



2019 CROSS CULTURAL MINISTRY FIELD STUDY TRIP TO THAILAND

18 July 2019

Including ACCI Missions & Relief
PanAsia Conference 2019
Phuket, Thailand



GUIDEPOST TOURS

Christian Pilgrimage & Mission Trips

TRAVEL FOCUS GROUP

5/133 Belinda Street, Gerringong NSW 2534: Phone 1300 733323
www.guideposttours.com.au email: enquiries@guidepost-travel.com

Day 01: 18 Jul (Thu)

BANGKOK ARRIVAL

Upon arrival, meet your guide and join private transfer with guide from Bangkok Airport to hotel in Bangkok. Check in and free time at leisure in the evening.



Siam Niramit Show

SIAM NIRAMIT SHOW WITH DINNER *(date to be confirmed)*

Tonight, enjoy one of the most famous cultural shows the capital has to offer: Siam Niramit Bangkok. This exciting live show includes a full Thai or western buffet. With over 150 performers and state-of-the-art special effects, Siam Niramit captivates and educates for the perfect dinner and a show. Head 700 years back in time to ancient Siam, a period when elephants roamed the land, locals travelled via the canals and the Siamese spent most of their time completely barefoot!

Explore the history of Thailand with three sections of the show: 'ancient civilizations', 'spiritual discovery' and 'Thai festivals'. Afterwards, take time to visit the charming replica villages from the country's rural regions, or pick up a souvenir at one of the many shops in the complex.

Please Note

** Dinner starts at 17.00-19.45 hrs. and the show starts at 20.00 hrs.*

Meals: Nil

Hotel: Well Hotel Bangkok / Superior Room

Day 02: 19 Jul (Fri)

BANGKOK FULL DAY ORIENTATION TOUR (B,L,-)



After breakfast, you will take an orientation tour of Bangkok. Drive past **Victory Monument**. The monument was erected in June 1941 to commemorate the Thai victory in the Franco-Thai War. Tour will go to Rattanakosin Island which is the historical centre of Bangkok. Rattanakosin is also the name of the current era. The bus will drive past **Democracy Monument**. The monument was commissioned in 1939 to commemorate the 1932 Siamese coup d'état (also called "Siamese Revolution of 1932" or just "1932 Revolution") which led to the establishment of a constitutional monarchy in what was then the Kingdom of Siam. You will take a short walk along **Khao San Road**, a short (410-metre-long) street in the old part of central Bangkok, constructed in 1892 during the reign of Rama V. It has retained a lot of its original character and small local shops.

Stop at **The Emerald Buddha and Grand Palace** to visit Bangkok's magnificent Royal Grand Palace, the city's most famous landmark and one of the most beautiful examples of an ancient Thai court. Check out the beautiful palace grounds, home to Thai kings until the turn of the 20th century and explore the impressive buildings that make up the palace including Wat Phra Kaew, a temple home to the revered Emerald Buddha.

Walk to have lunch at a local restaurant opposite **Wat Mahathat**. After lunch, walk to visit Wat Mahathat for monk chatting on the topic of Vipassana Meditation. Because this temple is the headquarter of

Thailand's largest monastic order and Vipassana Meditation centre, Wat Mahathat is an important centre for the study of Buddhism and meditation. Walk back to the coach and continue your drive past the City Pillar Shrine, the Defense Ministry Building, Thammasat University and the National Museum. Then visit **Phra Sumen Fort**. Built in 1782, this is one of only two ancient forts remaining intact in the city today. Take a leisurely stroll around the fort, surrounding park or along the famous road. Return back to hotel.

Meals: Breakfast / Lunch

Hotel: Well Hotel Bangkok / Superior Room

Day 03: 20 Jul (Sat)



BANGKOK - BOUTIQUE CHINA TOWN - KALAWAR CHURCH - WAT HUA LAMPHONG (B,L,-)

After a leisurely breakfast at your hotel, set off in the mid-morning toward Bangkok's bustling and thriving **Chinatown** District - a flurry of sights, smells and sounds. Your tour starts with a short drive to the gateway of Chinatown, marked by an enormous Chinese gate. Swap your coach for two feet and start your walking journey at the glistening Wat Traimit, home to a massive seated golden Buddha.

