

TLO01 Smiles of Siam 15 Days

Your “Taste of Volunteering” Project: Teaching English



Your volunteer project is in the province of Nakhom Ratchasima, where you will help teach English in a fun-filled, dynamic way that focuses on getting the children confident with speaking through activities and games.



Trip Highlights:

- Bangkok's temples & palaces
- Chiang Mai's tribal museum, night bazaar
- Ethnic Minority hill tribes
- Golden Triangle where Laos, Burma & Thailand converge

- Mekong River Cruise; elephant riding & bamboo rafting
- Beautiful Koh Samet island

Trip Description:**Day 01****BANGKOK ARRIVAL****(-/L/D)**

Arrive Bangkok International Airport, private transfer from airport to check in at Peninsula Bangkok (5* hotel)

Lunch at hotel.

13.30-17.00 City Temples Tour

From several magnificent temples in Bangkok, the three most special ones are Wat Traimit, Wat Pho, and Wat Benchamabophit. Wat Traimit houses a striking 3-meter tall Golden Buddha image - a gleaming, 5-ton figure of solid gold. Wat Pho, which features the largest reclining Buddha image in Thailand, and the Chedi of the kings, is Bangkok's oldest and largest temple.

Finally there is Wat Benchamabophit, a fine modern Thai temple constructed from white Carrara marble with ornate crossbeams decorated with lacquer and gold.

Return to the hotel.

19.00 – 21.30 Thai Dinner & Classical Dance at Sala Rim Nam

As you would expect from the Oriental, this Thai restaurant is one of Bangkok's special places. Guests sit on pillows at low tables in the glittering, bronze-trimmed, teak and marble main hall, and dine on finely crafted Thai dishes.

Authentic Thai cuisine is served with courses of classical music and traditional dancing from different periods in Thai history. Prepare for a wonderful experience: these attractive, elegant dancers in sparkling costumes will not only make your evening one to remember.

Accommodation at Peninsula Bangkok (deluxe room)

Day 02**BANGKOK - OVERNIGHT ON TRAIN TO CHIANG MAI****(B/L/-)****08.30 –12.00 Grand Palace & The Emerald Buddha**

The Grand Palace is one of the most beautiful samples of an ancient Siamese court. It used to be the residence of the Kings of Bangkok.

Here you will see palaces which were used for different occasions: the Funeral Palace, the Reception Palace, the Throne Hall, the Coronation Hall, the Royal Guest House, and Wat Phra Keo, the

beautiful Emerald Buddha Temple. (Note: The Grand Palace is closed during special royal ceremonies and during visiting heads of state).

17.00 Transfer from the Peninsula Bangkok to Hua Lampong Railway Station. Overnight on train – 1st class

Day 03 CHIANG MAI (B/L/D)

Arrive Chiang Mai Railway Station, meet our local English Speaking Guide and transfer to Rachmankha Chiang Mai for breakfast.

p.m. **City & Temples & Doi Suthep**

Visit to Wat Doi Suthep, tucked away in the mountains at 3,280 feet. The temple is reached by a staircase with 290 steps, flanked by a naga balustrade on either side. The monastery was built by King Gue-Na in 1383.

The center is a big Chedi (spired pagoda), which contains partial relics of Lord Buddha. You then pass the city's biggest market – Talad Varorot before going to two important temples: Wat Chedi Luang and Wat Phra Sing.

19.15 – 22.15 Kantoke Dinner at Old Chiang Mai Culture Center

The Old Chiang Mai Cultural Center was set up over 25 years ago to preserve and promote the history and culture of the ancient northern kingdom of Lan Na, its royal tradition of dances and music, its unique food and the folk art of the people of the valleys and of the hill-tribes.

You sit comfortably on cushions on the floor and are served a traditional northern meal. You then watch a spectacular performance of traditional northern Thai dances by a renowned troupe of beautiful dancers.

