



NEW SHADE OF
LUXE



Introduction

Nowadays, when someone asks what luxury is, there is never an identical answer. It's indulging in an extravagant hotel with personal butler service, some say.

Or browsing a private gallery, its walls lined with stunning artworks only a select few can enjoy.

Others will disagree. It's exploring pristine jungles alongside elephants and their decades-trained mahouts through jungles, and getting eye-to-eye with one of the largest land creatures in Asia. Or it's hovering in a helicopter, hundreds of meters above a vineyard at dawn, with a bottle of chilled champagne awaiting below.

What's certain is luxury is as individual as the different shades in a rich tapestry... and each shade is beautifully represented in Thailand's array of top-notch offerings.

In the past few decades, thanks to governmental efforts, the Kingdom of Thailand has developed its luxury offerings even further.

A bevy of rare experiences is on offer. Whether you yearn for the exclusivity of a yacht or private jet-only destination, an unforgettable cultural experience, or the most scrumptious haute cuisine - it's available here, and in spades.

Inside this volume are carefully curated lists of luxury accommodations and restaurants, insider tips on getting the most out of this journey, and inspiring itineraries to get you off on the right foot.

By your journey's end, you'll have cherished the way Thailand's regional cuisines play with the principles of its four flavors. You'll travelled from artisanal workshops in forest retreats to high-tech urban spa treatments. You'll have taken a dip at your private beach at twilight and touched the dawn sky from a hot air balloon.

What are you waiting for?

Your luxe Thailand journey begins here.

Table of Content

◆ Chiang Mai	04	◆ Khao Yai	20
LAND OF LANNA: AN ANCIENT NORTHERN KINGDOM		GETAWAY TO NATURE	
• Stay	12	• Stay	28
• Dine	14	• Golf	31
• Spa	15	• Dine	32
• Religion	16	• Spa	34
• Arts & Heritage	17		
• Hot Air Balloon	18		
• Nature & Sightseeing	19		

◆ Bangkok 36 ◆

PLAYGROUND OF THE WORLD FINEST CULINARY MINDS

• Dine	42
• Sky Bar	44
• Spa	45
• Stay	46
• Shopping	48
• Cruise & Sightseeing	49
• Arts & Culture	50





CHIANG MAI

*Land of Lanna:
An Ancient Northern Kingdom*



At a glance: The forested province of Chiang Mai offers both an ancient kingdom's traditions and a modern city's luxuries.

From ancient traditions...

Just before the turn of the 14th century, as the legendary Kublai Khan ended his reign of the Mongol empire, half a world away, King Mangrai founded Chiang Mai as the capital city of his Lanna Kingdom.





Chiang Mai

For nearly 500 years, Lanna Kingdom flourished despite warring with neighbouring kingdoms. It eventually became a vassal state to Siam — and now, part of modern Thailand.

For many nostalgic Thai minds, it was a golden era, and for good reason.

As trades and traditions grew in Lanna, so did the arts. Craftsmanship of everything from tapestry to woodwork was refined through each generation. Buddhism, which would become Thailand's main religion, found its footing here.

After its fall in the 18th century, many Thais still proudly claim to be

descendents of Lanna — thus, keeping its many legacies alive.

MELTING POT

Modern-day Chiang Mai has preserved much of its glorious Buddhist architectural feats, with more than 300 temples across the inner city and most neighbourhoods. The evolution of Thai religious beliefs and traditions are played out in the architecture of each temple, as diverse ancient temple styles give way to an array of (relatively) younger, more unified traditions. The gorgeous scenes of the temples are one of the reasons that hot air ballooning is a well-loved tourist activity here.

In addition, Chiang Mai's far northern locale positions it at Thailand's hilly, forested border where southern China, Myanmar and Laos meet. As a result, the area is a melting pot of hill tribe peoples who bring with them traditions from surrounding countries.

Meanwhile, Lanna crafts continue to be nurtured and appreciated throughout Thailand. Each village and town in Chiang Mai has a style or tradition as identifiable as a thumbprint. Traditional pottery, textile patterning, umbrella making, woodwork and weaving, lacquerware and more have been refined over hundreds of years. Visitors can immerse themselves in these crafts with a range of workshops.

It's no surprise, then, that Chiang Mai is also fertile ground for art appreciators and collectors who see the value of authenticity.

Museums celebrate established traditions; much of rare art and historically significant collectibles continue to be showcased. Meanwhile, younger artists break out into newer modes of expression tiny art galleries, crowded in yoga studios, and spiritual retreats.

The blend of gorgeous natural surroundings, rich history and easy access also enticed a number of culture-conscious luxury hotels to take up residence here. Unfettered by space constraints often found in Bangkok, top-end hospitality brands pulled out all stops. Historic mansions once owned by aristocrats have been turned into boutique residences, and wellness-themed resorts easily compare with other Thai cities.

Spacious shopping arenas with internationally-recognised brands are just a few blocks away from narrow laneways of local handicraft shops, alternative cafés, and insiders-only food stalls.

Life may move slower here, compared to Bangkok, but things are still changing with the rhythms of modernisation.

FLAVOURS OF A REGION

Lanna and Chiang Mai cuisine continues to be adored by all Thais. In fact, northern cuisine is often the first way tourists experience Chiang Mai culture-like khao soi soup, an intensely flavoured curry topped with tender chicken, relish, onion, chilli paste and crunchy noodles.

Chiang Mai cuisine has refined and ramped up the intensity of a blend of Chinese, Myanmar and Lao tastes, flavours and dishes. In fact, even khao soi varies widely depending on which tradition or village prepares it, you could dine on a different version every day of the week. Or, try pork crackling paired with a "milder" green chilli dip ("nam prik noom"), which is served with a variety of locally-sourced (and often mysterious-looking!) vegetables.

The fresh vegetables and produce are a natural result of a lush, northern climate. Flora, exotic fauna and lush forest are the essence of this province. It's worth exploring the new and old jungles, all part of national parks.

Eco-friendly accommodations and activities are on the rise to help preserve local habitats. Hiking, trekking, and bird-watching (hornbills are the crowd favourite) are well-loved outdoor activities for this naturally beautiful area. Once used for the lumber trade, elephants are now the subject of decades-long efforts at conservation, and a variety of ethical elephant sanctuaries are available.

After visiting frenetic Bangkok or completing a busy diving itinerary among the islands, Chiang Mai is the best place to rest, relax, and live life at a slower pace.



Day 1



Following a leisurely breakfast – try the region’s beloved coffee if you can, **Doi Tung**, which comes from nearby Chiang Rai - it’s time to head out to experience a once-in-a-lifetime event: a boutique day with a **Rescued Asian elephant**. Avoid the crowds by booking a private group tour.



The experience of connecting with a two-to-five-tonne creature is special indeed. Choose from observing and connecting to these docile giants, to feeding and bathing your newfound friends. Several sanctuaries offer private elephant experiences where you learn directly from mahouts.

