

ROM

Timeless Thailand and Cambodia's Angkor Wat

November 2 to 16, 2024

A ROMTravel Art and Culture Trip



Figure 1: Angkor Wat, Cambodia. © Bjørn Christian Tørrissen, Wikimedia Commons, 2005.

Immerse yourself in the rich history and culture of Thailand and explore Cambodia's temple city and UNESCO World Heritage site, Angkor Wat.

We begin in Bangkok, visiting the highlights of the "city of angels": the grand complex of Wat Pho with the impressive Reclining Buddha; the Grand Palace with its hallowed Temple of the

Emerald Buddha; and the solid gold Buddha in Wat Traimit.

We'll visit the Bangkok home and Asian art collection of the late James H.W. Thompson and admire the collection of beautiful Buddha images and sculptures of Hindu gods at Bangkok's National Museum. An evening cruise on the Chao Phraya River reveals the illuminated monuments in all their splendour.

A short distance out of the city we will visit the spectacular UNESCO World Heritage site of Ayutthaya, touring this vast site by tuk-tuk to admire the remains of towering stupas and gigantic monasteries.

We'll roll up our sleeves for a cooking class of Royal Thai dishes and we'll savour Thai cuisine in Michelin-starred restaurants and street food stalls, in curated market visits, and in renowned, creative settings.

Thailand's north reveals the remnants of the Lanna Kingdom founded in the 13th century and the many ethnic groups whose traditions continue to endure. A short flight takes us first to Chiang Rai, set amidst lush, tropical hills. We'll visit the fine trio of temples, a fascinating contrast of ancient and contemporary, and delve into the tea fields and hill-tribe villages.

A drive along beautiful mountain roads with lush green vistas brings us to Chiang Mai, the cultural centre of northern Thailand, home of outstanding temples and exciting contemporary art.

As we visit the ancient temples, we'll enjoy conversation with the monks to gain insight into the Thai Buddhist religion. We'll also tour modern galleries including the MAIAM Contemporary Art Museum which is housed in a dramatically transformed warehouse providing a dynamic space for works of contemporary Asian art.

We'll travel into the countryside to visit and taste at an Assam tea plantation and spend a quiet moment communing with elephants at a renowned nature park. We'll participate in a traditional "Khantoke" feast in a scenic spot and explore the vibrant night bazaars.

Next, we turn our attention to the magnificent architectural heritage of Cambodia's Siem Reap and its UNESCO World Heritage site. We'll get behind the scenes with an expert scholar at the Angkor Wat temple complex and visit the lesser known but equally impressive large Beng Mealea Temple and the "jewel of Khmer art", Bantay Srei, as well as the "Tomb Raider" temple of Ta Phrom. We'll enjoy a tranquil cruise on Tonle Sap, the largest freshwater lake in Southeast Asia, to gain insights into traditional Khmer communities. Marvel at the Phare Circus, a modern cultural performance telling uniquely Cambodian stories using theatre, music, dance, and modern circus arts.

With extended four-night stays in Bangkok, Chiang Mai, and Siem Reap plus two nights in Chiang Rai, enjoy an unhurried pace with time to delve into the highlights and unique features of each distinctive place. Luxury accommodations and careful attention to meals ensure ROM travellers a very special experience of Thailand and Siem Reap.

Trip Itinerary and Highlights



Figure 2: Map. © Wikimedia Commons.

Day 1 Arrivals in Bangkok, Thailand

Individual arrivals at Bangkok Suvarnabhumi International Airport (BKK). Welcome dinner.

Day 2 Bangkok

Visit the colourful flower market, the stunning Grand Palace with the Emerald Buddha, the grand temples of Wat Pho and Wat Traimit, and the Bangkok National Museum. Lunch with a view of the mystical Temple of Dawn. Enjoy a traditional longtail boat ride through the network of canals crisscrossing the city.

Day 3 Bangkok

Tour the historic city of Ayutthaya, a UNESCO World Heritage site, now a vast archaeological park with the impressive remains of reliquary towers and gigantic Buddhist monasteries. Dinner at one of Bangkok's Michelin-starred restaurants.

