



Spiritual Thailand VIP

2025 February 12 - 21

9-nights

ITINERARY

Day 0: Depart USA

Your fascinating sojourn to Thailand begins as you depart Los Angeles today.

Day 1: Bangkok.

Welcome to Thailand, the “Land of Smiles.” Arrival in Bangkok and stay at very closeby Ammata Lanta Resort. Overnight at **The Ammata Lanta Resort**



a rejuvenating Thai Massage [included].

Overnight at **The Ammata Lanta Resort**

Day 2: Bangkok.

Today is a **day of rest and pamper**, after your long flight. Enjoy the Ammata Lanta Resort with a refreshing swim, a stroll on the grounds, and

Day 3: Bangkok City Tour / eve Siam Niramit Show

08:00 Today you will have an early breakfast and check out from your hotel to explore Bangkok, starting with the

Grand Palace, one of Bangkok's most spectacular and popular attractions. After the Grand Palace, the tour continues to nearby **Wat Pho** - Bangkok's oldest temple and arguably it's most impressive. Home to the magnificent 45-meter-long reclining Buddha, Wat Pho is also a place of learning, having served as Thailand's first school of traditional medicine and Thai massage. The city exploration ends with a trip to **Wat Trimitr**, which houses the world's largest solid gold Buddha.



13:00. Experience an **exhilarating boat ride along the bustling Chao Phraya River** and the quiet Klong (canal) in a boat. Be taken back in time to a more traditional way of life, far removed from Bangkok's modern skyscrapers. Visit the Royal Barge Museum to witness the beautiful barges used by the King on state occasions. And **Wat Arun**, the magnificent temple of Dawn with its 79-meter pagoda or 'prang', built in the Khmer style.



Evening: Siam Niramit Show

You will be picked up at 17:00. Stroll the unique “Village” showing the culture of days long gone, and enjoy a **world-class spectacular show at Ratchada Grand Theatre**, one of the biggest stages in the world. Travel back through time into the history and culture of the kingdom of Siam. Be amazed and captivated by amazing special effects using State-of-the Art technology. The show features 3 themes, from Journey Back into History, Journey beyond Imagination, and Journey through Joyous Festivals. Siam Niramit Show, Thailand’s ‘must-see’ show that offers a uniquely cultural experience for everyone!



Overnight in Bangkok at **Ramada Plaza by Wyndham Bangkok Menam Riverside** or similar

Day 4: Bangkok / Damnoen Saduak Floating Market & Amphawa Tour

You will be picked up at 07:00. Drive south of Bangkok to the first stop at **Damnoen Saduak Floating Market** where you will see the busy daily market popular with tourists and local people. Take a short paddle boat ride through the canals to see the old part of the market.



Then a stop is made to visit a **local temple that has a 400-year old banyan tree** and replicas of traditional Thai boxing. Continue to Rama II Park, where a group of typical Thai Houses has been converted to a **museum with the collection of music instruments**, beautiful masks and various household items used by the King as well as an exhibition of his works.

4:00 You will be picked up from your Hotel for a **private Tuk-Tuk tour**. Our adventure begins at **Wat Saket (The Golden Mount)**, where we will walk to the top to see the impressive views of the old city and ring the temple bells and bang the gong on our way back down. You will then continue to **Wat Suthat (Temple of the Giant Swing)** and then passed the **Pak Khlong Talat, Flower Market**, where you might find a merchant to teach you to fold a lotus



flower for an offering?

We continue by Tuk-Tuk through the biggest **amulet market** at its closing time, and see more buildings that are in both Thai and European styles, including the iconic **Wat Benchamabophit (Marble Temple)** which is the temple of the "Five-Baht" coins.



The adventure ends when your Tuk Tuk makes a final stop on the river at a **favorite local restaurant for dinner** (your own arrangement). Sip a chilled Thai beer or cocktail while enjoy an amazing night view of the Chao Phraya River along with the glittering Temple of Dawn at sunset.

Ramada Plaza by Wyndham Bangkok Menam Riverside or similar

Day 5: Fly to Chiang Rai / Eve. Chiang Rai by Night

Guests will be transferred from Bangkok Hotel to Suvarnabhumi Airport, and Chiang Rai Airport to Hotel accompanied by their guide.

Today is a day of short travel, and rest – perhaps a massage or swim- at your beautiful resort on the river.

Overnight in Chiang Rai at **The Imperial River House Resort** or similar



You will be picked up at 18:00. Leave your hotel to the **King Meng Rai monument** to pay homage to the founder of Chiang Rai: King Meng Rai, who also set the foundations of Chiang Mai.

