

ESSENCE OF THAILAND WITH BDI TRAVEL GROUP

Featuring - Bangkok, Phuket

21 Oct, 2024 - 31 Oct, 2024

DURATION	GROUP SIZE	AIRPORT	PRICE STARTING FROM
8 Nights / 11 Days	20 People	Los Angeles	Twin Sharing Price - \$ 3,099.00 Single Supplement Price - \$ 699.00

OVERVIEW

Embark on an extraordinary expedition across Thailand, commencing in the bustling urban hub of Bangkok and culminating in the exquisite haven of Phuket. Begin your journey in Bangkok, a city of juxtapositions where contemporary skyscrapers harmonize with intricate temples. Immerse yourself in the dynamic street markets, traverse bustling neighborhoods, and witness the profound reverence at esteemed sites like the Grand Palace and Wat Phra Kaew. Engage in the city's spirited nightlife, relish delectable street fare, and embrace the vibrant essence of urban Thailand. The Journey process to Phuket, you'll be welcomed by the serene allure of Thailand's largest island. Unwind upon beaches fringed with palms, partake in snorkeling amidst crystalline waters, and immerse yourself in the island's relaxed ambiance. Venturing beyond the coast, delve into Phuket's lively local markets, savor genuine Thai cuisine, and uncover the fusion of tradition and modernity that defines the island.

ACCOMMODATION

CITY	HOTEL NAME	NO. OF NIGHTS
Bangkok	Rembrandt Hotel and Suites	4 Nights
Phuket	Thavorn Beach Village Resort & Spa	4 Nights



INCLUSIONS

- ◆ 08 Night accommodation in TWN/DBL sharing basis at listed hotels or similar
- ◆ Daily Breakfast,
- ◆ City, temple, and Grand Palace tour in Bangkok including lunch
- ◆ Damnoen Saduak Floating Market, Maeklong Railway market tour in Bangkok
- ◆ Day trip to Phi Phi Island from Phuket including lunch
- ◆ Transportation in a Deluxe Tourist Vehicle
- ◆ All sightseeing with admissions
- ◆ Services of English-speaking driver & guide
- ◆ **International return airfare ex-Los Angeles (Please check with us for pricing from other cities)**
- ◆ Regional airfare from Phuket to Bangkok
- ◆ All taxes and surcharges
- ◆ All local applicable taxes

EXCLUSIONS

- ◆ All other meals and other sightseeing or services
- ◆ Gratuities for meals, tourist guides, drivers
- ◆ Visa fees and Travel Insurance
- ◆ Personal expenses such as alcoholic and other beverages, telephone calls, and laundry
- ◆ Local city taxes if applicable to be paid directly at hotels upon check out
- ◆ Any other services or Items not mentioned above as included

ADD-ON

Optional Tour - Half-Day Hidden Phuket tour

Optional Tour - A morning with Elephant

Optional Tour - Phuket - ATV Adventure

Optional Tour - Evening Food and Tuk Tuk adventure

Optional Tour - Chao Phraya Dinner Cruise with transfers

ITINERARY

DAY 1 Depart Los Angeles [-/-/-]

Prepare yourself! You are leaving today for Bangkok to start your exotic Essence of Thailand journey.

DAY 2 IN TRANSIT

DAY 3 Bangkok Arrival [-/-/-]

'Sawadee ka' and welcome to Thailand! Upon arrival in Bangkok, claim your bags and proceed toward the arrival hall. Our representative will meet you and assist you with your transfer to the hotel. (Standard check-in time is 3:00 pm).

Check-in at the hotel and catch up on your rest. Bangkok is a bustling metropolitan marvel filled with towering skyscrapers and sparkling shopping centers just like any other capital city, yet infused with an unmistakable Thai essence. In this vibrant cityscape, you'll encounter a fascinating blend: monks adorned in orange robes walking alongside modern technology, serene temples juxtaposed with vibrant neon-lit bars, all harmoniously coexisting."

Overnight in Bangkok

DAY 4 Bangkok - City Tour with Grand Palace [B/L/-]

After enjoying your breakfast, our journey in Bangkok starts with an exploration of the city's acclaimed Buddhist temples, where we'll be introduced to three of its most extraordinary and distinct sites. Our first destination is the opulent Wat Trimitr, situated at the terminus of bustling Yaowarat Road in vibrant Chinatown. Conveniently located near the Hua Lampong train station, this temple shelters a priceless treasure—the Golden Buddha. This monumental statue, weighing an impressive five and a half tons, stands as a stunning testament to human artistry and devotion.

