



Chiang Mai Flower Festival
Including the Hell Fire Pass and the River Kwai
Ex Melbourne 29 January – 10 February 2016



Day 1 – Friday 29 January 2016 (D)
Melbourne - Bangkok

Depart	3:25PM	MELBOURNE on Thai Airways
Arrive	8:35PM	BANGKOK

On arrival in Bangkok you will be met by our local tour guide and transferred to your hotel. Siam@Siam is an outstanding, stylishly-designed Hotel & Spa ideally situated opposite the National Stadium in the vicinity of the Central Business District and major shopping centres: Siam Square, Siam Centre, Siam Discovery, and the MBK Shopping Complex.

Accommodation: Siam@Siam or similar

Day 2 – Saturday 30 January 2016 (B, L, D)
Bangkok

Breakfast is at the hotel this morning.

This morning set off on a half day Bangkok City Tour. Sightseeing includes visits to three of the city's most important temples: *Wat Traimit* (with its huge solid gold Buddha statue), *Wat Po* (containing a 46 m. long reclining Buddha image), *Wat Phra Kaew* (for the revered Emerald Buddha) and also the ornate Grand Palace, a blend of Thai and European architecture. Lunch is at the riverside, *Wan-Fah* restaurant and then you'll be returned to the hotel and the rest of the afternoon is at leisure.

Dinner tonight is on the rooftop of your hotel. This fabulous spot allows you to enjoy 360 degree views of Bangkok while you dine.

Accommodation: Siam@Siam or similar

Day 3 Sunday 31 January 2016 (B, L, D)
Bangkok - Kanchanaburi/River Kwai

Breakfast is at the hotel this morning before checking out.

Early this morning the coach will depart for Kanchanaburi, a town to the west of Bangkok. This morning you'll visit the Thailand-Burma Railway Centre - an interactive museum which is an information and research facility dedicated to presenting the history of the Thailand-Burma Railway. The centre offers the visitor an educational and moving experience. Afterwards, visit the Allied War Cemetery, the resting place for more than 6000 Allied Prisoners of War.

Lunch today will be at a local restaurant. After lunch the coach will transfer you to the Tiger Temple or Wat Pha Luang Ta Bua. This Buddhist temple keeps and cares for numerous animals, most notably the tigers. The Temple began when adult tigers fell victim to poachers and several cubs were given to the monks to care for. Since that time several more cubs have been born. There are currently more than a dozen tigers who call the temple home. Once a day, the tigers are led on leashes to their own quarry where they can roam around; with visitors able to watch from around 10m away. You'll be able to have your photo taken with the Tigers if you wish. Hand your camera or phone to one of the many volunteers and they'll take as many snaps as you want as you pose with the animals.

Mid-afternoon the coach will take you to your hotel for check in. You will transfer you to the Resotel pier where you will complete the journey to the River Kwai Resotel by long tailed boat. The River Kwai Resotel is nestled on the banks of this historic river - surrounded by rich tropical nature along with lofty mountains and stunning cliffs. The river runs through the hotel's front yard. Check in on arrival and the rest of the afternoon is yours to enjoy at leisure.

Dinner will be served at the hotel, followed by a 45 minute presentation of Mon Dance.

Accommodation: River Kwai Resotel or similar

Day 4 – Monday 01 February 2016 (B, L, D) **Hellfire Pass/Tiger Temple**

Breakfast is at the hotel.

This morning transfer by coach from the hotel to Hell Fire Pass Memorial. This Australian built complex consists of a memorial site located within Konyu Cutting (Hellfire Pass), a Memorial Walking Trail and a modern Museum exhibiting artefacts and the true story about the Thai-Burma Railway. All sites in this complex are dedicated to memory of all the men and women who worked and died making this railway. Large groups of men worked around the clock for 16-18 hours a day to complete excavation of the 17 metre deep and 110 metre long cutting through solid limestone and quartz rock in only 12 weeks. These Allied Forces were forced to work at night under dreadful conditions and Konyu Cutting was nicknamed "Hellfire Pass" because of the mixture of hammering noise, lighting from fires, oil fired bamboo torches and the carbide lamps that created an eerie illumination that looked like the "Fires from Hell".

