

Thailand and the Temples of Angkor



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-  Start Location
-  Plane
-  Cruise
-  Over night
-  Visited Location
-  End Location
-  Train
-  Ferry

Day 1 | Welcome to Bangkok



Say sawadee ka to the land of smiles, starting your Thai adventure in Bangkok. Transfer to your hotel where this evening, we meet our Travel Director and fellow guests for a dinner.

Meals: Dinner

Hotel: Montien Surawong

Day 2 | See the Sights of Bangkok



Rise early and join the locals for a graceful T'ai Chi practice in Lumpini Park to kick-start your day. Alternatively, enjoy a leisurely start before joining your fellow travelers on a City Tour, which begins with a visit to Bangkok's Grand Palace, where you'll visit the most sacred Buddhist temple in Thailand, Wat Phra Kaew. See the largest-reclining Buddha in Thailand in Bangkok's oldest temple, Wat Pho, and enjoy a traditional Thai massage in the temple's massage center. Return to your hotel by express river boat, cruising down the Chao Praya past beautiful Wat Arun, the Temple of the Dawn.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Hotel: Montien Surawong

OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

Dinner Cruise on Grand Pearl (with drinks) - Experience Bangkok at its best while cruising along the historic Chao Phraya River aboard the "Grand Pearl". Enjoy a warm welcome from traditionally dressed hostesses who will greet you with a rose water sprinkling ceremony. With traditional Kim music playing in the background, savor Thailand's finest regional specialties, whilst passing some of Bangkok's most famous cultural and majestic landmarks. Price includes dinner, tea/coffee, four alcoholic drinks and bottled water. The price shown is in Thai Baht.
Adult: 5210.00 THB

Dinner Cruise on Grand Pearl (without drinks) - Experience Bangkok at its best while cruising along the historic Chao Phraya River aboard the "Grand Pearl". Enjoy a warm welcome from traditionally dressed hostesses who will greet you with a rose water sprinkling ceremony. With traditional Kim music playing in the background, savor Thailand's finest regional specialties, whilst passing some of Bangkok's most famous cultural and majestic landmarks. Price includes dinner, tea/coffee and bottled water. The price shown is in Thai Baht.
Adult: 3900.00 THB

Day 3 | Thai Cuisine and Cooking Experience



Immerse your senses in the five flavors of Thai cuisine as you join a Local Specialist for a traditional cooking class in a colonial-style house. Visit a local market nearby to source the freshest ingredients that reveal the sweet, sour, salty, bitter and hot flavors of Thai cuisine. Sample the results later, then spend the afternoon exploring the City of Angels on your terms, or consider joining an Optional Experience to Jim Thompson's House, home to an impressive collection of Asian art.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Hotel: Montien Surawong

OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

Jim Thompson House - Jim Thompson House is one of the best examples of traditional Thai residential architecture and houses a breath-taking collection of Southeast Asian art. Jim Thompson, born in Delaware in 1906, fell in love with Thailand while posted as an intelligence agent in Bangkok during WWII. He later made it his permanent home and started a business supplying fine Thai silk to overseas fashion houses, single-handedly saving what had been a dying cottage industry. His silk company continues to flourish today. With the proceeds of his success, Thompson collected an impressive range of art works, and sections of teak houses, assembling them into a museum complex set in a lush garden alongside central Bangkok's Saen Saep Canal. The main house is full of tastefully displayed Asian art and curios including Buddha images, paintings, ceramics and antique furniture. The living areas have been preserved as they were when Thompson lived there before his mysterious disappearance. There is also a Thai restaurant and bar plus, a sizeable boutique selling quality silk items, books and prints. The price shown is in Thai Baht.
Adult: 2560.00 THB

Day 4 | Onwards to Damnoen Saduak and Kanchanaburi



A riot of colors greets us this morning as we embark on a visit to the famous floating market at Damnoen Saduak. Connect with the friendly merchants who paddle along the congested canals in their sturdy canoes, laden with fresh fruit and vegetables to sell to shoppers on the banks. En route, we'll Dive Into Culture, stopping at a coconut palm sugar plantation where we'll discover how the farmer extracts the sap from his palm trees to create palm sugar.

