

*Phu Phiang
Fair Trade
inspired tours
ensure both
visitors and
those visited
benefit.*

*An entire
culture awaits
you....*

*Enjoy
Exploring!*



**Craft and Culture Tours
for the discerning traveller
who likes to go beyond the usual
and meet the people of Thailand**



Phu Phiang Tours visit small community groups where you will be genuinely and warmly welcomed as a guest. Unlike many other organized tours, our schedules do not include visits to shops, wholesalers or factory outlets apart from those belonging to the communities or institutions visited or as otherwise stated on our schedules. Occasionally, we may need to change itineraries slightly due to unforeseen circumstances.

This is a private/exclusive tour. Prices quoted include all transportation (air-conditioned vans, overnight sleeper trains), accommodation (share "twin bed" air-conditioned, en suite), all meals, tour leaders, entrance fees to all sites, donation to producer groups visited & Thai travel insurance.

Itinerary Code: M1.2

ISARN: a Blend of Cultures 11 –13 November 2008

The Northeast Region of Thailand (Isarn) is not often visited by tourists. Yet, by way of interest and culture, it offers just as much or even more than other parts of this kingdom. Its rural village communities of different ethnic origins have blended to create a distinct "Isarn" culture. However, due to migration this unique blend of cultures has influenced Thai life nation-wide.

This fascinating, unhurried tour, befitting Isarn's easy pace of life, visits the southern part of this region where ancient Khmer culture is still visible, both in edifices of the past and in the traditions and crafts of the people themselves.

This tour will coincide with the Loy Krathong festival

Loy Krathong is held on the full moon of the 12th month in the traditional Thai lunar calendar. In the western calendar this usually falls in November.

"Loi" means "to float". "Krathong" is a raft about a handspan in diameter traditionally made from a section of banana tree trunk decorated with elaborately-folded banana leaves, flowers, candles, incense sticks etc. During the night of the full moon, many people will release a small raft like this on a river.

Day 1: We leave Bangkok early morning by air-conditioned passenger vans, stopping for lunch at a garden restaurant and arriving at Nongtakai village in Buriram Province in the afternoon. The village silk weavers will show us the very many fascinating silk fabric production steps: from rearing silk worms, to producing silk yarn, *mudmee* (ikat) dyeing and finally, weaving. Later, we meet a representative of a nearby rural development training centre, CBIRD, for a tour around their various projects. We will stay overnight at CBIRD's residential lodge.

Day 2: We start out early and continue a short way eastwards to visit *Prasat Hin Phanom Rung* – a spectacular hill-top Hindu temple of the Angkor period, which has been partly restored. We can explore the ruins and admire the magnificent stonework before we drive on, less than a couple of hours to Surin Province. Some 15 kilometers from Surin town, we visit a village famous for creating silver jewellery. Several families make beads but only one or two master craftsmen remain alive. Fortunately, there has been recent interest to preserve this centuries-old skill. ThaiCraft, a Fair Trade organisation related to Phu Phiang, has worked closely with this village for several years, finding markets for their jewellery and offering design development. By meeting the people, we get a taste of typical rural village life. At night we stay in Surin town where we can visit the lively night market to try some delicious local dishes, sweets and fruits.

Day 3: Those who wake up really early can walk down to the morning fresh-produce market to mingle with the local people before we take our vans an hour and a half northwards to a member village of "Pan Mai" – a weaving cooperative of several local communities. These groups are best known for having successfully revived the almost forgotten techniques of vegetable dyeing which they exclusively use on silk and cotton yarns. These yarns are often organically grown & hand-spun. We will take in a second village before traveling back through a landscape of rice paddies to our Surin hotel for an evening shower and dinner. The overnight sleeper train will take us back to Bangkok, arriving early the next morning.

A fair trade alternative - conscientious tourism

Our Phu Phiang tours are in small groups and accompanied by experienced English-speaking guides. Phu Phiang is a small family-owned business dedicated to the love of their country and believe that there is so much more to see and do in Thailand than just the usual tourist routes. Using locally-owned enterprises wherever possible and ensure that village communities who host our visits are adequately compensated for their time and hospitality. We provide comfortable accommodation and transport, wishing those on these tours to be our visiting friends.

Tour costs include entrance fees, 2 breakfasts, 3 lunches and 2 dinners, transfers, guides, accommodation and donation

From AUD640 TWIN SHARE; SINGLE SUPPLEMENT AUD59 (11-13 Nov 08 tour operates with a minimum of 6 passengers)

Independent tours available any departure date available to request from **AUD1040 TWIN SHARE; AUD89 SINGLE SUPPLEMENT**
Prices based on rate of exchange THB28 - final AUD price based on current rate of exchange



Well Connected Travel
Fair Trade Tours ensure
both visitors and those
visited benefit.

In the spirit of "Fair
Trade" 5% of the land
tour price will be donated
back to the local
community you visit.

This premium will be
spent on a project for the
betterment of their local
community.

