

## **Trafalgar Tours: Treasures of Thailand with Phuket**

### **Day 1 - Sawadee ka Bangkok**

Say sawadee ka to the land of smiles, starting your Thai adventure in Bangkok. Transfer to your hotel where this evening, we meet our Travel Director and fellow guests for a Welcome Reception drink with local appetizers.

Accommodations: Shangri-La

Meals: Welcome Reception

### **Day 2 - See the Sights of Bangkok Dive Into Culture**

Rise early and join the locals for a graceful T'ai Chi practice in Lumpini Park to kick-start your day. Alternatively, enjoy a leisurely start before joining your fellow travelers on a City Tour, which begins with a visit to Bangkok's Grand Palace, where you'll visit the most sacred Buddhist temple in Thailand, Wat Phra Kaew. See the largest-reclining Buddha in Thailand in Bangkok's oldest temple, Wat Pho, and enjoy a traditional Thai massage in the temple's massage center. Return to your hotel by express river boat, cruising down the Chao Praya past beautiful Wat Arun, the Temple of the Dawn.

Accommodations: Shangri-La

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

### **Day 3 - Thai Cuisine and Cooking Experience Dive Into Culture**

Immerse your senses in the five flavors of Thai cuisine as you join a Local Specialist for a traditional cooking class in a colonial-style house. Visit a local market nearby to source the freshest ingredients that reveal the sweet, sour, salty, bitter and hot flavors of Thai cuisine. Sample the results later, then spend the afternoon exploring the City of Angels on your terms, or consider joining an Optional Experience to Jim Thompson's House, home to an impressive collection of Asian art.

Accommodations: Shangri-La

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

### **Day 4 - Onwards to Damnoen Saduak and Kanchanaburi Dive Into Culture**

A riot of colors greets us this morning as we embark on a visit to the famous floating market at Damnoen Saduak. Connect with the friendly merchants who paddle along the congested canals in their sturdy canoes, laden with fresh fruit and vegetables to sell to shoppers on the banks. En route, we'll Dive Into Culture, stopping at a coconut palm sugar plantation where we'll discover how the farmer extracts the sap from his palm trees to create palm sugar. After lunch in a local restaurant, visit the world famous Bridge over the River Kwai. After a walk along the bridge continue to the Thailand-Burma Railway Museum, revealing insights into the history of the infamous railway line built during WWII by the Imperial Japanese army. Our final stop today sees us pay tribute to the thousands of allied prisoners of war who were laid to rest at the War Cemetery.

Accommodations: Away Kanchanaburi Dheva Mantra Resort and Spa

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

### **Day 5 - Railways and Rivers in Kanchanaburi**

This morning, we visit Hellfire Pass, a section of the Thailand-Burma "Death Railway", so named for the tortuous conditions that prisoners of war endured during WWII to build it. After lunch, we embark on a thrilling train ride across wooden viaducts, skirting the winding waters of the Kwai River. We'll disembark and see the wooden viaducts first-hand walking across one. This evening, we enjoy dinner at a local restaurant.

Accommodations: Away Kanchanaburi Dheva Mantra Resort and Spa

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Regional Dinner

### **Day 6 - On to Ancient Ayutthaya and Sukhothai**

After breakfast, we travel to the UNESCO-listed Ayutthaya, once the second-most important ancient capital of Old Siam and the largest city in the world. Here, we'll delve into the trading heritage of a mighty city that was all but raised to the ground by an 18th century Burmese invasion. We'll enjoy lunch at a local restaurant, then return to Bangkok for our flight to Sukhothai, Thailand's first capital.

Accommodations: Sriwilai Sukhothai Resort and Spa

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

### **Day 7 - Explore Sukhothai**

Gain insights into a powerful kingdom that enjoyed its golden age during the 13th and 14th centuries and shaped modern Thailand as we know it today. Start the day with a visit to the UNESCO-listed Sukhothai Historical Park which reveals thousands of years of history and a 15-meter seated Buddha secreted within its walls. Your choice of exploring will see you engage with the historic complex by bicycle or on the internal tram. This afternoon, visit the home of a local family and learn how to make amulets which are thought to protect the owner from harm.

