

FACES OF
SOUTHEAST
ASIA

A P H O T O - E S S A Y B Y R O B B I E Q U I N N

FACES OF
SOUTHEAST
ASIA

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FACES OF SOUTHEAST ASIA

PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROBBIE QUINN



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This photographic essay is a collaboration of my photographs coupled with my partner Paul's vision and creativity. His technical assistance and guidance kept me on course, making the publishing of this photographic essay possible.

ROBBIE QUINN



FACES OF SOUTHEAST ASIA

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FACES OF SOUTHEAST ASIA

ROBBIE QUINN'S PHOTO ESSAY SHOT ON LOCATION IN SOUTHEAST ASIA FROM 2001-2016

These photographs were shot on location in Burma (Myanmar), Cambodia, Laos PDR and Vietnam during Robbie's many trips to Southeast Asia and feature a good cross-section of the facial characteristics of the people who occupy these regions.

The subjects are mainly drawn from the ethnic minorities who inhabit these countries. Many groups are represented including Akha, Black Tai, Hmong, Intha, Karen, Lanten, Mien, Montagnard, Palaung, Pa O and Shan.

Southeast Asia is a vast mixing pot of cultures, which has been enriched over time through invasions, migrations, inter-country trade and warfare.

Influences recognisable include Arab, Aryan, Burmese, Chinese, European, Indian, Khmer, Lao, Mongol, Nepalese, Thai, Vietnamese and many other cultures that have ventured east.

The following photographs graphically illustrate some of these influences.

BURMA

1



FILM: KODAK 400 ASA B/W

SUBJECT:
STREET SELLER,
RANGOON (YANGON), BURMA.
Bogyoke Aung San Road (named
after Aung San Suu Kyi's father,
a revered national hero) is crammed
with street vendors selling cheap
Bamar, Chinese and Indian food.

COMMENTS:

Photographed on location December 2010



FILM: KODAK 400 ASA B/W

SUBJECT:
BUDDHA IMAGE,
SHWEDAGON PAYA,
RANGOON (YANGON), BURMA.
The most sacred of all Buddhist sites
in all of Burma (Myanmar). It is the
dream and hope of all Burmese, that
they visit it once in their lifetime.

COMMENTS:

Photographed on location December 2015



FILM: KODAK 400 ASA B/W

SUBJECT:
BUDDHIST MONK,
SHWEDAGON PAYA,
RANGOON (YANGON), BURMA.
All Burmese boys between the ages
of 7-20 years are obligated to become
a novice monk for a temporary period.
Many of them remain and become fully
ordained monks. There are five hundred
thousand (500,000) monks in Burma.

COMMENTS:

Photographed on location December 2010



FILM: **KODAK 400 ASA B/W**

SUBJECT:
BAMAR STREET VENDOR,
RANGOON (YANGON), BURMA.

COMMENTS:

Photographed on location December 2015



FILM: KODAK 400 ASA B/W

SUBJECT:
CHEROOT SMOKER,
ANANADA PAHTO,
BAGAN, BURMA.

Chewing betel nut or smoking cheroots is a national pastime. Cheroots are hand rolled with tobacco leaves and other fragrant stalks and then rolled inside than hpet leaf.

COMMENTS:

Photographed on location December 2015



FILM: KODAK 400 ASA B/W

SUBJECT:
BUDDHA IMAGE,
BAGAN, BURMA.

For Buddhists, the highest action for gaining merit is to build pagodas. By the end of the thirteenth century, over four thousand pagodas had been built in Bagan.

COMMENTS:

Photographed on location December 2015



FILM: KODAK 400 ASA B/W

SUBJECT:

NOVICE MONKS,
BAGAN, BURMA.

When a young boy takes the robe and bowl, it is a great merit earning occasion. Entering into the novicehood is called the Shinbyu ceremony.

COMMENTS:

Photographed on location December 2010



FILM: KODAK 400 ASA B/W

SUBJECT:
BUDDHA IMAGE,
NANDAMANNYA PAHTO,
BAGAN, BURMA.

Built in the mid thirteenth century.
This single chambered temple has
some exquisite frescoes, plus this
smiling Buddha image.

COMMENTS:

Photographed on location December 2015



FILM: KODAK 400 ASA B/W

SUBJECT:

BAMAR,
BAGAN, BURMA.

Burmese people paint their faces with thanakha paste, made from the bark of the Thanakha tree. It helps to prevent sunburn and to keep the wearers skin cool in the Burmese heat.

COMMENTS:

Photographed on location December 2010

10



FILM: KODAK 400 ASA B/W

SUBJECT:
BAMAR,
MYEBONTHAH PAYA,
BAGAN, BURMA.

A magical experience, due to this helpful Bamar locating the key holder, who lit candles on the narrow steps of the interior stairs. We literally crawled up to the next level and were rewarded with a superb view of Bagan.

COMMENTS:

Photographed on location December 2010



FILM: KODAK 400 ASA B/W

SUBJECT:
THANAKHA PAINTED
MOTHER AND SON,
SHWEZIGON PAYA,
BAGAN, BURMA.

Built in the eleventh century, the rocks used to build this pagoda were passed along rows of devotees for six miles to the construction site. It was the first pagoda to allow "Nat" images (pre Buddhist spirits) within its walls.

COMMENTS:

Photographed on location December 2010

12



FILM: KODAK 400 ASA B/W

SUBJECT:

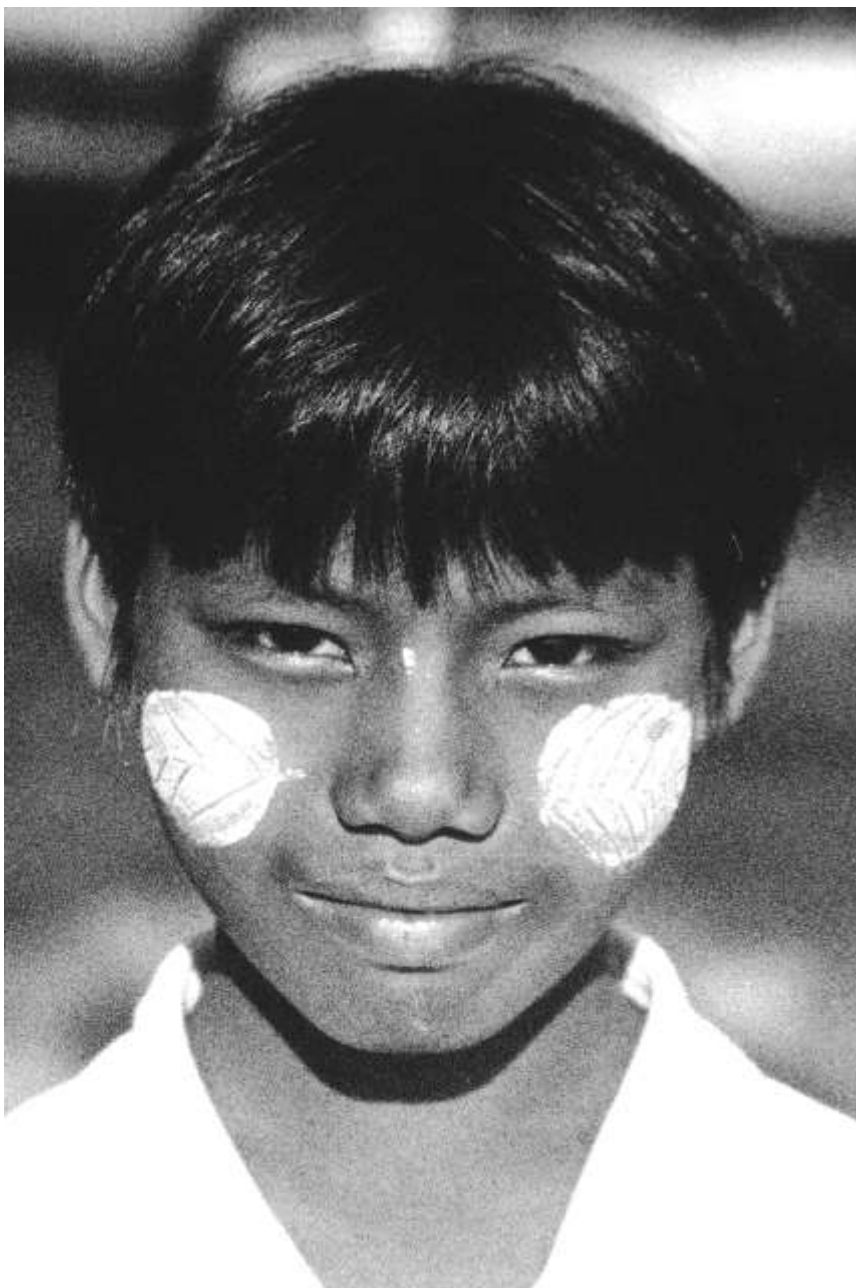
TEMPLE GUARD,
ANANADA PAHTO,
BAGAN, BURMA.

