

# HISTORICAL TREASURES AND NATURAL WONDERS OF SOUTHEAST ASIA:

TEMPLES, JUNGLES, ELEPHANTS  
& MORE



JANUARY 6-25, 2024

**Day 1 ~ Saturday, January 6, 2024****USA/En Route**

Depart the United States flying overnight to Hanoi.

**Day 2 ~ Sunday, January 7, 2024****En Route**

Continue flight to Hanoi.

**Day 3 ~ Monday, January 8, 2024****Hanoi**

Arrive Noi Bai International Airport, **Hanoi, Vietnam**, and transfer to hotel. This evening, embark on a **gastronomic adventure** to discover **Hanoi's vibrant culinary scene**. Wander through the backstreets of the city to see a **myriad of street vendors** whose freshly prepared delicacies fill the air with enticing aromas and enjoy **eating as the locals do**, sitting on low stools on the sidewalk. Experience the hustle and bustle of "**Food Street**," sampling a wide variety of snacks. Then continue to a local area near **Truc Bach Lake** for more delicious treats, such as Vietnamese beef wrap and roll, and a refreshment at a local restaurant enroute back to the hotel.

**Overnight: Hanoi (D)**

**Day 4 ~ Tuesday, January 9, 2024****Hanoi**

Begin the day with a **city tour** with **HanoiKids**, a student-run organization established in 2006 that aims to "Be A Little Ambassador of Hanoi" through leading tours for English speaking travelers to Hanoi. HanoiKids hopes to bring insight into Vietnamese culture, tradition, and especially develop cross-cultural understanding between Vietnam and the rest of the world. Visit the **Old Quarter, French Quarter, Hoa Lo Prison, Ho Chi Minh Complex, and Vietnam Museum of Ethnology**. Enjoy **lunch at a local restaurant**, before meeting with a **Water Puppet Master!** Water puppetry is a unique Vietnamese tradition that dates to the 10th century. Starring colorful marionettes that dance on water, the performances typically portray scenes of daily life, such as farmers working in paddy fields or water buffalo bathing in a pond. **Meet a seventh-generation water puppet artist**, to experience more than just a cultural show - the master puppeteer will demonstrate the skills he learned from his father and grandfather during a **private solo performance**, before trying **dancing with the puppets yourself**. Next, continue to the **Temple of Literature** with a **Confucian Scholar**, getting an in-depth experience of the **Temple of Literature** with an expert in Vietnamese culture, history, and education. Listen to their personal and professional insights and gain an intimate knowledge of this **eleventh-century temple** which was **Hanoi's first university**, where Vietnamese royalty and elite society were educated for almost 700 years. Next, **meet with a U.S Army Veteran**, who first came to Vietnam in 1967 as a U.S. Army intelligence analyst during the Vietnam War, but has since been awarded the Friendship Medal by the Vietnamese government for their contribution to **post-war recovery efforts**. Enjoy **dinner** at a local restaurant situated in an **old French Villa**.

**Overnight: Hanoi (B,L,D)**

**Day 5 ~ Wednesday, January 10, 2024****Hanoi/ Ha Long Bay**

Following breakfast, depart for **Ha Long Bay**. From Tuan Chau wharf in Ha Long city, **travel to the cruise ship** via small boat. Have lunch while cruising in the magnificent **Ha Long Bay**, admiring the fascinating surroundings, anchoring at **Lan Ha Bay** area. Guided tour to **explore hidden parts of the bay**, including the famed **Dark and Bright cave**. Enjoy **kayaking**, before returning to the ship with **time to swim** in the sea or the pool. Take part in a **cooking demonstration** with the onboard Chef before dinner, and end the day **relaxing, singing karaoke, or squid fishing**.

**Overnight: Ha Long Bay Chartered Cruise (B,L,D)**

**Day 6 ~ Thursday, January 11, 2024****Ha Long Bay/ Ho Chi Minh City**

Welcome a new day at dawn, on the **legendary Gulf of Tonkin**. Spend time meeting as a group this morning, before a transfer to **Cat Ba Island** to visit **Trung Trang Grotto**, immersed in the wild natural scenery of **Cat Ba National Park**. Return to the ship for lunch, and transfer via small boat to **Tuan Chau wharf**, before heading to the airport for **flight to Ho Chi Minh City**. After checking into the hotel, begin exploring the fascinating scene that is Ho Chi Minh City at rush hour. See the **city's historical bridges** and enjoy an **enchanting view of the riverside** enroute to dinner. Round out the evening **sampling Vietnamese hot chocolate**.

