

Toronto Police Services presents...

Essence of Thailand

with Optional 4-Night Singapore Pre Tour Extension

October 26 – November 10, 2023



Book Now
& Save
\$100
Per Person

For more information contact
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Independent by Flight Centre
(647) 576-7884
hammeryyz@gmail.com



16 Days • 24 Meals: 14 Breakfasts, 6 Lunches, 4 Dinners

HIGHLIGHTS... Bangkok, Reclining Buddha, Emerald Buddha, Bangkok Street Food, Choices on Tour, Sukhothai, Chiang Rai, The Golden Triangle, Chiang Mai, Elephant Experience in Chiang Mai, Lanna Home Visit, Home-Hosted Meal, Phuket, Tuk Tuk Rides

ITINERARY AT A GLANCE

Day 1	Overnight Flight
Days 2 – 4	Amari Watgate Bangkok, Bangkok
Days 5, 6	Sukhothai Treasure Resort & Spa, Sukhothai
Days 7, 8	The Legend Chiang Rai Boutique River Resort & Spa, Chiang Rai
Days 9 – 11	Kantary Hills Chiangmai, Chiang Mai
Days 12 – 14	Cape Panwa Hotel, Phuket, Phuket
Day 15	Kantary House, Bangkok, Bangkok

On some dates alternate hotels may be used.

Day 1: Thursday, October 26, 2023 Overnight Flight

Embrace the diversity of Southeast Asia as you explore Thailand on this classic journey featuring lavish temples, cultural discoveries, and its stunning natural beauty. From tropical vistas to gilded palaces and ancient ruins, Thailand offers up a piece of its soul to travellers – and your story starts here.

Day 2: Friday, October 27, 2023 Bangkok, Thailand - Tour Begins

Begin your discovery of Thailand in Bangkok, its capital city. Here, vibrant street life is contrasted by a backdrop of ornate shrines and rich history.

Day 3: Saturday, October 28, 2023 Bangkok

Begin your journey exploring the winding canals in Bangkok’s old town on a private boat trip. On Rattanakosin Island, visit Wat Po, the

famous Buddhist temple complex in the Phra Nakhon District and see the world-renowned Reclining Buddha. Enjoy some free time before sitting down with your fellow travellers for a welcome dinner at a local restaurant. (B, D)

Day 4: Sunday, October 29, 2023 Bangkok

Today, experience more of Bangkok’s highlights, including a visit to the Wat Phra Kaew; the Emerald Buddha is regarded as the most sacred Buddhist temple in Thailand. Visit the ornately decorated Grand Palace – the official residence of the Kings of Siam since 1782. Enjoy some free time or choose to join an optional tour to the Jim Thompson house and museum, featuring lunch. This evening, a night tour of Bangkok will create memories for a lifetime as you experience the city from a completely fresh perspective. Climb aboard your tuk tuk – a motorized rickshaw – for a front row seat to the bustling Bangkok city streets lit up at night. The streets are alive with excitement and energy as your tuk tuk brings you for food tastings that capture the local flavour. End with a visit to the flower market – this normally busy, bustling landmark feels solitary and peaceful in the quiet of night. Enjoy more food tastings in a private setting before returning to the hotel. (B, D)

Day 5: Monday, October 30, 2023 Bangkok - Sukhothai

Today, **it’s your choice!** Choose between a walk from the hotel to visit the Suan Pakkad Palace Museum, known for its Thai antiques - **OR-** take the coach to visit the Marble Temple where you will join Buddhist monks in their daily chanting. After, head to the airport for a short flight to Sukhothai. This evening, enjoy dinner at the hotel. (B, D)

Day 6: Tuesday, October 31, 2023 Sukhothai

Dive into history today as you discover the archaeological sites in Sukhothai. Visit its Historical Park, spanning the ruins of Sukhothai – which means “dawn of happiness” – as well as the famous site of Wat Si Chum, a landmark temple boasting a 49-foot Buddha and an open ceiling. (B, L)

