

Edi39

## Asian Affair Shopping and More Tour

16 days Thailand-Laos-Cambodia

\$3090 pp twin share

Includes: Air fares, transfers, accommodation, breakfasts, some lunch/dinners, day tours.



So many customers have said they would love to tag along on one of my buying trips to Asia that I have decided to put together a tour based on my June 2009 trip.

In 16 days you will visit Bangkok and Chiang Mai, spend time in the beautiful town of Luang Prabang in Laos, and explore the magnificent temples of Cambodia's Angkor Wat, before visiting as well as taking in the lovely Khmer capital Phnom Penh. Our tour ends in South East Asia's busiest city, Bangkok.

You will shop in Chiang Mai's famous Night Bazaar, get hot and stick finding bargains in the Russian market in Phnom Penh. In Bangkok you will be overwhelmed by Chatachuk weekend market, reportedly the biggest market in the world, as well as these well known shopping places I will show you some of the less well known places that I have discovered in my visits to the region.

Don't worry if shopping is not your "big thing" The trip is certainly not about just shopping, in fact we've designed an itinerary that will be fun for the most diehard non shopper, your other "half" perhaps.

- Explore Golden triangle, a place of spectacular scenery where Thailand Laos and Burma meet.
- Visit an Elephant conservation park where you can be Mahout for a day, feeding and washing "your" elephant.
  - Trek the beautiful mountains around Luang Prabang.
- Sunset cruise on the Mekong River, see a fascinating slice of rural life while you snap the magnificent sunset mountain and river scenes.
- Spend a day exploring the majestic temples at Angkor Wat, be Indiana Jones for a day.
- In Phnom Penh you can see the infamous "killing fields" and the S21 interrogation centre.
- Take a longboat up the mighty Chao Phraya river, before visiting Bangkok's Grand Palace.
- See the Bridge over the river Kwai before visiting the Tiger Temple to get your up close and personal photo with a Tiger.

We will stay in 3 & 4 star accommodation and where possible our hotels and Guest houses will certainly not be package tour properties.

## Itinerary

- 26 June - Meet for Dinner before transfer to Melbourne Airport, we board our Thai Airways flight at 23.30.
- 27 June - After arriving at our Chiang Mai Hotel at around 9am the day is free for relaxing after the flight. In the evening we will visit the famous Night Bazaar.
- 28 June
  - Today we take a tour exploring Chiang Mai and nearby Doi Suthep.
  - The shoppers will visit the handicraft village of Ban Tawai and Bor Sang a nearby craft area famous for producing hand made parasols.
  - In the evening we go to the weekly Sunday Market
- 29 June -The shoppers will meet some of our Chiang Mai suppliers and visit The
  - Non shoppers will have lots of options...ATV riding, White water rafting or just lazing at the pool.
- 30 June -We have two tour options today:
  - Visit the Elephant Conservation Park a magical experience looking after your "own elephant" for a day.
  - A full day to the famed Golden triangle, we will be able to cross into Burma and visit Chiang Rai as well as a hill tribe village
- 1 July – After breakfast we check out and take a short flight to Luang Prabang a world heritage listed gem in Northern Laos, we check in to our accommodation overlooking the mighty Mekong river. Of course we will check out the night market before dinner.
- 2 July – The day begins early; we take in the daily passing parade of monks receiving alms from the locals.
  - We visit nearby caves a short distance upstream from town, then after lunch an easy trek taking in the beautiful countryside and a local village.
- 3 July – Another relatively short hop to Siem Reap Cambodia, the town adjacent to Angkor Wat. We settle in to our accommodation before having dinner with a Khmer flavour, after we can take in the lively "Pub street".
- 4 July – An early start to see sunrise at Angkor Wat, we make sure our guide does the opposite of the well trodden tourist route, minimising the crowds as we take in just a small part of this sprawling temple complex.
- 5 July- We are on the move again, this time by road, a three hour journey brings us to Cambodia's capital city, Phnom Penh.
  - We will have dinner at Friends Restaurant, fantastic tapas style food and a great project training street kids in the hospitality Industry.
- 6 July - There is no getting away from the recent bloody past of the Pol Pot ears, but the Khmers are an optimistic friendly people in spite of their suffering. An optional tour to the S21 interrogation centre and the nearby Killing Fields is recommended.
- 7 July - The shoppers will be drawn to the bargains in the Central and Russian Markets, even the non shoppers should spend some time at these markets.
  - We will take a River Cruise PP certainly shows its best side to the river
- 8 July – We take an early morning flight to Bangkok and will be at our hotel before lunch. The shoppers and non shoppers may not see much of each other in Bangkok, but there are some attractions that will lure even the diehard shoppers away from the markets and Malls and also places like the weekend market at Chatachuk will have the non shoppers keen to see just how big the world's largest market is.
  - Our accommodation is in the heart of Pratunam, the main wholesale clothing market area, don't worry wholesale prices start at 3 items!
- 9 July – We take a Bangkok tour with a difference, we use only public transport (Sky train, river taxi and klong water bus) to take in the sites of the city, including The Chao Phraya river Wat Arun and the Grand palace, as well as the canals (klongs) that are transport arteries for the local, but not so much seen by visitors.
  - Later the shoppers may want to visit MBK or Siam square, the rest of us will enjoy a Singha at the pool.
- 10 July – Today we travel to Kanchanaburi, we visit the War cemetery and the "Bridge over the River Kwai" we will take a train journey along the infamous Burma

railway, after we will visit the nearby Tiger Temple, where you can experience an up close and personal time with the resident tigers, don't forget your camera.

- 11 July – Our last full day in Thailand, we visit the weekend “Chatachuk Market”. There will be time to tick off any remaining must do's before we have a memorable “Last Supper” together. Remember to post any excess shopping to yourself back home, it's cheaper than, excess baggage charges.
- 12 July – An early start to catch our 8am flight to Melbourne