



Thailand

Chiang Mai

*March 9 - March 14,
2016*



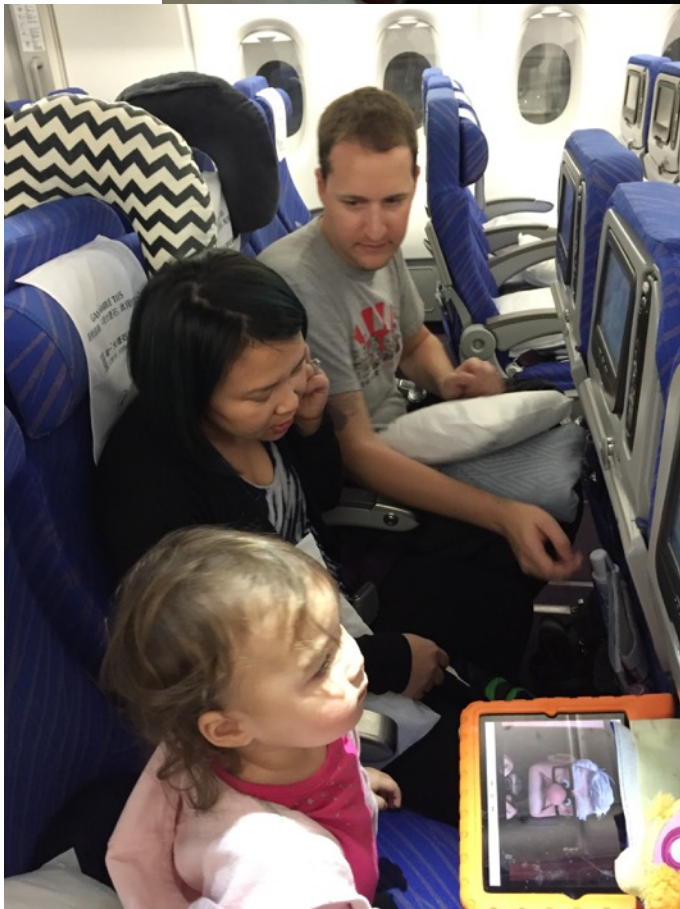
March 9, 2016 - Ariya's first airplane ride a short hop from Las Vegas to Los Angeles. She was excited and well behaved.





By the time we arrived at LAX, Ariya was already asleep, while we checked into China Southern Airlines for the long 12 hour flight to Guangzhou, China.





We got on the much bigger plane on China Southern and Ariya immediately explored the video panel. The long 12 hour flight was not as bad as I thought it might be. She slept most of it but cried every time she stirred. I held her a good part of the way and rocked her right back to sleep when she would wake up.

出发航班信息 Departure Flights Information									
航班号 Flight	计划 Schd	终点站 / 经停站 To / Via	登机时间 Boarding	登机口 Gate	状态 Status				
CZ303	09:30	伦敦 London		A01					
CA6703	09:35	东京 Tokyo		A101					
CZ3049	09:45	河内 Hanoi		A04					
KA783	09:50	香港 Hongkong		A103					
AK113	10:25	吉隆坡 Kuala Lumpur		A102					
CZ333	10:40	福岡 Fukuoka		A123					
CZ3061	10:45	首尔 Seoul(Incheon)		A119					
TR2987	10:45	新加坡 Singapore		A111					



Arrived very early like 6 in the morning at the Guangzhou, China airport. It was freezing cold—no heat and we had to wait quite a while to catch the next flight to Bangkok. Ariya ran around.





March 11 - Arrived at the Bangkok airport with very little time to catch the connecting flight to Chiang Mai. We ran through the airport only to find out at the gate that our flight was delayed. Ariya ran around some more. We took turns chasing her. We were met at the Chiang Mai airport by Tai's parents, Ron and Nong. We arrived at their beautiful house and settled in. Nong gave me a comfy pair of slippers to wear around the house.



Ariya was excited to see her little mattress on the floor bed in Tai and Adam's downstairs guest bedroom with full bath.





I got a large guest room upstairs with my own private bath and balcony, which was too hot to go out and use.





We went to Tai's mom's restaurant, Ratana's Kitchen, located on a busy tourist street in Chiang Mai.