Day 7: Wednesday, November 1, 2023 Sukhothai - Chiang Rai

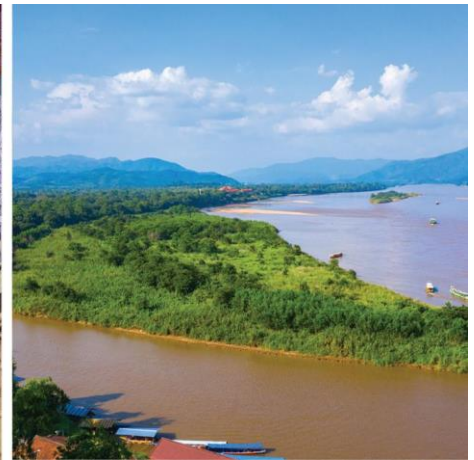
Set off today for Chiang Rai. During this longer ride, stop for lunch at a local restaurant and visit the White Temple, called Wat Rong Khun – an intricately designed Buddhist-styled temple. Arrive in Chiang Rai, once the capital of the Mengrai Dynasty. (B, L)

Day 8: Thursday, November 2, 2023 Chiang Rai

Explore the beauty of Chiang Rai today. This laid-back town offers up a cultural experience as an ethnic melting pot in Thailand. Enjoy a tour of the Golden Triangle, where Burma, Laos and Thailand meet, separated by the Mekong River. Visit the Opium Museum today. As you explore this museum, learn all about the opium trade and the impact to local communities. Then, it’s *all aboard* for a short boat ride along the Mekong River, to float at the confluence of Laos, Thailand and Burma. Back on land, walk to a restaurant for lunch before driving to the hill tribe village to learn from locals about the long, rich traditions of this beautiful area. Most of the Thai ethnic groups are set off in remote locales, and the hill tribes relocated here to warmly welcome visitors and introduce them to each of the ethnic groups. Meet with Akha and Karen Long Neck people. As the women weave during the visit, you have the opportunity to support these local artisans by purchasing some of the products they make for tourists. This evening, enjoy a walk in a night bazaar, experiencing the culture of this region in a whole new way. (B, L)

Day 9: Friday, November 3, 2023 Chiang Rai - Chiang Mai

Today, it’s off to Chiang Mai – once a religious centre, where elaborate Buddhist temples create a beautiful backdrop reflecting its rich, cultural history. En route, enjoy lunch at a local restaurant before visiting Doi Suthep – one of the twin peaks of a beautiful granite mountain to the west of Chiang Mai. A cable car whisks you to its peak to visit Wat Phra That Doi Suthep, one of the most



Book Now & Save \$100 Per Person:

Double ~~\$6,199~~; **Double \$6,099***
 Single ~~\$7,149~~ **Single \$7,049**

For bookings made after Apr 27, 2023 call for rates.

Included in Price: Round Trip Air from Toronto Intl Airport, Air Taxes and Fees/Surcharges of \$150 per person (subject to increase until paid in full), Hotel Transfers

Not included in price: Cancellation Waiver and Insurance of \$499 per person

* All Rates are Per Person and are subject to change, based on air inclusive package

important Buddhist temples in Thailand. Marvel at the stunning views before taking the ornate steps back down. Flanked by jeweled *naga* – lavish serpents – these steps are the perfect spot for a photo! Enjoy dinner on your own this evening. (B, L)

Day 10: Saturday, November 4, 2023 Chiang Mai

See elephants in their natural setting today during a visit to ChangChill, which literally means “relaxed elephants.” This sanctuary prides itself on its ethical treatment of these endangered species. Climb aboard your 4x4 vehicles and meander through country roads to reach the camp. Then walk through rice paddy fields and meet the resident elephants.* From a distance watch them graze, bathe in the river, roam the lush forest, socialize with one another – and embrace their freedom. Make herb balls and fruit snacks to place in feeding stations. Enjoy a simple vegetarian lunch served by the camp staff as the elephants arrive for their snacks. Participate in a discussion with a mahout on changes to the elephant trade practices and the impact to the mahout community. Travellers who wish to observe the elephants grazing can set off for a 20-minute hike to do so. Tonight, **it’s your choice!** Choose between a relaxing one-hour Thai massage **-OR-** get a taste of the local flavour during dinner at a local restaurant. (B, L)

Day 11: Sunday, November 5, 2023 Chiang Mai

Enjoy a warm welcome today from an extended family belonging to the Lanna ethnic group. Visit their home where you can learn from one of the family members about their customs and religion, see their garden and hear all about the herbs grown here. Together with hosts you will learn how to prepare local dishes and then join them as you enjoy the fruits of your labour with a simple lunch. (B, L)

Day 12: Monday, November 6, 2023 Chiang Mai - Phuket

Fly to Phuket this morning and head to your resort, set on a private tropical beach. Relax for the rest of the day as the salty sea breeze rolls in, rustling the palms and soothing the soul. Perhaps hit the waves, or unwind with a good book, reflecting on your cultural journey thus far. Stay as long as you’d like. (B)