Then each take a *samlor* to ride around town – similar to a Rickshaw, where the men of Northern Thailand have refused to stop pedaling - and enjoy a **street food tour** with your guide, sampling unusual and delicious Thai foods. Enjoy a local dinner on the street, or at a Thai cuisine restaurant at the night bazaar. After dinner, enjoy some time **bargaining at the Chiang Rai night bazaar** for local hilltribe handicrafts and other products, before returning to your hotel.

Overnight in Chiang Rai at **The Imperial River House Resort** or similar



Day 6: Chiang Rai / Elephant Lovers and Volunteer Experience

You will be picked up at the hotel at 08:30 in Chiang Rai and a transfer to Elephant Valley. **Elephant Valley is Chiang Rai's first elephant sanctuary**, housing former Mae Sot elephant 'loggers' which have been rescued, relocated and treated with care and dignity. Start off the experience with a brief orientation from the experts, receiving an introduction to the elephants, learning some stories about them and seeing them in their natural habitat.



Following the introduction, settle into a Lanna-style lunch (the northern tradition) whilst overlooking the resident elephants. After lunch, be prepared to feed the elephants. As the main focus of Elephant Valley is to establish a natural habitat for the elephants, a major part of the volunteer experience is helping to recreate this setting. From helping to plant and grow crops for future elephant food to harvesting existing crops for fodder and cleaning up the site, this elephant volunteering experience covers all different aspects of the conservation project.

Overnight in Chiang Rai at **The Imperial River House Resort** or similar

Day 7: Chiang Rai / The Marvelous Monastery -- Chiang Rai Highlights

You will be picked up at 08:00. Set off early in the morning from Chiang Rai on this **Mae Salong tour** to discover a part of Thailand that is not yet on the main tourist trail. The first stop is 'Wat Tham Pa Acha Thong', or 'Golden Horse Monastery'. This



remote monastery is one-of-a-kind in Thailand as its monks collect their daily alms by horse instead of on foot. Learn the tale of how this unique procession came to be while walking around the grounds. There may be an opportunity to make an offering to the monks as they pass-by on horseback. Continue to a nearby hilltop temple where monks and novice monks are often practicing Muay Thai martial arts.



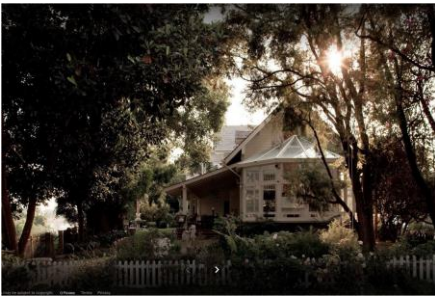
Continue to climb further up the mountains, arriving at Santi Kiri. Santi Kiri is home to a settlement of Kuomintang (KMT) refugees. Learn how the KMT Nationalist Chinese Army fled to Thailand during the mainland civil war and have since fought alongside the Thai army. The descendants of the army have been given land rights to stay in this beautiful corner of Thailand. **Visit a tea plantations and a co-op store** for a tea tasting of locally grown teas, browse other locally-grown products of the KMT and other Santi Kiri residents, and walk through the tea fields seeing how the plants grow and are picked.



After this insightful visit, continue driving through spectacular Mae Salong before returning to Chiang Rai early this afternoon.

Overnight in Chiang Rai at **The Imperial River House Resort** or similar.

Day 8: Special Lunch at Chivit Tammada / White Temple / Black House



2:00 Lunch is served at **Chivit Tamma Da**, a small, beautiful family run Café and Bistro located right on the banks of the beautiful Kok River in Chiang Rai, northern Thailand.

Their philosophy is to create locally and globally recognized dishes, made as far as possible from local ingredients. This benefits local farmers and suppliers and reduces the environmental footprint caused by transportation and storage.

Chivit Thamma Da is a strong supporter of Slow Food and their philosophy, believing that life should be slow, simple and beautiful.

Note: We reserve the right to switch to other similar restaurant in case of uncontrollable factors occurred for example: the restaurant is closed or too busy and etc.

Transfer to Wat Rong Khun with its unique “Kanok” architecture also known as “**The White Temple**”; inside it contains murals and paintings of the Buddha image and painted enamel ceramic floor. The outside is being created with lime sculpture Thai designs decorated with small pieces of mirror that make the building sparkle and shine under the sunlight.

Continue to **Wat Rong Sua Ten, also known as the Blue Temple**, new landmark of the area. It’s unique architecture and fine sculpture arts are worth visiting.

Then drive to Baandum to **The Black House, Thawan Daschane**, who is distinguished in international art circles, having created his own unique paintings for more than 40 years.

