CENTRAL THAILAND RICE & SPICE TRAIL

9 days 8 nights trip to make you relax and feel like a local

TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

- Take our signature Historic Bangrak Food Tasting and Cultural Walking Tours ™
- Sightseeing of Bangkok’s major landmarks including Grand Palace and Temple of the Emerald Buddha
- Master your Thai cooking skill at Baipai Cooking School
- Cook with locals in Samut Songkram
- Visit the UNESCO World Heritage Ayutthaya and taste ancient Thai cuisine
- Visit a fisherman’s village and tour their oyster and mussel farms
- Visit a coconut orchard and learn about traditional coconut sugar making technique
- Visit off-the-beaten local floating markets and the exotic train market
- Taste the New Latitude wines and take the World’s only elephant ride in the vineyard
- Dine with various scenes including riverfront, beachfront, bustling Chinatown, and the middle of the sea!
- Stay at the luxury hotels and resorts set along Chao Phraya river, Mae Klong river and Hua Hin beachfront
- Farewell drink at one of breathtaking Bangkok’s roof top bar

ITINERARY

Day 1: Welcome and relax

Arrive in Bangkok. You will be transferred to the luxury Chatrium Riverside hotel set along the majestic Chao Phraya River “the River of Kings” Our guides will introduce you to the surrounding areas and how to commute around in Bangkok during your free time. Then, we leave the rest of the day for you to relax and unwind.

Meal: N/A
Overnight: Bangkok
Accommodation: Chatrium Riverside (5 stars) or equivalent
Day 2: Exploring Bangkok like a local

- Off-the-beaten-track food & culture walking tour in Bangrak
- Grand Palace and the Temple of Emerald Buddha
- Traditional Thai massage at Wat Pho
- Dinner at the world famous Bangkok’s Chinatown
- Experience Bangkok through various modes of transportation (Tuk Tuk, River Ferry, and Taxi)

Today we will have a chance to explore Bangkok in the most authentic way. After breakfast, we will take you on the shuttle boat from your hotel to Bangrak district, one of Bangkok’s oldest and tastiest neighborhoods. Here, your journey into the world of Thai cuisines begins. You will join our famous food walk—the Historic Bangrak Food Tasting and Cultural Tour™. We will introduce you to various styles of Thai delicacies, prepared by some of the best chefs in town. All of the “local” restaurants we visit are legendary of their own. They are run by the second, third or even fourth generation. You will have a chance to participate with restaurant owners and learn about their famous dish and history. By the end of the food walk, you will be surprised to learn about the diversity Thai cuisines— from one region and ethnic to another.

Then, it is time to travel “like a local” on a public ferry along the mighty Chaophraya River. After a 20 minutes ride, we will get to Bangkok’s Rattanakosin Island (the old city area). You will visit Bangkok’s major attractions, including the Temple of Emerald Buddha, the Grand Palace, and the Temple of Reclining Buddha (Wat Pho). At Wat Pho, you will have a chance to try the traditional Thai massage. Nowhere else you can get the most authentic Thai massage than at Wat Pho. Then, another journey of the day begins. We will take a ride on Bangkok’s famous 3-wheels Tuk Tuk to the world’s largest Chinatown, known by locals as Yaowarat. Here, you will dine in at a famous Thai-Chinese restaurant and get the first-hand experience of the exotic Bangkok’s Chinatown. After dinner, we will take a ride of local Taxi back to your hotel.

Meal: B, L, D  
Overnight: Bangkok  
Accommodation: Chatrium Riverside (5 stars) or equivalent

Remarks: Don’t worry if this is not your first visit to Bangkok and you have already visited the Grand Palace. There are many attractions around Rattanakosin Island and we can arrange you to visit other places instead. Just let us know and we can tailor this afternoon to your personal interest.
Day 3: Learn to cook like a local

- Cooking class at Baipai cooking school

After breakfast, our friend from Baipai cooking school will pick you up. Bai Pai is one of the most renowned cooking schools in Thailand. After arriving in their beautiful and serene facility, you will have a chance to learn home-style Thai dishes. The class will begin with the introduction of Thai local ingredients. The theory session of Thai cooking will follow. Then, Baipai expert chefs will guide you to cook 4 delicious Thai dish. After cooking, you will enjoy lunch with the food you just cook in a charming Thai wooden house.

