



TRAILS OF INDOCHINA

*Artisans of bespoke journeys to
Southeast Asia & beyond*

Small Group Departure

GOLDEN TRIANGLE EXPEDITION



ITINERARY MAP & OVERVIEW



Trip Type:	Small Group Departure
Number of Guests:	Group of 5 – 10 Travellers
Room Type:	Single/ Double/ Twin Rooms
Travel Dates:	26 Nov 2017 – 05 Dec 2017
Travel Style:	Classic and Culture
Destinations:	Thailand and Laos

Date	Location	Accommodation
Day 1 – Day 3	Bangkok	The Peninsula Bangkok Hotel
Day 3 – Day 5	Chiang Rai	Anantara Golden Triangle
Day 5 – Day 7	Chiang Mai	Anantara Chiang Mai Resort & Spa
Day 7 – Day 10	Luang Prabang	Belmond La residence Phouvao
Day 10	Luang Prabang	Departure for Home





DAY 1 - BANGKOK

Arrival

Upon arrival at Bangkok's Suvarnabhumi International Airport, as soon as you deplane, the airport representative will meet you at the end of the jet bridge, holding a signboard with your name(s) on it. Accompany the representative to the exclusive fast lane immigration counter where the airport representative will assist you with all immigration and customs documentation. After clearing immigration, the airport representative will escort you to the baggage claim to collect your luggage and lead you to a waiting vehicle for transfer to your hotel.

Meals: None

Accommodation: The Peninsula Bangkok Hotel/ Deluxe

Address: 333 Charoennakorn Road, Klongsan

Tel: 66 2 861 2888. **Fax:** 66 2 861 1112



**DAY 2 - BANGKOK****Full Day Essential Bangkok and Apsara Dinner Cruise**

Morning drive to Wat Pho in time to experience the monks' morning chanting ritual. One of the oldest temples in Bangkok, Wat Pho houses the famous 45m (148ft) reclining Buddha as well as the original school of traditional Thai massage. From here, take a tuk-tuk ride via Pak Klong Taland Flower Market towards the spectacular Grand Palace, home to the most revered Buddha image in Thailand, the Emerald Buddha (which is actually made of jade or jasper, rather than emerald). Stop at Wat Arun, once the grand royal temple to King Rama II.

After lunch at a local restaurant, cross the river and drive to Chinatown for a first-hand look at Old Bangkok. Walk along Yaowarat Road with shops selling everything from gold and garments to antiques and musical instruments. Enjoy a cup of Chinese tea with the locals at a very old teashop in this neighbourhood which dates back to 1782. Explore the bustling Talad Kao Market where a variety of food, fresh and dry fruits, and Chinese herbs are on offer before returning to your hotel.

19.30, pick up from the hotel and drive to the River City Pier from where we set sail on one of Bangkok's "must do" gourmand experiences, Apsara, the ultimate riverside dining experience along Chao Phraya River. Navigate the sights and sounds of the bustling waterways and enjoy a feast fit for a king, with authentic Thai dishes. Create a unique event in the midst of Bangkok's impressive scenery. After cruise, return to the pier and transfer back to the hotel.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: The Peninsula Bangkok Hotel/ Deluxe





DAY 3 - BANGKOK - CHIANG RAI **Damnoen Saduak Floating Market**

Depart early morning for the 2hr drive to the 100-year-old Damnoen Saduak floating market located 100km (62mi) from Bangkok. This vibrant, most famous of local markets features numerous small boats laden with colorful fruits and vegetables, paddled by Thai women wearing bamboo hats, and is one of the only places to see this traditional way of buying and selling goods in Thailand.

Almost always crowded with hundreds of sellers, buyers and tourists, the best way to experience the bustling atmosphere of the market up close is to board a boat and float through the small canals purchasing fresh local produce from the vendors. This floating market is one of the most photographed places in Thailand and certainly a Bangkok icon.

