



TRAVELLING TO NEW PLACES WITH CONFIDENCE

# Best of Thailand & Cambodia

## 14-Day, 11-Night Journey

*Bangkok, Chiang Rai, Chiang Mai, Siem Reap*

Enjoy a world of difference, starting with a journey that takes you back in time to two ancient kingdoms that once flourished in Southeast Asia. Thailand and Cambodia are brothers. They have as many similarities as they are different in their unique ways. This trip features the rich history, ancient culture and natural beauty from two impeccable countries. Set out on an enriching private tour as you explore the highlights of Thailand and Cambodia. Gaze with awe at the dramatically different kinds of temples, from the iconic sandstone Angkor Wat temples, ornate golden Buddhist temples to the uniquely contemporary White temple. Explore the vibrant city of Bangkok, the tinted past of the opium-fueled Golden Triangle, the charming walled city of Chiang Mai and tourist friendly Siem Reap.

### ♦ Private Tour

## Trip Overview (\*UNESCO World Heritage Sites)

- |                                 |                              |   |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------|---|
| ▶ Bangkok City Tour             | (Emerald Buddha)             | ▶ Chiang Rai Golden Triangle            |
| ▶ Long-Tail Boat Ride           | ▶ Wat Traimit                | Tour                                    |
| ▶ Wat Arun (the Temple of Dawn) | (Golden Buddha Temple)       | ▶ Mekong River Boat Ride                |
| ▶ Grand Palace                  | ▶ Wat Pho (Reclining Buddha) | ▶ Opium Museum                          |
| ▶ Wat Phra Kaew                 | ▶ Amphawa Floating Market    | ▶ Mae Fah Luang Garden, the Royal Villa |
|                                 | ▶ Maeklong Railway Market    |   |

- White Temple
- Chiang Mai Temple Tour
- Night Bazaar
- Elephant Hospital
- Wat Phra That  
Lampang Luang
- Wat Hariphunchai
- **Angkor Archaeological Park\***
- Angkor Wat (Sunrise)
- Angkor Thom
- Ta Prohm
- Banteay Kdei
- Bayon Temple
- Terrace of the Elephants
- Terrace of the Leper King
- Preah Khan
- Neak Pean
- Ta Som
- East Mebon
- Sunset at Pre Rup Temple

## Why You'll Love This Tour



### THE ART OF THE TEMPLES

Thailand's classical arts developed almost exclusively in the service of Buddhism. The best showcases are the Buddhist temples that come in all different shapes and sizes, in gold, white and wood, and range from ancient ruins to modernistic architecture.



### A FLOURISHED KINGDOM THAT MADE HISTORY

The Khmer Empire was the largest empire of Southeast Asia and flourished between the 9th and 15th century. The ultimate expression of Khmer genius is found in a UNESCO World Heritage Site called the Angkor Wat, and is matched by only a few select spots in the world such as Machu Picchu or Petra.



### ENDLESS STREET FOOD OPTIONS

This journey provides both first time visitors and returning travelers some amazing insight into the street food culture. Bangkok and Chiang Mai both offer fabulous street food with a wide variety of ready-to-eat meals, snacks, fruits and drinks that will have your taste buds craving for more!

## Inclusions

- ▶ Airport Transfers, Meet and Greet
- ▶ Hotel Accommodations
- ▶ Daily Breakfast & Selected Meals  
(See tour plan for details)
- ▶ English-speaking Local Guide
- ▶ Entrance Fees to Monuments and Attractions per Itinerary

## Exclusions

- ▶ Airfare
- ▶ Travel Insurance
- ▶ Medical Expenses
- ▶ Visa Fee
- ▶ Gratuity
- ▶ Personal Expenses

## Nearby Airport

Bangkok - Suvarnabhumi International Airport (BKK)

Siem Reap - Siem Reap International Airport (REP)

## Itinerary

(B)-Breakfast, (L)-Lunch, (D)-Dinner

### DAY 1: MAJOR USA AIRPORT - BANGKOK (BKK)

Depart from your USA airport to fly to Bangkok. Night on board.

\*If your flight departs in the early morning hours, you must arrive at the airport the night before the indicated departure day i.e. early Friday morning means Thursday night!

### DAY 2: TRANSIT

### DAY 3: BANGKOK | ARRIVAL

Welcome to **Bangkok**, the vibrant capital city of Thailand that dazzles visitors with its vivid contrasts - serene temples, gardens and royal palaces amidst ultra-modern skyscrapers and bustling city crowds. Upon arrival in Bangkok, you'll be met at the airport and transferred to your hotel. The remainder of the day is free.

\*Hotel check-in time is generally 4 pm or later. If your flight arrives in the early morning (e.g. midnight or 7 am) we suggest you add a pre-tour hotel night during booking for a well-deserved rest before starting your tour.



#### DAY 4: BANGKOK | CITY TOUR (B)

We kick off our journey with a **long-tail boat ride** along the famous **Chao Phraya River**. We will visit **Wat Arun** (the Temple of Dawn), the **Grand Palace**, **Wat Phra Kaew** (Emerald Buddha), **Wat Traimit** (Golden Buddha Temple) and **Wat Pho** (Reclining Buddha).

#### DAY 5. BANGKOK | AMPHAWA FLOATING MARKET, RAILWAY MARKET (B, L)

No trip to Bangkok is complete without a visit to the local market. Visit **Amphawa floating market** 30 miles outside of Bangkok, an authentic local market with a mostly Thai clientele. It is the second most popular floating market after the Damnoen Saduak. Followed by a visit to **Maeklong market**, a one-of-a-kind market that is located right on the tracks of an active railway line.

