



Guests arrive at the Pak Meng Pier to board a speed boat to Koh Kradan

# An Underwater Wedding

This February, Valentine's Day had a new meaning in Trang where the 19th underwater wedding anniversary was organised

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When I got an invite by Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT), New Delhi to witness the underwater wedding, honestly I did not know what to expect. But what I saw in Trang ( a province in south of Thailand), where the underwater wedding took place I was convinced that marriages are indeed made in heaven. There were a total of 30 couples who came to be a part of this grand event which was spread over three days starting from 12th February and ending on 14th February.

On 12th February all the bridal couples were joined by friends and relatives at Phraya Rassada monument in Trang where the pouring of Lustre Water ceremony took place, which is a traditional Thai wedding ceremony. All the couples were dressed in traditional Thai costumes and looked really beautiful in the well decorated venue.

After the traditional wedding had been performed all the couples and guests gathered in front of the city hall near the clock tower from where everyone marched through the decorated streets to Trang train station. This was a sight worth watching. There were



Pooja and Shailesh, the Indian couple who wed underwater in Trang

The Guinness Book of World Records awarded 'The Largest Underwater Wedding Ceremony' to this event in 2000

" The Underwater wedding was organised by Trang Chamber of Commerce in association with Trang Province and Trang Tourism along with other sponsors"

hundreds of school children, ladies dancing and singing and many international guests who walked through the beautifully done up streets, which were lined up by various local bands performing on the road. There was music, love and happiness that walked the road that day. There was a lavish dinner at the Town Hall and everybody called it a night with a promise to meet again the next morning.

The second morning was special for the couples who travelled to Pak Meng Pier



Pooja and Shailesh underwater



Couples at their reception at the Rajamonkol beach



Ladies at the parade

and from here they boarded a speed boat which took them to Koh Kradan Island for the underwater wedding ceremony. Here the diver couples really went underwater (7 mts deep) to register their marriage. There were non diver couples too who enjoyed the island and the nearby Emerald caves in the meanwhile. After this ceremony got over all the couples and guests went back to their hotel to get ready for the wonderful reception which was organised at the Rajamonkol beach. It was the most awesome beach wedding I have ever attended with a sit down dinner for the couples and the guests. There were performances by the Thai artists and the food spread was inviting with lots of sea food and salads and the traditional Kao Neow Kang Gai or sticky rice with chicken curry. There was also a spectacular show of fireworks which lit up the night sky beautifully.

On the third day all the couples enjoyed Trang style breakfast at a local cafe. Breakfast in Trang is an important part of the localites and one of the ways to experience Trang's way of life. They also visited Tam Kong Yie shrine, Tham Le Khao Kob and Wang Thep Taro. Finally it was time to bid adieu to everyone as the ceremony had reached its climax and the couples returned with loads of memories and an experience they would cherish for many lives together.

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