

Essence of Thailand

Discovering ancient wonders and natural beauty from Bangkok to Phuket

with optional 4-Night Singapore Pre Tour Extension

Departing February 2 – 17, 2023

Highlights...

Bangkok • Reclining Buddha • Emerald Buddha •
 Bangkok Street Food • Choices on Tour • Sukhothai •
 Chiang Rai • The Golden Triangle • Chiang Mai •
 Elephant Experience in Chiang Mai • Lanna Home Visit •
 Home-Hosted Meal • Phuket • Tuk Tuk Rides

16 Days • 24 Meals: 14 Breakfasts • 6 Lunches • 4 Dinners



Book Now
& Save
\$150
Per Person

BOOK NOW: Double \$6,834; Single \$7,934

Regular rates: Double \$6,984 ; Single \$8,084

** All Rates are Per Person and are subject to change*

Included in Price: Round Trip Air from Edmonton Intl Airport, Inter-flights from Bangkok, Air Taxes and Fees/Surcharges of \$150 per person (subject to increase until paid in full), Hotel Transfers

Not included in price: Cancellation Waiver and Insurance of \$499 per person

IMPORTANT CONDITIONS: Your price is subject to increase prior to the time you make full payment. Your price is not subject to increase after you make full payment, except for charges resulting from increases in government-imposed taxes or fees. Once deposited, you have 7 days to send us written consumer consent or withdraw consent and receive a full refund. **(See registration form for consent.)**

Day 1: Overnight Flight

Embrace the diversity of Southeast Asia as you explore Thailand on this classic journey featuring lavish temples, cultural discoveries, and its stunning natural beauty. From tropical vistas to gilded palaces and ancient ruins, Thailand offers up a piece of its soul to travellers – and your story starts here.

Day 2: Bangkok, Thailand - Tour Begins

Begin your discovery of Thailand in Bangkok, its capital city. Here, vibrant street life is contrasted by a backdrop of ornate shrines and rich history.

Day 3: Bangkok

Begin your journey exploring the winding canals in Bangkok's old town on a private boat trip. On Rattanakosin Island, visit Wat Po, the famous Buddhist temple complex in the Phra Nakhon District and see the world-renowned Reclining Buddha. Enjoy some free time before sitting down with your fellow travellers for a welcome dinner at a local restaurant. *Today breakfast and dinner will be included.*

Day 4: Bangkok

Today, experience more of Bangkok's highlights, including a visit to the Wat Phra Kaew; the Emerald Buddha is regarded as the most sacred Buddhist temple in Thailand. Visit the ornately decorated Grand Palace – the official residence of the Kings of Siam since 1782. Enjoy some free time or choose to join an optional tour to the Jim Thompson house and museum, featuring lunch. This evening, a night tour of Bangkok will create memories for a lifetime as you experience the city from a completely fresh perspective. Climb aboard your tuk tuk – a motorized rickshaw – for a front row seat to the bustling Bangkok city streets lit up at night. The streets are alive with excitement and energy as your tuk tuk brings you for food tastings that capture the local flavour. End with a visit to the flower market – this normally busy, bustling landmark feels solitary and peaceful in the quiet of night. Enjoy more food tastings in a private setting before returning to the hotel. *Today breakfast and dinner will be included.*

Day 5: Bangkok - Sukhothai

Today, **it's your choice!** Choose between a walk from the hotel to visit the Suan Pakkad Palace Museum, known for its Thai antiques **-OR-** take the coach to visit the Marble Temple where you will join Buddhist monks in their daily chanting. After, head to the airport for a short flight to Sukhothai. This evening, enjoy dinner at the hotel. *Today breakfast and dinner will be included.*

Day 6: Sukhothai

Dive into history today as you discover the archaeological sites in Sukhothai. Visit its Historical Park, spanning the ruins of Sukhothai – which means “dawn of happiness” – as well as the famous site of Wat Si Chum, a landmark temple boasting a 49-foot Buddha and an open ceiling. *Today breakfast and lunch will be included.*

Day 7: Sukhothai - Chiang Rai

Set off today for Chiang Rai. During this longer ride, stop for lunch at a local restaurant and visit the White Temple, called Wat Rong Khun – an intricately designed Buddhist-styled temple. Arrive in Chiang Rai, once the capital of the Mengrai Dynasty. *Today breakfast and lunch will be included.*

