

Khon Kaen University  
Thailand

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I spent 6 weeks in Khon Kaen, Thailand in 1999. Laura Dickenson and I headed out northeast to Thailand to work at Srinagarin Hospital during the month of February.

We were granted our request to be placed in the department of medicine. When we first arrived, there were miscommunications over what our role would be. We wanted to spend some time on the ward functioning as a part of the inpatient service; however, they could not fully accommodate our needs in working on the floor.

The language barrier was a big factor in working with the patients directly. Most were written in Thai and English.

After a few days of confusion, we finally settled on working with different consult teams. We spent 2 weeks with cardiology, 1 week with infectious diseases, and 1 week with neurology. This was an excellent opportunity to see and touch diseases that I probably would not in the US. Also, their physical diagnostic skills were far superior, and they shared their expert knowledge with us.

#### A Few Tips:

- Try calling airline consolidators. You can fly into Bangkok and then take a bus to Khon Kaen.
- A guide book is a must
- Pack lightly – take things you wouldn't mind leaving behind
- Skirt/dress and shirt/tie are appropriate dress. You can always buy clothes there, it's very inexpensive.
- Most toilets in Thailand are squat type, so work on those leg muscles if you want to go to the bathroom.
- Don't bother with travellers' checks. Get a debit card from your bank.
- Bug spray and sunscreen
- Towels and a sheet
- Books
- Feel free to contact Jean, a former Khon Kaen med student. She spent a month at RB&C. Her full name is Jeerichuda Pattamadilok ([jeeric-p@medlib2.kku.ac.th](mailto:jeeric-p@medlib2.kku.ac.th))