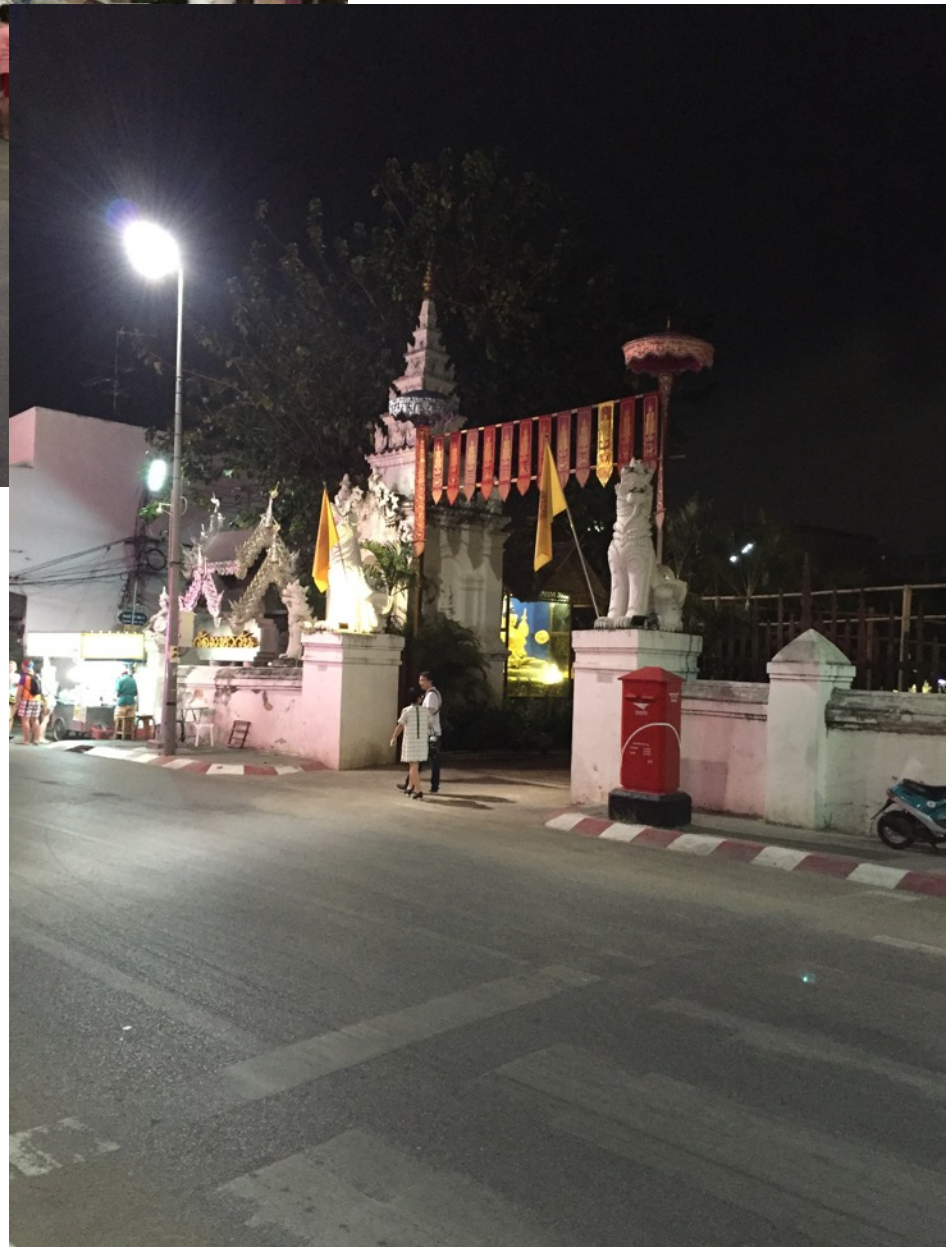


Ariya conked out asleep again and Adam set her on the table. Adam and Ron had a beer and I drank some cold water.





There are hundreds of Buddhist temples in Chiang Mai. This one is across the street from Ratana's Kitchen. There's also one right in back of the restaurant, too. We then stopped at a Big C department store complex and bought some groceries. They all got some Kentucky Fried Chicken, but exhausted from the long trip, I literally fell asleep sitting up in a chair waiting for them.

