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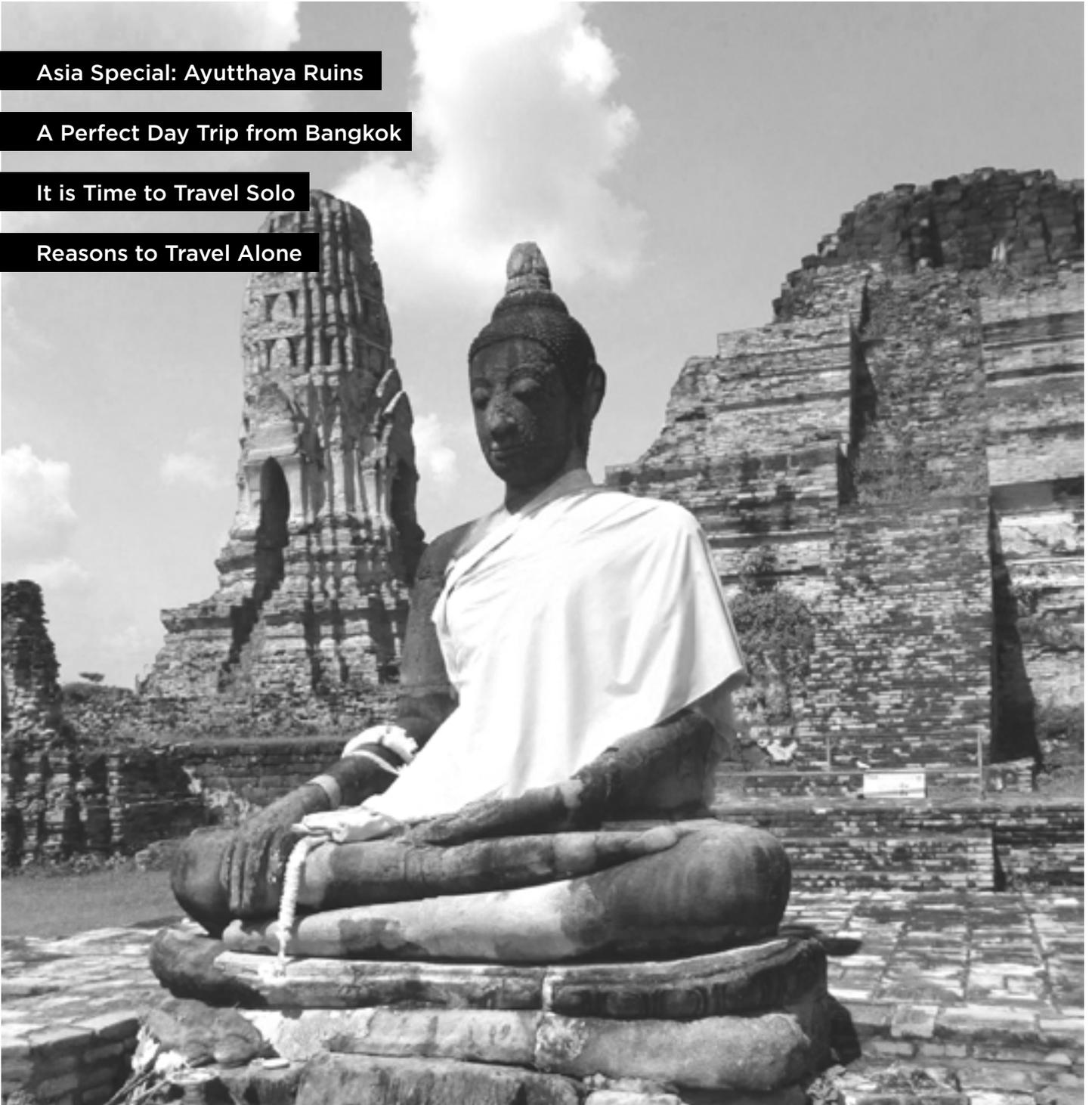
TRAVEL & LIFESTYLE MAGAZINE

Asia Special: Ayutthaya Ruins

A Perfect Day Trip from Bangkok

It is Time to Travel Solo

Reasons to Travel Alone





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AYUTTHAYA RUINS

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THAILAND

Ayutthaya Ruins

Words & Photos by Betty Chiu

In 1350, Ayutthaya is the second Siamese capital. However, it was destroyed by the Burmese in the 18th century.

Ayutthaya is about 80 kilometers north of Bangkok. It was the capital of the Kingdom of Siam. Ayutthaya was a city of more than a million people. It was about the same size as London at the time. However, this “Golden Age” of Siam came to a close after little more than 400 years when the Burmese attacked the city, setting fire to the temples, carting off the gold and leveling important buildings such as the king’s palace.

