

THAILAND OPTIONAL TOURS

May 29th: Grand Palace and Klong Tour of Canals.



This is a full day tour to include the Grand Palace and a Klong tour of the canals. For a real sense of how people in Bangkok used to live, in stilted shacks, old wooden townhouses and dilapidated lean-tos – and still do – see them at the Bangkok Thonburi Klongs. Bangkok's charming riverside is brimming with stories to tell. On this tour, a long-tailed speedboat whisks you down the **Chao Phraya River** and canals (klongs) of Thonburi – the original site where Bangkok was founded. Immerse yourself in the picturesque riverside scenery, as you drift past stilted wooden homes, 'floating kitchens', mobile shops, colonial mansions and all kinds of colorful culture along the riverfront, before stopping at the enchanting **Temple of Dawn** (Wat Arun).

During our canal tour we will visit Wat Arun, situated on the west bank of the Chao Phraya River. It is believed that after fighting his way out of Ayutthaya, which was besieged by a Burmese army at the time, King Taksin arrived at this temple just as dawn was breaking. He later had the temple renovated and renamed it Wat Chaeng, the Temple of the Dawn. The beauty of the architecture and the fine craftsmanship declare its status as a temple of the first grade and one of the most outstanding temples in Thailand. The spire (prang) of Wat Arun is one of Bangkok's world-famous landmarks. It has an imposing spire over 70 metres high, beautifully decorated with tiny pieces of colored glass and Chinese porcelain placed delicately into intricate patterns.



If there is one must-see sight that no visit to Bangkok would be complete without, it's the dazzling, spectacular Grand Palace, undoubtedly the city's most famous landmark. Built in 1782 - and for 150 years the home of the Thai King, the Royal court and the administrative seat of government - the Grand Palace of Bangkok is a grand old dame indeed, that continues to have visitors in awe with its beautiful architecture and intricate detail, all of which is a proud salute to the creativity and craftsmanship of Thai people. Within its walls were also the Thai war ministry, state departments, and even the mint. Today, the complex remains the spiritual heart of the Thai Kingdom. **Within the palace complex are several impressive buildings including [Wat Phra Kaew \(Temple of the Emerald Buddha\)](#),** which contains the small, very famous and greatly revered Emerald Buddha that dates back to the 14th century.

COST: \$45



May 30th: Ayutthaya

Join us for a great day at this UNESCO [WORLD HERITAGE SITE](#). A prosperous political and trade capital of Siam and Southeast Asia between the 14th and 18th centuries, Ayutthaya harbors a wealth of history through its fascinating temple ruins and palaces – many believed to have been gilded with gold. At the height of prosperity,

Ayutthaya maintained warm diplomatic ties with the French court as well as Portuguese, Spanish, Dutch, Persians and East Asian countries; their influences are reflected in the architectural styles at the Bang Pa-In Summer Palace as well as temples located inside the city moat.

Today, despite their ruined state, Ayutthaya temples maintain a revered feel. Strolling the grounds of these ruins is a humbling experience, particularly as you try to imagine what the original sights might have been before the Burmese ransacked and burned the city to the ground.

We will have a private charter boat that will take us to this world heritage site. COST: \$46 (reg \$55)

Includes

- Air conditioned vehicle with English-speaking guide.
- Transportation from/to major hotels in Bangkok.
- Admission fee as mentioned on this program.
- Buffet lunch on board.

KRABI

June 1st: Phi Phi Island by Speed Boat



These islands had their central village washed away by the Tsunami, except a number of little beautiful resorts up the east coast that was left completely untouched. Tour boats are running again and many bungalows have rebuilt and reopened. What makes this area unique is the amazing limestone cliffs that rise dramatically out of the sea resulting in exquisite beaches to relax. The island group lies 42 km from mainland Krabi and is only 1 hour away from Ao Nang Beach by speed boat. It is composed of 6 islands :Phi Phi Don, Phi Phi Ley, Bida Nork, Bida Nai, Mosquito Island and Bamboo Island.

The bay is towered with magnificent tall limestone ridges. The scenery from Viewpoint Hill, 314 metres above sea level captured the two amazing, crescent-shaped bays in all their glory. Phi Phi Islands offer the most exotic natural ambience to enjoy sunbathing, diving, photography, sightseeing and relaxing.

Tour includes : round trip transfer, mask, snorkel, life jacket, restaurant lunch, drinking water, fresh fruit, national park fee, day tour insurance and English speaking guide. **COST: \$39** (reg \$46).

Tour Duration : 08.30 – 16.30

08.30 Pick you up from the hotel, get on a speed boat for Phi Phi Leh, sightseeing at Viking Cave and Phi Phi leh lagoon one of the most beautiful lagoon of Phi Phi Leh. Stop at Loh Sa Ma Bay for swimming, snorkeling. Heading to Maya Bay, it is very beautiful that is why by the year 2000 it was took the film named "The Beach" there.

