

EXTENSION

# THAILAND

Bangkok



*Classic*  
JOURNEYS





“Classic Journeys provides unbeatable access to experiences around the globe.”

— *Travel + Leisure*

## Thailand's Vibrant Capital

Bangkok is the essential and exciting introduction to Thailand. As the country's capital since 1782, it contains a treasury of temples and historic buildings. But for all of its gold-leaf monumentality, it's the human tempo of the city that you'll remember best. You'll jostle with merchants and locals in a provincial floating market. And you'll also get a true taste of local culture in a fascinating cooking instruction with a native chef. As a prelude to the more rural immersion in Thai life, this carefully crafted visit will expand your understanding of Thailand in wonderful ways.

**DAILY ITINERARY**  
THAILAND | BANGKOK | EXTENSION

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**DAY 1**

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**ARRIVAL IN BANGKOK**

- Visit the Grand Palace on a private guided tour

The Grand Palace was the official residence of the country's kings until the mid-20th century, and it retains its regal magnificence as you'll see on our guided tour of the site today. The palace is a true architectural wonder with golden stupas and shining mosaics that encrust the walls. In fact, it's really a collection of palaces, each created for different occasions and the grounds also contain Wat Phra Kaew, Thailand's most sacred Buddhist temple. We'll also visit Wat Pho, the temple complex that contains the city's largest reclining Buddha.

Afterward, we'll check into our nearby hotel. The balance of the afternoon is yours to relax or explore on your own. Tonight, try one of the neighborhood's excellent restaurants.

**OVERNIGHT: BANGKOK**

**DAY 2**

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**BANGKOK**

- Tour a Floating Market by boat
- Participate in a Thai cooking instruction

Floating markets are common in Thailand, but the most famous is Damnoen Saduak in the Ratchaburi province. On a boat of our own, we float back in time as we negotiate through bustling klongs (canals) crowded with canoes full

of fresh fruit, vegetables, and other foods. We'll also visit the famous railway market at Mae Khlong Station. Merchants crowd the edge of the tracks and as the trains approach they part to make way in a frantic but well-practiced move out of harm's way.

Nakhon Pathom is one of Thailand's oldest cities, and its claim to fame is Phra Pathom chedi. Almost 400 feet high, the orange-domed stupa is the largest in the world – a landmark that is visible for miles.

Back in Bangkok, you'll enjoy an evening of food and culture with a cooking instruction. The sights, sounds, smells and tastes that you encountered in the markets during the day are emblematic of Thai life – and they all come together this evening. You'll learn traditional food preparation techniques such as how to make homemade curry past, coconut milk and sticky rice. The results are transformed into a marvelous dinner of local specialties.

**OVERNIGHT: BANGKOK**  
**MEALS: B, D**

**DAY 3**

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**DEPARTURE**

- Transfer seamlessly to Phuket

After breakfast, you'll have a leisurely morning before you transfer to Phuket where your Thailand adventure begins.

**MEALS: B**

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## Tour Hotels



### **Anantara Riverside Resort Bangkok**

Set on the banks of the Chao Phraya River, this resort is situated on 11 acres of verdant gardens and blends urban living with tropical luxury. Deluxe rooms embody the simple yet elegant Asian style found throughout the resort.

**OVERNIGHT: BANGKOK | NIGHTS: 2**

## Tour Dates & Prices

Tour Dates	Price per Person	Price per Person
	Double Occupancy	Single Occupancy
Feb 29-Mar 2, 2020	\$1,395	\$1,760
Oct 31-Nov 2, 2020	\$1,395	\$1,760
December 25-27, 2020	\$1,395	\$1,760
January 23-25, 2021	\$1,495	\$1,860
Feb 27-Mar 1, 2021	\$1,495	\$1,860
Oct 30-Nov 1, 2021	\$1,495	\$1,860
December 25-27, 2021	\$1,495	\$1,860

Want a different date? Or your own date? Visit [CLASSICJOURNEYS.COM/PRIVATE](https://CLASSICJOURNEYS.COM/PRIVATE) to learn more about private journeys.

### INTERNAL AIRFARE

We will arrange flights from Bangkok to Phuket for approximately \$225 per person.

## Trip Essentials

**TRIP LENGTH:** 3 Days, 2 Nights

**START:** Lobby of Anantara Riverside, Bangkok, Thailand

**END:** Bangkok Airport, Bangkok, Thailand

**TERRAIN:** Easy to moderate on good trails with some hills and steps, and city sidewalks.

## What's Included

- Memorable accommodations for 2 nights
- All breakfasts and 1 cooking instruction dinner
- Full-time experienced guide
- Admissions to historic sites and scheduled events as detailed in the daily itinerary
- Gratuities for hotels, meals and baggage
- All land transportation during the trip

## Above & Beyond Benefits

- **Privileged Access Events**

READY TO BOOK?  
CLICK TO MAKE A RESERVATION

### Or give us a call

1-833-387-1210

Mon-Fri 8:00AM – 5:00PM PST

[moreinfo@classicjourneys.com](mailto:moreinfo@classicjourneys.com)



### TRAVEL WORRY-FREE!

It's easy with insurance from Travel Guard. Your policy can cover trip cancellation, travel delays, lost luggage, medical emergencies, and more. If you are traveling with kids, add them to your policy at no extra cost. [Click here](#) or call 800-826-4919 for details.