Before heading further by foot, gather your energy with a local herbal drink sold near the Chinatown entrance. This medicinal concoction is believed by locals here to support good health and is the perfect way to start your journey! From here, follow the lead of your guide on a winding path through the district's lesser-explored back alleys and streets. Though in the heart of Bangkok, this fascinating ethnic enclave is full of signs written in Chinese, and it's not unusual to hear a cacophony of both Thai and Chinese language. Along the way, stop by a traditional Chinese dim sum restaurant for lunch

After lunch, you will visit **Kalawar Church (Holy Rosary Church)**. The history of the church dates to 1769, when a group of Portuguese Catholics resettled in the area after the fall of Ayutthaya, the old capital located 90km to the north. The current church building, in Gothic Revival style, was built in 1891-97 on the site of two previous structures. Then, continue to **Wat Hua Lamphong** which was renovated to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the ascension to the throne of King Bhumibol Adulyadej (Rama IX) in 1996. It is well known for people for making a coffin donation (*The donation is optional depending on your faith*) Return back to hotel.

Meals: Breakfast / Lunch

Hotel: Well Hotel Bangkok / Superior Room

Day 04: 21 Jul (Sun)

BANGKOK - INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN ASSEMBLY (B,-,-)

Round trip transfer from hotel to International Christian Assembly.
Address: Manoonphul Building, New Petchaburi Rd, Bang Kapi, Huai Khwang, Bangkok 10310

Meals: Breakfast

Hotel: Well Hotel Bangkok / Superior Room

Day 05: 22 Jul (Mon)



BANGKOK - DAMOEN SADUAL FLOATING MARKET - PATOM ORGANIC VILLAGE - THAI WORKSHOP (B,L)

Prepare for a morning of colour, art and passion, as you're picked up at your hotel and driven 100 km southwest of Bangkok to the Damnoen Saduak Floating Market in the Ratchaburi province. Harking back to a time when water transport was the primary mode of transportation, the floating market features fresh fruits, flowers, colourful clothing, souvenirs and more along the waterways and on vendor boats. Walk around and check out the many stalls or rent a paddle boat (at your own expenses) to experience the market from water.

Lunch is at Patom Organic Village.

Patom Organic Village (Formerly Sampran Riverside) is a family-run eco cultural destination since 1962 in Nakornpathom just an hour from Bangkok. Throughout the years and 3 generations of family management, they have always been true to the philosophy of the traditional Thai ways. Visitors can experience authentic Thai hospitality, sample traditional Thai cuisine with organic ingredients from the farm, visit an antique Thai house, relax in the Patom Organic Spa, enjoy cultural workshops and perhaps visit the local farmers who supply organic produce to the property. Located on a 35 acre plot by the Tachine river, Patom Organic Village is an ideal relaxing getaway from the city with eco cultural activities for families or groups.

Group can select 3 complimentary workshops as follows;

- Clay figurines
- Garland marking
- Banana Leaves Crafts
- Traditional weaving
- Vegetable carving

Lunch is an International Buffet (Non-Halal - Request No Pork, No Lard) *Includes Thai, Western, Japanese, Salad bar, Desserts, Carving Station, Noodle Soup station, Vegetarian corner and coffee/tea freshly prepared from mostly organic ingredients homegrown or sourced directly from local farmers.*

Meals: Breakfast / Lunch

Hotel: Well Hotel Bangkok / Superior Room

Day 06: 23 Jul (Tue)

BANGKOK - FREE DAY (B,-,-)

Meals: Breakfast

Hotel: Well Hotel Bangkok / Superior

Day 07: 24 Jul (Wed)



BANGKOK - MUSEUM SIAM - THONBURI CANAL TOUR (B,L,-)

Breakfast is at hotel.