After Maya Bay we will go to Monkey Bay. You will be greeted by many small monkeys

12.30 Have buffet lunch at the restaurant on Phi Phi Island.

13.30 After lunch more snorkeling at Hin Klang. It is an open sea snorkeling along the colorful coral reef gardens and fish. By the end we stop and spend the time for swimming, relaxing and sun bathing at Bamboo Island

16.30 Transfer back to your hotel.

June 2nd: Jungle Tour - Hot Spring, Emerald Pool & Tiger Caves Temple. (Krabi Rainforest)



Learn and discover the amazing natural wonders of the rainforest sanctuary in Krabi. Along the jungle tracks to the hot spring, watch out for the tall swaying bamboo trees that grows among other plants with their built-in defense systems; observe closely their big sharp thorns that protect themselves from danger. Species of insects, spiders, birds, flowers, rattan creepers and hermit mountain crabs can be found here. This place is rich in tropical flora

and fauna. Here one can observe the intricacy growth of the climbing rattan or the marching black jungle ants among the pitcher plants growing under the forest canopy shade.

he famous Krabi rainforest sanctuary features naturally hollowed-out “bathtubs jacuzzi” filled to the brim with running spring water at a pleasant 35-40C for you to relax in the jungle spa. The pool area was shady and a nice place to relieved stress, tension and soothing aching muscles.

A 30 minutes ride away, tug peacefully in the no-man land, lies Crystal Pool or ‘Sa Morakot’ in Thai. This is a greenish crystal reflection-hued natural pool at the centre of the Khao Nor Chuchi lowland forest, where the source of water originated. The pool is large enough to accommodate tourists going in for a dip or swimming. The water are chest deep and the temperature are cooling especially after the hotspring experience. Take extra care as the floor around the area is super slippery because there are these special layer of moss that grows around it’s surrounding. You can trek your way out of the rainforest along wooden walkway designed over flowing rapids, mossy pools with lots of tiger barbs and other fishes swimming around.

End up the evening with the visit to Krabi Tiger Cave, home to the monks who meditate there among the limestone caves. Archeologists have found remnants of ancient habitations such as stone tools, shards of pottery and beads and idols of clay have all been unearthed. All these bear -testimony to the cultural heritage of the area. A circular path in the nearby forest offers a pleasant walk and a 300-meters (1237 steps) high staircase leads to a large Buddha image and Buddha footprint perched atop the cliff enveloping the area with a great sunset view of the province below.

08.30 Pick up from the hotel lobby then proceed for “The Rain Forest” 12.30 Enjoy your lunch.

13.30 Move to Tiger Cave Temple or “ Wa Tham Sua “ ”. It is 9 km north of Krabi town.

16.30 Back to the hotel.

Tour includes : round trip transfer, restaurant lunch, drinking water, fresh fruit, national park fee, day tour insurance and English speaking guide.

Tour Duration : 08.30 –4.30

COST: \$35 (reg \$41)

June 3rd: Krabi 4 Islands Excursion - Miracle Bay (Tup and Mor Island) Poda Island, Chicken Island and Pranang Cave Beach.



If you love some boating, snorkeling, swimming and relaxing on the beach in the sunshine, chances are that you will like this popular day tour in Krabi.

Today, we island hop by speed boat. Chicken island, as its name suggests is not full of chickens, but in the shape of one! It's got a head & beak formed by the cliffs, a body and wing shaped by the mountains. We will have time for snorkeling

and time on the beach. Tup island is actually two little islands connected together by a gorgeous little beach which forms when the tide goes out. The sea is light blue and clear and the colorful schools of fish swim circles around you in their large numbers. You can walk across the sea from Tup Island to Chicken Island. Under the sea, a natural sand bank has formed with coral walls each side allowing you to walk across the sea between the two island. The final stop before heading back. The Pranang caves are on the same coastline as Raleigh beach.

Located offshore at Ao Nang Beach are a few islands with beautiful white coral sandy beaches and crystal clear water.

08.30 Pick up from the hotel lobby to the pier.

09.15 Arrive at Chicken Island : Remember the name and you'll remember its funny rock shape : It looks like a chicken. Popular location for excellent snorkeling.

10.15 Drop at Tup Island: One of Thailand highlights. Tup Island is situated along Koh Dam Kwan. As the tide recedes, a beautiful sandbar is exposed. (Miracle Bay)

11.30 Proceed to Poda Island: Lovely white sandy beach, Ideal for sunbathing, swimming and snorkeling. Enjoy great underwater adventures. Explore colorful corals and reef fish.
Lunch will be serve here.

13.00 Proceed to Pranang Cave: A very famous cave with white sandy beach.

14.30 Return to the hotel.

Tour includes - Round trip transfer from / to the hotel, mask, snorkel, life jacket, drinking water, packed lunch, fresh fruit, national park fee, general day tour insurance and English speaking guide.