No lunch is included in this tour, but there is plenty of opportunity to enjoy a snack at the market. Drive back to Bangkok.

15.00, meet with your guide and transfer to the airport for your flight to Chiang Rai. Upon arrival, when you leave the airport terminal please look for a tour guide displaying a welcome signboard with the Trails of Indochina logo and your name. Transfer from the airport to your hotel with guide.

Exciting discovery and unforgettable experiences await at this all-inclusive destination. Savour an evening meal on your arrival night, before retreating to your room or suite to toast magical travel with selections from your mini bar.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Accommodation: Anantara Golden Triangle Elephant Camp & Resort/ Deluxe 3 Country View

Address: 229 Moo 1, Chiang Saen

Tel: 66 53 784 080. Fax: 66 53 784 090





DAY 4 - CHIANG RAI

Activities at Anantara Golden Triangle Elephant Camp & Resort

Wake up to a leisurely breakfast buffet on a terrace with sweeping three country views, followed later in the day by a sumptuous lunch. Delve into the Golden Triangle's infamous past with a visit to the world class Hall of Opium Museum, located just across from our Chiang Rai hotel.

Choose from a range of intriguing activities at Anantara Golden Triangle Elephant Camp & Resort to indulge in during your time in the region known as the Golden Triangle.

Relax with a pampered treatment at Anantara Spa, or sample some of the regional flavors learning how to make local dishes in a Thai cooking class. You will also have the opportunity to engage with the friendly giants native to the area as you learn to drive your very own elephant with a mahout training experience, or taking a fascinating tour of three countries in one day.

The choice is yours to spend your day as you like at this luxurious resort.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Anantara Golden Triangle Elephant Camp & Resort/ Deluxe 3 Country





DAY 5 - CHIANG RAI - CHIANG MAI

At Leisure, Chiang Mai

After breakfast, meet with your guide at hotel and drive to Chiang Mai. You will take an exciting 3-hour long-tail boat ride from Chiang Rai to Phatai passing tiny hill tribe villages, bamboo huts and jungle. Visit the life of a hill tribe village, built along the banks of the Maekok River. We arrive at the boat landing in the afternoon and proceed to hotel in Chiang Mai.

Lunch in a local restaurant along the way.

The regular check-in time is at 14.00; early check-in is NOT included and subject to availability.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Accommodation: Anantara Chiang Mai Resort & Spa/ Deluxe River View Room

Address: 123-123/1 Charoen Prathet Road, T. Changklan, A. Muang, Chia

Tel: 6653 253 333. Fax: 66 53 253 352



**DAY 6 - CHIANG MAI****City Lifestyle & Doi Suthep / Organic Farm Cooking Class**

Morning visit to a vibrant food and flower market where local Thais do their shopping. Continue to Wat Suan Dok, final resting place for the ashes of former kings of Chiang Mai and the Royal Family. Drive 30min to Doi Suthep Mountain, enjoying the spectacular views of Northern Thailand as you head past mountains and forests, towards Wat Phra That, one of Northern Thailand's most sacred temples. Founded in 1383 AD, the temple is reached by climbing 309 steps (or for the less fitness-minded, a tram is available for a small surcharge). The climb up is rewarded with a superb panoramic view over the city. Return to Chiang Mai.

In the evening, learn Thai cooking secrets in a family environment with a well-known local chef. As a trekking guide, Chef Sawat noticed that travellers were interested in preparing food with him. His passion for cooking and experience as a chef in several restaurants inspired him to set up an organic farm where he has a spacious garden full of Thai herbs, vegetables and tropical fruits.

