



Some Facts about Thailand – 1

- Population 72 million (USA 330 million)
- Area 190,000 sq mi (Florida 66,000 sq mi)
- Ethnic groups
 - Ethnic Thai 74%
 - Thai Chinese 14%
 - Others (Malay, Hill Tribes) 12%
- Capital Bangkok



Tuk-Tuk and Driver, Bangkok

Some Facts about Thailand – 2

- Money: Thai Baht
฿32 = US\$1
- Language: Thai
- Religion:
 - Buddhism 93%
 - Islam 6%
 - Others 1%
- Drive on the left



สุขสันต์วันเกิด

Happy Birthday to You

Left to Right.
No spaces between words.



Wat Saket, Bangkok

Brief History of Thailand

Before 1238: Collection of city-states with their own kings.

1238: United as Lanna Kingdom by King Mangrai. aka **Lannathai**.

1238 to 1700s: Prosperity.

1700: Ayutthaya became largest city in the world! **1 million people!**

1767: Conquered by Burma.

1782: Kingdom reunited. **Bangkok capital.**



King Mangrai

Political History of Thailand

- 1238 to 1932 Absolute monarchy. No parliament.
- 1932 Democratic revolution. First constitution plus monarchy.
- 1933 Uprisings by communists, poor, students. Military coup.
- 1932 to today: 20 constitutions each following military coups.

US has generally supported the military coups because they brought stability.

The Thai Monarchy

- Thailand was reunited 1782. Rama I became first king of current dynasty.
- Kings are revered in Thailand.
- Lèse-majesté – offense against the dignity of a reigning sovereign.

"Whoever defames, insults or threatens the King, Queen, the Heir-apparent or the Regent, shall be punished with imprisonment of three to fifteen years."

The Last Four Thai Kings

Rama VII 1925-1935. Last absolute monarch and first constitutional monarch. Constant fighting with parliament. Abdicated 1935.

Rama VIII Ananda Mahidol 1935-1946. Became king as 9-year-old boy living in Switzerland. Died age 19 of gunshot in palace. Brother Bhumibol was last person to visit him.

Rama IX Bhumibol Adyuleyej 1946-2016. Reigned 70 years. Revered.

Rama X Vajiralongkorn. 2016 to present.



King Bhumibol - Rama IX
1946-2016

King Bhumibol and then Crown Prince Vajiralongkorn



King Vajiralongkorn - Rama X Since 2016

King Rama X

Full royal name: Somdet Phra Boromma-orasathirat Chao Fa Maha Vajiralongkorn Bodindradebayavarangkun Sirikittayasombun-sawangwat Worakhattiyarajsantiwong Mahitalaphong Adulayadet Chakkrinaresyuppharajvisut Sayammakutratchakuman.

Short royal name: Rama X.

Education: Primary: Thailand. Secondary: UK. University: Australia. Law Degree: Thailand.

Oldest Thai monarch to ascend to throne: Age 64.

World's wealthiest monarch: US\$30-70 billion est.
Current Residence as Thai King: Mostly Germany.



Thai Government Today

Officially: Bi-cameral constitutional parliamentary monarchy.

2014-2023: Army Commander-in-Chief (Prayut Chan-o-cha) seized control in military coup and became "interim" Prime Minister. Remained 9 years.

Aug 2023: Parliament elected real-estate developer Srettha Thavisin as PM.

Thailand's New PM Aug 2023:

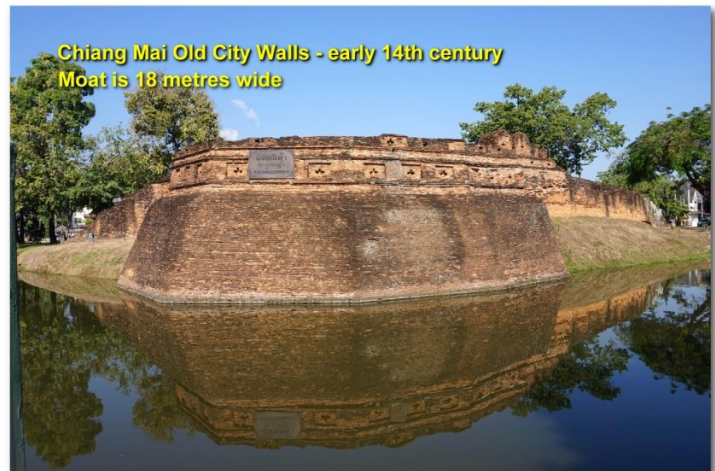
Srettha Thavisin

Real estate developer.

