

A vibrant scene at a Thai temple. In the foreground, an elderly woman in a white shirt and striped sarong stands next to a young child in a pink shirt and blue shorts. A woman in a white top and patterned sarong is also visible. They are holding yellow lotus flowers. In the background, many people are walking up a wide stone staircase. To the right, there is a highly decorated wall with intricate carvings and colorful garlands. The overall atmosphere is bright and lively.

THAILAND

ADVENTURE

WITH JOHN LUM

NOVEMBER 8-15, 2027

Itinerary

November 8 - Depart the USA

Depart the USA on your flight to Bangkok, Thailand.

November 9 - Arrive in Bangkok

Welcome to Bangkok! Transfer from Suvarnabhumi Airport (BKK) to your hotel. In the evening, hop into one of Thailand's most iconic modes of transport, the tuk-tuk, and ride through some of Bangkok's coolest and tastiest neighborhoods. We'll kick off with a departure from your hotel by private tuk-tuk at 5 pm. Whip through the streets of Bangkok on the way to sample a few popular local dishes and street-side snacks. The first stop will be Bangrak, a trendy district just a short distance from the Chao Phraya River. Spend some time exploring the Bangrak Bazaar and the surrounding streets as your guide introduces you to some more tasty treats. Chinatown is the next stop on the list, a chaotic community that is well known for its delicious street-side food stalls. The first stop here will be exploring Chinatown's Yaowarat Road, a highlight of the city, famed for the spectacular array of street food hawkers. Finally, we'll diverge onto Chinatown's Soi Nana and Maitri Chit Road, home to an eclectic mix of cafes and hip bars. We'll explore some more unique flavors and street food treats throughout Chinatown before ending the journey with a couple of options. The trip will end around 9 pm, but you have the option to hang around. Should you choose to stay later, your guide can advise you on how to return to the hotel. (D)

November 10 - Bangkok – Kanchanaburi

Depart the hotel to explore two of Bangkok's most significant and one of its lesser-known cultural sites. The early start ensures the opportunity to witness Wat Pho's monks gather for their morning chant – these mantras are used for both learning and demonstrating devotion to Buddhist teachings. Afterward, explore Wat Pho's spiritual grounds, including the gilded 45-meter reclining Buddha. Next up is the Grand Palace, Thailand's most famous site. Do be prepared for crowds, as tourists can clog the grounds during the day. Our expert local guides will find quiet areas to relay the palace's religious and royal significance. The Grand Palace has been the seat of the Thai monarchy for more than two centuries and houses numerous halls, temples, and museums. Within the grounds is the Emerald Buddha, Thailand's most revered relic. Next, we'll board a longtail boat to explore the community, revealing the riverside way of life. It's a quiet and peaceful destination in the middle of Thailand's bustling and built-up capital. Visit Wat Paknam, a sight that cannot be missed, in more ways than one. The temple grounds are home to a towering, 68-meter tall Buddha image known as Phra Buddha Dhammakāya Thepmongkhon. Visible from the distant surrounds of the city, this magnificent image stands close by the equally mesmerising Phrarathchamongkhon Stupa, the inner halls of which showcase a spectacular artistic representation of Buddhist cosmology. Upon completing your exploration of the grounds inside Wat Paknam, we will board our boat again for a short journey up the Chao Phraya River. Feeding fish here is another available activity.

After lunch, you will drive to Kanchanaburi and visit the Thailand-Burma Railway Museum, located near the war cemetery, to learn more about the history of the Death Railway. Then, continue to the War Cemetery, where 6,982 prisoners of war who worked on the railway are laid to rest. Finally, visit the River Kwai Bridge in Kanchanaburi, built by POWs during World War II and commonly known as part of the Death Railway. (B, D)