Ananada Pahto built in 1091 AD,
is the largest, best preserved and most
revered of all the Bagan temples.

COMMENTS:

Photographed on location December 2015

13



FILM: KODAK 400 ASA B/W

SUBJECT:
FACE OF BURMA,
BAGAN, BURMA.

COMMENTS:

Photographed on location December 2015



FILM: KODAK 400 ASA B/W

SUBJECT:
MONK,
SHWEZIGON PAYA,
BAGAN, BURMA.

A monk from Yangon visiting the superb Shwezigon Paya. Fifty five (55) Bagan Kings, built four thousand four hundred (4400) temples, over two hundred and thirty (230) years.

COMMENTS:

Photographed on location December 2015



FILM: KODAK 400 ASA B/W

SUBJECT:

**BAMAR/MON,
BAGAN, BURMA.**

The Mon people, one of the earliest inhabitants of Burma (Myanmar). Due to persistent conquering and the resulting intermarriage, they now represent only 2% of the population. This can be compared with the Bamar, who now make up 68%.

COMMENTS:

Photographed on location December 2010



FILM: KODAK 400 ASA B/W

SUBJECT:
BUDDHA IMAGE,
MANUHA PAYA,
BAGAN, BURMA.

At fourteen metres high, the seated Buddha's appear too large for their enclosure. On climbing the stairs, you can see the Buddha image, so grim from below, is in fact smiling.

COMMENTS:

Photographed on location December 2015



FILM: **KODAK 400 ASA B/W**

SUBJECT:
NOVICE - TO - BE,
SHINBYU CEREMONY,
BAGAN, BURMA.

There was much fanfare at this mass noviciation. Twenty plus boys were paraded around the village on the backs of ornately decorated horses. After much festivity, they were led to the monastery. There they spend a minimum of a week or a maximum of a lifetime.

COMMENTS:

Photographed on location December 2010



FILM: KODAK 400 ASA B/W

SUBJECT:
YOUNG BOY,
SHINBYU CEREMONY,
BAGAN, BURMA.
Young boys are beautifully dressed
in princely costumes (attributed to
Buddha's son being a prince).

COMMENTS:

Photographed on location December 2010



FILM: KODAK 400 ASA B/W

SUBJECT:
NOVICANT,
SHINBYU CEREMONY,
BAGAN, BURMA.
The novicants are shaded with gilded
umbrellas, held by adoring parents.

COMMENTS:

Photographed on location December 2010



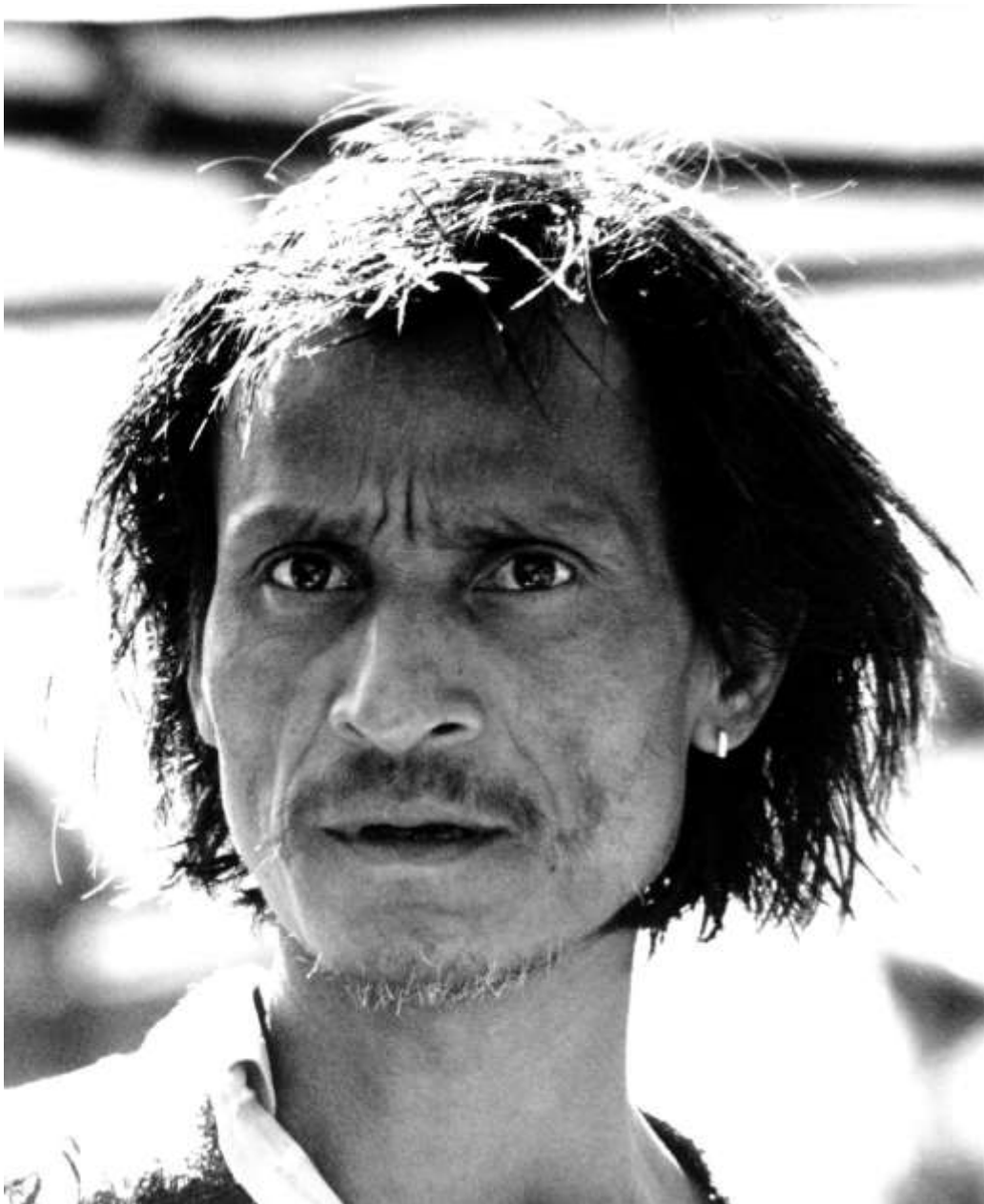
FILM: KODAK 400 ASA B/W

SUBJECT:
GIRLS,
SHINBYU CEREMONY,
BAGAN, BURMA.

While the boys are noviciated, young girls, usually family members, have their ears pierced so they can wear earrings when they come of age.

