



Spiritual Thailand & Angkor Wat, Cambodia

2020 Feb 1 - 15

15 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 in Chiang Rai at **The Imperial River House 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 a rejuvenating Thai Massage [included].
Overnight in Chiang Rai at **The Imperial River House Resort**

Day 3: Bangkok City Tour / eve Siam Niramit Show (No Guide – Share with Public)

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.

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Eve. Siam Niramit Show

You will be picked up at 18:00. 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!



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.

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**



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.



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 get sweaty and dirty with a hands-on **volunteer experience**. 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**

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

You will be picked up at 07:00. 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 tea plantations and a co-op store** selling homemade wine, traditional medicines and other locally-grown products of the KMT and other Santi Kiri residents.

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**

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**



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**. Learn how the region was once a hub of opium trade and the ways in which it ...

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**

Day 10: Chiang Rai/Siem Reap Arrival (Cambodia).

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

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



Optional: Bambu Puppets Show (share with Public)

18:30 Your local guide will pick you up from the hotel and enjoy a remarkable show with a mix of traditional



Cambodian shadow puppetry and contemporary staging techniques. The puppets made from traditional leather and recycled plastic. The puppets show is a blend of many art forms – music, choreography, poetry, costume and craft, all illuminated and brought to life with the flickering flame. The Bambu Puppet uses the flickering shadows to bring Cambodian folk, classical and modern stories to life. Using fire, music and special effects this very physical theatre is a fun night out; meeting the makers, handling the puppets and experiencing the diversity of Asian puppetry.

After the workshop, return to the hotel or drop you off at Pub Street.

Price: USD 30/ticket (including: local guide/car for roundtrip transfer and the ticket)

Day 11: Angkor Wat. Tour to Roluos Group - Ta Prohm Temple

Siem Reap nestled between rice paddies and stretched along the Siem Reap River, the small provincial capital of Siem Reap Town serves as the gateway to the millennium-old temple ruins of the Khmer Empire.

Designated a World Heritage Site by UNESCO, the Angkor Archaeological Park encompasses dozens of temple ruins including Bayon, Banteay Srey and the legendary Angkor Wat.

08:00 This morning after breakfast, get your first close glimpse of Angkor today at the **early temples of the Roluos Group**. Roluos is the site of an ancient center of Khmer civilization known as Hariharalaya.

It was the first town built by the Angkorian kings in the 8th and 9th century and consists of three main temples: **Bakong, Lolei and Preah Ko**. The surrounding countryside with its paddy fields and sugar palm trees is very typical for Cambodia – enjoy the natural beauty on an ox cart ride, a fun way to get in touch with



rural Cambodia and its friendly people. In the contemporary Roluos Pagoda in the vicinity of the monuments, Buddhist monks will celebrate a private blessing ceremony for you, wishing you health and a safe journey – a very special experience!
Lunch on your own account.

14:00 After a break for some rest at midday return to explore the **temples of the Small Circuit**. The most illustrious of these is **Ta Prohm**, built in the mid 12th to early 13th centuries. Ta Prohm is unique in that it has been left largely overgrown by jungle trees and vines, with many parts of the temple crumbling to the ground. This makes the ‘Tomb Raider Temple’ one of the most picturesque and memorable of the Angkor temples. Your visit to Ta Prohm will also include **Banteay Kdei, a Buddhist monastery** from the late 12th Century, and Srah Srang, also known as the “pool of ablutions”.

As an alternative to Ta Prohm and Banteay Kdei you may wish to visit **Preah Khan**, a larger temple built by the same king in honour of his father (Ta Prohm was built for his mother). Less well known and therefore less frequently visited, Preah Khan is more grand in scale and yet provides a more intimate--more “Tomb Raider” if you will--experience because of fewer visitors and it’s many collapsing and crumbling corridors.

Note: Speak to your guide on the day of your visit. Depending on the season you may wish to visit a different temple to avoid the crowds as Ta Prohm is very crowded during peak months.

You will be right in time to catch the beautiful evening light from Pre Rup, a pyramidal temple surrounded by a sea of rice fields.

Distances and journey time:

Siem Reap – Temples (06 km): 10 mins

Dinner on your own account.

Overnight in Siem Reap.



Day 12: Siem Reap – Day Free at your own leisure / - Phare Show (No Guide – Share with Public)

This morning and afternoon you are free at your own leisure.

Suggestion: Want to see more of the famous temples.

Tuk-Tuk with the sunrise for amazing photographs without crowds.

Optional: Visit Peace Cafe

Peace Cafe provides fresh healthy vegetarian food, a bakery and a fair trade shop. Just 5 minutes from Siem Reap’s Old Market, a hassle free oasis of tranquility with a beautiful spacious garden filled with bird songs.

We offer VEGETARIAN COOKING CLASS in a Khmer traditional hut.

USD 20\$ including lunch and recipes.

No booking necessary.

Offered Everyday 1PM - 2PM.

Community programs available include meditation, yoga, monk chat; we also offer free Khmer class for those who are interested as well as providing English classes to local Cambodians.

Also check out our fair trade shop for that special gift to friends back home or just for memory sake.

