





Cultural Treasures of

Thailand



A Twenty-One Day Sample Itinerary



TRIP SUMMARY

DAY 01 MIAMI/CHICAGO/TOKYO

6:35 AM Depart Miami via United Airlines flight # 3562 8:55 AM Arrive Chicago

12:10 PM Depart Chicago via United Airlines flight # 881

DAY 02 TOKYO/ARRIVE BANGKOK

4:30 PM Arrive Tokyo

6:15 PM Depart Tokyo via United Airlines flight # 9711 **11:35 PM** Arrive Bangkok

DAY 03-04 BANGKOK

DAY 05 BANGKOK/DAMNERN SADUAK/ KANCHANABURI

DAY 06 KANCHANABURI

DAY 07 KANCHANABURI/AYUTTHAYA

DAY 08 AYUTTHAYA/BANG PA IN/ BANGKOK

DAY 09 BANGKOK/CHIANG MAI

10:30 AM Depart Bangkok via Thai Airways flight # 106 11:40 AM Arrive Chiang Mai

DAY 10-11 CHIANG MAI

DAY 12 CHIANG MAI/HILLTRIBE REGION

DAY 13 HILLTRIBE REGION

DAY 14 HILLTRIBE REGION/CHIANG RAI

DAY 15 CHIANG RAI

DAY 16 CHIANG RAI/BANGKOK/PHUKET

10:10 AM Depart Chiang Rai via Thai Airways flight # 2131 11:30 AM Arrive Bangkok

> 1:10 PM Depart Bangkok via Thai Airways flight # 207 2:30 PM Arrive Phuket

DAY 17-19 PHUKET

DAY 20 PHUKET/BANGKOK

2:25 PM Depart Phuket via Thai Airways flight # 230 3:50 PM Arrive Bangkok

DAY 21 BANGKOK/ TOKYO/HOUSTON/MIAMI

7:05 AM Depart Bangkok via United Airlines flight # 9710 3:00 PM Arrive Tokyo

6:55 PM Depart Tokyo
via United Airlines flight # 2
3:40 PM Arrive Houston

7:29 PM Depart Houston via United Airlines flight # 756 10:48 PM Arrive Miami







DAY 01 MIAMI/CHICAGO/TOKYO



6:35 AM Depart Miami via United Airlines flight # 3562 direct service to Chicago. Total flying time: 3 hours, 20 minutes. **Set your watch back 1 hour.**

8:55 AM Arrive Chicago. You will have a 3 hour, 15 minute layover and change of planes.



12:10 PM Depart Chicago via United Airlines flight # 881 direct service to Tokyo. Total flying time: 13 hours, 20 minutes. **Set your watch 15 hours ahead.**

DAY 02 TOKYO/ARRIVE BANGKOK

4:30 PM Arrive Tokyo. You will have a 1 hour, 45 minute layover and change of planes.



6:15 PM Depart Tokyo via United Airlines flight # 9711 direct service to Bangkok. Total flying time: 7 hours, 20 minutes. **Set your watch back 2 hours.**



Bangkok, Thailand's major gateway casts an irresistible spell of enchantment. To the Thais it is Krung Thep, "City of Angels", and you'll find it truly a magical place, one that captivates the imagination. More than anywhere else in the country, Bangkok expresses Thailand's uncanny ability to blend the old with the new. This lends a thrilling sense of discovery to one's sightseeing and adds an element of surprise when exploring what is the Orient's most fabled city.

11:35 PM Arrive Bangkok, Thailand - one of the most "Oriental" cities in the Asean World. Formerly the fabled Kingdom of Siam, Thailand earns its reputation as "the Land of Smiles".

After clearing customs and immigration you will be met by your guide outside the baggage claim area and escorted to a waiting vehicle for your transfer to the Royal Orchid Sheraton. Your guide will be holding a sign marked **'Your Name'**.

At the Royal Orchid Sheraton reservations for a Deluxe Riverview Room have been confirmed for the following 3 nights. Enjoy spectacular panoramic views of the Chao Phraya River. The hotel is adjacent to River City, Bangkok's largest antique shopping mall. The Royal Orchid Sheraton is the perfect place from which to discover this magical city of spectacular sights and magnificent temples.