What remains today are a few ruins scattered among grassy fields. It is a well-preserved national treasure and you can still see some glorious sights from the past at this heritage park. Even though it was destroyed, the ruins proudly witnessed the city’s prior dominance, beauty, and rich history. The site remained abandoned until the early 1950s. Now, a part of the park is a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1991.

Admission Fee

50 baht

How to Get There...

The cheapest and most popular way of reaching Ayutthaya is by train. It regularly departs from Bangkok’s Hualamphong Train Station. The trip takes about 1h20min - 2.5 hrs. Second-class seats (A/C) cost 245-345 baht. Third-class is just 15-20 baht. Railway employees prefer not to sell Third-class tickets to foreigners. If you want to save money, remember to ask for the third-class ticket.

Note

The railway station is not near Ayutthaya Ruins but across the river a short ferry ride away. Walk across the main road and down the small street straight ahead. Ferries run every few minutes and cost 5 baht. Another option is to take motorcycle taxi. It costs 20-25 baht.





A PERFECT DAY TRIP FROM BANGKOK

This place is worth the trip from Bangkok. If you are interested in ancient historical ruins then this is the right place for you. Upon arrival, you will feel like you've stepped back in time. If you take a day trip to Ayutthaya then you can bike or walk around and try to imagine what this looked like before the Burma soldiers razed this place.

Note

It is Thailand. It is always hot and humid. Ayutthaya Ruins doesn't have a lot of sunshade. Remember to bring your sunscreen and hat. Also, bring enough water.

MISSING BUDDHA HEADS



In 1767, during the invasion of Ayutthaya by the Burmese army, the Burmese vandalized many of the images of Buddha in Ayutthaya. That is why most of the Buddha's heads are missing. They are like the war victims sitting there quietly for hundreds of years.

Buddha Head in Bodhi Tree

The invaders cut many of the Buddha heads in Ayutthaya. Years passed and the stone Buddha head was left by the wall where it got nestled in the Bodhi tree roots.

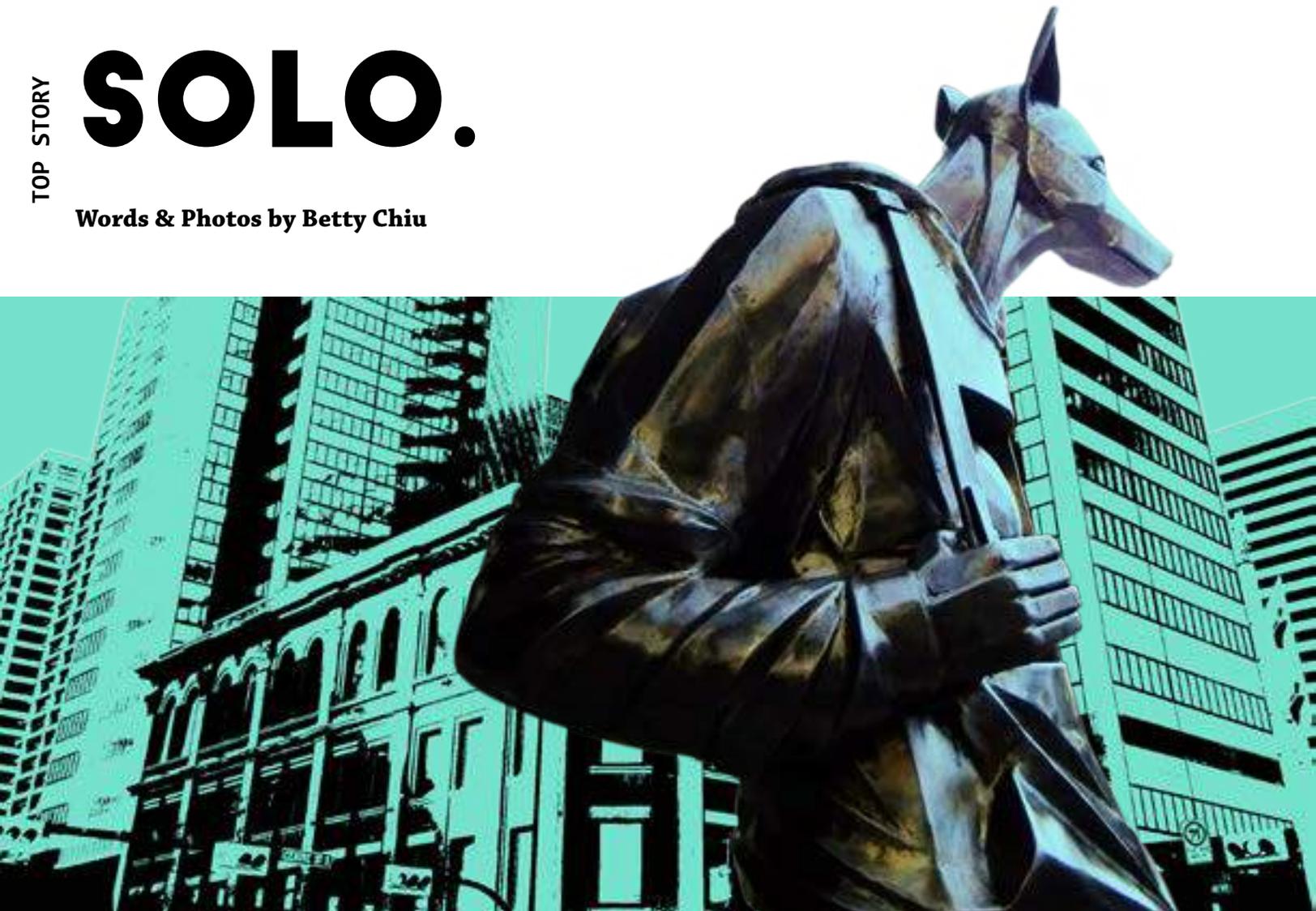
IT IS TIME TO TRAVEL SOLO.