**Overnight: Ho Chi Minh City (B,L,D)**

**Day 7 ~ Friday, January 12, 2024****Ho Chi Minh City**

Today, uncover the essence of **Ho Chi Minh City from past to present**. Start at the **Reunification Palace**, where the official handover of power took place during the Fall of Saigon in 1975. Continue to the **War Remnants Museum**, which contains **wartime relics** including an American tank, an original 20th century French guillotine and a UH-1 "Huey" helicopter. Later, get in touch with **southern Vietnam's spiritual side**, at a colorful **Cao Dai temple**. Learn about this interesting religious sect which came about as the result of many influences, including Buddhism, Confucianism, Taoism, Hinduism, Vietnamese spiritism, Christianity, and Islam. After lunch, take a drive northwest of Ho Chi Minh City to explore one of the region's most well-known wartime landmarks – the **Cu Chi tunnels**. The intriguing network of **underground tunnels** provided shelter and an effective source of infiltration for the Viet Cong during the later years of the Vietnam War. Catch a **glimpse of life during the war** as you experience crawling in tight, narrow passageways and through a series of caverns which consist of **storage rooms, make-shift hospitals and sleeping quarters**. Transfer back to Ho Chi Minh City for dinner.

**Overnight: Ho Chi Minh City (B,L,D)**

**Day 8 ~ Saturday, January 13, 2024****Ho Chi Minh City/ Mekong Delta**

Experience a day in the **Mekong Delta**, the "**Rice Bowl of Vietnam**," where much of the nation's fruits, vegetables, and rice is produced. The small farming communities here rely on the mighty Mekong's maze of rivers, swamps and canals to sustain their family-run fruit farms and plantations. Visit **My Tho**, a market town, and **meet local business owners and families** to learn about their simple life. **Travel by boat along palm-lined canals** to visit a **coconut candy factory**. Then, enjoy a **traditional folk music performance** in a fruit orchard before heading to a local restaurant for lunch. Return to Ho Chi Minh City for the last dinner in Vietnam.

**Overnight: Ho Chi Minh City (B,L,D)**

**Day 9 ~ Sunday, January 14, 2024****Siem Reap**

Gather as a group this morning, before a flight to **Siem Reap, Cambodia**. Now a flourishing provincial town, **Siem Reap** is best known as the gateway to the treasures of Angkor. A collection of **jungle-covered temples** dating as far back as the ninth century, the **Angkor Archaeological Park** encompasses the UNESCO World Heritage-listed **Angkor Wat**, one of the most impressive examples of the lost Khmer civilization's architectural and artistic grandeur. Learn about the important history of the **Cambodian Genocide**, instituted in the 1970's by the Communist Khmer Rouge regime, which led to the deaths of over 2 million people. Continue to the hotel, a calming oasis in the **French Quarter** of Siem Reap, for check-in and dinner.

**Overnight: Siem Reap (B,L,D)**

**Day 10 ~ Monday, January 15, 2024****Siem Reap**

Uncover more lost-world wonders at **Angkor Thom by bike**, the great walled city that was the last and most enduring vestige of the Khmer empire. **Enter through the South Gate** which is flanked on both sides by an "army of gods and demons". Visit the **Bayon**, a temple in the center of the city with large stone faces that look out in each direction. Explore the **grand Baphuon temple** and wander through shaded parkland that leads to **Preah Palilay and Phimeanakas**, the **private temple of King Jayavarman VII**. Stroll across the **Terrace of the Elephants**, which was used as a ceremonial stage, and admire intricate bas reliefs at the **Terrace of the Leper King**. Return to Siem Reap for a **family-style lunch**. In the afternoon, continue to **Ta Prohm**, a lost-in-the-jungle temple that was once a monastery for kings. **Wander courtyards lined with stone-carved lintels** that are cradled in the roots of tall trees and strangler figs. Witness the wonder of **Angkor Wat**, a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** from the 12th century. Explore the crowning achievement of Khmer art and architecture, walking through the **temple's concentric courtyards** to view its **iconic lotus towers** and intricate bas reliefs depicting important historical events and complex scenes of Hindu mythology. Dinner and return to the hotel.

