



Jock-ularity

Rat Run



It would appear that the word on everyone's tongue these days is VISA. Whether it be visa runs, stamps or just the art of acquiring a new visa.

Of course as has been highlighted in other journals recently, it is not wise these days to use agents to obtain entry / exit stamps as such practices may find you with at least a heavy fine if not imprisonment, or even deportation!

Through the ex-pat community the underlying feeling has been bleak and down trodden as a result of recent events and that nobody really relished a 14+-hour day on a minibus run up to Ranong to do a DIY stamp run.

However, all that said these runs can be fun also if used as a mini holiday away with friends.

One such "run" was recently undertaken by 6 ex-pat lads resident in Patong. Their chosen destination was Southern Thailand, Sungai Kolok was the venue as it is positioned only a short run time from Kota Bharu in Malaysia from where the Thai consulate issues new visa applications.

The lads found themselves a nice hotel with breakfast included and a nice clean swimming pool to relax by, all for 600 baht per night.

Perfect!

After dinner and one or two after dinner drinks on the first evening, it as off to bed to prepare for the next day trip over the border. On retiring to bed, one of the party was aware of a strange noise coming from the TV unit. This noise, which sounded like silver paper being rubbed together, persisted for more than an hour. It eventually got so annoying that he was moved to switch on the light and investigate the source of the noise.

To his shock he was confronted by a RAT that was sitting in the raffia basket under the TV set, where 6 packets of potato chips were arranged for "customer consumption". The little rodent had been nibbling away at the packets to feast on the contents, hence the noise in the room.

The poor lad in question, who had an innate fear of all things rodent, hastily switched off the light, stuck his head under the bed sheets and prepared for a long night ahead. In the morning after complaining to reception he was removed to a new room in another wing of the hotel.

Returning from his visa run exhausted he retired to his new room for an hour's shuteye when he was awakened by a knock at the door. It was one of his travelling companions who he happily let into the room. He was conscious that his friend was acting

slightly strangely as he would not sit down and was wandering around the room, bathroom and all over the place in a funny fashion. It was then he noticed sunflower seeds strewn all over the carpet in the room and on the tiles in the bathroom. These were being dispensed from a plastic bag hidden about his mate's person. The seed trail had emanated from the rat infected room of the previous night and had taken a course along the common hotel hallway from one wing to the other and on into his new room.

"What the hell are you doing?" he asked his mate.

"Well", this is in case the rat does not know where to find you, so I thought I would give him a clue" he replied!!!!

Next morning, check out time, our friend was further amazed to find that a mini bar bill was appended to his room bill. "What is this for" he asked as he had not used the mini bar in either room.

The receptionist re-examined the bill, made a call to the accounts office and then replied.

"This is for the potato chips you had in the first room you occupied sir".

He had to pay for the rat's supper!

Amazing Thailand.

