

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

For Projects Abroad Thailand 



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Been there, done that, by Mr. Bean

Logan Mitev, teaching volunteer from Canada

When I first arrived in Thailand I was exhausted, a little nervous and very excited. I was in a new city, country and continent with next to no teaching experience under my belt. I'm happy to say I made the transition from my northern Canadian home quite seamlessly. There was spicy food, nice beaches and great company, I couldn't really ask for much more.

I got to meet quite a lot of people during my time here due to starting my first week with the conservation part of Projects Abroad before beginning my teaching placement. Although there was already an established group, they welcomed me very nicely and I was able to see some of them again even after moving on to teaching.

The teaching was something I fell in love with on my first day. I would explain to friends and family back home just how cute the little children could be, even if they didn't all listen to me at first. I was impressed with their eagerness to learn and understand English in such a small and understaffed school. They would constantly surprise me with both their skill level, and the compassion they showed each other. When playing football or just running around at lunch, anytime there was a child hurt there were at least five other children trying to take care of them and do whatever they could to make them feel better.

Although school was fun, coming home each day was also very nice. I had a wonderful host family who wanted to do everything they could to make me feel comfortable and like one of the family. They took me to so many great places and were always concerned about whether my meal was good enough. Luckily I showed them pretty quickly that I would eat everything and I'm happy to say that in five weeks I never had a single meal I didn't like. I noticed improvements in their English as well as my students' even in just the short period of time I was with them. Having simple conversations each day goes a long way and my host mom always wanted to learn more and for me to correct her when she made mistakes. Both my host parents work very hard and it clearly showed in the example they set for their children, who were equally amazing. I had a lot of fun going places and laughing with them and they enjoyed making fun of me, tickling me and things of that nature.

to continue reading story >> <http://www.mytripblog.org/pg/blog/thailand-social-manager/read/350535/been-there-done-that-by-logan-mitev-from-canada>



An interview with our inspiring teaching volunteer from France, Agathe Charbon

M: Why did you come to volunteer?

A: I come to volunteer to take a break from the materialistic and superficial world we are surrounded by. Also to bring my help to others; I wanted to stop just thinking of myself and to turn to others.

M: What are you planning to do after the project?

A: After this, I am spending time in France by the beach with all my family that I haven't seen yet. Just relax and enjoy my time with them.

M: What university do you attend?

A: I attend the ESAG Penninghen, a graphic design school in Paris.

M: What do you study?

A: I study graphic design.

M: What are you working on at your teaching project?

A: I am working on phonetics, vocabulary, adjectives and building sentences.

M: What activity did you like the most?

A: I like imitating gestures, playing out experiences and I also like to make the children laugh.

M: What is your most memorable experience?

A: I love how the children are teaching me how to play their games and exchanging bracelets.

M: What is your advice to future volunteers?

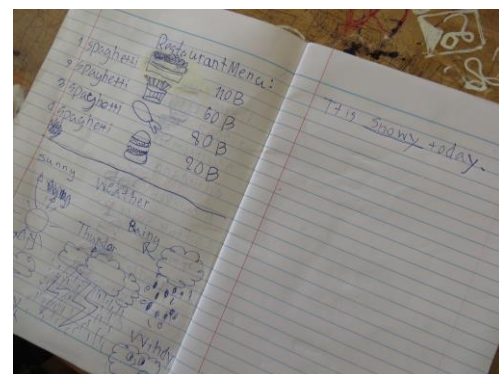
A: My advice for future volunteers is to plan out your everyday lessons and make sure that the children enjoy it just as much as you do. Have fun and be active!

M: What is the funniest situation you experienced in Thailand?

A: The funniest moment is when I would say "Be quiet" to the children and they would laugh thinking I say "Buffalo"; I only found this out later.

M: What do you love most about this experience?

A: What I enjoy the most is that we are independent; we learn new things and are surrounded by a different culture. We meet new people, live in a new place and you learn how to GROW.





Professional teaching volunteer

Meet our inspiring and motivating professional teaching volunteer, Sarah Bateman, from America

Being a professional volunteer with Projects Abroad allowed me to see a side of Thailand that very few outsiders get to experience. It was my privilege not only to work in the schools, experiencing first-hand the students' daily struggles to master English, but also to work with and help the teachers through conferences and meetings. My time in the schools was vital to knowing how to advise the teachers with whom I met. I was able to observe the challenges and rewards of daily interaction with the students, which proved essential in my work editing the new Phonics Curriculum. The teachers often are so unsure of themselves, perhaps because of a lack of training in English, but I am sure that the opportunity to work with the volunteers - both professional and teaching - will greatly increase their confidence and improve their teaching. All the teachers that I had the opportunity to meet at the three different schools I visited and the two teacher conferences I attended were extremely welcoming and very open to suggestions. It was very rewarding to learn from these teachers how they implemented new ideas in their classrooms and to collaborate with them on best practices for their students.

To continue reading >> <http://www.mytripblog.org/pg/blog/thailand-social-manager/read/355897/meet-our-motivating-professional-teaching-volunteer-sarah-bateman-from-america>

Photos of the month

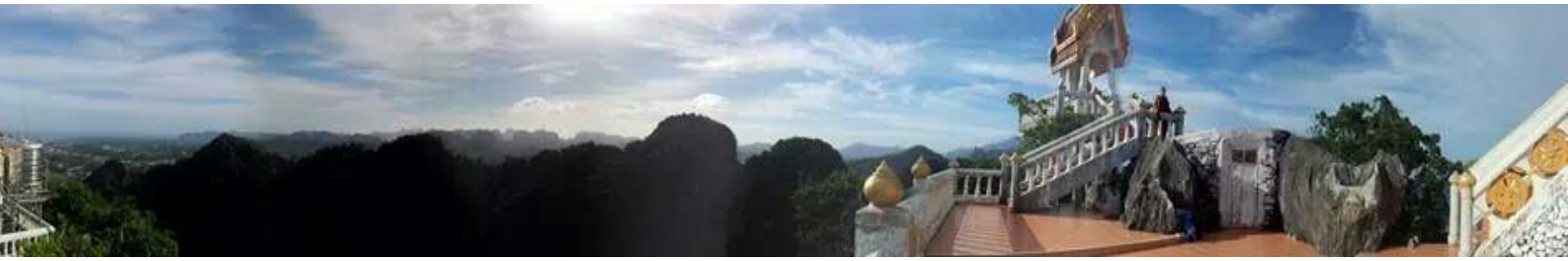


Photo credit: Christina Schweyer, conservation volunteer from Germany
This photo was taken at Tiger Cave Temple. 1373 steps



Photo credit: Gabriella Monti, care volunteer from Italy

This photo was taken when Gabby was on her way to school on Koh Klang. She captured picture of a brother and a sister walked to school together

Photo credit: Gabriella Monti, care volunteer from Italy

This photo was taken at school. The little girl is one her Gabby's favorite students.



July Outreach Album



Volunteers are blessed by the monk



Volunteers play outdoor game with the kids



Left to right, Lexi, Alex, Louise, Maxim



Volunteers having lunch at the temple



Our two weeks special volunteers



One of our 2WS made paper dolls with children