

Burbridge recounts Thailand adventure

by Carce Hussey
Feature/Managing Editor

Have you ever wanted to go on an unusual vacation? That's what counselor Ellen Burbridge did.

Twice a year Burbridge goes on vacation. The first vacation she takes with a woman friend. "My family takes separate vacations to renew our sense of freedom," she explained. Burbridge chooses a "more primitive culture" for her first vacation site. She stated that she goes to "check it out for my family." If the place meets with her approval, she goes back at another time with her husband and two children.

This year she chose to go to Thailand during the last three weeks of March. She and her friend, Margaret Cook, started out the vacation normally enough. They took a not so short flight. "It took 32 hours to get there," she recalled. They spent their first day in Bangkok "visiting temples and getting oriented," and spent the first night in a hotel. But for the rest of the trip they took "the adventure route, not the tourist route."

They spent some time on the beaches, which Burbridge described as having "powder white sand and warm aqua blue water." When visiting the beach, you can do several things, according to Burbridge.

"You can lay out in the sun or get a massage for \$2-\$4. You can

"Travel is a lot of work."

have people cook food for you...things like chicken or coconut soup, or you can get your nails done or go swimming."

The Thai method of cooking on the beach isn't like the hot dog stands here in the U.S. They carry pots around on their shoulders, suspended by a long stick, and cook the food right there on the beach.

Burbridge and Cook also went into the mountains and visited the hill tribes. "You can actually live with primitive people and go out on organized treks for four to nine days." Burbridge and Cook chose to go on one of these treks, and that's when the adventure began.

"The trek was a disaster," expressed Burbridge emphatically. "Usually eight people go out on treks and you can meet people from all over the world." Not so this time.

The first part of the journey was taken in the back of a truck over bumpy roads. Burbridge took this in stride and merely commented that the scenery "was beautiful."

When they arrived at the site where their trek was to begin, they discovered that it was just the two of them and the guide (he'd neglected to pick up other people for the trip.)

"The people are wonderful. They're very polite. It's very safe and very clean. You can eat food anywhere."

At this point Burbridge began to worry. "I was scared. I had no idea where we were." The guide gave them a choice of hiking or riding on elephants. They chose elephants.

Two hours later the elephants arrived, guided by "guys with long sticks with a nail on the end." The elephants were equipped with chairs on their backs, and to get to these chairs Burbridge and Cook had to climb ladders.

When they started into the jungle, they discovered that their guide had disappeared. But Burbridge, Cook, the elephants and their owners continued on.

"We rode the elephants for three hours. The elephants stopped for a fallen tree and the guide

came out of nowhere."

They then "backpacked to a primitive village," where they enjoyed "ceremonial dances." They spent the night in the village sleeping "on the floor on mats."

The next day Cook became ill. They were to spend the day rafting on bamboo rafts. Since there was no medical help available in the village they decided to stick with that plan.

They hiked down to the water where the guide informed them that there was no raft, but that he was going to make one instead. He rounded up some kids and went off to go cut bamboo. Luckily, some tourists came by on rafts so Burbridge and Cook went with them. Unfortunately, they had to go on separate rafts.

Burbridge had brought along a life jacket, but she soon discarded it. "When I pulled out my life jacket, the women on the raft looked at me really funny. Then I looked down and discovered that the water was up to my hips... safety is not a main concern there."

The rafting trip went smoothly. "There were no big waves," stated Burbridge. When the raft landed Cook had recovered, but they decided to end their trek. They hiked to a truck and left.

"I was freaking out! But it taught us that we have a lot of survival skills, and that some things that are important to us are not important to them (the Thai people) and that ours was not the usual experience."

While in Thailand, Burbridge and Cook also "rode a night train and rode on took-tooks, which are motorized bicycles."

In spite of the difficulties she encountered, Burbridge said that she enjoyed her trip. "The people are wonderful. They're very polite. It's very safe and very clean. You can eat food anywhere."

On the way home, Burbridge and Cook went to Hong Kong and Korea. In Hong Kong they stayed with different families, did "a lot



photo by Tara Powers

Ellen Burbridge displays some of the unusual items she bought during her trip to Thailand. Burbridge also visited Hong Kong and Korea.

of shopping and hiking. They have delicious food and it's a beautiful country."

From there they travelled to Korea where they "rested a few days." But the atmosphere in Korea was different from the two previous countries. "It's not a friendly place, not a very warm place," stated Burbridge. There were "lots of American soldiers... and it's more expensive."

"I like to experience different cultures."

Burbridge has also travelled to Guatemala and plans to spend her next vacation river rafting in Costa Rica with her family.

How does she decide where to go? "We ask people who have been there. We do a lot of reading before we go," explained Burbridge.

Planning a trip like this is not like going with a tourist group. "Travel is a lot of work," stated Burbridge. When visiting another country, they arrive during the day and spend the first night in a hotel. The remainder of the trip is "free time."

Why does Burbridge go to such out of the way places? "I like to experience different cultures," she explained.

Next week: read about Corky Kirkpatrick's trip to Thailand and her very different experiences.



APPLICATIONS ACCEPTED

Crowd Management Services, the Northwest's largest crowd control security agency, is currently seeking applications to fill full time and part time positions for the upcoming summer season.

If you would like to be eligible to work concerts, festivals, sporting events, etc. apply prior to May 1, 1989 by calling the CMS crew line at (503)222-6130 between 1:00PM and 5:00PM Monday-Friday or send your name, address, and telephone number to: P.O. Box 4411, Portland, Oregon 97208-4411.



Try our soups,

fresh salad bar,

100 percent Beef Hamburgers

Good Food at Good Prices

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11(A)	12	13	14	15
L*	39.12	65.43	49.87	44.26	55.56	70.82	63.51	39.92	52.24	97.06	92.02	87.34	82.14	72.06	62.15
a*	13.24	18.11	-4.34	-13.80	9.82	-33.43	34.26	11.81	48.55	-0.40	-0.60	-0.75	-1.06	-1.19	-1.07
b*	15.07	18.72	-22.29	22.85	-24.49	-0.35	59.60	-46.07	18.51	1.13	0.23	0.21	0.43	0.28	0.19
Density										0.04	0.09	0.15	0.22	0.36	0.51

D50 Illuminant, 2 degree observer