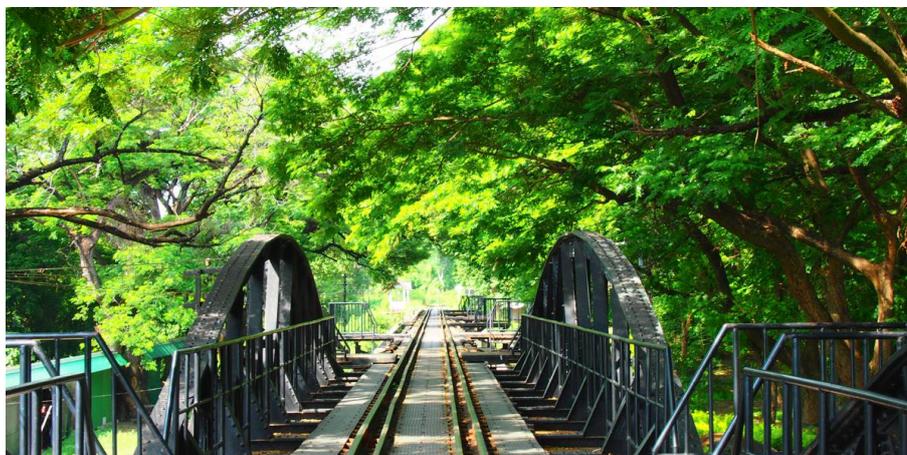


Best of Thailand & Cambodia

11 days | Starts/Ends: Bangkok



Spend a week in Thailand uncovering the buzz of Bangkok, learning how to prepare Thai cuisine, visiting the infamous Bridge over the River Kwai in Kanchanaburi, exploring the beautiful Erawan Falls and meeting the hill tribes of Chiang Rai before heading back down south and into Cambodia to discover Siem Reap and the iconic temples of Angkor.

HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS

Trip Highlights

- Bangkok - Grand Palace, Wat Pho, Flower Market, longtail boat ride through canals and famous Khao San Road
- Kanchanaburi - Allied War Cemetery, Bridge on the River Kwai and Hellfire Pass
- Sampran Riverside - Cooking class at a traditional Thai hotel
- Erawan National Park - Wildlife, waterfalls and caves to explore
- Chiang Rai - Karen (Longneck) tribe village. Wat Rhon Khung - the White Temple, and the night market
- Chiang Mai - Night market and free time for optional activities from spa treatments to canopy ziplines

- Cruising on the Kok River in a traditional longtail boat
- Siem Reap - Attractive riverside town and gateway to the Angkor Temple Complex
- Angkor Thom - The last capital of the Khmer Empire. The South Gate, the lost temple of Prasat Chroung and the Bayon Temple
- Ta Prohm - The jungle enveloped 'Tomb Raider' temple
- Tonle Sap Lake - Cambodia's largest freshwater lake and Kompong Phluk floating village
- Phnom Kulen - Visit Kbal Spean, commonly known as the River of a Thousand Lingas

What's Included

- Breakfast daily, 2 lunches and 2 dinners
- 8 nights STANDARD hotels, 1 night floating hotel in the jungle and 1 night luxury tent. SUPERIOR and DELUXE hotel options are also available upon request. Accommodation rating – See Trip Notes for details
- 3 economy class flights: Chiang Rai to Bangkok, Bangkok to Siem Reap and Siem Reap to Bangkok
- Guided sightseeing - Bangkok, Kanchanaburi, Chiang Rai and Siem Reap
- Train ride over the River Kwai and visit to Hellfire Pass
- Excursion to the hill tribe villages around Chiang Rai

- Longtail boat cruise on the canals of Bangkok and on the Kok River
- Siem Reap - Boat trip on Tonle Sap Lake
- Entrance fees to all included sights
- Local English speaking specialist guides for all sightseeing
- An airport arrival transfer day 1 and a departure transfer day 11
- All relevant transfers and transportation in private air-conditioned vehicles

What's Not Included

- International flights and visa
- Tipping - An entirely personal gesture

DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 1 : Bangkok

Welcome to Bangkok, Thailand's capital city. Upon arrival you will be met at the airport and transferred to your hotel. Enjoy the rest of the evening at your own leisure. **Overnight - Bangkok**

Day 2 : Bangkok City Tour

This morning visit the colourful Flower Market before continuing on to the spiritual and religious heart of the city - the striking Grand Palace. Topped by golden stupas, the complex has been the site of royal coronations and is home to the legendary Emerald Buddha. Next take a tuk tuk ride

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Best of Thailand & Cambodia

to Wat Pho, home to the famous golden Reclining Buddha.