After class ends around 1pm, your afternoon is free. You will transfer you back to hotel or other location of your choice.

*Cooking class:* For the class at Baipai, you will cook four home-style Thai dishes. Menu changes regularly according to the freshest local ingredients we can get for your class.

*Meal:* B, L  
*Overnight:* Bangkok  
*Accommodation:* Chatrium Riverside (5 stars) or equivalent

*Remarks:* We can accommodate non-cooking partner. We can replace the cooking class with other activity. Please let us know and we will try our best to find the activity that suit for the non-cooking one.
Day 4: Slow travel in ancient Ayutthaya

- Visit the UNESCO World Heritage’s Ayutthaya city
- Visit ancient temples
- Taste various old-time cuisines
- Witness the local artisan making Ayutthaya’s famous sweet Roti Saimai (Roti with fairy floss)
- Taste the grilled monster River Prawn

After breakfast, our culinary guide will pick you up for a journey to the UNESCO World Heritage and our old capital city of Ayutthaya, located just less than 1 hour drive from Bangkok. Today, you will have a chance to witness Ayutthaya historical temples and ancient ruins. As the city with rich history and century-old culture, Ayutthaya is also famous for its cuisines. Some of the dish you will try includes grilled monster river prawn with its size as big as your palm, Ayutthaya’s signature boat noodle, Pla-Ob-Fang, and many more. You will also witness some of the unique cooking techniques by local artisans, such as you will learn how locals make Roti Saimai (Roti with fairy floss).

**Meal:** B, L, D  
**Overnight:** Bangkok  
**Accommodation:** Chatrium Riverside (5 stars) or equivalent

Day 5: Go local in Samut Songkram

- Visit Don Wai market  
- Cook with locals in Samut Sakorn  
- Fisherman’s village, oyster & mussel farm tour on fisherman’s ferry  
- Dine at the bamboo pavilion in the middle of the sea  
- Optional night-time fire fires spotting on a river boat

After breakfast, we check out from the hotel. We will head west of Bangkok with the first stop at Don Wai market. Here, you will have a chance to taste many local delicacies and learn about various local produces. Then, we will off to Samut Songkram, known by many as the last Venice of Thailand. We will visit a fisherman’s village and learn about their way of life. Then, the local fisherman will take you on their ferry to visit oyster and mussel farms as well as to feed wild long-tailed Macaques. You will also help our hosts prepare the local seafood dinner. Then, we will have these delicious seafood served on the bamboo pavilion built right in the middle of the sea.

We will spend a night in a riverside boutique resort featuring Thai-wooden house accommodation in Amphawa district of Samut Songkram. Amphawa is an old market town on the Mae Klong river, and it has long been famous for the fireflies which live amongst the mangroves in the waters where the Mae Klong meets the sea. It’s one of the only few places in the world that you can witness...
thousands of fireflies light up in the same time. You will have an optional 1-hour night tour for firefly sightseeing on a small river boat (The best season to see fireflies is during June to October, but they can be seen year round)

**Meal:** B, L, D  
**Overnight:** Samut Songkram  
**Accommodation:** Baan Amphawa Resort and Spa (5 stars) or equivalent

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**Day 6: Off-the-beaten floating market and Petchburi**

- Visit off-the-beaten-track Tha Ka Floating Market
- Visit the famous train market
- Visit coconut orchard and learn traditional coconut sugar making technique
- Visit unseen cave
- Take a local food tour in Petchburi
- Seafood dinner on the beachfront restaurant
- Offer alms to the Buddhist monk in early morning (optional)

As 95% of the Thais are Buddhist, Buddhism highly influences Thai culture and everyday life. This morning, you will have an option to wake up early (6am) to learn about a daily Buddhist practice and experience the act of offering alms to the monks.

