



Specially prepared program for the PROBUS Club of Mississauga South

HIGHLIGHTS OF THAILAND AND OUTER ISLANDS OF THE ANDAMAN SEA

Featuring Bangkok, Chiang Rai, Chiang Mai, Krabi and Khao Sok
Oct 12 – 29, 2021 (18 days)



tourdesign.ca



The Grand Palace



Chao Phraya River



Muay Thai Fights

Itinerary

DAY 1 / Tuesday, October 12, 2021

Depart Canada

Limousine pickup will be arranged for you from your home (within GTA area) to Pearson International Airport, for our flights to Bangkok. Meals will be served in flight.

Transportation: Cathay Pacific Airways

DAY 2 / Wednesday, October 13, 2021

Arrival in Bangkok (D)

Well known as the City of Angels, Bangkok is the present capital city and the focal point for Thailand. It was made the capital of Thailand in 1782. In addition to the many temples and historic buildings, such as The Grand Palace and Wat Arun, the list of interesting places to visit is endless. Upon arrival at Bangkok Airport, we will be met by our local coach and tour manager and transferred to our hotel. You have the balance of the day at leisure. Welcome dinner this evening.

Accommodation: Chatrium Hotel Riverside Bangkok (Grand Room River View) or similar (3 nights)

DAY 3 / Thursday, October 14, 2021

Bangkok (B, L)

Breakfast is included at hotel followed by a morning tour of Chinatown, a hugely popular tourist attraction and a food haven for foodies who flock here at any time of day to explore the vibrant food culture and cuisine. Packed with market stalls, street-side restaurants and a dense concentration of street vendors, Chinatown is an experience not to miss. After a morning strolling around taking in the sights and sounds of this fascinating neighborhood, it's now time to sample a traditional "Yum Cha" early light lunch which involves drinking Chinese tea and eating dim sum dishes.

One of the best ways to explore Bangkok is by boat. A cruise along the Chao Phraya River and the canals of Thonburi on the east side of the river reveals a scene that offers a stark contrast to the frenzied activity of the modern metropolis of Bangkok. The city's network of canals earned Bangkok the title of "Venice of the East". We travel along these waterways by long-tail speed boat to see family homes and temples. On the return journey, we stop at the Temple of Dawn (Wat Arun) whose towering spire has become an iconic symbol of Bangkok. Dinner on your own this evening.

DAY 4 / Friday, October 15, 2021

Bangkok (B, L, D)

Following breakfast we join our deluxe coach and guide for a full day excursion through beautiful scenery to the north of Bangkok, and onto the ancient city of Ayutthaya, the former capital of Siam. Containing UNESCO-listed temples and stupas, Ayutthaya was the Thai capital for 417 years and is one of Thailand's major tourist attractions. Many ancient ruins can be seen in the city, which was founded in 1350 by King U-Thong. Included in the itinerary is a visit to the Summer Palace of King Rama V with its mixture of Thai, Chinese and Gothic architecture. We return to Bangkok by boat and enjoy lunch on board while cruising down the Chao Phraya River and watching life on the river pass by at a sleepy pace.

This evening we depart our hotel for the riverfront area of Asiatique for dinner. In the heart of this exclusive area is a new theatre featuring a spectacular live show of Muay Thai fights, breathtaking stunts and special effects. The show tells the stories and the origins of the heroes of Muay Thai, spanning 300 years, from the past to the present day. Come face to face with Muay Thai's greatest heroes, from the Tiger King in Disguise to the Prisoner with Eight Limbs, to the Warrior of Broken Swords, and many more!



Wat Rong Khun (White Temple)



Chiang Rai Tea Plantation



"Long neck" Karen Hilltop Tribes

DAY 5 / Saturday, October 16, 2021

Bangkok – Chiang Rai (B)

After breakfast a morning transfer to Bangkok Airport for our flight to Chiang Rai.

Transportation: Bangkok Airways

The northernmost province of Thailand, Chiang Rai is situated on the Kok River basin 1,387 feet above sea level. It is about 490 miles from Bangkok, mostly mountainous, reaching the Mae Khong River to the north and borders on both Myanmar and Laos. The province is rich in tourism resources in terms of natural attractions and antiquities and evidence of its past civilization. It is also home to several hill tribes who follow fascinating ways of life. Chiang Rai is a quirky, artistic city offering a surprising number of things to see and do. The city is also home to an incredible number of beautiful temples – from historic jewelled monuments to unusual contemporary artworks.

