

Carly Degenstein – Canada. English Camps Thailand: Phuket Teacher Report. April 2015



Carly Degenstein sitting with her Surin School Director.

I completed my training with English Camps Thailand in Phuket in January of 2015. It was a fun learning experience. Philip picked me up from the airport and took me right to the hotel where the training was held, which was a big relief, considering I had never been to Thailand before. We went on many excursions during the training to temples and beaches surrounding Phuket.



The TEFL course itself was concise and helpful, covering deficiencies in the Thai curriculum, Thai culture training and a chance to give a lesson plan demonstration and get helpful feedback. The program size was also quite small (9 people) and this allowed me to meet new friends that I am still traveling around Thailand with in my time off.



Philip also got me a job during the middle of the term, which was very lucky, and I had Khun Nang, an English Camps Thailand Placement Coordinator, waiting for me when I got to my placement town. There was enough freedom for me to explore on my own and enough structure that I felt supported before and during my placement. They helped me also set up a Thai bank account and everything has gone very smoothly.



I was placed in Surin province, in a small town called Sikhoraphum. This is a very good area to take a teaching placement if you are looking to have a rich Thai cultural experience, live in a quiet peaceful place and save money on living expenses and thus more of your earnings. The director of my school treated me like family and my school took me on several trips with them, which was a lot of fun.



I also had the chance to go to The Surin elephant conservation and Silk village, which was given to us at a special price by going through Camp Thailand Adventures, on one of my free weekends. This was one of the most amazing experiences I have ever had. My housemates and I were given a private tour of the Silk village where they create beautiful cloth by hand, with natural dyes and hand weaving for the King. Then we went to an elephant show and were picked up afterwards by elephants and we rode them bareback for almost an hour to a pool where they had a bath. I would highly recommend doing this if you get the chance. Happy teaching and travels!



English Camps Thailand Teacher Report by Carly Degenstein, 1st April, 2015