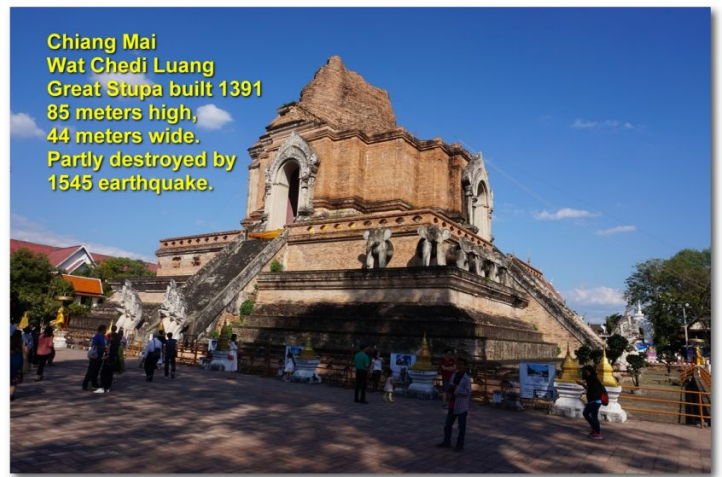
Billionaire. US Educated

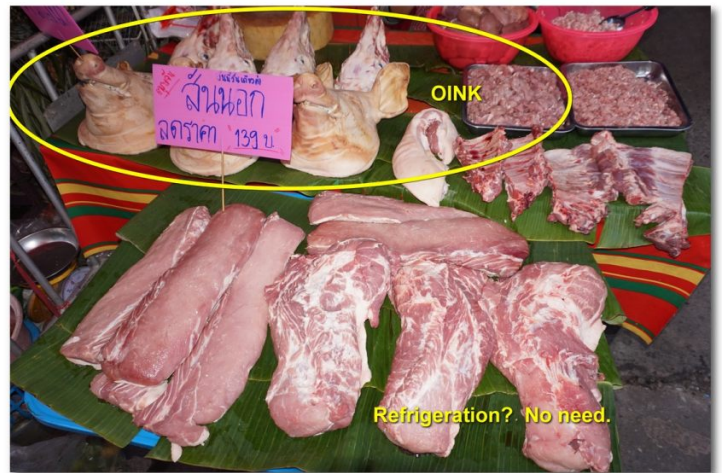
Removed by Courts Aug 2024
After Pressure from Military.

Paetongtarn Shinawatra (born 1986) was appointed PM Aug 2024. Daughter and niece of 2 previous Thai PMs. UK educated. Wealthy business family.











Muang Mai Market
Eels



Muang Mai Market
Street food:
Roasted bananas



Muang Mai Market
Lemongrass



Muang Mai Market
Small prawns
(shrimps)



Muang Mai Market
Fresh fish



Emperor bananas



Muang Mai Market
These bananas are being sold
for elephant food.
Rural farms near Chiang Mai
use elephants for work.

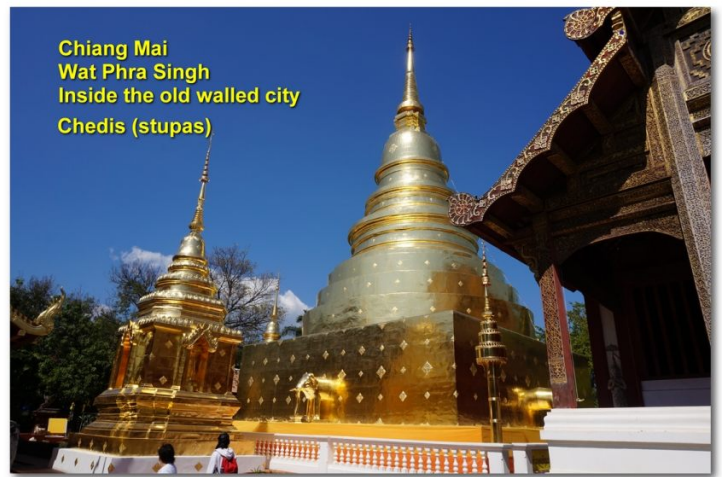


Chiang Mai
Wat Phra Singh
1345 AD

Shoes
Off



Chiang Mai
Wat Phra Singh
Viharn Luang
Buddha was cast 1477



Chiang Mai
Wat Phra Singh
Inside the old walled city
Chedis (stupas)



Chiang Mai
Wat Phra Singh
1345 AD
Viharn Lai Kham



Wat Phra Singh
Restrooms

Many restrooms require you to remove your shoes and use the slippers they provide.