Good restaurants in Bangkok include the Mandarin Oriental's Sala Rim Naam (riverside restaurant that features a set Thai Dinner and Thai Classical Dance Performance), The Dome at Le Bua Hotel (State Towers), Sirocco Rooftop Restaurant or one of the Mandarin Oriental Hotels fine restaurants – Le Normandie, China Club or Lord Jim's.





DAY 04 BANGKOK

Meals included: Breakfast 🕕



At 8:30 AM you will be met by your guide in the hotel lobby. Today you will be visiting temples where you will have to frequently remove your shoes and observe temple dress (arms and legs must be covered).

This morning visit Wat Pho (Reclining Buddha) in time to experience the monks early morning chanting ritual (chanting starts at 9:00 AM). After this uplifting and often private experience visit the temple grounds and the famous 45-metre Reclining Buddha. Wat Pho is the oldest and biggest temple with the largest number of pagodas (95 in all) in the city. Also, it was the first open university of Thailand which offered courses in several branches of knowledge like literature, astrology, medicine and massage.

Continue to The Grand Palace, Thailand's most important landmark, where you will be awed by the grandeur and majesty of the building and its throne halls. Note the detailed ornamentation. The Royal Chapel is Thailand's most important and sacred Wat.

Marvel at the mysterious Wat Phra Keo (Emerald Buddha), the most revered Buddha image in Thailand. The exquisite temple contains an image of Buddha carved from a single piece of jade.





Pause for lunch at a local restaurant. Cost of lunch payable directly to the restaurant.

This afternoon visit Wat Arun, Temple of Dawn'. This monumental 86-meter Khmer-style prang, one of the largest religious monuments in the country, towers above the Chao Phraya to form Bangkok's most impressive and famous landmark. Wat Arun symbolically represents the Buddhist universe, with its trident-capped central tower indicating Mount Meru and the four smaller towers depicting the four worldly oceans. Reflective beauty comes from thousands of multi-glazed Chinese porcelains embedded into the structure by Buddhist devotees.

This evening drive through Bangkok's old quarters where you will see the beautifully illuminated Grand Palace, the Royal Ground, temples and the lit-up Rajdamnoen Avenue.

Explore the Flower Market where you will see numerous varieties of exotic orchids and sweet smelling flowers. The buzz in this market is best experienced at night during which busy vendors load their wares up and down their mopeds.

A potential shopping opportunity awaits you at an adjacent local night market along the Memorial Bridge that overlooks the Chao Phraya River, where you can rummage for handicrafts or souvenirs to bring back home for your family and friends.







At approximately **9:15 AM** board a speed boat and cruise through winding canals. Visit the local floating market at Damnern Saduak where farmers congregate on canals each morning in produce-laden boats. This is Thailand's most authentic floating market.

Afterwards drive to Kanchanaburi, located 80 miles from Bangkok. Kanchanaburi is Thailand's third largest province. The provincial area is mountainous and borders Myanmar to the West.

Visit the Bridge over the River Kwai, the Death Railway constructed by Allied prisoners of war during World War II. Enjoy a train ride across the River Kwai.

Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant.

Afterwards check in to the River Kwai Jungle Rafts where reservations for a Floating Raft Room have been confirmed for the following 2 nights. The resort is situated in a tranquil surrounding and emanates a calm back-to-basics atmosphere.

Overnight: River Kwai Jungle Rafts – Floating Raft Room





DAY 06 KANCHANABURI

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner



Enjoy a day of adventure. Some of the optional activities offered by the resort are: River Jumping, long-tail boat ride along the River Kwai, canoeing, elephant riding through the jungle and Mon Village, trekking and Bamboo Rafting. Swim in the waterfalls. The cost of the activities is not included in your tour price.

Overnight: River Kwai Jungle Rafts - Floating Raft Room



DAY 07 KANCHANABURI/AYUTTHAYA

Meals included: Breakfast



At approximately 9:00 AM depart the River Kwai Jungle Rafts for Ayutthaya.

