

Trip Dossier for Thailand – Extensions

Trip Code: FTIH or FTRI Issue date: 10 Aug 2009 Valid: 1 Oct 2009

At the end of either of the trips to Thailand, if you have time, we recommend an extra few days to round out the whole experience and offer the following suggested extended itineraries.

Days 1 – 8 Rainforest Island Adventure or River Kwai and Hilltribes

Extension to Cambodia

Day 9 Fly from Chiang Mai to Bangkok and on to Siem Reap

This morning you transfer to the airport and fly to Bangkok, from here you connect with a flight to Siem Reap. On arrival you will be met and transferred to your hotel. Free time to settle in. **Hotel with swimming pool 4 nights (breakfast)**

Day 10 Guided tour of Angkor Wat

Angkor Wat is one of mankind's amazing achievements, built from around 800 to 1200 AD by the Khmer Empire. Over 200 of the temples have been restored enabling visitors to imagine what it must have been like to live during that period. There are actually over 1000 temple sites at Angkor, but most of them are now barely standing, if at all. For hundreds of years, the lost city of Angkor was a legend. Cambodian peasants living on the edge of the thick jungle around the Tonle Sap Lake, said they had found "temples built by gods or by giants," which puzzled the French colonialists who arrived in Indo-China in the 1860s, and so when Henri Mahout discovered the Angkor temples in 1860 he opened up this 'lost city' to the world. The legend became fact and historians and archaeologists came to Angkor to explain the meaning of these vast buildings. They found it hard to believe that Angkor had been built by the Cambodian people, believing the temples to have been built by another race who had conquered and occupied Cambodia maybe 2000 years before. However as the Sanskrit inscriptions were deciphered, the history of Angkor was slowly pieced together. During your time here you'll discover some of the main points of interest with a local guide and have free time to explore at your own pace. **(breakfast)**

Day 11 Boat trip on Tonle Sap Lake

You have a break from Angkor today and take a boat trip on Tonle Sap Lake, riding through the floating villages with their water houses, simple restaurants amongst the lily pads, schools – complete with a caged basketball court attached, and a holy water church. You will also visit a local farm and a silk farm nearby. **(breakfast)**

Day 12 Guided tour of Angkor Wat.

Today you return to the temples of Angkor Wat for further explorations. This afternoon you visit a landmine museum. A sobering but fascinating experience, the museum was founded by Aki Ra, a former child soldier who became a specialist in laying mines and is now a specialist in locating and extracting them. **(breakfast)**

Day 13 Return to Bangkok; flight to London

This morning you transfer back to the airport for your flight to Bangkok and onward connection to London.

Day 14 Arrive London if overnight flight

Extension to Koh Samet

Day 9 Drive and ferry to Koh Samet

Leaving from Bangkok you will travel to Koh Samet by minibus which takes about 4 hours. Then you'll transfer to a ferry for the 30-minute crossing to this island paradise. Stunning beaches, exquisite coral reefs, and emerald waters all give this island a reason to be designated a national park. **Beach Hotel 3 nights (breakfast)**

Days 10 to 11 Koh Samet

The next few days are free for you to enjoy all that your hotel and the island have to offer. Walk along the beach, take a boat trip, go snorkelling, try scuba diving or simply relax. (The hotel can rent snorkelling equipment and arrange dive lessons.)

Day 12 Return to Bangkok

Today you will return to Bangkok and there will be time when you arrive back in the city for some souvenir shopping. **Hotel 1 night, with swimming pool (breakfast)**

Day 13 Fly to London

The morning is free before you are transferred to Bangkok International Airport for your flight to London

Day 14 Arrive London if overnight flight

Extension to Bangkok including Homestay

Day 9 Fly to Bangkok

You'll fly to Bangkok, Thailand's colourful and vibrant capital, where you'll be met and driven to your hotel by a local representative. The afternoon is left free for you to adjust and find your feet in this fascinating city at your own pace. You can explore by foot or travel further afield by 'tuk-tuk', the tiny local taxis, or to avoid the noisy, crowded streets, you can explore by water-taxi. **Hotel 2 nights, swimming pool (breakfast)**