After dinner, you can stroll across to the hill-tribe theatre where genuine folk dances and music are performed by Akha, Hmong, Yao, Lahu and Lisu boys and girls who live and work at the Cultural Center. A kantoke dinner at the Old Cultural Centre must be at the heart of any visit to Chiang Mai and will, together with the photographs you take, be a cherished memory of your visit to Chiang Mai.

Return to hotel.

Accommodation at Rachamankha Chiang Mai (superior room / 4 * hotel)

Day 04 CHIANG MAI – CHIANG RAI (B/L/D)

Drive from Chiang Mai by car, minibus or coach to Fang and Thaton via Chiang Dao with a short stop in Chiang Dao for drinks and a walk around the local market. Along the way, visit the Meo hill tribe village of Huay Luek. Upon arrival in Thaton, which is a small village just a few kilometers away from the Burmese border, lunch at Mae Kok River Lodge. Depart by small motor boats for a three-hour journey down the Kok River, passing tiny hill tribe villages, bamboo huts and jungle.

Further down the river, after passing a few rapids, visit a Lahu hill tribe village. The last stop before arriving in Chiang Rai is made at a cave housing many sacred statues of Lord Buddha. Arrive in Chiang Rai in the early evening.

Check in at Anantara Resort & Spa, the Golden Triangle (superior room / 4-5 * hotel)

Day 05 CHIANG RAI - CHIANG MAI (B/L/D)

a.m.

Visit the Golden Triangle, where the borders of Thailand, Myanmar and Laos convene. Short boat trip along the Mekong River in the Golden Triangle area.

After that, drive back to Chiang Mai.

Check in at Rachamankha Chiang Mai for accommodation (superior room)

Day 06 CHIANG MAI – OVERNIGHT ON TRAIN (B/L/-)

0830-1630

The clients can check out and leave all luggages at hotel.

Elephant Riding and Bamboo Rafting at Chiang Dao.

Chiang Dao is famous for its Elephant Camp and Elephant show. You arrive at the camp after a drive along picturesque routes - winding around the bends of the road high above the Mae (River) Ping.

Watch the elephants taking their morning bath and demonstrating some of their skills. Afterwards take an elephant ride for approx. 1½ hrs through some of the lovely forest scenery and along the

river. Perched high in a wooden howdah, you gain an impressive view of the forest and an unforgettable experience. After lunch, take a bamboo raft trip down the Mae Ping. Admire the scenery and absorb the tranquility as you float down the river. On your return trip to Chiang Mai, visit a typical Hmong hill-tribe village.

Then back to Rachamankha Chiang Mai to collect your luggage and continue to Chiang Mai train station.

Overnight on train – 1st class.
Dinner by own arrangement.

Day 07 TRAIN – BANGKOK – NAKHORN RATCHASIMA (B/-/D)
Arrive Hua Lampong Railway Station, meet our local guide and drive continue to Nakhorn Ratchasima.
Check in at Sima Thani Hotel for dinner & accommodation.

Day 08 ENGLISH CAMP COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT (B/-/D)
Dinner & accommodation at Sima Thani Hotel

Day 09 ENGLISH CAMP COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT (B/-/D)
Dinner & accommodation at Sima Thani Hotel

Day 10 ENGLISH CAMP COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT (B/-/D)
Dinner & accommodation at Sima Thani Hotel

Day 11 ENGLISH CAMP COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT – BANGKOK (B/L/D)
Transfer from English Camp at Nakhorn Ratchasima , drive back to Bangkok
Check in at Peninsula Bangkok for dinner & accommodation (deluxe room)

Day 12 BANGKOK – RAYONG / SAMET ISLAND (B/L/D)
Transfer from Peninsula Hotel to Rayong.



Explore, Experience, Enrich™

Comfort Level: 4/5

Accommodation is in superior luxury hotels (4-5*) and at one of the best resorts in Koh Samet (3*)

Activity Level: 2/5

Min. Travellers per Group: 2

Max. Travellers per Group: 12

Police Check Required? Yes



Explore, Experience, Enrich™

UK: 0800 783 3554; NZ: 0800 426 3787; US 201 984 5372 ; RoW: +44 207 193 1062

Bookings@handsupholidays.com