 weeks

NOV

Jordan : 3rd week of October

DEC

India : departure on Oct. 20th, 2016 for Kochi in Southern India, 3 months to go to the North of India

2017

JAN

Nepal : 2 weeks at the end of January/beginning of February 2017

FEV

India : 2nd week of February, a few days in Kolkata before flying out to the next destination

MAR

Thailand : 1 week in Bangkok

AVR

Cambodia : from the end of February 2017 – 1 month in Siem Reap to help the [Cours avec Moi !](#) project

MAI

Laos : April 2017 – 1 month

JUIN

Vietnam : May 2017 – 1 month to travel the country North to South

JUIL

Thailand : June 2017 – 2 weeks

AOU

USA : from the end of June to the end of September 2017 – 3 months to drive across the country from Los Angeles to New York

SEP

Peru : October 2017 – 2 weeks

OCT

Bolivia : October 2017 – 1 week

NOV

Chile : November 2017 – 1 month to travel the country North to South

DEC

Argentina : December 2017 – 1 month to travel South to North

2018

JAN

Brazil : January 2018 – we'll see!

FEV

Paris, back home : February 2018



Backpacks & Bridges: how it began

The idea for this trip came from Stephanie, who founded her own nonprofit in May 2015 to help people with bright ideas that she meets during her travel. Her organization **Aroonii** helps small but high-potential social development and solidarity-based projects, to help them spread their wings!



In February 2016, Stephanie identified the **Cours avec Moi!** project during a trip to Cambodia, and has been supporting the project in its development since.

Cours avec Moi! is a **local social initiative**, inaugurated in February 2016, **promoting equal-opportunities and education for all**. It is addressed to underprivileged children 8-15, parallel to their public education [Find out more](#).

Conceived and managed by **Proeun Prim**, a Cambodian, the project unites and animates the community in the village of Vat Po, located 6km away from Siem Reap, Cambodia, all the while promoting solidarity and respect for the environment.

A nascent and small organization, Cours avec Moi ! is in need of ressources (financing, volunteers, knowledge transfers) to grow on its foundations and guarantee a long-term positive impact. For the circle to be virtuous, intelligently accelerating its development will allow the project to become fully autonomous!

This is why, as a backdrop to our trip around the world, we will support this project to promote access to education for all. Backpacks & Bridges is a sounding board, a fundraiser and proud supporter of the Cours avec Moi project!



Cours avec Moi: Financing needs

Financing needs over 2 years (2016-2017) for Cours avec Moi!

Budget Item	Estimate	Already financed
Gate to secure the class room	780 €	500 €
Roof isolation	600 €	600 €
1 laptop computer	550 €	550 €
6 bookshelves for the library	450 €	150 €
3 connected desktop computers	3 000 €	
6 headsets	300 €	
Subscription to self-teaching platform	200 €	
World map	30 €	
School supplies	800 €	
Drawing and painting supplies	500 €	
Musical instruments	200 €	
Projection screen	1 00 €	
CD and DVD player	80 €	
Boardgames	1 00 €	
2-year internet subscription	600 €	
Website development and hosting	200 €	
3 waste-sorting trash cans	300 €	
3 weaving looms	250 €	
Stock of yarn	1 00 €	
Gardening tools for organic garden in the school	500 €	
5 bicycles	300 €	
Miscellaneous	60 €	
Total	10 000 €	1 800 €
Reste à financer	8 200 €	

Backpacks & Bridges: our communication tools

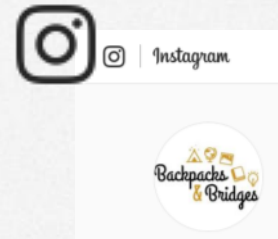
Bilingual communication: **French** and **English** to reach more people!

Our blog: www.backpacksandbridges.com

- Presentation of the Backpacks & Bridges project
- Presentation of the Cours avec Moi! project
- Travel articles (countries, places to see... the journal of our adventure!)
- Photo gallery (*under construction: sell pictures with full proceeds going to Aroonii*)
- Travel tips (*under construction: equipment/gear recommendations, use affiliate links to finance Aroonii*)
- Local and social projects: interviews and presentation of the projects, calls to support
- Portraits of the people we meet
- Online fundraising through Aroonii, notably for Cours avec Moi!
- ...