After breakfast, we will take you to the unseen train market. Then, we will head to the off-the-beaten Tha Ka floating market, where local farmers meet to exchange their produces. A row boat slowly brings you to explore ordinary Thai life by the canals. Visit the original coconut sugar makers to learn fascinating sugar-making technique. You will have a chance to taste farm-fresh local specialties such as roasted banana with sweet dip and the freshest coconut juice.

Then, we will leave Samut Songkram. We will take a local food tour of Petchburi, the city famous for traditional cuisine and local desserts for some 200 years. At Petchburi, we will also take a short trip to the beautiful, unseen cave. Tonight, we will stay at the luxurious Wora Bura Resort and Spa set on the beachfront in Hua Hin, the beach town famous for local Thais. You can spend a few hours relaxing at the resort, then we will walk along the beach to get to the town's best local Thai seafood restaurant. Again, your day is finished with the freshest and tastiest seafood dinner.

**Meal:** B, L, D  
**Overnight:** Hua Hin  
**Accommodation:** Wora Bura Resort and Spa (5 stars) or equivalent.
Day 7: Retreats in Hua Hin

- **Wine Tasting and Winery Tour on Elephant Ride.**
- **Hua Hin Night Market**

After breakfast, we will go to a vineyard in Hua Hin. You will learn about their “new latitude wines” and why it is possible to grow wine in the tropical climate. For the best part of this winery tour, it is the only place in the world that you can tour the vineyard on an elephant ride. After that, we will follow by wine tasting and a tasty lunch.

Your afternoon is free. (It is time for you to just sit back and relax on the beach or have a famous Thai spa course at the resort). In the evening, our driver will bring you to Hua Hin Night Market, where you can choose to try a variety of Thai food on your own as well as do some local shopping (Our driver will wait for you).

**Meal:** B, L  
**Overnight:** Hua Hin  
**Accommodation:** Wora Bura Resort and Spa (5 stars) or equivalent

Day 8: Farewell

- **Farewell drink at Bangkok's rooftop bar.**

After breakfast, we will head back to Bangkok (about 3 hours drive). We will stop by a local restaurant for lunch. Today we will check in at the highly-rated hotel located right on the CBD so you can easily commute to do whatever you desire on your free afternoon. After your own dinner, we will gather again around 8.30pm to get the one of the famous rooftop bar in Bangkok for a farewell drink. Then, it is time to say good bye.

**Meal:** B, L  
**Overnight:** Bangkok  
**Accommodation:** Park Plaza Sukhumvit (4 Stars) or equivalent
Day 9: Airport transfer

After breakfast, enjoy your free time until the time of your flight. We will transfer you to the airport. (Check out time is 12.00pm)

Meal: B

Prices include:
- 7% VAT and all other applicable taxes, service charges, and fees.
- Airport pick up and drop off
- English-speaking licensed tour guides
- Most meals as mentioned in the itinerary
- All transportation expenses (including transportation insurance)
- All admission fees
- 8 nights’ accommodation (7 nights 5 stars accommodation and 1 night 4 stars accommodation)
- Basic travel insurance (Mandatory under Thai law)

Prices exclude:
- Any alcohol beverages during the meals, except for wine tasting on Day 7 lunch and Day 8 farewell drink.
- Gratuities

Remarks and conditions:
- Prices are listed in United States dollars
- We can adjust our program to accommodate vegetarians. In most restaurants, vegetarian options are available. At cooking school, it is also possible to replace for vegetarian options.

Cancellation policy
- Cancellation made more than 60 days will loss of your deposit.
- Cancellation made within 46 to 60 days will receive 75% refund.
- Cancellation made within 31 to 45 days will receive 50% refund.
- Cancellation made 30 days or less will receive no refund.
Payment information

Payment is required at the time of booking to guarantee spots. Payment can be made in 2 ways:

1) Secure online payment link by Paypal:
2) Bank transfer: