My summer travels!

Every year, after school gets out, the long awaited summer vacation arrives!

Every year Brandon and I have made it a goal to travel to a new and adventurous place.

The summer of 2010 was filled with travels to Central America:

We visited Belize, where we dove the Blue Hole.

Honduras, where we visited The Lost City of Tikal

Guatemala, where we dove over 25 times off of my favorite island Roatan

Nicaragua, where we tried volcano boarding, not what I thought it would be.

Costa Rica, where I attempted, and failed miserably at surfing

And Panama, where we went to the city of Boquete and hiked to the tallest peak, Volcan Baru.

In the summer of 2011 we travelled to have been to South East Asia:

We visited Thailand, were we of course rode the elephants

Then we headed to Laos, where we took a slow boat down the Mekong River for 2 days.

After that we went to Cambodia, where we visited Angor Wat

Or last stop off was Vietnam. Here were traveled up the north coast to the rice fields of Sapa, and visited one of the most beautiful places n the world, Halong Bay.

For the summer of 2012 e have traveled to Mexico,

We stayed in Cancun for 12 hours before catching a flight to Cuba.

After returning to Mexico from Cuba we visited a lot of Mayan Ruins.

After this we dove in Playa Del Carmen

And did some more diving in Cozumel.

This summer we traveled back to Asia. We were excited for another year of backpacking through a somewhat familiar place.

We arrived in Bangkok and jetlag set in quick. So we felt a little crazy.

After adjusting to the time, we toured Bangkok and found the Royal Palace, where we waited 2 hours to see the king drive by in his yellow Mercedes. We also visited the Flower Market, where there really were the most beautiful flowers, not for sale.

After Bangkok we took a train to the Island of Koh Toa. We stayed at a hotel that had the most amazing few at their restaurant. We spent hours there drinking coffees and checking the Internet. We also did one of our favorite things to do on vacation, practice our photography skills. On Koh Toa we also did a lot of running and swimming.

After Koh Toa we headed to Koh Samuai. After a day there we headed back to the mainland, where our bus to our next town did not show up for 5 hours, so hanging out there was a blast!

After a long day of delays and a night in a crazy border town, we arrived on the Island of Koh Phi Phi. . This was my favorite part of the trip! We went on a long boat tour of the surrounding islands at had a blast. The water was so clear and we did a lot of swimming with the fishies! Our long boat took us to 5 islands. We stopped at Maya Bay, where the movie The Beach was filmed, and I of course had to do some handstands. We also took a lot of pictures with our DLSR Cameras. Maya Bay is seriously one of the prettiest islands that I have ever been on. On our way back into our long boat, Brandon decided to swim around while everyone else was climbing the ladder to get ready to leave, he hit his foot on some coral, and it left a huge gash. It was really bloody, and him being the “doctor” that he is decided to duct tape it and elevate it for our two hour ride back to the main island. After this we headed to the hospital, five hours, and five stitches later he was fixed!

After Koh Phi Phi we headed to the Prehentian Islands n Malaysia. This island was so quiet and really peaceful! We stayed there for a few days. This is a view from our first jungle hut, and this is the view form our second jungle hut. The power was shut off on the island from 11:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m., so we played on the beach a lot. Every night everyone on the island went to a huge beach BBQ at Amelia’s. For 5 U.S. dollars you could purchase the most delicious BBQ! You could choose from the daily catch of fish, or chicken. We always went for the fresh fish. It was so relaxing to sit on the beach, listen to the waves and enjoy the delicious fresh food. One night after the BBQ we went out on the pier/boat dock. Brandon surprised me by proposing. So we had to take a lot of photos to show our families… just bear with me as you view our happy faces for a moment!, and my ring, and an Orange shake.. with my ring again!

From the Prehentian Islands we headed to Cameron Highlands. It was a 9 hour bus ride, which came as a surprise since we were told it was 3 hours only.

In the highlands we did a lot of hiking around. We also toured the Boh Tea Planation, where we got educated on how tea is produced. I never knew it was such a process for a little bag of tea! The tea fields were super massive, and super pretty.

In the highland we also toured the strawberry farms, don’t confuse these with strawberry failed. The Malas don’t plant their strawberries in the ground, the actually plant them in coconut husks, and have a drip system to water them.

During all this touring, Brandon’s foot was healing nicely, he actually removed his stiches because he is a “doctor”

After the highlands, it was off to the city of Kaula Lampur. Here we did a lot of city walking, averaging about 10 miles a day, yes I took my GPS watch and clocked our miles. There were some signs around the city that were translated into English, but were just a little off. The city was crazy busy, and we spent a lot of time hanging out and cooling off at the mall. We also visited a lot of markets. I actually haggled with a guy for 10 minutes over a “fake “ Jimmy Choo bag. I scored it for $17.00. Go me! We also visited the famous Petronas Towers, which are the tallest twin towers in the world!

From here we headed to the town of Melacca, here we did a lot of walking around and saw some great foreign movies.

From Melecca we took a bus to Singapore. For our last two nights out of the country we booked the smallest room. I seriously took this picture while pined up against the wall. We did some sight seeing, and again, a lot of walking. The GPS watch logged 12.7 miles. We also toured the mall and found the Fix It Felix game from Wreck it Ralph. Singapore was a beautiful city. While we were walking around, we stopped for a ice-cream sandwich, that was literally an ice cream sandwich. Bread on the outside, ice cream in the middle.

We flew out of Singapore and after 28 hours of flying we were excited for our 8-hour layover in San Francisco! We walked around, and ate one of my favorite things, Clam chowder in a bread bowl. After returning to he airport, we found that our flight had been cancelled. So we were luckily comped a room in an airport hotel. After lots of coffee and waiting we returned home!