You will visit the Museum of Siam set inside a very large neoclassical house, it is definitely not the usual display of historical artifacts and dusty mannequins you would expect to find in such an antique building. A huge bronze 'ribbon' coiling and looping in the front garden is the first clue of things to come inside. In the reception area, wooden stairs, ceramic tiles and old-fashioned columns contrast with resolutely modern art and advanced technology. Everywhere you look, the two elements blend with great harmony as designers use every possible way to challenge the traditional expectations you might have of a museum. The exhibits examine the question of "Thainess" as developed over the past 200 years of history. You will see many aspects of Thai knowledge and lifestyle such as historical, political, entertainment, culture etc. (Duration for 2hours/ Open 10.00hrs). Lunch is at local restaurant.

It's all aboard a traditional 'long tail boat' on the Chao Phraya River to kick off this half-day tour of Thonburi's canals. See where Bangkok first developed. Thonburi is a charming residential neighborhood west of the Chao Phraya River. Meander your way through the *klongs* and soak up the sleepy, quieter side of Bangkok. Sail past children waving frantically from the docks, hot bowls of spicy soup bubbling away in the makeshift waterside houses, and aunties hang the family's washing out to dry off in the hot midday sun - all tell-tale signs of life on the western side of the river.

A trip to Thonburi is never complete without a visit to the iconic Wat Arun, a magnificent temple which towers 79 metres into the sky - once the tallest structures in Bangkok. Notice the intricately-tiled temple façade as you explore the complex, decorated with shards of pottery from a nearby shipwreck almost 100 years ago. Finally, head back across the river one last time to catch your transfer back to the city.

Please note:

** The tour program can be subject to the river tide.*

Meals: Breakfast / Lunch

Hotel: Well Hotel Bangkok / Superior Room

Day 08: 25 Jul (Thu)

BANGKOK - CHURCH ACTIVITY (B,-,-)

Round trip transfer from hotel to Church

Add: To be advised in Bangkok

Meals: Breakfast

Hotel: Well Hotel Bangkok / Superior Room

Day 09: 26 Jul (Fri)



ERAWAN SHRINE - VISIT DUANG PRATEEP FOUNDATION - LUNCH FOR KIDS (B,L)

After breakfast your guide will take you to the **Erawan Shrine**. The Shrine is Brahman, not strictly Buddhist. It was erected during the mid 1950s and built in front of Erawan Hotel or Grand Hyatt Erawan. Than Tao Mahaprom is a Brahma god, full of kindness, mercy, sympathy and impartiality. These four virtues are represented by his four faces, each radiating serene grace. Since Buddhism in Thailand has always been influenced by the Brahma beliefs, he made an immediate impact. Nowadays, as has been the case for years, unending streams of people pay respects from early morning till late at night. Thai's, and even foreign visitors, make ceremonial offerings from floral garlands and fruits to teakwood elephants in the hope that their wishes will be fulfilled. Judging from the flowing multitude of believers, many of those wishes were indeed granted. You will receive a small garland and incenses for worship - 1 set per person.

After that, continue to **Klong Toey Slum** where the **Duang Prateep Foundation** is located. It is Bangkok's largest slum community with some 80,000 residents. The slum is on land owned by the Port Authority of Thailand. Originally slum dwellers settled on the port land as they helped with the construction of the port in the early nineteen fifties. They then stayed to work as manual labourers at the port. Still today many Klong Toey Slum dwellers work at the Bangkok Port or for shipping companies that have their offices in the area.

Klong Toey Slum is a long-standing slum with a well-established community organization. This has enabled the slum to develop more than many other slums and now most of the wooden walkways have been replaced by concrete paths and most of the houses have electricity and mains water supply.

You visit the foundation and the kindergarten. You are welcomed with dances by the children. Afterwards you can observe the Montessori Education system in action and innovative English classes, before providing lunch to the children. You also visit some of the re-built houses of the Hands Group Soulful Experiences project. Return back to hotel.

Meals: Breakfast / Lunch
Hotel: Well Hotel Bangkok / Superior Room

Day 10: 27 Jul (Sat)

BANGKOK - FULL DAY HIDDEN SIDE STORY OF BANGKOK (B,L)



Explore the other side of Bangkok, floating down the scenic canals and discovering hidden gems along the way. This hop-on hop-off canal boat and walking tour allows you to witness the old and new side of Thailand's incredibly diverse capital, with the freedom to take in the sights at your own pace.