Enroute visit Hell Fire Pass Memorial Museum, a 500-meter long and 26-meter deep section of rock that was dug out by Prisoners of War intended to allow the 'Death Railway' to continue its route from Bangkok to Yangon (Myanmar). Soldiers were forced to remove the rock using no more than picks, hammers and their bare hands. Of the 1,000 Australian and British soldiers who took 12 weeks to clear the stretch of mountain, 700 died. The Hellfire Pass Memorial and Memorial Museum were set up to commemorate those fallen.

Continue to Ayutthaya with a stop at a local restaurant for lunch en route.

Ayutthaya was founded in 1378 by Ramatibodhi, an ambitious Thai prince from U-Thong who transferred his capital south to escape a smallpox plague. Ramatibodhi soon invited Sri Lankan monks here to reinforce Theravada Buddhism and maintain religious purity. If Sukhothai was the kingdom of love, Ayutthaya was the kingdom of war. Armies were raised, campaigns launched, and by the end of the 14th century Ayutthaya controlled Southeast Asia from Malacca to Angkor. Ayutthaya fell to the Burmese in the 16th century but was quickly restored by Naresuan the Great, one of Thailand's most revered military heroes.

Ayutthaya was burnt to the ground and tremendous art treasures, museums, countless temples, priceless libraries, and historical archives were destroyed - an act of horror which still profoundly shocks the Thais.

Upon arriving in Ayutthaya you will have some time at leisure for you to explore.

At the Kantary Hotel Ayutthaya reservations for a Studio Suite have been confirmed for this evening.





DAY 08 AYUTTHAYA/BANG PA IN/ BANGKOK

Meals included: Breakfast, Buffet Lunch 🚯



At approximately 9:00 AM be ready in the lobby of the Kantary Hotel in preparation for a morning of exploring the surrounding Temples. Visit some of Ayutthaya's most famous temples including Wat Srisanpetch, Wat Yai Chai Mongkol and another of Ayutthaya's most beautiful temples at Wat Chai Watthanaram.

Stop at Bang Pa In or Summer Palace for the Thai Kings. Highlights include a delicate water pavilion, an elaborate pavilion modeled after a Chinese royal palace, and a six-sided Gothic-style tower. The white marble memorial across the small white bridge honors Chulalongkorn's first queen, who tragically drowned in full view of her entourage. At the time of the 1881 incident, royal law demanded death for any commoner who dared touch royalty.

Afterwards board the Grand Pearl Ayutthaya Cruise for a buffet luncheon and cruise down the fabled Chao Phraya River to Bangkok.

At the cruise pier, your guide will be waiting to transfer you to the Royal Orchid Sheraton. Your guide will be holding a sign marked 'Your Name'.

At the Royal Orchid Sheraton reservations for a Deluxe Riverview Room have been confirmed for this evening.







DAY 09 BANGKOK/CHIANG MAI

Meals included: Breakfast 🚻



At 8:15AM be ready in the lobby of the Royal Orchid Sheraton in preparation for your transfer to the Bangkok airport.



10:30 AM Depart Bangkok via Thai Airways flight # 106 direct service to Chiang Mai. Total flying time: 1 hour, 10 minutes.

Chiang Mai (New City) was founded in 1296 by King Mengrai as the capital of the first independent Thai state, Lanna Thai (Kingdom of One Million Rice Fields). It became the cultural and religious center of the northern Tai, those who had migrated from southern China to dwell in Thailand, and remained so throughout the turbulent period of recurring Burmese attacks. The Burmese finally captured Chiang Mai in 1556 and occupied it until King Taksin retook the city in 1775, driving the Burmese forces back to near the present border. Burmese influence on religion, architecture, language, cuisine, and culture, remains strong. The city stands on the Ping River, a major tributary of the Chao Phraya River.

11:40 AM Arrive Chiang Mai, the second largest city in Thailand and the center of folk art. After collecting luggage you will be met by your guide outside the baggage claim area and escorted to a waiting vehicle. Your guide will be holding a sign marked 'Your Name'.

Travel to the Tiger Kingdom approximately a 45 minute drive. You will have a 30 minute opportunity to interact with these beautiful creatures.

Enjoy lunch at the Tiger Kingdom before returning to Chiang Mai.

Afterwards check in to Tamarind Village Chiang Mai where reservations for a Lanna Room have been confirmed for the following 3 nights. Lanna rooms offer first and second floor garden courtyard views and are decorated in a style that blends perfectly with the hotel's theme and setting.