Overnight in Chiang Rai at **The Imperial River House Resort** or similar.



Day 9 Hilltribes & Boat Trip on Mekong River (From Chiang Rai Town)

You will be picked up at 08:30. Get an in-depth look at the many wonders of the historic region with this **Golden Triangle** day trip. Depart from Chiang Rai after breakfast and drive north through spectacular landscapes toward the northern border with Myanmar.

Not long after leaving the city, arrive in **Mae Chan**. **Visit villages inhabited by the Yao and Akha hilltribes**, getting a close look at their unique cultures and traditions. This region of Southeast Asia is a melting pot of ethnic groups and Mae Chan is the perfect example of this cultural mélange.

Continue venturing further into the hills to **Mae Sai**, the northernmost border between Thailand and Myanmar. **Take a stroll through the bustling marketplace**, hearing bits of Myanmar language spoken as people buy and sell their wares. With the taste buds tantalized from seeing mouth-watering snacks for sale at the market, it is time to refuel with lunch at a local restaurant.



This afternoon the adventure continues, driving north to the Golden Triangle area where the Mekong River joins the Ruak River. It is here that the borders of Thailand, Myanmar and Laos converge and form a triangle. Get a closer look with **a ride in a long-tailed boat**. Cruise the waterways, enjoying the passing scenery and having the unique opportunity to be near three countries at once.

Return to land and discover a more infamous side of the Golden Triangle at the **Opium Museum**.

Before returning to Chiang Rai make one last stop at the old city of **Chiang Saen** on the banks of the Mekong. Established in 1260, this remarkable old city has well-preserved ancient ruins and temples to explore.

After this culture and history-fueled Golden Triangle day trip, return to Chiang Rai full of fabulous memories of the region.

Overnight in Chiang Rai at **The Imperial River House Resort** or similar

Day 10: Flight OR Siem Reap Arrival (Cambodia).

Say Goodbye to spiritual Thailand – transfer to Siem Reap airport or fly home to USA

Transfer Out : Chiang Rai Hotel to Chiang Rai Airport with Guide.

Flight to USA - Morning transfer for departure flight to home.

Flight to Siem Reap - Morning transfer for departure

Upon your arrival in Siem Reap, you will be welcomed by your local English speaking guide and transferred to your hotel for check in.

Normally check-in time is at 1400.

After check-in, **free at your own leisure.**

Rest, recharge, pamper yourself.

Overnight in Siem Reap at the **Lynnaya Resort & Spa** or similar



Include:

- Accommodation in 1/2 twin/double room with daily breakfast at selected hotels
- Transportation with driver in A/C vehicle
- Service of English speaking local guide
- Bottled water
- Meals as mentioned
- Excursions and transfers as mentioned by private air-conditioned vehicles (or by boat if mentioned)
- Entrance fees for mentioned visits
- Phare show ticket (seat A - share with public)

Not included:

- Other meals than mentioned
- Camera / video entrance fees
- Flights not mentioned in the inclusions (please see airfares table)
- Laundry, telephone calls and expenditure of personal nature
- Any other services not mentioned
- Early Check In and Late Check Out
- Optional Tour

ACCOMMODATION			
CITY	HOTEL	HOTEL CATEGORY	ROOM TYPE
Siem Reap	Lynnaya Resort & Spa	Superior	Pool View room

USEFUL INFORMATION

CURRENCY: Thailand: Thai Bhat. Cambodia: US dollars – take NEW, UNTORN, UNWRINKLED ones, five, tens.

ELECTRIC: 220 V in the majority of both countries. Plug Adapter required. A Converter may be required, depending on what you are plugging in (some items have a built in converter). Carefully review your device.

VISA - CAMBODIA: A visa is required. \$40 USD, purchased at airport

IMMUNIZATIONS/SHOTS: According to the Centers for Disease Control, there are no obligatory vaccines you need before traveling to THAILAND OR CAMBODIA (unless visiting on your own to remote areas). Check your records to see if it's time to update your routine shots. The DPT vaccines, which protect against diphtheria, pertussis and tetanus, should be updated every 10 years.

FLIGHT:

Fly into Bangkok Thailand

Return Home from Bangkok Thailand OR Siem Reap Cambodia.

WEATHER: The climate in THAILAND and CAMBODIA during January& February is very similar to Florida – hot and humid. Daytime temperatures average around a warm upper 80°s (Chiang Rai) to low to mid 90°F (Bangkok & Siem Reap); at night upper 70°s are normal for January.

TRAVEL INSURANCE: Group plan is available and recommended