Chiang Mai
Wat Phra Singh
Scripture Hall
Ho Trai



Chiang Mai
Warorot Market
Main central market
Decorated for
Lunar New Year



Warorot Market
Chinese call this Zhong Zhi
Rice with BBQ pork baked
in banana leaf



Warorot Market
Thai Omelette
Not a breakfast item.
Served on top of rice.
Made with eggs
and fish sauce.





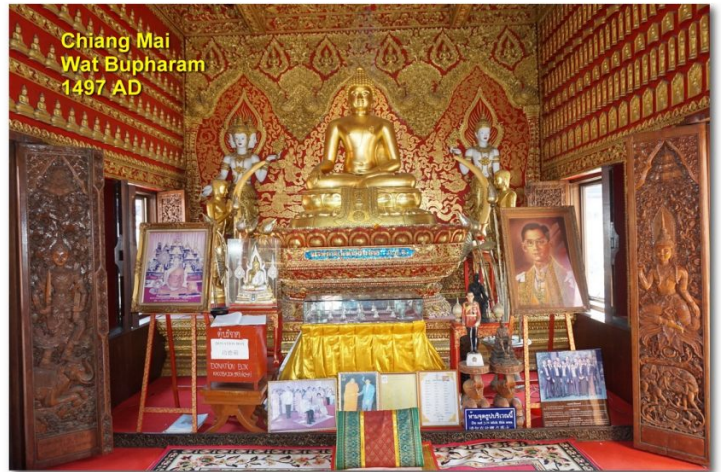
Chiang Mai
Wat Bupharam
1497 AD



Chiang Mai
Wat Bupharam
1497 AD



Chiang Mai
Wat Bupharam
These are Nagas --
serpent gods



Chiang Mai
Wat Bupharam
1497 AD



Chiang Mai
Wat Chai Phra Kiat
16th century

Shoes off
before entering
a Thai temple

Shoe rack



Chiang Mai
Wat Chai Phra Kiat
16th century

This Buddha
was cast in 1566

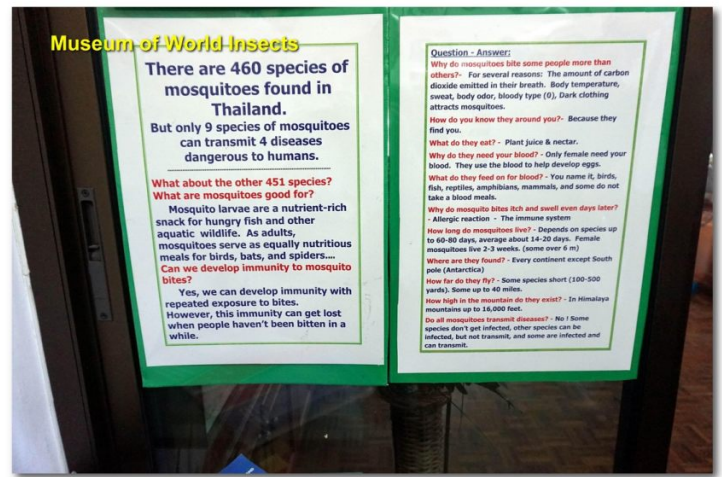


Chiang Mai
Wat Sai Moon Myanmar
Nothing special - but a school



Wat Sai Moon
School







Mailbox
Note use of
24 hour clock



Often found in toilets in less developed Asian countries.
Put used toilet paper in a basket. Do not flush.



Tuk-tuk. Always agree price in advance.
Trip within or close to city walls about \$100 to \$150 (US\$3-4).
Outside centre of town \$200 or so.

Except for going from airport into town, there are virtually no taxis in Chiang Mai!



ATMs are available everywhere (banks, streets, 7-11s, etc).
I prefer to bring cash and change it for Baht in a bank.



