

our last day in Bangkok

Bangkok, Thailand - Jan 17, 2008

Brent:

Our final day in Bangkok started out with another delicious breakfast in our hotel. We also made appointments for massages before our trip to the airport, so we would be relaxed and try a massage in the hotels open air massage room. We packed, checked out, and left our bags at the front desk. The hotel staff was so nice! They offered to hail a tuk-tuk for us and have been suggesting good spots for us to visit. They seem set on sending us to get Thai souvenirs, but we've not thrilled about shopping b/c that would mean carting souvenirs around for 5 weeks (sorry to anyone wanting souvenirs from Thailand!)

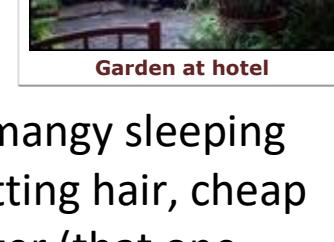


Brent's breakfast at hotel

We started off by boat again, walking past the flower market and the many vendors on the way to the Thewes port of the river. We've gotten very handy at navigating the river boats, so

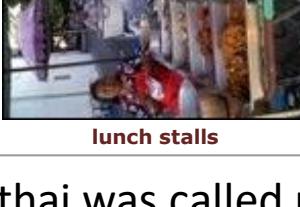
we were able to help fellow tourists at other ports who were so naive and didn't even know the fares or where to get on the boat! (much like we were 2 days ago before we were so worldly).

Our first stop was the Royal Barge museum - we got off the boat then walked through alleyways about a mile to the museum. Winding around the alleyways gave us a glimpse into the real Bangkok - people washing clothes, mangy sleeping dogs (that's for you, Tsunami!), ladys cutting hair, cheap food vendors, greenish slow-flowing water (that one would not want to fall into) & lots of waterways and lush vegetation. The barge museum was very regal with 50-yard long gold inlaid boats used by the Thai navy. Many of the barges didn't fare so well in WWII, so the sterns or bows were mangled. We watched a movie about the barges, then left and walked back to the port.



Garden at hotel

We took a boat down the river, then a cross-river ferry to the Dawn Temple, Wat Arun. We walked around the temple grounds and up the steps to the top of the temple, which was very steep and scary, with lots of Japanese tourists (that's not why it was scary). We ate ice cream afterwards as a reward for making it down the steps.



Lunch stalls

After taking a ferry back across the river, we had lunch, which was a basil-chicken dish and pad thai (just called "pad" :) and thai coffee (just called "coffee"). Delicious! Actually, the pad thai was called noodles with peanuts and sprouts. We met a couple who were staying at the Oriental hotel,

who were very upset b/c they didn't have the right kind of soup at the restaurant. So far, we have seen many tourists of all ages and nationalities. The Thai people seem to be very accepting of tourists and we haven't been hassled by vendors or anyone at all.

After taking a final boat ride back to the hotel, we had coffee and massages. Brent had a 1/2 hour thai food massage (just called a foot massage) and I had a 1/2 hour whole body massage. During the massage, I decided that Thai massage is too painful - they seem to hit every pressure point and sore spot and just dig in. The part I liked about the massage is where you're bent like a pretzel, which felt nice. After the massage, we were relaxed and ready for our flight to Delhi. The hotel staff were so nice and called us a taxi, asking us when we'd be back and finally telling us "we'll miss you!" Goodbye, we'll miss you, too, Saigon!



walking to the port

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