It’s all in preparation for a **private helicopter tour** of the city, where you’ll enjoy a bird’s eye view of the moat, ruins, temples as well as modern buildings.

As the sun sets on the horizon beneath you, you’ll realise how much more can be enjoyed from 150 metres or more above ground.

Have dinner at your preferred restaurant (see listings below) – and have your first taste of Lanna or Chiang Mai cuisine. For gourmands, the khao soi, nam prik num, or if you’re more adventurous, a blood larb (meat salad), are not to be missed.

INSIDER TIP: Check the weather forecast for a cool and sunny day – there are unparalleled photography moments as the morning fog clears on Doi Suthep mountain.





Day 2



Modern-day Chiang Mai is also renowned for its more spiritual, eco-friendly and artistic side. Once awake and refreshed, enjoy a private yoga session at **Dhara Dhevi** with an instructor hired just for you.

Once limber and light, head for a round of golf at one of the country's best golf courses, which take advantage of the area's natural mountains and valleys.

After 18 holes, there is one last task to complete for a Chiang Mai golfer: explore the more relaxed side of Lanna culture. Many of the top-end and luxury resorts in Chiang Mai are also well-regarded for their private spas. They offer traditional Thai massages, Ayurvedic herbal treatments and private consultations for customised therapies, perfect for everything from ageing to aching feet. The spas on this luxury listing are conveniently close to great eateries as well-so be sure to snag a lunch before starting!



For a more formal sit-down dinner with service, there is a variety of restaurants within the **Royal Agriculture station** or nearby areas (see Dine).

Turn in early for Day 2, because Day 3 begins at the crack of dawn!

INSIDER TIP: Harvest season for the tea fields sometimes varies according to the type of tea-request your concierge if you'd like to enjoy the sight of local tea pluckers sort and select the best leaves.



Day 3



Saving the best for last, experience flight without engines—an exclusive **hot air balloon** trip at sunrise, which ends in a champagne breakfast. The trip lasts for approximately four hours.

Mid-morning exploration will require some caffeine or refreshment. Stroll the streets of Chiang Mai artistic area (**Nimmanhaemin Road**) before lunch. Teahouses serve the well-known and respected local organic tea, premium local, fresh roasted coffee and other health-conscious fare.

Do-it-yourself craftsmanship workshops such as cotton-dyeing and tapestry weaving are often scheduled in the afternoons at dedicated craft centres (visit **Chiang Mai Cotton Farm**). Art classes are held in a traditional Thai home in a lush, forested garden for those wishing to learn how to make celadon pieces (visit **Chiang Mai Celadon**).

For art collectors and fans of Southeast Asian art, it's no surprise to discover that Thailand's much-respected Montien Boonma, though born in Bangkok, was a pioneer of Chiang Mai University's Faculty of Fine Arts. Naturally, the city has several contemporary and heritage museums, as well as respected galleries.

As the sky darkens, head to a moat-side rooftop restaurant (see **Ginger & Rafe** in Dine) to bid adieu to the ancient city with a sunset tippie. Sawaddee jao (goodbye)!

INSIDER TIP: On Friday evenings and weekends, be sure to book in advance a table for rooftop restaurant to avoid a long wait.





FOUR SEASONS RESORT CHIANG MAI



Four Seasons refuses to be outdone by its peers, and situated this world-class resort in a valley. Lanna-style interiors were recreated by local artisans, blacksmiths and furniture makers. Moreover, the sight of a sea of fog over neighbouring rice terraces, easily spotted from your own private deck, is simply unforgettable.

Address: Mae Rim-Samoeng Old Road, Chiang Mai 50180
Phone: +66 53 298 181 www.fourseasons.com/chiangmai

DHARA DHEVI



Address: 514 Moo 1, Chiang Mai-Sankampaeng Road, Tasala, Chiang Mai 50000
Phone: +66 53 888 888 www.dharadhevi.com

One of Chiang Mai's most famed resorts, the design team behind Dhara Dhevi has arduously revived Lanna's magnificence. Private villas overlook rice paddies. Narrow man-made waterways criss-cross the premises. Luxurious, top-end restaurants are not to be missed. It's most famed for its spa and wellness centres, which reflect traditional Lanna aesthetics and charms.

137 PILLARS HOUSE

This mansion-turned hotel was owned by Louis Leonowens, son of the famous Anna Leonowens (whose writing inspired Anna and the King). In its heyday, it was the head office for the Borneo Trading Company, a regional economic force. While modernities have been added for guests, much of the charming structure and décor have been carefully preserved.



Address: 2 Soi 1, Nawatgate Road, Tambon Watgate, Muang Chiang Mai 50000
Phone: +66 53 247788 www.137pillarschiangmai.com



DAVID'S KITCHEN

Arguably the best French fine dining and contemporary Thai restaurant in Chiang Mai, it of course also boasts a lengthy waiting list. Some of the most famous dishes here are Japanese Pumpkin Soup with White Truffle Foam, Foie Gras with Mango Chutney and Cherry Sauce and Braised Lamb Shank. Advance booking is strongly recommended.



Address: 113 Bumrungrad Road, Wat Kate, Chiang Mai 50000
Phone: +66 91 068 1744 www.davidskitchen.co.th

GINGER & KAFE

An upscale casual dining and bistro, Ginger & Kafe brings the vintage trend to an alfresco English garden. Food here is chic and pretty, and it tastes as good as it looks. Nearby is a boutique showcasing local designer fashion, perfect souvenirs for fashionistas back home. The signature dishes are Chiang Mai traditional Khao Soi, roasted duck curry, and pomelo salad.



Address: 199 Moonmuang Road, Si Phum, Chiang Mai 50200
Phone: +66 53 287 681 www.thehousebygingerem.com



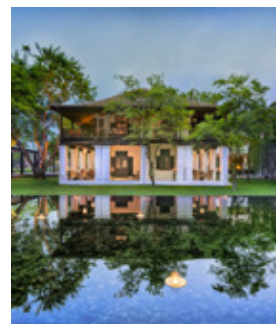
THE DHEVA SPA AND WELLNESS CENTRE

This resort is more like an ancient, opulent palace. Ayurvedic treatments borrowed from an 5,000 year-old philosophy, exclusive wellness programmes and custom-designed are offered within Lanna-style surrounds. The Lanna Ceremony package includes an aromatic bath, honey and tamarind scrub, Tok-Sen massage, herbal oil massage with compress and head massage. The Spinal Rejuvenation package is an Ayurvedic treatment for relieving back pain and tension.



Address: 51/4 Moo 1, Chiang Mai-Sankampaeng Road, Tasala, Chiang Mai 50000
Phone: +66 53 888 888 www.dharadhevi.com

ANANTARA SPA



Anantara is well regarded for seamless customer experience and carefully considered spa options. Western holistic therapies and traditional Asian knowledge are combined in many treatments. Registered massage therapists utilise local herbs, pressure point massages, and traditional movements to help relax and unwind. The Lanna Ritual, is a holistic therapeutic treatment with Thai, Burmese and Chinese influences, using with natural Plai oil to cleanse the body and mind of negative energy.