Visit the organic garden at the chef's farmhouse located just an hour north of Chiang Mai and pick some fresh herbs for use in the hands-on cooking experience where you will learn how to pound curry paste and to make authentic Thai curry. Create a dessert with the fruits you pick right from the trees. Enjoy your culinary efforts for dinner before returning to your hotel.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Accommodation: Anantara Chiang Mai Resort & Spa/ Deluxe River View Room



**DAY 7 - CHIANG MAI - LUANG PRABANG****Half Day Wiang Kum Kam Village**

Morning drive 5km (3mi) southeast of Chiang Mai to Wiang Kum Kam, an ancient city built by King Mengrai in the 14th century and rediscovered by archaeologists in 1984. Because of frequent flooding, the former capital was eventually abandoned and forgotten. The excavated ruins cover 3 sq km (1 sq mi) and feature more than 1,300 inscribed stone slabs, bricks, bells and chedi. Explore the royal temple of Wat Chang Kam, the shrine of King Mengrai, and Wat Hao Nong, notable for its old-style temple entrance.

Continue to Wat Pu Pia and Wat E Kang, which were also quite recently discovered during archaeological excavations. Finally, visit Wat Chedi Liam, and notice the five-tiered design common in the early Lanna period as well as the large, outward facing lions on each corner of the chedi. Return to your hotel.

12.30, transfer to the airport for your flight to Luang Prabang,

Upon arrival at the international terminal, look for the airport representative who will be holding a signboard with your name(s) on it. For a hassle-free experience, hand over your visa forms, passport, 1 passport photo and luggage tag(s) to the airport representative who will then escort you to the immigration counter where your picture will be taken. Proceed directly to the arrival hall where your guide will be waiting to transfer you to your hotel. Your visa will be processed while you are on the way to your hotel and your passport and luggage will be delivered to you at your hotel within approximately half an hour of arrival. Transfer to your hotel.

Meals: Breakfast

Accommodation: Belmond La Residence Phou Vao Hotel/ Garden View Junior Suite

Address: P.O Box 50, Phou Vao Road

Tel: 856 71 212 530





DAY 8 - LUANG PRABANG

Alms Giving / Full Day Tour to Pak Ou and Traditional Art & Ethnology Center

The morning alms round (called “Tak Bat” in Lao) is a living Buddhist tradition for the people of Luang Prabang and dates back generations. Wake up before dawn to witness and participate in offering alms to a procession of hundreds of saffron-robed monks in the early morning light, truly a spiritual occasion! If you wish to make an offering, please inform your guide a day in advance so that a gift of alms can be prepared. After the almsgiving, watch the town come to life during a visit to the bustling morning market before returning to your hotel in time for breakfast.

08.00, meet with your guide at hotel and explore the Luang Prabang countryside with a full-day boat tour visiting caves, villages and a museum. Depart from your hotel and transfer to the boat pier for a 2hr long-tail boat cruise upstream on the Mekong River. Observe the rugged limestone formations along its banks, as well as the abundance of green forest and fishing villages on the way. Explore the Tham Ting and Tham Phoum Caves, better known as the Pak Ou Caves, home to thousands of miniature Buddha images in different positions, including meditation, teaching, peace, rain, and reclining.

Continue by boat to the small fishing village Ban Pak Ou where lunch is served before returning to Luang Prabang either by boat or by private vehicle along an unpaved road. On the way, stop at a minority village to learn about sticky rice production and other traditional customs.

Back in town, pay a visit to the Traditional Arts and Ethnology Centre with one of the directors as your guide. Home to a rotating display of informative and engaging exhibitions, the TAEC offers a rare and fascinating look into the diversity and richness of Laos’ ethnic cultures. Exhibits feature objects from the museum collection including traditional handmade clothing and textiles, jewellery, handicraft and household tools, reconstructions of domestic scenes, as well as ritual and religious artefacts.

Founded in 2006, the museum collects, preserves, and interprets the traditional arts and lifestyles of the country’s many ethnic groups. Notice how the exhibits include quotes, photos and videos from living resource persons. Afterwards, sit down for a coffee/tea break in the museum café for a candid discussion with the director about the museum. Return to your hotel.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Accommodation: Belmond La Residence Phou Vao Hotel/ Garden View Junior Suite



**DAY 9 - LUANG PRABANG****Kuangsi Waterfall & Visit to the Bear Rescue Center/ Half Day Temples & Lao Evening Food Corners**

Spend a half day exploring the area around Kuang Si Waterfall, highlighted by a private tour of the Asian Bear Rescue Centre. Depart on a 1hr drive south of Luang Prabang, with a stop at the vibrant Phou Si Market.