After lunch in a local restaurant, visit the world-famous Bridge over the River Kwai. After a walk along the bridge continue to the Thailand-Burma Railway Museum, revealing insights into the history of the infamous railway line built during WWII by the Imperial Japanese army. Our final stop today sees us pay tribute to the thousands of allied prisoners of war who were laid to rest at the War Cemetery.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Hotel: Dheva Mantra Resort and Spa

Day 5 | Railways and Rivers in Kanchanaburi



This morning, we visit Hellfire Pass, a section of the Thailand-Burma “Death Railway”, so named for the tortuous conditions that prisoners of war endured during WWII to build it. After lunch, we embark on a thrilling train ride across wooden viaducts, skirting the winding waters of the Kwai River. We’ll disembark and see the wooden viaducts first-hand walking across one. This evening, we enjoy dinner at a local restaurant.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Hotel: Dheva Mantra Resort and Spa

Day 6 | On to Ancient Ayutthaya and Sukhothai



After breakfast, we travel to the UNESCO-listed Ayutthaya, once the second-most important ancient capital of Old Siam and the largest city in the world. Here, we’ll delve into the trading heritage of a mighty city that was all but raised to the ground by an 18th century Burmese invasion. We’ll enjoy lunch at a local restaurant, then return to Bangkok for our flight to Sukhothai, Thailand’s first capital.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Hotel: Sriwilai Sukhothai Resort and Spa

Day 7 | Explore Sukhothai



Gain insights into a powerful kingdom that enjoyed its golden age during the 13th and 14th centuries and shaped modern Thailand as we know it today. Start the day with a visit to the UNESCO-listed Sukhothai Historical Park which reveals thousands of years of history and a 15-meter seated Buddha secreted within its walls. Your choice of exploring will see you engage with the historic complex by bicycle or on the internal tram. This afternoon, visit the home of a local family and learn how to make amulets which are thought to protect the owner from harm.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Hotel: Sriwilai Sukhothai Resort and Spa

Day 8 | Continue to Chiang Mai



Our day begins with a visit to the first of our MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® experiences today at the village of Natonchan, where our visit supports the community's eco-tourism project. We'll interact with the locals and meet one of the villagers to learn about 'gymnastic doll' making and the villagers' traditional cotton clothes which are soaked in mud to protect them from fading. Arriving in Chiang Mai, we enjoy an evening walk with our Travel Director and visit the colorful Sunday market. Our hotel tonight is located in the old town of Chiang Mai.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Hotel: Movenpick Suriwongse Hotel

Day 9 | Meet the Locals of Northern Thailand



Visit Wat Suan Dok where we'll meet a local monk and learn about Buddhism, against the backdrop of the temple's magnificent golden chedi. We continue to a small village nearby where we'll Connect with Locals, joining a family in their typical stilt house for a northern Thai-style Be My Guest experience with lunch. Then admire the delicate hand-painted fans and colorful paper umbrellas that are famously crafted in Chiang Mai's Sankamphaeng district.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Hotel: Movenpick Suriwongse Hotel

Day 10 | A Day to Discover Chiang Mai



Your morning is yours to enjoy or join an Optional Experience to visit the Kayan tribe, where you'll meet the women who wear traditional brass rings round their necks and learn about their centuries-old customs. Later, you'll visit Wat Doi Suthep, one of Thailand's most sacred temples. As the sun sets, take in the breathtaking views and listen to the amazing chants of the monks. Gather with your Travel Director and fellow travelers for a dinner at a local restaurant tonight.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Hotel: Movenpick Suriwongse Hotel

OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

Half-Day Hmong Village & Botanic Garden with Lunch - Venture into Northern Thailand's hills to meet the Kayan tribe and discover their rich traditions, including the cultural significance of their brass neck rings, worn for generations. Explore the lush botanical gardens before a delicious lunch at an orchid farm.