Day 13: Tuesday, November 7, 2023 Phuket

Travel to Phuket’s Old Town, adorned with brightly painted, historic Sino-Portuguese townhouses, stores, cafes and ice cream shops. Explore this charming old town all morning and enjoy free time for lunch on your own. After lunch, return to your beach-front resort to soak up those salt water vibes and laid-back tropical lifestyle for the day. (B)

Day 14: Wednesday, November 8, 2023 Phuket

It’s a completely free day today, so take advantage of your idyllic tropical resort or perhaps head back to the old town and dive into some of Phuket’s most popular haunts. This evening, join your fellow travellers for a farewell dinner, toasting an experience full of history, beauty, culture and incredible discoveries in Thailand. (B, D)

Day 15: Thursday, November 9, 2023 Phuket - Bangkok

Fly to Bangkok this afternoon and head to an airport hotel, preparing to return home with a lifetime of memories – the best kind of souvenir. (B)

Day 16: Friday, November 10, 2023 Bangkok - Tour Ends

Say farewell to Thailand and return home today. (B)

For more information on extensions and options for this tour visit
<https://gateway.gocollette.com/link/1117547>

PLEASE NOTE:

Book Now rates valid until Apr 27, 2023, valid on air inclusive packages only.

PROOF OF CITIZENSHIP: PASSPORTS AND VISAS

Documentation is required by foreign governments for all trips outside Canada. You should visit Global Affairs Canada at <https://travel.gc.ca/> for general information about passports and visa requirements. Some countries require a visa in addition to a valid passport for entry, so it is important that you check with the appropriate foreign consulate or embassy for specific entry requirements and details you need to know regarding how and when to obtain the visa. Please remember the possession of valid passports and necessary visas are the responsibility of each client/passenger. If you would like assistance in ensuring you have the proper visa(s) for your trip outside of Canada, we would be happy to refer you to a company that can assist you.

We strongly recommend that you have a valid passport (with seven-month validity) for all travel outside Canada.

Please be advised transit visas may be required if connecting through a country on route to your final destination.

INSURANCE

When travelling outside Canada, health insurance is required. Contact your booking agent for more details.

TRAVEL CONDITIONS

There may be different living standards and practices and different standards and conditions with respect to the provision of services and accommodations outside of Canada.

To complete your tour, we include roundtrip airport-to-hotel transfers when purchasing our airfare with your tour. If you have arranged for your own air, we are pleased to provide you the option of *purchasing* these transfers. Please note that all transfers will leave at pre-scheduled times.

Single accommodations are limited and are available on a first come, first served basis.

Triple and child accommodations are not available.

Not all vendors accept credit cards or travellers cheques; therefore, it is recommended you bring small amounts of US dollars which are widely accepted for personal use.

Smaller buses, which may not be lavatory equipped, may be used on this program. In this case, frequent stops are made during travel periods.

Museum visits and shopping may be affected by the observance of religious or local holidays.

The days and order of sightseeing may change to best utilize your time on tour.

*For your comfort, we recommend wearing comfortable walking shoes during your visit to Changchill.

The overall activity level of this tour is a level 3. This means you're an on-the-go traveller. You don't want to miss a thing, so walking and standing for longer periods of time (1-2 hours) isn't a big deal. You can navigate hills and uneven ground, climb into various modes of transportation (tuk-tuk, cable car, Zodiac, etc.), and could possibly anticipate changes in elevation. You can expect some longer days balanced with free-time to recharge or set out on your own adventure.

Please be aware that if your flight schedule is via Dubai or if you are stopping over in Dubai and are carrying narcotic drugs, controlled or semi-controlled drugs, then you will be required to complete an electronic form prior to entering the country, to obtain approval to carry medication. Please use the link



<http://www.mohap.gov.ae/en/services/Pages/361.aspx> to view the guidelines. A user's guide is available to explain the application and the supporting documents required.

Please be advised many airlines do not provide advance seat assignments until check-in at the airport. Advance seating will be subject to the airline's terms and conditions.

Due to flight schedules, a pre and/or post night stay may be required in some gateway cities (at an additional cost). Please enquire at time of reservation.

Each guest is responsible for proper medical documentation and inoculations that may be required and/or recommended to participate on this tour. Please contact your local travel clinic or personal doctor for specific details on the destinations you are travelling to and from.

