

THE TRAVEL CLUB

Thailand: The Golden Kingdom with Cambodia Extension

12 DAYS: Friday, January 11-Tuesday, January 22, 2019 pp/do \$4,274 single \$4,894
Friday, February 22-Tuesday, March 5, 2019 pp/do \$3,564 single \$4,184
Friday, March 22-Tuesday, April 2, 2019 pp/do \$3,614 single \$4,234

Experience the warm welcome of the Land of Smiles. From bustling Bangkok, you'll travel north to ancient ruined capitals, local villages, and mountaintop temples to investigate all sides of this vibrant country of contrasts. The spice and rice will nourish your body; the scenery and history will nourish your soul.

Your tour package includes

- 10 nights in handpicked hotels, 10 breakfasts, 4 lunches, 4 dinners with beer or wine
- 8 guided sightseeing tours, Expert Tour Director & local guides, Private deluxe motor coach

Included highlights

- Grand Palace, Temple of the Golden Buddha, Damnoen Saduak Floating Market, Ayutthaya Ruins,
- Sukhothai Historical Park, Wat Rong Khun, Elephant Nature Park,

Tour pace

On this guided tour, you'll walk for about 1 hour daily across uneven terrain with some hills.



Overnight Flight

Day 1: Travel day **Board your overnight flight to Thailand today.**

Bangkok

Day 2: Arrival in Bangkok Welcome to Thailand! Settle in to your hotel tonight.

Day 3: Sightseeing tour of Bangkok **Included meals: Breakfast, Dinner**

This morning, your Tour Director leads a sightseeing tour of Bangkok. • Explore the sprawling Grand Palace complex, built in 1782 for the king of Siam • See the city's vast array of Buddha statues at the Temple of the Emerald Buddha (Wat Phra Kaew), the Temple of the Reclining Buddha (Wat Pho), and the Temple of the Golden Buddha (Wat Traimit) • Tour the city's canals, called *klongs*, on a speedboat and converted rice barge This evening, get acquainted with your fellow travelers at a welcome dinner.

Day 4: Damnoen Saduak Floating Market & River Kwai **Included meals: Breakfast**

Explore the region on a series of stops at local cultural sites. • Experience the Damnoen Saduak Floating Market, where locals sell produce from their small boats • Journey to Kanchanaburi, home to the River Kwai and the Thai-Burma Railway bridge that was made famous by the novel and film about its construction • Visit the World War II Cemetery, resting place of over 9,000 Allied soldiers

Phitsanulok

Day 5: Ayutthaya & Uthai Thani **Included meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner**

Journey to Ayutthaya, Thailand's capital from 1350 to 1767. • Tour the ruins, decorated with beautiful images of the Buddha draped in saffron robes, just like living monks • Continue on to Uthai Thani to visit the beautiful Wat Chantaram Enjoy a free evening in Phitsanulok or add an excursion.

Optional Excursion **Rickshaw Ride & Market +\$29/pp**

Take a cycle rickshaw to the Phitsanulok Night Market, where you'll find fresh food cooked and served to order. Watch as local cooks perform their signature "flying vegetables show," in which vegetables are fried in a wok, then tossed high into the air. Be sure to try the finished product, Pak Boong Loy Fah (or "Flying Morning Glory" in English). In addition to the food, you'll discover an astounding variety of local handicrafts, souvenirs and clothing for sale. Save \$10 when you book this excursion up to 3 days before your tour departs (On-tour price: \$39)

Chiang Rai

Day 6: Sukhothai Historical Park **Included meals: Breakfast, Lunch**

On your way to Chiang Rai, stop and board a trolley to tour the Sukhothai Historical Park. Now a UNESCO World Heritage site, this park includes classical Buddha statues and temple ruins.

