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ESSENCE OF LUXURY

Opulence & history shine in this issue



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MANILA IN MY MIND: Renaissance in the old city



#GOODVIBES

FIT FOR TRAVEL

BY RINA SANTOS



A Luxury Retreat in Cambodia

I find great comfort knowing that the Instagram Husband has a higher sense of taste when it comes to traveling compared to myself. We complement each other.

For me, to be able to travel is already a luxury no matter what kind of journey that is. My husband's work is highly stressful, so when it comes to de-stressing, he likes to go to places where he knows he can expect outstanding service, comfort and good food - that is his definition of luxury.

I was ecstatic to find a 5-star luxury haven nestled near Siem Reap when we decided to go to Cambodia for a vacation. Surrounded by gardens and rice paddies, Phum Baitang has total of 45 villas, comprised of terrace and pool villas, inspired by traditional Cambodian wooden housing.

We arrived at the resort at almost midnight already, but the staff welcomed us with warm smiles, and with food and drinks already waiting for us in our villa.

The place is very peaceful and romantic. When you wake up in the morning and want to have breakfast, you can take a walk in the middle of the rice paddies, or use their bikes to go to the restaurant, which Rafa couldn't stop raving about it.

We wanted to go temple hopping but didn't want to overdo the

tour since it was so hot. We decided to go on a short private tour with an English-speaking guide provided by the resort and chose only 2-3 temples for a half-day tour, making sure to stop in between for street food snacks. Our vehicle preference? Tuk-tuk.

We made sure Rafa had time to swim in the afternoons. We also managed to go to the local main streets for foot massage and fish spa. For \$6, you get unlimited spa time with the tiny fish finished off with a foot massage - heaven!

The whole concept of luxury travel is but a state of mind. There are a lot of places where you can find excellent and warm hospitality. Five-star hotels doesn't always guarantee excellent service. Good food does not always mean expensive restaurants. But I understand it comes with a certain degree of preference and expectations. Some may start with a business class airfare ticket, or a chauffeured ride.

Personally, luxury travel is all about the entirety of the journey. It means I'm in good company, I'm well taken care of, I'm safe, I'm eating the food I want to eat, and at the end of the day I can sleep with a smile on my face. Sometimes going away with the people you love, anywhere that might be, is already a luxury, because nowadays, with our busy schedule and with so many things around us attempting to steal our attention, time is in itself the luxury. ●