From here cross Chao Phraya River for lunch at Supatra, a traditional Thai restaurant set on the river banks, before boarding a longtail boat to explore the city's canals. Known as khlongs, the canals enable surface water to make its way to the sea and have long been a way of getting around Bangkok. On your journey glide past curious stilted houses and gleaming temples whilst old men fish and children frolic about on the water's edge.

The boat drop you off within walking distance of Khao San Road, popular with backpackers and hippies. Late afternoon offers free time for you to enjoy the many bars, restaurants, street performers, market stalls and tailors - that will measure you up for a new suit, that line this vibrant road. **Overnight - Bangkok (B, L)**

Day 3 : Kwai & Hellfire Pass



Bangkok - Kanchanaburi. It's an early start today as a drive west of the capital takes you to the small town of Kanchanaburi. Your first stop will be at Sampran Riverside, a traditional Thai property where visitors can learn about Thai customs and organic farming. Here enjoy a cooking class and lunch.

Later visit the Allied War Cemetery, where you can pay your respects to the thousands of Allied POWs who perished in the area under the hand of the Imperial Japanese Army, before continuing on to the infamous Bridge over the River Kwai. You have the chance to take pictures here before boarding a train for a two hour journey that crosses the bridge and follows the tracks dug by the POWs and locals some 75 years earlier. Disembarking at Nam Tok a short drive takes

you to 'Hellfire Pass' where the POWs dug through a mountain often using only their bare hands. A fascinating museum at the entrance details the region's history.

After a day's sightseeing a leisurely longtail boat ride leads you to your fabulous floating jungle raft hotel. To the beauty of a hundred softly glowing lanterns and the sounds of the tropical forest and cool water flowing by enjoy dinner and a relaxing evening on the deck.

Overnight - Kanchanaburi (B, L, D)

Day 4 : Erawan Falls



Today visit Erawan National Park, located in the Tenasserim Hills of Kanchanaburi. Founded in 1975, this verdant park is one of the most beautiful in the country and is home to the beautiful Erawan Falls. Climb up to each of the seven tiers, enjoy a dip in the pools created by the falls and if time allows why not also explore the caves within the park. Enjoy an evening surrounded by nature as you camp out in a luxurious riverside jungle tent.

Overnight - Kanchanaburi (B, D)

Day 5 : Chiang Rai & Hill Tribes

Kanchanaburi - Bangkok - Chiang Rai. This morning head back to Bangkok for your flight to Chiang Rai, a wonderful base for visiting local hill tribes. Upon arrival pay a visit to Karen village where you may encounter the famous Long Neck tribe, so known for the neck rings that the women wear to elongate their necks. Later head back to Chiang Rai where you can wander through the night market for souvenirs and tasty street food.

Overnight - Chiang Rai (B)

Day 6 : Kok River to Chiang Mai



Chiang Rai - Chiang Mai. First thing this morning visit the unconventional Wat Rong Khun Buddhist temple - also known as the White Temple, depicting scenes from modern movies including the Matrix, Star Wars and Superman!

Continue on to Raimit Village, where you board a private long tail boat for a cruise down the Kok River watching rural life pass by. Farmers work the land where oranges grow whilst men fish along the banks and buffalo wallow in the shallow waters. Upon arrival in Ta Thon hop in your transfer to Chiang Mai. After hotel-check in enjoy sunset at Doi Suthep mountain, which looms over the city with Wat Phrathat temple perched on its top.

Overnight - Chiang Mai (B)

Day 7 : Chiang Mai - your way

A free day for you to relax or participate in some of the many activities on offer. Choose from the more relaxing options with spa treatments and massages, to the adrenaline-fuelled with canopy zip lines and rock climbing. No trip to Chiang Mai would be complete without trying a local cooking class and perfecting your very own Pad Thai!

Overnight - Chiang Mai (B)

Day 8 : Siem Reap

Chiang Mai - Bangkok - Siem Reap. After breakfast and hotel check out, head to the airport for your flight to Siem Reap in Cambodia. This evening enjoy dinner at the legendary Foreign Correspondents Hotel.