COMMENTS:

Photographed on location December 2010



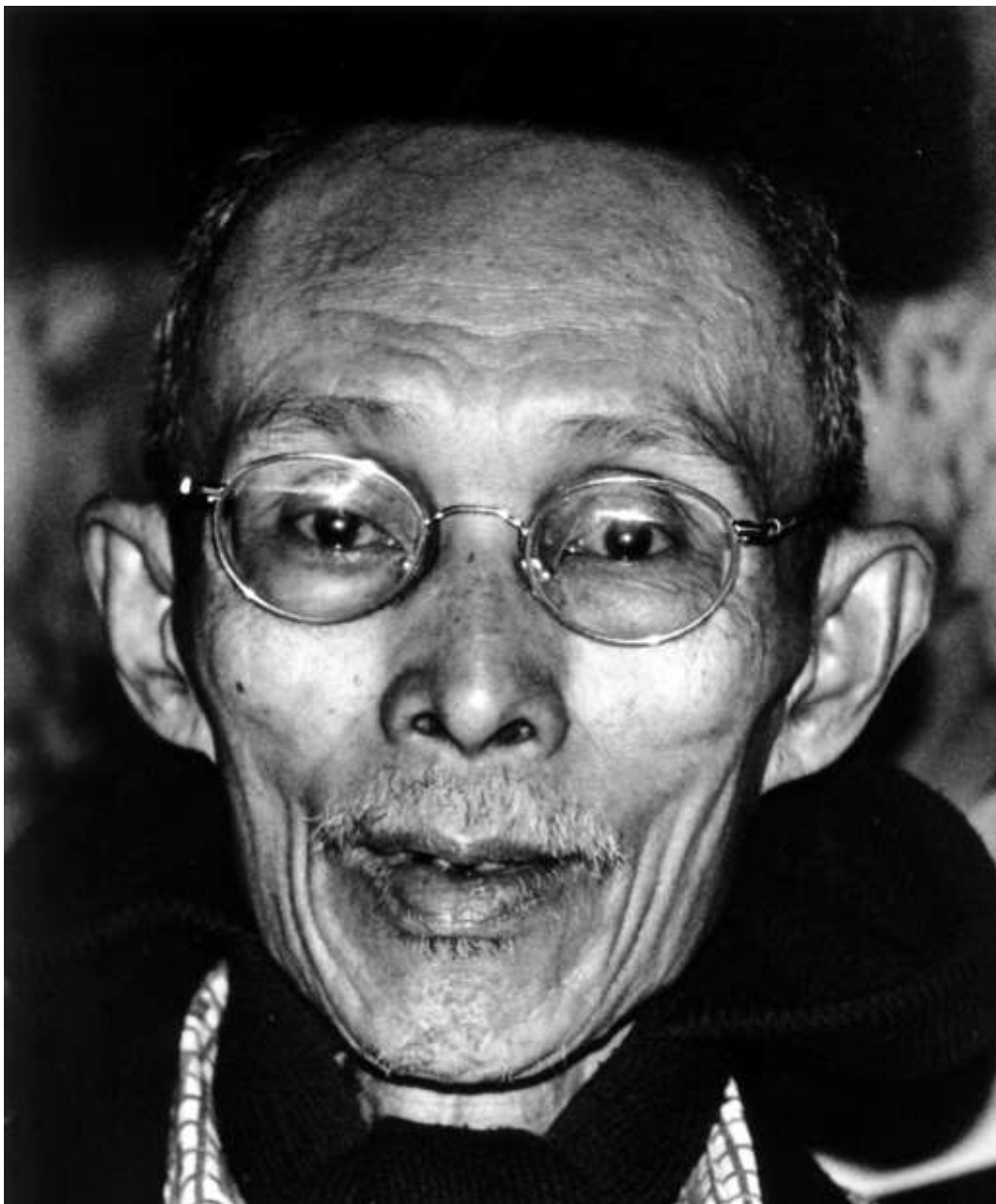
FILM: KODAK 400 ASA B/W

SUBJECT:
KALAW VILLAGER,
KALAW, BURMA.

Twenty thousand people live in Kalaw. The population is a mix of Shan, Indian, Muslim, Bamar, Nepalese and numerous ethnic minority groups. Kalaw was once a popular hill-station during British colonial times.

COMMENTS:

Photographed on location December 2010



FILM: KODAK 400 ASA B/W

SUBJECT:
STORE KEEPER,
KALAW, BURMA.

The Kalaw day market is a maze of alleyways, people and produce for sale. This man, of uncertain ethnic lineage, is typical.

COMMENTS:

Photographed on location December 2015



FILM: KODAK 400 ASA B/W

SUBJECT:

SILVER PALAUNG,
PEIN NE BIN VILLAGE,
KALAW, BURMA.

Strongly superstitious, Palaung women wear a variety of hoops, belts and sashes around their waist. According to their beliefs, these talismans protect the wearer and bring good luck.

COMMENTS:

Photographed on location December 2015



FILM: KODAK 400 ASA B/W

SUBJECT:
KAREN,
KALAW MARKET,
BURMA.

The second largest ethnic minority after the Shan. An informal ceasefire between the Karen and Myanmar junta deteriorated in 2006. Ethnic cleansing by the government has resumed.

COMMENTS:

Photographed on location December 2015



FILM: **KODAK 400 ASA B/W**

SUBJECT:

PA O,
KALAW, BURMA.

There are many regional variations of clothing among the Pa O, but they predominantly wear indigo dyed longhis, long shirts with brightly coloured turbans and carry woven shoulder bags.

COMMENTS:

Photographed on location December 2015



FILM: KODAK 400 ASA B/W

SUBJECT:
SILVER PALAUNG,
KALAW, BURMA.

Famous for their brightly coloured
hand woven tribal clothing.
Silver Palaung live in remote villages
and sustain their living by weaving
and tea growing.

COMMENTS:

Photographed on location December 2010



FILM: **KODAK 400 ASA B/W**

SUBJECT:

PA O,
KALAW, BURMA.
Kalaw, Inle Lake, Pyin U Lwin,
Kengtung and Hsipaw at the
time of our visit were open to
travellers. Most of the Shan
State was restricted due to
insurgency.

COMMENTS:

Photographed on location December 2010



FILM: KODAK 400 ASA B/W

SUBJECT:
FACE IN THE CROWD,
CENTRAL MARKET,
KALAW, BURMA.

COMMENTS:

Photographed on location December 2010



FILM: KODAK 400 ASA B/W

SUBJECT:

PA O,
INLE LAKE, BURMA.

Pa O (Black Karen) belong to the Shan ethnic group which makes up 9% of the people of Burma. Courtesy of the Pa O, we experienced great hospitality and superb food. It was a wrench to have to leave.

COMMENTS:

Photographed on location January 2010



FILM: KODAK 400 ASA B/W

SUBJECT:
INTHA,
INLE LAKE, BURMA.

Intha villages are built on high stilts on the lake itself. Ingenious and industrious, the Intha cultivate crops hydroponically on man made floating garden islands, which are anchored to the lakebed with bamboo stakes.

COMMENTS:

Photographed on location January 2010



FILM: KODAK 400 ASA B/W

SUBJECT:
INTHA,
INLE LAKE, BURMA.

The Intha have a unique way of rowing their long and narrow boats. They use a leg to move the oar, with one arm used to pivot and give the oar leverage. This method is used to conserve energy and allows the oarsman to use his free arm for other activities whilst rowing.

