

GUIDE  
TO  
BANGKOK AND SIAM.

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the fauna of the country will clearly show what possibilities it presents to the ardent sportsman. Although the elephant may in no wise be shot he will find rhinoceros, tapir, sladang, buffalo, tiger, leopard, fishing-cat, bear-cat, leopard-cat, palm civet, sloth bear, goat antelope, barking deer, Schomburgk's deer, sambhur, brown antlered deer, scaly ant-eater, hare and crocodile. Of mammals which few true sportsmen would desire wantonly to destroy are the various species of monkeys, of which the long armed Gibbon (*chaineé*) is the most interesting. There are lemurs, honey bears, various beautifully coated squirrels and other animals too numerous to mention. And, besides the succulent scolopax or snipe, there are many game birds. These include half-a-dozen species of wild pigeons, jungle fowl, francolin (commonly called the Siamese partridge), quail, peacock, eight or nine kinds of pheasants, including the Argus and crested fire-back, golden plover, teal and wild duck. Some spots abound in pelican, which your boatmen will esteem as a great luxury. Along the shores turtles of all sorts abound whilst the tidal and inland waters positively teem with fish. The water monitor, commonly called iguana is common and makes really excellent eating, much resembling chicken. Of snakes there are about sixty known species of which only about a dozen are poisonous. These, from the lordly python to the harmless little brown earth snake are ruthlessly killed by the natives. Occasionally they are eaten and "snake oil" is in great demand by Siamese actresses. Used as an embrocation it is said to be wonderfully efficacious in rendering the body and limbs supple. The entomologist will find Siam a veritable paradise indeed and the country presents almost a virgin field in this direction.

six days' journey by bullock cart from Pak Preo through the jungle, there are numerous mines of stephanite. The lead obtained thence is brought down to Pak Preo and there disposed of at about one salung per catty. Bullock carts may be hired in this district for about one tical a day. Another mine, this time of copper (*tong deag*), lies about 3 or 4 days' journey from Pak Preo in the direction of Phrabat. Travel in the interior to the foreigner is fraught with great difficulty and inconvenience (*vide* our illustration). For instance, whenever business necessitates a visit to the interior, the system employed is to procure *kieien* (bullock carts) in which travellers deposit their luggage while they make the journey on ponies and, by easy stages, meet the caravan at certain spots where they may tie the pony to the back of the *kieien* in which they may accommodate themselves in case of rain. The mountain ranges at Gengkoi afford excellent lime, in which considerable trade is done. There is little of real interest at Gengkoi but some pretty good shooting is said to be available in the neighbourhood, tigers and even rhinoceros having occasionally been found. At about an hour's walk from Gengkoi station, towards the north, there is good shooting, various kinds of birds being plentiful, whilst on the other side of the line, at a place called Phrabat Mai, there are said to be tigers and leopards. This place is about three hours' walk from the railway. From thence on to Pak Djong, the highest point on the railway, about 1,600 feet above sea level, there is a succession of steep up-gradients and curves. At Chantuk there is a copper mine, but this is a few miles distant from the railway and has not been worked for some time past. For the remaining 83 kilometres to Korat there is not much to be seen of exceptional interest. When the plains of the Mekong watershed are reached, Sikiu and Sung Noen, two places celebrated for