**Overnight: Siem Reap (B,L,D)****Day 11 ~ Tuesday, January 16, 2024****Siem Reap**

Learn how to **juggle or perform acrobatic tricks** with the Cambodian youth circus performers during a high energy, heart-pumping workshop. Phare, **The Cambodian Circus** is a non-governmental organization that provides opportunities for Cambodian youths, with nightly performances combining theater, dance, art, and acrobatics. **Join the troupe today for a rehearsal session** and see inside their unique performance ensemble. **Meet the young performers**, learning about their background and trying some of their astonishing tricks yourself. Visit **Banteay Srei**, a pre-Angkorian temple located in the quiet countryside northeast of Siem Reap. Known as the "**Citadel of Women**," the pink sandstone temple was built by a Brahmin priest in the 10th-century and contains some of the finest examples of classical Khmer art. On the way to the temple, drive through **rustic villages and rice paddies** for a **volunteer opportunity** and see the positive impact of the **Cambodia Clean Water Project**, which funds the installation of water wells with bio sand filters that remove 99% of bacteria, giving access to clean water to over 24,000 villagers since 2008. Return to Siem Reap for lunch, and afterwards, bring good luck, happiness, and prosperity to your life with a **holy water blessing** performed by **Buddhist monks**. Water blessings are a traditional Cambodian practice that dates back several centuries. At a **local pagoda**, the monks begin with a ritual chant and lightly sprinkle holy water over you to attract positive light and energy. A red string is tied around your wrist to complete the ritual. Time to gather as a group this afternoon for reflection, and this evening, enjoy a mesmerizing **performance of acrobatics, dance, and theater** at Phare, **The Cambodian Circus**, tying together the workshop from this morning. Dinner and return to hotel.

**Overnight: Siem Reap (B,L,D)****Day 12 ~ Wednesday, January 17, 2024****Siem Reap/ Bangkok**

Flight to **Bangkok, Thailand**, with time to gather as a group and refresh at the hotel. Begin exploring the bustling **Sukhumvit district**, lined with shopping malls, restaurants, and rooftop lounges before dinner.

**Overnight: Bangkok (B,L,D)**

### Day 13 ~Thursday, January 18, 2024

### Bangkok

Discover the richness of Thai art, architecture, history, and culture on an eye-opening journey through Bangkok's awe-inspiring **palaces and temples**. Visit the famous **Grand Palace**, which has served as the official residence of Thai Kings since 1782. Explore the various pavilions and courtyards which contain shimmering gold stupas and glittering glass mosaics, and see the **sacred Emerald Buddha** dressed in ceremonial robes. Admire the **Queen Mother's exquisite fashion** at the **Queen Sirikit Museum of Textiles**, and enjoy a **short ride by tuk tuk** to the 200-year-old **Wat Pho temple**, the birthplace of traditional Thai massage and home to a **large reclining Buddha covered in gold leaf**. Lunch at a local restaurant before exploring **Bangkok's meandering rivers and klongs** (canals) to discover a city alive with architectural wonders, royal life, and humble residential communities. Take a **leisurely boat ride** along the **Thonburi klongs** to discover real local life in the humble houses along the riverbanks. Continue your boat journey to see the **Thai Royal Family's boat collection** at the **Royal Barge Museum** and learn the history and significance of these ceremonial barges, which are used only for official ceremonies and celebrations. Time to gather as a group before dinner tonight at the hotel's restaurant.

**Overnight: Bangkok (B,L,D)**

### Day 14 ~ Friday, January 19, 2024

### Bangkok

Early start today, to catch the buzzing morning vibes at **Bangkok's famous floating market** when it's at its most vibrant. On the way to the floating market, stop by to see the very unique **Railway Market**, a **typical wet market** that just happens to be situated over a **working railway track**. See the flurry of activity as the fruit and vegetable sellers quickly pack up their goods to let the train pass through, then slowly place them out again for display. After a morning coffee and some fresh fruits, continue to a **Thai house** that makes coconut sugar, and enjoy a sip of fresh coconut juice. Head to the pier next, to board a longtail boat to **Damnoen Saduak Floating Market**. This century-old marketplace is famous for its floating vendors who sell all kinds of goods from their small wooden boats. Switch to a smaller rowboat to navigate more easily through the busy canal and **taste your way through the market, sampling some of the fresh tropical fruits, local snacks, desserts or freshly prepared noodles** along the way. Enjoy lunch and a **Thai massage** before returning to Bangkok for an afternoon at leisure and time to meet as a group. Tonight, **experience Bangkok after dark** with a fun night out in trendy **Talad Noi district** and the narrow streets of **Yaowarat town**. **Hop into a tuk tuk** for an **exciting foodie adventure**-start with refreshments at a 200-year-old converted warehouse beside the **Chao Phraya River**, followed by some of **Bangkok's best satay skewers** at a popular local spot that you won't find in any guidebook! Savor **authentic Thai flavors** and try favorites and **rare dishes** from around the country, such as pad Thai noodles, green curry or lotus stem salad, and stay for homemade ice cream or **traditional Thai desserts** such as black sticky rice, banana in coconut milk or mango and sticky rice.