COMMENTS:

Photographed on location January 2010



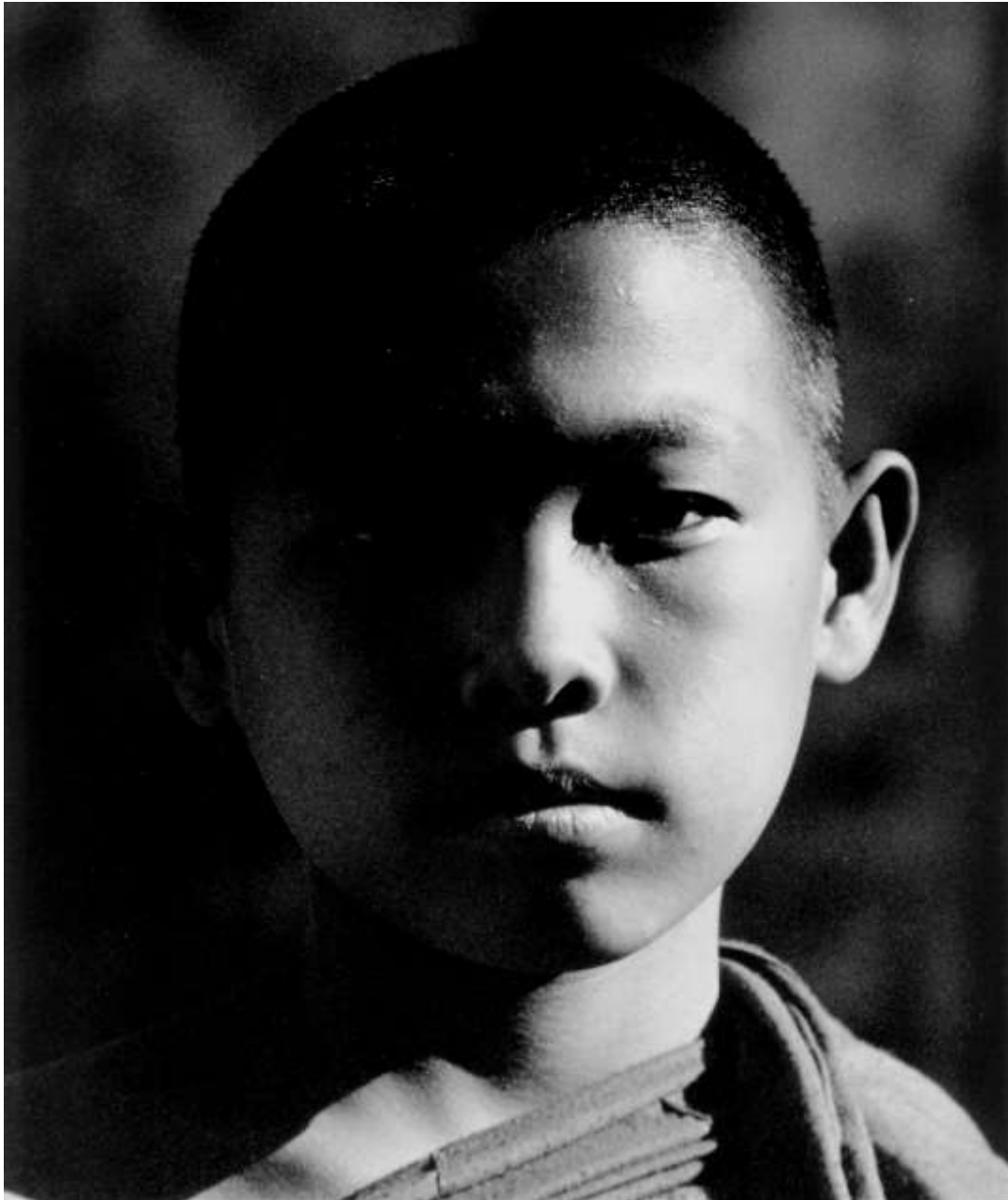
FILM: **KODAK 400 ASA B/W**

SUBJECT:
SHAN,
INLE LAKE, BURMA.

Kyauk Daing five day market, where the Pa O people sell wood and collect weekly supplies. The market was bustling with ox carts and long boats stacked high with their purchases and not another foreigner in sight. A lot of film was shot here.

COMMENTS:

Photographed on location January 2010



FILM: KODAK 400 ASA B/W

SUBJECT:
BUDDHIST MONK ,
INDEIN PAYA,
INLE LAKE, BURMA.

The Pagoda rests on the western bank of Inle Lake. The pagoda complex is home to five hundred shrines hidden in the hills and reached by long boat.

COMMENTS:

Photographed on location January 2015



FILM: **KODAK 400 ASA B/W**

SUBJECT:
CARVED CELESTIAL,
INDEIN PAYA,
INLE LAKE, BURMA.

A delicately carved Celestial stands guard at a shrine at the Indein Paya. The impressive weather beaten stupas have thankfully so far escaped government restoration.

COMMENTS:

Photographed on location January 2015



FILM: KODAK 400 ASA B/W

SUBJECT:
SHAN TRADER,
MAING THAUK,
INLE LAKE, BURMA.

Betel nut blends were in hot demand at this market. Connoisseurs could choose from sweet, hot or bitter. We politely declined the sellers kind invitation to try some.

COMMENTS:

Photographed on location January 2010



FILM: KODAK 400 ASA B/W

SUBJECT:
SHAN,
SANKAR,
SOUTHERN INLE LAKE,
BURMA.

Sankar only opened to foreigners in 2003. Few travellers make the trip. The men from the unspoilt villages of Sankar, Taung To and Tharkhaung are known for their talismanic tattoos and superstitions.

COMMENTS:

Photographed on location January 2010



FILM: KODAK 400 ASA B/W

SUBJECT:
SHAN FLOWER SELLER,
INLE LAKE, BURMA.
Palaung, Pa O, Intha, Shan, Taung-yo
Kayah, Danaw, Danu and Bamar people
trade flowers, fish, vegetables, tea, wood
and clothing at the five day markets.

COMMENTS:

Photographed on location January 2010



FILM: KODAK 400 ASA B/W

SUBJECT:
SHAN BOATMAN,
DOKHTAWADY RIVER,
HSIPAW, BURMA.

Heading up river for a days trekking
and sightseeing in an old, leaky longboat.
Due to the volume of the water entering
the boat, one man spent three hours
bailing non-stop.

COMMENTS:

Photographed on location January 2010



FILM: KODAK 400 ASA B/W

SUBJECT:
MONK,
KYAUNG (MONASTERY),
HSIPAW, BURMA.

Three hours upriver towards China from Hsipaw. Our guide and the Abbott gave us an interesting insight into life in and around Hsipaw. There is still forced conscription into the army and arrests for failing to produce the required rice quota.

COMMENTS:

Photographed on location January 2010

40



FILM: **KODAK 400 ASA B/W**

SUBJECT:
SHY MONK,
MONASTERY,
HSIPAW, BURMA.

Monastery north of Hsipaw. Home to ten novices, who were either evading military conscription, or had been abandoned by their parents and left under the guidance of their mentor, the Abbott.

COMMENTS:

Photographed on location January 2010



FILM: **KODAK 400 ASA B/W**

SUBJECT:

**SHAN IN PITH HELMET,
BURMA ROAD, BURMA.**

Photographed on the infamous Burma Road, once off limits to foreigners due to ethnic insurgency and closeness to the Chinese communists.

COMMENTS:

Photographed on location January 2010

CAMBODIA

42



FILM: **ILFORD HP5 PLUS**

SUBJECT:
SERENE STATUE,
SOUTH GATE, BAYON,
ANGKOR, SIEM REAP,
CAMBODIA.

One of the many identical statues,
that line the entrance to Angkor Thom,
via the south gate.

COMMENTS:

Photographed on location January 2004

43



FILM: **ILFORD HP5 PLUS**

SUBJECT:
STATUE,
SOUTH GATE, BAYON,
ANGKOR, SIEM REAP,
CAMBODIA.