Address: 123-1231, Charoen Prathet Road, Changklan, Chiang Mai 50200
Phone: +66 53 253 333 www.anantara.com/en/chiang-mai-spa





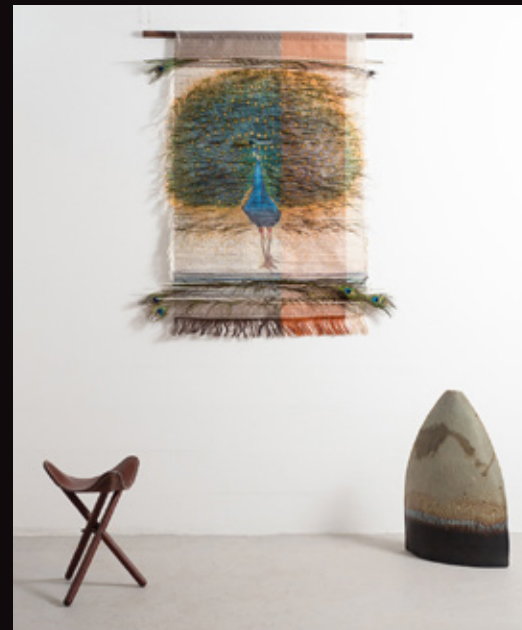
Among many others holy temples in Chiang Mai, *Wat Phra That Doi Suthep* is one of the most sacred temples in the northern part of Thailand, established in 1383. It is believed Gautama Buddha's shoulder bone is enshrined within the temple's gold stupa. In the olden days, the only way to reach the temple was to walk up the steep 300 steps.



For those desiring a more personal and in-depth exploration of Thai Buddhist beliefs, join a *Monk Chat Program* and ask away. These informal discussions, designed for lay people, are held at a number of temples, including Wat Suan Dok, Wat Phra That Doi Suthep, Wat Chedi Luang, Wat U-Mong and MCU Buddhist University. Session duration and schedules vary according to location.



• **Monk Chat Program** www.monkchat.net
 • **Wat Phra That Doi Suthep** Address: Suthep, Chiang Mai 50200
 Phone: +66 53 295 002 www.doisuthep.org



Over a decade ago, *Kachama Perez* introduced the extraordinary Northern Thai style textile to the world. Finally, not to be missed is the textile gallery founded by artist Kachama, who popularised northern Thailand's textile arts amongst international collectors, textile to the world. These days her one-of-a-kind textile artworks are admired by many collectors and arts aficionados.

Newly-opened *MAIIAM Contemporary Art Museum* houses private collections, showcasing many respected Thai artists. In 2017, the cutting-edge museum was received the "Best Museum of Asia Pacific" and "Leading Culture Destination 2017" awards.

• **Kachama** Address: 387 Moo 2, Hua Sai, Mae Rim, Chiang Mai 50180
 Phone: +66 81 998 430, +66 96 759 3107 www.kachama.net
 • **MAIIAM Contemporary Art Museum** Address: 122 Moo 7, Ton Pao, San Kamphaeng, Chiang Mai 50130 Phone: +66 81 386 6899 www.maiiam.com



HOT
AIR BALLOON
& HELICOPTOR
RIDES



NATURE &
SIGHTSEEING



The romantic experience of floating through a sea of cumulo nimbuses is unparalleled. *Balloon Adventure Thailand* offers an exquisite champagne breakfast for VIP guests taking advantage of its dawn hot air balloon rides.

Otherwise, *Advance Aviation* operates several sessions of a private *helicopter sightseeing* tour for guests who like an adrenaline rush activity. Sessions last from 40 minutes to 100.



INSIDER TIP: *137 Pillars House* also offers helicopter sightseeing for their guests.

• **Helicopter Sightseeing** Address: 161 Moo 7, Padaet, Chiang Mai 50100
Phone: +66 53 296 100 www.advanceaviation.co.th

• **Hot Air Balloon Ride** at Doi Saket Address: 200 Chiang Mai-Doi Saket Road, Doi Saket, Chiang Mai 50230 Phone: +66 96 868 4176 www.balloonadventurethailand.com
• **Advance Aviation** Phone: +66 85 055 4444 www.advanceaviation.co.th

Elephant sanctuaries abound in Chiang Mai, and several are now well-regarded for their ethical practices. *Elephant Rescue Park* organises a *Serene Boutique* private two-person tour with all needs provided, including traditional mahout clothing for its VIP guests. It doesn't allow rides and is a rescue reserve for mistreated and abandoned creatures. The tours are organised, structured and held by animal-lovers-an authentic experience.

A shorter trip to *Royal Park Rajapruek* is recommended for those light on time. An 80-hectare botanical oasis was created out of a Royal Agriculture Research Centre. Its Lanna Royal Pavilion, agricultural education spaces and variety of gardens provide an afternoon's worth of amusements.



The *Queen Sirikit Botanic Garden* is another gorgeous nature destination for those who enjoy lighter trails, and has a blend of educational and relaxing activities, thanks to its focus on research. Its canopy walk is an easy stroll through beautiful showcases of greenhouses and Thai orchids. Steeper trails are also available for avid hikers.

• **Elephant Rescue Park** Address: 4 Ratchamanka Rd, Phra Singh, Chiang Mai
Phone: +66 96 5939 289 www.elephantrescuepark.com

• **Royal Park Rajapruek** Address: Mae Hea, Chiang Mai 50110
Phone: +66 53 114 110-5 www.royalparkrajapruek.org

• **Queen Sirikit Botanic Garden** Address: 100 Moo 9, Mae Rim, Chiang Mai 50180
Phone: +66 53 841 000 www.qsbg.org



KHAO YAI

Getaway to Nature

In central Thailand, there are mountain ranges which cross over four provinces, from the central to the northeast. This forms a natural border which shields the whole area from severe seasonal weather. With dense forests providing a pleasant climate all year round Khao Yai is considered as one of the main lungs of the country.





Khao Yai

Khao Yai was Thailand's first national park and is praised as both an ASEAN Heritage Park and an UNESCO World Heritage Site. Rich in natural resources and biodiversity, Khao Yai is not only a sanctuary to native animals, but also farmers and villagers in the area. Nonnative crops and flowers which belong to cool climate can be cultivated here, resulting in creating agriculture economics for locals, and the country as a whole.

Under 3 hours' drive from Bangkok, a weekend getaway or even a day trip, Khao Yai is the first choice for all holiday makers seeking a short break. Good road conditions, easy navigation and quite a few tourist spots, with resting areas along the way, it's an enjoyable trip.

Extensive selections of boutique hotels and privately owned accommodation provide great choices for visitors. Besides, shopping villages with an interesting theme of European countryside towns are one of the highlights. These places are pretty, picturesque, quaint and welcoming, and they really are Instagram-worthy spots.

