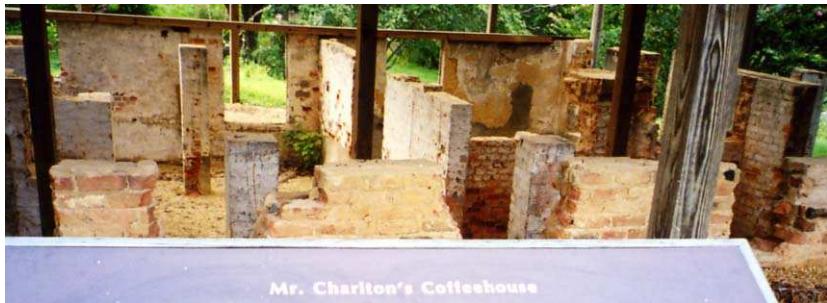


Photo Gallery



Williamsburg, Virginia is one of the most fascinating places in our country. It is famous for its rich history in the founding of the US, and for the continuing effort to preserve the past as much as possible in its original form. A few blocks from the College of William and Mary (one of the oldest in the country) is the main part of town in which you can walk, see and directly experience colonial America. Just as you enter the "mall" you find the statue of Thomas Jefferson to the left, seated, writing. Yes, when you look over his shoulder you see that the document is the Declaration of Independence. It makes you pause. Your trip down this lane continues this way ...



Great buildings include the original Capitol building of Virginia, a true colonial treasure. To the left is an actual archeological dig of Mr. Charlton's Coffeehouse. They have a Starbucks, but this is more interesting. Below left is an original guardhouse for the town. Below is one of some tourist kids having an experiential exercise with a pillory. Others were in stocks nearby. Fun for the whole family!



To the left are guards, in original dress, outside the guardhouse pictured above them. To the right is the Bruton Parish Church. The sign below tells the story. The buggy ride to the left could be anywhere, but for the colonial dress.



Along the road are shops and artisans doing things the way they did them back in the early days of the country. Blacksmiths, tailors, tool makers and more. You can spend a day learning about all this and more.

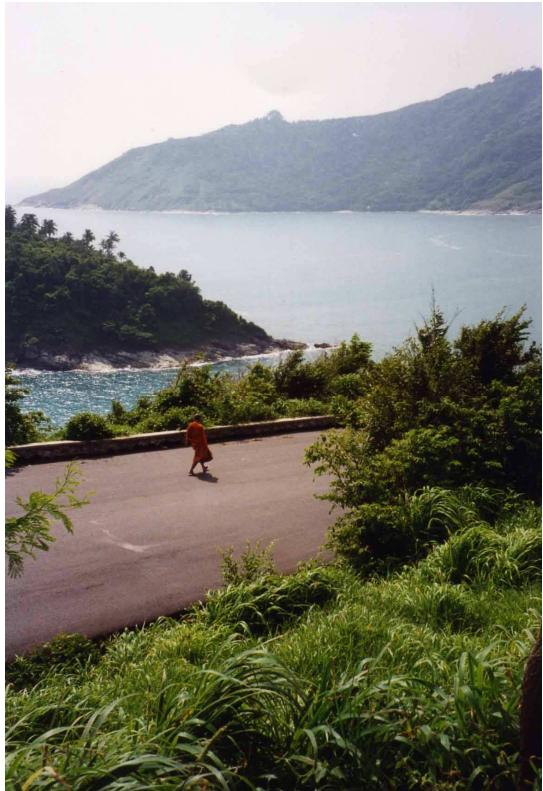
At dusk, the shops close and the taverns and restaurants open. Still, it's as if you're living in an earlier time and everyone does a great job of helping to preserve the illusion. Highly recommended.

A tribute to Phuket, Thailand

Many of you know that Cindi and I have spent a great deal of time living and working in Asia. We've been to the beaches of Malaysia, Indonesia and Thailand as well as many other places in the area. Cindi's been to beaches, and even boating, off of the East coast of India. News, and pictures, of the devastation resulting from the earthquake and tsunami off the coast of Indonesia were especially jarring, having been to those places and having spent time with the people of the region. They are some of the warmest, kindest and gentlest people we've met in the world. Especially upsetting to us are the images of the waves and the resulting devastation on the beautiful island of Phuket. This was the first place Cindi and I visited outside of Singapore, 10 years ago. It was a wonderful time in a beautiful place I've talked about often to friends and loved ones. Seeing waves destroy beaches and places we've walked and played is horrifying and sad. I thought it would be nice to show some of the beauty during this time of tragedy. If it prompts people to want to help out, or even just to visit some day, that's good. Enjoy.



To the left is a view on the rooftop of our hotel, with its typical Buddhist shrine. Below that is a much larger shrine, with the also typical elephant symbols. To the right a lone monk walks down the road overlooking the gorgeous beaches, forests and mountains of this lovely island. The beautiful temple below is one of many.



As we strolled through the market one evening, Cindi felt a nudge on her arm from behind. She turned to see the nudger: this baby elephant, with its tamer. She got to feed it a banana, take a picture with it, and make a friend.

Below are scenes similar to those we've been watching on TV, only without the devastating waves. On the left is the pristine beach we spent most of our time on, sunbathing, swimming and parasailing. To the right is the courtyard of the hotel, much like the ones we've seen in the news.

