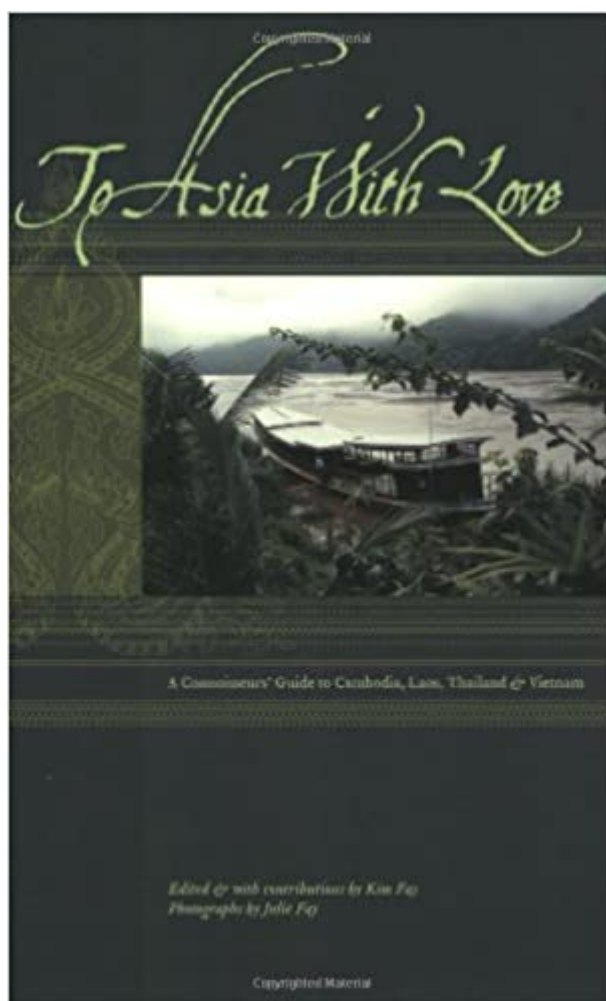


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# To Asia With Love: A Connoisseurs Guide To Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, And Vietnam



## Synopsis

Imagine that on the eve of your upcoming trip to Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, and Vietnam, you are invited to a party. At this party are fifty guests, all of whom live in or have traveled extensively through these countries. Among this eclectic and well-versed group of connoisseurs are authors of acclaimed guidebooks, popular newspaper columnists and pioneering adventurers. As the evening passes, they tell you tales from their lives in these exotic places. They whisper the names of their favorite shops and restaurants; they divulge the secret hideaways where they sneak off to for an afternoon (or a weekend) to unwind. Some make you laugh out loud, and others mesmerize you with their poetry and lyricism. Some are intent on educating, while others just want to entertain. Their attitudes are as unique as their personalities, but they are united in one thing – their love of the region. If you can envision being welcomed at such a party, then you can envision the experience that this guidebook aspires to give you. Within these pages you will find tips for adventuring, eating, shopping, and sightseeing from savvy expatriates, seasoned travelers, and inspired locals. Unlike the typical guidebook, *To Asia With Love* does not offer a comprehensive overview, but instead presents selected recommendations in the form of personal essays and tidbits, each of which is paired with a practical fact file. Discover the benefits of carrying a baseball glove in Laos, go bird watching in the Thai everglades, take a motorbike into the Cardamom Mountains of Cambodia, and immerse yourself in modern art in Vietnam. In addition, one chapter focuses solely on opportunities for giving back to the countries you visit.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This is what makes To Asia With Love stand out from the crowd: its emphasis on helping readers to better understand a destination - rather than merely get lots of information about it - through the experiences of the contributors. - Review by Greg Lowe. --International Herald

Tribune/ThaiDayMost guidebooks are limited to only a couple of writers, and voices, but this one is a real choir...which really represents the polyglot traveller's world of today. Having expats and travelers reveal their favorite getaways, festivals, shops and eating experiences makes this a unique entry in the library of travel lit. - Review by Blake Cheetah. --Farang Untamed Travel Magazine