Subsequently, we move on to Wat Po, Bangkok's largest temple complex. Here, a truly remarkable 46-meter-long reclining Buddha commands attention, accompanied by intricately adorned chedis. And, as an essential part of any temple expedition, we'll also pay a visit to the resplendent Grand Palace. This architectural

masterpiece reflects the traditional Siamese court style, having once served as a royal residence. Within its ornate grounds, a multitude of structures each have distinct functions, including the Funeral Palace, Reception Palace, Throne Hall, Coronation Hall, Royal Guest House, and the renowned Emerald Buddha Temple.

After our insightful exploration of Bangkok, you'll be dropped off at your hotel. You're then welcome to spend the evening at your leisure, perhaps considering a visit to the night market for a bout of shopping or relaxation.

Overnight in Bangkok

DAY 5 Bangkok (Day free at leisure) [B/-/-]

You have a free day in Bangkok to spend as you, please. You can explore the city on your own or take part in any of the available activities and tours. You could also spend the day at a beach, go shopping, or try some local cuisine, alternately pre-book one of our suggested Add-ons. Whatever you choose, make the most of your free day and enjoy your time in Bangkok!

Add-on: Evening Food and Tuk Tuk adventure - USD 95 Per person

Immerse yourself in a delightful array of diverse Thai street delicacies during an exceptional evening tour guided by iconic tuk-tuks. Our gastronomic journey leads us through the captivating neighborhoods of Thonburi, Rattanakosin, and Chinatown, all aboard three-wheeled vehicles that establish a more intimate connection with the heart of the capital. As we zip down narrow lanes to eateries tucked away from the typical tourist path, this culinary exploration offers not only the pleasure of tasting but also a cultural odyssey. In addition to our culinary voyage, this pleasurable excursion encompasses a cultural voyage as well. As we traverse the historical quarter, we are treated to the sight of landmark sites aglow with illumination, a testament to the history that has shaped this vibrant city. Delving deeper, we gain insight into how the nation's provinces have contributed to and elevated Thai cuisine onto the global stage. Thonburi, situated along the western bank of the Chao Phraya River,

briefly served as the capital in the 18th century following the invasion of Ayutthaya by Burmese forces. Rattanakosin stands as the embodiment of 18th and 19th-century Siam, home to the country's most significant structures, including the revered Grand Palace. The grandeur of Chinatown, the world's largest, unfolds as the sun sets, revealing its bustling evening scene, particularly vibrant with streetside eateries. This culinary escapade is designed to satiate your palate while enriching your cultural knowledge. For those with a preference for more sightseeing, we offer the 'Bangkok Night Lights Tuk-Tuk Tour,' a cultural exploration that illuminates the city's nighttime charm.

Add-on: Chao Phraya Dinner Cruise with transfers - USD 75 Per person (minimum 2 pax) person

Enjoy an evening dinner cruise on the Chao Phraya Princess, traveling along Bangkok's main waterway. Experience the magic of the illumination of the city's temples and other historic monuments. Check in at Iconsiam shopping center and board a safe and comfortable cruiser to experience the Chao Phraya River at night. Take in views of both banks of the river from the open-air upper deck. Soak up the atmosphere of the city's top landmarks and monuments illuminated at night, and tuck into an elegant gourmet buffet dinner of international fare, accompanied by light background music.

Overnight in Bangkok

DAY 6

Bangkok - Full day Maeklong Railway Market and Damnoen Saduak Floating Market tour [B/-/-]

Embark on a unique journey that grants you the opportunity to witness two renowned markets in a single-day trip from Bangkok. Experience the enchantment of Maeklong Railway Market, perched upon the railway tracks, and immerse yourself in the vibrant allure of Damnoen Saduak Floating Market, where vendors ply their trade from boats drifting along the canals.

Your journey commences with a visit to the iconic Damnoen Saduak Floating Market, where vibrant scenes come alive as locals trade goods from boats laden with fresh produce, colorful crafts, and delectable Thai delicacies. Thailand's floating markets carry deep

cultural importance, drawing numerous tourists eager to partake in this time-honored tradition. Considered the authentic floating market, Damnoen Saduak, situated approximately 110 km west of Bangkok, offers a journey reminiscent of the ancient era of the Siam Kingdom. It's a vivid portrayal where merchants adorned in colorful attire navigate narrow canals, echoing the traditional methods of trading fruits, vegetables, and various goods from their small boats. Additionally, visitors encounter traditional Thai dwellings, gaining insights into the vital role of boats as a primary mode of transportation woven into the fabric of local everyday life.