FESTIVAL DATES 2008

*11 -13 November
Loy Krathong.*

*21-23 November for Surin
Elephant Roundup*

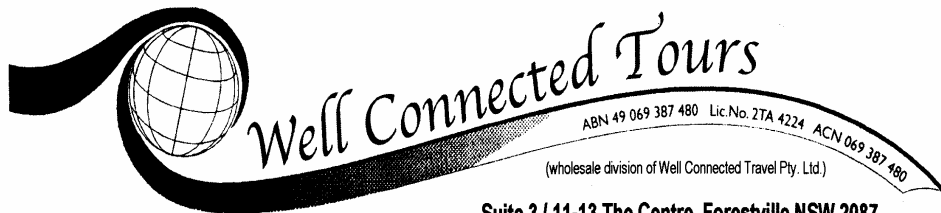
*5-7 March for Phanom Rung
sanctuary*

*5-7 April for Phanom Rung
sanctuary*

*May (actual date TBA)
for Thai Rocket Festival*

*8-10 September for Phanom
Rung sanctuary*

*5-7 October for Phanom Rung
sanctuary*



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Email: info@wctravel.com.au web site: www.wctravel.com.au Doc.Ex.: DX21309 Forestville

Please complete & sign this booking request form, cut & remove from this brochure & forward to Well Connected Tours

BOOKING REQUEST

Title Surname (on passport) Given name/s D.O.B. Gender Passport No.+ expiry date Nationality Frequent Flyer No.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

Address _____ Post Code _____

Home tel. _____ Home fax _____ Mobile No. _____

Work tel. _____ Work fax _____ Email _____

Please mark the following boxes and summarise your requirements in the space provided :

I / we wish to join the Well Connected "Phu Phiang" Tour

Travelling date request _____

I / we require single room I / we require twin share room. Name of partner _____

Special requirement/s (eg: vegetarian, diabetic, mobility problem, visual impairment) Occupation _____

I / we wish to purchase economy class flights (detail below) I / we wish to purchase business class flights (detail below)
 I / we wish to redeem frequent flyer points (detail below) I / we wish to accrue frequent flyer points (detail below)

Pre & post tour travel requirements (summary) _____

I / We require travel insurance I / We already have adequate travel insurance
If neither of the last two boxes are marked, it is understood that travel insurance is not required.

I understand & accept the quoted prices, schedule of fees and terms of trade as set out in this brochure and authorise Well Connected Tours to make travel and tour arrangements, as per the above information supplied.

Dated _____ **Print Name** _____ **Signed on behalf of all the above clientele** _____

I authorise Well Connected Tours to charge the amount of AUD _____ against my Visa / Master-card /

American Express / Diners, credit card number _____

expiry date ____/____/____ Name of cardholder _____

Signature of Cardholder _____ Dated _____

NB: A 2% surcharge applies to Visa & Mastercard, a 3% surcharge applies to Diners Club & a 3.178% surcharge applies to AMEX transactions.



Getting there with Thai International

THAI International taking you Smooth as Silk to a new level of comfort and service

THAI International flies 40 times a week from Australia non-stop to Thailand. There are triple daily flights from Sydney to Bangkok, double daily flights from Melbourne and a daily departure from Brisbane. From Perth, THAI has five flights a week to Bangkok, including three via Phuket, Southern Thailand's international gateway to the Andaman coast resort areas. THAI is the only airline offering scheduled services from Perth to Phuket.

Please read these terms of trade very carefully as they form the basis upon which bookings are accepted by Well Connected Tours.

Terms and Conditions

Well Connected Tours – wholesale tour division of Well Connected Travel Pty. Ltd. - Reg. Trading name Baltic Connections

ABN 49 069 387 480 ACN 069 387 480 LIC. No.2TA 4224

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Our professional services are available for the purchase of travel and ancillary services, however the following terms of trade apply:-

1. Deposits and Final Payments: Deposit and final payments as set out in the text of this brochure.
2. Late Bookings: Full payment required with booking.
3. Booking Amendment Fee: Any changes made to a confirmed itinerary after it has been accepted by the client will attract an amendment fee from AUD35 (per booking, per amendment) plus any communications costs in securing further confirmations.
4. Itinerary Planning Service for pre and post tour travel arrangements.

Should a detailed itinerary/quote be requested with flight times and availability, combined with tour and/or accommodation components, a planning fee of \$50 per itinerary will be charged prior to the itinerary being prepared. This fee will be redeemable as part of the deposit when a booking is made.

5. Visa Procurement Fee: A fee of \$50 inclusive of postage is payable in addition to any Government and/or Consular charge.

6. Communication & Bank Costs: Following prior agreement with Well Connected Tours, should a reservation incur communication costs and bank charges above normal costs associated with making a booking, they will be payable by the client.

7. Cancellations: If you cancel your booking of your own accord, the following cancellation charges may apply:

(a) After receipt of AUD100.00 deposit (per person) by Well Connected Tours - forfeiture of deposit

(b) After receipt of deposit and receipt of 50% of the balance (first tranche):

(i) where the cancellation is received prior to 150 days from the departure date, loss of deposit AUD100.00 ONLY.