You'll then visit the world famous Bridge over the River Kwai, a part of the Death Railway constructed by Allied POWs before taking a trip by train on the historic Death Railway. Passing beautiful scenery you eventually travel over the original wooden viaduct which was constructed by Allied POWs. After disembarking the train lunch today will be at a local restaurant. Dinner tonight is at your hotel.

Accommodation: River Kwai Resotel or similar

Day 5 – Tuesday 02 February 2016 (B, D) **Kanchanaburi – Bangkok – Chiang Rai**

Breakfast at the hotel. After checking out the coach will be waiting to transfer you to Bangkok Airport.

Depart	BANGKOK on Thai Airways
Arrive	CHIANG RAI

On arrival in Chiang Rai you will be met by our local guide and transferred to the Dusit Island Resort. The Dusit Island Resort Chiang Rai hotel is situated on an island in the Mae Kok River that flows through central Chiang Rai and is located close to the city centre.

Dinner tonight is at the hotel.

Accommodation: Dusit Island Resort or similar

Day 6 – Wednesday 03 February 2016 (B, L, D)
Doi Tung/Mae Sai/Golden Triangle

Breakfast at the hotel this morning. After breakfast depart into the Northern Highlands to Doi Tung and the Mae Fah Luang Gardens. These landscaped gardens are sited high up on the mountain of Doi Tung and visitors are rewarded with a stunning display of plants and flowers. Set in over 10 acres of land, the ornamental gardens owe their existence to the Princess Mother (the late mother of Thailand's present king) who wanted to give those Thai people who have never travelled overseas an opportunity to enjoy a temperate flower garden. The decorative flowers in Mae Fah Luang Garden are grown and nurtured by local villagers who benefit from the tourist revenue and job opportunities offered by the garden.

From here the coach continues to Mae Sai which is Thailand's most northern border town and the closest to Burma (Myanmar). Mae Sai is both a famous shopping centre and an important jewellery centre, especially for jade ornaments. Walk through a shopping area to the border bridge passing many gem markets and jade factories.

Lunch today will be at a hotel in Mae Sai.

Board the bus again for the trip to the Golden Triangle – about an hour away. The Golden Triangle borders the 3 countries of Thailand, Burma (Myanmar) and Laos between the Ruak and Mekong River and is historically significant from the days of the opium trade in the 1960's. Here you'll have an opportunity to photograph the large Golden Buddha and visit the many clothing, arts and craft stalls nearby before returning to the hotel later in the afternoon.

Dinner tonight is at the hotel.

Accommodation: Dusit Island Resort or similar

Day 7 – Thursday 04 February 2016 (B, L, D)
Chiang Rai – Chiang Mai

Breakfast at the hotel. After breakfast check out of your hotel and depart for Chiang Mai. This morning we'll stop at the White Temple which was completed in 1998 is different to any other temple in Thailand. The Temple is made completely of white stone and some glass. Continuing by coach you'll stop for lunch at a local restaurant en route to Chiang Mai.

Once in Chiang Mai check into the Chiang Mai Plaza Hotel. The Chiang Mai Plaza is located in the heart of the city and just a few minutes' walk from the famous Night Bazaar, yet with views of cool green mountains, the legendary Doi Suthep temple, and the lazy Mae Ping River. Dinner tonight is at the hotel.

Accommodation: Chiang Mai Plaza Hotel or similar

Day 8 – Friday 05 February 2016 (B, L, D)
Handicrafts and Shopping Tour/Khantoke

Breakfast is at the hotel.

This morning after breakfast at the hotel board the coach for a tour to Sankampaeng Road on the North side of Chiang Mai city. This is the largest and most popular local handicraft factory area which follows a 13 km stretch of road and both sides are lined with factories and showrooms. Today you will have the opportunity to observe skilled craftsmen and women at their work. You can purchase many products at the factories including lacquer ware, silverware, silk, umbrellas, furniture, jewellery plus local arts & crafts. Lunch will be at a local restaurant. Return to the hotel mid-afternoon and the rest of the afternoon is at leisure.