November 11 - Kanchanaburi

Depart in the morning for the one-and-a-half-hour drive to Huai Mae Khamin Waterfall, inside Sri Nakharin National Park. The national park receives a tenth of the visitors of nearby Erawan, but is just as beautiful. Seven main tiers of falls cascade along an easy, well-marked hiking trail along which our guide will teach all about the area's flora and fauna. There are opportunities to swim in a number of pools, and you often find a little corner of nature all to yourself. Afterward, enjoy lunch at a local restaurant. Following lunch, head to one of Thailand's largest lakes, Srinakarin, created when its namesake dam was built in the 1980's. Fishing boats and floating hotels populate the lake, but don't distract from the area's beauty. (B, L, D)

November 12 - Kanchanaburi – Ayutthaya

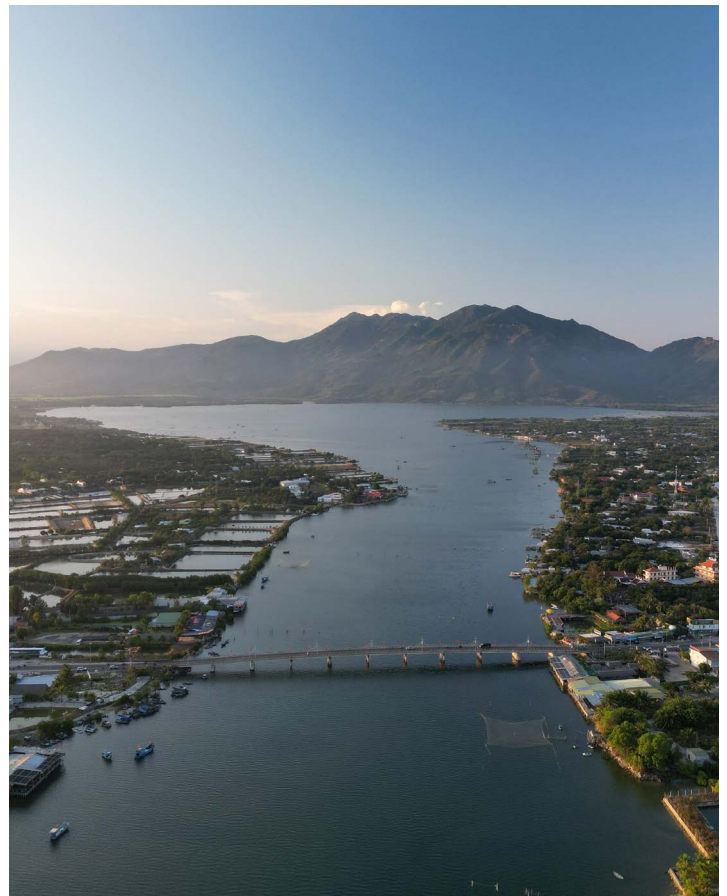
Depart from your hotel for Ayutthaya and visit the Chao Sam Phraya National Museum. Here, you'll delve deeper into Ayutthaya's rich history, admiring a collection of artefacts that reveal the city's artistic and cultural legacy. Then you'll experience the local way of life by switching to a traditional tuk-tuk. This nimble and iconic mode of transport will take you on a memorable exploration of Ayutthaya's historical wonders. Immerse yourself in the city's spiritual past with visits to the following temple ruins:

- Wat Mahathat: Marvel at the iconic Buddha head entwined within the roots of a banyan tree and explore the impressive ruins that echo the grandeur of a bygone era.
- Wat Ratchaburana: Discover the exquisite prang (reliquary tower) and the treasures once enshrined within this majestic temple.
- Wat Na Phra Men: Stand in awe of the large bronze Buddha statue and the site's historical significance as a temple for royal cremations.

