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SAMPLE

A Guide to  
**Rock Climbing**  
in Northern Thailand

CHIANG MAI ROCK CLIMBING ADVENTURES • 3RD EDITION



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## FOREWORD

In October of 1999, I arrived in Chiang Mai, an eager English teacher fresh out of university. Though I knew I would climb during my time in Thailand, I thought it would be on the sea cliffs of Railay Beach - or perhaps in Luang Prabang, where my brother Dan had just led a bolting expedition that January. If someone had told me that thirteen years later, I would still be in Chiang Mai and would be climbing at a crag named Crazy Horse Buttress, described by Climbing Magazine as “the Other Thailand,” I would have thought they were crazy.

In the past twelve years, there has been a tremendous amount of development. The parking lot, once filled with head-height grasses, is now a cozy lunch-time / siesta area where climbers convene to share stories of the day. Loong Nan’s handywork can be seen throughout the area with excellent trails, rest areas and road maintenance. The annual Crag Clean-Up Day is now a major local event, often with more than 70 people in attendance. Drinking water is available at the crag to help the community reduce the amount of waste we produce as climbers.

An unbelievable amount of dust at the main crag has been converted into cozy belay platforms with the assistance of local and visiting climbers. A standard for bolting has been put in place and the climbing experience is comfortable and fun (read more about this in our “Bolting / Development Philosophy” chapter). What used to be a small overgrown crag of six routes now boasts nearly 200 routes on 16 different walls.

Yes, many other crags develop at a faster pace. However, Crazy Horse’s development is about much more than the quantity of routes. The focus at Crazy Horse is committing to environmental stewardship, developing an active and diverse community, and creating a sustainable approach to an outstanding climbing experience. These three values are at the core of the place, and all of our actions at Crazy Horse are built upon them. We think you will appreciate the results.

There is much to be done at Crazy Horse Buttress and in Northern Thailand. Our vision is to create a vibrant climbing community and multiple climbing areas near Chiang Mai. We hope this will engender a love of the outdoors and open opportunities for local climbers to travel the world climbing and adventuring like so many of the foreign climbers visiting Thailand are able to do. Northern Thailand is an exciting place with endless potential. The projects already exist - they just need a little help getting cleaned, bolted and climbed. We look forward to climbing with you as we work toward this goal. See you at the crag!

- Josh Morris -





## CLIMBING IN NORTHERN THAILAND

Northern Thailand is full of valleys and mountains and endless karst limestone formations. A relatively quiet and unknown destination just a few years ago, the past 11 years have seen steady, sustainable development. With more than 200 routes established and more development every month, Crazy Horse Buttress is now known as one of Asia's international climbing destinations. The North of Thailand allows climbers a chance to climb while experiencing day to day Thai life at the same time. In Chiang Mai, don't expect to roll out of bed and be at the base of the crag. Rather, get ready for an adventure that includes local sausage, an exciting motorbike ride to the crag, and a taste of what