

Phuket – Thailand September Educational

By Tanya Clarke

FLIGHTS:

Singapore Airlines were fantastic (as per usual) the flight attendants were friendly, helpful and very accommodating.

Singapore International Airport is fantastic to just roam around and check out all the shops. Ty and I on the way home grabbed a foot massage for about \$50 and it was just fantastic after all the walking around Phuket looking at all the different properties (and shopping) it was well worth it!!!!

ACCOMMODATION:

Stayed at:

[Merlin Beach Resort – page 17 Freestyle Brochure 4.5 *](#)

This property was fantastic (pool bar was fantastic – happy hour 4-6pm). It is about 10mins from Patong beach which is not far, the property runs a shuttle however if you want to make your own way home it would cost around 200-300 baht.

The breakfast was good normal full buffet style and a chef cooking your eggs etc. The room has 2 queen size beds and the shower and bath are separate.

There is 3 outdoor pools plus fitness centre, spa, sauna and a kids club.

This is a great property if your clients don't want to be in the heart of everything but don't want to be too far away.



Michelle, Tanya and Tyanne

[Courtyard Marriott at Surin Beach – page22 Freestyle Brochure – 4.5*](#)

This property was great!! It's brand new and you can tell as everything is very contemporary and efficient. It would definitely suit families as it has a great kids club.

The rooms very comfortable and overlooked the pool area.

There is one restaurant, bar and a coffee shop for you lunch etc. The breakfast was good normal full buffet style.

[Centara Karon Beach Resort –page21 Freestyle Brochure – 4*](#)

This property was excellent!! Great location, lots of restaurants around, shopping is good, night life if your clients want to grab a drink and people watch. The lagoon section is where we stayed and the

rooms were great large, separate bath to shower. It would be great for families and or group of friends. Facilities are great and Kata is not far to do further shopping or night life.



Genja in Kata – It was so TALL I had to sit on the bar...

Tented Camp on Elephant Safari – HIGHLIGHT OF THE EDUCATIONAL

Thailand's first luxury tented jungle camp. This place is awesome. We arrived by bus which took about 3hrs, there is a stop ½ way. When you arrive the views are just gorgeous you are literally in the rainforest. The tents are fantastic, very similar to your African permanent tents and the bathroom consists of an outdoor shower and toilet that is made of stone and is covered so you feel like its outdoors.

Variety of activities you can do and there is 1night – 3 night packages, varying from jungle safari's to beach and rainforest nature safari's where explore the mangroves, cruise onboard a Classical Burmese Junk plus the jungle trekking, elephant trek through the forest.

We did the canoe safari down the Sok River, great fun - we where there in wet season so of course it rained, they provided PINK ponchos. Still loads of fun obviously it was not cold!! Take some cash as there is a bar at the end of the canoe trip so we had a couple of Singha's.

The elephant trek through the jungle was fantastic, these animals are just gorgeous and massive.



Elephant trek through the jungle

At the end of the trek you get to feed them for 100baht so take some cash.



I thought I would try something different!!!! Who is feeding Who!!!

We returned to the tents freshened up for sundowners on the deck overlooking the Sok River and the gorgeous Rainforest.

Dinner was fantastic, food was sensational they had the local school do a concert of Traditional Thai Dancing.

The following morning woke up had a great buffet style breakfast and set off into the jungle for an all day trek. It was awesome, we had to stand on a bamboo raft to get to the other side of the river and the trek began.



Sok River crossing to start the trek through the jungle.

We saw snakes, heard the sounds of the monkeys, trekked through water that was waist deep for me so for some other it was past their chest... The guide explained different things about the foliage, rubber plants and heaps more.

We finally stopped for lunch and it had been set up using no utensils just coconut shells for bowls, banana leaves for serving food and an open fire for cooking. The food was sensational, the cook explained all the different spices used.



We ate and ate and ate..... we drank coconut milk.

We then had to head back to Camp and pack our gear to leave....

This was fantastic and even though it was the wet season it was still brilliant and probably made it more exciting as the river crossing were very high. It was not a hard trek, the entire group could do it and there were girls there that had never done anything like this before and they could handle it.

However, if it did not stop raining we may not have been able to do it that day. The water rises and falls fairly quickly so if your clients were there for a couple of days they would still get it done.

Great place...just loved Elephant Hills.

[Evason Phuket Resort and Six Senses Spa – pg25 Freestlye Brochure 4.5*](#)

My first impression was that it was really nice, not what I was expecting I had envisaged 6 star property....not sure why??

This property is a fair way from Patong so make sure your clients have finished their shopping etc.

The property is huge and it has it's own shuttle service as the rooms are a good walk from reception etc. The standard room we stayed in was ok, great views of the Andaman Sea but very basic. The other rooms were good and the villa's were beautiful.

The restaurant was gorgeous right beside the ocean and on the sand. Meals were very good, great variety, breakfast was full buffet style.

It has 3 pools, infinity for 1 of them, great kids club and of course the Six Senses Spa – Rosemary was lucky enough to get an appointment and she just loved it.

All in all the experience was nice but make sure your clients are aware that you go there to just relax and that is pretty much it. Rooms are ok and are 4*.



Infinity pool



Pool Villa Suites – These room types were gorgeous.

Well that is pretty much the end of it. It was a great educational – 1st ever so hopefully this helps you a little bit. If you want to ask me any questions please email tanya_gotours@bigpond.com