

Malaysia/Thailand – April 2017

In April my husband I visited Kuala Lumpur, the capital of Malaysia and went onto three different areas in Thailand.

We stayed at The Intercontinental in Kuala Lumpur which was situated in a good position, only a ten minute walk from The Petronas Towers. We chose to upgrade to a club room which gives you the added benefits of breakfast in the executive lounge, unlimited soft drinks all day, afternoon tea and happy hour drinks between 5.30pm – 7.30pm. The Towers are well worth a visit, we decided to go at 7pm as sunset was at 7.15pm. I would definitely recommend a visit at this time as we were able to look at the view in daylight and then watch the sun set and see the city and towers light up. You do need to book in advance to visit the Petronas Towers, the cost is approximately £15 per person and the duration of the tour is 45 minutes.



We also visited the Batu Caves which are on the outskirts of the city. You are able to catch a taxi or you can get there by subway as there is a metro station nearby. The best time to go is either the beginning or the end of the day when it may not be as hot as there are 272 steep steps to negotiate. You will need to make sure you keep your belongings close as well as there are many monkeys around who like to help themselves especially to any food or drink you may be holding!

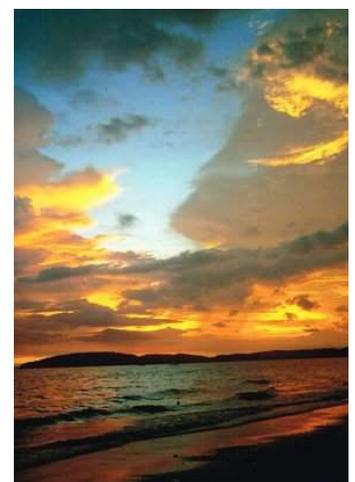


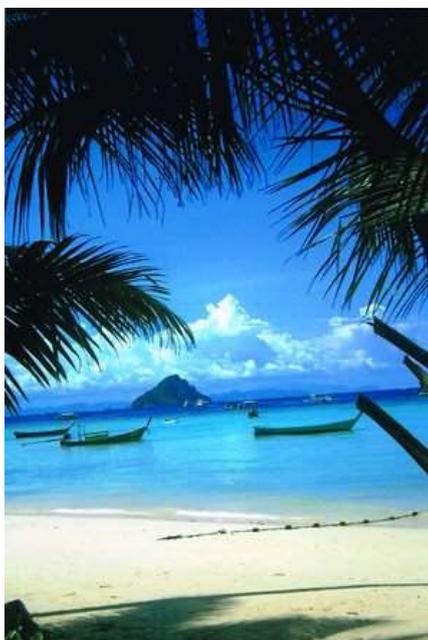
We then took a flight to Krabi which is situated in the South of Thailand. We stayed at The Peace Laguna Resort in Ao

Nang which had a lovely setting around a lagoon. There are hotel rooms and individual bungalows on offer and it felt like you were in the middle of nowhere when we were only a seven-minute walk to the beach and even closer to the centre Ao Nang which had a large variety of shops and restaurants.



The beach here was lovely with golden sand and there are plenty of boat trips available to a variety of islands such as James Bond Island, Hong Island and Phi Phi. We were able to view some beautiful sunsets from this beach.





Our next destination was Phi Phi which is the island where the movie “The Beach” was filmed. We took a short taxi ride to Klong pier and caught the public ferry (which operates twice a day) to Tonsai Bay which is the main town on the island. This took two and half hours and they provided complimentary tea, coffee and water on board. The journey was very picturesque and we passed many pretty islands and saw some lovely scenery. On arrival we were met by a representative from The Holiday Inn which was our next hotel and taken to a long tail boat which transported us (after a twenty minute ride) to the entrance of the hotel.



The beach and crystal clear blue sea is stunning on Phi Phi and the water temperature is luke warm making taking a dip so much more pleasurable! There are a few trips on offer from here to other bays or you can just relax in the beautiful surroundings.

After two nights, we were collected by a speed boat from the entrance of the hotel and taken to Phuket (1 hour away). The other option would have been a twenty minute ride on a long tail boat to Tonsai Bay and then catch the public ferry, which takes approximately 3 hours so we opted for the quicker route!

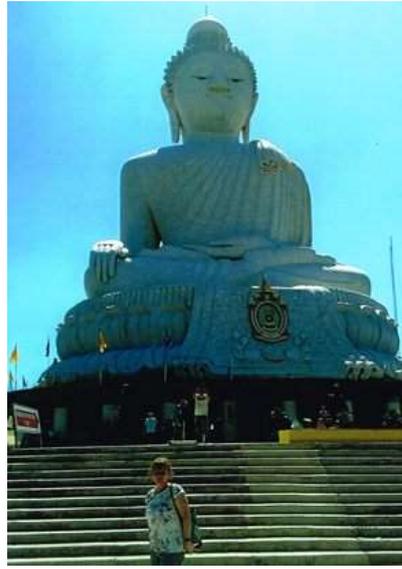


From the port we had a 45 minute transfer to the resort of Karon Beach where we stayed at The Village Resort and Spa. This is an adult only property and located on the outskirts of the resort, a 10 minute walk to the beach and slightly longer into town. It is a very traditional Thai hotel with individual villas either set in the gardens or by the swimming pool with their own access to the water immediately in front of them.

Phuket is a much busier part of Thailand and a lot more commercialised. However, there are more excursions on offer here so if you want to do more than sunbathe and snorkel then you will have various options to entertain you. For example there are trips to the Wat Chalong Temples and The Big Buddha which is located on top of a hill overlooking the bays of Karon & Kata Beach. Also Elephant trekking (which I tried) as well as trips to go and watch a bird or dolphin show.



You will find that the cost of food and drink in Thailand is a lot more reasonable than in Malaysia and in both countries will need to be prepared for the high humidity. The temperature was generally around 33-38 degrees but as the humidity was so high it felt a lot warmer!



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