Upon arrival at Chiang Rai Airport, you will be met by our local representative and transferred to your hotel for check-in and to enjoy balance of the day at leisure. This evening enjoy Chiang Rai Night Bazaar where vendors start to set up their stalls at around sunset. What you will find here is a range of hill tribe crafts such as knitted scarves, embroidered bags, silver jewelry, bed spreads, wallets and fashion accessories, along with T-shirts, sneakers and a range of sculptural art and handicrafts. Always negotiate before you buy. Apart from shopping, the Night Bazaar has two outdoor stages for cultural performances and a beer garden/food court where you can grab a quick bite or dinner. Dinner on your own.

Accommodation: The Riverie by Katathani (Deluxe Room) or similar (3 nights)

DAY 6 / Sunday, October 17, 2021

Chiang Rai (B,L,D)

Breakfast is included at the hotel. Today we travel into the hills of Chiang Rai to a lesser-known part of the province famous for its tea plantations. This part of Thailand borders China's remote Yunnan province. The climate here is perfect for tea cultivation, plus the area also boasts some beautiful scenery too. Visit terraced tea plantations and sample some freshly brewed tea, served in the traditional local style.

We also visit local Chinese Yunnan villages in an area that sees few tourists, and enjoy the spectacular views the area has to offer. Here you will experience an interesting history as many of the residents are of Chinese heritage. Also enjoy a visit to a local school that our supplier supports. They will definitely leave a small imprint on your heart and we hope that the school supplies we bring them will be helpful. Dinner at the hotel this evening.

DAY 7 / Monday, October 18, 2021

Chiang Rai (B,L,D)

Breakfast is included at the hotel followed by a full day tour to the hill tribes region. This morning, we will visit the Hill Tribe Museum and Education Service. The hills and mountains around Chiang Rai are dotted with hill tribe villages. The people in these villages are often nomadic tribes from outside Thailand, and include the famous "long neck" Karen hilltop tribes. These groups historically came to Thailand from Myanmar, and the women may wear brass rings around their necks. Locally made heady fruit wines and liquors are for sale in the local market. Especially coveted among locals is the locally brewed corn whiskey.

Then, drive to Doi Tung Royal Villa or Royal Villa of the Princess mother. The architecture is in Lanna style, with emphasis on simplicity. The villa is surrounded by a variety of flora, giving a pleasing shady atmosphere to the environment. Lunch is included at a local restaurant at Doi Tung.

Afterwards, you will drive to the famous Golden Triangle – center for opium trade. Located next to the Golden Triangle, the Hall of Opium is a small museum with an exhibition focusing on the opium trade. The Golden Triangle area was historically known for poppy cultivation and opium trade and smuggling, and the Hall of Opium traces this history, along with the trade's ill effects on the region. Dinner will be provided at a local restaurant.



Wat Pra That Doi Suthep



Elephant Sanctuary

DAY 8 / Tuesday, October 19, 2021

Chiang Rai – Chiang Mai (B,L,D)

Today we travel by road through the Splendid Mountain scenery and tropical jungle to Chiang Mai. Enroute we make a short stop at the Mae Khachan Hot Spring and also the "White Temple". We then continue to Baan Dam (Black House) estate, an impressive park area with plenty of fantastic wood buildings. Beautiful woodcarvings, skins and horn installations are everywhere. Stop enroute for lunch at a local restaurant

The city of Chiang Mai has an abundance of beautiful and historic Buddhist temples and your afternoon tour takes in the most interesting. One of the highlights is a visit to the 600 year-old temple of Wat Pra That Doi Suthep, near the summit of Doi Suthep Mountain. After a drive up the mountain's winding road, the final climb to the site is via a magnificent Naga (dragon-headed serpent) staircase of 306 steps. (For those that don't want to climb the steps, a monorail is available to take you to the top). Inside is an intriguing copper-plated chedi topped by a five-tier gold umbrella which contains partial relics of Lord Buddha. On a clear day, there are incomparable views over the city of Chiang Mai. Other temple visits on this tour include: Wat Suan Dok, whose large central stupa contains the ashes of Chiang Mai's royal family; Wat Chedi Luang, where the Emerald Buddha was once enshrined; and Wat Phra Singh, housing a very sacred 1,500 year old Buddha image. Dinner at the hotel.