**Overnight: Bangkok (B,L,D)**

### Day 15 ~ Saturday, January 20, 2024

### Chiang Mai

Morning flight to **Chiang Mai, Thailand**. Upon arrival at the **eco-lodge** in the **mountains**, enjoy a welcome drink while learning about the community-based projects that aims to conserve the heritage of Chiang Mai's ethnic minorities and hear a bit about everyday life in this typical Thai hill tribe. Late lunch will be enjoyed at the lodge, and afterwards, **take a stroll around the village**, stopping at the **temple** for lovely views of the community's **herbal garden and explore nearby tea and vegetable plantations**. Return to your rustic lodge built in the style of a northern Thai hilltribe home. **Dinner is served at your lodge** and is accompanied by a **music and dance performance** by the local community.

**Overnight: Chiang Mai Eco- Lodge (B,L,D)**

**Day 16 ~ Sunday, January 21, 2024****Chiang Mai**

Head out for an exciting day of **biking in the scenic northern Thai mountains**. The 13-kilometer (eight-mile) route follows a gentle path towards the village of **Muang Guert**. En route, stop to explore a **tea plantation** and learn about growing and harvesting tea. Sip aromatic tea and enjoy a Thai lunch at the tea house before continuing the cycling adventure to a **whitewater rafting base**. Enjoy an exhilarating ride down the river, arriving at a traditional **Thai country village**. From there, continue to a **traditional Akha village** before returning to the Lodge.

**Overnight: Chiang Mai Eco- Lodge (B,L,D)****Day 17 ~ Monday, January 22, 2024****Chiang Mai**

Wake up to the cool mountain breeze and peaceful views from your Thai countryside eco-lodge. Embark on a walk through the village community before **entering a jungle path**. Walk up a small mountain for a **trek through the original and untouched rainforest**. Take in the magnificent **views of mountains and valleys along the way**. After reaching the top, head back down the other side of the mountain, where you are greeted with more splendid scenery, arriving at another **hilltribe community**. Continue walking back to the lodge where lunch will be served. After lunch, transfer to **Chiang Mai city just beyond the old city walls**, and enjoy dinner at the next hotel.

**Overnight: Chiang Mai City (B,L,D)****Day 18 ~ Tuesday, January 23, 2024****Chiang Mai**

Gain local insights into Thai culinary traditions with a **private cooking experience**. Before heading to the kitchen, stop by a **local market to wander** through the **maze of stalls** to explore some of the unique herbs, spices, and vegetables of Thai cooking. Learn how to select the right fish sauce and the freshest noodles, before donning your apron and rolling up your sleeves to **prepare your culinary masterpiece**. After a fun time in the kitchen, **sit down for a delicious meal of your own creation**. Explore the cultural wonders of Chiang Mai, starting at **Waroros Market**. Known locally as "**Kard Luang**," the market was founded by a Princess over a century ago and sells a variety of local products, including clothing and textiles. This is also a great place to sample some **typical northern Thai** food such as spicy sausage and crispy pork. **Travel by trishaw along Tapae Road**, passing through the ancient city walls into busy **Rajdamnern Road** in the old part of town. Continue by road to **Doi Suthep**, a **sacred mountaintop temple** that overlooks the city. Take the pilgrimage route up 309 steps or opt for the more leisurely tram ride to **reach the peak**.

**Overnight: Chiang Mai City (B,L,D)****Day 19 ~ Wednesday, January 24, 2024****Chiang Mai**

Today is spent immersed in nature and wildlife conservation at an **elephant rescue and rehabilitation** center in northern Thailand. Take a drive through the **Chiang Mai countryside** to reach **Elephant Nature Park**, a wildlife sanctuary where you can enjoy quality time **observing a herd of rescued and orphaned elephants**. After a life of working in the tourism and logging industries, the elephants here have been given a new lease of life and are able to rediscover their sense of adventure in a free and protected environment. Learn the **stories of the elephants' rehabilitation and enjoy a vegetarian lunch** before heading to the river to **observe the elephants bathe, play and splash around in the cool river water**. Then **watch the herd from an elevated skywalk** as they roam freely, enjoying the nearby mud or sand pit. Say goodbye to your new elephant friends before heading back to civilization with unforgettable memories of a day well-spent.

