

Day 1 USA - Bangkok Our Thailand vacation begins as we board an international flight bound for Bangkok. Enjoy in flight meals, beverages, and entertainment. *Thailand entry visa is not required for USA passport holders. For passports other than US passport, please get the entry visa on your own.

Day 2 Bangkok Accommodation: Pullman Bangkok Hotel G or Similar Touch down in Beijing and catch a connecting flight to Bangkok, Thailand's capital city. Guests flying with Cathay Pacific will board a connecting flight in Hong Kong. Upon arrival at Bangkok International Airport, enjoy a transfer to your hotel and the remainder of the evening to rest and relax. *Airport transfers not included for land only travelers*

Optional Tour : Upgrade to an Executive Suite at the Pullman G Bangkok with One King bed (4 nights) (\$229)

Day 3 Bangkok Accommodation: Pullman Bangkok Hotel G or Similar Bangkok is a city of gleaming modernity firmly rooted in ancient Buddhist tradition and beliefs. After breakfast, we visit the Temple of Golden Buddha which is home to the world's largest solid gold Buddha statue. A magnificent piece of history not to be missed, the seated Buddha measures 10 feet high, weighs over 5 tons, and is worth an estimated \$14m. Stroll through one of Bangkok's largest Flower Markets at Paklong Talat. Continue to visit the oldest temple, the Temple of Reclining Buddha (Wat Pho). After enjoying a local Thai buffet lunch, we have the chance to visit the Gem's Factory & Thai silk. Relax at the hotel for the rest of the evening or join our optional Thai Dinner and classical dance show.

For those departing in June and later - Depart on a half-day tour after breakfast to witness some of Bangkok's most interesting sights. Visit the Temple of the Golden Buddha (Wat Trimitr) to see its solid-gold Buddha, and peek inside the Temple of the Reclining Buddha (Wat Pho), known for its monumental horizontal Buddha. Stroll through the Paklong Talat flower market, a whirlwind of stalls selling masses of perfumed orchids, marigolds and roses. After a buffet lunch at a local restaurant, enjoy the afternoon independently, or explore Bangkok's must-sees on our optional Landmark of Bangkok tour. Tour the splendid Grand Palace and Temple of the Emerald Buddha, see the riverside Temple of Dawn (Wat Arun), and ride a motorboat along the Chao Phraya River. **Men and women must have their shoulders, arms and legs covered when visiting the Grand Palace and Emerald Buddha Temple*

Optional Tour : The Landmark of Bangkok Tour with Boat Ride (June - Dec 2017) (\$45)
Asiatique Riverfront Night Market + Thai Dinner & Dance Show (\$40)

Day 4 Bangkok Accommodation: Pullman Bangkok Hotel G or Similar Explore Bangkok on your own or join the optional tour The Landmark of Bangkok Tour & Boat Ride along the River of the King. Step into the old Kingdom of Siam at the Grand Palace and the Temple of the Emerald Buddha, visiting the compound of ceremonial halls, gilded spires, and ornate buildings. The ancient city's defining landmark since 1782. the palace became the centerpiece of Thai capital

called Krungthep (City of Angels), known outside Thailand as Bangkok. It was King Mongkut (Rama IV) who ruled from this palace, expanded trade with the West and was romanticized in the musical "The King and I". Afterwards, board a motor boat to meander through the winding waterway along the Chaopraya river and canal on Thonburi side, overlooking Wat Arun, the Temple of the Dawn and continue to a local Thai restaurant where we will enjoy lunch. After lunch, continue to the Ananta Samakhom Throne Hall (Marble Hall) which was built of imported white Carrara marble. Originally intended for the use of King Rama V (Prince Chulalongkorn from the King and I), the building wasn't finished until the reign of his son, King Rama VI, in 1915. Inside the Marble Hall, you will enjoy "The Art of the Kingdom" exhibition which contains exotic and unique Thai art created by local artisans under Royal patronage of HM Queen Sirikit. This modern palace blends Western Renaissance architecture with ancient Thai design. **

For those joining our Landmark of Bangkok Tour & Boat Ride optional excursion - sleeveless tops and short skirts are not allowed in the Marble Hall - both women and men must wear clothing that covers your ankles and shoulders. For those departing in June and later - Following breakfast, leave Bangkok for Damnoen Saduak, one of Thailand's most famous floating markets. Ride a long-tail speedboat around the lively canals, passing boats and stalls laden with fresh produce, spices, and handicrafts. Continue to a local gem workshop and silk factory to see how these precious items are produced for sale, and perhaps purchase some as souvenirs. After returning to Bangkok, spend the evening as you wish or enjoy our optional dinner cruise on the Grand Pearl ship along the Chao Phraya River.

Optional Tour : The Landmark of Bangkok Tour with Boat Ride (\$60) Amazing Dinner Cruise by Grand Pearl (\$50)

Day 5 Bangkok Accommodation: Pullman Bangkok Hotel G or Similar Enjoy today free at leisure or join the optional Floating Market, River Kwai, Elephant Trekking and Bamboo Rafting Tour. Ride a long-tailed speed boat along the canals at the Damnoen Saduak Floating Market, where the timeless lifestyle of native Thai people can be observed. Fruits, spices, souvenirs and more can all be found along the way. Afterwards, we head to Kanchanaburi to visit the War Cemetery and the Bridge over River Kwai. In 1943, thousands of Allied Prisoners of War (POW) and Asian laborers worked on the Death Railway under the imperial Japanese army in order to construct part of the 415 km long Burma-Thailand railway. After lunch at local restaurant, we visit the famous Elephant Camp to see how talented these elephants are. Experience a close-up encounter with baby elephants and ride on an elephant's back for a 30 minute forest trek. Afterwards, we board small bamboo rafts and float along the Kwai River. Finish the exciting day and return back to Bangkok in the evening.