Overnight - Siem Reap (B, D)

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Day 9 : Angkor Wat



Start the day at the jungle temple of Ta Prohm, a beautiful temple enveloped by tree roots, before continuing on to the iconic Angkor Wat. After a stop for lunch visit Bayon, where you'll find yourself surrounded by the smiling faces of numerous Buddhas, and then walk along the walls of Angkor Thom to the West Gate. Strolling along the wall you will have jungle to your right and rice paddies to your left, demonstrating just how easily this ancient site was once taken over by the power of the natural surroundings. **Overnight - Siem Reap (B)**

Day 10 : Tonle Sap Lake

This morning drive out to Phnom Kulen to visit Kbal Spean, commonly known as the River of a Thousand Lingas. This site was only 'rediscovered' in 1969 and is a tranquil place with an attractive waterfall engraved with carvings. Next head to the elegant temple of Banteay Srei, which was built in dedication to the Hindu god Shiva and is said to have been carved by women as the detail is too fine for the hands of a man. Later visit Tonle Sap Lake to see the floating villages here. **Overnight - Siem Reap (B)**

Day 11 : Bangkok

Siem Reap – Bangkok. After breakfast and hotel check out catch your flight back to Bangkok for your onward travel. Please ensure that your onward flight does not depart Bangkok Airport before 2pm today. (B)

Accommodation ratings

On our Private trips, you can often choose your style of accommodation. The price quoted on our website is reflective of the included accommodation, please see the "included" section on the first page of this document for details. Should you opt for

an alternative hotel category, this will be confirmed in writing with the respective price on your invoice.

For further details about the indicative hotels, please see the "hotels" tab on our website. Here we rank hotel's in their respective country (REGIONAL CATEGORY) - but we also tell you how it ranks by Western standards (OUR CATEGORY).

STANDARD - Equates to a Western 3-star standard, always featuring en-suite rooms and usually a restaurant.

SUPERIOR - Equates to a Western 4-star standard, featuring en-suite rooms and usually a restaurant and often a swimming pool and/or a fitness centre.

DELUXE - Equates to a Western 5-star standard, usually featuring spacious, en-suite rooms, a restaurant, swimming pool and fitness centre and an array of amenities, excellent service and customer care.

LUXURY - Equates to a Western 5-star plus standard - the creme de la creme. Featuring spacious, en-suite rooms, a restaurant, swimming pool and fitness centre and an array of amenities, this accommodation is a cut above the rest. Sheer opulence!

What to pack

Please check local temperatures so you can pack accordingly. Visit www.worldclimate.com to get an idea of what the weather will be like on your holiday.

- Lightweight cotton garments. Ladies may need to have their shoulders and legs (to below the knee) covered when visiting certain sites, so please pack accordingly
- Comfortable walking shoes in addition to flip flops/thongs
- DEET based mosquito repellent and antihistamine cream
- Electrical adaptors. A universal adaptor is best!
- Lightweight, fold up raincoat/poncho/umbrella
- Your Travel Voucher and two spare passport photos and a photocopy of your passport
- A small daypack for your day-to-day needs
- Sunglasses, hat, sunscreen, swimming costume and torch

Tipping

Tipping is an essential part of the culture. For a job well done, we would suggest for your tour guide: USD\$3-6 per traveller, for each day of sightseeing.

For your driver and On The Go Representative we'd recommend USD\$2-3 per traveller for each day of service. Tipping is an entirely personal gesture and ultimately the amount is up to you.

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

Cambodia Country Guide

Visas & passports

After booking your holiday, please provide us with your passport details as soon as possible so that we can proceed to book your touring services.

British, Australian, Canadian, New Zealand, South African and USA passport holders are able to obtain a 30 day tourist visa upon arrival to Cambodia when entering via Pochentong International Airport in Phnom Penh, Siem Reap International Airport (in the Angkor Wat Region) and at the Moc Bai (Vietnam) and Bavet (Cambodia) land border. We use the Moc Bai/Bavet land border crossing for all our group tours that travelling from Vietnam to Cambodia.

At each of these entry points you must submit a photocopy of your passport (identification page) and one passport size photograph. The cost of the visa is currently USD30. Note: at the land border sometimes immigration will ask for more. In this situation point to the sign above the ticket window indicating that the cost is actually USD30 (subject to change). Further, you are best to give the exact amount i.e. USD30 as often if you give more you will not receive change.

Alternatively, it is now also possible to obtain an e-visa in advance of travel. The e-visa allows for a length of stay up till 30 days. The e-visa is valid for 3 months from date of issue, not date of arrival, so please ensure that you do not obtain this visa too far in advance. Online processing time for this visa is 3 days. The e-visa is valid for entry via

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Pochentong International Airport in Phnom Penh, Siem Reap International Airport (in the Angkor Wat Region) and at the Moc Bai (Vietnam) and Bavet (Cambodia) land border. It is not valid at any other land or water border. To obtain an e-visa for Cambodia go to: <https://www.evisa.gov.kh/Default.aspx>

It is also possible to obtain a 30 day tourist visa prior to arrival via the Cambodian Embassy in your home port, though please note tourist visas arranged with the embassy are valid for one month from date of issue, not date of arrival.