COMMENTS:

Photographed on location January 2004



FILM: **ILFORD HP5 PLUS**

SUBJECT:
STATUE,
SOUTH GATE, BAYON,
ANGKOR, SIEM REAP,
CAMBODIA.

COMMENTS:

Photographed on location January 2004



FILM: ILFORD HP5 PLUS

SUBJECT:
JAYAVARMAN V11,
BAYON, ANGKOR,
SIEM REAP, CAMBODIA.

The Bayon at Angkor Thom, a fortified city ten kilometres square, built by the greatest living king Jayavarman V11. The serene smiles on the thousands of statues of the Bayon are said to have been of the great king himself.

COMMENTS:

Photographed on location January 2004



FILM: **ILFORD HP5 PLUS**

SUBJECT:
A LITTLE URCHIN,
ANGKOR THOM,
SIEM REAP, CAMBODIA.
A little urchin guided us around the
sights of Angkor Thom.

COMMENTS:

Photographed on location January 2004



FILM: ILFORD HP5 PLUS

SUBJECT:
KHMER TRADER,
MIDDLE MARKET,
PHNOM PENH,
CAMBODIA.
A trader strikes a deal.

COMMENTS:

Photographed on location January 2004

LAOS



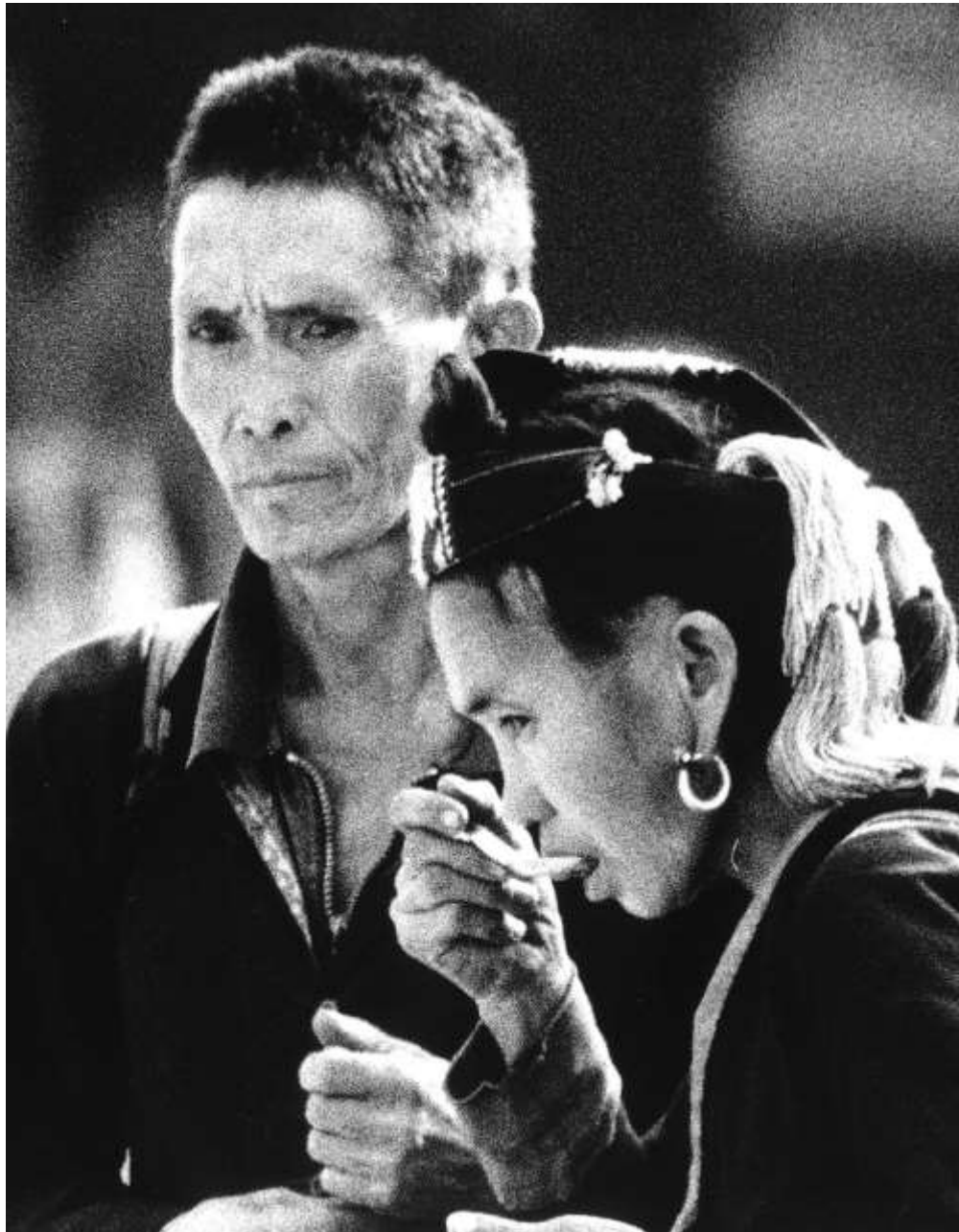
FILM: ILFORD HP5 PLUS

SUBJECT:
RECLINING BUDDHA,
PHU SI MOUNTAIN,
LUANG PRABANG,
LAOS PDR.

On the upper slopes of the sacred
Phu Si mountain rests the Buddha.

COMMENTS:

Photographed on location December 2003



FILM: ILFORD HP5 PLUS

SUBJECT:
HMONG,
LUANG PRABANG MARKET,
LUANG PRABANG,
LAOS PDR.
Peddlers from the hills, relaxing after
a hard days trading.

COMMENTS:

Photographed on location December 2003



FILM: **ILFORD HP5 PLUS**

SUBJECT:

LAO,
NONG KHIAW,
NAM OU RIVER,
LAOS PDR.

One of the best journeys in Laos.
This boy, photographed on an eight
hour boat trip, a real adventure, forging
through rapids and right in the middle
of some of the most picturesque and
spectacular scenery in Southeast Asia.

COMMENTS:

Photographed on location December 2003

51



FILM: **ILFORD HP5 PLUS**

SUBJECT:
HMONG,
BAN NA OUANE,
LUANG PRABANG PROVINCE,
LAOS PDR.

Hmong were resettled here in the 1960's. The government was concerned that their slash and burn agriculture was having an environmentally adverse impact on the Tat Kuang Si Waterfall. Financially, they survive due to the women selling weavings.

COMMENTS:

Photographed on location December 2003



FILM: ILFORD HP5 PLUS

SUBJECT:
BLACK TAI,
LUANG PRABANG,
LAOS PDR.

Their dress is distinctive. Long sleeved, tight fitting blouse with a row of intricate butterfly shaped silver buttons down the front, long indigo coloured skirt and indigo bonnet with red trim.

COMMENTS:

Photographed on location December 2003



FILM: KODAK 400 ASA B/W

SUBJECT:
MR PHOTOGENIC,
CHAMPASAK,
LAOS PDR.

Entering Southern Laos, customs requested that travellers heading south, SHOW ALL WEAPONS. We knew we were in for a fun time in the wild south.

COMMENTS:

Photographed on location December 2004



FILM: KODAK 400 ASA B/W

SUBJECT:
LAO SCHOOLGIRLS,
CHAMPASAK,
LAOS PDR.

Tourism is poised to change this idyllic backwater forever. Thankfully we saw it at a time when its historic past was still clearly evident.

COMMENTS:

Photographed on location December 2004

55



FILM: KODAK 400 ASA B/W

SUBJECT:
A SMILEY FACE,
CHAMPASAK,
LAOS PDR.

This delightful girl's father took us elephant trekking, on a fifty five (55) year old flatulent elephant that was as sure footed as the day she was born. She had a bullet hole through her right ear and still works every day logging.