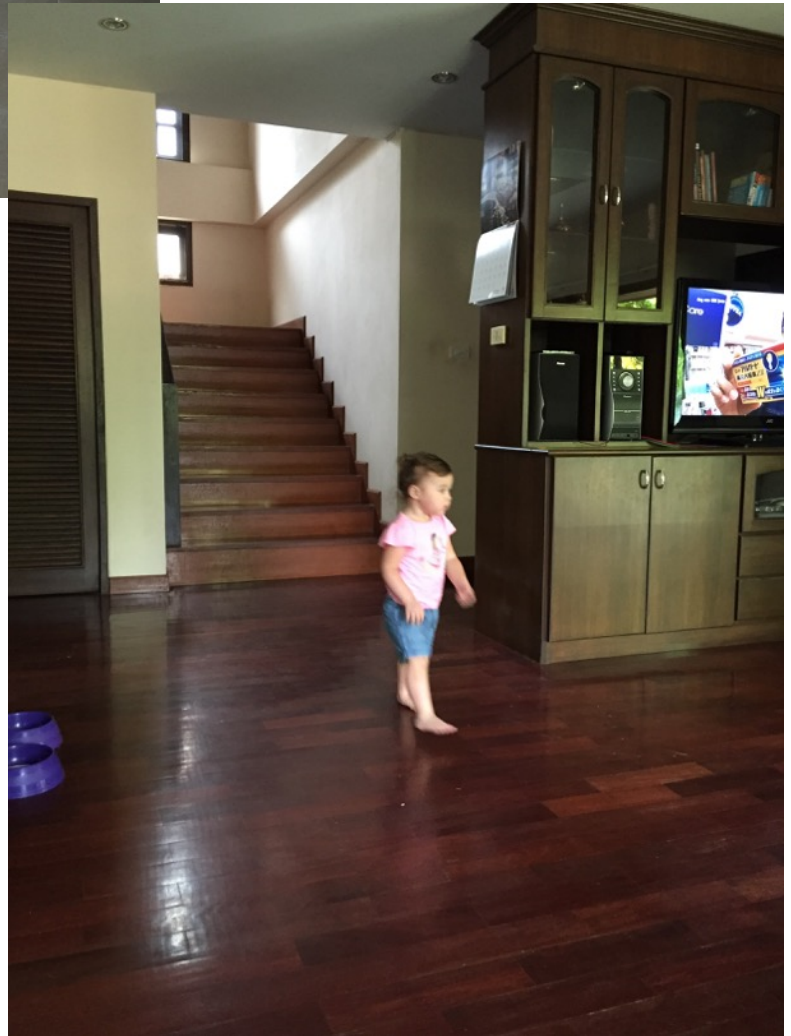




March 12 - The first morning I took pics of the outside of the house and gated yard.







Then I took Ariya for a short walk around the neighborhood in her stroller.





Tai drove us to a new large mall...very American style mall called Central Festival. Adam, Tai and I got a Thai massage while Nong chased after Ariya. The Thai word for the maternal grandmother is "Yai" and Ariya was calling out "Yai" the whole trip.





Then upstairs to explore this 5 story mall. Adam and I laughed that we flew on 4 planes and 24 hours just to go to an American type mall our first day in Thailand. But it was beautiful.





Adam and Tai stopped for some Mango Sticky Rice dessert. I never heard of it and would end up tasting this delicious treat elsewhere later in my trip.





Ariya got her first flirtation from a little Thai boy.



There is a huge fresh food market, grocery store, bakery and some fast food on the ground floor. Bought some good fresh raisin bread for breakfast. Then back upstairs where I took Ariya to play in the kids' area while Tai got Thai sim cards for the phones.





More shopping to buy Ariya a “fluffy dog” backpack with a leash and we found another play area in the department store. Nong had so much fun playing with Ariya.







March 13 - Tai's Siamese cat, Sid-soo-ay, that she left behind with Nong when she moved to America. Ariya dressed and ready for another day of adventures in Chiang Mai. Nong has 4 dogs and 3 cats. Ariya loved the kitty cats, especially Sid-soo-ay.