TOP STORY

Words & Photos by Betty Chiu

I know the idea of a single girl traveling alone sounds a little scary for some people, but it is totally worth it as long as you do enough homework and keep yourself away from danger. There are actually a lot of benefits to travelling solo.

In 2010, I decided to travel to New Zealand by myself. That was my first time travelling alone overseas. Even though I got into a lot of trouble, I am very glad that I decided to go on that adventure. The best part of that trip was getting to feel totally free. No one could hold me back. I could do anything I wanted without asking for anyone's permission. Traveling solo is about what you want. Therefore, you can learn a lot about who you really are and what makes you happy when you travel alone.



REASONS TO TRAVEL ALONE

1 Easy to Plan

Everyone has different schedules, budgets, and traveling interests. Sometimes you may find you spend half of the time waiting for your partners. I think everyone has had the experience where you have to go somewhere you don't want to go because your partners beg you to go. It wastes your time and money. Even worse, those things can ruin your beautiful vacation.

2 Make New Friends

The biggest problem for solo travelers is the loneliness. Want to go to a fancy restaurant? Or go for a drink? It would be nice with some company. Travelling alone means you will have to interact with people or strangers in order to gain information and have more fun.

3 Know the Places You Are Going

If you travel with a group, you won't always know about the places you will visit. There is always someone who deals with all the information. They told you where to go and how to get there. A lot of times, you don't even remember the names of those locations. You just showed up and took a photo that proved you were there. Being a solo traveler means you have to plan everything. Even if you get lost or make mistakes, you will always remember how you got to your destination. Because you have to do all the homework, you will know the background story of each location very well.



4 Stay Within Your budget

Let's say that your travel mate wants you two to go to Disneyland. That is around \$100 of extra costs even though you don't want to go. When traveling by yourself, you don't have to spend extra money on things you don't want to do. You can eat whatever you want, you can stay in cheap backpacker hostels and cook all your meals yourself if you want to. That can save a fortune.

5 Get Out Of Your Comfort Zone

Traveling alone makes you a better observer of people. It forces you to deal with difficult situations. If you are open-minded and eager to see the world and you are ready to see different cultures then it is time to try new things. Life is short, and the world is big. Be ready to see more things and have an awesome adventure.

A JOURNEY TO THE CENTRE OF YOURSELF

Why do I like to travel alone? I always remember when I booked the wrong hostel in Perth, Australia and it took me one and a half hours to get there. The cute hostel was near Cottesloe beach. When I was tired and a little depressed from leaving my friends, I walked along the beach and found a cute little shell near my foot. It was sunset. Even though it was rainy and windy, with this small surprise and amazing view, all the sadness didn't seem to matter anymore.

Even now, in 2016, when I am depressed at school or at work, my mind can always fly back to Cottesloe beach in 2010. This kind of happiness keeps your life going.