**Overnight: Chiang Mai City (B,L,D)****Day 20 ~ Thursday, January 25, 2024****En Route/ USA**

Return flight with arrival in the United States later today.

*\*Itinerary subject to change. Appointments subject to confirmation\**

## FROSCH

### **TOUR PRICE: \$8,695 per person**

All prices quoted are based on a specific number of participants traveling together in the group, on occupancy at hotels, and on land rates in effect at the time of printing and are subject to change.

### **DEPOSITS & PAYMENTS**

**DEPOSIT** \$500.00 per person to reserve space at time of reservation, \$250.00 of which is non-refundable.  
**FINAL PAYMENT** due on **FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2023**

### **WHAT IS INCLUDED**

- 17 nights' hotel accommodation with private facilities and including daily breakfast
- 17 days' sightseeing program as outlined on the itinerary
- Meals as outlined on itinerary: all breakfasts, lunches, and dinners
- Services of full-time Tour Directors throughout
- Local licensed guides in each country
- Transportation as outlined on itinerary by private motor coach
- Roundtrip economy class airfare from Houston (1 checked bag per person included)
- Intra- Asia economy class airfare (*Hanoi-Ho Chi Minh, Ho Chi Minh- Siem Reap, Siem Reap-Bangkok, Bangkok-Chiang Mai*)
- Entrance fees to all sightseeing venues
- Gratuities to Tour Director, local guides, and drivers
- Visa Fees (Vietnam and Cambodia)

◆ **AIR TRANSPORTATION** from Houston, Texas, via EVA Airlines. The airfare included in the tour price is based upon the Super Advanced Purchase Excursion fare in effect at the time of the printing and is subject to change. The tariff governing this airfare contains conditions and restrictions on its use. These will be provided upon request. 1 checked bag included with international airfare.

◆ **AIR TRANSPORTATION** within Asia (*subject to baggage fees*)

◆ **HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS** are provided based on two persons sharing a double-bedded room, in the hotels selected for the tour. FROSCH and its subagents reserve the right to substitute hotels of the same category when necessary for the proper handling of the tour. Single rooms available for students pending approval from Kinkaid School.

◆ **MEALS** included are 17 breakfasts, 16 lunches, 17 dinners

◆ **PERSONAL TIPS** to your Tour Director, Guides and Drivers.

◆ **TRANSFERS AND TOURING** is provided by modern heated motorcoach and includes the full touring program outlined in the itinerary. All entrance fees to the places listed in the itinerary are included.

◆ **TOUR DIRECTORS** who will accompany the tour throughout the program and will provide assistance with all formalities.

◆ **TOUR GUIDES** are government-licensed per country visited.

## **WHAT IS NOT INCLUDED**

- ◆ **PERSONAL ITEMS & OTHER EXPENSES** not specified in the above package inclusions, such as laundry
- ◆ **BAGGAGE FEES**

## **CANCELLATION PENALTIES**

### ◆ **CANCELLATION OF AIR AND LAND ARRANGEMENTS**

Cancellations and refunds are governed by the tariff applying to the Super Apex airfare and/or other tariffs of the airlines concerned. This airfare is non-refundable once ticketed. Land arrangements are non-refundable upon Final Payment **Friday, October 6, 2023**.

### ◆ **TRIP CANCELLATION INSURANCE IS RECCOMENDED AND IS AVAILABLE THROUGH FROSCH TRAVEL.**

Contact Nancy Barr at (713) 590-8152 or email [groups@frosch.com](mailto:groups@frosch.com) for further assistance.

## ***RESPONSIBILITY***

This tour is arranged by FROSCH Travel, One Greenway Plaza, Suite 800, Houston, Texas 77046 and Kinkaid School. All tickets and coupons governing transportation and other services and facilities furnished are issued by FROSCH Travel only as agents for such other companies furnishing such services and facilities, and neither they nor their sub-agents shall be held liable for loss or damage to property or injury to person caused by reason of any defect by any transportation company, agent, or any such party providing such services. FROSCH Travel, Kinkaid School and its sub-agents reserve the right to withdraw services and make changes and alterations in the itinerary as may be necessary in their judgment for the proper handling of the tour. The airlines concerned are not to be held liable for any act, omission, or event during the time the passengers are not on board their planes or conveyances. The passage contract in use by the airlines concerned, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the airlines and the purchasers of this tour.