En route, seize the chance to taste Ayutthaya's famous Thai dessert, Roti Saimai. This sweet treat, akin to cotton candy wrapped in a thin pancake, is sure to delight your senses. (B, D)

November 13 - Ayutthaya – Bangkok – Chiang Mai

Transfer to Don Muang International Airport (DMK) for your flight to Chiang Mai (not included). Enjoy a private airport transfer from Chiang Mai International Airport (CNX) to Chef Garden, where you will enjoy the chef table for an exclusive dining experience that will introduce you to one of Chiang Mai's culinary masters, Chef Gee. The setting is a spacious and intricately decorated dining hall, overlooking the garden at the chef's restaurant. While other guests may be on the property, the experience is an intimate and very personalized affair, and you'll have the full attention of the chef and her partner. On arrival, you'll have some time to enjoy a bit of casual conversation with Chef Gee. Chef Gee selects fresh, seasonal ingredients, and what is not grown organically on site is usually sourced directly from local farmers when possible. As for the menu, Chef Gee will work with guests to determine their preferences and will design it uniquely for them, with flourishes of both Thai and international influences in the food and presentation. The evening moves at a casual pace as a four- to six-course meal is served in sequence. Wine and beer pairings are available through Tripseed on request and must be pre-booked. Return to Chiang Mai city, check in at your hotel, and join the Loy Krathong gala dinner at the hotel. (B, D)





November 14 - Chiang Mai

Today's ethical Elephant Encounter will begin as you are picked up at your hotel. Please note, there will be no hands-on interaction with the elephants today as this experience follows a hands-off, observation-only approach, in order to protect the health and well-being of these magnificent animals. You will embark on a drive lasting roughly one and a half hours outside the city and into the northern foothills. Upon arrival, you'll be introduced to the program's schedule and learn about the sanctuary's history and future. Embark on an elephant walk into the forest, guided by experts. Observe the elephants grazing and socialising from a safe distance. Meet the mahouts, learn about the resident elephants, and discover fascinating facts about Asian elephants. A "live lecture" on elephant conservation and behavior will enhance your understanding. Enjoy traditional Thai refreshments at a rest station overlooking a mud pit where elephants love to bathe and play. Watch the playful antics while savoring your refreshments. Head to the riverside sala and learn about enrichment activities. Help fill feeding tubes with corn, sugar cane, grass, and bananas, then witness the elephants enjoy their treats while taking in the scenic view from the observation deck.

Afterward, you will savour a delicious Thai vegetarian lunch and learn about the community's history and traditional weaving techniques at the Karen Cultural Centre. Try your hand at weaving and support the local artisans by purchasing handmade items if you wish. You will also pay a visit to a traditional herb garden to learn about medicinal plants for elephants and humans. Collect various herbs and gain insights into their healing properties.

Engage in an Elephant Cooking Class at the riverside sala. Prepare supplements for the elephants while learning about their health, diet, and the benefits of each ingredient. Interact with the mahouts who care for the elephants, deepening your understanding of their role in Thai culture. Conclude the day with a Mahout chat at the riverside sala. Observe the elephants alongside the mahouts and engage in meaningful conversations, further immersing yourself in local Thai culture. (B, L)

November 15 - Chiang Mai Departure

Move around like a local and embrace the iconic transport of choice, the songthaew, otherwise known as the red trucks of Chiang Mai. These red pickup trucks have been modified to take numerous passengers in their back seats on their hop-on/hop-off flexible journeys around the old city. We'll commandeer one for this morning's trip to take in three of the emblematic sites of Chiang Mai.

We'll first navigate the winding journey up Doi Suthep to visit the temple that sits at its peak. Here, enjoy 360-degree views while admiring the richly decorated temple grounds with its vast golden stupa. Next, we'll return to the old city and visit the ruins of Chedi Luang, a 14th-century temple that forms the historic centre of Chiang Mai. The final stop is Warorot Market, where you can explore local delicacies, street food, flowers, clothing, and handicrafts. After the tour, return to the hotel around 12:30.

Note: Check-out time is at 12:00. Please check out and leave your luggage at the front desk before the tour. You may use the hotel facilities until your airport transfer. At the designated time, your driver will meet you in the hotel lobby for your transfer to Chiang Mai Airport. (B)

B= Breakfast / L= Lunch / D= Dinner