A sign we don't see in Florida

IN CASE OF FIRE
DO NOT USE ELEVATOR
กรณีเกิดไฟไหม้ห้ามใช้ลิฟท์
IN CASE OF EARTHQUAKE
DO NOT USE ELEVATOR
กรณีเกิดแผ่นดินไหวห้ามใช้ลิฟท์



Students on a school field trip.



Chiang Mai
Wat Chiang Man
1296 AD



Chiang Mai
Wat Chiang Man
1296 AD



Chiang Mai
Wat Saen Fang
Most buildings
19th century



Chiang Mai
Wat Saen Fang
Burmese-style chedi



Chiang Mai
Wat Duang Dee



Chiang Mai
Wat Duang Dee

White strings (Sai Sin)
symbolize spiritual energy.



Chiang Mai - Wat Duang Dee - silver carving



Wat Phan Tao
Wood
Lanna Style
14th century



Wat Phan Tao
Lanna Style
14th century



Chiang Mai
Wat Inthakin
Sadue Muang
1296 AD



Chiang Mai
Wat Inthakin
Sadue Muang
1296 AD



Chiang Mai
Nightly food court
Chang Klan Road



Nightly food court
Soft spring rolls 30 Baht

Skewers 25 Baht



Outdoor food court
Squid, fish: you pick, they will cook



Plenty of dining tables



Chicken Gizzard
Skewer 25 Baht
Gizzard = throat
or stomach



Outdoor food court
Seafood
Grilled to
order

Prawns

Crabs

Squid

Fish



Outdoor food court
Pig's knuckle with rice

Stewed pork
leg on rice



Wat Jetlin
Chiang Mai
16th century



Wat Jetlin
Chedi
16th century



Chiang Mai
Wat Kuankama
1492 AD



Chiang Mai
Wat Kuankama



Chiang Mai
Wat Loi Khro



Chiang Mai
Wat Loi Khro



Chiang Mai
Wat Lok Malee
16th Century



Chiang Mai
Wat Lok Malee
16th Century



Chiang Mai
Wat Lok Malee
16th Century



Wat Lok Malee
14th century chedi



Wat Sisuphan
Silver Temple
1502 AD

Dress code:
Men: No shorts, no tank tops
Women: No short skirts,
shoulders covered



Wat Sisuphan
Silver Temple
1502 AD



Wat Sisuphan
Silver Temple
1502 AD
Ubosot (Bot)
Ordination Hall



Wat Sisuphan
Silver Temple
1502 AD

ขออภัย! สุภาพสตรีห้ามเข้า
Women are not allowed entering
ordination hall's area



Wat Sisuphan
Silver Temple
1502 AD



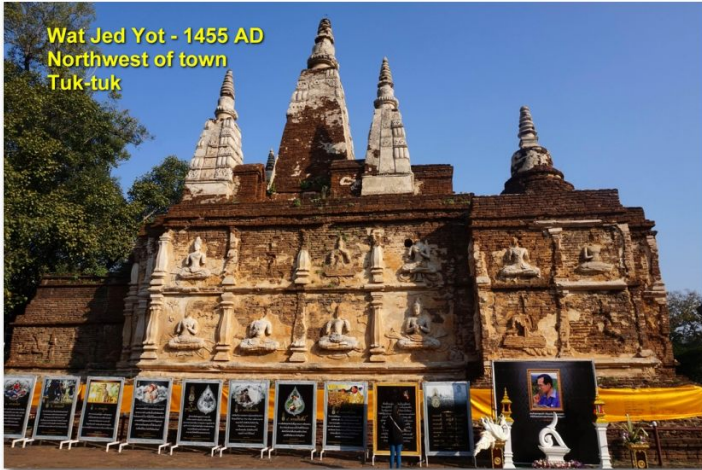
Wat Sisuphan
Silver Temple
1502 AD



Wat Sisuphan
Silver Temple
1502 AD



Wat Sisuphan
Silver Temple
1502 AD



Wat Jed Yot - 1455 AD
Northwest of town
Tuk-tuk



Wat Jed Yot - This is common in many temples
Uposot (Bot)

Lamphun *Pronounced: Lam-poon*

- 20km (12mi) south of Chiang Mai (30 mins).
- Hotel can book air con car and driver (not a guide) 2,000 baht 4 hours.
- Lamphun was capital of Haripunchai Kingdom 790-1292 AD.
- 1292 Haripunchai was conquered by King Mangrai of Lanna.