With its cool climate and fertile soils suitable for harvesting wine grapes, the impossible has become possible for Thailand to produce their own world

class quality label. Syrah Wine of Gran-Monte Vineyard has been praised by international sommeliers and Chenin Blanc of PB Valley is recommended as the best companion to Thai dishes by mainstream food critics. Unlike other wine regions in other parts of the world, Thai wine has its own unique character and aroma, and can really stand up against wines of more well known regions.

There is an abundance of culture and lifestyles activities, theme parks, zoos, golf courses, galleries and museums. There is a restriction on high rise buildings in the area, and the concept of eco-tourism is strongly applied much as the same as other parts of the country. On that premise, individual agronomy learning centres such as a mushroom farms, sweetcorn fields, organic farms and hill-size flower gardens, are ideal alternatives to broaden your knowledge while traveling.

As the area is well known for premium and organic food, stunning scenic dining is not hard to find, and there is no better place to dine than at the source, direct from the farm to table.

Khao Yai is certainly more than just getting close to nature, but also the ideal getaway.



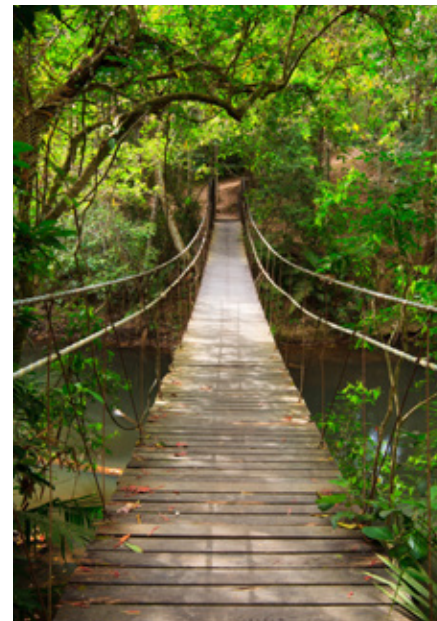


Day 1



After a morning of relaxed driving or transport, check in to one of many high-end accommodation available.

As the day warms up, take a vineyard tour from one of the several available on our list, a sure highlight of any visit to Khao Yai.



Many offer personalised as well as group wine-tasting sessions- we recommend a taste of syrah and chenin blancs, which are much-awaited-for developments from Thailand's fruit wines of yesteryear.

On-site restaurants pair your recent vino explorations with excellent cuisine, gorgeous views, and world-class service. Sommeliers on hand are eager to inform just how to pair your coconut spicy curry with an equally feisty wine, for a perfect wine-paired dinner.

For those seeking an adventure, a night-time guided safari of the national park is a must for discovering wild animals. Elephants, boars and more can be spotted at salt licks and wandering the many acres of the forest in search of food and water.



Day 2

Mornings are perfect for a waterfall visit or a more active on-the-ground nature tour via foot or rented mountain bike. Stunning cascades and viewpoints are often an easy walk from a carpark and they are well-marked and maintained through the year. Trekking routes, including to bird-watching and animal-watching posts, are similarly cared for, and offer a more 'authentic' nature experience.



Routes range from an easy stroll to multi-hour (or even multi-day, though these require advance preparation and permits) hikes. Be cognizant of your own abilities as well as changing seasons: one route may be easy in the dry season, and impossible during the rainy season. The national park service and rangers are friendly resources for visitors.

Have lunch at an organic food haven — there are cafés, restaurants, specialty delicacy stores with adjacent restaurants and a farmer's market. Gourmet food, including local, fresh produce and premium quality ingredients are easy to find.

While the weather heats up in the afternoon, head to an art museum for a browse of privately-owned collections in Khao Yai, whether you fancy folk art, international artists, or respected Thai artists.

Unwind after a long day out at a wellness retreat or herbal spa, where there are abundant massage, beautifying and rejuvenating packages available.

Dine in at your accommodation for a night — the scenery is incredible with a backdrop of emerald green mountains, so opt for an alfresco setting if you can.



Day 3



Morning activities begin at dawn with 18 holes on some of the best-designed golf courses in Southeast Asia.

The foothills of Khao Yai's mountain ranges are home to many premium greens, which are also home to many beautiful fauna. Be sure to note any barking deer or sambar wandering the course — not an unusual sight for morning golfers!

The courses on our list also have great restaurant and leisure facilities, so stop there for a golf course-side lunch before heading to your afternoon sightseeing.

With so many options on your plate, it's time to choose: head to an adventure theme park, an exotic zoo, or an organic farm (perfect for eco-tourism-minded visitors or foodies). Allot at least 2-4 hours for such activities.

Of course, grab a bite — and if you'd like, head to one of the organic cheese or butcher shops to stock up! - before heading home.

INSIDER TIP: Be sure to request a late check-out time on Day 3; most hotels are happy allow for this if the room isn't booked, or hold your luggage or other items for you.



STAY

KIRIMAYA

A luxurious natural retreat, the Kirimaya ("maya" means magic) takes full advantage of the gorgeous Khao Yai scenery.

Five-star service and facilities, including a 180 square-metre ultra-luxury suite; tented villas with private spa pools; a premium spa; world-class golf course; private airport transfer and more. Every guest here is a VIP, and their immaculate service and offerings are well worth their pricetag.



Address: 13 Moo 6, Thanarat Road, Mu Si, Pak Chong, Nakhon Ratchasima 30130
Phone: +66 44 436 000 www.kirimaya.com

MY OZONE KHAO YAI

Charming? Yes. Eccentric? Definitely. This fairy-tale style European castle hotel offers gorgeous suites straight from Disney stories, with vintage decor and a royal-treatment (from the team at My Ozone) to match.

A holistic medicine centre is staffed with on-site professional medical experts, an unusual service for resorts, to provide alternative treatments for any guests.



Address: 344 Moo 6, Ban Patakian, Pak Chong, Nakhon Ratchasima 30130
Phone: +66 44 009 100 www.myozonekhaoyai.com

SALA KHAO YAI



Perched atop of a mountain, guests at Sala Khao Yai enjoy sweeping, panoramic views of the jungle and its surrounds. It's also extremely exclusive—only seven private residences are available, guaranteeing an intimate and very private stay.

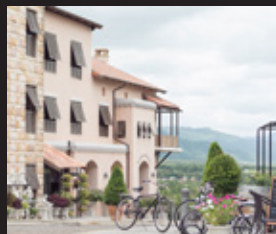
Floor to ceiling glass doors open to your own private deck and front lawn with an outdoor pool, which overlooks Khao Yai. A 24 HR front desk concierge service means assistance is never more than a ring away.