Accommodations: Sriwilai Sukhothai Resort and Spa

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

### **Day 8 - Continue to Chiang Mai Make Travel Matter Stays With Stories**

Our day begins with a visit to the first of our MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® experiences today at the village of Natonchan, where our visit supports the community's eco-tourism project. We'll interact with the locals and meet one of the villagers to learn about 'gymnastic doll' making and the villagers' traditional cotton clothes which are soaked in mud to protect them from fading. Arriving in Chiang Mai, we enjoy an evening walk with our Travel Director and visit the colorful Sunday market. Our hotel tonight is located in the old town of Chiang Mai.

Accommodations: The Rim Resort

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

### **Day 9 - Meet the Locals of Northern Thailand Connect with Locals**

Admire the delicate hand-painted fans and colorful paper umbrellas that are famously crafted in Chiang Mai's Sankamphaeng district. We continue to a small village nearby where we'll Connect with Locals, joining a family in their typical stilt house for a northern Thai-style Be My Guest lunch. Next is a visit to Wat Suan Dok where we'll meet a local monk and learn about Buddhism, against the backdrop of the temple's magnificent golden chedi.

Accommodations: The Rim Resort

Meals: Breakfast, Be My Guest

### **Day 10 - A Day to Discover Chiang Mai**

Your morning is free to spend as you please. Later, we visit Wat Doi Suthep, one of Thailand's most sacred temples. As the sun sets over this mystical temple, listen quietly to the tranquil sounds of the monks chanting. This evening, we join fellow travelers and Travel Director for a Farewell Dinner at a traditional Thai restaurant located next to the river.

Accommodations: The Rim Resort

Meals: Breakfast, Farewell Dinner

### **Day 11 - Onwards to Phuket**

We leave Chiang Mai bound for Phuket, Thailand's largest island. On arrival, we'll check into our hotel and enjoy the rest of the day at leisure.

Accommodations: SAii Laguna Phuket

Meals: Breakfast

### **Day 12 - Enjoy Exploring Phuket**

There's more to Phuket than its glorious beaches and dazzling nightlife. The island is a captivating fusion of Thai, Chinese, Indian, Arabic and even Portuguese influences, which you'll have an opportunity to encounter first-hand during your walking tour of Phuket Town with a Local Specialist. Visit the early morning fresh food market, rubbing shoulders with the locals who stop by daily to shop and enjoy a quick breakfast. Continue to the amulet market and learn how these metal charms are worn to protect the wearer from harm or bring good luck. Discover the trading history of the island, admiring the beautifully restored shop-houses along your route. You'll visit the beautiful Sino-Portuguese-style colonial mansion of Baan Chinpracha and the Thai Hua Museum, which reveals the history of Phuket, before sampling some of the region's local snacks in a restored coffee house. The walking tour ends with lunch in one of Phuket Town's restaurants where you'll have the opportunity to sample local flavors after which you'll return to your hotel for a relaxing afternoon.

Accommodations: SAii Laguna Phuket

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

### **Day 13 - A Relaxing Day in the Island Paradise of Phuket**

Enjoy a full day to indulge in whatever your heart delights. Take advantage of your tropical surroundings and spend the day relaxing at your beachfront hotel or consider joining one of our Optional Experiences. You could, for example, try your hand at making some classic Thai dishes during a cooking class on Koh Yao Noi island, with time afterwards relaxing on its beaches. Alternatively opt to take a cruise to Phang Nga Bay and spend the day on board a traditional junk style schooner boat sailing around the archipelago, swimming in crystal clear waters and enjoying the dramatic beauty of the islands as they pass you by.

Accommodations: SAii Laguna Phuket

Meals: Breakfast

### **Day 14 - Farewell Phuket**

Your captivating encounter with Thailand at its end, take a transfer to Phuket International Airport for your onward flight.

Meals: Breakfast