



## Essence of Thailand

*Discovering ancient wonders and natural beauty from Bangkok to Phuket*

February 22 — March 08, 2024 • 16 Days • 24 Meals



### CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF TRAVEL TOGETHER

There has been a unifying thread connecting every trip we have ever led over the last century. And that thread is the endless unique reasons that inspire us to travel.

### 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

## Essential Experiences

Zip around the buzzing city streets of Bangkok on a tuk tuk.

Trek by 4x4 vehicle to an elephant sanctuary where you will prepare tasty treats for the endangered residents.

Explore the canals of Bangkok's old town on a boat trip.

<b>Day 1</b>	Overnight Flight
<b>Day 2 – 4</b>	Amari Watergate Bangkok, Bangkok
<b>Day 5 – 6</b>	Sukhothai Treasure Resort & Spa, Sukhothai
<b>Day 7 – 8</b>	The Legend Chiang Rai Boutique River Resort & Spa, Chiang Rai
<b>Day 9 – 11</b>	Kantary Hills Chiangmai, Chiang Mai
<b>Day 12 – 14</b>	Cape Panwa Hotel, Phuket, Phuket
<b>Day 15</b>	Kantary House, Bangkok, Bangkok

DAY  
1

Feb 22, 2024: 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 travelers – and your story starts here.

DAY  
2

Feb 23, 2024: 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

Feb 24, 2024: 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 travelers for a welcome dinner at a local restaurant.

 **Included Meals**

Breakfast  
Dinner

DAY  
4

Feb 25, 2024: 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 flavor. 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.

 **Included Meals**

Breakfast  
Dinner

DAY  
5

Feb 26, 2024: 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.

 **Included Meals**

Breakfast  
Dinner

DAY  
6

Feb 27, 2024: 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.

 **Included Meals**

Breakfast  
Lunch

DAY

7

Feb 28, 2024: 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.

**🍴 Included Meals**

Breakfast  
Lunch

DAY

8

Feb 29, 2024: 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.

**🍴 Included Meals**

Breakfast  
Lunch

DAY

9

Mar 01, 2024: Chiang Rai - Chiang Mai

Today, it's off to Chiang Mai – once a religious center, 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.

**🍴 Included Meals**

Breakfast  
Lunch

DAY  
10

Mar 02, 2024: 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. Travelers 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 flavor during dinner at a local restaurant.

 **Included Meals**

Breakfast  
Lunch

DAY  
11

Mar 03, 2024: 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 labor with a simple lunch.

 **Included Meals**

Breakfast  
Lunch

DAY  
12

Mar 04, 2024: 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.

 **Included Meals**

Breakfast

DAY  
13

Mar 05, 2024: 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.

 **Included Meals**

Breakfast

DAY  
14

Mar 06, 2024: 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 travelers for a farewell dinner, toasting an experience full of history, beauty, culture and incredible discoveries in Thailand.

**🍴 Included Meals**

Breakfast  
Dinner

DAY  
15

Mar 07, 2024: 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.

**🍴 Included Meals**

Breakfast

DAY  
16

Mar 08, 2024: Bangkok - Tour Ends

Say farewell to Thailand and return home today.

**🍴 Included Meals**

Breakfast

**Tour Manager**

Peace of mind for our guests is our number one priority. When you're on tour with us, your only thoughts should be to immerse yourself in creating lifelong memories. Your Tour Manager is a destination expert on the people, places, history, and culture and ensures that you will have the best experience with us. Please utilize your Tour Manager's expertise for any concerns or questions you may have while on tour.



## Essence of Thailand with Collette Tours

Presented by Stefan's "Join the Fun" & Odyssey Travel

### Package with Airfare Includes:

- ✓ Overnight Car Parking (16) days in Ormond & Viera
- ✓ Shuttle Transportation to Orlando International Airport r/t
- ✓ **Airfare** Round trip with (1) Suitcase and (1) carry on per person r/t
- ✓ (15) Night Land Tour with Collette
- ✓ (24) Meals
- ✓ Gratuity to your Collette Escorted Tour Guide and Professional Driver
- ✓ Admission to sightseeing and Attractions for (15) Days, see above-
- ✓ **Guest in The Villages or Jacksonville- Parking & Shuttle from your City**

- \$5,999 per person based on a double

- \$6,799 SOLO Traveler

- \$2000 Non – Refundable Deposit to Secure your space

**Allianz**  **Travel**

\*Travel Protection Insurance Recommended

Questions and to Book this Group Package, Call Stefan "Join the Fun" Tours- **386-235-3443**

## Currency

Your personal bank card may work at local ATM machines in the destination you are traveling to and would dispense local currency. Please note that ATMs will probably be the most convenient and least expensive way to obtain local currency; however, they may not always be available. Please contact your bank to determine if this option is available, that your PIN number will be accepted, to inform them that you are traveling and to determine if any charges apply for each transaction.

You may exchange your money at airports, banks, exchange bureaus, and at most hotels. In most cases, a commission charge will be assessed to exchange your money. At the hotel or in the city usually offer a better currency exchange rate than airports.

We recommend carrying only a few major credit cards. Credit card purchases often provide an extra guarantee on your purchase (check with your specific credit card company for details and fees). It is advisable to contact any credit card company you intend utilizing while on tour before you depart to notify them where you will be traveling, to avoid any rejection of services.

US dollars are widely used and actually serve as a second currency except in Thailand. All US bills must be in good condition with no tears or damage. Local currency in small denominations will be needed for lunches, gratuities and small items such as postcards and postage as well as for shopping in local markets. Most street vendors accept local currency and US dollars.

The currency of Thailand is the Baht.

If optional tours are made available to purchase, please note that credit cards must have an expiration date of greater than 30 days from the start of the tour.

## Electricity

When traveling to another country, you may need an adaptor and/or electric converter to plug your electrical devices and appliances into the local power grid. An adaptor changes the plug so it fits into the outlet. A converter changes the voltage coming out of the outlet.

To determine what you need, first verify if the plugs on your devices fit the outlet of your destination.

In Thailand, the plug types can vary between A, B, C and O. Plug type B has 2 flat parallel pins and a round grounding pin, and plug type O has 2 round parallel pins and a round grounding pin. If your plugs do not match this description, you will need an adaptor.

Next, verify the voltage of each device you intend to bring. You can find this information on the cord, plug, or on the device itself. Many devices are dual voltage. For those, you do not need a converter. If your device is not dual voltage and it differs from the voltage of your destination, you will need a voltage converter.

In Thailand, the voltage is 220V.

If necessary, make sure to get a converter that converts to this voltage. If you plan to bring a sleep apnea machine, please remember to bring an extension cord along with the adaptor and voltage converter.