Day 7: Mae Kok River, oolong tea plantation & the Mekong River

Included meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Spend today exploring the waterways, villages, and markets outside of Chiang Rai. • Board a long-tail boat and venture along the Mae Kok River • Head to an oolong tea plantation in Mae Salong for a tour and

tasting • Visit the Golden Triangle, where the three countries of Burma, Thailand, and Laos meet on the Mekong River • Take a short cruise across the Mekong River to visit a local market in Laos

Chiang Mai

Day 8: Wat Rong Khun & Doi Suthep

Included meals: Breakfast, Dinner

On your way to Chiang Mai, stop at Wat Rong Khun, the otherworldly “White Temple.” Then, enjoy the stunning scenery as you stop at some of the region’s most impressive temples and historic sites. • Discover Doi Suthep, the regal mountain overlooking the city from the northwest and home to some of the most deeply loved symbols in the Kingdom • Walk the 290 steps skyward or take a cable car to Wat Phrathat Doi Suthep, a major temple and pilgrimage destination during the important Buddhist holidays of Makha Buja and Visak • Visit Wat Suan Dok, a temple constructed for a revered priest visiting from Sukhothai, to learn about Buddhism from one of the resident monks

Day 9: Elephant Nature Park

Included meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Drive through the countryside to the Mae Taeng Valley and the Elephant Nature Park, a camp dedicated to caring for the elephant population through conservation efforts and ending mistreatment. You’ll learn about Asian elephants as you watch them feed and bathe. Enjoy a free evening in Chiang Mai or add an excursion.

Optional Excursion **Khantoke Dinner +\$39/pp**

Revel in a delectable, entertaining khantoke dinner. The customary northern Thai style of eating, khantoke-style dining became popular in the early 1950s, though it has been a Lanna Thai tradition for centuries. Relax as traditional food is served on large platters, and enjoy your meal as you are entertained by a variety of cultural performances. Save \$10 when you book this excursion up to 3 days before your tour departs (On-tour price: \$49)

Day 10: Local handicraft market

Included meals: Breakfast

Travel to San Kamphaeng to see how regional products are made by visiting local artisans, a silk factory, and a paper umbrella manufacturer. Enjoy a free afternoon in Chiang Mai or add an excursion.

Optional Excursion **Traditional Thai Cooking Class & Dinner +\$69/pp**

Venture outside Chiang Mai to a secluded part of Sankhampaeng village, amidst the stunning rice field scenery of Northern Thailand. Start at a local market and learn about fresh ingredients which you will cook. Culinary school chefs will teach you how to prepare four traditional Thai dishes. Enjoy your meal with your fellow travelers. Save \$10 when you book this excursion up to 3 days before your tour departs (On-tour price: \$79)

Bangkok

Day 11: Flight to Bangkok

Included meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Fly to Bangkok for your final day in Thailand. After reaching the capital city, spend time relaxing or exploring on your own. Later, join your group for a farewell dinner.

Day 12: Departure **Included meals: Breakfast (excluding early morning departures)**

Transfer to the airport for your early morning flight home or continue your tour in Cambodia.

Add an extension to Cambodia

from \$999

3 nights



Siem Reap

Day 12: Sunset at Angkor Wat

Included meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Fly to Siem Reap, Cambodia, and arrive in time for lunch. At sunset, tour the majestic temples of Angkor Wat, the world's largest religious monument and an outstanding example of Khmer architecture. Honoring Hinduism and Buddhism, its five layers of rectangular walls and moats are said to represent mountains and the ocean.

Day 13: Angkor Thom, Ta Prohm & Preah Khan

Included meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Spend the day exploring evocative temple ruins with your Tour Director. • Experience Angkor Thom, the last capital of the Kmer Empire and home of the Elephant Terrace, the Terrace of the Leper King, and the Bayon Temple • Explore Ta Prohm, a 12th-century temple that has been largely reclaimed by the jungle • Stop at the ruins of the nearby Preah Khan temple

Bangkok

Day 14: Flight to Bangkok

Included meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Enjoy a morning tour of Banteay Srei and Banteay Samre, the latter meaning "Citadel of the Women." Later, fly back to Bangkok for a farewell dinner with your group.

Day 15: Departure **Included meals: Breakfast (excluding early morning departures)**

Transfer to the airport for your early morning flight home.