Heading towards Rachadamri Road and past some of Bangkok's most famous department stores, you hop on the boat at Pratunam Canal Pier and enjoy the scenery as you gently float towards Hua Chang. Here you will have a chance to explore the spectacular graffiti decorated lanes before visiting the local Baan Krua Nuea community. This community lives a unique lifestyle along the canal.



After perusing the wares, make your way towards the Jim Thompson House Museum, an historic building once owned by the American businessman who singlehandedly revived the silk industry in Thailand during the 1950s and 1960s. Although he mysteriously disappeared during a journey to Malaysia, the business still carries his name and operates until today.

Head back to the boat and sail to your next stop at Phanfa Pier. Here you will be introduced to the charms of Bangkok's old town, where you can explore the gateway to the Baan Bat community. The creation of alms bowls - an important handicraft for Thailand's Buddhist residents - has sustained much of the community here, and a wander through the area is a front-row seat to witness how they are made. After experiencing Baan Bat Community, make your way to a nearby restaurant for lunch.

After a delicious and invigorating Thai meal, make your way to the **Golden Mount or Wat Saket** where you can climb to the top for a panoramic view of the old town. The last stop on your journey is the Bang Lamphu Pier, where you will visit the Bawonniwet Temple, an important sacred site for Thailand's royal family. Enjoy a drink at a riverside bar & restaurant before returning to Pratunam Pier. Transfer back to hotel.

Meals: Breakfast / Lunch
Hotel: Well Hotel Bangkok / Superior Room

Day 11: 28 Jul (Sun)

BANGKOK - CHURCH SUKHUVMIT SOI 26 - BANGKOK (B,-,-)

Church service/activity

Meals: Breakfast
Hotel: Well Hotel Bangkok / Superior Room

Day 12: 29 Jul (Mon)

BANGKOK AIRPORT - FLIGHT TO PHUKET (B,-,-)

One-way early morning transfer to pick-up group from Hotel to Bangkok Airport for your departure flight.

Upon arrival Phuket airport, meet guide and transfer to Novotel Phuket

Programme for the following days is as per the conference arrangements

Meals: Breakfast
Hotel: Novotel Phuket

Day 13: 30 Jul (Tue)

PHUKET

Meals: Breakfast
Hotel: Novotel Phuket

Day 14: 31 Jul (Wed)

PHUKET

Meals: Breakfast
Hotel: Novotel Phuket

Day 15: 01 Aug (Thu)

PHUKET

Meals: Breakfast
Hotel: Novotel Phuket

Day 16: 02 Aug (Fri)

PHUKET DEPARTURE

Free time until transfer to Phuket airport, returning home vis Bangkok

Meals: Breakfast

HOTEL DESCRIPTIONS

Tour includes:

- Accommodation at selected hotels with daily breakfast in Bangkok & Phuket
- Check-in time is 3.00PM and check-out time is 12.00PM. Early or late service is subject to availability with surcharge.
- Meals as mentioned
- English speaking guide
- Tours and transfers as mentioned by air-conditioned vehicle
- Sightseeing fees and permits during guided time
- Service charge and current government VAT tax

Tour excludes:

- Please make sure you have 6 months passport validity. We are able to assist with Visa arrangements where required. Australian Passport holders will obtain Visa on arrival.
- Early/late check in/out service at hotels (surcharge if request)
- Tips and gratuities
- Services and meals if not mentioned in itinerary
- All drinks, including water, soft drink and alcohol on all included or optional excursion
- Laundry, telephone calls and expenditure of a personal nature
- Travel Insurance (Compulsory)