Address: 99 Moo 11, Wang Katha, Pak Chong, Nakhon Ratchasima 30130
Phone: +66 89 846 0500 www.salahospitality.com/khaoyai

HOTEL LA CASETTA BY TOSCANA VALLEY



Inspired by the country village of Central Italy, this unique accommodation provides classic and sophisticated rooms and lofts with aesthetic amenities and furnishings. Premium spa, fine dining with selections of Thai, international and Italian cuisines, bars, café and bakery are amongst many superb facilities within this privileged property.



Address: Pong Ta Long, Pak Chong, Nakhon Ratchasima 30130
Phone: +66 84 581 6555, +66 84 083 6555 www.toscanavalley.com



RANCHO CHARNVEE RESORT AND COUNTRY CLUB

Beautiful resort and country club nestled in valleys of Khao Yai. Classic European rooms and villas boasting luxury country furnishing. With an onsite golf course, private airfield, golf pro shop, restaurant, fitness, swimming pool and conference hall.



Address: 333/4 Moo 12, Khanongphra, Pak Chong, Nakhon Ratchasima 30130
Phone: +66 44 756 210-3 www.charnveeresortkhaoyai.com



KIRIMAYA GOLF CLUB



An award-winning 18-hole golf course, the Kirimaya layout was designed by professional golfer, Jack Nicklaus. It is located next to Khao Yai National Park, and many of the best golfers have proclaimed it the best in the area.

TOSCANA VALLEY COUNTRY CLUB

This picturesque 18-hole, par 72 golf course was designed by Bob McFarland, an internationally famous golf course architect. It is fully equipped with facilities and amenities for a full day of golfing, including a clubhouse and restaurant.



• **Kiri Maya Golf Club** Address: 1/3 Moo 6, Thanarat Road, Mu Si, Pak Chong, Nakhon Ratchasima 30130 Phone: +66 44 426 000
www.kirimaya.com

• **Toscana Valley Country Club** Address: Pong Ta Long, Pak Chong, Nakhon Ratchasima 30130 Phone: +66 87 549 7232
www.toscanavalley.com





DINE

GREEN OAK BISTRO (ESCAPE KHAO YAI)



Health-conscious travellers frequently head to Green Oak Bistro for farm-to-table, hyperlocal cuisine.

The hotel's own garden provides much of the produce used, and the rest is supplied by local farmers.

Apart from their organic food, this health conscious bistro is famous for their signature cocktails, crafted by one of Thailand's leading mixologists, "Niks" Anuman-Rajadhon.

Signature dishes include DIY Spicy Salmon, Escape Salad, Escape Grilled Chicken and Escape Spicy Ham Salad, and the best cocktails are Grape Martini, Ginger Cooler, Let's Julep, Escape to Sangria, and Wild Honey Old-Fashioned.

Address: 329 Pansuk-Kudkla Raod, Pak Chong, Nakhon Ratchasima 30130
Phone: +66 63 196 4999 www.escape-hotel.com

FAVE'DISH



Address: 455 Moo 20, Nong Sarai, Pak Chong, Nakhon Ratchasima 30130
Phone: +66 44 009 921-4 www.thepazkhaoyai.com

This scenic casual dining is on the second floor of PAZ Khao Yai Resort. Its main attraction is its views: 360 degrees of Khao Yai.

Their mouth-watering menu is packed with delicious and authentic Thai favourites, including Pomelo Salad, Pad Thai, Khao Pad Nam Prik Long Reua (Thai style fried rice with chilli paste) and Spaghetti with Crab Curry sauce.

RIBS MANN



The King of Smoked Food" restaurant is run the team famous for another much-loved barbecue place, The Smoke House. This larger location is far more spacious, and a better layout now allows both more diners and a better atmosphere.

Their smoked meat (both beef and pork) cannot be beaten. The well-aged steak, house-made sausage, and you may be surprised to find their 'Welcome Bread' is just as good! A steakhouse with a formidable bakery is nothing to be scoffed at.

Address: Nong Nam Daeng, Pak Chong, Nakhon Ratchasima 30130
Phone: +66 44 365 5555 +66 99 289 3555 www.facebook.com/ribsmannn



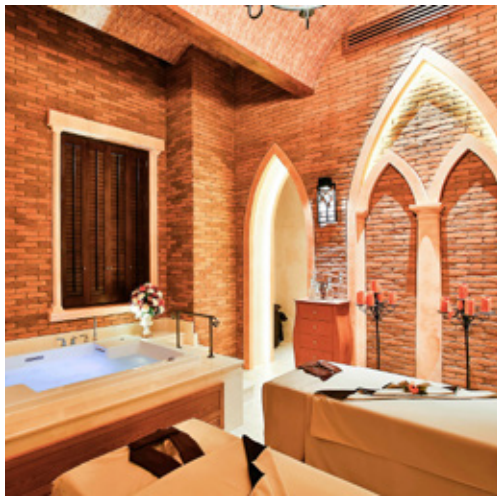
SPA

TUSCAN SENSES SPA AT TOSCANA VALLEY

As much as Tosacana Valley's mimicry of an Italian village is amusing, its spa is much enjoyed by locals and guests alike.

A complete spa service is available in four themed treatment rooms, each representing the Italian styles in Lucca, Florence, Azzaro, and Siena.

The most popular treatments are the Tuscan Body Scrub or Wrap, both of which utilise cocoa and butter to scrub away dead skin cells. The scrub also nourishes the skin with plenty of moisture, softening and smoothing your complexion - and who doesn't love chocolate?

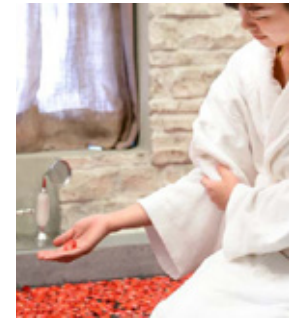


Address: Pong Ta Long, Pak Chong, Nakhon Ratchasima 30130
Phone: +66 44 75 6555, +66 84 581 6555 www.toscanavalley.com

ROSE SPA AT THAMES VALLEY



Private and intimate spa therapy in the lovely and tranquil ambience of an English garden theme resort. Using the best product that gentle to all skin types, Dermalogica.



Address: 999 Moo 4, Mu Si, Pak Chong, Nakhon Ratchasima 30130
Phone: +66 44 009 999 www.thamesvalleykhaoyai.com

U SPA

Taoist treatments are not exactly common - and that's the forte of U Spa.

The ancient Chinese healing treatment, utilising energy flows, Qi Gong, is a major influence for therapies here. Private treatment rooms are available for both couples and for solo guests.

USpa is famous for their Taoist Chi Nei Tsang Abdominal Detox Therapy, an ancient Chinese abdominal massage technique for releasing stress and negative energy. Gua cha treatment is also available here and only performed by professional therapists.



Address: 99/22 Moo 1, Mu Si, Pak Chong, Nakhon Ratchasima 30130
Phone: +66 44 079 999 www.uhotelsresorts.com

BANGKOK

Playground of the World's Finest Culinary Minds

At a glance: Bangkok's recent ascent in the global culinary scene, including recognition in The Michelin Guide, shows even the pickiest palate will discover unparalleled delights.



