

Day Six: Golden Triangle



Last night we had dinner in the garden restaurant at our old but very quaint hotel. Afterwards, still not fully recovered from the Delhi Belly I retired to the room to rest and Wendy went out with a couple of our new friends from the tour group to do a horse and carriage ride through the city.

For some reason I just can't shake this stomach problem, it is mild enough for me to function and enjoy the trip, but I still have that low belly ache that comes and goes and is quite irritating.

We got an early start as we had quite a ways to go to get to Chiang Rai and several stops along the way.



The bus can be a little tiresome on the longer trips but they do stop at least once an hour so you can go to the "happy room" or stretch your legs and every other stop at least is a destination with something to see or do, so all in all not bad at all.

Our first stop was at a lake where they catch shrimp and make the rather disgusting meal pictured on the left where they make a cilantro-like salad and then add LIVE shrimp which you scoop up in the spoon together with the salad and try to swallow before the little buggers jump off the spoon. This is our tour guide demonstrating.

You have GOT to be kidding me; if I have to chase my dinner across the table I am not interested!



We did have an opportunity to shop at the lake – no, not souvenirs, T-shirts and the sort – there was a LIQUOR store! Picked up a 700ml bottle of Scotch Whisky for \$10 and a bottle of SOUTH AFRICAN wine for \$5. Next we headed for most northern tip of Thailand – which happens to be the border between Thailand and Myanmar (previously known as Burma). What a treat that was – INSANE – because

Burmese come across the border to sell their wares so there is a large and crazy market right at the border post. But I did buy a carton of Marlboro ciggies for only \$17.00!!!



“The Northern Most of Thailand”



The bridge crossing the river, half way is the Thai flag, red, white and blue and the other half is the Myanmar flag, yellow, green and red.



The guys in the orange jackets behind Wendy are licensed motorcycle taxis



I think I can, I think I can... gotta love a scooter pulling a big assed trailer! Need to put a hemi in that!



Next we headed for the Golden Triangle. This is where three countries meet in one place – Thailand, Myanmar (Burma), and Laos. The area has a reputation for being the largest exporters (smugglers) of opium and heroin in the world.

Believe it or not, the picture on the left is actually the immigration and passport control building on the Thai side. Not like any federal office I have ever seen!

Once again we found ourselves in a boat to cruise the river that separates all three countries.



Boarding our boat for the Golden Triangle River Cruise – just can't get away from boats!



And this is the Laos immigration center, also not your average looking government building.

Finally we headed for our hotel in Chiang Rai arriving after 6 PM – a long day. Here are some things we saw along the way...



Meals on Wheels... yes, that is hot charcoal burning in the grill while he is driving!



So when the taxi is full, it is just fine to hang onto the back – I hope they gave him a discount!



What the f* did you buy?



Yip, that's wired to code!



Even Monks go on vacation and take pictures



What does that hand signal mean? – “I kill you!”

We all like Lays chips right???



YUM!!!



Uh... not so yum...