

DESTINATION:



Destination: GOOD

The AirAsia Foundation team talks shop about the people they meet and the ideas they come across as they travel the Asean region on their unique mission: to meet social entrepreneurs and explore ways to support their growth. airasiafoundation.com



Girl Travel

It's official. Solo female travel, a trend that started picking up a few years ago, is now widely recognised as one of the fastest growing travel segments. This finding is not only reflected in numerous surveys (by Visa, Booking.com and TripAdvisor, for instance), but a scroll through your Instagram feed would almost certainly land you on a tile of a lone woman posing against a stunning backdrop.

Solo female travel is not new to our region. Asean's popularity with lone travellers has only been burnished by the rise in the number of women who embrace solo travel and think nothing of a quick getaway to a nearby destination.

In response, a growing number of services are beginning to target this particular segment.

Our recent travels uncovered two: in Aceh, Umma app allows female travellers to book transportation services from women drivers; and with **I Love Asia Tour (iloveasiatour.com)** in Hanoi, we took a scooter tour provided by female guides. Nguyen Thi Huong Lien, CEO & Founder of I Love Asia Tour, said that her business grew out of an idea to help female students practise English while providing visitors a safe way to explore the backstreets of her home city of Hue. I Love Asia Tour now offers scooter tours in five Vietnamese cities and in Luang Prabang, Laos.

Check out Turlina app too – a verified platform for solo women travellers to connect with other like-minded individuals.



Making of a Comfort Zone

Sharing is caring, as they say, and one way to help out a fellow female traveller is by sharing useful tips. To do this, go no further than **Chirpey (chirpey.co)**, a social platform exclusive to women that allows verified users to initiate discussions and arrange meet-ups. Started last year by three Singaporean graduates, Chirpey counts almost 1,000 members in its Facebook community at [f chirpeyco](https://www.facebook.com/chirpeyco) to provide women with information they need to fulfil their wanderlust.

What's 'Destination: GOOD'?

A movement to encourage people to shop and travel sustainably

AirAsia Foundation is an ASEAN accredited civil society organisation.



Contact Us!



Yap Mun Ching, Executive Director of AirAsia Foundation, is always on the lookout for exciting new social enterprises. Write in to foundation@airasia.com

Word Up!

Solo travel gets the thumbs up from Yap Mun Ching. Here's why.



Having worked with AirAsia for more than a decade, I've done my fair share of solo travels. Although it is not my preferred way of travelling, these occasional trips have been enjoyable in their own way.

Travelling alone means there is no one else to please and I can spend as much time as I like exploring on foot. There is also the benefit of being more open to engaging in conversations, which can lead to surprising discoveries.

Over the years, I have collected such wonderful memories – spending hours in a Beijing market discussing old propaganda posters with a passionate collector; haggling with sari vendors in Old Delhi; and being invited into the homes of palace retainers in the royal Javanese city of Solo.

Travelling with someone is great, but it is through solo travel that you will have a chance to really get to know a place and its people.

1. Vietnamese social enterprise I Love Asia Tour enables female students to practise English while earning an income to fund their studies. 2. While travelling solo, Mun Ching learns how to weave with Laotian social enterprise Ock Pop Tok.