



Education
First



College
Break

EXOTIC THAILAND

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14 DAYS

Thailand

PROGRAM FEE INCLUDES:

- Round-trip airfare
- Hotels
- Travel between cities
- Night train
- 3 meals daily days 3-10
- Breakfast days 11-14
- Full-time tour director
- Walking tours
- Sightseeing tours
- Entrance to select attractions

Itinerary subject to change



DAY 1 FLIGHT

OVERNIGHT FLIGHT TO THAILAND

DAY 2 BANGKOK

ARRIVE IN BANGKOK • Welcome to Bangkok! After clearing customs, you'll meet your full-time tour director and the rest of your group. Bangkok is known for its fun—people here like to have a good time. It's an eclectic mix of ancient and modern, with restaurants, bars, clubs, temples and markets.

DAY 3 BANGKOK

SIGHTSEEING TOUR OF BANGKOK (LOCAL GUIDE) • Tour the Thai capital with a local guide. Begin with a boat ride on the Chao Phraya River and through the city's many canals. Along the way, stop at the Temple of Dawn, one of Bangkok's most iconic landmarks. Visit the Grand Palace, an enormous

compound whose high walls once separated the kings from the commoners. Also go inside the Temple of the Emerald Buddha and see Thailand's most sacred Buddha image.

THAI DINNER AND TRADITIONAL DANCES • Enjoy authentic Thai cuisine and watch dancers perform stories based on classic Thai literature and folktales.

Lunch and dinner (show) are included today

DAY 4 BANGKOK

EXCURSION TO AYUTTHAYA • Head to Ayutthaya, one-time capital of Thailand. This was one of the most impressive cities in the Orient until it was sacked by the Burmese in 1767. You'll visit the amazing Summer Palace, with its interesting mix of Thai, Chinese and Gothic architecture. Return to Bangkok by riverboat along the Chao Phraya River.

FREE TIME BANGKOK (night) • Top 5 suggestions:

1. **Cheap Charlie's** • Have a beer and chat with the locals and tourists who flock to this wooden shack.
2. **Joe Louis Puppet Theatre** • See the latest take on the ancient art of Thai puppetry (*lakhon lek*).
3. **Bamboo Bar** • Internationally recognized jazz bands perform live at this bar located in a historic hotel.
4. **Q Bar** • This is Bangkok's most famous dance club; it has an industrial feel, with thumping techno and a huge bar.
5. **Thai kickboxing** • Go see a thrilling match of this traditional sport.

(For more ideas and details, see our Lonely Planet city guide for Bangkok at efcollegebreak.com.)

Lunch and dinner are included today



DAY 5 KANCHANABURI

DAMNOEN SADUAK FLOATING MARKET • Ride in a speedboat through marshes and past traditional stilt houses all the way to Thailand's famed floating market. Check out the traditional crafts and wares among the market's barges and waterways. Buy some souvenirs or just soak in the atmosphere of rural Thai life.

KANCHANABURI • Continue to Thailand's fourth-largest province. At the JEATH War Museum, see the exhibits dedicated to victims of the Death Railway Bridge, including photographs, memorabilia, paintings and more. Also visit the famous bridge over the River Kwai. This reconstruction of the original bridge was built by WWII POWs to connect the segments of the Japanese Empire.

Lunch and dinner are included today

DAY 6 KANCHANABURI

SAIYOKE YAI WATERFALL AND NATIONAL PARK • These thunderous falls are one of Thailand's most beautiful natural wonders. Walk through the dense forest around the waterfall, and maybe see some exotic animals—anything from the blue-winged pitta to the tiny Kitti hog-nosed bat. Also stop at the Hellfire Pass, where POWs once dug a tunnel through the rocks and mountains using only hand tools. In the afternoon, take a ride on the "Death Railway".

Lunch and dinner are included today

DAY 7 PHITSANULOK

TRAVEL VIA WAT PA LELAI MONASTERY • Inside this ancient Buddhist monastery on the banks of the Suphan River sits the Luang Pho To, a highly revered depiction of the Buddha. Twice a year, pilgrims gather here to pay their respects.