Day 4 Bangkok

Experience the culinary wonders of Royal Thai Cuisine in a hands-on class, preparing a four-course meal with signature dishes. Visit the Bangkok home and Asian art collection of the late James H.W. Thompson, known as the "Thai Silk King". Marvel at the illuminated city on an evening river cruise.



Figure 3: Silk garments used in the film "The King and I" from James Thompson's private collection, Bangkok, Thailand. © D Ramey Logan, Wikimedia Commons, 2013.

Day 5 Bangkok to Chiang Rai

A short flight to the northern centre of Chiang Rai. Tour the spectacular White Temple art exhibit, the Blue Temple of Wat Ron Suea Ten built to represent heaven on earth, and the Black House, a unique combination of traditional northern Thai buildings and modern art. This evening savour a very special dinner at a restaurant established to preserve northern Thailand's food and culture.

Day 6 Chaing Rai

Discover the lush green forest of Doi Tung and meet an Akha community practising traditional handicrafts. In Chiang Rai, visit the Temple of the Emerald Buddha and the Mae Fah Luang Art and Cultural Park to admire the Royal Collection of Lanna Art.

Day 7 Chaing Rai to Chiang Mai

Morning to early afternoon drive through splendid mountain scenery and tropical jungle. In Chiang Mai delve into the lively night market on a foodie walking tour.

Day 8 Chiang Mai

Tour the Shan Burmese Wat Pa Pao Temple, the graceful Wat Lok Moli, and the picturesque mountain temple of Doi Suthep. Visit the MAIAM Contemporary Art Museum and leading modern art galleries.



Figure 4: Wat Lok Moli, Chiang Mai, Thailand. © Flying Pharmacist, Wikimedia Commons, 2008.

Day 9 Chiang Mai

Visit one of the oldest tea plantations in Thailand specializing in Assam tea with lunch at the Tea House. Visit the elephant sanctuary to observe these

fascinating animals socializing with their herd.

Day 10 Chiang Mai

Visit a traditional Lanna village to admire the splendid teak wood homes and savour a traditional “Khantoke” lunch. Enjoy time at leisure in Chiang Mai to explore the bazaars.

Day 11 Chiang Mai to Siem Reap, Cambodia

Morning flight. Afternoon tour of the Roluos Temples for fascinating insight into the earliest permanent Khmer monuments.



Figure 5: Lolei Temple, Roluos, near Siem Reap, Cambodia. © Damien @ Flickr, Wikimedia Commons, 2010.

Day 12 Siem Reap

Visit the tiny enchanting “women’s citadel” of Banteay Srei, the 12th century Banteay Samre and Angkor Thom with its magnificent Bayon Temple and Terrace of the Elephants.

Day 13 Siem Reap

Tour the 11th century Hindu Beng Melea in a magnificent jungle setting and Ta Prohm, the “Tomb Raider” temple, where

the massive tree roots snake through the stones of the temple. Get behind the scenes at the UNESCO World Heritage site of Angkor Wat with an expert scholar to see current work by the World Monuments Fund conservators.

Day 14 Siem Reap

Connect with the local lives of villagers in the stilted houses on the edge of the Tonle Sap Lake, travelling by local boat to visit the Angkor Silk Farm Foundation. Attend a performance of Phare Cambodian Circus telling historical, folk, and modern stories of Cambodian life. Farewell Dinner.

Day 15 Departures from Siem Reap

Group transfer to Siem Reap International Airport (REP).

Hotels

Bangkok

Riva Surya for 4 nights

Chiang Rai

Katiliya Mountain Resort and Spa for 2 nights

Chiang Mai

Khum Phaya Resort and Spa for 4 nights

Siem Reap

Sofitel Angkor Phokeethra Golf and Spa Resort for 4 nights

ROMTravel Coordinator

Sherrie Ann Pollock is a ROM volunteer and Former Co-Chair of ROMTravel. She is well-travelled and has lived and worked in Luxembourg and New York. She is eager to share her enthusiasm for this unique travel opportunity.