For those departing in June and later - A free day beckons, giving you the opportunity to explore and enjoy Bangkok on your own. Alternatively, make the most of your time with our optional full-day Elephant World Sanctuary and River Kwai excursion. After an early start, travel into scenic Kanchanaburi province and visit the Elephant World Sanctuary for rescued elephants. Admire, feed and help bathe these incredible animals in the river before enjoying lunch at the

camp. Later, visit the Bridge over the River Kwai, famously connected to the 'Death Railway' of World War II, and the poignant Kanchanaburi War Cemetery, home to 9,000 Allied war graves.

Optional Tour : Elephant World Sanctuary & the Bridge over River Kwai w/ Lunch (\$90)
Floating Market, River Kwai, Elephant Trekking and Bamboo Rafting (\$75)

Day 6 Bangkok - Koh Samui Accommodation: Nora Beach Resort & Spa or similar After breakfast, travel to Bangkok airport for your short flight to Koh Samui, a holiday island once favored by backpackers but now an upscale retreat. Settled by fishing communities over 1,500 years ago, the island is astoundingly beautiful with rainforest-coated hills, waterfalls, sacred temples and porcelain-white beaches flanked by luxury hotels. On arrival, get to know this romantic island on a scenic tour, seeing the 15-meter high Big Buddha statue, quirky Grandma and Grandpa coastal rocks, Namuang waterfall, and Nathon Town, the capital. After a photo stop at the Lad Koh viewpoint, finish with lunch at a local restaurant before checking in to your hotel and enjoying the afternoon and evening at leisure.

Day 7 Koh Samui Accommodation: Nora Beach Resort & Spa or similar Enjoy today free to explore or relax on your own, or seize the chance to see more of the Gulf of Thailand on our optional excursion to Ang Thong Marine Park, a 42-island archipelago of limestone peaks, immaculate beaches, mangroves, waterfalls and coves. Take a boat ride to this exquisite region, a haven for marine life, and spend the day hiking and exploring before enjoying lunch and time to sunbathe, snorkel or kayak or visit a beautiful cave.

Optional Tour : Ang Thong Marine Park Island Excursion (\$50)

Day 8 Koh Samui - Phuket Accommodation: Novotel Phuket Kamala Beach or similar Transfer to the airport this morning and fly to Phuket, Thailand's biggest island, and home to gorgeous beaches, lush palm groves and virgin rainforest. Upon arrival, enjoy an afternoon orientation tour, admiring the old Sino-Portuguese buildings on the Thalang Road, taking in the Andaman Sea and island views from Phrom Thep Cape, and visiting the famous Gem Discovery experience to learn about the island's beloved precious stones.

Day 9 Phuket Accommodation: Novotel Phuket Kamala Beach or similar Enjoy the day at leisure today, perhaps luxuriating in your hotel's beaches, pool or other amenities. Alternatively, you may fancy our full-day trip to Phang Nga Bay, an idyllic area of limestone islands, caves and mangroves. The tour starts with a visit to Phang Nga province where we will visit the Buddha Cave Temple (Suwannakuha), also known as Monkey Temple. Our journey continues with a visit to Ao Phang Nga National Park This scenic area covers over 40 limestone islands, caves, rock formations and evergreen mangroves. Ride a long-tail boat around the bays, admire the famous James Bond Island, where parts of the movie 'The Man with a Golden Gun' was filmed. Enjoy lunch at the stilted Sea Gypsy Village before returning to Phuket

Optional Tour : Phang Nga Bay and James Bond Island with Lunch (Min. 4 participants) (\$50)

Day 10 Phuket - USA Spend today as you wish or delight in the stunning scenery of the Andaman Sea by taking our optional tour to Phi Phi Island. Catch a speedboat to this exquisite island and enjoy its sandy white beaches, turquoise seas and endless scenic gems. Sightseeing includes stops at Maya Bay, Loh Samah Bay, Pi Leh Cave, Viking Cave, Camel Rock, Monkey Beach and Khai Island.

For guests taking Air China, we will depart for the airport later in the evening as your flight back to the U.S will depart shortly after midnight the following day. Late check-outs are available for purchase if you wish to enjoy your hotel room until our evening departure. Otherwise, the hotel standard check-out time will be at 12 noon today.

Optional Tour : Phi Phi Island by Speed Boat (with Lunch) (\$95) Late Checkout at the Holiday Inn Resort Phuket Mai Khao Beach (\$50) Late Checkout at the Novotel Phuket Kamala Beach (\$50) ABF-American Breakfast B-Breakfast L-Lunch D-Dinner *

We reserve the right to substitute hotels, alter the itinerary, withdraw any tour and make any desirable alteration for the convenience of the tour's operation.

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Christopher Woolley
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