Marvelous Cuisine

Bangkok often ranked as the world's most visited city, and for good reason.

Discerning Hollywood stars on secret getaways, literary giants like Joseph Conrad on solo trips, royalty and luxury insiders alike have found delightful niches for their ever-picky tastes, all in Bangkok. Cultural sights, religious rites, beauty and medical expertise, shopping and sporting activities abound for the most discerning of visitors.

Yet, the momentary experience of a taste on the tongue can capture Thailand in a way that is simply divine.

The rise of regional Thai cuisine, most recently of Northeastern (or Isaan) food, recognised on the world stage by newly-published tomes from established chefs, offer further proof of Bangkok as fertile ground for gourmands. The world is recognising that Bangkok is more than Phad Thai, Tom Yam Goong, or green curry.

We have authentic Southern food with flavourful vegetables destined to leave an impression; kitchens full of engineered equipment that allow chefs to experiment as never before; and eating spaces with carefully designed itineraries that allow, for instance, a completely airborne dinner.

Traditional Thai food is well-

established and celebrated; now, Bangkok has made space for adventurous and experimental cuisine.

Established suppliers of top quality European produce and rare ingredients are only being further developed, deepened and utilised for local restaurants. Thus, restaurant proffering everything from traditional French cuisine to Indian molecular gastronomy are comparable (or superior to) international level restaurants.

The city of (at latest estimate) 12 million, including a large and diverse community of expats, also means an array of choices by the fussiest, most spoilt epicures in Asia.

Recognising this, The Michelin Guide announced in December 2017 a Thailand Michelin guide, awarding accolades across the mega-city. Realising the modern penchant for authentic tastes, a street food favourite even received a star.

Now, Bangkok is home to three 2-Michelin star and 14 single Michelin-star restaurants. Thirty-three earned a Bib Gourmand, and another 76 restaurants also received the title Michelin Plate.

Many luxury insiders might mention temples, spas, shopping, and other custom-made experiences.

But if gastronomy is your joy, Bangkok is your Garden of Pleasures.



Day 1



Bangkok houses many stunning contemporary museums, art galleries and national museums. For luxury insiders, schedule a visit at one of the privately-owned galleries, for which permission from the country's most ardent art collectors must first be obtained. Of particular interest amongst Bangkok's array of museums is **The Museum of Floral Culture**, founded by venerated expert Ajarn Sakul Intakul. It's also home to modern Thai cuisine at a charming, floral-themed restaurant **Midnight Moon**, although it's only open on certain evenings.

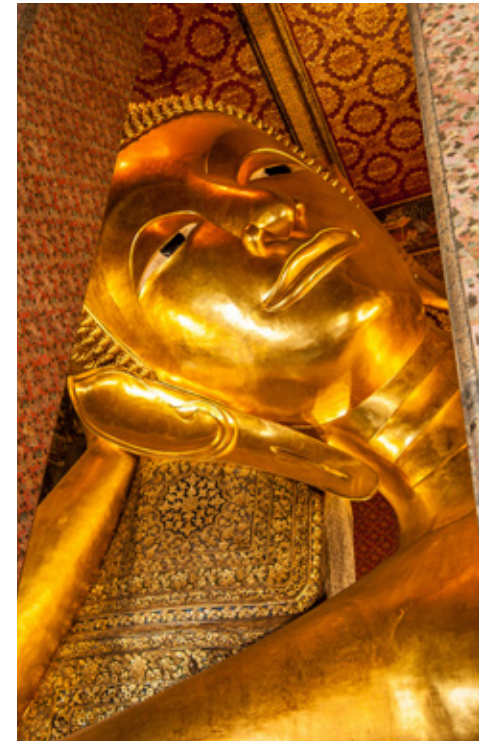
Have your late lunch by the **Chao Phraya River**. The Chao Phraya River runs through most of Thailand, and, like the artery of a beating heart, feeds into ocean just south of Bangkok. Enjoy a luncheon on the foredeck is suggested.

Some upscale yacht charters have an option of lunch set menu prepared by famous restaurants, including one such programme offered by a Thai Master Chef.

A VIP transfer takes you to a 700 year-old temple, **Wat Thewarat Kunchorn Worawihan**. The temple was founded during the 13th century during the reign of The Ayutthaya Kingdom, and is also home to historic artifacts. The gorgeous **Golden Teak Museum** nearby is a majestic compound showcasing traditional Thai architecture and resplendent luxury.

Choose first an authentic Thai restaurant set in antique surroundings (see one of many mentioned in Dine), because tomorrow evening, gourmands will explore non-traditional territory!

INSIDER TIP: Each season, **Midnight Moon** has a different set menu, all Thai dishes with outside influences and playful twists. Be sure to notify their staff ahead of time if you have any allergies or dietary restrictions - they are happy to work around them!



Day 2

TIME FOR CLASS, STUDENTS!

Head chefs at five-and six-star hotels offer exclusive group cooking workshops for their best guests, scheduled daily. For experienced chef visitors, a royal cooking school, **M.L. Puang Dinakara The Royal Exquisite Thai Cooking School**, is the next step, teaching them how to make dishes once reserved only for those of royal lineage, including fruit-and-vegetable carving.

Once your appetite is sated, enjoy one of the many luxury shopping districts (see Shopping) within easy access to the clean elevated train system, the BTS Skytrain. **Gaysorn Plaza**, **The Emporium**, **Central Embassy**, and **Central Chidlom** all offer personal shopping services, by English-speaking stylists and attendants. Many offer made-to-order or custom tailoring services as well.



Siam Discovery, newly renovated, and **Erawan Bangkok** are also fantastic shopping destinations that have the added plus of being close to the **Erawan Shrine**. This well-loved shrine is a major hub for those hoping for blessings and making merit. Be sure to avoid rush hour 7-9AM or 5-8PM if you're travelling by car.

Day 2 dining is a perfect progression to a fusion or modern Thai cuisine restaurant. Time to start your departure from traditional Thai dishes (see Dine for traditional restaurants with a twist).

If you haven't had a chance to check out Bangkok's jaw-dropping skyline, this city of over 10 million stretches as far as the eye can see, a skybar is due. Head to one of the city's foremost sky bars for Champagne or hand-crafted cocktail toasting your arrival in the City of Angels.

Day 3

SPEND YOUR LAST DAY EXPLORING THE CULTURAL HERITAGE OF BANGKOK.



The old neighbourhoods of **Thonburi** and **Kudee Jeen** offer a diverse and authentic look into Bangkok as it once was - and many of its residents continue to live as their great grandparents did. Tiny art galleries and museums are located here (see our religious and culture itinerary below).

This makes lunch at a riverside restaurant, many of which are attached to fantastic hotels with equally magnificent spa-and-wellness programmes, a snap. While many adhere to traditional Thai massages and Ayurvedic therapies, several also offer boutique European skincare ranges and modern therapies.