Day 8: Chiang Rai

Explore the beauty of Chiang Rai today. This laid-back town offers up a cultural experience as an ethnic melting pot in Thailand. Enjoy a tour of the Golden Triangle, where Burma, Laos and Thailand meet, separated by the Mekong River. Visit the Opium Museum today. As you explore this museum, learn all about the opium trade and the impact to local communities. Then, it's *all aboard* for a short boat ride along the Mekong River, to float at the confluence of Laos, Thailand and Burma. Back on land, walk to a restaurant for lunch before driving to the hill tribe village to learn from locals about the long, rich traditions of this beautiful area. Most of the Thai ethnic groups are set off in remote locales, and the hill tribes relocated here to warmly welcome visitors and introduce them to each of the ethnic groups. Meet with Akha and Karen Long Neck people. As the women weave during the visit, you have the opportunity to support these local artisans by purchasing some

of the products they make for tourists. This evening, enjoy a walk in a night bazaar, experiencing the culture of this region in a whole new way. *Today breakfast and lunch will be included.*

Day 9: Chiang Rai - Chiang Mai

Today, it's off to Chiang Mai – once a religious centre, where elaborate Buddhist temples create a beautiful backdrop reflecting its rich, cultural history. En route, enjoy lunch at a local restaurant before visiting Doi Suthep – one of the twin peaks of a beautiful granite mountain to the west of Chiang Mai. A cable car whisks you to its peak to visit Wat Phra That Doi Suthep, one of the most important Buddhist temples in Thailand. Marvel at the stunning views before taking the ornate steps back down. Flanked by jeweled *naga* – lavish serpents – these steps are the perfect spot for a photo! Enjoy dinner on your own this evening. *Today breakfast and lunch will be included.*

Day 10: Chiang Mai

See elephants in their natural setting today during a visit to ChangChill, which literally means “relaxed elephants.” This sanctuary prides itself on its ethical treatment of these endangered species. Climb aboard your 4x4 vehicles and meander through country roads to reach the camp. Then walk through rice paddy fields and meet the resident elephants.* From a distance watch them graze, bathe in the river, roam the lush forest, socialize with one another – and embrace their freedom. Make herb balls and fruit snacks to place in feeding stations. Enjoy a simple vegetarian lunch served by the camp staff as the elephants arrive for their snacks. Participate in a discussion with a mahout on changes to the elephant trade practices and the impact to the mahout community. Travellers who wish to observe the elephants grazing can set off for a 20-minute hike to do so. Tonight, **it's your choice!** Choose between a relaxing one-hour Thai massage **-OR-** get a taste of the local flavour during dinner at a local restaurant. *Today breakfast and lunch will be included.*

Day 11: Chiang Mai

Enjoy a warm welcome today from an extended family belonging to the Lanna ethnic group. Visit their home where you can learn from one of the

family members about their customs and religion, see their garden and hear all about the herbs grown here. Together with hosts you will learn how to prepare local dishes and then join them as you enjoy the fruits of your labour with a simple lunch. *Today breakfast and lunch will be included.*

Day 12: Chiang Mai - Phuket

Fly to Phuket this morning and head to your resort, set on a private tropical beach. Relax for the rest of the day as the salty sea breeze rolls in, rustling the palms and soothing the soul. Perhaps hit the waves, or unwind with a good book, reflecting on your cultural journey thus far. Stay as long as you'd like. *Today breakfast will be included.*

Day 13: Phuket

Travel to Phuket's Old Town, adorned with brightly painted, historic Sino-Portuguese townhouses, stores, cafes and ice cream shops. Explore this charming old town all morning and enjoy free time for lunch on your own. After lunch, return to your beach-front resort to soak up those salt water vibes and laid-back tropical lifestyle for the day. *Today breakfast will be included.*

Day 14: Phuket

It's a completely free day today, so take advantage of your idyllic tropical resort or perhaps head back to the old town and dive into some of Phuket's most popular haunts. This evening, join your fellow travellers for a farewell dinner, toasting an experience full of history, beauty, culture and incredible discoveries in Thailand. *Today breakfast and dinner will be included.*

Day 15: Phuket - Bangkok

Fly to Bangkok this afternoon and head to an airport hotel, preparing to return home with a lifetime of memories – the best kind of souvenir. *Today breakfast will be included.*

Day 16: Bangkok - Tour Ends

Say farewell to Thailand and return home today. *Today breakfast will be included.*

YOUR ITINERARY AT A GLANCE		
Day	1	Overnight Flight
Day	2 – 4	The Sukosol, Bangkok, Bangkok
Day	5, 6	Sukhothai Treasure Resort & Spa, Sukhothai
Day	7, 8	The Legend Chiang Rai Boutique River Resort & Spa, Chiang Rai
Day	9 – 11	Kantary Hills Chiangmai, Chiang Mai
Day	12 – 14	Cape Panwa Hotel, Phuket, Phuket
Day	15	Kantary House, Bangkok

On some dates alternate hotels may be used.