#### DAY 6: BANGKOK - CHIANG RAI (B)

Fly north to **Chiang Rai** today. Upon arrival into Chiang Rai, you'll be met at the airport and transferred to your hotel. The remainder of the day is free. Chiang Rai was the ancient capital of the Lanna Kingdom in 13th century.

#### DAY 7: CHIANG RAI | GOLDEN TRIANGLE DAY TOUR (B, L)

Today we drive to the **Golden Triangle** that was once home to the world's most powerful opium smugglers at the borders of Thailand, Laos, and Myanmar. Take a long-tail boat ride along the **Mekong River** to Don Sao village in Laos. The fascinating **Opium Museum** offers an eye-opening look at everything from planting, harvesting and trading to paraphernalia for consuming opium. Along today's route we visit the highest mountain peak in this region and enjoy the view of soaring mountains, crashing rivers and lush thick jungles that are unique to this region. We also visit the beautiful **Mae Fah Luang Garden, the Royal Villa**.

#### DAY 8: CHIANG RAI – CHIANG MAI | WHITE TEMPLE (B)

Depart for **Chiang Mai**. Enroute we visit the **White Temple** (Wat Rong Khun), an unconventional Buddhist temple designed by Chalermchai Kositpipat who is a Thai painter-turned-architect. This magnificent temple is a surreal blend of traditional Thai architecture and the bizarre.

#### DAY 9: CHIANG MAI | MORNING CITY TOUR, SUNDAY NIGHT MARKETS (B, L)

**Chiang Mai** was the heart and soul of the ancient Lanna Kingdom that flourished from 1250 to 1860. Along the banks of the Ping River and within the easily walkable confines of the original walled and moated Old City, you will discover elegant temples, cultural emporiums for local dance and music, and distinct awesome Chiang Mai food with influences from Burma and China.

This **half-day Chiang Mai temple tour** explores the most famous and picturesque of the city's 36 Buddhist Wats, the perfect introduction to Northern Thailand's cultural and religious capital. Experience

Chiang Mai's most visually stunning Buddhist temples.

Chiang Mai's **Sunday Night Bazaar** is perhaps the city's most popular attraction. The colorful mix of shops and stalls sell all sorts of things, such as embroidered hill tribe textiles, silks, silver jewelry, carvings, ceramics, and antiques. It's also one of the best places in town to sample some spicy street food. Come hungry and eat while shopping.

#### **DAY 10: CHIANG MAI | ELEPHANT HOSPITAL, TEMPLE TRAIL (B, L)**

Visit the first **elephant hospital** in the world and some of the best temples in northern Thailand without the overt commercialization in the cultural cities of **Lamphun** and **Lampang**. 15th century **Wat Phra That**

**Lampang Luang** is both famous and beautiful, built on an 8th century fortress. **Wat Hariphunchai** is Lamphun's most famous temple.

#### **DAY 11: CHIANG MAI – SIEM REAP | APSARA DANCE PERFORMANCE (B, D)**

Fly south-east to **Siem Reap**, Cambodia. Siem Reap is a tourist friendly town that still retains its original small town colonial charm. Upon arrival into Siem Reap, you'll be met at the airport and transferred to your hotel. The remainder of the day is free.

This evening we enjoy a traditional **Apsara dance performance**. The elegant performers, dressed in glittering silk and sequins, evoke the legendary Apsara (female spirit of the clouds and waters) of Hindu mythology.

#### **DAY 12: SIEM REAP | ANGKOR GRAND CIRCUIT WITH SUNSET (B, L)**

The next 2 days, we see an astonishing profusion of ancient monuments in both size and number. Not to mention the intricate artistry of an idealized representation of the Hindu cosmos carved in stone.

Tour the Angkor Grand Circuit and finish the day with a spectacular view of the sunset: **Preah Khan (Royal Sword)**, **Neak Pean (Coiled Serpents)**, **Ta Som**, **East Mebon**, **Pre Rup (sunset)**.

#### **DAY 13: SIEM REAP | Angkor Small Circuit With Sunrise (B, L)**

Early in the morning, we watch the **sunrise at Angkor Wat**. After a picnic breakfast, tour the Angkor Small Circuit including **Angkor Wat (Temple City)**, **Angkor Thom (Great City)**, **Ta Prohm (Ancestor Brahma)**, **Banteay Kdei (A citadel of Chambers)**, **Srah Srang (Royal Bath)**, and other temples if time allows.

The iconic Angkor Wat temple complex is considered the heart of Cambodia. It is crowned with five soaring towers and embellished with intricate sculptures and carvings. Angkor Thom (Great City) has 54 towers, each decorated with 4 huge mysterious smiling faces. Let's wonder through the extensive grounds including

grand Bayon Temple, the South Gate, Bapoun, the Terrace of the Elephant and the Leper King. Visit the jungle-smothered ruins of Ta Prohm, one of the most evocative of all Angkor's ancient monuments. It is half-consumed by the encroaching forest. This was a filming location for the movie *Lara Croft: Tomb Raider*.

#### **DAY 14: DEPART SIEM REAP, CAMBODIA (B)**

After breakfast, the tour comes to an end. Transfer to **Siem Reap International Airport (REP)** for your flight home to the USA. Arrive in the USA the same day, courtesy of the international date line!

\*Hotel check-out time is generally around 11 am. If your flight departs in the evening or past midnight, we suggest you consider adding a post-tour hotel night during booking, to be comfortable and well rested before your flight home.

## Hotels

We carefully handpick our hotels to ensure they provide you with the best comfort and experience. For Private Tours, you may request a specific hotel as one of the customizable options.