Accommodation: Shangri-La Hotel (Deluxe room) or similar (3 nights)

DAY 9 / Wednesday, October 20, 2021

Chiang Mai (B,L)

A full-day excursion offering you the opportunity to experience life with the elephants in their natural home. Located beside a Karen village in a densely forested mountainous region, the sanctuary is surrounded by spectacular jungle scenery. When we arrive at the Elephant Jungle Sanctuary, an English-speaking guide will walk with us teaching us a little about elephants and the local way of life. Get changed into traditional Karen clothing, listen as your guide tells us more about the Sanctuary, grab some bananas and sugar cane for feeding, and you will be ready to meet the elephants!

We will meet and interact with each of our friendly elephants personally, learn about elephants' behavior, and discover the unique and interesting history of each elephant as you touch, play, feed, and photograph them. Once you have met and spent time with each of the elephants, you can retire to a relaxing platform overlooking a picturesque river and jungle. There, you will enjoy a delicious lunch of traditional Thai food and fresh fruit, before being re-united with your elephant friends.

At this point during the day, you will walk alongside the elephants to a nearby river and join them for a bath in the refreshing water. Here, you will have the opportunity to bathe and brush the elephants while they enjoy wading through the water. Next, it will be time for a therapeutic mud spa. Feel free to get muddy as you cover the elephants in a protective layer of mud. Have fun playing with them and watch as they joyfully frolic in the mud spa.

When it's time to say goodbye to the elephants, you can take some final photos with them to preserve this precious memory, then head upstream and wash off your remaining mud, or relax with a swim in the fresh, clean water. Finally, you will change clothes and take a scenic walk back through the Karen village. You will then part ways with your local guide, and return to Chiang Mai. Dinner on your own.



Chiang Mai Cooking School



Krabi Province



Krabi Cave Restaurant

Day 10 / Thursday, October 21, 2021

Chiang Mai (B,L)

Thai food is so popular now in Toronto we thought it would be fun to have some first-hand knowledge of how to prepare some of these dishes. There are 4 different courses which are taught and each course has been designed so you will have plenty of time to learn all the main techniques for cooking Thai food.

We begin with a morning activity such as shopping at the market, an introduction to Thai ingredients, paste making or vegetable carving. After the morning activity then we will cook 4 dishes. Each dish will be demonstrated by highly qualified instructors who all speak excellent English. Once we have completed our cooking, we will break for lunch to relax to eat the fruits of our hard work. We return to our resort for you to enjoy an afternoon at leisure and perhaps have a Thai massage. Dinner on your own.

Day 11 / Friday, October 22, 2021

Chiang Mai - Krabi (B)

After breakfast we transfer to the Chiang Mai Airport for our short flight to Krabi.

Transportation: Bangkok Airways

Krabi Province, named after the small town on the banks of the Krabi estuary, is a beautiful province just to the south of Phuket. Krabi area has many limestone karsts while the countryside is dotted with rubber plantations, pineapple farms and coconut groves. We arrive at the small modern airport near Krabi town and transfer to our deluxe resort hotel for the next three nights. Enjoy the balance of the day at leisure.

Tonight we visit the Krabi Night market, a popular weekend market. There is a wide variety of snacks, meals (both Thai & European) and drinks available. There are performances on the stage by local groups and are an eclectic mix of folk music, pop music and Thai dance. Around the market, there is a good selection of bars and restaurants where you can sit eat and enjoy a cooling drink and watch the world go by. Dinner on your own at the market.

