

Central Thailand with River Kwai

9 days

Sept 05 - Sept 13, 2017

\$1788 per person pp dbl occ



Escorted Tour includes:

Round trip flights St. Louis-Bangkok-St. Louis

Airline taxes & fuel surcharges

7 nights accommodations

4 nights Bangkok

2 nights Kanchanaburi

1 night Ayutthaya

Hotel taxes, fees & service charges

Hotel portorage

All transfers

10 meals: 7 breakfasts, 1 lunch, 2 dinners

Entrance fees per itinerary

Comfortable wireless earphones for enhanced touring

Special Features

Visit serene Wat Po, home of the astonishing giant Reclining Buddha

Visit the buzzing and vividly colorful Damnoen Saduak Floating Market

Bridge over the River Kwai & War Museum, Kanchanaburi

Bang Pa-In Royal Palace, was used as a summer palace by the Siamese royalty, Ayutthaya

Chai Wattanaram Temple, one of the most impressive remaining monuments, Ayutthaya

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Itinerary

DAY 1, Tuesday - Depart for Thailand

DAY 2, Wednesday - Arrive in Bangkok

Welcome to Thailand! Arrive in exotic Bangkok and transfer to your hotel; remainder of the day at leisure. Time to rest, relax and acclimate to your new time zone

DAY 3, Thursday - Bangkok City Tour

This morning enjoy a tour that introduces you to Bangkok, the "City of Angels". Discover bustling Chinatown packed with hundreds of market stalls, street-side restaurants and gold shops. On to colorful "Little India" with its bright hanging walls of glistening fabrics and the fragrant wholesale Flower Market. Visit serene Wat Po, (Temple of the Reclining Buddha) the oldest and largest temple in the city, with its astonishing giant Reclining Buddha, over 150 feet long and almost 40 feet high. Drive via Royal Avenue where most of the Government offices are located and the King's Palace. The rest of the day is at leisure to rest and relax before tonight's Welcome Drink and briefing by your Tour Manager, followed by a Welcome Dinner at the hotel

DAY 4, Friday - Full Day in Bangkok

Today is yours to explore Bangkok independently. Or, take the *optional* tour to the elaborate 18th century Grand Palace, symbol and ceremonial heart of the kingdom, and to Wat Phra Kaew, (Temple of the Emerald Buddha), with its brightly colored buildings, golden spires and gorgeous mosaics. You'll see the distinct contrast in style between the Thai-inspired Wat Phra Kaew and the European design of the Grand Palace.

Optional: Half Day Grand Palace & Emerald Buddha (AM)

Optional: Siam Niramit Show & Dinner (PM)

DAY 5, Saturday - Travel to Kanchanaburi, Visit Bridge over River Kwai & War Museum

Travel southwest this morning to the vibrant Damnoen Saduak Floating Market; observe how the ancient trading of wares is conducted between hundreds of local farmers and villagers aboard small Sampan boats. The boats are fully loaded with all kinds of products including fruits, vegetables, dry goods, and freshly cooked food. From the Floating market, continue to the quiet provincial capital of Kanchanaburi, with its stunning natural beauty, spectacular waterfalls and beautiful rivers. The bridge, several museums and cemeteries have respectfully preserved the history and memorialized the dead.

DAY 6, Sunday - Full Day in Kanchanaburi

Day at leisure to explore Kanchanaburi independently. Or, take the *optional* full day Hellfire Pass and Death Railway tour. Hellfire Pass derives its name from Allied POWs forced to work day and night in the jungle to complete the bridge and rail line using only simple tools; more than 12,000 soldiers and 80,000 Thais perished during the construction. A boat trip on the River Kwai and a ride on the Death Railway is included in the tour. Lunch en route before returning to Kanchanaburi

Optional: Full Day Hellfire Pass & Death Railway with lunch.

DAY 7, Monday - Travel to Ayutthaya, Ayutthaya City Tour

Depart Kanchanaburi to Ayutthaya, the second Siamese capital after Sukhothai for over 400 years, once glorified as the largest city in Southeast Asia. In the center of the city lies Ayutthaya Historical Park, designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Here, you can see the ruins of the former capital and its remaining palaces, monasteries and towers - one can envision the grandeur and splendor that was once the Kingdom of Ayutthaya. Here, you can enjoy the peaceful and tranquil surroundings of Siam before dinner

Overnight: Ayutthaya

DAY 8, Tuesday - Travel to Bangkok

Start your morning with a visit to Bang Pa-In Palace, a collection of beautiful buildings in various architectural styles, surrounded by a lake. Originally built by King Prasat Tong in 1632, this served as the Royal Summer Palace for the Thai Kings. If time permits, there may be a visit to a local school before traveling to Bangkok. En route stop at a gem gallery, to watch while jewelry is made and learn more about the gems used. Enjoy a night out on the town as you bid farewell to Thailand

Overnight: Bangkok

DAY 9, Wednesday - Depart Thailand

Bon Voyage! Transfer to the airport for your departure flight