Must see:

- Haripunchai Temple – 15th c.
- Chamadevi Temple – 13th c.
- Nongdok Market.



Lamphun
Gate to Wat Phra That Hariphunchai
(Hariphunchai Royal Temple complex)



Lamphun
Wat Phra That
Hariphunchai
11th century



Lamphun
Wat Phra That Hariphunchai
Meditation Hall



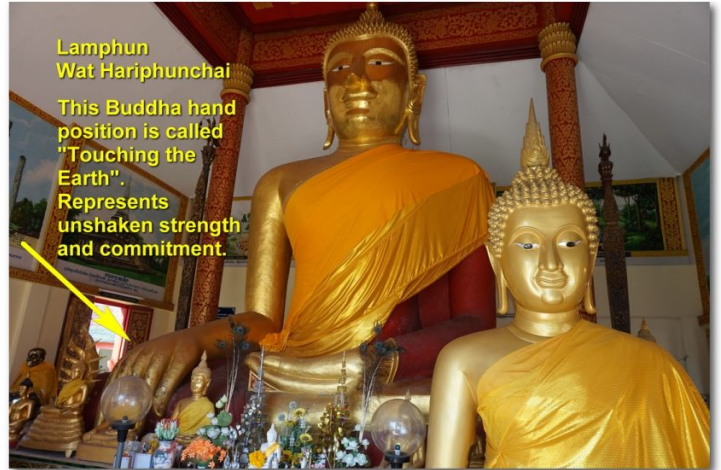
Lamphun
Wat Phra That
Hariphunchai



Lamphun
Wat Hariphunchai



Lamphun
Wat Hariphunchai



Lamphun
Wat Hariphunchai
This Buddha hand
position is called
"Touching the
Earth".
Represents
unshaken strength
and commitment.



Lamphun
Wat Hariphunchai
Chedi Suwan , 1418
21 metres (69 feet)
Mon Style



Lamphun
Wat Chamadevi
Mahabol Chedi, 1218
21 metres (69 feet)
Chedi contains the
ashes of Queen
Chamadevi, 663 AD



Lamphun
Wat Chamadevi
Prayer Hall



Lamphun
Wat Chamadevi
Prayer Hall

King Bhumbol
when he was
a monk



Lamphun
Nongdok Market



Lamphun
Nongdok Market



Lamphun
Nongdok Market

Chinese Cabbage

Radish

Bitter Marrow



Lamphun
Nongdok Market
Giant Water Bugs
Served Fried

Notice the pincers are tied



Lamphun
Nongdok Market
Eels



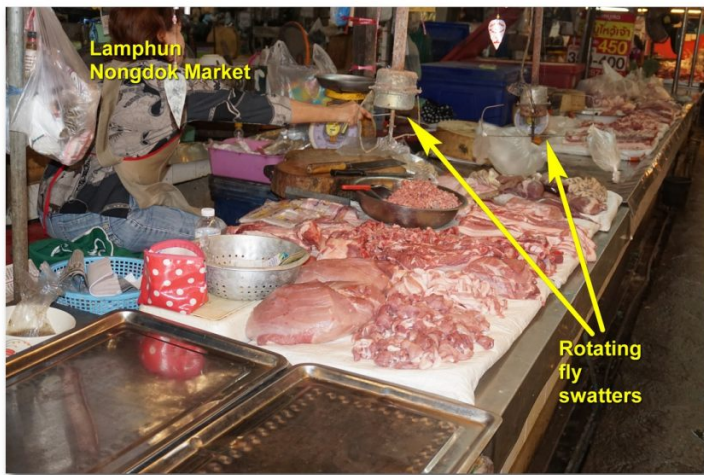
Lamphun
Nongdok Market
Turtles (to eat)



Lamphun - Nongdok Market
Do you know what these flowers are?
You have eaten the fruit many times.



Lamphun
Nongdok Market
Chilli pastes



Dining in Chiang Mai
 This comment on the Internet says it all:
 “Nowhere... have I eaten so well, so cheaply, so grandly and with so much joy as in the northern Thai city of Chiang Mai.”

