

PHOTO ESSAY

The Thai Lue: Molded by Modernity, History

Photos by UTHAIWAN BOONLOY



Infant mortality was high in the old days, making a baby's turning a month old a milestone. Today, the ceremony marking this point in an infant's life signals that the babies have become a part of society.



The art of dyeing used to be a common skill, but local wisdom now has to be a subject at the school at Don Moon village in Nan, Thailand. Here, teachers have their students learn from old villagers the methods of dyeing, apart from weaving.



Luang Prabang used to be a closed city, largely undisturbed by the modern world. More comfortable means of transport have brought many more visitors to it, forcing it to open its doors wider to the world.

The weaving tools seen in the mirror in this picture taken in Teen Tart village, six kilometres from Muang Sing, are not a very common sight among the Thai Lue today. Only about five families still weave cloth for their own use, including for making blankets.



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