Tonight transfer by coach to an old world Thai Restaurant for a traditional Thai dinner in Northern style, followed by a Thai dancing show. The dinner is called a "Khantoke" because the meal is served on a wooden pedestal tray (a "*Khantoke*") and the dishes are all authentic northern Thai delicacies. At the completion of the show the coach will return you to the hotel.

Accommodation: Chiang Mai Plaza or similar

Day 9 – Saturday 06 February 2016 (B, D)
Chang Mai Flower Festival

Breakfast is at the hotel.

Depart early this morning to get to your viewing platform for the Flower Festival parade. Our group has reserved seating on a prominent bridge to give an optimum view of the parade. See an array of flower floats, performers and marching bands as they make their way past. After the parade make your way back to the hotel at leisure. Lunch today is own arrangements. This afternoon those that wish to have the afternoon at leisure may do so however transfers are available for anyone who would like to visit Suan Buak Haad City Park. This is a lovely park at the best of times however during the flower festival it is transformed with special displays of flowers and miniature trees and vendors selling plants and flowers. You will also be able to take the opportunity to closely view the floats that have been on parade in the morning. Dinner tonight is at the hotel.

Accommodation: Chiang Mai Plaza Hotel or similar

Day 10 – Sunday 07 February 2016 (B, D)
Choice of Activities – Cooking Class or Day Spa/ Royal Flora Gardens

Breakfast is at the hotel.

Today you have a choice of activities. Choose to participate in a half day Thai Cooking Class or treat yourself to a couple of hours of Spa luxury.

For the cooking class you'll be transferred to one of Chiang Mai's most professional cooking schools where you will learn from the experts. In a clean open air kitchen where everyone has their own work station and wok you can enjoy what you've prepared once the hard work is done. Surprise your family and friends at home with your expertise when you return.

OR

If the kitchen is not for you join us for 2 hours of luxurious pampering at a day Spa. You'll come out feeling like a million dollars. If you decide on this option you'll transfer to a day spa and luxuriate in a 2 hour traditional Thai body massage. If you wish to stay longer at the spa and treat yourself to more pampering from the extensive menu you may of course do so (own expense). Lunch today is own arrangements.

This afternoon the coach will collect you to take you to the Royal Flora Gardens. The Royal Park Ratchaphruek occupies 80 hectares of land and is a vast area of beautiful landscape nestling amidst the evergreen mountains. The park boasts thousands of species of tropical plants and flowers. Dinner will be at a local restaurant tonight.

Accommodation: Chiang Mai Plaza Hotel or similar

Day 11 – Monday 08 February 2016 (B, L, D)
Maesa Elephant Camp/Imperial Hotel

Breakfast is at the hotel.

This morning depart from the hotel to the Maesa Elephant Camp. This is one of Chiang Mai's most famous attractions where visitors interact with the elephants – first watching them have their morning bath and then on to the Elephant Show. Ride on an elephant through the jungle to visit the Baan Tong Luang Hill Tribe Village (longneck tribe). The Baan Tong Luang Eco-Agricultural Village is a cultural preservation project and a tourism village, opened in 2005 to preserve the old traditional ways of Hill Tribe agriculture, and to provide an income for the Hill Tribe people. The hill tribes live in the village and welcome visitors.

After a short transfer lunch will be at the plantation style Orchid Garden. The garden has countless varieties of exotic orchids on display. Following lunch return to the hotel and the rest of the afternoon is at leisure.

Tonight transfer to the Imperial Mae Ping Hotel for dinner. This hotel is situated on the banks of the Mae Ping River and you'll have time to enjoy the ambience and hospitality at this lovely hotel.

Accommodation: Chiang Mai Plaza or similar

Day 12 – Tuesday 09 February 2016 (B, D)
Depart Chiang Mai

Breakfast at the hotel.

Today is at leisure. Late checkout has been confirmed at your hotel today so no need to rush. For those who would like to take the opportunity to check out modern Chiang Mai shopping at its best, a transfer will be provided to Central Airport Plaza Shopping Centre. This is one of the busiest and biggest shopping areas in Chiang Mai and is not only popular amongst the locals but it is also very well-known amongst the tourists. The mall is centrally air-conditioned and there are a variety of shops that sell western brands.