Also on site - Indian Traditional Yoga 9:00 – 10:30 am



Or perhaps

OPTIONAL : QUAD BIKE SUNSET TOUR

1600 Pick up by Remok from Quad Bike company and direct transfer to the center. Then have a short training before start your unforgettable experience as you will **ride a quad bike especially designed for off road terrain through the beautiful countryside of Siem Reap Province**. The 14 km guided tour starts at 16:30 and will take you to local villages, where you can learn about the way of life in rural Cambodia and have the chance to meet and chat with the wonderful and friendly people. The highlight of the 1 hour tour is the sunset in the rice fields.

Time: 15:30 – 18:00

Departure: Daily

Note: 1 person per quad bike. Maximum weight on a quad: 130kg

PRICE: USD 29/PERSON (Join)

Dinner on your own account.

19:40 This evening pick up by your local Driver (No Guide) to attend a stunning performance of ‘**Phare, the Cambodian Circus**’.



20:00 Set up in Battambang in 1994 by young returnee Cambodians from the refugee camps who learned about using art as a means of coping with trauma, **Phare, the Cambodian Circus** has played an influential role in promoting and developing Khmer culture over the years after the Khmer Rouge genocide. The hour long show mixes traditional and modern theater, music, dance, acrobatics, juggling and contortion performed in a story about Cambodian lives and society.

After the show, the driver will drop you off at the Hotel.

Overnight in Siem Reap.

Day 13: Angkor Wat / Beng Mealea - Floating village

08:00 After breakfast, you will head out to the **beautiful Cambodian countryside**, as you will drive to the quiet Beng Mealea, around 65 km from Siem Reap. If you arrive early enough to be the first at the temple, you will feel like an explorer when you discover this completely overgrown and collapsed temple. Undiscovered for centuries, Beng Mealea is now accessible to all visitors, and while it remains unrestored, it is increasingly popular with tour groups, particularly in the later morning hours.

Take a break for a packed lunch and eat at a local house close to Beng Mealea temple (lunch box).

After, **depart on an interesting boat trip on the Tonlé Sap Lake**, where you will have the opportunity to learn about life on the lake.

Tonlé Sap is South East Asia’s largest freshwater lake with its size varying greatly depending on the season, as it is swelling to about four times its size during the wet season. **Board a local boat and visit the village of Kampong Kleang**, where only few tourists

venture. Embark on a boat ride through the village where the fisherman and their families live in stilted houses



among the petrified mangrove forests and waterways. Enjoy the fascinating scenery of Southeast Asia's largest freshwater lake.

Distances and journey time:

Siem Reap – Beng Mealea (58 km): 01h & 30 mins

Siem Reap – Tonle Sap (20 km): 30 mins

Dinner on your own account.

Overnight in Siem Reap.

Day 14: Angkor Thom & Angkor Wat Temple – Kanell's Farewell Dinner & Show (No Guide – Share with Public)

0800 Visit the **ancient city of Angkor Thom**, the last capital of the Great Khmer Empire under the reign of



Jayavarman VII. This city is surrounded by an 8 m high wall, drawing a perfect square. Enter the city through the ancient South Gate, an impressive stone gate carved with three-headed elephants and capped with four giant faces. From here, **continue to Bayon Temple** in the center of the city. This 12th century masterpiece is a study in grandeur and is well-known for its 52 towers with the faces of the Buddha looking out over the vast provinces of the Great Khmer Empire. The nearby Terrace of the Elephants and the Terrace of the Leper King are also must-visits as they are both known for their intricate relief carvings.

1200 Lunch will be at **The Square 24** where offer a variety of Khmer cuisine, along with some of the more conventional western dishes.

1400 In the afternoon, **visit by 'remork'** (similar to the Thai 'tuk tuk') the biggest religious temple in the world; the **magnificent Angkor Wat Temple**. Built during the reign of King Suryavarman II in the early 12th century, Angkor Wat is constructed following the model of the temple mountain symbolizing Mount Meru, the home of the gods. Inside the temple, the walls are covered with stone carvings and bas-reliefs depicting Hindu mythology and the wars Suryavarman II fought during his reign. Angkor Wat is well known for the more than 2,000 Apsara dancers decorating the temple. Construction is thought to have taken around thirty years of intensive labor. Today, Angkor Wat is figured on Cambodia's national flag as the temple symbolizes the soul of the Khmer people.

Dinner and Show at Kanell's Restaurant

1830 Pick up by your personal Driver's to Kanell's restaurant where you will enjoy the **Khmer fusion fine dining with our Traditional performance of Aspara dancers**.

Overnight in Siem Reap.



Day 15: Siem Reap – fly home or Phuket for Star Clipper sail adventure to Singapore

Today free at your own leisure until the departure flight from Siem Reap return home.

1200 Check out from the hotel.

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
- Drinking 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
Bangkok	Ammata Lanta Resort	Deluxe	Superior Villa with ABF
Bangkok	Ramada Plaza Bangkok Menam Riverside	Superior	Deluxe River View Room with ABF
Chiang Rai	The Imperial River House Resort	Superior	Deluxe Garden View Room with ABF
Siem Reap	Shinta Mani Shack	Superior	Pool View room