Please Note:

Book Now rates valid until Jul 03, 2022, valid on air inclusive packages only.

Economy air rate and schedule are applicable for groups of 10 or more travelling on the same flights and dates.

To complete your tour, we include roundtrip airport-to-hotel transfers when purchasing our airfare with your tour. If you have arranged for your own air, we are pleased to provide you the option of purchasing these transfers. Please note that all transfers will leave at pre-scheduled times.

Single accommodations are limited and are available on a first come, first served basis.

Triple and child accommodations are not available.

*For your comfort, we recommend wearing comfortable walking shoes during your visit to Changchill.

Not all vendors accept credit cards or travellers cheques; therefore, it is recommended you bring small amounts of US dollars which are widely accepted for personal use.

Smaller buses, which may not be lavatory equipped, may be used on this program. In this case, frequent stops are made during travel periods.

Museum visits and shopping may be affected by the observance of religious or local holidays.

The days and order of sightseeing may change to best utilize your time on tour.

Each guest is responsible for proper medical documentation and inoculations that may be required and/or recommended to participate on this tour. Please contact your local travel clinic or personal doctor for specific details on the destinations you are travelling to and from.

Due to flight schedules, a pre and/or post night stay may be required in some gateway cities (at an additional cost). Please enquire at time of reservation.

Please be advised many airlines do not provide advance seat assignments until check-in at the airport. Advance seating will be subject to the airline's terms and conditions.

Please be aware that if your flight schedule is via Dubai or if you are stopping over in Dubai and are carrying narcotic drugs, controlled or semi-controlled drugs, then you will be

required to complete an electronic form prior to entering the country, to obtain approval to carry medication. Please use the link <http://www.mohap.gov.ae/en/services/Pages/361.aspx> to view the guidelines. A user's guide is available to explain the application and the supporting documents required.

The internal flights on this program are not included in the land price of your tour. All air, including internal flights, can be purchased through us. Internal flights that are purchased will be ticketed and distributed on tour by your Tour Manager.

PROOF OF CITIZENSHIP: PASSPORTS AND VISAS

Documentation is required by foreign governments for all trips outside Canada. You should visit Global Affairs Canada at <https://travel.gc.ca/> for general information about passports and visa requirements. Some countries require a visa in addition to a valid passport for entry, so it is important that you check with the appropriate foreign consulate or embassy for specific entry requirements and details you need to know regarding how and when to obtain the visa. Please remember the possession of valid passports and necessary visas are the responsibility of each client/passenger. If you would like assistance in ensuring you have the proper visa(s) for your trip outside of Canada, we would be happy to refer you to a company that can assist you.

We strongly recommend that you have a valid passport (with seven-month validity) for all travel outside Canada.

Please be advised transit visas may be required if connecting through a country on route to your final destination.

INSURANCE

When travelling outside Canada, health insurance is required. Contact your booking agent for more details.

TRAVEL CONDITIONS

There may be different living standards and practices and different standards and conditions with respect to the provision of services and accommodations outside of Canada.

The overall activity level of this tour is a level 3. This means you're an on-the-go traveller. You don't want to miss a thing, so walking and standing for longer periods of time (1-2 hours) isn't a big deal. You can navigate hills and uneven ground, climb into various modes of transportation (tuk-tuk, cable car, Zodiac, etc.), and could possibly anticipate changes in elevation. You can expect some longer days balanced with free-time to recharge or set out on your own adventure.

BC Reg. #23337; Travel Industry Council of Ontario Reg. # 3206405

<p>Extend Your Vacation With...</p> <p>Optional 6 Days 4-Night Singapore Pre Tour Extension</p> <p>Rate: \$2,810.00 CAD per person, double, land & air inclusive</p> <p>4 Meals: 3 Breakfasts, 1 Dinner</p>
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