ARRIVE IN PHITSANULOK • Continue to Phitsanulok. This area is home to a national park and a friendly town that was once the capital of Thailand.

Lunch and dinner are included today

DAY 8 SUKHOTHAI • CHIANG MAI

SUKHOTHAI HISTORICAL PARK • Enjoy this UNESCO World Heritage Site, which houses the remains of the royal palace and many Buddhist temples.

TRAVEL TO CHIANG MAI • Travel via Lampang to Chiang Mai, Thailand's second-largest city. Chiang Mai is chock full

of Buddhist temples (more than 300 in all), and it's a great place to really get a sense of the Thai culture.

SANKAMPHAENG AND BO SANG • Tour the Sankamphaeng District, known for its silk and cotton cultivation. You might even see a traditional weaving demonstration. After, visit the village of Bo Sang, where local artists produce countless amounts of hand-painted paper umbrellas.

Lunch and dinner are included today

DAY 9 HILL TRIBE VILLAGES • NIGHT TRAIN

EXCURSION TO THE THAI HILLS • Head out for the day and meet members of regional tribes that have lived here for centuries. You'll ride an elephant and cruise down the Ping River on a bamboo raft made by the villagers. Do some jungle trekking and meet villagers in the Akha, Lisu, Palong and Lahu hill tribes.

WAT PHRA THAT DOI SUTHEP • This temple, dating from 1383, rises 5,248 feet above Chiang Mai on a forested mountain peak. Go to the top by stairway or funicular railcar and take in the awesome views of the surrounding area.

NIGHT TRAIN TO BANGKOK • Board your overnight train from Chiang Mai to Bangkok. Night trains are a fun way to get from point A to B (and you don't use up a day traveling).

Lunch and dinner are included today

DAY 10 BANGKOK

FREE TIME BANGKOK (day) • Top 5 suggestions:

1. Ancient City • This 200-acre model city south of Bangkok is a great place for a bike ride or a picnic.

2. Lumpini Park • Enjoy this green space named after Buddha's birthplace; the park is filled with tai chi students, joggers, kite flyers, and vendors selling snake blood.

3. Queen Saovabha Memorial Institute • This snake farm features snake milking and feeding, and has some of Thailand's most venomous snakes, including the king cobra.

4. National Museum • This is the biggest museum in Southeast Asia; learn all about Thai art here.

5. Amulet Market • Shop for traditional Thai amulets for protection against evil spirits and bad fortune.

(For more ideas and details, see our Lonely Planet city guide for Bangkok at efcollegebreak.com.)

Lunch and dinner are included today

DAY 11 CHA-AM

TRAVEL TO CHA-AM • Make your way to the turquoise seas and palm-lined beaches of Cha-Am. Cha-Am is a resort town where backpackers and Bangkok students go when they need to get away. Lots of beaches, bars and parties.

FREE TIME CHA-AM (night) • Top 5 suggestions:

1. Hua Hin • Head to this nearby resort town for a wide array of bars and restaurants.

2. Cha Am View Point • Come to this scenic spot to watch the sun set over the sea.

3. Night market • Shop after dark at this popular spot for picking up traditional Thai wares.

4. Karaoke bar • Check your ego at the door and belt out your favorite tunes.

5. Sanuk Pub • Hear live music every night, play some pool, and have a few drinks.

DAY 12 CHA-AM

FREE DAY IN CHA-AM • Top 5 suggestions:

1. Beach • Relax on the sand, swim in the sea, or hop on a jet ski.

2. Khao Luang Cave • Do a little spelunking, and see an impressive Buddha image inside.

3. Bike ride • Rent a bike and explore Cha-Am and the surrounding areas on two wheels.

4. The Palace Of Love And Hope • Visit this palace complex with gardens and a long corridor leading to the sea.

5. Kang Krajaren National Park • Go see the evergreen forest, wildlife, and waterfalls of this beautiful national park.

DAY 13 CHA-AM • BANGKOK

FREE MORNING IN CHA-AM • Soak in your last rays of seaside sun this morning.

RETURN TO BANGKOK • Head back to the capital for your last night in Thailand.

DAY 14 BANGKOK

FLIGHT HOME