Accommodation: Sofitel Krabi Phokeethra Golf & Spa Resort (Superior Room) or similar (3 nights)

Day 12 / Saturday, October 23, 2021

Krabi (B,L,D)

In the Silk Road from Krabi to Trang, there is a hot spring surrounded by rainforests with an abundance of wildlife. The hot spring waterfall contains many minerals and salts that are ideal for bathing and soothing aching muscles. You will have a chance to have a dip in the Emerald pool for a refreshing experience. Afterwards, we head to the tiger cave temple. The main place is on ground floor of the temple and there are many things to see such as the Shrine, Cave, Buddha house, etc. Afterwards, we go to a spa that's decorated in Thai style, where all of the rooms are made of teak wood. Upon arrival, you're pampered with a 1 hour Royal Thai Massage or Relaxing Head, Back & Shoulder Massage. Dinner will be provided at Lae Lay Grill Restaurant.



Talay Whak

Day 13 / Sunday, October 24, 2021

Krabi (B,D)

Breakfast is included at the hotel. Morning at leisure to enjoy the resort facilities. Lunch on your own. This afternoon exciting island-hopping by speed boat to the tropical hot spots in the Krabi Sea:

- Koa Gai – Translates to Chicken Island, named because, believe it or not, it is shaped like a chicken. From the right angle, it really does!
- Koh Tup – Koh Tup is only a few hundred meters from Koh Gai and along with Koh Mawr, is linked to Chicken Island by a sand bar that is above the surface at low tide. This sandbar is known in Thai as the Talay Whak.
- Koh Mawr – The third in this group, is a rocky island with cliffs jutting out of the sea and lush vegetation on top.
- Koh Poda – A large island with a coconut plantation at the centre. Here there are kiosks selling snacks, fruit, drinks and ice cream.

Our last stop is Phra Nang Bay. A secluded peninsula accessible only by boat and is home to the famous Railay Beach which is surrounded by towering limestone cliffs and is a world-class destination for rock climbers.

Day 14 / Monday, October 25, 2021

Krabi – Khao Sok (B,D)

Around noon, we will leave by private air-conditioned vehicle and the resort boat for the 500 Rai Kho Sock Floating resort. Boasting overwater bungalows on the Ratchaphapha reservoir (Cheow Lan Lake), 500 Rai Floating Resort is set in a midst of natural surroundings. Guests can indulge in an outdoor pool and enjoy amazing views of lush green hills. Delectable local and Western cuisines can be sampled at Talay Nai Restaurant.

Each bungalow here comes with two bedrooms featuring comfortable beds and air conditioning. The ensuite bathroom is equipped with shower facilities and the toilet is separated from the shower area. Guests can enjoy sunrise and sunset either from an indoor seating area or the outdoor balcony. A two-seat kayak and life jackets are provided for guests to explore the paradise-like beauty of the area.

Along the way to the resort, visit Saddle Dam Viewpoint, take a boat ride to Chew Larn Lake, visit Sam Klur Rocks Viewpoint.

Accommodation: 500 Rai Floating Resort or similar (3 nights)

Day 15 / Tuesday, October 26, 2021

Khao Sok (B,L,D)

Morning at leisure or to enjoy the resort's activities. There is a lot to do here, perhaps take a boat ride into Morning Safari, searching for birds among the drifting morning mist by long tail boat cruising nearby the resort.

This afternoon we take a boat trip to Khlong Saeng Wildlife Sanctuary. This sanctuary was once a magnificent natural watershed that provided water throughout the year to the inhabitants of the lowlands on the east side of the Thali Peninsula. It still harbours some very impressive animals such as elephants, gaurs, tapirs, serows, sambars, clouded leopards, different species of monkey, and rare birds. Many people here live in floating houses which are very unique.

**Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner will be provided at the resort.*



500 Rai Floating Resort



Boat trip to Khlong Saeng Wildlife Sanctuary



Day 16 / Wednesday, October 27, 2021

Khao Sok (B,L,D)

Today you can take part in excursions that are all offered complimentary from the resort, or perhaps try the optional Coral Cave Exploration Tour (at additional cost). This is 500 Rai's most popular excursion that starts with an easy 1.5km hike, then float on a bamboo raft to Coral Cave. Filled with spectacular formations, this cave is a joy to explore with your guide. Lunch will be provided at resort. Farewell Dinner this evening at the resort with live music.

Day 17 / Thursday, October 28, 2021

Khao Sok – Surat Thani – Bangkok (B, Lunch Allowance)

Breakfast is included at the resort.

We will be transferred by resort's boat and private air-conditioned vehicle to Surat Thani Airport to the board our onward flight to Bangkok. Enroute from the resort back to the pier, visit Guilin Noi.