Trip Cost Per Person

Double Occupancy: \$ 11,425

Single Supplement: \$ 2,500

All quoted costs are in Canadian dollars.

Tour begins at Bangkok Suvarnabhumi International Airport (BKK). Tour ends at Siem Reap International Airport (REP).

International flight costs to and from your home are not included.

Contact Information

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Terms and Conditions

Timeless Thailand and Angkor Wat
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All participants on this trip must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19. All trip leaders, guides and drivers will also be fully vaccinated.

Living standards and practices at the destination and the standards and conditions there with respect to the provision of utilities, services and accommodation may differ from those found in Canada.

Trip Cost Per Person

All quoted costs are in Canadian dollars.

Double Occupancy: \$ 11,425

Single Supplement: \$ 2,500

Trip cost does not include international flight costs between your home and Thailand/Cambodia. Worldwide Quest International can assist with booking flights.

Trip Cost Includes

Arrival transfer from Bangkok Suvarnabhumi International Airport (BKK) to hotel on Day 1. Group departure transfer from hotel to Siem Reap International Airport (REP) on Day 15.

Regional flights from Bangkok, Thailand to Chiang Rai, Thailand and from Chiang Mai, Thailand to Siem Reap, Cambodia.

Porterage of one standard sized suitcase per person at the hotels, where service is available.

Ground transport in private air-conditioned coach for transfers and excursions as per itinerary. Boat excursions as per itinerary.

Shared accommodation in double occupancy room with private facilities in hotels listed or similar.

Meals: Buffet breakfast daily, 8 lunches and 8 dinners. All included meals include bottled water, soft drink, coffee, or tea; welcome and farewell dinners include wine.

Bottled water daily on the bus.

Internet access at the hotels.

All visits, entrance fees, speakers' fees and events as per itinerary.

All taxes and tips for all goods and services, drivers, hotel, restaurant, and guiding staff related to the basic trip.

All hotel and local taxes

Services of a ROMTravel Coordinator, English-speaking local guides, and a Worldwide Quest Tour Manager.

Pre-trip orientations; post-trip reunion.

A trip handbook.

Not Included

International flight costs not included.
Fuel surcharges.

Internet access outside the hotels.

Items of a personal nature (for example, laundry or phone calls).

Airline baggage or video camera fees, if any.

Visa fees, if any.

Meals, snacks, beverages, and other services unless specified.

Additional meals and accommodations due to delays for any reason.

Emergency evacuation costs.

Trip cancellation, interruption, baggage and out of province health insurance.

Costs

All costs quoted herein are based on rates, fees, and taxes as of June 30, 2023. Costs are subject to change without notice. Should trip costs increase, Worldwide Quest International (as per TICO regulations) reserves the right to increase the cost accordingly up to a maximum of 7%. Worldwide Quest reserves the right to substitute itineraries, hotels, airlines, vehicles, or vessels due to conditions beyond their control. Any change to itinerary will not result in eligibility for a refund.

ROM Membership Requirement

Participants must be members of Royal Ontario Museum. For a full list of membership levels and benefits, visit the [ROM website](#). Only one person per room must be a member.

Deposits and Final Payment

An initial non-refundable deposit of \$1,150.00 per person is required at the time of booking. A second non-refundable deposit of \$3,000.00 is due on February 28, 2024. The balance of payment of \$7,275.00 per person, and if applicable, single supplement of \$2,500.00 are due on July 11, 2024.

Reservations

As the number of participants is limited, reservations should be made as soon as possible. In the event of over subscription, a waiting list will be maintained.

Physical Limitations or Disabilities

Any physical limitation or disability requiring special attention or treatment must be reported when reservation is made or when it occurs, if later. ROMTravel, Worldwide Quest International and/or its agents reserve the right to decline to accept or to retain anyone who may in their sole judgment require care and attention beyond that which can be provided.