An early dinner will be served prior to checkout and the coach will transfer you to the airport in time to check in for your flight.

Depart 8:50PM **CHIANG MAI** on Thai Airways
Arrive 10:10PM **BANGKOK**

You are in transit

Day 13 – Wednesday 10 February 2016
Depart Bangkok - Arrive Melbourne

Depart 12:05AM **BANGKOK**
Arrive 1:05PM **MELBOURNE**

\$3999.00 per Person Twin Share
\$500.00 per person Single Supplement

What's Included

Return Economy Airfares and Taxes
2 Nights Bangkok
2 Nights River Kwai
2 Nights Chiang Rai
5 Nights Chiang Mai + Late Checkout
English Speaking Guide Throughout
11 Breakfasts
7 Lunches
11 Dinners
All Touring and Admissions as outlined
Gratuities
Fully Escorted ex Brisbane by a Go See Touring Escort

What's Not Included

Items of a personal nature - Drinks/Laundry etc.
Travel Insurance

Terms and Conditions:

DEPOSITS AND PAYMENTS

To confirm your place with Go See Touring, we require a non-refundable deposit of \$500 per person with registration. Payment of the remaining balance will be required by 28 November 2014.

CHANGES TO THE ITINERARY

Go See Touring is constantly striving to improve our itineraries and inclusions. If such improvements can be made, or unforeseen circumstances, beyond our control make changes necessary, we reserve the right to vary itineraries and to substitute inclusions.

CANCELLATIONS AND REFUNDS

All cancellations must be advised in writing. Once full payment has been received and documents issued, an airline cancellation fee of \$250 per person, hotel cancellation fee of \$250 per person plus a \$30 administration fee per booking will be charged. If cancelling within 7 days of departure 100% cancellation will apply to all air and land arrangements. Additional airline cancellation fees may apply if internal airfares are issued. All cancellation fees are subject to change at the discretion of airlines, hotels and other suppliers.

INSURANCE

Go See Touring strongly recommends travel insurance and offers several comprehensive options, details of which can be forwarded upon your request. Go See Touring requires a signed refusal prior to documents been dispatched, if you choose to arrange alternative travel insurance.

DOCUMENTATION AND PASSPORTS

A copy of your valid passport or Document of Identity (DOI) must be provided to Go See Touring at the time of booking. Posted photocopies, clear faxes or scanned files via email are accepted. If you do not have a current passport at time of booking this can be forwarded at a later date but prior to final payment.

ITEMS NOT INCLUDED

Unless otherwise specified the costs of meals, drinks, laundry, tips and gratuities and items of personal nature are not included.

OUR SERVICES

The services which Go See Touring provide consist of arranging and coordinating travel, accommodation, making bookings and issuing appropriate tickets and vouchers.

OUR LIABILITY

Go See Touring undertakes to perform these services with reasonable skill and care. We will not be held liable for any loss or damage arising from acts or defaults outside our control, including (but not limited to) acts or defaults of actual travel, accommodation and suppliers. The Trade Practices Act 1974 applies to services supplied by Go See Touring.

PRICES

All prices are in Australian Dollars and are quoted per person. Due to currency fluctuations and changes in service costs, prices are subject to variation at any time until full payment is received.

UNUSED SERVICES

Refund will not be provided where due to illness or personal choice you do not utilise part of or all of your chosen package.

FORCE MAJEURE

If by any means of any event of force majeure (which shall include terrorism, pandemic or any cause or event outside our control) we shall be delayed in or prevented from performing our obligations, then such delay or non-performance shall not be deemed a breach or entitle a damages claim. Our obligations shall be suspended whilst such event of force majeure continues.

GO SEE TOURING

Unit 4/99 Racecourse Road
Ascot QLD 4007 Australia
Tel: 1300 551 997 or + 61 7 3868 4760
Fax: + 61 7 3868 3435
Email: info@goseetouring.com
ABN: 72122522276
www.goseetouring.com