Next, experience the unique spectacle at Maeklong Railway Station, famously known for its market stalls set up along the active railway tracks. Watch in awe as vendors swiftly retract their stalls upon the train's arrival, creating an extraordinary sight as the train passes through the bustling market. Witness this fascinating display of coordination and agility, a testament to the local vendors' daily routine in sync with the railway schedule.

After a fulfilling exploration, return to Bangkok in time for the early afternoon, wrapping up a day filled with captivating market encounters.

The evening grants you a wonderful chance to relax and fully engage with the lively ambiance of Bangkok at your leisure. You have the option to explore some of the city's renowned markets, where you can peruse an assortment of crafts, textiles, and distinctive souvenirs. The night markets, in particular, create an enchanting fusion of shopping, dining, and entertainment, offering a glimpse into the city's bustling nightlife. Whether you choose to treat yourself to delectable Thai cuisine at a local eatery, unwind through a traditional Thai massage, or simply relish the allure of Bangkok's urban landscape, the evening serves as a canvas for you to shape as you desire.

Overnight in Bangkok

DAY 7

Bangkok - Phuket [B/-/-]

Enjoy your breakfast. Later this morning you will be transferred to the airport for your flight to Phuket. Located along the Andaman Coast, Phuket is famed for its beaches, vibrant nightlife, and stunning resorts. Its

varied terrains span from lush tropical rainforests to shores lined with swaying palm trees and rugged limestone cliffs. Upon arrival, claim your bags and proceed toward the arrival hall. Our representative will meet you and assist you with your transfer to the hotel. (Standard check-in time is 3:00 pm).

Check-in and relax.

Overnight in Phuket

DAY 8 Phuket - Day free at leisure [B/-/-]

Enjoy your breakfast this morning. Today is a day for you to relax and explore the gorgeous island at your own pace. Phuket is famous for its breathtaking beaches, so take the day to bask in the sun, go for a swim, and soak in the picturesque scenery. If you're in the mood for adventure, you might want to try exciting water sports like snorkeling and parasailing. Alternatively, you can choose from our list of recommended activities to enhance your day by pre-booking one of our suggested add-ons.

Add-on: Half-Day Hidden Phuket tour - USD 60 Per person (minimum 6 pax)

Phuket's Old Town is brimming with Sino-Portuguese architecture, making it an ideal place to explore on foot. The town's wealth of cultural heritage and charming colonial mansions transport us back to a bygone era when Phuket thrived during the tin mining boom, funding the construction of grand homes and ornate civic buildings. Beyond its rich history, Phuket Old Town is a hub of street-side eateries and stalls offering some of the finest Thai cuisine you can find. The town's compact size allows us to leisurely wander through this historic area, admiring the intricate designs of the surrounding structures and the allure of Phuket's architecture along its narrow streets. Additionally, this tour includes a visit to an ancient Chinese temple, and we conclude the day with dinner at a viewpoint overlooking the island. You will be dropped off at your hotel at the end of the tour.

Add-on A morning with Elephant - USD 115 Per person on seat in coach basis

A morning spent with the elephants offers an enlightening and uplifting encounter. After a picturesque drive through a local village, you'll reach the Phuket Elephant Sanctuary, nestled in a scenic

jungle adorned with ponds, vast open fields, and rolling hills where the elephants freely wander.

Your visit commences at our Tree Top Lounge, where an informative documentary sets the stage for your elephant experience, shedding light on the importance of their protection.

You'll have the opportunity to feed the elephants as they indulge in baskets of fruits, all while our knowledgeable guides share insights into each elephant's background.

Exploration of the sanctuary follows, leading you along Thailand's longest canopy walkway and natural trails to locate the elephants. Here, you'll witness them foraging and bathing in their natural environment while our guides provide detailed narratives about each elephant. Respecting their space, you'll observe their natural behaviors, from playful interactions in ponds and rivers to socializing among themselves.

To conclude the program, a delightful vegetarian Thai meal awaits, putting a flavorful end to an enriching day spent understanding and appreciating these magnificent creatures in their sanctuary.