Day 10 In Bangkok; boat trip on the Klongs; visit Grand Palace

The city is full of fascinating palaces, temples and markets. This morning you take trip by longtail boat to glide along the busy 'klongs' (canals) for which Bangkok is famous. You'll pass many stilt houses which face the Chao Phraya river and see local trade along the water. Local kids are everywhere too, jumping in the river, fishing and boating. This afternoon you will visit to the golden domes of the breathtaking Grand Palace. Built in 1782 in time for the coronation of King Rama I, the palace served as the official residence of the King of Siam until early 1900s. The palace is still very much the spiritual centre of the nation and is used for various ceremonies during the year. You will also visit the Wat Phra Kaew which houses the revered Emerald Buddha. **(breakfast)**

Day 11 Ban Ply Ponpang Homestay

This morning you will be taken to the station to catch the train to Mahachai (about an hour train journey). This riverside port, just a few kilometres from the Gulf of Thailand bustles with activity handling a huge variety of fresh fish and seafood. From there you cross the river by ferry to Ban Laem and then take a local train to Maeklong, a unique country market along the railway tracks. See the train arrive bringing the people to the market and vendors tear their umbrellas and stalls down clearing the way for the train! You'll drive the last bit to the Ampawa District to Baan Ply Ponpang Homestay. Here you will meet your hosts and settle in. Be prepared for basic facilities and a very warm welcome. This afternoon we will take a fascinating boat journey through the waterways to visit a family that makes coconut sugar syrup at their teak house. After trying a glass of the sweet juice you take a boat ride through the maze of canals, stop to visit some polelo orchards. Dinner is taken with your host family in their house and this evening you'll be taken on a paddle boat trip to see the fireflies that congregate around Lampoo trees. **Village house homestay with multishare facilities (breakfast & dinner)**

Day 12 Return to Bangkok

You'll wake up early this morning in order to give alms to the Monks in their long tail boats. Then you'll take a boat trip along the Maeklong River and canals to visit a local temple. From here you will return to Bangkok and the rest of the day is free. **Hotel (breakfast)**

Day 13 Bangkok

Today is free for you to do some last-minute sightseeing or shopping before transferring to the airport for your flight to London.

Day 14 Arrive London if overnight flight

NB There is a strict dress code for visiting the Grand Palace. The Temple of the Emerald Buddha is Thailand's most sacred site. Visitors must be properly dressed before being allowed entry to the temple. Men must wear long pants and shirts with sleeves -- no tank tops. If you're wearing sandals or flip-flops you must wear socks (in other words, no bare feet.) Women must be similarly modestly dressed. No see-through clothes, bare shoulders, etc. You may not photograph the Emerald Buddha.

Extension to Bangkok (hotel based)

Day 9 Fly to Bangkok

You'll fly to Bangkok, Thailand's colourful and vibrant capital, where you'll be met and driven to your hotel by a local representative. The afternoon is left free for you to adjust and find your feet in this fascinating city at your own pace. You can travel around by 'tuk-tuk', the tiny local taxis, but to avoid the noisy, crowded streets, we recommend exploring by water-taxi initially. **Hotel 4 nights, swimming pool (breakfast)**

Day 10 In Bangkok; boat trip on the Klongs; visit Grand Palace

The city is full of fascinating palaces, temples and markets. This morning you take trip by longtail boat to glide along the busy 'klongs' (canals) for which Bangkok is famous. You'll pass many stilt houses which face the Chao Phraya river and see local trade along the water. Local kids are everywhere too, jumping in the river, fishing and boating. This afternoon you will visit to the golden domes of the breathtaking Grand Palace. Built in 1782 in time for the coronation of King Rama I, the palace served as the official residence of the King of Siam until early 1900s. The palace is still very much the spiritual centre of the nation and is used for various ceremonies during the year. You will also visit the Wat Phra Kaew which houses the revered Emerald Buddha. **(breakfast)**

Day 11 In Bangkok, visit Muang Boran

About 15 miles south of Bangkok lies the ancient city of Muang Boran and today you will be taken on a full day's visit to what is known as the world's largest outdoor museum. Roughly built in the shape of Thailand with even the mountains in the correct position, riding a bike you'll see scaled-down Thailand's best loved temples and monuments some of which cannot be seen in their original state; all are replicated with great skill and care by artisans who ply their traditional crafts.

