



# Jim Thompson House: Secret agents, horoscopes, and Thai silk

By **Becky Horace** | Review | Published September 09, 2014

## Venue information

### Jim Thompson

6/1 Soi Kasemsan 2,  
Rama 1 Road Bangkok,  
Thailand 10330



Venue Type  
Multi Purpose

## Author information

### Becky Horace

Becky is an American expat, who arrived to Bangkok in January 2013. Upon her arrival, she took on the role of Chief Mommy Officer. She is a freelance writer, Editor of BAMBI News. She is documenting her adventures through her writing and photography.

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**Looking to be a tourist in your own town? Make a trip to the Jim Thompson House and Museum, where you will hear the story of an American entrepreneur who revived the Thai silk industry.**



Are you are looking for an easy adventure (with or without your family), one that won't take hours in commuting or walking around? Why not take a trip on the BTS to National Stadium stop; this is where you will find the Jim Thompson House and Museum tucked away from the hustle and bustle of the city in a beautiful garden. Upon arrival, you will be greeted by friendly staff, all who speak English very well. The setting reminds me of a secret garden, full

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of lotus flowers, brick footpaths, orchids planted into ancient blue and white Chinese pots, with the traditional silk harvesting process being performed for visitors to see. The tickets are 100 baht for adults and 50 baht for children, a fair price indeed for the history lesson you are about to receive.

On the tour, you will learn all about the man who revived the silk industry in Thailand, Mister Jim Thompson. Thompson was an American born in 1906 and before the Second World War he was a practicing architect. Once he entered the service, we were told on our tour that he was involved in clandestine services. During his time in the service to his country, he was sent to Asia. This is when he fell in love with Thailand. He vowed to move back once he was finished with his duties to live out the rest of his days.



*Jim Thompsons - Weaving Thai silk*

During his time in Thailand, Jim Thompson saw the potential in the craft of Thai silk that was being neglected. He put all of his effort into reviving this handy-craft that was on the verge of being lost and in turn this became his new life's work. As he was growing his world famous silk business, he decided he wanted to live the Thai way of life and built his new home in the customs and traditions of Thailand. The home and home décor, for the most part, represents a traditional Thai teak wood home but with a few "modern" western

twists. The museum is full of pottery, ancient statues from around Asia of different deities, paintings depicting the Buddha's life, and absolutely beautiful handmade furniture; this is an interior decorators paradise if they are looking to gain a little "Asian" inspiration.

Thompson believed in the Thai religious customs and in astrology.

He took it very

seriously when picking the "special" date to move into his home, to ensure it was a good day with good fortune. He also had a special horoscope made just for him and the astrologer found that when he was in his 61st year that something would happen to him. As you learn on the tour, in 1967 which was Thompsons 61st year, he goes missing. He was in Malaysia with friends and decided to go for a walk on his own and never returned. To this day they have never been able to find his body. Some speculate it was his clandestine military practices that might have come back to haunt him and cause his disappearance or maybe an animal in the jungle; we will never know.

His home is a tribute of his devotion and admiration for this country

## Bottom Line

Jim Thompson loved everything about Thailand; the culture, the people, the art and the architecture. His home is a tribute of his devotion and admiration for this country; one that local expats, tourists, and Thais of all ages can all appreciate. The tour lasts thirty minutes but you are welcome to walk around the gardens, grounds and gift shop. If you are hungry after your tour you can stay for lunch. There is a restaurant and wine bar on the grounds for everyone to enjoy.

**Jim Thompson House is open every day from 9am-5pm.**

*Check out the website (<http://www.jimthompsonhouse.com/visitor/index.asp>) for more information and a map.*





*Jim Thompsons - Lotus flowers*



*Jim Thompsons - Thai teak house*

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