Overnight in Phuket

DAY 9 Phuket (Full day Phi Phi Island tour) [B/L/-]

Set off on an exhilarating speedboat journey to the Phi Phi Islands at daybreak, evading the bustling crowds to uncover the islands' iconic wonders. Explore their untouched beaches and captivating landscapes, plunging into the crystalline waters for invigorating swims and snorkeling adventures.

Starting early ensures arrival at the islands before the usual influx of visitors, granting us the chance to relish the serene beauty of Phang Nga Bay in its secluded splendor. Aboard the speedboat, we glide among scattered limestone karsts, visiting the renowned 'James Bond' island immortalized in "The Man with the Golden Gun."

Navigate through hidden caves and lagoons via kayaks, traversing waterways framed by mangroves for an immersive experience. Our next stop is the remarkable Panyee Village, an impressive engineering feat as the entire village stands on stilts above shallow waters.

Amidst these explorations, a delightful lunch awaits on one of the islands, offering an authentic taste of Thai cuisine amidst the island's tranquil surroundings. Rest assured, there will be ample opportunities for swimming stops throughout the day.

As the day concludes, filled with discoveries and relaxation, bid farewell to the Phi Phi Islands, carrying indelible memories of their natural splendor and a heightened admiration for Thailand's captivating coastal treasures.

Overnight in Phuket

DAY 10 Phuket (Day free at leisure) [B/-/-]

Enjoy your breakfast this morning. We suggest unwinding at the beach, lounging under the sun with a refreshing drink, taking a dip in the sea, or exploring the underwater world through snorkeling. For a unique perspective of Phuket's marine life, consider visiting an aquarium located in Cape Panwa. For those seeking adventure, a visit to Hanuman World Phuket offers an exhilarating experience soaring through the jungle on ziplines. As the evening sets in, indulge in delicious seafood for dinner, explore vibrant night markets, or immerse yourself in the lively atmosphere of Bangla Road with its array of bars and entertainment options. The decision is entirely yours, or you might consider reserving one of our recommended add-ons to enhance

your experience.

Add-on: ATV Adventure - USD 90 Per person

Phuket extends far beyond its renowned white sandy beaches and the meeting of turquoise waters, which have rightfully earned it a place among the world's premier tourism destinations. This island boasts lush jungles that envelop it, and this two-hour expedition aboard an all-terrain vehicle introduces a fresh perspective on its offerings. Our journey kicks off with a comprehensive safety briefing, ensuring our preparedness for the adventure ahead. We then embark on an exhilarating exploration along gravel and mud trails, providing the opportunity to witness insect-eating plants, rubber tapping, and Phuket's untouched beaches. Our trusty four-wheeled vehicle navigates routes that can prove a bit uneven at times, enhancing the thrill of the experience. As our forest expedition draws to a close, we're treated to revitalizing cold beverages and a selection of local seasonal fruits.

Overnight in Phuket

DAY 11 Phuket Departure [B/-/-]

Relish your breakfast on the final day of your trip. Your incredible essence of the Thailand tour comes to an end today. Your tour concludes after breakfast this morning. You will be transported to the airport for your return flight at the appropriate time.

Payment Policy & Insurance

Deposit: US\$ 500 per person [Non-refundable / Non-transferrable]

Deposit Date: 15th Jan 2024

50% Non-Refundable Deposit: 09th May 2024

Full Balance: 23rd July 2024

(Once the deposit is paid, the travelers can then pay any amount on any date. Travelers to ensure that the payment deadlines are met as above)

INSURANCE

We encourage everyone who books a VOYAGES HUB TOURS package, regardless of age or tour choice, to obtain a travel protection plan. While you intend to take that once-in-a-lifetime trip, illness, family emergencies, and other factors can derail your best-laid plans.

VOYAGES HUB TOURS has teamed up with Travel Guard to provide a Travel Protection Plan specifically designed for U.S. residents. Feel free to email us to receive a quote, without any obligation to commit.

Cancellation Policy

- ◆ From the date of booking to 165 days before departure: \$500 per person Non-Refundable / Non-transferrable Deposit + interruption insurance cost (if purchased) + Cost of Air ticket if issued.
- ◆ 164-90 days before departure: 50% of the total tour price per person
- ◆ 89 days or fewer before departure: **No refund is available.**

Note:

A person becoming single because of the roommate's cancellation must pay the single supplement

All payment cut-off dates are firm, and missing deadlines without approved extensions will result in cancellations without refunds being offered.

PLEASE NOTE

Voyages Hub reserves the right to levy a surcharge commensurate to the fuel increase at the time of operation of this movement.



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