The Tamarind Village Chiang Mai is a unique and charming Lanna-style boutique property that nestles in the heart of historic Chiang Mai. Surrounded by ancient temples and quaint shopping streets, it takes its name from a magnificent 200 year old tamarind tree that shelters the hotel in a shady embrace. The Tamarind Village is situated at the center of Chiang Mai's old town. Many of Chiang Mai's historic landmarks and temples such as Thapae gate, the Three Kings Monument, Wat Phra Singh and Wat Chedi Luang are located within a few minutes' walk of the hotel.

Overnight: Tamarind Village – Lanna Room







DAY 10 CHIANG MAI

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch (1)



Rise Early. At approximately 5:30 AM depart the hotel to experience 'Alms giving'. Travel to Wat Srisoda, at the foot of Doi Suthep Mountain, where you can see the Buddhist monks engaged in their morning prayer and witness the traditional Buddhist food offering (Alms giving). Visit the local market and observe how the Chiang Mai people carry on their daily lives.

Enjoy a rickshaw ride in Chiang Mai Town before returning to the hotel for breakfast.

At approximately 9:00 AM – 9:30 AM you will be met in the lobby by a representative from Adventure Ecotours. Transfer to Thailand's third highest peak where you will spend 3 hours, rigged securely, high up in the rainforest canopy, flying from treehouse to treehouse on ziplines. The flight of the Gibbon Adventure Tour is a unique zip line canopy tour through pristine, 1500 year old rainforest outside of Chiang Mai, Thailand. 18 platforms, sky bridges and lowering stations connect 2km of zip lines that take you through different layers of the rainforest canopy. You zip line easily from tree to tree on a spectacular and gradual downhill course, taking time to linger in your favorite places, soaking up the fragrance, clean air and animal life. Adventure Ecotours safety team accompanies you and teaches you how to move through the trees with the speed and grace of a young gibbon.

Afterwards enjoy a one hour trek to Mae Kompong Waterfall and visit the picturesque village of Mae Kompong where you can see traditional village craftsmen at work together with the famous Mae Kompong Waterfall.

Enjoy lunch before returning to the hotel late in the afternoon.

Overnight: Tamarind Village - Lanna Room





DAY 11 CHIANG MAI

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner 🚯



At approximately 8:30 AM you will be met in the lobby of the hotel and transferred to the 'trekker camp'. Here you will be assigned a mountain bike and the guide will go over the cycling route.

At **9:00 AM** begin your bike ride. Explore the backroads of Chiang Mai by bike. Your guide will lead you through the small romantic lanes and show you daily life in the non-touristy neighborhoods and some of the lesser known areas in town. Stop at a Leprosy Rehabilitation Center and hospital.

Also visit an organic vegetable plantation and continue to a fruit plantation.

Continue cycling to Wiang Kum Kam an ancient underground empire of Lanna kingdom built by King Mang Rai. Many archaeological ruins - temples, Buddha images and old potteries have been discovered.

Your journey takes approximately 3 ½ hours with plenty of stops along the way. The cycling is along flat, mostly sealed roads.

This evening from 4:00 - 8:00 PM enjoy a Thai Cooking Class at Baan Thai Cookery School. Begin with a visit to the local market where you will be shown various vegetables and fruits that are used in Thai Cooking. Afterwards return to the school where you will learn how to prepare a Thai meal. After your lesson enjoy your freshly prepared meal.







DAY 12 CHIANG MAI/HILLTRIBE REGION

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner 🚯



At 8:30 AM be ready in the lobby of the Tamarind Village in preparation for your 3 day/2 night hilltribe trekking adventure. You can arrange to leave your excess luggage with the bell captain. On December 14th your driver will pick up your luggage.

You will be met by the trekking company to go over your trekking itinerary.

Afterwards, enjoy a scenic journey by 'local' truck to the starting point of your hilltribe trekking and rafting adventure. Travel through picturesque plains and hilly regions. Stop at Mae Malai local market where you will have an opportunity to interact with the local people and observe the area where they meet to sell their vegetables, fruits and flowers.