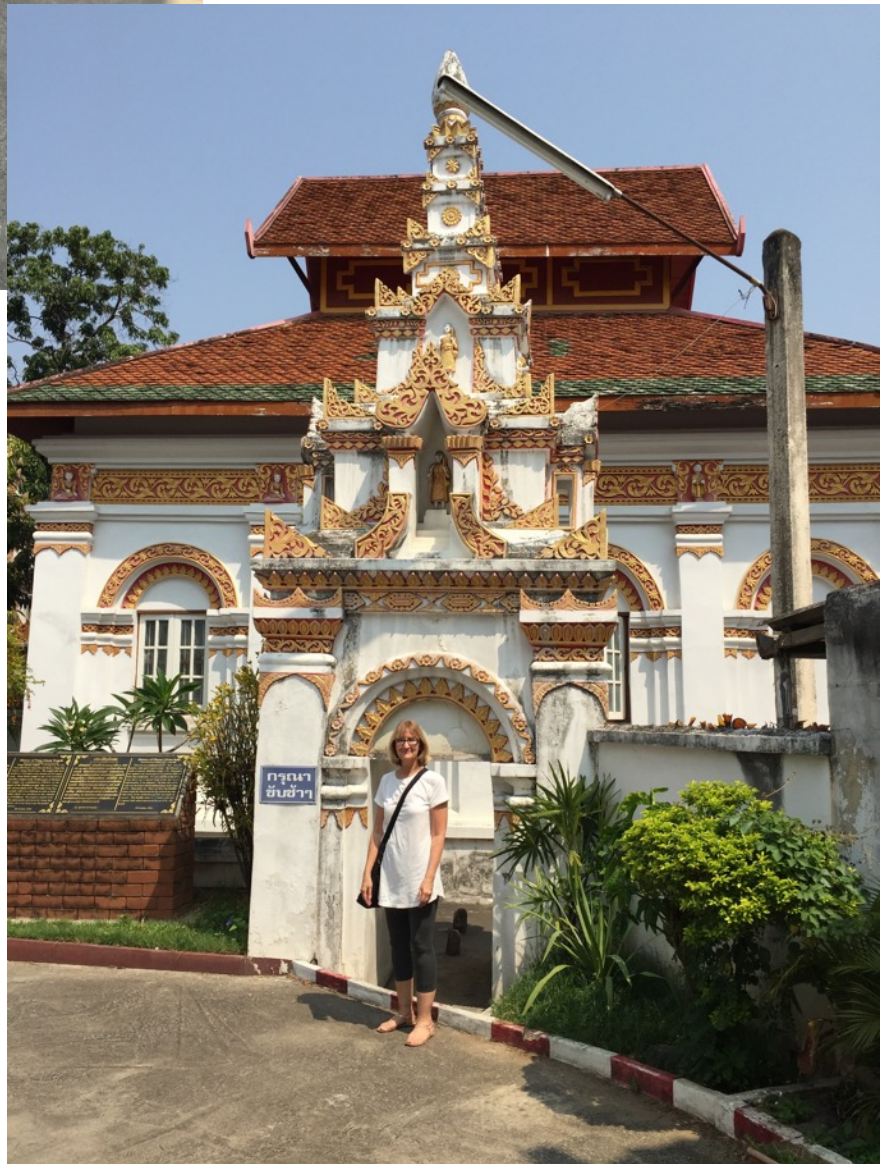


Ariya with Ron and then we drove to Ratana's Kitchen restaurant parking lot where Tai went into a travel place to research our plans to fly down to the beaches. Adam, Ariya and I took a short walk around the block. We got to try out Ariya's "fluffy dog" backpack and kiddie leash to keep her from running into the busy streets of traffic.





We stopped to take some photos of the first temple we saw. It seems there are one or two temples on every block.









Walking back to the parking lot, I took this picture of the large temple behind Ratana's Kitchen restaurant.





The picture of the temple below is a daytime photo of the one across the street from the restaurant.





Our first meal at Ratana's Kitchen I got chicken fried rice, which was delicious and Ariya got French Fries.





Tai with her Aunt, Nong's sister, who works at the restaurant. I got a mango ice cream smoothie, which is the best.





Ariya got two flowers in her pigtails from her Great Aunt, and then across the street to another travel agency to get more info on which island beaches to visit.





Back home to rest a bit. I bought the green pandan cake at the mall and decided to eat a bit. I had tasted it on the flight from Bangkok to Chiang Mai and Tai told me what it was.





Another nap for Ariya.



That evening we met up with friends of Adam and Tai at a restaurant called Mix. We sat outdoors and remembered to spray our bug spray to ward off the mosquitoes. But they still bit. They're everywhere day or night—in the house and the car, as well as outdoors.





I had delicious mushroom chicken, and then chased after Ariya around the fish pond and through the outdoor restaurant area. She had her second flirtation this time at the fish pond with a little Chinese boy who was celebrating his birthday. His parents then brought some of his cake to our table for her!







