

BEST OF THAILAND

8 DAYS TOUR | October 8* and 15*, 2019

Featuring; amazing Bangkok, Age old culture & traditions of North, Larger than life Buddha, boat ride on Mae-Kok river & the White temple

SAN FRANCISCO | BANGKOK | CHIANGRAI | CHIANGMAI | BANGKOK | SAN FRANCISCO

Per Person - Double Occupancy

US\$2199 Oct 8*

US\$2299 Oct 15*

Single Person Supplement:

US\$399

*flight departs early hours of Oct 9 & 16

INCLUDES:

- International round trip airfare from San Francisco
- 6 nights of accommodation at 4 - star listed hotels
- Daily buffet breakfast
- Return transfers from Salinas to SFO & from airport to hotel in Thailand
- Intercity travel from Chiang Rai to Chiang Mai
- Sightseeing & entrance fees as per the itinerary
- Services of local English-speaking guides
- Domestic Airfare - Bangkok to Chiang Rai
- All air taxes, fuel surcharges & local taxes

Add 7 more days to see Phuket + islands

for only \$799



CONTACT:

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Salinas Valley Chamber of Commerce
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TOUR LODGING INFO:

Accommodation on twin sharing basis

CITY	NIGHTS	SUPERIOR HOTELS
Bangkok	2 Nights	Rembrandt Hotel Bangkok
Chiang Rai	2 Nights	The Mantrini Chiang Rai
Chiang Mai	2 Nights	Holiday Inn Chiang Mai

(If any of the above-mentioned hotels are not available, we will provide a similar alternative)

TOUR ITINERARY:

DAY 1: DEPART SAN FRANCISCO

Meet in Salinas for group shuttle up to SFO to board your overnight flight to Bangkok. Enjoy in-flight meals & service

DAY 2: BANGKOK ARRIVAL

Upon arrival in Bangkok, you will be met by our representative and transferred to your hotel. (Standard Check-In time is 14:00 hrs. Early check-in is subject to availability). Enjoy the evening at your leisure.
Overnight in Bangkok

DAY 3: BANGKOK (B/-/-)

After breakfast in the hotel, proceed to discover the amazing city of Bangkok and its temples. Explore Bangkok's history and heritage. Begin with a visit to Wat Traimit, also known as the Temple of the Golden Buddha. Pay tribute to the temple's centrepiece, a solid gold statue discovered hidden under layers of plaster casing in the 1950s. Weighing in at 5.5 tons and measuring nearly 10 feet (3 meters) tall, it's the largest gold seated Buddha statue. Continue to Wat Pho, one of Bangkok's oldest and most famous temples, located near the city's Grand Palace complex. Commonly referred to as the Temple of the Reclining Buddha, its main chapel houses a larger-than-life Buddha measuring 151 feet (46 meters) long, culminating in giant feet decorated with symbolic mother-of-pearl inlays. Finally, travel to the city's Dusit district to visit Wat Benchamabophit, a beautifully ornate monastery built of Italian Carrara marble. Admire the red-and-gold tiered roof typical of Bangkok's royal temples and a Sukhothai Buddha statue that sits atop the remains of Thai King Chulalongkorn, who commissioned the temple in 1899. Return to the hotel and enjoy rest of the day at leisure.
Overnight in Bangkok

DAY 4: BANGKOK – CHIANG RAI (B/-/-)

Enjoy the day at leisure, before taking a transfer to airport for your flight to Chiang Rai. (Standard Check-Out time is 11:00 hrs. Late check-out is subject to availability). On Chiang Rai airport, you will be met with our local representative and transferred to the hotel for Check-In. After some rest in the hotel, transfer to the river pier to embark on a fascinating boat ride along Mae Kok River. Enjoy the splendid scenery on both sides of the river and arrive at the Karen Hilltribe Elephant Camp. Historically, the Karen have always been a good Elephant

Keeper/Trainer. The settlement consists of bamboo houses raised on stilts with farm animals such as pigs, chickens and buffalo living below. Usually clad in sarongs, white shirts and headscarves, the women in this village are skilled in sewing and dyeing fabrics. The folks here place a great emphasis on respect for their ancestors and the living elders of their tribe. Enjoy your ride through jungle trek, passing through the rice paddy field and the rivers. Return to the hotel.

Overnight in Chiang Rai

DAY 5: CHIANG RAI (B/-/-)

Enjoy your day at leisure exploring Chiang Rai or pre-book the optional tour to Golden Triangle.