Enjoy lunch at Mog Fha Waterfall. You will have an opportunity to swim. Afterwards continue your journey to Huay Nam Dung National Park.

This is true adventure travel and not for the faint-ofheart. Trekking, hiking, exploring this region requires time, patience and total flexibility. Your journey to this part of the world is a voyage into one of humanity's deepest mysteries.

A number of the villages are unaffected by the modernized world as we know it - their daily life totally dependent on the environment - no luxuries of 24 hour electricity, vehicles, grocery stores, plumbing, etc.

Your journey will be an experience in primitive lifestyles that truly begs the question of what is civilized. Explore, experience and be overwhelmed by some primitive civilizations. Be open and be enriched. Portions of your walks/treks will be strenuous. You will have to sacrifice your creature comforts as the lodging and food are SIMPLE. This is an ideal time to use a mosquito tent and your own sleep sheet.

At Shan Village begin a 1 ½ - 2 hour trek through the jungle. Visit a Karen village and interact with the local villagers.

Enjoy dinner at the village.

Overnight: Simple Accommodation - Karen Hilltribe village (Baan Mae Jok)





DAY 13 HILLTRIBE REGION

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Rise Early. It is impossible to sleep in – the forest is alive and awake - birds are chirping, cocks acknowledging sunrise and the villagers attending to their morning chores.

Enjoy breakfast at the village before you set out on a 3 hour trek through the forested jungle.

Enjoy a simple lunch.

This afternoon enjoy a 60 minute elephant trek through the jungle.

Enjoy dinner at the village.

Overnight: Simple Accommodation – Karen Hilltribe village (Baan Pa Khaolam)







DAY 14 HILLTRIBE REGION/CHIANG RAI

Meals included: Breakfast 🚯



After breakfast board your partly 'submerged' bamboo raft for a 1 1/2 - 2 hour bamboo rafting journey along the Mae Tan River. Visit a Lahu and Karen hilltribe village.

Enjoy lunch at a Shan Village.

After lunch you will be transferred to a waiting vehicle for your overland transfer to Chiang Rai, Land of the Golden Triangle. The driver will have your luggage that you left in Chiang Mai.

Chiang Rai is the capital of Chiang Rai province, and was founded in 1262 by King Meng Rai. Chiang Rai was the first capital of Lanna Thai (Kingdom of a Million Rice fields).

At the Legend Chiang Rai reservations for a Deluxe Studio have been confirmed for the following 2 nights. The Legend is located on a secluded portion of the Mae Kok River. The surrounding area is relatively undeveloped – providing a tranquil, natural location. The hotel has a panoramic view of the near-by hills and 'mountains'.

Overnight: The Legend Chiang Rai - Deluxe Studio









DAY 15 CHIANG RAI

Meals included: Breakfast



Enjoy the day exploring the Golden Triangle.

For this morning's sightseeing you will need your passport, passport photo and entrance fee to visit 'Myanmar'. Your guide will advise the cost of the entry fee.

Travel to Mae Sai, the northernmost town in Thailand before crossing over the Sai River into Myanmar. Witness the local Burmese life in the nearby village of Tachilek. Travel by rickshaw to visit a Shan style temple, home for young novice monks. Afterwards ride through the local streets and alleys. Visit a local market, famous for products from Southern China, Laos and Burma.

This afternoon explore the Golden Triangle - where the borders of Thailand, Myanmar (Burma) and Laos meet. Visit Chiang Saen located on the steep banks of the Mekong River. The once-powerful city of Chiang Saen is one of Thailand's oldest and most historic towns. Founded in the 10th century by Thai commanders as the first independent principality in northern Thailand, Chiang Saen was later destroyed by Khmer forces and reestablished by King Mengrai in 1259. It was then abandoned in favor of Chiang Mai but revived in the 14thcentury by Mengrai's grandson, a devout Buddhist who constructed most of the existing stupas and chedis.

This interesting town has numerous ruins of temples, chedis, city walls and other remains from the Chiang Saen period. There is also a small museum. Across the river from Chiang Saen is Laos, while 7 miles further north, at the point where the Sop Ruak River meets the Mekong, is the official apex of the Golden Triangle.