COMMENTS:

Photographed on location December 2004



FILM: KODAK 400 ASA B/W

SUBJECT:
LAO,
CHAMPASAK,
SOUTHERN LAOS,
LAOS PDR.
En route across the mighty Mekong
to Wat Phu, Champasak.

COMMENTS:

Photographed on location December 2004

57



FILM: KODAK 400 ASA B/W

SUBJECT:

LAO,
CHAMPASAK,
SOUTHERN LAOS,
LAOS PDR.

One of the inhabitants of Wat Phu,
a rambling complex of Khmer ruins,
dating from the sixth to the eighth
century AD.

COMMENTS:

Photographed on location December 2004



FILM: **KODAK 400 ASA B/W**

SUBJECT:

LAO,
DON DET, SI PHAN DON,
(4000 ISLANDS),
SOUTHERN LAOS,
LAOS PDR.

An idyllic tropical island. All the more interesting for the occasional outbursts of lawlessness, when young, wild, AK47 toting insurgents from neighbouring Cambodia pop over for a bit of mischief.

COMMENTS:

Photographed on location December 2004



FILM: KODAK 400 ASA B/W

SUBJECT:
DON DET LOCAL,
DON DET, SI PHAN DON,
(4000 ISLANDS),
SOUTHERN LAOS,
LAOS PDR.

Traditions and the Lao way of life remain unchanged in Si Phan Don, making it an ideal place for some rest and recreation.

COMMENTS:

Photographed on location December 2004

60



FILM: KODAK 400 ASA B/W

SUBJECT:
FRIENDLY LOCAL,
DON DET, SI PHAN DON,
(4000 ISLANDS),
SOUTHERN LAOS,
LAOS PDR.
Laid back lifestyle, wonderfully
friendly locals.

COMMENTS:

Photographed on location December 2004



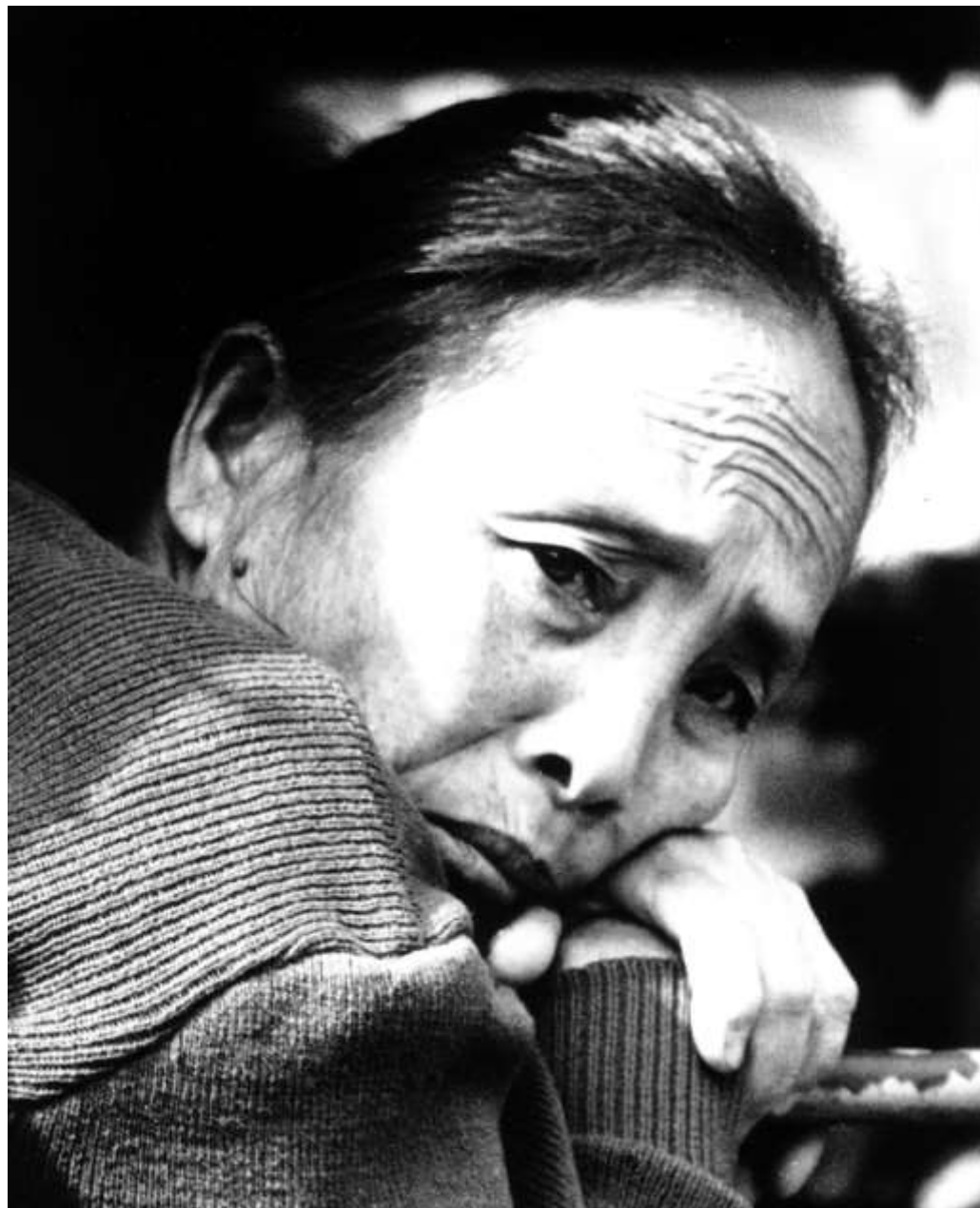
FILM: KODAK 400 ASA B/W

SUBJECT:
THE NEXT GENERATION,
LUANG PRABANG,
LAOS PDR.

COMMENTS:

Photographed on location January 2005

62



FILM: KODAK 400 ASA B/W

SUBJECT:
LAO,
LUANG PRABANG MARKET,
LUANG PRABANG,
LAOS PDR.

COMMENTS:

Photographed on location January 2005



FILM: KODAK 400 ASA B/W

SUBJECT:
BLACK TAI,
LUANG PRABANG,
LAOS PDR.

98% of Black Tai practise folk animism and ancestor worship (the belief that the spirits of dead ancestors are alive and need to be fed and nurtured, or they may turn into evil spirits).

COMMENTS:

Photographed on location January 2005



FILM: KODAK 400 ASA B/W

SUBJECT:
HMONG,
LUANG PRABANG,
LAOS PDR.

Hmong are great weavers. Bright red embroidery decorates all their clothing, which is sought after by travellers and Thai traders.

COMMENTS:

Photographed on location January 2005

65



FILM: KODAK 400 ASA B/W

SUBJECT:
FACE OF LUANG NAM THA,
LUANG NAM THA PROVINCE,
LAOS PDR.

Luang Nam Tha is home to the
largest number of ethnic minorities
of any province in Laos.

COMMENTS:

Photographed on location January 2005



FILM: KODAK 400 ASA B/W

SUBJECT:
LAO HUAY (LANTEN),
BON SOP DUTE,
LUANG NAM THA,
LAOS PDR.

Any discomfort experienced
travelling by long boat up the wild
and treacherous Nam Tha River
disappeared once we stopped over
at this Lanten village.

COMMENTS:

Photographed on location January 2005



FILM: KODAK 400 ASA B/W

SUBJECT:
LAO HUAY (LANTEN),
BON SOP DUTE,
LUANG NAM THA,
LAOS PDR.

This remote corner of Northern Laos is home to three thousand six hundred (3,600) Lanten. They still live a life virtually untouched by the modern world and practice animism (spirit worship).

COMMENTS:

Photographed on location January 2005



FILM: KODAK 400 ASA B/W

SUBJECT:
LAO HUAY (LANTEN),
BON SOP DUTE,
LUANG NAM THA,
LAOS PDR.