Internal flights will be ticketed and distributed on tour by your Tour Manager.

Economy air rate and schedule are applicable for groups of 10 or more travelling on the same flights and dates.

A deposit of \$698 per person is due upon reservation. Reservations are made on a first come, first served basis. Reservations made after the deposit due date of April 20, 2023 are based upon availability. Final payment due by August 27, 2023. Deposits are refundable up until April 27, 2023.

BC Reg. #23337; Travel Industry Council of Ontario Reg. # 3206405

**For important reservation information visit
<https://gateway.gocollette.com/link/1117547>.
You can also find this information on your tour documents.**

Extend your holiday with

Optional 6 Days 4-Night Singapore Pre Tour Extension

Rate: \$3,315.00 CAD per person, double, land & air inclusive
4 Meals: 3 Breakfasts, 1 Dinner

Day 1: Overnight Flight

Set out on a journey that introduces you to a mix of cultures in this impressive, vibrant city-province by the sea.

Day 2: Singapore - Pre-Tour Extension Begins

In Singapore, traditional beliefs and novel experiences come together in an extraordinary blend. Self-described as the city that never sleeps, Singapore combines old and new seamlessly, with impressive sights regardless of where you look - from atop skyscrapers that soar above colonial buildings to age-old places of worship.

Day 3: Singapore

Begin with a visit to the city's Chinatown Heritage Centre, offering insight to the large Chinese population that helped develop this metropolis into what it is today, and the struggles they faced along the way. Visit Chinatown's wet market and see the fresh Chinese herbs and produce, tropical fruits, live shellfish, and exotic meats. Visit the Buddha Tooth Relic Temple* a majestic place of reverence. Stop at a hawker centre, or an open-air food complex. Hawker centres are iconic in Singapore, combining the culturally rich street food offerings once offered by unregulated vendors with the government oversight and regulation that have made Singapore the global city it is today. The hawker culture in Singapore is recognized by UNESCO on their Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. Enjoy the rest of the afternoon on your way. Perhaps you will want to visit the colonial-era Raffles Hotel and visit the bar where the famous Singapore Sling cocktail was invented in the early 20th century. *Today breakfast will be included.*

Day 4: Singapore

Today, discover more of the unique cultures that have come together to create the melting pot that is modern-day Singapore. Visit the Malay Heritage Centre and see artifacts and the culture of the indigenous people of Singapore. Then, take time to see Arab Street and see how immigration has shaped the city-province. With your local expert guide, you may take some time to eat some traditional foods or visit a specialty shop where you can customize your own perfect fragrance. Continue the day with a visit to Bugis Village, an open-air street market with hundreds of shops and Singapore's largest flea market. Return to your hotel like a local using the subway. Later today, catch the must-see Gardens by the Bay – a nature park playing home to over 1 million plants. *Today breakfast will be included.*

Day 5: Singapore

On your final full day in Singapore, explore the city in your own way. Perhaps you will rent a bike and pedal your way around the city on a foodie tour of your own, a visit to the impressive Little India with its elaborate Hindu temples or a visit to any of the several world-class museums the city has to offer – the day is yours to enjoy! Regardless of how you choose to spend your day, gather tonight with your fellow travellers for dinner. *Today breakfast and dinner will be included.*

Day 6: Singapore - Bangkok, Thailand

Bid farewell to Singapore as you head to Bangkok. Your journey is just beginning.

Please Note:

Extensions are subject to availability and applicable charges at time of request.

During this extension, you can expect to have a **hosted** experience or two, with a local representative revealing more of what this destination has to offer. Enjoy a mix of independent exploration and guided sightseeing and experiences.

*Due to religious holidays or festivities, the visit to the Buddha Tooth Relic Temple may not be available during your departure.

Please note that departures that fall during Chinese New Year in January of 2024 will require changes to included features based on closures during this important annual festival.

Single accommodations are limited and are available on a first come, first served basis.

We reserve the right to cancel this extension if a minimum of 4 passengers is not met to operate.

An additional air segment is required for this extension, quoted at time of booking. Additional air charges may apply.

The overall activity level of this extension is a level 3. This means walking and standing for longer periods of time (1-2 hours) isn't a big deal for you. You can navigate hills and uneven ground, climb into various modes of transportation (tuk-tuk, cable car, Zodiac, etc.), and could possibly anticipate changes in elevation. You can expect some longer days balanced with free-time to recharge or set out on your own adventure.