March 14 - Made another quick stop at the Central Festival mall and ate some fast food. Tasted our first delicious coconut pudding, which was part pudding texture, part liquid milk texture and part large slices of coconut.







Chiang Mai once was its own walled city/state with its own royal family different than the current Thai royal family line. The city still has remnants of the ancient wall and the moat that went around it. Ron drove us around the outside of the wall and moat heading to the outskirts of the city to drive up to the top of a mountain to visit the Wat Doi Sutep, a huge temple.







There are a number of these decorative arches over some of the city streets.

Below we arrived at the bottom of the temple entrance. Elephant statues are numerous in Chiang Mai.





Wat Doi Sutep is a huge tourist attraction so there are a lot of shops and vendors lining the street and parking lot.







Ariya had her third flirtation by a Thai boy saluting her with Sawatdi-ka. She didn't look very impressed, however, the oppressive humidity and heat might have been making her as miserable as we all were feeling.





We took a sort of elevator train up to the top to walk around this huge temple complex.







We had to take our shoes off at this level to go up the stairs to the next level. The pavement was hot!





















Tai pouring water on a shrine.





Shoes back on to walk around the lower level.









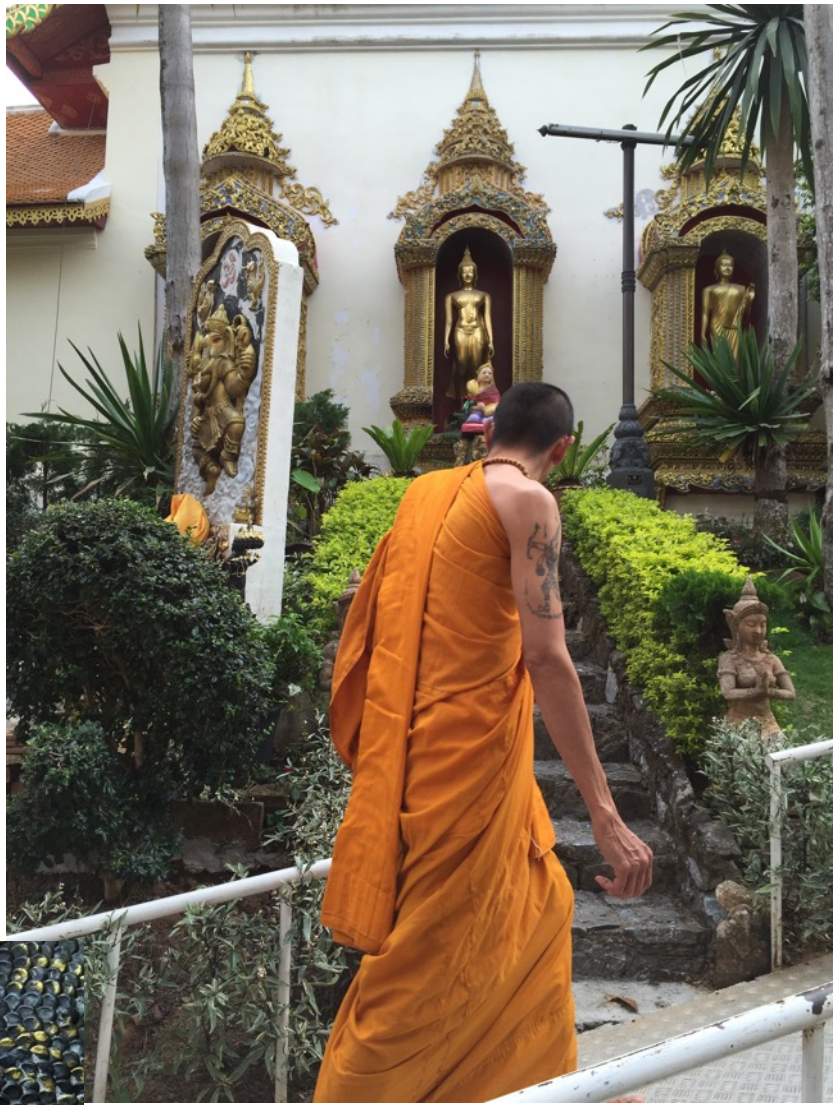
A rest stop in the shade for some cold water and ice cream and a view from the mountain top.











Later that night we all went out for a family dinner because Ron was leaving in the morning to go to England and we would not see him again on this trip.





Once again Ariya fell asleep, so we were actually able to eat in peace without her wanting to run around.



