

- The Naked Anthropologist - <http://www.lauraagustin.com> -

Have fun, take a tour to meet victims of sex trafficking, learn to be a saviour

Posted By [laura agustin](#) On 29 September 2011 @ 10:36 In [colonialism,Rescue Industry](#) | [17 Comments](#)

Like  66



[1]People have different opinions about tourism by richer people to look at how poor people live. You can argue that it is better that they see some piece of reality themselves rather than swallow whole what is shown in the media (and optimistically hope they *know* they are being misled by them). Or be glad they prefer an educational trip to a hedonistic beach holiday, or that they are curious about the world outside their own comfy patch. And obviously the individuals who sign up for these things are all different and many must be well-meaning (awful word) and genuinely eager to learn.

Or you may, like me, view this as [Rescue Industry](#) [2] prurience rooted in racism and colonialism (an aspect of [helpers'](#)

[own identity formation](#) [3]). You may wish to tear your hair out simply at the thought of a *tour catalogue* displaying different kinds of social problems to feel horrified about and different human beings to feel pity for. But that is what Global Exchange offers in the form of [Reality Tours](#) [4]- and human trafficking is a staple item. This tourism is veiled in language that makes tourists *advocates*. Here's the description from last year's week-long trip; new trips are listed for Perú, Uganda, Cambodia. I've added boldface as an emotional expression not only about the ideas but the trite language!

Thailand : Not For Sale Advocacy Delegation on Human Trafficking

Accurate statistics are difficult to compile, but it is believed that between 600,00 and 800,000 human beings are trafficked across international borders each year- 80% of them women and children. [blah blah, the usual] . . .The numbers are staggering, and actually confronting them and the **shattered lives** they represent can be an overwhelming prospect. Yet **we are not powerless** in the face of **this monstrous industry**, and the first step towards bringing it to a halt is education. In partnership with the Not for Sale Campaign against human trafficking, Global Exchange Reality Tours is facilitating this delegation to Thailand geared specifically to confronting the realities of the global trade in human beings.

Participants will receive a comprehensive education in the mechanics of human trafficking, as well as an understanding of its underlying causes. Participants will **meet with those who have been freed from slavery** and learn what it means to **rebuild**

one's life after having been a victim of trafficking. They, will also **engage directly with groups and individuals on the frontlines** of the struggle . . . We will visit **vulnerable communities** targeted by traffickers, learn **effective strategies for undermining slave rings**, and experience first hand **how emancipated slaves rebuild their lives**. Upon return, Global Exchange and Not for Sale will integrate the insights of the trip directly into an understanding of the nature of human trafficking in the United States and the meaning of working globally on **backyard abolitionist activities**.

Cost: \$1,000 Includes:

All accommodations in **3-star and above hotels**. Price is for shared double room- we can usually pair you up with a roommate.

All in-country transportation

Two meals per day

Tour leaders and guides

All program activities and translation

All entrance fees

Preparatory reading materials


Global Exchange membership

Donation to NFS

Plus airfare, of course. I wonder how large these groups get?

Picture of Nicholas Kristof, who does his own kind of reality tourism, from [aidlolz](#) ^[5].

–Laura Agustín, *the Naked Anthropologist*

 ^[6]

Related posts:

1. [Summertime Imperialism: Meet sex-trafficking victims and other sad folk](#) ^[7] Last September I wrote about so-called Reality Tours to meet victims of sex trafficking. Now it's August and several people...
2. [Cry with trafficked women: Colonial prurience and 3-star hotels](#) ^[8] I've been ill a great deal this year and for the past month bowed down by a death, but the...
3. [Profiling of trafficking victims: Women migrants who 'look like prostitutes' or 'act out'](#) ^[9] Before you can rescue victims of trafficking you have to find them. Everyone likes to talk about the cowboy raids...
4. [Sex trafficking victims help themselves to escape: Thais in Spain](#) ^[10] I have objected to the use of the word myth to describe how trafficking is talked about nowadays. Myth implies...

Article printed from The Naked Anthropologist: <http://www.lauraagustin.com>

URL to article: <http://www.lauraagustin.com/have-fun-take-a-tour-to-meet-victims-of-sex-trafficking-learn-to-be-a-saviour>

URLs in this post:

[1] Image: <http://www.lauraagustin.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/09/kristof.jpg>

[2] Rescue Industry: <http://www.lauraagustin.com/tag/rescue>

[3] helpers' own identity formation: <http://www.lauraagustin.com/helping-women-who-sell-sex-the-construction-of-benevolent-identities>

[4] Reality Tours : <http://www.globalexchange.org/tours>

[5] aidlolz: <http://aidlolz.tumblr.com/post/9989794513/international-adoption>

[6] Image: http://www.addtoany.com/share_save

[7] Summertime Imperialism: Meet sex-trafficking victims and other sad folk:

<http://www.lauraagustin.com/summertime-imperialism-meet-sex-trafficking-victims-and-other-sad-folk>

[8] Cry with trafficked women: Colonial prurience and 3-star hotels:

<http://www.lauraagustin.com/cry-with-trafficked-women-colonial-prurience-and-3-star-hotels>

[9] Profiling of trafficking victims: Women migrants who 'look like prostitutes' or 'act out':

<http://www.lauraagustin.com/profiling-trafficking-victims-women-who-like-prostitutes-or-act-out>

[10] Sex trafficking victims help themselves to escape: Thais in Spain:

<http://www.lauraagustin.com/sex-trafficking-victims-help-themselves-to-escape-thais-in-spain>

Copyright 2008 Laura Agustín. All rights reserved.