Your last night is perfect for a Michelin-star restaurant, a memorable experience for a gourmands. Expect to spend several hours as a dozen or more carefully-crafted and scripted courses of food are laid out before you.

INSIDER TIP: Although most Michelin-star restaurants are booked months in advance for the public, some top hotels have long-standing reservations just for their guests. Be sure to inquire with your concierge.



DINE

GAGGAN (2 MICHELIN STARS)

Chef Gaggan Anand's mind is playful, and his kitchen is a laboratory. The progression of his dishes are carefully and painstakingly calculated, and most are presented with a unique theatrical flourish. For example - the concept of traveling across Indian regions via 25 emojis, was one such topic! Expect to spend at least two hours for the many different courses. Advance booking is strongly recommended.



Address: 681 Soi Langsuan, Ploenchit Road Lumpini Khet Pathumwan, Bangkok 10330 Phone: +66 2 652 1700 www.catatgaggan.com

BAAN SAKUL THONG



A traditional Thai-Portuguese restaurant (influenced by centuries of Portuguese trade) is run by the descendants of Thai aristocrats. The menu is created from family recipes, once reserved exclusively for visiting dignitaries and Thai royalties. Visually stunning! Specialties include Sappayak Bun (marinated minced pork in crispy egg pasty) and Chor Muang (delicate Thai-style steamed dumplings). Advance booking is strongly recommended.

Address: 219 Soi Kudde Jeen 3, Bangkok 10110
Phone: +66 2 605 5665

UPSTAIRS AT MIKKELLER (MICHELIN 1 STAR)



This quieter, cutting-edge restaurant offers a Progressive American (10 course) menu. Run by a former sous chef of a 3 Michelin star, Grace Restaurant (Chicago), its downstairs is a more laidback craft beer paradise. Open only Wednesdays through Saturdays.



Address: 26 Soi Ekamai 10 Yaek 2, Wattana, Bangkok 10110
Phone: +66 91 713 9034 www.upstairs-restaurant.com



SKY BAR AT LEBUA

Popularised in The Hangover movie sequel, this bar is a favourite of socialites and Bangkok elites, with top-notch alcohol offerings to boot. At 63 stories high, its views simply cannot be beaten.

Address: 1055 Silom Road, Bang Rak, Bangkok 10500
Phone: +66 2 624 9555 www.lebua.com/sky-bar

CRU ROOFTOP CHAMPAGNE BAR

This official bar of the world-famous G.H. Mumm Champagne is only place in Bangkok that serves premium H.H. Mumm No. 1 Pink Champagne, and at 59 stories high, one of the best places to see the sun set.



Address: Centara Grand at Central World, 999/99 Rama 1, Pathumwan, Bangkok
Phone: +66 2 100 6255 www.champagnecru.com



PAÑPURI ORGANIC SPA AT PARK HYATT



PAÑPURI is a Thai socialite favourite, loved for its simply heavenly scents. Its spa at Park Hyatt Bangkok, has eight specially designed private treatment rooms. Its organic PAÑPURI Ultimate Indulgence offers complete facial and body treatments with organic milk salt body scrub, organic milk salt body wrap and Thai herbal compress.

Address: 11th Floor 88 Central Embassy, Wireless Road, Lumpini, Pathumwan, Bangkok 10330
Phone: +66 2 012 1234 Ext.1150 www.pañpuriorganicspa.com/index-park-hyatt-bangkok.html

DII WELLNESS MED SPA

This luxury-cum-medical spa integrates the latest technology with the most divine sense-centered experiences. Its treatments focus on fighting stress and the effects of ageing. The Ayurveda Black Marine package is a complete head-to-toe therapy that mixes ancient Indian Ayurvedic philosophies with Oriental wisdom, for a completely relaxing multi-hour experience.



Address: Central Embassy, 1031 Ploenchit Road, Pathumwan, Bangkok 10330
Phone: +66 2 160 5850 www.dii-divana.com



STAY

SIAM KEMPINSKI HOTEL BANGKOK

Located in a prime shopping area, this hotel is directly connected to Siam Paragon Shopping Mall, home to high-end fashion brands and delicious dining. The hotel's 401 luxuriously appointed rooms and suites feature contemporary Thai interior décor, some of which include private balconies overlooking a garden oasis and swimming pool areas.



Address: 991/9 Rama 1 Road, Pathumwan, Pathumwan, Bangkok 10330
Phone: +66 2 162 9000 www.kempinski.com/en/bangkok-siam-hotel

CHAKRABONGSE VILLAS RESIDENCE



This elegant and classic villa was once home to Prince Chakrabongse of the Thai royal family. Nestled in the old city area, it has its own private pier and a spectacular view of the Chao Phraya River. Advance enquiry and arrangement is required for the privilege of living like Siamese royalty.



Address: 396 Maharaj Road, Tatien, Bangkok 10200
Phone: +66 2 322 1290 www.chakrabongsevillas.com

THE SIAM HOTEL



Address: Khao Road, Wachira Phayaban, Dusit, Bangkok 10300
Phone: +66 2 206 6999 www.thesiamhotel.com



International designer Bill Bensley conceived this artistic take on colonial style architecture. Spacious grounds and a more convenient location make it a good choice for many. It is also a home to Chon, a one-Michelin star restaurant.



SHOPPING



CHAO PHRAYA CRUISE & SIGHTSEEING

The Bangkok's national pastimes are eating and shopping - and both are equally luxurious!

Gaysorn Village, a boutique shopping village, houses national and international top-end brands and fashion, as well as selected lifestyle eateries from urban chic cafés to fine dining, upscale bars and world famous restaurants. Premium salon, spa and beauty services also on site.

A few minutes away is Central Embassy, an ultra-luxury lifestyle shopping complex. It features world class brand names such as Gucci, Hermes, Givenchy, Christian Louboutin, Chanel, Prada and Versace. Elevated Thai street food restaurant Eat Thai is on its lower level, a comfortable (and much more hygienic) way to enjoy authentic delicacies. Should you fancy a cooking class in this posh location, head to Issaya Cooking Studio, which is run by world-famous Chef Ian Kittichai (see www.issayastudio.com/class).

Farther west lies Erawan Bangkok, practically a Bangkok institution. This quiet, conveniently-located shopping center nonetheless has world-class brands as well as restaurants (including a fantastic tea room). On the corner of this shopping center sits Erawan Shrine, a perfect place to observe Thai rituals of prayer, paying respects, dance, music and making merit.

