



My Summer Internship at KMUTT

Trudie Cheung

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My name is Trudie, and I will be entering my third year of Engineering Science majoring in Robotics at the University of Toronto. My placement was in the Data Science and Engineering Laboratory at King Mongkut's University of Technology Thonburi. I was placed on the Smart Home for the Elderly project and was tasked to work on the 'Data Analytics' module of the project. By the end of my placement, I had completed literature review on various topics, learned how to apply basic machine learning models in code, and wrote a literature review paper on thermal comfort models that are built using machine learning.

During my placement, I travelled almost every week and visited various regions in Thailand: Chiang Mai, Bangkok, Phuket, and Hua Hin.



In Chiang Mai, I lived by the ancient city walls and experienced fresh fruit smoothie stands with huge chunks of fruit. I also enjoyed creamy and fragrant northern style curries at local restaurants and street food from various night markets.

Our supervisors, Jon and Nipon, took interns on day trips to places like the Erawan falls and Ayutthaya. At the Erawan falls, we all had fun hiking through the national park and cooling down in the water while trying to avoid the fish that were biting and tickling our feet. In Ayutthaya, we saw elephants in person and toured through the remains of the ancient city in the Ayutthaya Historical Park.





I also spent a weekend in Phuket, where I joined tours to visit various islands such as Khao Phing Kan and Banana beach. I also kayaked through caves, and snorkeled and swam in the sea. We were taken on a kayaking tour through Phang Nga Bay, where we experienced bats and birds resting on the cave ceiling. A spontaneous decision also led us to jumping off our kayak to experience the warm water in the bay. One of my favourite memories from Phuket was peering into the water and seeing so many forms of life and colourful fish swimming through the coral.

On another weekend, I went to Hua Hin with a fellow intern. We enjoyed the beach and calm small-town vibe, which was much needed after the bustle of Bangkok. I loved walking through the soft sand and swimming at Hua Hin beach, even though it was cloudy and rainy during our visit to the beach. On our short trip, we also went to Khao Takiab to experience the Khao Takiab beach and to see the sunset from the hilltop temple. We also lived right above the Hua Hin Night Market, where we bought mangosteen to enjoy on the rooftop of our stay. We even found a stall making fresh coconut milk and decided to buy some to make our very own mango sticky rice! On our way from Hua Hin to Bangkok, we hopped on the train and enjoyed the views of the Thai countryside while savouring our mangosteen.





As a foodie, I enjoyed having delicious food and drinks at a surprisingly affordable cost. As the weeks wound down to my final days, I've found my favourite stalls and dishes. By far, my favourite drink was fresh coconut. I'm proud to say that I've had over 16 coconuts (of both the toasted and non-toasted variety), and that it will be one of the foods I miss most from Thailand. Some of my favourite items are salted egg som tam (papaya salad), strawberry yogurt, bua loi, tomkha gai, tom yum, fresh river prawn, guay jub, and guichai tod.





Some of my favourite places in the Bangkok area were the Grand Palace, Chinatown (Yaowarat Road), Chatuchak market, Lumpini park, and various night markets (Luan Dab and Market 61).



I also tried a few places from the Michelin Guide in Bangkok: Khao Tom Pla K npo, Guay Jub M. Joe, Bhan Phadthai, Guay Jub Qan Pochana, Nai Mong Hoi Thod, and Pa Tong Go Savoey. My favourite was the guay jub and crispy pork from Guay Jub M. Joe. While I roamed the streets for delicious food, I really enjoyed walking through the street of Bangkok and exploring temples, street food stalls, and winding narrow alleys that cross over canals. I loved my experience in Bangkok and I'll definitely miss living here!