Overnight in Chiang Rai

Optional: Mae Sai Border Town & Golden Triangle Tour including Lunch: USD 150 per person

Travel to the market town of Mae Sai, at the northern-most point of Thailand. At this border crossing, arrangements may be made to enter Myanmar. * Ascend the hilltop lookout to view the famed 'Golden Triangle' of Southeast Asia - see the joining of the Mekong and Ruak Rivers and the meeting point for the borders of Thailand, Myanmar, and Laos. Then, enjoy a locally prepared lunch in a nearby farming village. Later, a short cruise takes you along the banks of the Mekong to the small island of Don Sao in Laos; leisure time at the lively markets before returning to Thailand. Continue to the dramatic House of Opium Museum with its informative exhibit on the history of opium which dates back almost 5000 years.

DAY 6: CHIANG RAI - CHIANG MAI (B/-/-)

After breakfast at the hotel, take a drive to Chiang Mai. On the southern outskirts of Chiang Rai, stop at the magnificent Wat Rong Khung, a dazzling temple built in the 1990s. Its ornate all-white exterior, with embedded pieces of mirror, gives it a resplendent appearance, which makes it one of the most beautiful temples in Thailand. Continue your drive to Chiang Mai, driving through the mountain and tropical jungle. Arrive in Chiang Mai and check-in. Rest of the day is at leisure.
Overnight in Chiang Mai

DAY 7: CHIANG MAI (B/-/-)

Enjoy your Morning after breakfast proceeds on a tour visiting magnificent temples including Doi Suthep. Chiang Mai has an abundance of beautiful and historic Buddhist temples, and this tour takes you to some of the most interesting and revered in Thailand's second largest city. Climb the staircase to the mountain temple of Wat Phra That Doi Suthep. Start your tour with 14th Century Wat Phra Sing (Temple of the Lion Lord), which houses a sacred 1,500-year-old Buddha image and served as the principal religious center of the Lanna Kingdom. The complex is composed of several buildings of varying architectural and artistic merit. Next visit another impressive temple, Wat Chedi Luang, which towers 196 feet (60 meters) high and is the revered home of the Emerald Buddha which was once enshrined. Continue to Doi Suthep, situated on Doi Pui mountain overlooking the city of Chiang Mai. The road winds up from the city of Chiang Mai to the base of the temple where you can take the 306 steps which are lined each side with a naga balustrade. If you are not feeling energetic or not so steady on your feet, then there is the option of the short ride on the funicular cable car. The present temple complex at Doi Suthep dates from the 16th

Century, the centerpiece being the large Lanna style gold covered chedi. Doi Suthep on its own makes a very worthy visit but while here you can enjoy the cool air, and clouds allowing, the great views over the whole of Chiang Mai and to the mountains beyond. Return to the hotel.

Overnight in Chiang Mai

DAY 8: CHIANG MAI - SAN FRANCISCO (B/-/-)

Enjoy the day at leisure or join an optional tour before transferring back to the airport to catch your flight back home. (Standard Check-Out time is 11:00 hrs. Late check-out is subject to availability).

Optional: Elephant Safari at Chiang Dao Elephant Camp including Lunch: USD 120 per person

Explore the natural and architectural wonders of Chiang Dao with this fascinating full day tour from Chiang Mai. Known as the city of the stars for its high perch, this quaint northern town nestles among limestone cliffs. Check out Chiang Dao's charming town center filled with traditional wooden structures. As you drive to an elephant camp, relax and cast your eyes over the gorgeous scenery. Enter the natural habitat of the elephants. This isn't a zoo; the elephants roam freely and live well.

Their handlers are trusted friends that teach them skills from pulling logs to painting. Watch the elephants taking their morning bath and demonstrating some of their skills. These well-trained, docile creatures will even give you a lift. You will learn how to properly ascend the elephant and together you will lumber along a trail in the dense, leafy forest and along the Mae Ping River. Famished from the ride of a lifetime, it's time for lunch. Afterwards, you will get an up-close look at the river on a bamboo raft trip. You will languidly cruise past traditional steakhouses high on stilts along the lush banks. Bidding farewell to chilled-out Chiang Dao and its gentle people won't be easy. Soften the blow with a stop at an orchid farm on your return to Chiang Mai. Revel in the assortment of colors and designs from stripped to dots. At the end of the day, you'll have seen that Thailand's natural bounty is an open-air art museum.

