

ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

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NEW
IDEAS
FOR 2015

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THE
\$30,000
GIVEAWAY

win

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HONEYMOON!

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FOR EXOTIC ADVENTURE:

NORTHERN THAILAND

Up until 10 years ago, few tourists ventured to the province of **Chiang Rai** in northern Thailand. This lush part of the country **bordering Myanmar and Laos** is just over an hour by plane from Bangkok but seems light-years away from the buzzing city and the infamous full moon parties of the south. In **Chiang Rai** you'll find mist-shrouded mountains, remote hill tribe villages and an array of truly breathtaking accommodations perfect for a honeymoon escape.

The best way to explore the region is on a customized adventure with **Smiling Albino**, a full-service travel company owned by Canadian expat Daniel Fraser. Fraser co-founded Smiling Albino in 1999 with an eye to providing bespoke trips that mix luxury with authentic local experiences. Since then, Fraser and his team have hosted Saudi princes, Hollywood actors, tech billionaires and rock legends, as well as their fair share of honeymooners, handling everything from airport transfers and day trips to hotel bookings and restaurant reservations.

A typical Smiling Albino tour of Chiang Rai combines adventure and relaxation with a healthy dose of Thai charm. Spend your days biking through remote villages, kayaking past mountain temples on the **Maekok River** and hiking through jungles dotted with stepped tea and rice plantations, then settle in at one of the region's renowned resorts like **Pa Sak Tong**, an all-inclusive private villa that served as the setting for the final rose ceremony during season 17 of *The Bachelor*.

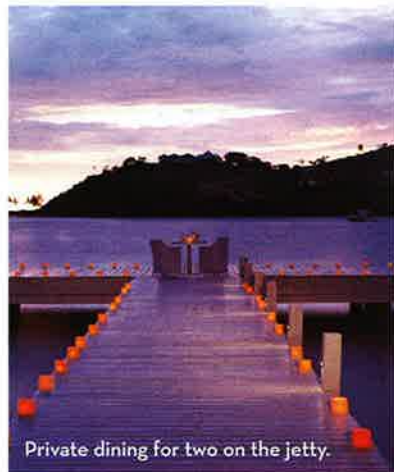
A trip to Chiang Rai also offers the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to get up close and personal with a pachyderm. Venture to **Anantara Golden Triangle Elephant Camp & Resort**, a luxury retreat with unparalleled views of both Myanmar and Laos, and take part in the **Mahout Experience**. As a mahout trainee you'll be assigned an elephant then taught how to communicate with and ride these majestic creatures, before setting out on a trek of nearby nature trails and participating in a river bathing ritual. —Jen O'Brien

Learn more about Thailand at weddingbells.ca/thailand-guide



Clockwise from top left:

Explore the area's lush landscape on a jungle hike. Join an elephant for bath time at Anantara Golden Triangle. Wind down the day with a glass of wine overlooking the rice fields at Pa Sak Tong.



Private dining for two on the jetty.

FOR REST AND RECREATION:

CARLISLE BAY, ANTIGUA

For some fun in the sun, minus the crowds, **Antigua** is the perfect honeymoon hideaway. A tiny island in the **West Indies**, Antigua offers plenty of privacy and lots of beaches—365 in total! When it comes to the sweetest sleep on the island, the luxe **Carlisle Bay** is it. This **Leading Hotels of the World** property is located in southern Antigua and has just 88 rooms ranging from oceanside suites (request one of the honeymoon suites, which comes with your own personal butler) to beachfront grand villas that overlook the sparkling **Caribbean Sea**. There is much to explore at Carlisle Bay, especially if you love the water: **Hobie Cat** sailing, windsurfing, boat excursions and snorkelling trips to nearby reefs are high on the resort's must-do activity list. One of the most breathtaking sights at the resort is the sunrise—be sure to take a morning hike through the adjacent rainforest for an experience that's simply magical. —Roseanne Dela Rosa



Soak up some sun poolside.

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