Lanten women wear long indigo tunics with hot pink trim and tight fitting white leggings that come to their knees. The overall effect is visually breathtaking.

COMMENTS:

Photographed on location January 2005



FILM: KODAK 400 ASA B/W

SUBJECT:
LAO HUAY (LANTEN),
BON SOP DUTE,
LUANG NAM THA,
LAOS PDR.

Lanten women are identified by the large coin (usually an Indochina piastre) tied over their topknot and their lack of eyebrows, which are permanently removed on reaching puberty. This regal person is the wife of the village chief.

COMMENTS:

Photographed on location January 2005

70



FILM: KODAK 400 ASA B/W

SUBJECT:
LAO HUAY (LANTEN),
LUANG NAM THA,
LAOS PDR.

Lanten value silver jewellery.
Babies receive their first silver
necklace at one month of age.
By adulthood, they wear several
kilograms of silver, prized
by collectors.

COMMENTS:

Photographed on location January 2005



FILM: KODAK 400 ASA B/W

SUBJECT:
KHMU AND CHILD,
BON SOPISM VILLAGE,
NAM THA RIVER,
LUANG NAM THA,
LAOS PDR.

Khmu practise animism and in particular identify with shamans. Never pass straight through a Khmu village. Always stop and chat, otherwise the villagers will think that evil spirits have visited them.

COMMENTS:

Photographed on location January 2005



FILM: KODAK 400 ASA B/W

SUBJECT:
KHMU,
BON SOPISM VILLAGE,
NAM THA RIVER,
LUANG NAM THA,
LAOS PDR.

Rural Khmu live a life barely above subsistence level. They practice slash and burn agriculture. Some keep domestic animals, but these are used for sacrifice more often than as a source of food.

COMMENTS:

Photographed on location January 2005

73



FILM: KODAK 400 ASA B/W

SUBJECT:
AKHA,
LUANG NAM THA,
LAOS PDR.

A contributor to their poverty stricken lifestyle, is that opium, one of their traditional crops, is now illegal to grow and sell. The villagers still use it for medicinal purposes.

COMMENTS:

Photographed on location January 2005

74



FILM: KODAK 400 ASA B/W

SUBJECT:
ETHNIC MINORITY,
MUANG SING,
LUANG NAM THA PROVINCE,
LAOS PDR.

Muang Sing, a Northern Laos trading
centre for Thai Dam, Thai Lu,
Thai Neua, Akha, Hmong, Mien,
Lolo and Yunnanese.

COMMENTS:

Photographed on location January 2005

75



FILM: KODAK 400 ASA B/W

SUBJECT:
ETHNIC MINORITY,
MUANG SING,
LAOS PDR.

The early morning market is a favourite spot for trekkers in search of exotic hill tribes in traditional costumes. We came early and were not disappointed.

COMMENTS:

Photographed on location January 2005



FILM: KODAK 400 ASA B/W

SUBJECT:
AKHA,
MUANG SING,
LAOS PDR.

There can be no greater highlight, than first seeing the magnificent headwear of the Akha. The women wear a prized cap covered with pure silver coins, leggings, a short black skirt, with a beaded sporran and heavily embroidered jacket.

COMMENTS:

Photographed on location January 2005

77



FILM: KODAK 400 ASA B/W

SUBJECT:
AKHA,
MUANG SING,
LAOS PDR.

Akha are the poorest of the hill tribes,
but are well known for their exotic
costumes and irreverence to authority.

COMMENTS:

Photographed on location January 2005

78



FILM: KODAK 400 ASA B/W

SUBJECT:
MIEN,
MUANG SING,
LAOS PDR.

Mien women wear an elaborate costume of intricately embroidered pantaloons, coat and turban all of indigo blue.

A bright red woolly boa runs around the neck and down the front of the coat.

Like the Akha, they are opium poppy cultivators.

COMMENTS:

Photographed on location January 2005

79



FILM: KODAK 400 ASA B/W

SUBJECT:

LAO,
MUANG SING,
LAOS PDR.

Lao, obviously with an interesting
lineage.

COMMENTS:

Photographed on location January 2005



FILM: KODAK 400 ASA B/W

SUBJECT:
INTIMATE MOMENT,
MUANG SING,
LAOS PDR.
An intimate moment between
two friends.

COMMENTS:

Photographed on location January 2005



FILM: KODAK 400 ASA B/W

SUBJECT:

LAO,
UDOMXAI,
NORTHERN LAOS,
LAOS PDR.

On the road from Muang Sing, a major trade route to China. The people of Udomxai, even the ethnic minorities, prefer to wear chinese manufactured western style clothing.

COMMENTS:

Photographed on location January 2005



FILM: KODAK 400 ASA B/W

SUBJECT:
BUDDHA IMAGE,
WAT SISAKET,
VIENTIANE,
LAOS PDR.

Over six thousand eight hundred and forty (6840) Buddhas made of wood, stone, silver and bronze rest at Wat Sisaket in Vientiane.

COMMENTS:

Photographed on location January 2005



FILM: KODAK 400 ASA B/W

SUBJECT:
BUDDHA IMAGE,
WAT SISAKET,
VIENTIANE,
LAOS PDR.

COMMENTS:

Photographed on location January 2005



FILM: KODAK 400 ASA B/W

SUBJECT:
BRIGHTLY PAINTED
MYTHOLOGICAL FIGURE,
WAT SI MUANG,
VIENTIANE,
LAOS PDR.

This monastery is hugely popular
with the local worshippers, who
visit in great numbers.

COMMENTS:

Photographed on location January 2005



FILM: KODAK 400 ASA B/W

SUBJECT:
BUDDHIST/ HINDU,
MYTHOLOGICAL FIGURE,
WAT SI MUANG,
VIENTIANE,
LAOS PDR.

Buddhist/Hindu and other mythological
figures from Lao legends dot the
temple grounds.

COMMENTS:

Photographed on location January 2005

VIETNAM



FILM: ILFORD HP5 PLUS

SUBJECT:
FIRST ENCOUNTER WITH
AUTHORITY IN NAM,
HANOI, VIETNAM.
Robbie was ordered to put her
camera away. Wary of the laws
of a foreign land, she complied.

COMMENTS:

Photographed on location December 2001



FILM: ILFORD HP5 PLUS

SUBJECT:
STREET SELLER,
HANOI, VIETNAM.

COMMENTS:

Photographed on location December 2001



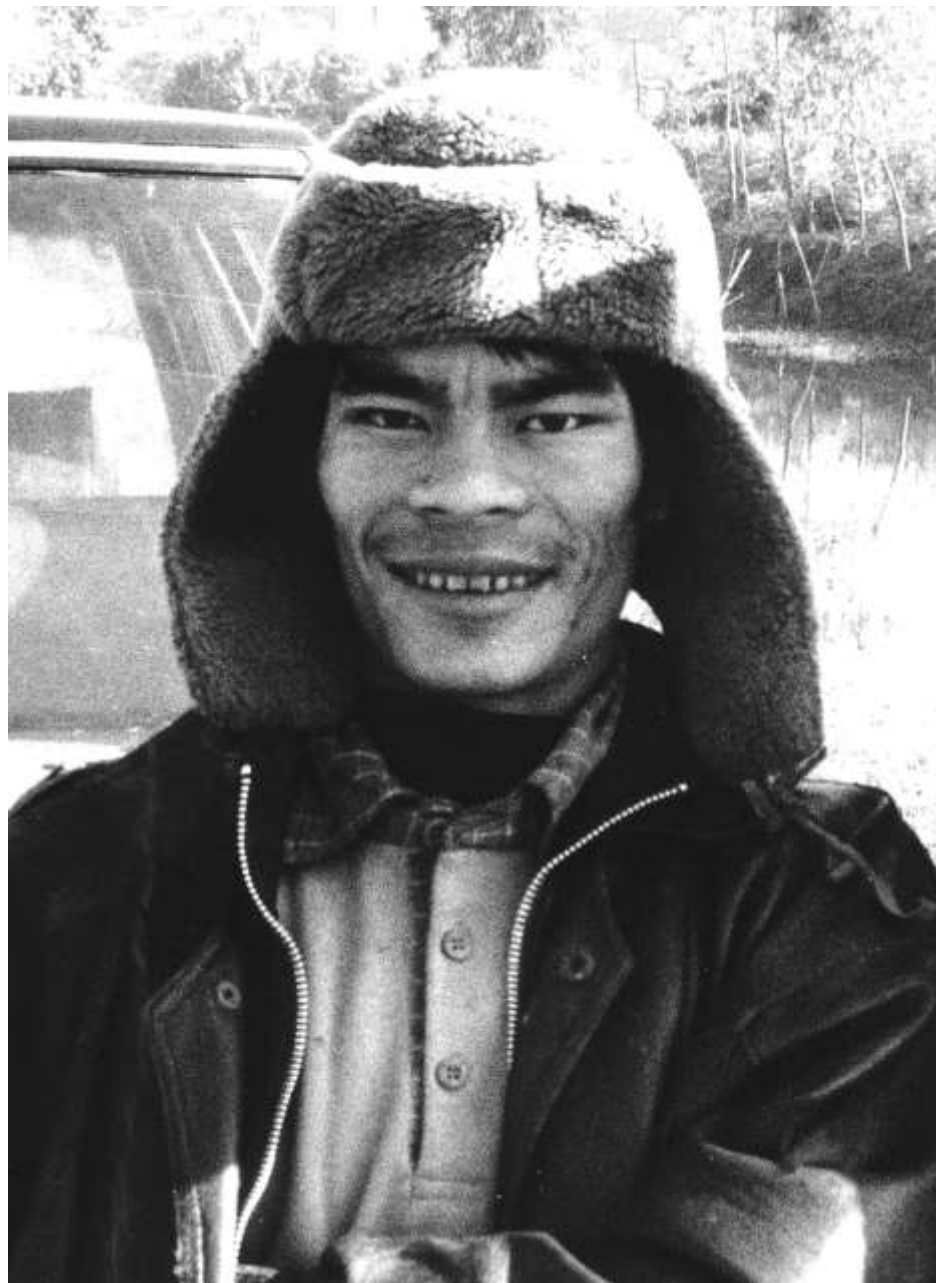
FILM: **ILFORD HP5 PLUS**

SUBJECT:
VIET KIEU (EXPATRIOTS),
PERFUME RIVER,
HANOI, VIETNAM.

A leisurely journey up the Perfume River, following an exhausting hill climb to the much lauded Perfume Pagoda (a giant cave). The faithful believe deities cure illness, purify souls and grant offspring to the childless.

COMMENTS:

Photographed on location December 2001



FILM: **ILFORD HP5 PLUS**

SUBJECT:
MONGOL FARM WORKER,
NORTH EAST, VIETNAM.
Vietnamese with very strong
Mongolian features, on the road
to Halong Bay.

COMMENTS:

Photographed on location December 2001

90



FILM: **ILFORD HP5 PLUS**

SUBJECT:
FARM WORKER,
NORTH EAST, VIETNAM.

On the road to Halong Bay.
Scores of American B52 bombers were shot down on bombing raids on Hanoi during the American War and many of them now rest under the tranquil waters of Halong Bay. To reach Hanoi, they flew up the coast, meeting fierce resistance at Halong Bay.

COMMENTS:

Photographed on location December 2001



FILM: **ILFORD HP5 PLUS**

SUBJECT:

FACE OF HOI AN,
HOI AN, VIETNAM.

Hoi An, a town rich in its fusion of Chinese, Japanese, Vietnamese and French architecture and amazing people, like this proud resident.

COMMENTS:

Photographed on location January 2002



FILM: **ILFORD HP5 PLUS**

SUBJECT:
TWO M'NONG, BUR VILLAGE,
BUON MA THUOT (DAK LAK),
CENTRAL HIGHLANDS,
VIETNAM.

We were lucky to visit this village.
The local government official only
wanted us to go to government
approved Vietnamised villages.
Robbie insisted and won.

COMMENTS:

Photographed on location January 2002



FILM: **ILFORD HP5 PLUS**

SUBJECT:
M'NONG, BUR VILLAGE,
BUON MA THUOT (DAK LAK),
CENTRAL HIGHLANDS,
VIETNAM.

The Montagnards, or M' nong, were Americas most loyal and staunchest allies in Vietnam, for which they paid and continue to pay a terrible price.

COMMENTS:

Photographed on location January 2002



FILM: ILFORD HP5 PLUS

SUBJECT:
M'NONG, BUR VILLAGE,
BUON MA THUOT (DAK LAK),
CENTRAL HIGHLANDS,
VIETNAM.

The Montagnards have continued to suffer arrests, imprisonment, torture and religious persecution since the Americans left. Access to their regions has since been shut down.

COMMENTS:

Photographed on location January 2002

95



FILM: **ILFORD HP5 PLUS**

SUBJECT:
M'NONG, BUR VILLAGE,
BUON MA THUOT (DAK LAK),
CENTRAL HIGHLANDS,
VIETNAM.

A very proud tribe, known for their
independence and refusal to submit
to communist Vietnamese domination.

COMMENTS:

Photographed on location January 2002



FILM: ILFORD HP5 PLUS

SUBJECT:
M'NONG, BUR VILLAGE,
BUON MA THUOT (DAK LAK),
CENTRAL HIGHLANDS,
VIETNAM.

In an effort to dilute and destroy their cultural heritage, many young girls, such as these, are being forcefully encouraged to marry Vietnamese.

COMMENTS:

Photographed on location January 2002

97



FILM: ILFORD HP5 PLUS

SUBJECT:
VIETNAMESE,
NGOAN MUC PASS,
VIETNAM.

Vietnamese photographed at
Ngoan Muc Pass, home to the huge
Dan Nhim Lake hydro-electric project,
supplying power to the south.

COMMENTS:

Photographed on location January 2002



FILM: **ILFORD HP5 PLUS**

SUBJECT:
ENTREPRENEUR,
DA LAT, VIETNAM.
Built his own pagoda and gardens,
complete with cement buddhas,
elephants, birds, mythological
figures and other religious iconry.

COMMENTS:

Photographed on location January 2002



FILM: **ILFORD HP5 PLUS**

SUBJECT:
THE COOK AND DAUGHTER,
MUI NE, VIETNAM.

Kim Hue Eatery, right on the beach.
The best food we experienced in all
of Vietnam. When we placed our
order for spring rolls, they made
them whilst we waited and included
fresh produce from the day's catch.
We departed with great reluctance.
The kids were cute too.

COMMENTS:

Photographed on location January 2002

100



FILM: **ILFORD HP5 PLUS**

SUBJECT:
FLOATING MARKET,
CAN THO, VIETNAM.
Happy smiling faces at Phong Dien
Floating Market, Can Tho.

COMMENTS:

Photographed on location January 2002



About the Author

Robbie heads a successful consulting company in Auckland New Zealand. She lives in the Auckland suburb of Herne Bay with her husband, partner and occasional mentor Paul. Enthusiastic free and independent travellers, Robbie and Paul like to spend their annual vacations roaming around some of the more isolated destinations in Southeast Asia. Of particular interest are the many ethnic minorities who inhabit these regions. The rapidly changing dynamics and fortunes of these regions are placing enormous pressures on these cultures and their traditional ways of living. If this continues, it may in a very short time, destroy these cultures entirely.