END OF SERVICES



EXTEND YOUR VACATION
WITH 6 NIGHTS OF

ISLANDS OF THAILAND

7 DAY TOUR

Per person on twin sharing basis:

US\$ **799**

Single Person Supplement:

US\$ **499**

INCLUDES:

- Domestic airfare
- Return ferry Phuket - Phi Phi - Krabi
- Nights' accommodation at listed hotels or similar
- Daily buffet breakfasts
- Sightseeing & entrance fees as per the itinerary
- Airport transfers & transportation in AC Deluxe vehicle
- Air taxes, fuel surcharges & local taxes

TOUR LODGING INFO: 6 Nights Hotel

Accommodation on twin sharing basis

CITY	NIGHTS	SUPERIOR HOTELS
Phuket	2 Nights	Ramada Phuket Deewana
Phi Phi	2 Nights	Bay View Resort
Krabi	2 Nights	Ibis Styles Krabi Ao Nang

TOUR ITINERARY:**DAY 8: PHUKET ARRIVAL**

On arrival at Phuket International Airport you will be met and transferred to your hotel for check in.

Overnight in Phuket

DAY 9: PHUKET (B/-/-)

Enjoy your day at leisure; no services provided, you can pre-book the optional tour of your choice from the below list.

Overnight in Phuket

Optional: The Hidden Phuket including Dinner [Minimum 2 Pax] - USD 80 per person

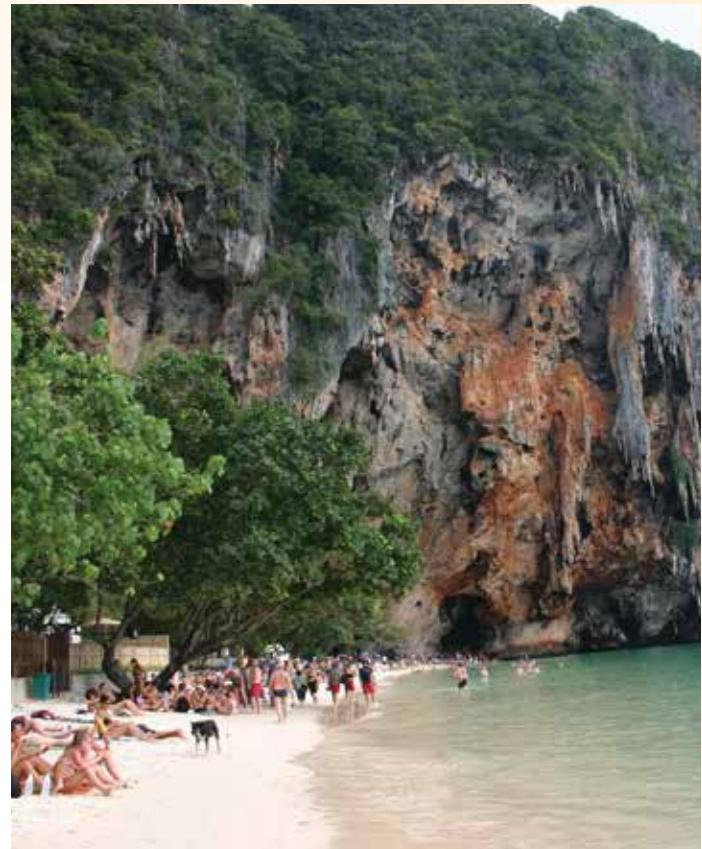
FREQUENCY: Daily**TIMING:** 1530-2030**NOTES:** *SIC tour with English speaking guide only

Wandering through the Sino-Portuguese center of traditional Phuket – there is no better means to smell feel and touch Phuket's architecture along its side streets and historical buildings. Crafted and designed in accordance to old and still practiced measures, Phuket Town represents to be admired and there is no better way to see the eye for detail in the design work by foot. Outside its rich cultural heritage, its quaint colonial mansions, Phuket Town is a true melting pot of street side eateries and stalls that serve only the best. All this, including a visit to an old Chinese temple and finishing the evening off with a delicious dinner on top of Rang Hills, uncovers a different Phuket, hidden from its touristic trails.