Adult: 3110.00 THB

Day 11 | Continue to Cambodia



Transfer to the airport for the short international flight to Siem Reap in Cambodia via Bangkok. On arrival you will meet your local Cambodian Travel Director. The rest of your day is at leisure.

Meals: Breakfast

Hotel: Tara Angkor

Day 12 | Amazing Angkor Wat



Today, walk through a pyramid-shaped gateway into an ancient world. Serene stone faces watch over us as we cross the causeway suspended over a moat into the spiritual heart of the ancient lost city of Angkor. A Local Specialist and renowned Khmer scholar brings to life the stories behind the intricate carvings and murals of celestial nymphs and mythical serpents along the abandoned hallways of Angkor Wat.

Our next stop is the terracotta-hued walls of Banteay Srei Temple – the “Citadel of Women” dedicated to the Hindu God Shiva. We’ll have time to admire the 10th-century carvings of women, said to have been too delicate to have been carved by a man, hence the name.

This afternoon embark on a guided walking tour of the Old Town. Later we’ll visit Wat Damnak and participate in a private blessing ceremony during which a sacred thread will be tied around our wrists to protect against evil spirits.

Finishing with a visit to Krabei Riel local village you will have a chance to walk and talk with the villagers who are always keen to share their smiles with you. Learn some of their traditional skills such as palm leaf weaving, your time will be spent truly engaging in a real-life Cambodian Village MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience.

Meals: Breakfast

Hotel: Tara Angkor

Day 13 | Temples of Angkor



Our first stop today is a visit to the fortified Angkor Thom, where we'll see such iconic sites as the Terrace of Elephants, the Royal Enclosure and the Temple of Bayon with its giant smiling faces of Buddha. We venture underneath the dense tree canopy to the crumbling, moss-covered ruins of the Buddhist temple of Ta Prohm, which featured as the location for the film 'Tomb Raider', exploring its towers, courtyards and corridors to uncover the intricate stone reliefs that are shielded by the surrounding foliage. Continuing with a visit to the Old Market, where the locals shop for fresh fruit, vegetables and spices. Wander past the busy stalls and smell freshly baked baguettes, a remnant of the country's French heritage.

Enjoy an afternoon at leisure or consider joining an Optional Experience to learn the secrets of Khmer cuisine or a sunset boat cruise on Tonle Sap Lake. This evening transfer for a wonderful dinner accompanied by traditional Apsara Dancing that will bring ancient Khmer culture to life.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Hotel: Tara Angkor

OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

Khmer Cooking Class - Take a short walk through the local market with the Chef and discover the exotic looking fruits, vegetables and spices. Learn about local cooking practices, ingredients and food superstitions. Upon your return to the restaurant, and following a refreshing drink, continue to the kitchen to begin the cooking class. Learn the secrets of Khmer cuisine as you prepare a variety of traditional dishes and later enjoy your creations served up in the restaurant.

Adult: 49.00 USD

Sunset Boat Cruise - Depart from your hotel and transfer to Chong Kneas, a trading port of agricultural products on the edge of Tonle Sap Lake. Board a traditional and comfortable wooden boat, and embark on a relaxing and insightful sunset cruise on the lake. A selection of soft drinks and beer is served while you observe the local lifestyle of the people living on the lake in their floating and stilted homes. Towards the end of the day, the activity on the lake picks up as people return from their fish farms to present and sell their catch at the local market. Continue to the open waters and take in the sunset before returning to the port for a transfer back to Siem Reap town. Note: This trip will not operate during periods of low water which normally occur from April to September.

Adult: 76.00 USD

MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Lunch at SPOONS - A visit to SPOONS Cafe and Restaurant offers you the chance to take part in the life-changing opportunities the organization provides to students through its training programmes, while experiencing the best of what Siem Reap has to offer. Sustainability is at the heart of everything they do—their mission, food, construction, and design. Your experience supports United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 10: Reduced Inequalities.

Adult: 28.00 USD

Day 14 | Farewell Cambodia



As your journey through Vietnam comes to an end, a shuttle service to the airport has been arranged to ensure a smooth departure for your onward flight.

Meals: Breakfast