Prior to arriving at the airport we will stop for a light meal (lunch allowance provided by Tour Design).

Transportation: Thai Airways

Upon arrival at Bangkok Airport, we will be transferred to our hotel for check in via a short walk from the terminal.

Accommodation: Novotel Suvarnabhumi Airport Hotel (Superior room) or similar (1 night)

Day 18 / Friday, October 29, 2021

Depart Bangkok (B)

Breakfast at hotel, we transfer to the airport for our return flight home.

Transportation: Cathay Pacific Airways

*** END OF TOUR ***

B – Breakfast, L – Lunch, D – Dinner



Tour Map

Pricing & Terms

PACKAGE RATE (CAD\$, PER PERSON)

CAD \$8,579 per person based on double occupancy

CAD \$11,029 per person based on single occupancy

INCLUSIONS:

- Roundtrip international flights from Toronto – Bangkok – Toronto
- 3 local flights: Bangkok to Chiang Rai, Chiang Mai to Krabi, Surat Thani to Bangkok
- Limousine transfers from your home to Toronto Pearson Airport and return (within GTA area)
- 16 nights' accommodation as per itinerary with daily breakfast:
 - 3 nights Bangkok – Chatrium Hotel Riverside
 - 3 nights Chiang Rai – The Riverie by Katathani
 - 3 nights Chiang Mai – Shangri-La Hotel
 - 3 nights Krabi – Sofitel Krabi Phokeethra Golf & Spa Resort
 - 3 nights Khao Sok – 500 Rai Floating Resort
 - 1 night Bangkok Airport – Novotel Suvarnabhumi Airport Hotel
- 10 lunches and 10 dinners as per itinerary, with water included
- 1 lunch allowance provided by Tour Design as per itinerary
- All transfers as in itinerary including:
 - Tour of China Town in Bangkok
 - Long-tail speed boat on Chao Phraya River
 - Full day excursion to Ayutthaya
 - Muay Thai Live Show, Chiang Rai Night Bazaar
 - Full day tour to tea plantations and Yunnan villages Chiang Rai, Visit to local school
 - Full day tour to Hill Tribes
 - Royal Villa and Golden Triangle including Opium Museum
 - Enroute to Chiang Mai visit to Hot Spring, White Temple and Black House
 - Temple tour of Chiang Mai
 - Full day experience at Elephant Jungle Sanctuary
 - Half Day Cooking Class
 - Krabi Night Market, Silk road from Krabi to Trang including Tiger Cave Temple
 - One hour Royal Thai Massage
 - Four Island Speed boat tour from Krabi
 - Boat Trip Khlong Saeng Wildlife Sanctuary on Khao Sok

- All tours and transfers with 1 bottle of water per person per day on the coach
- English speaking guides for all tours and transfers
- Service of an experienced Tour Design Staff member for entire tour
- All gratuities for local guides and drivers
- Porterage at hotels (1 piece of luggage per person)

EXCLUSIONS:

- Airport departure taxes and air fuel surcharges. Currently CAD \$380 per person, subject to change until time of final payment.
- Meals not included in the itinerary
- Coffee/tea, and alcoholic beverages unless specified
- Optional travel insurance

AIR CREDIT:

If you wish to arrange your own air from Toronto to Bangkok to Toronto, an air credit of CAD\$1,000.00 per person will be deducted from the tour cost. And above mentioned airport taxes and fuel surcharges will not be applicable.

Please contact us for air deviations, premium economy or business class upgrade surcharges.

DEPOSIT & FINAL PAYMENT:

Initial deposit (due at time of booking):	CAD \$750 per person
2nd Deposit (January 5, 2021):	CAD \$2,000 per person
Final payment (June 11, 2021):	remaining balance

CANCELLATION TERMS:

Between time of booking to January 4, 2021:	CAD \$750 per person
Between January 5, 2021 to June 10, 2021:	CAD \$2,750 per person
Between June 11, 2021 & date of departure:	100% of total cost

Program designed in conjunction with Rick Palmer.

Email: rick.palmer@rogers.com or call 905-828-7314.

To book this program, please complete the Booking Form and email, mail or fax to Tour Design.



TOUR DESIGN

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