Continue on to the waterfalls, and take a leisurely hike through the national park to the Kuang Si Bear Rescue Centre. Enjoy a 1hr private guided tour of the centre, established by the Free The Bears Fund Inc. in 2003 to look after bears destined for use in the traditional medicine trade, including the Asiatic Black Bear (moon bears). Observe one of Laos' most endangered species and learn about the threats to bears and what can be done to protect Laos' precious wildlife.

Arrive before 11:00 to help out with the bears' midday scatter feed by hiding food around the enclosure to stimulate the animals and get them to work for their food. Afterwards, walk to the beautiful cascading Kuang Si Waterfall with the option to climb to the top of the main waterfall. Swimming in the refreshing turquoise waters is possible, although the water temperature is very cool between November and January. Transfer back to Luang Prabang by private vehicle.

This afternoon, take a half-day walking tour exploring some of the highlights of this incredibly picturesque town. Start with a visit to the Royal Palace, which is now a National Museum housing precious artefacts that belonged to the Royal Family. Drive or enjoy a leisurely walk to explore some of Luang Prabang's famed temples including: Wat Visoun, Luang Prabang's oldest temple. Notice its unusually shaped stupa designed to look like a lotus flower but referred to by locals as "the watermelon stupa"; Wat That Luang, traditionally the cremation site for Lao royalty; the gorgeous Wat Mai with its detailed golden reliefs depicting scenes from village life; and Wat Xieng Thong, built in the 17th century. Notice the stunning "tree of life" mosaic set on its western exterior wall. End the tour by climbing up to the top of Mount Phousi to admire the panoramic views across the Mekong and Khan rivers as well as the mountain range. Return to your hotel.

Depart in the early evening from your hotel and head to Luang Prabang's famous night market. Walk through the market and head towards the small side streets where vendors offer 'food buffets' and different local snacks. Enjoy the sights, sounds and smells while your guide explains the different cooking methods or ingredients to you. After looking and sampling (if you want!) head to a famous local restaurant for Sindad BBQ, a "BBQ at your table" type of Laos traditional way of cooking which is very popular with the locals. The guide will assist you with your food order and recommend some of the restaurants specialities. After dinner, head back to your hotel.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Accommodation: Belmond La Residence Phou Vao Hotel/ Garden View Junior Suite



DAY 10 - LUANG PRABANG

Departure

After breakfast, free at leisure until meeting with your guide for the transfer to the airport for your own departure flight home.

Meals: Breakfast



YOUR QUOTATION



- Tour quotation is based on the suggested hotel/room categories. Price is subject to change due to availability and fluctuation in airfares.
- We will only proceed with making a booking upon receiving your written confirmation. We recommend your early confirmation to avoid disappointment of unavailability and varying prices.

Tour Price	Based on group of 5 – 10 travelers
Price per person on twin share	US\$ 5,594
Price per person in single room	US\$ 7,737

NOTES:

- All flight times are local.
- Flight times and the daily order of sightseeing are subject to change.
- Transfer times are approximate and subject to local conditions at the time of travel.
- Traffic in Bangkok is getting very heavy in recent years and often there can be periods of gridlock. During your excursions around the city, if there is heavy traffic which would disrupt your experience, the guide may suggest to take public transportation instead of the car. Please understand they will make these suggestions in order to allow for a better overall experience in Bangkok. The Bangkok Sky Train and Subway are modern, safe and efficient ways to get around town.
- For guests staying in The Peninsula Hotel, your guide will meet you at the hotel and your morning excursions will start with a short ferry trip across the Chao Praya River where the driver and vehicle will be waiting to take you around the city.
- BUDDHA IMAGES IN THAILAND: According to Thai Law, foreigners are not allowed to take any Buddha images out of the country. However, if you can produce proof of purchase with a certificate and receipt from the shop, customs may allow you to take the image out but this is not guaranteed and Trails of Indochina cannot influence the decision of the Thai Customs Department. Please be aware that if you are travelling through Thailand and have Buddha images from other countries, i.e. Cambodia, Laos or Vietnam, Thai Customs Officials will require the same proof of purchase. Trails of Indochina cannot assist with Thailand Customs department and cannot be held accountable for any confiscated items.
- Please refer to the pre-departure guide which has been provided with this proposal.



TOUR INCLUSIONS:

Inclusive of:

Overnight accommodation is inclusive of hotel tax, hotel service charges and includes daily breakfast

Group transfers and transportation on tour

Sightseeing with Local English speaking guides (one guide in each city)

Entrance fees and boat rides

Meals as specified (meals only, no drinks/ water)

Airfares: BKK- CEI / CNX-LPQ (Economy class with airport tax)

Cold towels and water on sightseeing days

Welcome pack

Airport arrival assistance services in Bangkok & Luang Prabang

Non-inclusive of:

Separate luggage truck

Thailand visa

Laos Visa

Other meals where not mentioned in the program

Drinks/water at included lunches and dinners

Private airport transfer

Other flights & airport taxes

Hotel early check in/ Late check-out

Overweight luggage

Personal expenses

Travel insurance

Tips & gratuities

Other services not listed in inclusive column

GENERAL BOOKING CONDITIONS



PAYMENT

- 20% of the total tour cost to be deposited upon commitment of the tour. This deposit is non-refundable.
- 80% of the total tour cost to be paid 46 days prior to arrival date.
- 100% of the total tour is required 45 days prior departure or within 24 hours of confirmation if travelling within 45 days from departure.

CANCELLATION: Any cancellations must be made in writing.

- 22 days or more prior to arrival date: 20% deposit
- 21 - 15 days prior to arrival date: 50% of the total tour cost
- 14 - 8 days prior to arrival date: 75% of the total tour cost
- 7 days or less prior to arrival date: 100% of the total tour cost

Special conditions: Depending on airlines, hotels, cruises' cancellation policies, the above conditions may be modified.



VISAS

Please ensure your passport is valid more than 6 months from the date of return for every country you are visiting. Please also ensure there is sufficient space in your passport to allow for all immigration procedures, taking note that some South East Asian countries take up a full page for the visa sticker and need yet more space on a separate page for entry & exist stamps.

Kindly note that visa service is not included in our proposal. Please contact Trails of Indochina for any visa service or guidance. Please note the following general information is subject to change concerning visas from our part of the world.

Thailand: The visa is free and obtainable on arrival for most nationalities; however Mexican nationals must apply in advance. Please refer to the details from Thailand Predeparture Information

Laos: The visa, which is obtainable on arrival, cost US\$ 35 per person for most countries. For some nationalities, such as Canada, the fees are as high as US\$ 42 per person. Please note an additional service fee of US\$ 1 will be added for every visa. Bring payment in USD and 1 passport photo or please include an additional US\$ 1 if you do not have a passport picture. Please refer to the details from Laos Predeparture Information

TRIP & TRAVEL INSURANCE

The tour price does not include personal insurance. Travelers are highly recommended to purchase Trip Insurance & Travel Insurance upon commitment of the booking in case of force majeure. Trip Insurance covers the cost of your trip should you be forced to cancel your trip before you start the trip. Travel Insurance covers such costs as emergency and medical evacuation, hospital fees, property loss, etc which could possibly happen during the trip. If you would like Trails of Indochina to have a copy of your Trip Insurance & Travel Insurance information in case of emergency, please forward these details to your agent who will in turn forward to our office.