COST: \$30 (reg \$35)

June 4th: Elephant and/ or ATV Adventure

The wild and exciting scenery of the ATV base camp is located in the beautiful nature of Ton Pariwat Wildlife Sanctuary, in the Phang Nga Province – just a short drive from the Krabi Province. It's a 1 hr. ATV ride through the jungle.

In the same area we'll get on elephants for a trek through the forest.

Tour includes round trip transfer, refreshment and drinking water.



June 5th: Ko Hong Island by Speed Boat



This is sure to be an incredible day with this private (if we get enough people) tour.

Once you enter, you are in a large natural lagoon with calm, translucent emerald waters and is relatively shallow. Totally encircled by cliffs, this turquoise pool is only accessible via a small opening in the reef, wide enough to accommodate just one boat at a time. The gorgeous cove is home to an interesting mix of marine species and as the sun descended, the receding tide gradually revealed a long stretch of powdery sand dotted with hordes of starfish, with Mother Nature demonstrating her magnificence, glory and beauty in one stroke in this gem of the Andaman

Archipelago.

Mu Ko Hong is located at the edge of the Than Bok Khorani National Park, and is accessible by a 1-hour boat trip from Ao Nang, lies directly opposite from Tup Kaak, Klong Muang Beach. Many visitors are confused with another Koh Hong in Phang Nga Bay nearer to Phuket.

Hong meaning 'room' in Thai refers to the lagoon in the middle of the island, accessible only at high tide through a narrow chasm. Inside the hong, surrounded on all sides by limestone cliffs, it felt like being let in on a wonderful secret. I'm sure this area was a haven for pirates!

To one side of the same island was an exquisite beach: soft white sand, aqua water ('aqua' in Thai is si far talay, literally 'sea-blue colour'), limestone outcrops and tropical fish to gaze upon – with or without a snorkelling mask.

The attractions on these islands include fine beaches, shallow and deep-water coral reefs and various kinds of fish while popular activities include snorkeling, scuba diving, fishing, sea-canoeing and nature studies on the 400-meter hiking trail around Ko Hong.

These tiny islands are simply beautiful, like floating “mushrooms” in the sea with spectacular beaches and hidden lagoons and lots and lots of colourful fish that literally eat out of your hand.

Go into action by sea kayaking, paddle through shallow water and explore around caves accessible only through narrow tunnels. Keeping you company are the sea eagles soaring above and starfish just below the surface.

Tour includes : round trip transfer, mask, snorkel, life jacket, package lunch, drinking water, fresh fruit, national park fee, day tour insurance and English speaking guide.

Tour Duration : 08.30 – 15.30

08.30 Pick up from the hotel lobby and transfer to the pier.

09.45 Arrive Daeng Island, surrounded by colorful fishes and coral reefs good for snorkeling.

10.45 Proceed to Pak Bea Island, a small island with smooth sandy beach.

11.45 Move to "Lading Island" or "paradise island" for relaxing or snorkeling.

12.30 Proceed to Hong Bay for relaxing , swimming and snorkeling.

By then you will have your lunch here.

14.30 Proceed to Hong Lagoon, boats cruise through the narrow waterway to enter a " hidden room " surrounded by these high solitary limestone peaks.

15.30 Back to hotel.

COST: \$45 (reg \$53)

June 6th: Sunset Cocktail Cruise with snorkeling aboard a Pla Luang



We make our way out to the islands in front of Railay – (Poda, Chicken, Si and Ta Ming), where we go snorkeling, swimming and cliff jumping. Do as much or as little as you like. Our teak deck is perfect for relaxing and taking in the majestic views. We end the day sailing back towards the Railay Peninsula whilst watching the sun set over the Andaman. Finally we get to swim in the waters next to Pranang Beach for those that want to experience swimming in the bio-luminescence

after dark.

- Our trip includes free flow water, juice and soft drinks along with fruit, snacks and a delicious Thai Buffet dinner.
- English speaking experienced guides.
- All snorkeling equipment and life jackets are included.
- We have a western style bathroom on board.



- Cocktails, beer, spirits and wine can be purchased from our bar or you may bring your own liquor.

Trip time: 2.00pm – 8.00pm **Meeting point time:** Ao Nang 1:15pm

We can take 36 people on this tour.

COST: \$45 (reg \$53)

SCUBA DIVING:

We have contacted several dive shops in Krabi. It seems that the best diving is around Phi Phi Islands. Most shops are charging 3,500 Thai Baht (about \$104) for a full day trip including transport to Ao Nang area, divemasters/instructors, Lunch, drinking water, soft drink, fruit and snack. You can do some local diving for about 2,500 Thai Baht (about \$75).

Please let me know if you are a certified diver and if you would be interested in diving while you are in Thailand and I will set it up if we have enough who are interested.