

Hanging Out

inception in 1961. Today, it has a five-star list of attractions: summer-camp camaraderie, the Ouzo Circle time, hot nightclub, good beaches, laundry facilities and lodging for \$800.

When traveling the 20 hours by ferry between Brindisi, Italy, and Patras, Greece, backpackers welcome the lay-over in Corfu. They make their way to the Pink Palace to take a load off their feet and revel in the surrounding Greek scenery. Everyone wants to take a look, hang out and have some fun.

🔥 THE CARNIVORE, NAIROBI, KENYA

Want a true taste of the exotic? Try the fare at The Carnivore, an open-air restaurant with tables shaded by grass-thatched roofs. Delicacies, such as giraffe, antelope and gazelle, sizzle on the barbecue grills nearby. (Giraffe, from what we hear, tastes like a cross between veal and chicken.) Don't worry, no endangered species show up here.

Whether dining or not, you'll want to join the action downstairs at the disco. Live African music packs the crowds

into this Langata Road nightclub even during midweek, so come early and feast on all the fun.

🔥 CICEK PASAJI, ISTANBUL, TURKEY

When you find the crowded, narrow street called Cicek Pasaji, you'll know you came to the right place. Located near Istanbul University, the street is teeming with nightlife. Guitar players and singers belt out the well-known refrains of John Lennon and American favorites; others fill the night with traditional Turkish melodies. Music of any kind draws crowds to sing along and dance in the streets.

🔥 GREEN MANGO BAR, KOH SAMUI, THAILAND

Nightlife at its best. That's what many call the Green Mango, renowned for first-rate fun on a tropical paradise island in the Gulf of Thailand.

Start with dinner (Thai delicacies and plenty more), then follow up with dancing at this hot spot on Chaweng Beach. The crowds will attest to the pleasures to be found here. Happy hour

runs long and furious — from 11 p.m. to 2 a.m. for just about any tropical drink that can tickle your taste buds.

🔥 HOTEL WILMA, YOGYAKARTA, INDONESIA

One student traveler shouted for joy upon seeing the crystal blue, cool waters of the only swimming pool for miles at the Hotel Wilma. For him, it was an especially gratifying sight after battling the 18-hour, non-air-conditioned "train ride from hell" between Jakarta and Yogyakarta (Yogya, for short) on the isle of Java.

🔥 MANUEL ANTONIO, PACIFIC COAST, COSTA RICA

Feast your eyes on three of the most beautiful beaches in the world, as well as lush tropical rain forests, on the Pacific Coast of Costa Rica. For about \$15, you can rent a small beach house, right on the sand at the entrance to the national park at Manuel Antonio. If you grow weary of the real sun and sea, head over to the Sol y Mar establishment for a bit of talk and refreshment. ☺



Paul Neumann climbed by horse and by foot up a 3,000-foot cliff to the Tak Seng monastery in Bhutan.

Excellent Adventures

Climbing Up to the Tiger's Nest

Not many people have heard of Bhutan, a small country sandwiched between India and Tibet, and even fewer get the chance to visit.

Although Bhutan is almost untouched by tourism and outside influence, Paul Neumann was able to travel to the rural country last year and experience its Buddhist culture. One of the most memorable parts of his trip was hiking up to the famous Tak Seng monastery built on top of a 3,000-foot cliff.

"We rode horses halfway up and hiked the rest of the way on trails that were on the edge of the cliff," Paul explains. "It wasn't as hard as I thought it would be. It's a spectacular walk the whole way. We hiked on this one

trail that went through a waterfall and then we climbed to the top. The cliff was so steep, I don't know how they built it!"

Tak Seng (meaning Tiger's Nest) is a sanctuary for Buddhists. Legend says the god Guru Rimoche flew to the site on the back of a tiger and built the monastery.

"It's one of the most revered sites for the Buddhists, and many go to make a pilgrimage there," Paul says. "It's different than just hiking for the scenery — it's scenery plus the mystery of the monastery."

Visitors can look down at the valleys and rice fields of Bhutan. On a clear day, you can see far out to the snow peaks of the Himalayan mountains.

"It was a great experience. There were other tourists up there, but very few people actually get to see it."