



November 1 to November 12, 2010

\$3829 pp/do \$4516 pp/so

Optional Vietnam Extension

Join us in 2010 as Aysin Clay takes us east to Thailand and Vietnam. Aysin was able to negotiate a price reduction of \$400 per person and is passing along the savings to our loyal Pierce College globe trekkers. Call (253)964-6601 to make your \$450 deposit and reserve your spot.

November 1, Monday DAY 1: Depart Seattle

November 2, Tuesday DAY 2: Arrive Bangkok

Late evening arrival into Bangkok. Meet your local guide and transfer to your hotel. Overnight 4 Star Hotel Bangkok. Well known as the City of Angels, Krungthepmahanakorn (Bangkok) is the focal point for Thailand. It is a vibrant city where the visitor can expect an endless choice of sightseeing and entertainment opportunities. In addition to the many temples and historic buildings, such as The Grand Palace and Wat Arun, the list of interesting places to visit includes the numerous canal (klong) networks, the Chaophraya River and the many markets. For those who are avid shoppers, Bangkok offers shopping centres as well as many interesting markets and areas in which to search for your treasures.

November 3, Wednesday DAY 3: (B, L, D)

A full day tour combining the highlights of Bangkok City including visit of three of the interesting temples: Wat Trimitr (the temple of Golden Buddha) which houses an impressive 5½ tons, solid gold Buddha sculpted in the graceful Sukhothai style, Wat Po (the temple of the Reclining Buddha), the oldest and largest temple in Bangkok and Wat Phara Kaew (the temple of the Emerald Buddha) & The Grand Palace. After lunch in a local restaurant, you will board a long-tailed speedboat for a thrilling ride through the klongs (canals) of outer Bangkok. Then board a converted Rice Barge for a cruise on the bigger canals. Return to the hotel to relax and freshen up. Enjoy a Thai dinner & classical dance performance.

November 4, Thursday DAY 4: (B, L)

Spend the morning visiting the fascinating floating market at Damnoen Saduak about 110 km from Bangkok in the Ratchaburi province. This market is still unspoiled by the modern influence of the city. Continue to Nakorn Pathom, the oldest city in Thailand, to see the Phra Pathom Chedi, which is the tallest in the world. After lunch continue back to Bangkok to visit Jim Thompson's House and Suan Pakkard Palace. Take a step back in time and wander through Wang Suan Pakkard, the "Lettuce Farm Palace", once the residence of Princess Chumbot of Nakhon Sawan. The Palace is a collection of five traditional Thai-style houses including the "Lacquer Pavilion" which dates from the Ayutthaya period and features gold-leaf Jakarta murals. The tour is completed with a visit to the private Thai-style house of Jim Thompson, the "father" of the famous Thai silk industry. The house now survives as a museum with a small Asian art collection and some of his personal belongings. Return to the hotel with the evening free on your own.

November 5, Friday DAY 5: (B, L, D)

Bangkok – Ayutthaya – Uthai Thani – Phitsanuloke

This morning, we drive north out of the city to the Ancient Capital City of Ayutthaya, with its interesting ruins and extensive river network. Continue to Uthai Thani, a small town on the Sakaekrang River, rarely visited by foreign tourists where we will visit Wat Chantaram, an impressive temple with Crystal Hall and the Golden Grand shrine. Lunch will be at a riverside restaurant. Afternoon, we will drive to Phitsanuloke, a major regional commercial centre, spread along the banks of the

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Nan River. Visit the much-venerated shrine of Wat Mahathat, which is home to Thailand's most beautiful Buddha image. Dinner will be at the hotel in Phisanuloke. Overnight in Phisanuloke.

November 6, Saturday DAY 6: (B, L, D)

Phitsanulok – Sukhothai – Chiang Mai

After breakfast, a short drive to Sukhothai Historical Park. Admire beautiful standing Buddha statues as you explore the many ruined temples and monasteries. Lunch will be at a local restaurant. This afternoon's drive takes us further north to Chiang Mai "The Rose of the North". Chiang Mai has a rich cultural, agricultural heritage and is famous for high quality handicrafts. This evening, you will have a chance to taste the Northern dish called "Khao Soy" at Just Khao Soy Restaurant. After dinner, explore the Night Bazaar. Overnight in Chiang Mai.

November 7, Sunday DAY 7: (B, D)

Morning Tour: White Meo Hilltribe & Doi Suthep Temple

The journey begins with a visit to a Meo Hill tribe village who originally migrated from South China. This is followed by a visit to Wat Phradhat Doi Suthep, the most sacred temple in the North which is reached by a staircase of 306 steps or a cable car. Afternoon: Visit Baan Sabai Village Spa, set in lush tropical gardens including gym and swimming pool, for a relaxing traditional massage, or at extra cost you may wish to try the herbal steam, body masque and other service. A late day light Spa Lunch is served after your massage. Return to the hotel with evening free and overnight .

November 8, Monday DAY 8: (B, D)

Morning Tour: Elephant at Work & Orchid Farm. A pleasant morning spent in the company of these magnificent gentle giants. You will witness the traditional techniques still used in the training process. For a small fee, the adventurous can also enjoy a short elephant ride! On the return, a stop is made at one of the region's orchid farms. Return to Chiang Mai . You are free for lunch on your own. In the afternoon, participate in a handicraft tour in the Sankampaeng district. Continue on to Bor Sang where the delicate Thai paper umbrellas are produced. From here, travel onwards to Thai Celadon ceramic factory. Last but not least, are stops to observe the lacquer ware and silverware craftsmen. Enjoy a Khantoke Dinner with Cultural show.

November 9, Tuesday DAY 9: (B, D)

This morning you are free on your own before departing on an afternoon flight to Phuket. You will arrive around 2:30 PM and be met by your local guide. En-route to your hotel enjoy a tour of Phuket Island. This half day tour will introduce you to the life and beauty of Phuket Island. Visit Phuket Town with its Malacca-style houses and bustling markets before stopping to admire one of Phuket's most famous temples. As you make your way along the coastline, you have the opportunity to admire some of the spectacular panoramic views for which the beautiful island of Phuket is famous. Dinner tonight is at a seaside Restaurant. Overnight 4 Star Hotel Phuket.

November 10, Wednesday DAY 10: (B)

Today is a full day at your leisure in Phuket. Take an optional boat, snorkeling, kayaking, or submarine tour, or just enjoy the beach at your hotel.

November 11, Thursday DAY 11: (B, D)

Enjoy the morning on your own before departing on an afternoon flight back to Bangkok. Upon arrival in Bangkok, you will be met by your guide and taken to your hotel. This evening enjoy a farewell moonlit dinner cruise on the "River of Kings", Bangkok's majestic river. Savor the sights, sounds and incomparable scenery of the Bangkok skyline by night while enjoying a delicious meal as you gently cruise the river. Overnight in Bangkok.

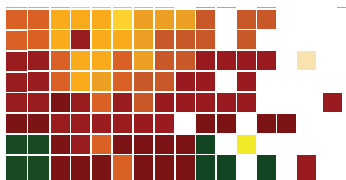
November 12, Friday DAY 12: (B)

Early morning departure to the Airport for your return flight to Seattle arriving November 14th.

Optional Extension to Vietnam from Bangkok on Day 12 -

Aysin is still working on this extension to nearby Viet Nam. (Fees to be determined)

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