Overnight: The Legend Chiang Rai – Deluxe Studio





DAY 16 CHIANG RAI/BANGKOK/PHUKET

Meals included: Breakfast



At approximately 7:45 AM be ready in the lobby of the Legend in preparation for your transfer to the Chiang Rai airport.



10:10 AM Depart Chiang Rai via Thai Airways flight # 2131 direct service to Bangkok. Total flying time: 1 hour, 20 minutes.

11:30 AM Arrive Bangkok. You will have a 1 hour, 50 minute layover and change of planes.



1:10 PM Depart Bangkok via Thai Airways flight # 207 direct service to Phuket. Total flying time: 1 hour, 20 minutes.

2:30 PM Arrive Phuket. After collecting luggage you will be met outside the baggage claim area and escorted to a waiting vehicle for your transfer to The Shore at Katathani. Your guide will be holding a sign marked 'Your Name'.

At the The Shore at Katathani reservations for a Pool Villa have been confirmed for the following 4 nights. Enjoy a seaside retreat of limitless splendor that will inhabit your memories forever as you experience a natural fusion of indoor and outdoor living. Set in a cove with peerless views of an expansive emerald sea, the resort honors nature's splendor with the added elegance of traditional oriental design.

Balance of day at leisure.

Overnight: The Shore at Katathani - Pool Villa



Meals included: Breakfast 👚

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

Enjoy a day tour to Phi Phi Island

opportunity to snorkel. Your tour

is a seat in coach tour – joined by

others. Enjoy lunch at a local

Overnight: The Shore at

Katathani - Pool Villa

Enjoy the day at leisure.

Board a long-tail boat and travel through the peaceful canals and past mangrove swamps. Cruise to Phang Nga bay to see limestone outcrops and spectacular cliffed islets. Visit the famous Thum Lod (Grotto) to see beautiful stalactites and stalagmites. Travel to Khao Ping Kun more commonly known as James Bond Island (Where the Man with the Golden Gun was filmed). Enjoy lunch at Koh Pun Yee Island before returning to Phuket. Your tour is a seat in coach tour – joined by others.

Overnight: The Shore at Katathani - Pool Villa

restaurant.

where you will have an

Overnight: The Shore at Katathani - Pool Villa





DAY 20 PHUKET/BANGKOK

Meals included: Breakfast 🚯



At approximately 11:30 AM be ready in the lobby of the The Shore at Katathani in preparation for your transfer to the Phuket airport. Check out time is 11:00 AM.



2:25 PM Depart Phuket via Thai Airways flight # 230 direct service to Bangkok. Total flying time: 1 hour, 25 minutes.

3:50 PM Arrive Bangkok. The Novotel Bangkok Suvarnabhumi Hotel operates a complimentary shuttle every 10 minutes.

At the Novotel Suvarnabhumi Airport Hotel reservations for a Superior room have been confirmed for this evening. The Novotel Bangkok Suvarnabhumi's amenities include a fitness center, outdoor unheated pool, 4 restaurants, bar/lounge, and 24 hour room service.

You will need to arrange your return complimentary transfer with the hotel when you check in.

Overnight: Novotel Bangkok Suvarnabhumi Airport Hotel - Superior Room

DAY 21 BANGKOK/ TOKYO/HOUSTON/ MIAMI

Meals included: Breakfast 🚯



At the agreed upon time be ready in the lobby of the Novotel Suvarnabhumi Airport Hotel in preparation for your complimentary hotel transfer back to the Bangkok airport.



7:05 AM Depart Bangkok via United Airlines flight # 9710 direct service to Tokyo. Total flying time: 5 hours, 55 minutes. Set your watch 2 hours ahead.

3:00 PM Arrive Tokyo. You will have a 3 hour, 55 minute layover and change of planes.



6:55 PM Depart Tokyo via United Airlines flight # 2 direct service to Houston, Texas. Total flying time: 11 hours, 40 minutes. Set your watch back 15 hours.

3:40 PM Arrive Houston. You will have a 3 hour, 49 minute layover and change of planes.



7:29 PM Depart Houston via United Airlines flight # 756 direct service to Miami. Total flying time: 2 hours, 19 minutes. Set your watch 1 hour ahead.

10:48 PM Arrive Miami.

BANGKOK

