

# What The Tourists Think Of Phuket

Locals, residents, expats and tourists have very different views on Phuket. We caught up with two couples visiting here to see what

they thought about Phuket and their holiday in the sun. Well, maybe with a bit of rain thrown in at this time of the year.



Terry and Bev Hall hail from Western Australia and came to Phuket for a week away from work and their children. They had not been to Thailand before, so Phuket was going to be the first and only impression on this trip.

They had travelled to Bali previously and

relaxing one spent around the pool with the occasional sojourn outside to see the sights. The next trip will be a little more adventurous.

They were impressed with the friendliness and honesty of the local people here and although they never got to see some of the

so there were many comparisons made between the two locations.

We first of all asked if they thought Phuket was worth visiting again after their present stay. Both replied that they were impressed with the service at their hotel and this trip was only meant to be a

more spectacular views around the island or up into Phang Nga Bay thought the scenery was quite spectacular.

When we asked about the high points of their trip so far, Terry chipped in by saying that the show at Fantasea was impressive as was his steak at Sam's restaurant. Bev said that the food, both Thai and Western in the many restaurants they visited was a treat and also very affordable.

Getting on to the low points, they had to think for awhile but even then didn't think of anything here that could be considered a low point, apart from the state of the sidewalks around Patong. They said they had to keep on their guard to prevent tripping over obstacles on the side of the roads.

Terry said although the food was good at Fantasea, the wait between the dinner and show was too long and the beer wasn't cold.

And as we know, in Australia if the beer isn't cold it is almost considered a crime.

Eddie and Margaret, also from Australia, have been to Phuket before. Three years ago they stayed at Karon Beach. This time they thought they would try Patong and they are here for two weeks to have a bit more of a look around.

Normally tourists are a bit taken aback by the humidity if they are not used to it in their home country, but Margaret said she liked the present weather conditions and thought the limited number of tourists here at this time of year made it the right time to visit.

The Fantasea show was on top of Eddie and Margaret's list of great attractions and had only good things to say about the local agents of the Australian company they booked the holiday through. The local agents had been attentive and friendly on their tours to make sure everything went smoothly.

Margaret said she had accidentally left a pair of earrings in a shop after trying on some jewellery and only realised later that evening they were missing. When she returned the next day the staff had the earrings waiting for her to pick up. So local honesty received high marks for them as

well. She said she doubted if she would have got them back if she did the same thing in Bali.

Eddie commented that on their last trip the beaches were fairly filthy and nothing much had changed on this trip. He couldn't see why one of those beach-cleaning tractors as used on Australian beaches couldn't be employed here.

One point both couples made that was a turn off for them was the prevalence of foreigners approaching them trying to sell timeshare properties. After the first couple of times they thought it was a bit much. Actually this surprised us a bit as we have never been approached around Patong, but



then we probably don't fit the profile that the timeshare sales people are looking for.

So, would they come back again? Yes, was the unanimous response. If you don't expect things in a hurry and slow down and relax then Phuket is a great place to be.