

# THAILAND SPLENDOURS



## Day 1 : Arrive Bangkok

Upon arrival at Bangkok airport transfer to hotel and time to relax from the flight.

## Day 2 : Bangkok Exploration

After breakfast start your discovery of Bangkok. This tour includes three of the most unusual Buddhist temples in the city: Wat Trimitr with its valuable Golden Buddha (5 ½ tons of solid gold), Wat Po, the most extensive temple in Bangkok with its colossal reclining Buddha and the Chedis of the Kings. The Grand Palace is one of the most beautiful samples of an ancient Siamese court. It used to be the residence of the Kings of Thailand. Here see palaces which were used for different occasions: the Funeral Palace, the Reception Palace, the Throne Hall, the Coronation Hall, the Royal Guest House and the beautiful Emerald Buddha Temple.

## Day 3 : Bangkok - Unkon Bangkok & Thonburi Klongs

Start the day with a walk through the morning flower market to explore the authentic Thai lifestyle. Proceed to board a long-tailed boat to Thonburi in the western part of Bangkok. Its many canals had originally given Bangkok the name "Venice of the East." Passing by boat along the canals gives a first hand impression of the scenic life along Bangkok's waterways. Also visit the Royal Barges and the Temple of Dawn.

## Day 4 : Bangkok - Ayuthaya - Phitsanuloke

After breakfast depart Bangkok for Bang Pa In to visit the Summer Palace of King Rama V. Afterwards enjoy a scenic boat trip to Ayuthaya. Disembark at the local pier and visit Wat Pranangcherg and the three ancient pagodas at Wat Phra Sri Sanpetch. After lunch continue to drive to Phitsanuloke where you visit the Sgt. Maj. Thavee Folk Museum. This private museum collects unique items representing the Thai rural life of the past. Later get to know a Buddha statue factory and observe the skilled craftsmen at work.

## Day 5 : Phitsanuloke - Sukhothai - Lampang

In the morning today visit Wat Pra Sri Rattana Maha Dhat with its revered Buddha statue. Later continue your trip to Sukhothai where you see Wat Sri Chum, temple of the Bodhi

Tree, located north of the old city walls and maybe the most enigmatic of Sukhothai's temples. After lunch proceed to Lampang where you enjoy a horse carriage ride around the old streets and a walking tour to some of the most remarkable colonial style houses in Talad Gao.

### *Day 6 : Lampang - Phayao - Chiang Rai*

Today brings an early start and a wonderful chance to make merit with the monks at a temple nearby. Thai Buddhists believe that by making merit they earn happiness, peace in life and the chance to progress in their next life. Later depart for Chiang Rai. On the way visit a pineapple and stop at Phayao Lake. After lunch visit Chiang Saen, former capital of the first Thai kingdom, situated directly on the Mekong River at the border between Thailand and Laos. Take a boat trip upriver on the Mekong to the Golden Triangle where the borders of Thailand, Myanmar and Laos meet.

### *Day 7 : Chiang Rai - Chiang Mai*

After breakfast visit the famous Wat Rong Khun or White Temple. Continue to Ban Lorcha, a Phami Akha hill tribe community centre. This community based development project promotes sustainable, self-reliant development to improve the quality of life of the villagers of this Akha community. Later onwards to Chiang Mai. In the Afternoon visit handicraft factories for lacquerware and spinning and weaving of Thai Silk. In the evening enjoy a Kantoke dinner, a typical Thai dinner with ancient dances from northern Thailand followed by a performance of dances and songs by various hill tribes.

### *Day 8 : Chiang Mai - Orchid Farm*

Today visit an orchid farm where you see a great variety of species and colors of this beautiful flower. Later drive up the serpentine road to the magnificently situated Wat Phra Dhat Doi Suthep. Perched on a forested mountain of 3,280 ft, this most sacred Chiang Mai temple provides a superb view over the city as well as a wealth of images and frescos.

### *Day 9 : Chiang Mai*

Enjoy a day at leisure to discover more of beautiful Chiang Mai.

### *Day 10 : Chiang Mai Departure*

After breakfast transfer to the Chiang Mai airport for your departure flight.