Optional: Phang Nga Bay by Speedboat inclusive of Lunch - USD 80 per person

FREQUENCY: Daily**TIMING:** 0730-1700**NOTES:** *SIC tour with English speaking guide min. 2 persons

Your magical full-day Thai island adventure begins when your friendly local guide picks you up from your hotel in Phuket. Leaving for Koh Panak around 9am, you'll travel to the island by speedboat. Explore the mangrove cave or just admire the gorgeous wildlife as you wander around the island. Next, you'll travel to Khao Tapu, famous for its role in the James Bond film 'The Man with the Golden Gun' (for this reason, the island is often referred to as 'James Bond Island'). Here you can visit the Leaning Rock (Khao Ping Gun), a 164-foot behemoth situated atop other nearby rocks or wander through the mangrove swamp. A delicious buffet lunch will be then served at Koh Panyee, known for having its homes built on stilts in the water, around 12:15pm. After lunch it's time for canoeing through a sea cave and wandering through a mangrove forest on Tham Lod. Upon reaching magical Naka Island you might choose to swim, sunbathe or simply relax on the beach. From here you'll



leave around 4pm and arrive back in Phuket between 4:30 and 4:45pm. Your guide will return you to your hotel at the end of the day

DAY 10: PHUKET - PHI PHI (B/-/-)

After breakfast, you will be transferred from the hotel in Phuket to Rassada pier, Phuket. The journey takes about 2 hours. (Ferry time 0830-1030 am or 1330-1530 pm). Please note that you will need to pay an entrance fee upon arrival on Phi Phi (20 BAHT) Enjoy the remainder of the day at leisure.

Overnight in Phi Phi

DAY 11: PHI PHI (B/-/-)

Enjoy your day at leisure; no services provided.

Overnight in Phi Phi

DAY 12: PHI PHI - KRABI (B/-/-)

Enjoy your morning at leisure. You will be able to store your luggage at the hotel upon check out before being transferred later this afternoon back to Tonsai pier for the ferry to Krabi. The ferry departs Tonsai pier at 15:30pm and arrives at Ao Nang, Krabi at 17:00pm. Upon arrival, in Krabi you will be transferred to the resort.

Overnight in Krabi

DAY 13: KRABI (B/-/-)

Enjoy your day at leisure; no services provided.

Overnight in Krabi

Optional: Krabi Rainforest Discovery Tour Incl. Lunch: USD 45 Per person on S.I.C Basis

FREQUENCY: Daily**TIMING:** 09:00 to 16:00**NOTES:** SIC tour with minimum 2 persons, English speaking guide only

An educational and fun day at the Khao Nor Chu Chi National Park to admire and appreciate some gifts of nature. Enjoy getting back to nature as you enjoy a day out in Khao Nor Chur Chi National Park. Start with a visit to the thermal spring pools nestled in the rainforest and take a dip in the hot pools. Then travel to a rubber plantation to see how rubber is tapped from the trees and produced into latex sheets. This age-old method stands the test of time as the trunk of the tree is carved to let the sap flow freely into a container. Take a jungle walk in one of the last low land rainforests in Thailand and learn about the biodiversity of the area. Visit Emerald Pool for another swim in the clear blue waters before ending your day at the Tiger Cave Temple. This unique forest temple has trees that are more than 1,000 years old. From here you will have the best view point looking out over Krabi. A picnic lunch is included

Optional: Khao Sok Nature Tour incl. Lunch:

USD 80 Per person on S.I.C Basis

FREQUENCY: Daily

TIMING: 08:30 to 17:30

NOTES: SIC tour with minimum 2 persons, English speaking guide only

Elephant and Rainforest - both very special but sadly endangered! This is an opportunity to experience them at least once in your lifetime. Cross over the rain forest covered mountains to Khao Sok. Canoe down the Sok river in inflatable canoes with a guide to paddle for you. Pass limestone mountains covered in Jungle vegetation along the banks of the river. Birds and Monkeys live in this area. The natural scenery is some of the best in Southern Thailand and what better way to see it than from Canoe. In the afternoon arrive at elephant camp, explore the jungle by elephant. Lunch is included.

DAY 14: KRABI-PHUKET (B/-/-)

Today you will be transferred to Krabi International Airport or overland back to Phuket International Airport to check in for your onward flight.

** If your flight departs in the early morning of Day 9 you will be able to store your luggage at the hotel and enjoy the day at leisure until your evening departure to the airport.

DAY 15: PHUKET - SAN FRANCISCO

Very early this morning board your flight back home. (This day may change as per flight schedule)

END OF SERVICES