Cross the intersection and you'll find yourself in the Siam area, where the chic luxury shopping center,

- Central Embassy Phone: +66 2 119 7777 www.centralembassy.com
- Erawan Bangkok Phone: +66 2 250 7777 www.erawanbangkok.com
- Erawan Shrine Address: Ratchaprasong & Ratchadamri Intersection www.tourismthailand.org/Attraction/Erawan-Shrine--2140
- Gaysorn Village Phone: +66 2 656 1149 www.gaysornvillage.com
- Siam Discovery Center Phone: +66 2 658 1000-19 www.siamdiscovery.co.th

A private yacht hire is the best way to enjoy the most of Chao Phraya River in style. Khana Yacht Charters offers Leopard 23, which comes with lunch, captain and crew, guest service attendants, and a complimentary of VIP transfer to preferred piers. Make a special request for a personal chef (from the massively popular television show MasterChef Thailand) for extra excitement!

For dinner cruises, experience the Chao Phraya Cruise, which offers a Thai/international buffet cruise with live shows. The Shangri-La Horizon Cruise provides an unforgettable five-star buffet dinner cruise along the Chao Phraya River, with a mouth-watering menu from



the hotel's famous restaurant & bar, The Table from Golden Circle.

Anantara Riverside Bangkok has the unique offering of a cruise on a traditional rice barge, made entirely out of teak, on its Manorah Cruises. This tastefully furnished open-air antique boat offers fine dining for both breakfast and evening meals.

- Khana Yacht Charters Phone: +66 84 499 9122 www.khanayachtcharters.com
- Chao Phraya Cruise Phone: +66 2 541 5399 www.chaophrayacruise.com
- Shangri-La Horizon Cruise Phone: +66 2 236 7777 www.shangri-la.com/bangkok/shangrila/dining/restaurants/horizon-cruise
- Manorah Cruise (Anantara Riverside Bangkok Resort) Phone: +66 2 476 0022 www.manorahcruises.com



ARTS & CULTURE

TEMPLES & KUDEE JEEN COMMUNITY

Amongst centuries-old temples and other religious sites like *Wat Arun*, all of which have been widely recommended and written about, *Wat Thewarat Kunchorn Worawihan* is not commonly known to outsiders.

Yet it's one of the most sacred temples in central Thailand. This royal temple built during Ayutthaya Kingdom (1351-1767). Stunning ancient architecture, ravishing decorations inside out and aesthetic artisanship, unveiling wealth and prosperity of the ancient Siam. It's also where the Golden Teak Museum is situated. This gorgeous example of the finest traditional Thai craftsmanship is a peaceful respite during the day.

Thonburi is a community nearby, on the west bank of Chao Phraya River, once a Siamese capital. Nearby



is the Portuguese heritage village of *Kudee Jeen community*, where the first group of traders resided in Siam. Santa Cruz Cathedral is an iconic landmark, constructed in the late 18th century as a worship place for Portuguese immigrants and diplomats.

Take a few minutes to walk down a narrow lane from the church, and you'll find a small museum recounting the story and background of this diverse community, called Baan Kudi Jeen Musuem.

As mentioned, a short distance away is the not-to-be-missed *Wat Arun*, internationally known as the Temple of Dawn, one of Bangkok's most beautiful religious sites. Despite its name, it is the best place to see sunset at Chao Phraya River.

Apart from these recommended places, there are several more temples and shrines, such as *Wat Kalayanamit*, *Wat Prayoon* and *Wat Anongkaram*, and *Princess Mother Memorial Park*.

- **Wat Thewarat Kunchorn Worawihan & Golden Teak Museum** Address: 90 Sri Ayutthaya road, Wachiraphayaban, Dusit, Bangkok 10300 Phone: +66 2 281 2430
- **Wat Arun Ratchavararam (Wat Arun)** Address: Arun Amarin Road, Bangkok Yai, Thonburi, Bangkok 10600 Phone: +66 2 891 2185 www.watarun.net
- **Baan Kudichin Museum** Address: 271 Tedsaban 1 Rd Wat Kalaya, Thonburi Bangkok Phone: +66 81 772 5148

Service Directory

ABERCROMBIE & KENT

Suite 1514, 15th Floor
Empire Tower, 1 South Sathorn Road, Bangkok 10120, Thailand
Tel. +66 2 670 0050-4
www.akdmc.com
(International Company)

ASIAN TRAILS

9th Floor, SG Tower,
161/1 Soi Mahadlek Luang
3, Rajdamri Road Lumpini,
Pathumwan Bangkok
10330, Thailand
Tel. +66 2 651 8111
www.asiantrails.travel
(Domestic Company)

BKK TOURS

ISHangri La hotel,
Chao Phya Tower, Fl. 1,
Room 105 - 89 Soi Wat Suan Plu
Bangkok 10500 Thailand
Tel. +66 85 135 9292
www.bkktours.com
(Domestic Company)

DESTINATION ASIA

T.R.S. Building, 9 TH FL.,
217 Vibhavadi-Rangsit Road,
Chatuchak, Bangkok
10900, Thailand
Tel. +66 2 272 1436-7
www.destination-asia.com
(International Company)

DIETHELM TRAVEL

140/1 Kian Gwan II Building,
12/F, Wireless Road,
Lumphini, Pathum Wan,
Bangkok 10330
Tel. +66 2 660 7000
www.diethelmtravel.com
(International Company)

EXOTISSIMO TRAVEL

44 North Sathorn Rd,
Silom, Bangrak Bangkok
10500, Thailand
Tel. +66 2 633 9060
www.exotravel.com
(International Company)

ICS TRAVEL GROUP

Steinerstr. 15, Haus A,
2. OG München Germany
Tel. +49 89219098660
icstravelgroup.com
(International Company)

ORIENTAL ESCAPE

70 Borommaratchachonnani Road,
Chim Phli, Taling Chan
Bangkok Thailand 10170
Tel. +66 2 101 0100
www.orientalescape.com
(Domestic Company)

QUINTESSENTIALLY

11F Siripinyo Building
475 Sri Ayutthaya Rd.
Thanonphayathai
Rajthevi Bangkok
10400 Thailand
Tel. +66 2 201 3456
www.quintessentially.com
(International Company)

REMOTE LANDS

25/12 Soi Sukumvit 16
Sukumvit Road, Klongtoey,
Klongtoey Bangkok 10110,
Thailand
Tel. +66 2 260 7584
www.remotelands.com/destination/
thailand
(Domestic Company)

SAYAMA TRAVEL GROUP

49/5 Lungsuan Village,
Soi Lungsuan, Lumpini,
Pathumwan, Bangkok
10330, Thailand
Tel. +66 89 009 5000
www.sayamatravel.com
(Domestic Company)

SMILING ALBINO

55, 57 Ramkambheng Road
Soi 24 Yeak 34 (ABAC Huamark),
Huamark, Bangkok, Bangkok
10240, Thailand
Tel. +66 2 107 2542
www.smilingalbino.com
(Domestic Company)

SUPERKRIS TRAVEL NETWORK

126/4 Lumpini Place
Sathorn Tower B
Narathiwat Road, Sathorn
Bangkok 10120 Thailand
Tel. +66 2 286 6462-3
www.superkrisluxurytravels.com
(Domestic Company)



www.tourismthailand.org