Kim Fay Pacific Northwest native Kim Fay first traveled to Southeast Asia in 1991. Since then, she spent four years living in Vietnam and has traveled back frequently, writing about the region. As an expert on travel literature and Vietnam, she has been a guest speaker on NPR and has written for numerous publications, including Travel + Leisure. She is the creator and series editor of the To Asia With Love guidebooks and the author of Communion: A Culinary Journey Through Vietnam. She lives in Los Angeles. Julie Fay Ashborn Julie Fay Ashborn's travels through Southeast Asia inspired her photography in To Vietnam With Love, The Little Saigon Cookbook, and Communion: A Culinary Journey Through Vietnam. She was raised in the Pacific Northwest and now lives in Los Angeles with her husband Clive, daughter Charlie, and son Oliver.

...although I happen to be packing it around with me on a 6-month trip. As I move from country to country, I discard my Lonely Planet or Rough Guide at the border, but even when my bag is bursting at the seams, I hold onto this book for the practical, personal recommendations and high caliber of writing, and for inspiration. Written by 50 different people who have lived or traveled extensively in Vietnam, Cambodia, Thailand, and Laos, the passion and enthusiasm they share for this fascinating region is contagious. To put the book in its proper context (I'm paraphrasing here from the excellent foreword), the editor invites us to imagine attending a dinner party with a group of intrepid, experienced Asia-philes and whiling away an evening collecting their stories, insider tips, and invaluable advice. Such an invitation may not appeal to someone who is merely "doing Asia" and wants only a directory of services and costs. But readers who have lived in Asia (or would like to) will relish it, as will every traveler who dreams of having a knowledgeable friend in each of these countries. To Asia With Love is a wonderful resource and worthy travel companion, a journey to a

land that unfolds itself "slowly-slowly". My only complaint is that I still want more....

A fresh take on the typical travel book. Full of stories and interesting places that you wouldn't normally find in a book. Imagine the stories you hear from other travelers while backpacking written down and curated in an excellent way. Will definitely be buying for all future trips.

This book might have been useful before the Internet existed. It's basically a compilation of reviews of different places, restaurants etc. in Southeast Asia. Half of the restaurants don't even exist anymore. You would get more value out of reading Lonely Planet Thorntree form then reading this book.

I bought this based on reviews that I read here on . The book jumps all over the place. One page you are in Northern Vietnam, then to Thailand then back in Vietnam on the next page. Information is poorly grouped together. I got MUCH better information from the Rough Guides.

I give my conclusion here right at the beginning. This is one of the most helpful guides I ever had the fortune to stumble over. It contains all the informations a dedicated lover of Southeast Asia ever wanted to know, and never had my luck to find them... It's a finely printed masterpiece put together by some people who had choosen to travel the region of Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam and Thailand stricktly OFF the trampled paths of legions of backpackers, travellers "on a shoestring" in search of the cheapest food and guesthouse and booze bars and beaches full of semi-naked tourists, etc. etc. etc.... You will find in this guide all but the facts I annoted in the chapter before... All the counseling is made on the most personal base: The counselors have tried out everything by themselves. You will come to know of food, hotels, trips, and yes - coiffeurs and massages (strictly NO sex business!!) etc. that don't cost much more that the "shoestring" version - but make a lot of a difference. All the informations are backed up by the best Websites You can find all around the globe. And that is more than some of the "Big Guides" can say from themselves... You also can take this guide just to give You the right "appetite" to plan a tour to this so fascinating region. A big "Thank You" to all the unselfish writers of personal experiences for let us be part of them. This book takes You into an unknown world - THIS side of Southeast Asia that only a few and very lucky people come to know in a lifetime! Try it out - it's worth every Cent! Word of one very but very very dedicated lover of Asia! PS: The same editor has gone into the details and brought out several To-Asia-with-Love Guides for every state of the region. I have the To Myanmar with Love: A Travel Guide for the Connoisseur (To

Asia with Love) and To Vietnam with Love: A Travel Guide for the Connoisseur (To Asia with Love) right now on my SE-Asia trip and can't wait To-Thailand-with-Love coming out!

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