Cancellations

All cancellations must be made in writing to Worldwide Quest International. All payments are non-refundable. No refunds will be given for payments made or unused services.

This trip follows Worldwide Quest International's "Tour-Ready" criteria. This trip will only proceed when all of the following "Tour-Ready" criteria are met:

1. The Canadian government does not have an “Avoid All Travel” advisory to the country or region within a country for any part of the trip.
2. No region of the trip has any significant COVID-19 related restrictions.
3. There is reliable airline access for arrival and departure.
4. Worldwide Quest International and its in-country partners are confident that your trip can operate safely and enjoyably.

You may transfer without any fee or penalty from any of Worldwide Quest International’s land trips at any time if your trip is not ‘Tour-Ready’.

For more information, read Worldwide Quest International’s [Trip Cancellation and Refund Policy](#).

Documents

A passport valid for six months after the return date is required. It is the individual participant’s responsibility to ensure proper visas, affidavits, COVID-19 test results, proof of vaccination and/or any other documents that may be required to enter and or to not have to quarantine at the destination or upon returning to your home. Neither Worldwide Quest International nor ROMTravel is responsible for missing or incorrect travel documents. Note that public health entry and quarantine requirements for any country may change with little notice. Entry to another country may be refused even if the

required information and travel documents are complete.

ROMTravel values your Privacy

Your contact information will be published in the trip handbook unless you advise not to do so. It is for the sole use of trip participants, ROMTravel and the travel agency, and will not be shared with anyone else. For this trip, Worldwide Quest International will not publish a list of participants.

For this trip, Worldwide Quest International will not use photographic images of you for future promotional purposes.

Insurance

Travel insurance is available and is highly recommended. Insurance can be purchased from many different insurance providers. It is the responsibility of each participant to ensure that they have adequate out of province medical, hospital, trip cancellation and interruption insurance and baggage insurance to cover changes in health or other circumstances prior to, or during, the trip, including coverage related to COVID-19 or other transmissible diseases. All losses suffered or additional costs incurred associated with failure to have insurance, or to have sufficient insurance, are the sole responsibility of the participant. Insurance purchased through Worldwide Quest International is underwritten by Manulife Financial. The

insurance premium is non-refundable. Insurance may be purchased up to the time the initial deposit is processed, or at a later time but, if purchased later, would be subject to any changes to the premiums and/or to the participant's health or other circumstances at the time of purchase. Travellers may provide their own travel insurance or purchase travel insurance through another provider. A ROMTravel waiver of insurance will be required if the participant does not purchase insurance through Worldwide Quest International. Proof of medical insurance is required. For coverage options and complete coverage details, limitations and exclusions, please contact Worldwide Quest International for a quote.

Royal Ontario Museum Responsibility

Neither Royal Ontario Museum nor the Department of Museum Volunteers of Royal Ontario Museum, or any member thereof, assumes any responsibility for the financing, arranging or the

conducting of the trip, nor shall be liable for damages or loss to person or property that might occur in connection with this trip however arising, whether by negligence or otherwise, and whether or not a member of Royal Ontario Museum staff or the Department of Museum Volunteers accompanies the trip. The applicant by applying to join the trip hereby agrees to this limitation of liability on the part of Royal Ontario Museum, the Department of Museum Volunteers, or any member thereof.

Responsibility and Jurisdiction

The Terms and Conditions herein concerning publication of a list of participants and use of photographic images of you supersede any such Terms and Conditions set by Worldwide Quest International.

Worldwide Quest International has additional [Terms and Conditions](#), which you must accept when completing Worldwide Quest International's online registration form.



Figure 6: Ta Prohm, Angkor Wat, Cambodia. © Supanut Arunoprayote, Wikimedia Commons, 2019.



Figure 7: Causeway, Angkor Wat, Cambodia. © Marion Ho, 2007.

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ROMTravel is organized by ROM's Department of Museum Volunteers to provide support for the Museum. ROM is an agency of the Government of Ontario.

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