IMPORTANT - TRAVEL INSURANCE

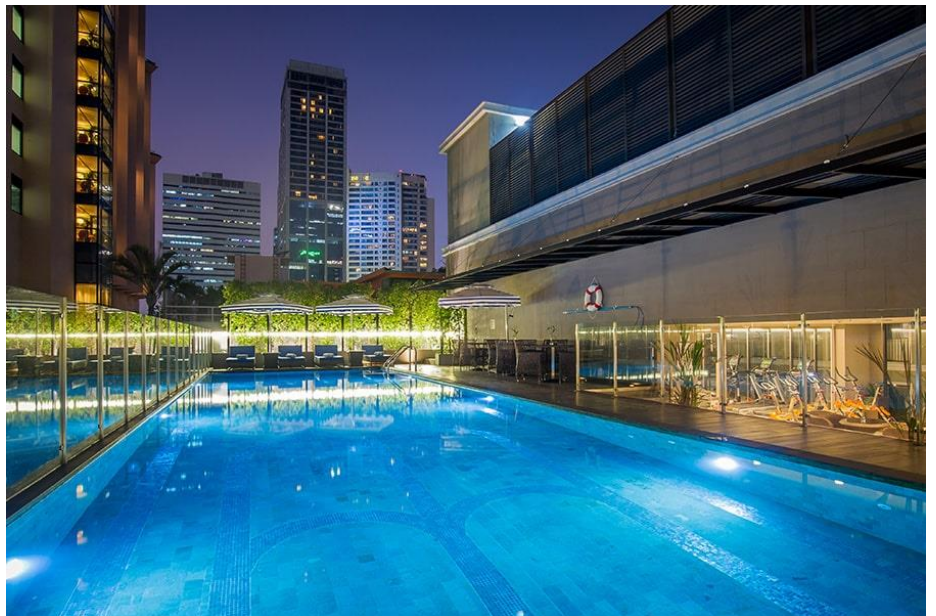
*We will do everything possible to ensure a safe and enjoyable trip. However, all travel involves some degree of risk and we strongly recommend that you take out appropriate travel insurance for your adventure. Your insurance protection should include cover for cancellation, medical and repatriation expenses, personal injury and accident, death and loss of personal baggage and money and personal liability. Evidence of such insurances should be produced before travel. **Contact our office for special group insurance rates.** Insurance cover offered by credit card companies or reciprocal medical cover agreements are often not comprehensive.*

BANGKOK

WELL HOTEL BANGKOK

SUKHUMVIT, SOI 20

LOCATION Well Hotel Bangkok is a lifestyle wellness destination that is not only aiming to deliver an urban experience and relationship with the nearby neighborhood but also being dedicated to well-balanced combination of comfort and style as well as friendly service. Experience our warm welcoming hospitality to enhance your stay in the Thailand's capital whether it is business or leisure, WELL team understands it all. Located in the heart of Sukhumvit, Bangkok's most popular area, Well Hotel Bangkok is within a walking distance from the BTS Skytrain, the MRT subway, Queen Sirikit National Convention Centre, The Emporium, The EmQuartier and Terminal 21 Shopping Centres. The hotel is very well-connected as it provides easy access to different areas in Bangkok, Central Embassy Shopping Centre, MBK,



HOTEL DESCRIPTIONS

Siam Paragon, Silom and Sathorn business districts, Chatuchak Weekend Market as well as the Chao Phraya River which are all accessible by skytrain (BTS). Rooms are featured with mini bars, personal electronic safety box, 46-inch Smart TV and access to complimentary Wi-Fi throughout. Well Fitness offers free exercise classes for in-house guests and fitness members. The classes include Muay Thai, Sexy Abs, Aero Cardio, Body Weight and L25. Check the daily schedule at Fitness Centre.



PHUKET

NOVOTEL PHUKET RESORT

The best sea view over Patong Beach with first class accommodation and service. These are a natural extension of our daily mission to provide you with the ultimate resort experience. Standing at a Premier location in Patong, this International chain managed resort enjoys magnificent views across the Andaman Sea and Patong Beach. Above all from every food and beverage outlet, swimming pools, lobby and almost everywhere in the resort. The Resort neighborhood contains lush landscape and exotic gardens with a serene and quiet environment a must for the sunset lovers and for a peaceful retreat.

PERFECTLY SET INTO THE GREEN HILLS ABOVE KALIM BAY, PATONG BEACH. NOVOTEL PHUKET IS THE RESORT OF CHOICE FOR MODERN LEISURE TRAVELERS.

