

THAILAND SPLENDORS 10 DAYS

ITINERARY:



Day 1 : Arrival Bangkok

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

Meals: - **Lodging:** Rembrandt hotel

Day 2 : Bangkok - City & Temple tour (B)

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.

Meals: Breakfast **Lodging:** Rembrandt hotel

Day 3 : Bangkok - Unknown Bangkok & Thonburi Klongs (B)

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.

Meals: Breakfast **Lodging:** Rembrandt hotel

Day 4 : Bangkok - Ayuthaya - Phitsanuloke (B / L / D)

After breakfast depart from Bangkok for Bang Pa In to visit the Summer Palace of King Rama V. Afterwards take a local motor boat for 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 from the past era. Then get to know a Buddha statue factory and observe the skilled craftsmen at work.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner **Lodging:** Amarin Lagoon hotel

Day 5 : Phitsanuloke - Sukhothai - Lampang (B / L / D)

After breakfast visit Wat Pra Sri Rattana Maha Dhat with its revered Buddha statue, Phra Buddha Jinaraj. 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.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner **Lodging:** Wienglakor hotel

Day 6 : Lampang - Phaoyao - Chiang Rai (B / L / D)

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 and this sacred experience creates a harmonious way to start the day for all. Later depart for Chiang Rai. On the way visit a pineapple plantation before continuing northwards and stopping 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. Afterwards drive to Mae Sai, the northernmost Thai town on the border to Myanmar.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner **Lodging:** Wiang Inn hotel

Day 7 : Chiang Rai - Chiang Mai (B / L / D)

After breakfast drive to visit the famous Wat Rong Khun or White Temple, with its unique “kanok” architecture and sculptures, designed by national artist Chalermchai Kositpipat. Continue to Ban Lorcha, a Phami Akha hill tribe community center. This community based development project promotes sustainable, self-reliant development to improve the quality of life of the villagers of this Akha community. Proceed to Chiang Mai. In the Afternoon visit handicraft factories to observe the manufacture of lacquerware, the spinning and weaving of Thai Silk and learn how paper umbrellas are made. 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.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner **Lodging:** Empress hotel

Day 8 : Chiang Mai - Elephant camp (B / L / D)

Today visit an elephant camp and see how these talented and trained animals are used in the timber industry. The elephants strength and strategic teamwork will amaze you. Afterwards explore 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 (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.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner **Lodging:** Empress hotel

Day 9 : Chiang Mai (B)

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

Meals: Breakfast **Lodging:** Empress hotel

Day 10 : Chiang Mai departure (B)

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

Meals: Breakfast