Day 12 Free day in Bangkok



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Today is free for you to do some last-minute sightseeing or shopping.

Day 13 Fly to London

The morning is at leisure before transferring to the airport for your flight to London.

Day 14 Arrive London

Extension to Kanchanaburi including Homestay

Day 9 Ayutthaya and Homestay

You'll be picked up from your hotel and driven out of the city to Ayutthaya, which lies about 1½ hours northeast. Ayutthaya was the ancient capital of Siam and you can see something of its former glory as you wander around the ruins of palaces and temples, shrines and monasteries, all now classified as a UNESCO world heritage site. You'll then be taken to meet your host family for tonight's stay in a local village. You'll join in with them and even have to sleep on the floor and share the facilities. But the villagers are so hospitable and friendly that it's all great fun. **Village House Homestay 1 night (breakfast and dinner)**

Day 10 Kanchanaburi

You'll wake up early this morning and probably won't need a wake-up call! Watch the villagers as they give alms to the monks. Then it is time to leave your hosts and you'll be driven to Kanchanaburi, site of the famous Bridge over the River Kwai. After checking into the hotel right beside the River and with close-up views of the Bridge, you will learn more about the history of World War II in this area, and be able to visit a POW cemetery, JEATH museum, and the Bridge itself. **Hotel 2 nights, swimming pool (breakfast)**

Days 11 Kanchanaburi

This morning you set off to visit the Hellfire Pass memorial, built to honour the Allied POWs and Asian conscripts who died while constructing some of the most difficult stretches of the Burma-Thailand Death Railway. Then you'll travel straight to Erawan. The Erawan waterfall is a series of seven waterfalls, and your guide will direct you to the pools which are safe for swimming. The adventurous many want to climb (one hour) to the seventh tier of the waterfall. Return to Kanchanaburi late afternoon and time to relax. **(breakfast)**

Day 12 Return to Bangkok

This morning you will return to Bangkok (about 2½ hours) and the rest of the day is free. **Hotel 1 night, swimming pool (breakfast)**

Day 13 Bangkok

Today is free for you to do some last-minute sightseeing or shopping before transferring to the airport for your flight to London.

Day 14 Arrive London if overnight flight

This itinerary includes our group flights from London. If you are making other flight arrangements, please refer to your Confirmation Invoice and Joining Instructions for details of the start or end of the trip. Please remember international flights and trip dates do occasionally change, so please always purchase flexible tickets.

Each itinerary is planned many months in advance and although it is our intention to operate the itinerary as printed in the brochure and detailed here, it may be necessary to make some changes as a result of alterations to flight schedules, climatic conditions, limitations of infrastructure or other operational factors which are beyond our control. As a consequence, the order or location of overnight stops may vary from those outlined but we will always endeavour to keep you informed of any such changes. Included meals are indicated in the daily itinerary.

Climate

It's warm (or hot) all year round and there's very little variation in temperature throughout the year. The main seasons are: **Cool** – November to February; **Hot** – March to May; **Rainy** – June to October

Average monthly temperatures are given below for Bangkok:

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Max °C	32	33	34	35	34	33	32	32	32	31	31	31
Min °C	20	22	24	25	25	24	24	24	24	24	22	20
Rainfall (mm)	8	20	36	58	198	160	160	175	305	206	66	5

Is this right for your family? Thailand is a very friendly country and the food is fantastic. Kids of almost any age will enjoy this trip, but make sure they're prepared for a little 'culture shock' – especially in Northern Thailand. Expect basic conditions in the hill tribe village; elsewhere accommodation standards are good. There are opportunities for activities like snorkelling and elephant riding.



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Lone Parents

Single parents or other adults travelling alone with children should be aware that some countries, including the UK, require documentation confirming that the individual has authority to travel with the minor. It is crucial that you contact the relevant country embassy for further information on exactly what may be required. These details can be found on the Foreign & Commonwealth Website under the appropriate country www.fco.gov.uk/travel

Accommodation Hotels used are 3-star standard. All have private facilities and are on a twin-share basis (mostly air-conditioned). The village houses are simple, basic and rustic, but very atmospheric. The indication of a swimming pool at a hotel should not be taken as a guarantee but rather an indication. You should also be aware that swimming pools at the hotels are often unheated and so can be cold in the winter months or even closed.

