

This time Joëlle Gardin, General Manager of Incentive Philosophies, takes us to her favorite places in Thailand...reading between the lines, she was clearly inspired by so much local beauty!...especially the baby elephants ..

I had the privilege of being one of the guests for the Connectionplus 2009 in Thailand in July. After a relaxing flight on board of Thai Airways, we were welcomed with champagne at the airport before being transferred to our various hotels.

I stayed at the **Conrad** in Bangkok

<http://conradhotels1.hilton.com/en/ch/hotels/index.do?ctyhocn=BKKCICI> for my first night. Very nice facilities and comfortable rooms. The

next two nights were at the Sheraton in Krabi

http://www.starwoodhotels.com/sheraton/property/overview/index.html?propertyID=1438&language=en_US

Again, lovely settings and comfortable rooms.

Back to Bangkok I was pleasantly surprised to discover that the Marriott Resort and Spa was closer to the city than I originally thought. Beautiful gardens, superb choice of restaurants and a very creative inspection tour of the hotel, which was a very pleasant surprise after having had so many traditional inspection visits during the previous days.

<http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/bkkth-bangkok-marriott-resort-and-spa/>

The convention ended on Tuesday.

My next destination was the Four Seasons Tent Camp in Chiang Rai

<http://www.fourseasons.com/goldentriangle/>

I was expecting something nice, I found the nirvana. Being a travel organizer for more than twenty years, never in my life had I experienced such a pampering treatment.

The hotel is set right in the middle of the Golden Triangle and is only accessible to its guests, by boat. 15 tents, quite distanced from each other to give you the feeling to be on your own in the middle of nowhere. No noise, except for the gekkos whose shadows appear on the white fabric roof, the birds, the apes.....nature at its wildst.

Of course, the comfort is fabulous: outside shower, terrace with a view, amazing decoration, air conditioning that's quite reasonable

and silent, not mentioning the hot water bottle to warm up your bed at night!

After a short boat ride (5minutes), we were greeted by the host camp. Refreshments were served before we were taken to the room and the magic started.

Excursions are programmed individually: we went to the village and the temple: Thailand twenty years ago....back to the roots. You have a choice of different excursions.

One hour and a half at the spa relaxing with a wonderful massage
And last but not least : the experience with the elephants.

Every morning, at breakfast, baby elephants are waiting for you at the restaurant, craving for bananas you'll be giving them.

But the must is definitely the mahout training. I am proud to tell you that I finally have won my licence as a mahout. Yes I can drive an elephant!!!! Lots of fun, life time experience.

The food is marvelous, you can have cooking classes, wines are great : just make your choice, it is included. So is the minibar in the room, all all the drinks throughout the day.

You can have your cocktail at sunset at the other side of the retreat, they will then drive you back to the dining room.if you do not want to walk.

The boutique offers a very nice selection of scarves, artifacts.. : temptations, temptations.

Definitely a wonderful place worth spending some days away from the world!

All might be included but the cherry on the cake is the attention given by the people who take care of you. Give your brain a break, they are thinking ahead for you. All you have to do is to relax and enjoy.

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