

A Cultural Journey into Unknown Thailand

Sample Itinerary

A note: All of our itineraries are flexible. Our philosophy at Crooked Trails is to let the country guide our experiences and not to live by a strict itinerary. If unexpected events arise, we may change plans to take advantage of the situation or deal with an issue. However, we will do all we can to offer you everything that is on the schedule. Please be flexible yourself and allow the program to unfold.

** Meals included in the program cost are listed as **B (breakfast), L (lunch) and D (dinner)** for each day.

Day 1-2 Leave home at scheduled flight time; you will cross the date line and arrive Bangkok late on day two. Upon arrival you will be met at the airport by your Crooked Trails facilitator and transferred to your hotel.

Day 3 You will be up early due to jet lag, so we will make use of the early rise and have breakfast and catch an early afternoon flight down to Phuket in the southern part of Thailand. After arriving in Phuket we will drive to Andaman Discoveries' office in Kuraburi, where we will learn about how this organization helped the tsunami recovery efforts in this area. Here we will meet our guide and translator and learn about our program, as well as have some free time in the afternoon to explore the small charming town where we will have a welcome dinner with the staff in Kuraburi. Overnight in Kuraburi. **D**

Day 4 After breakfast at the local market, we will be transferred to Ban Na village (approximately 1 hour). The Ban Na Conservation Group will welcome and explain to you about their group and the check dam construction project. You will have lunch with the group members and then head off to the project site. After a day of hard work, you will be transferred to Muang Kluang village (30 minutes), where you will have the chance to stay with a local family and learn about the local way of life. Enjoy a children's performance in the evening. Overnight: homestay in Muang Kluang village. **B,L,D**

Day 5 After breakfast at the homestay, you will be transferred back to Ban Na village to continue with the check dam construction project. Lunch will be provided on-site. Return to Muang Kluang village in the early evening to have dinner and relax. Overnight: homestay in Muang Kluang village. **B,L,D**

- Day 6** We will finish the project at Ban Na today. After lunch, the group will say farewell to the villagers and return to Kuraburi (1 hour). Stop at the Burmese Learning Center to have a brief tour of the school, meet the teachers and students, as well as survey the drainage project site. Free time to relax in Kuraburi town in the afternoon. Overnight: hotel in Kuraburi. **B,L,D**
- Day 7 - 8** We will have breakfast together at the local market. Transfer to the Burmese Learning Center to work on the drainage system improvement project. Return to Kuraburi in the afternoon to relax. The group will have a farewell dinner in which volunteers have a chance to reflect upon their week-long activities and provide feedback. Overnight: hotel in Kuraburi. **B,L,D**
- Day 9** Transfer to Phuket International Airport after breakfast (approx. 3 hours) and fly back to Bangkok. We'll then transfer to our hotel, freshen up, then spend the afternoon enjoying a *klong* (canal) tour, using the waterways to give us a unique glimpse of this amazing city. **B**
- Day 10** Today we will be up early to tour the ancient capitol of Thailand- Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya (or Ayutthaya for short), which is one of Thailand's most historical and majestic highlights. Serving as the Thai capital for 417 years, it was once glorified as a center of Southeast Asian civilization. We will have plenty of time to explore by bike or private tour this magnificent city which has three palaces and over 400 magnificent temples on an island threaded by canals. Ayutthaya is an impressive World Heritage Site.
- Day 11** Today we will travel 15 miles north of Bangkok along the Chao Praya River to the island of Koh Kret. In 1722, during the reign of King Thaisa of Ayutthaya, the island was cut from an ox bow in the river and was previously known as "Khlung Lat Kret Noi" which means a shortcut to Kret canal. The island has always been populated by the Mon, a people that dominated the area from the 6th to 10th centuries. The Mon of Koh Kret are famous for their craftsmanship and skills at pottery. The main village is a thriving market place where you can see the pottery making process and shop for pots, mortars, and flowerpots. You will ride alongside the Chao Phraya River, passing numerous small villages, beautiful temples as well as fruit and flower plantations. We then head away from river life and pass into the rural surroundings where we ride among rice paddies and fruit plantations before finishing the first part of our journey back on the banks of the river at Ban Bua Thong. This is a very easy 18 mile ride along nice flat roads and paths. The beautiful thing about riding on Koh Kret is that there are no cars allowed on the island. We will return to Bangkok and enjoy some free time for shopping and exploring the infamous Khao San Road. Final dinner for the group will be at a traditional Thai restaurant. **L, D**
- Day 12** Departing flights back home. You will arrive home the same day you leave due to flying back over the date line.