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Join bestselling author and fearless explorer Stu Lloyd as he bar-hops ten countries in search of paradise and meets some very unusual characters along the way.

GONE TROPPO

Hot Babes. Warm Weather. Cold Beer. Paradise!



SINGAPORE, 15 MARCH 2006—After working as a creative director in Singapore for ten years from the late 80s to the late 90s (the longest he's lived in any one country), Stu Lloyd quit the world of advertising to pursue his passion of travel writing and freelance journalism. Today, the Australian of Zimbabwean origin has over 150 bylines in newspapers all over the world and more than half a million miles with trips to 38 countries under his belt.

Lloyd is best known for his *Hardship Posting* series of books, which has sold more than 90,000 copies, but with *Gone Troppo* he has written his first full-length travelogue. "Escapism!" is Lloyd's immediate reply when asked why he wrote *Gone Troppo*. "To feed my daydreams, and get a tax deductible holiday! Also to answer the question 'Does paradise really exist?'"

Not only is *Gone Troppo* Lloyd's first full-length travel narrative book, it is probably the first time that a book has linked countries by the theme of 'Tropical Paradise'. It is a fun, fresh, serendipitous trapeze through a number of highly popular destinations, selected by the random throw of darts. Are they all paradises? "Hell no!" answers Lloyd, who puts

a lot of himself on the pages of this quirky quest. It's not just descriptions of the places he visits, it's about his reactions to the places and the people he meets. Lloyd focuses on things he's passionate about: art, music, colonial history, architecture, beer and the female form.

In this riotous romp through The Tropics, Lloyd often finds more Purgatory than Paradise, more Hell than Heaven. He is pick-pocketed in India, gets becalmed in the pirate-infested waters of Malaysia, bribes an over-zealous policeman in the Philippines and is hospitalised with dengue fever in Singapore. He swims with sharks off Costa Rica, and discovers a new breed in Thailand: 'Koh Samui is home to three types of sharks: black-tip reef sharks, leopard sharks and German property developers.'

But none of this curbs his passion for The Tropics. Or cold beer: 'We were so delight-fully, deliriously drunk, Hunter S. Thompson could've been our designated driver.' So lie back in a deckchair, put on your sunscreen and join Stu in this quirky quest for Paradise as he swims, hikes, dives, rides and sails his way through Durban, Langkawi, Koh Samui, Singapore, the Philippines, Delhi and Goa, Tijuana, Costa Rica and Rarotonga.

• "Marvellously whimsical ... enormous energy ... entertaining. A wonderful mixture of cynicism, awe, humour, curiosity and good old-fashioned joy." —*New Zealand Herald*

• "Stu Lloyd's work is deservedly popular among those described as 'not easily offended'. Yet his enjoyable new book shows that under the laddish exterior beats the heart of an engaging individual who has a genuine interest in Asia's wildlife—human and otherwise!" —*Nury Vittachi*

Design note from the Publisher

In Monsoon's quest to raise the bar of cover design for Singapore-produced black-text books, we have pushed the boundaries with *Gone Troppo* by having the printer print the cover on the reverse, uncoated side of the paper, which is very unusual in Singapore, to create a more rough, textured feel.

About the Publisher

Monsoon Books is a Singapore-based independent publisher dedicated to publishing classic and contemporary crime, literary and pulp fiction, humour, and narrative nonfiction, with distribution throughout Asia, the United States, Canada, the UK, Australia and New Zealand. We publish quality books from outstanding writers such as Gerrie Lim, Stephen Leather, Stu Lloyd, Warren Olson, Erich R. Sysak, D. Devika Bai, Ee Lin See, Alison Lester, Andrew Hicks, Peter Neville, Janet Lim and Moammar Emka.

Through sublicenses with our colleagues overseas, Monsoon's titles are translated into and published in various languages around the world. Under the direction of publisher Philip Tatham, Monsoon represents an exciting, innovative and distinctive alternative to commercial publishing; our mission is to be unique—to find new talent and put publishing in Asia at the heart of the literary world.

GONE TROPPO

By Stu Lloyd

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