Relayed on:



Use the reach of these networks:



Share our trip, our experiences and our itinerary



Find accomodation/hosts to amplify cultural exchanges



Support collaboratively the Cours avec Moi! Project: communication, call for volunteers, donations...



Identify local and social development projects and support them: help them overcome their challenges, communicate, find volunteers and financing...



Under construction: sell our travel photos online to donate all proceeds to the designated projects

When we come home

- The social and solidarity-based projects we identify will be followed and communicated on. Furthermore, the money collected, depending on the amount, could help finance other projects than Cours avec Moi!
- Exhibits of our travel photography
- Conferences (possibility to conduct a TEDx talk)
- Conferences at the Marcq Institution Junior High and High school (the school has partnered with Aroonii and Cours avec Moi!) and actions to be led with the CambodiAroonii collective
- The project can be adapted to other, shorter trips, and can therefore be continued
- Certainly many other projects that will come to light during our travels!

For your information: our budget

It is important to note that we are self-financing the trip in, so all donations and savings made through partnerships will be donated to **Aroonii**
Notably for **TalkTalkbnb**: everytime we are hosted by a user, this will reduce our accomodation budget and be turned into **donations!**

Estimated budget for Round-the-World Backpacks & Bridges trip

Budget Item	Cost/person	Total cost
Accommodation, food, daily life	19 000 €	38 000 €
Transportation (incl. Flights)	3 700 €	7 400 €
Visas	450 €	900 €
Vaccinations	350 €	700 €
Insurance	770 €	1 540 €
Equipment	500 €	1 000 €
Total	24 770 €	49 540 €

Contact

Thank you for taking the time to go through our project. Do not hesitate to **contact us** if you have any questions or ideas!

E-Mail: backpacksandbridges@gmail.com





Find out more about...

Aroonii



Aroonii is a French **nonprofit organization** under the French 1901 association law, recognized as serving the **general good**. [En savoir plus.](#)

Our mission:

Aroonii acts as a strategic and financial supporting partner for positive social and solidarity-based projects, conceived and led by the community they benefit to fight against poverty.

By favoring direct and proximity action on a smaller scale to develop local initiatives:

- our objective is to have a positive impact to help bring these communities towards their own autonomy
- our efforts are made for the long term and empower all those involved

The projects we support are mainly linked to education and sustainable development, as well as any efforts that promote collective and/or individual autonomy.

Our values :

Aroonii is a woman's name in Khmer, meaning « she who gathers », like a squirrel.

Created in May 2015, Aroonii was born out of a realization: each of us can, on their level, identify needs around them and help materialize small-scale projects. Sharing is at the heart of our efforts, we believe in the virtues of cultural exchange, cohesion among peoples and communities, all the while respecting the environment.

Made up of a team that identifies needs in the field, Aroonii supports efforts among communities in need, from France or during trips on the ground.

Armed with a backpack and an open heart: that is for us what is most effective!

Sharing has no borders: the organization makes a point of following up on the projects it supports and links donors with beneficiaries.

Aroonii

A few of the things Aroonii has done



Partly financing Pon's adobe house in Kep, Cambodia

Financing a new prosthetic leg for Gerup, the Cambodian cook for the Roots educational farm project



Financing of the Roots educational farm's aquaponic system



A teaching and solidarity partnership with the Marq Institution junior high school which gave birth to the CambodiAroonii collective!



Recruiting volunteers, development plan and financing for the Cours avec Moi! project



Cours avec Moi!

Cours avec Moi is :

A simple goal: Encourage underprivileged children to continue their studies

A simple means: Teaching L'enseignement du français



The name itself is a French pun, "cours" meaning both class and run, so the name means both "class with me" and "run with me", to highlight that this new educational opportunity will help the children run towards their future!

The idea :

In Cambodia, even though school is free, it is not mandatory.

Many underprivileged children give up their studies after primary school, especially girls .

School has a high cost for families, so children start working early in life to bring additional revenue.

In these conditions, there is only a small chance children will continue their studies in junior high and high school, and even smaller that they will go to college.

Cours avec Moi's ambition:

- Encourage these children to continue their studies to build themselves a better future
- Accompany them during their free time, by offering one hour of theoretical lessons and one hour of activities per day.
- Help them reach college. For that, they have to be able to speak and to write in French!

To find out more, the full presentation is available on [the website](#) or on request

Therapeutic
Journals