

TIME TO THAI NEW ISLAND

THE turmoil in Thailand is giving a boost to a Scots travel company specialising in a forgotten part of the Far East.

With the Foreign Office warning against non-essential travel after violent clashes between troops and anti-government protestors, Philippines Trails – based in Rothesay, Argyll – has been snowed under with enquiries.

The cluster of 7,000 Pacific islands is near Thailand, but is

often overlooked by Brits, despite the fact that it's the world's third largest English-speaking country after the United States and Britain.

Boss Nigel Sutherland said last night: "Most people don't realise what a paradise awaits them – but we're seeing higher levels of interest."

"There are flights from many regional airports to the capital, Manila. With so much sea, it is a diver's paradise, and there are amazing white sandy beaches."

Packages for a 10-day break are around £950. For info, see philippinetrails.com or call 0141 416 6009.