Local Costs

A small bottle of mineral water (500ml)	£0.50
A large bottle of mineral water (1 litre)	£1.00
A can of coke (soft drinks)	£0.50
A carton or bottle of fruit juice	£1.00
A bottle of beer	£1.00
Tea or coffee	£0.50
A light lunch time snack – sandwich for example	£1.50
A two course meal* - excluding drinks	£2.00
A three course meal* - excluding drinks	£3.00

*Based on a mid range tourist restaurant.

Currency The unit of currency is the Thai Baht. At the time of writing UK£1 = Baht 56.6 and US\$1 = Baht 33.9 (Aug 2009). Sterling Travellers' Cheques are accepted in banks and larger hotels however increasingly we recommend that you make use of the widespread ATM machines. We recommend that you change money at the airport. Credit cards are accepted in larger hotels and some souvenir shops.

Tipping is a recognised part of life and although at your discretion you will be expected to reward service. It should be remembered, however, that over-generosity could lead to jealousy in poor countries. Please remember that all tips should be a way for individuals to thank staff for good service. As a guideline, each traveller should allow £2-3 per day to cover tips for local staff.

Visas British passport holders may enter Thailand for up to 30 days without obtaining a visa in advance of arrival. This visa-free entry of 30 days is limited to a maximum of 90 days in any six month period. Your passport must have at least six months validity and not be damaged. For those travelling on the extension to Cambodia, you will need a passport photo and US\$20, and the visa is obtainable on arrival.

Language The official language in Thailand is Thai, although English is widely spoken.

Security Whilst the vast majority of travellers never experience anything untoward it is worth taking precautions particularly in urban areas. You should take sensible precautions in crowded areas such as street markets and airports, where pick-pocketing is common, and keep clear of any street disturbances. Don't wear expensive jewellery, never leave your bags unattended, keep large amounts of money, cameras and mobile phones out of sight when walking in town centres, and avoid walking in city centres after dark. Keep copies of important documents, including passports, in a separate place to the documents themselves, together with details of credit cards. Leave copies at home with a friend too. Safeguard valuables, important documents and cash and deposit them in hotel safes, where practicable.

Time Thailand is GMT +7 hours



Clothing & Equipment List for Thailand – Extensions

Western clothing is acceptable everywhere, but outside beach resorts Thai people tend to dress conservatively. Out of respect for local culture we recommend that - particularly in rural areas - you dress accordingly i.e. no tight-fitting clothing, low-cut or sleeveless tops, etc. Shorts are OK in main tourist areas, but they (and skirts) should reach at least to the knee. Everyone should be prepared to cover bare arms and legs when entering religious buildings, and take off their shoes. A sun hat, sunglasses and high-factor sunscreen are all essential.

The following list of clothing and equipment is intended to be fairly comprehensive and experienced travellers may well take a good deal less luggage than we recommend

CLOTHING	NUMBER PER PERSON	Check	EQUIPMENT	Check
Walking Shoes/trainers	1 pair - all purpose wear		Soft-sided bag 50 – 80litres	
Strong Sandals	1 pair		Lightweight Daypack – 25 litres	
Socks	4+		A variety of plastic bags	
Waterproof Jacket	1 lightweight		Sunglasses	
T-Shirts	3+		Personal First Aid Kit	
Long Trousers or Skirt	2		Large Water Bottle	
Short Trousers	2+		Camera, Memory Cards and Accessories	
Long Sleeve Shirt	2+		Torch and Batteries	
Track Suit Bottoms or Similar	Optional		Insect Repellent (with high DEET content)	
Sunhat / Baseball cap	Essential (styled to shade face, ears and neck)		Loo Kit (in small bag) loo paper/tissues	
Warm jacket	1		Towel or Sarong	
Thin Fleece or Sweatshirt	1		Reading Material	
Swim Wear	1		Guide Book & map	

ITEM	Check	ITEM	Check
Passport/ Visa			
Air Tickets		Universal travelling adapter	
Money/Travellers Cheques		Sunscreen – lots of it	
Cash Cards/Visa			
Insurance Documents			
Trip Information and Itinerary			
Money Security Belt/Pouch			

For details regarding **hand luggage restrictions**, please visit www.baa.com for details or click [here](#)