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## About Me



**Garthelgard** <sup>wikitalk</sup> [Lille](#) [Tokyo](#) :direct ride, May 2008



**Garthelgard**<sup>wikitalk</sup> The Tokyo Project and Momo, May 2008



**Garthelgard**<sup>wikitalk</sup> Pascal,Ludovic and me May 2008

Garthelgard was born in Toulon, France but lived in the United States, Australia and Russia.

## Hitchhiking philosophy

### On-ramps

Garthelgard believes in eye contact and either sticking out your thumb, holding a sign with your destination or a joke sign

### Gas stations

Gas stations is Garthelgard's favorite hitchhiking spot because he gets to talk to a lot of different people. He believes in an active attitude consisting in striking up a conversation with drivers. In Europe, Garthelgard believes in the use of a funny ice-breaker: he flashes his Tokyo sign at drivers and asks them "Excuse me, are you going to Tokyo today". The ice breaker is essential in order to break the whole "I don't-know-you-why-should-I-take-you-for-all-i-know-you-could-be-a-criminal" pattern. For Garthelgard, the

second step consists in explaining his project ( who he is, where he is from, where he left, who took him before, why is he going to his destination, what he does for a living, why does he hitchhike) in order to reassure people and break the common stereotype of the hitchhiker

## Why hitchhiking?

"It is when you are in a survival mode that you can see the best or the worst in people". Pascal Dumont.

Hitchhiking is more of a lifestyle than an actual means of transportation for me. I got hooked on hitchhiking pretty quickly because it is a way for me to:

- understand the effects of society on people
- understand the impact of the media on people
- understand the true nature of human beings
- see the best coming out of people
- share with others (I get a ride and I sometimes buy coffee) and contribute to a communitarian ideal
- to maintain a positive thinking
- to get a rush of adrenaline and real adventure

I consider my drivers as family members and actual teachers and learn something from every ride. I see hitchhiking as an actual school of living.

## Hitchhiking experience

Europe: [Austria](#), [Belgium](#), [Bulgaria](#), [Denmark](#), [Estonia](#), [France](#), [Germany](#), [Hungary](#), [Italy](#), [Kosovo](#), [Latvia](#), [Lithuania](#), [Macedonia](#), [Netherlands](#), [Poland](#), [Serbia](#), [Spain](#), [Sweden](#).

Asia: [Mongolia](#), [Russia](#), [Thailand](#), [Turkey](#).

## Statistics

28721km

## Current Location

Berlin, Germany