PLEASE NOTE: Your passport must be valid for at least 6 months after your departure date, if it is not you may be refused entry into the country. Visa requirements are subject to change and visa procurement is solely the responsibility of the traveller and not of On The Go Tours.

Health requirements & water

You should seek medical advice for vaccinations and about medications before travelling.

Water

Tap water in Cambodia is not considered safe to drink. It's recommended to only drink bottled mineral water, which is readily available in hotels, shops and restaurants.

Currency

The official currency of Cambodia is the Cambodia Riel but USD is also widely accepted and sometimes preferred in larger stores and supermarkets.

GBP, USD, Euro and other major currencies can be exchanged in Cambodia at various bureau de changes in major cities and towns. However, foreign currency is also widely accepted and often desired more so it can give the shopper more buying power. ATMs can be found in all larger towns and cities and some five star hotels. We recommend you take a mixture of cash (preferably USD) and credit/debit cards for ATMs. It's advisable to request bank notes in smaller denominations, as it can sometimes be hard to get change from large notes. Traveller's Cheques are

not recommended as they're often difficult to exchange and incur high fees.

Airline luggage allowance

If your tour includes international or domestic flights within the region please be mindful that the free baggage allowance for Economy class travel is strictly 20kg and 1 piece of hand luggage up to 6kg. Any additional weight is charged at a per kilo rate. You may wish to bear this in mind whilst shopping.

Thailand Country Guide

Visa requirements

Australia, Canada, New Zealand, South Africa, United Kingdom, United States and most EU passport holders are not required to obtain a visa when entering Thailand for tourist purposes for a stay of up to 30 days.

Visitors may be required to prove that they possess adequate finances for the duration of stay in Thailand (i.e. cash 10,000THB/USD400 per person and 20,000THB/USD800 per family). Evidence can be shown in the form of cash or credit cards.

Please be advised that visa requirements are subject to change and that visa procurement is the responsibility of the traveller and not On The Go Tours. You can visit Thailand's Foreign Affairs website for the most up to date information. Please also ensure that your passport is valid for at least 6 months from your planned date of departure from Thailand.

After booking your holiday, please provide us with your passport details as soon as possible so that we can proceed to holiday services.

Health requirements & water

You should seek medical advice for vaccinations and about medications before travelling.

Bilharzia may be present in some rivers and lakes and we recommend it best to avoid swimming in untested waterways.

The tap water in Thailand is not safe to drink, only drink bottled mineral water which is readily available from shops, hotels and restaurants.

Currency

The official currency in Thailand is the Baht. Euro, USD, GBP and other major currencies can be exchanged at banks or or at any one on of the numerous exchange booths. You may choose to purchase currency in advance, though its possibly not necessary as ATMs can be found in most cities. It is not common to pay with a credit card at restaurants, cafes or shops for small purchases and if you do often there will be a surcharge applied or minimum charge required. It's advisable to request bank notes in smaller denominations, as it can sometimes be hard to get change from large notes and smaller notes are handy for smaller purchases and gratuities. Traveller's Cheques are not recommended as they're often difficult to exchange and incur high fees.

Shopping in Bangkok

Bangkok is rapidly gaining a reputation as a key shopping destination in Asia, with visitors being drawn by the variety of products and shopping environments, as well as the great prices. Chatuchak, is a market that gains momentum over the weekend to become arguably the largest in Southeast Asia, everything can be found here, from hand made jewellery to the latest fashions.

This city is blessed with a number of top quality shopping malls, perhaps the most popular for visitors is MBK. This 8 floor monstrosity offers everything from telephones to sushi, designer labels to unique designs. It is safe to assume that anything with a brand that is being sold out of a store bearing the same brand may not necessarily be the 'real deal'. There is something here for everyone, including a multi screen cinema showing the latest movies in English for those who would like to rest their weary feet whilst others continue on their spending spree.

Another wonderful feature of Bangkok are her night markets. It seems that once the sun goes down, the temporary stalls come out, everywhere. Patpong is famous for its genuine fakes, Sukhumvit Road boats a similar reputation. The mixture of bargains, street food and general vibe of the city make these markets a highlight to explore by foot. Remember to haggle, and if you think

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something is over priced then walk away. They will not sell to you at a loss, so if they can make some money on the deal they will call you back.

Airline Luggage Allowance

If your tour includes international or domestic flights please be mindful that the free baggage allowance for Economy class travel within the region is strictly 20kg and 1 piece of hand luggage up to 6kg. Any additional weight is charged at a per kilo rate. You may wish to keep this in mind whilst shopping.