High-end Hotels.
 Restaurants and Noodle Shops: **Hundreds.**
 Food Courts.
 Night Markets.
 Street Vendors and Food Trucks: **Thousands?**
And a French bistro to rival Paris!

Typical Noodle Shop Menu

เลือก 15.- Small bowl

฿50 = US\$1.50

฿15 = US 50 cents

เลือกกลับบ้าน 40.-
 บริการผักสด และ น้ำแข็งพริบ: จี:
 Take home 40.- Fresh Fresh Vegetable and ice



Menus typically have English and/or photographs
 These dishes all under US\$2

*** For any special order or Beef Menu +10 Baht





"Butter is Better" Restaurant
Cheese blintzes in the mountains of north Thailand



American food for a change?
How about a meatball sub?



Noodle soup
with entrails



Unbelievable! In the mountains of northern Thailand
a real French bistro run by a former chef at the
Royal Palace. A splurge, but worth it!



Just like being in the French countryside!

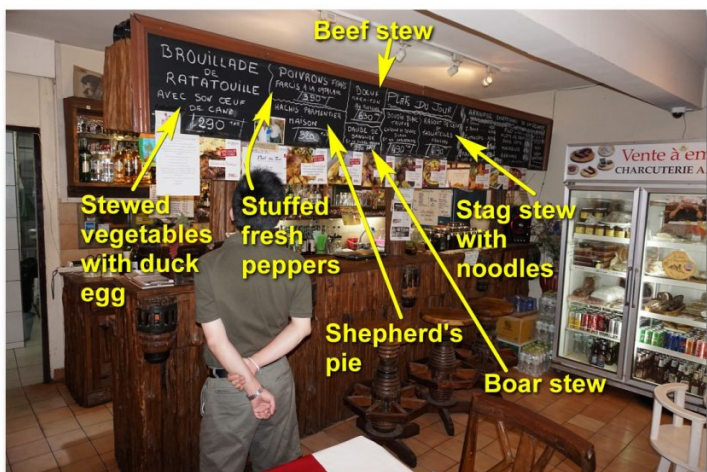


Le Bistrot Restaurant - Chiang Mai
Chef Patrick



Charcuterie

Gratin de Cateau



Beef stew

Stewed vegetables
with duck
egg

Stuffed
fresh
peppers

Shepherd's
pie

Stag stew
with
noodles

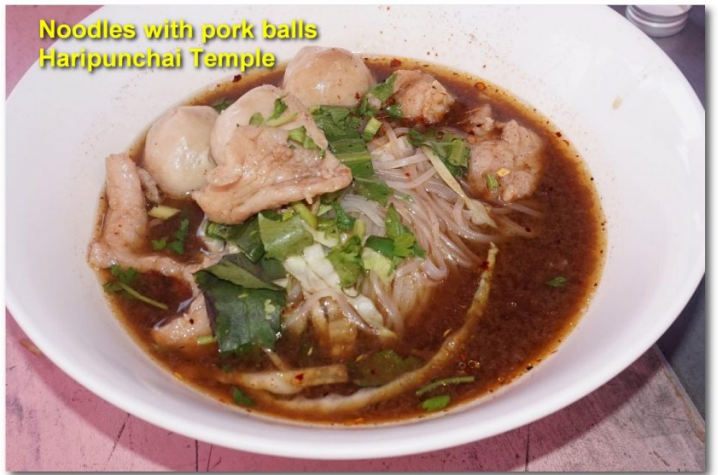
Boar stew



Le Bistrot
Seafood Salad



Le Bistrot
Boeuf
Bourguignon



Noodles with pork balls
Haripunchai Temple



Green Curry
with Chicken



Fried Rice with Sausage



Noodle Soup with
Pork Balls

Mango
Juice



Prawns and
Pomelo Salad



Pad Thai - stir fried rice noodles, tamarind flavor





THE END

www.PaulVisits.com

Paul Presentations Coming Up 2H2025

| | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Northern Thailand - | |
| Chiang Mai-Lamphun | Mon, July 7, 3-4:00pm. |
| London Part 1 | Mon, Sept 15, 3-4:00pm. |
| London Part 2 | Mon Oct 6, 3-4:00pm. |
| Barbados | Mon, Nov 3, 3-4:00pm. |
| Southeast of Naples | |
| Along Tamiami Trail | Mon, Dec 1, 3-4:00pm. |