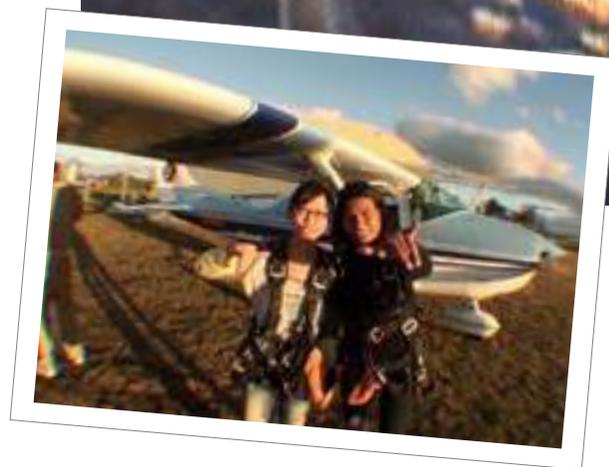
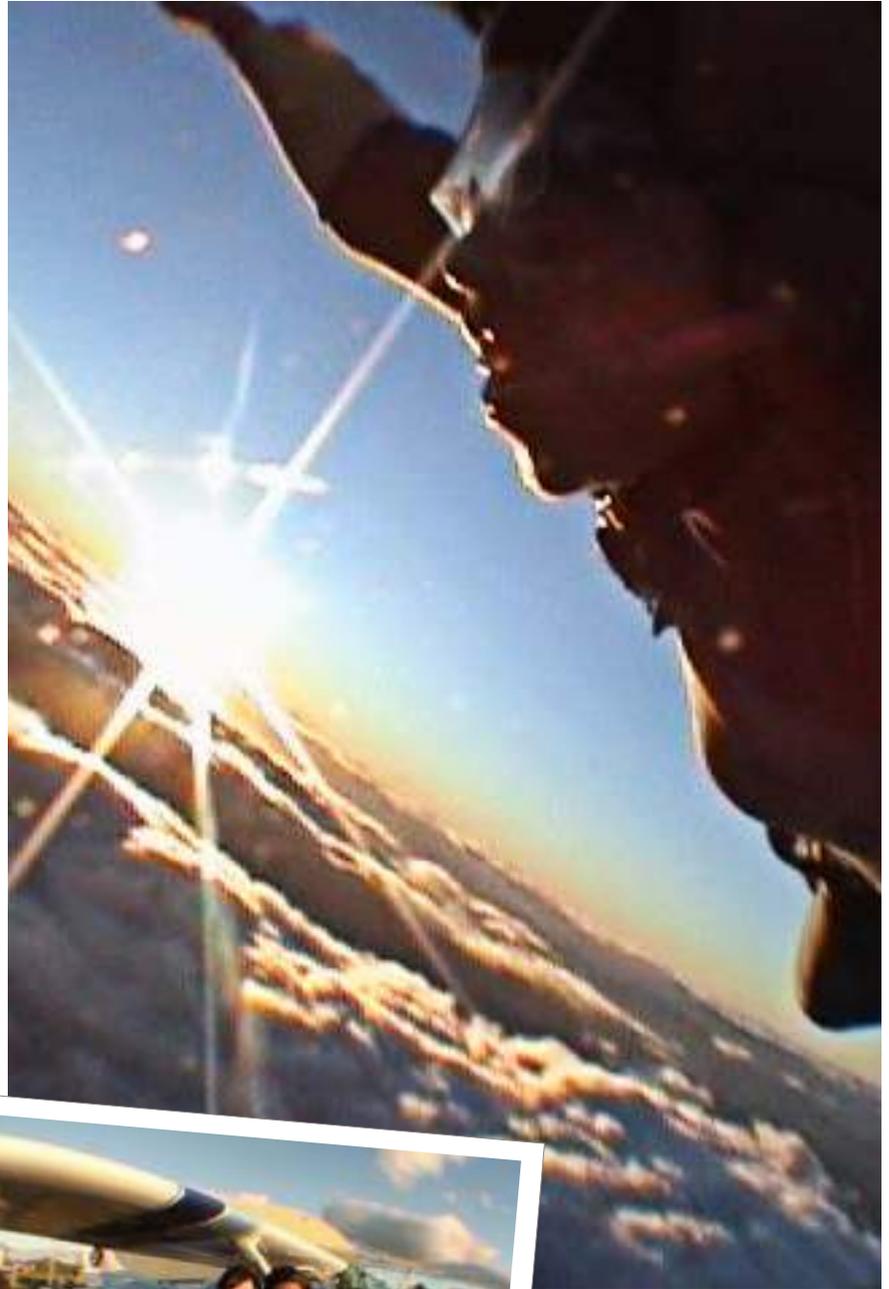
Cottesloe, Western Australia
Cottesloe is a western suburb of Perth. It is the most popular city beach in Perth, WA.



DON'T THINK. JUST DO IT.

“Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn’t do than by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover.”

– Mark Twain –



Paihia, New Zealand
Skydiving in Paihia during sunset.

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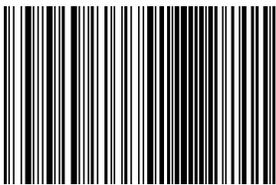
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