



Join us on this special journey to the ancient land formerly known as Siam. Explore a Buddhist country filled with temples, spices, floating markets, amazing textiles, lush green countryside, flowing rivers, and warm, friendly people.

The tour begins in Bangkok and travels through Kanchanaburi, Nakhon Sawan, Sukhothai, Chiang Mai, and Chiang Rai. Along the way, you'll gain knowledge about the history and culture of this fascinating country. You will visit bustling cities, remote hill tribes, floating markets, and magnificent Buddhist temples. Throughout the tour, you will sample delicious Thai cuisine, including a home-hosted dinner. The group will visit historic ruins, a national park, an elephant care center and take several boat rides, including one on the River Kwai.

For those wanting to expand the journey, there is a four-day extension to Cambodia to explore the area around Siem Reap, including the famous Angkor Wat, the exquisite remote villages of Banteay Srei and Mechrey, Tonle Sap Lake, and the historic Roluos Group Temples.

For more information and registration, visit us at

www.uaf.edu/summer/travel

or call (907)474-7021

Important notes:

Travelers will be required to have their COVID-19 vaccinations. Travel insurance is always recommended for any travel out of the United States. There are several ways to purchase coverage. Some credit card companies insure trips that are purchased with their card. Another option is to check with a local travel agency.

Note about Mobility: Our tours are designed for people who are able to walk comfortably for up to 3 miles per day, sometimes on uneven terrain, as well as handle stairs easily. If you have any concerns about this tour, please contact Summer Sessions.

Tour Dates:

October 14-29, 2024

Cambodia Extension

Oct 29-Nov 2, 2024

Tour Cost:

\$4,000.00

Single supplement: \$750.00

Cambodia Extension:

\$1,200.00

Single Supplement: \$250.00

Inclusions:

- 24/7 Tour Director/Guide
- Accommodations
- In country transportation
- Entry fees
- Gratuities
- Educational programs
- Three meals per day
- Transfer to and from the airport

Transportation costs to and from Thailand are NOT included in this tour price. All travelers must arrange their own transportation to and from the starting and ending cities.

Day 1, October 14: Bangkok

Welcome to Thailand. Enjoy your time settling in.

Day 2, October 15: Bangkok

Welcome Dinner and Orientation

Day 3, October 16: Bangkok

Your Trip Experience Leader gives you a briefing about Bangkok. Then, we'll visit Kudi Chin, a diverse district settled by Portuguese traders in the 17th century that grew to become a thriving international community. We'll join a local for lunch in their home, then enjoy a cruise on the Chao Phraya River.

Day 4, October 17: Bangkok

Explore the sprawling Grand Palace complex and pay a visit to the Emerald Buddha— carved from jade— that resides inside a golden-spired temple. Then, meet a local student activist for a conversation about the Controversial Topic of freedom of expression in Thailand—specifically the liberty to publicly criticize the government. This evening, enjoy a Welcome Dinner at a local restaurant. Then, we'll return to our hotel via tuk-tuk, a popular local mode of transportation.

Day 5, October 18: Kanchanaburi-River Kwai

After breakfast, we'll journey to Kanchanaburi Province, stopping to visit one of Bangkok's iconic floating markets on our way out of the city. After lunch at a local restaurant, we'll have the opportunity to walk across the famous bridge on the River Kwai. Later today, we'll set off for our camp where the rest of the day is free.



Day 6, October 19 - Kanchanaburi-River Kwai

This morning, we visit the Hellfire Pass Museum where we'll trace the World War II history of the "Death Railroad," before walking down the former River Kwai Railway. Then, our small group will board a longtail speedboat for a cruise on the River Kwai. We'll return to our camp and have dinner at a local restaurant this evening.



Day 7, October 20 - Nakhon Sawan

Today, we'll travel to Uthai Thani where we'll board a traditional wooden rice barge and enjoy lunch as we cruise past peaceful scenes of river life. Then, early this afternoon, we'll travel to the city of Nakhon Sawan where you'll have free time to explore on your own.

Day 8, October 21 - Sukhothai

Travel to Sukhothai Province where we'll have lunch at a local restaurant. Then, we'll explore Sukhothai, home to Thailand's largest collection of historic ruins and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. As Siam's first capital, it is considered the kingdom's artistic and spiritual epicenter. Later this evening, we have dinner at a local restaurant.

Day 9, October 22 - Sukhothai

Rise early to give alms to local monks. Then, we depart for A Day in the Life of Ban Na Sraloi village to visit a school supported by Grand Circle Foundation (when in session), meet farmers and community leaders, and enjoy a meal with the villagers.

Day 10, October 23 - Chiang Mai

Depart for Chiang Mai—the principal city of the north, a major cultural center, and a favorite with visitors—with lunch at a local restaurant in Lampang along the way. After arriving and checking into our hotel, you'll have some free time to get settled in before we take an orientation walk around the neighborhood. Tonight enjoy a Home-Hosted Dinner with a local family.



Day 11, October 24 - Chiang Mai

Venture to Doi Inthanon National Park for a nature walk through this natural reserve, including a visit with a Karen hill tribe village. Or - enjoy a free day in Chiang Mai to pursue individual discoveries.

Day 12, October 25 - Chiang Mai

Discover the Karen Long Neck Hill Tribe's age-old traditions during a visit to a local village. Then, we'll visit an elephant care center to learn more about these gentle giants and enjoy a picnic lunch.

Day 13, October 26 – Chiang Rai

Today, we'll set off for Chiang Rai, stopping along the way at Wat Suan Dok temple to meet some of its resident Buddhist monks. Then, we'll stop at Wat Rong Khun, commonly referred to as the "White Temple." Here, we'll witness the contemporary—and controversial—design of this temple before continuing on to Chiang Rai, where we'll have dinner at our hotel tonight.

Day 14, October 27 – Chiang Rai

Set off for the Doi Tung Royal Villa. Upon arrival, we'll board songthaews, or large trucks, and explore this royal residency. Then, we'll travel to what is formerly known as the "Golden Triangle" region where opium warlords once held sway. This afternoon, we'll have the opportunity to see where the borders of Thailand, Laos, and Burma meet.

Day 15, October 28 – Bangkok

After breakfast, we depart for the airport for our flight to Bangkok. Upon arrival in Bangkok, we'll transfer to our hotel and have a free afternoon until our final dinner in Bangkok.

Day 16, October 29 – Bangkok-Siem Reap

Fly to Siem Riep to embark on the Cambodia tour extension.