(c) After receipt of deposit and receipt of 50% of the balance (first tranche) and receipt of the final/last 50% of the balance (second tranche),

where cancellation is received during the period 30 days to departure date and that of the tour date, all monies received will be forfeited

A TRAVEL INSURANCE POLICY COVERING CANCELLATION CHARGES IS STRONGLY RECOMMENDED.

8. Travel Insurance: We strongly recommend that at the time of your booking you purchase comprehensive travel insurance of your choice. Please indicate on the attached 'Booking Request' form, your travel insurance requirement. Please mark ONE box only.

9. Refunds: Well Connected Phu Phiang tour, you are booked on, is cancelled due to lack of numbers or any other unforeseen event, we will endeavor to offer you an alternate departure date. If the new date is unacceptable or we cannot offer you another departure date, all monies paid will be refunded to you.

10. Changes in Prices and Itineraries: Prices are based on tariffs and airfares current as at the date of the invoice. In the event of fluctuations or increases in the price we pay for transportation, accommodation, and services generally, we reserve the right to adjust our prices as may be necessary at any time up to and including the day of departure even though the balance payment may have been made. If we are forced to change your booking due to circumstances beyond our control, we will do all possible to minimise inconvenience and provide alternative/s acceptable to you. We reserve the right to vary your itinerary and will give you notice, including any consequent change in price. In the event that any change, or series of changes, to your itinerary demonstrates that your trip has become materially different from that contemplated prior to the change/s being effected and in respect of which we have already accepted your deposit or balance payment, you have the right to ask for a re-arrangement or to withdraw from the trip and monies already paid will be refunded less any charges levied by suppliers. It is essential to check whether any such changes have occurred before you complete your booking.

11. Not Included in the Cost of the Journey: Passports; visas; airport taxes (where applicable); items of personal nature such as laundry, taxis outside of regular transfers that are provided; telephone calls; excess baggage charges; personal and baggage insurance; portage; postage; facsimiles; e-mail; telegrams; cables; drinks; room service; meals (unless specified) and tips.

12. Pre-Departure Contact: It is essential you advise a telephone number where you can be reached during the 24 hours prior to your cruise departure.

13. Immigration & Health: Passengers should familiarise themselves with any visa or health requirements that may be applicable to the area they intend visiting, and shall be responsible for all entry, exit, health or other documents required by laws, regulations, orders, demands or requirements of the countries visited or transmitted. Each person should carry a valid passport at all times. Persons residing in Australia who do not hold an Australian passport will require an Australian Re-Entry Visa. Kindly note that compliance with prescribed regulations pertaining to passports, visa/s, travel documentation, vaccination/s and customs, are your responsibility and we are not liable for any loss or expense due to non-compliance.

14. Baggage: Economy class free checked baggage allowance on the Eastern Hemisphere / Trans-Siberia / African routing to/from Europe is a maximum of 20 kgs. Business class free checked baggage allowance on the same routing to/from Europe is a maximum of 30kgs. Carry on baggage is not to exceed 7kgs.

15. Liability & Responsibility: (a) All invoices, receipts, coupons, vouchers and tickets are subject to the terms and conditions specified by the suppliers. (b) Well Connected Tours are not themselves carriers or hoteliers, nor do we own aircraft, vessels, hotels or tour operations. We exercise every care in the selection of a reputable airlines, shipping establishments, hotels, tour operators and other suppliers of the various travel services which are used in our itineraries. It is important to note that all bookings with Well Connected Tours are subject to the terms and conditions and limitations of liability imposed by airlines, ship operators, shipping companies, tour operators, hoteliers, rail, car hire and other service providers, whose services we utilise, some of which limit or exclude liability in respect of death, personal injury, delay and loss or damage to baggage. (c) No airline will incur responsibility or liability to any person named in the booking aside from that liability which may be incurred as a carrier. (d) We always do our best to make sure that your travel arrangements are satisfactory and we accept liability for, but only to the extent of, any loss or damage sustained by you as a result of our negligence or that of our employees, associates, or agents. However we cannot accept liability of whatever nature for the acts, omissions or default, whether negligence or otherwise, of those airlines, tour operators, shipping operators, shipping companies, hoteliers or other persons providing services in connection with your trip pursuant to a contract between themselves and yourself (which may be evidenced in writing by the issue of a coupon, voucher, ticket, or the like) and over whom we have no direct or exclusive control. (e) We do not accept any liability in contract or tort for injury, damage, loss, delay, additional expenses or inconvenience based directly or indirectly by force majeure or other events which are beyond our control, or which are not preventable by reasonable diligence on our part, including but not limited to war, civil disturbance, fire, floods, unusually severe weather, acts of God, acts of Government or of any authorities, accidents or failure of machinery or equipment, or industrial action (whether or not involving our employees & even though such action may be settled by acceding to the demands of a labour group).

16. Law of Contract: The contract is governed in all aspects by the law of the State of New South Wales, Australia and any legal action arising under the contract shall be litigated only in the appropriate Court having jurisdiction in that State, except that certain consumer claims may be brought before the Consumer Claims Tribunal having jurisdiction in respect thereof or similar Tribunals in other States or Territories

YOUR TRAVEL AGENT

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your license travel agent or Well Connected Tours
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