### AMBASSADOR CLUB

As a Classic Journeys guest, you are invited to join the Ambassador Club after your first Classic Journeys tour. As a member, you'll have access to a [whole suite of Ambassador benefits](#) you can use immediately and as often as you like.

### ENJOY THE UNEXPECTED

When you travel with Classic Journeys, you can expect handcrafted surprises built into every trip, but some things just can't be anticipated. Unusual weather, a once-a-year festival or an unscheduled site closing will inspire us and your local guide to improvise and modify this itinerary. Likewise, the hotels named here are used on the majority of our trips, but occasionally one of them can't accommodate us. If that happens, you can count on us to let you know before departure and make sure you're in a hotel of equal or better quality. It's our goal to make your trip exceptional!

\*\*Any discount offered cannot be combined with other offers, and only applies to published (regularly scheduled public) departure dates in our catalogs or on our website.

# “Enthusiasm is Contagious”

AS TRAVEL + LEISURE NAMES CLASSIC JOURNEYS THE WORLD'S BEST TOUR OPERATOR FOR 2019, FOUNDER EDWARD PIEGZA REVEALS HOW IT FEELS. ENTHUSIASTICALLY.



*EDITOR'S NOTE: Just before publication of this issue, Travel + Leisure magazine announced that its readers have voted Classic Journeys the World's Best Tour Operator for 2019. It's the second time Classic Journeys has won that recognition and the 14th consecutive year the company has been in the Top 10.*



### **Congratulations! How did you get the news?**

I received a top-secret email and phone call from the editor of *Travel + Leisure* a few weeks ago with orders not to tell ANYONE. Friends and neighbors must have wondered why my smile has been so extra big lately. Now they know.

### **And how does it feel to be the World's Best Tour Operator again?**

Awesome. Humbling. So, so satisfying. Deeply gratifying to learn that we have achieved what we set out to do which is to handcraft trips of a lifetime for every guest who travels with us. I'm known as long-winded, so I could probably come up with 10 or 15 more ways to describe it if you want me to keep going.

### **Why do you think *Travel + Leisure* gave you this recognition?**

Actually, it isn't the *T+L* editors who make the decision. That's the best part. Their readers cast the votes. So the people who do the traveling, the guests who explore the world with us and our competitors — they are the ones who raised their hands to tell *T+L* that Classic Journeys is the World's Best Tour Operator based on their own experiences. Let me say it right here: "To all of you who voted for us, you are the World's Best Guests!"

### **What do you think makes your guests the World's Best Guests?**

That's easy. They are curious. They care about connecting with people of different cultures and immersing themselves in the world. They treasure experiences more than things. Like the old ad slogan went, they go for the gusto and crave the chance to have one-of-a-kind moments. They are incredibly interesting and interested people, and all of us at Classic Journeys count it as a real privilege to share in their passion for travel. And we feel that way on the

other 364 days of the year when we're not celebrating recognition like this.

### **I guess this is what you meant when you told me that "Enthusiasm is contagious."**

Absolutely. That's not our official motto, but it could be. We love what we do. We enjoy helping guests figure out how to invest their precious time and budget. I can honestly say that all of us feel that way — the Guest Services folks who interact with you while you're planning your trip, the Tour Operations team members who plan all of the logistics, the local guides who lead each one of our trips full time. There's just a huge amount of positive energy in what we do, and I think it truly is hard to resist. We'd climb into every one of our guest's suitcases and go along with them if we could. Because we can't, we call each guest while they're on tour just to be sure they are having a trip of a lifetime.

### **Has anyone ever called Classic Journeys obsessive?**

I hope so, because we are. Everything is in the details. For instance, we've created a special tour for the total eclipse of the sun which is going to pass over parts of South America in 2020. We've already analyzed likely traffic patterns in the most remote areas and figured out how to structure our itinerary so that our guests will be in place in the path of totality while the people who don't plan ahead will be stuck in jams on remote dirt roads. We enjoy obsessing about details like that so that our guests never have to.



### **How can you top this?**

Oh, we never let ourselves think of it that way. We just continue to approach every single guest on each and every departure like the most important guest we've ever had. It seems to be working! Of course, we keep looking for new ways to win more converts. For 2019, we've launched a new series of Classic Journeys that are based from

## **"I voted for you!"**

We've heard that expression so many times lately from guests who registered their votes with *Travel + Leisure*. Given the results, we know it's true ... and you know that your votes really count!

### **STAFF AND GUIDES**

"I always feel like I'm traveling with a best friend. I prefer your local guides to the ones that other companies fly in."

### **ITINERARIES AND DESTINATIONS**

"If it's on my bucket list, you always seem to go there. Of course, with so many options you always seem to make my list longer and longer!"

### **ACTIVITIES**

"On your trips, I've cooked with Michelin chefs, sung songs with Quechua schoolchildren, and walked on glaciers with the descendants of Vikings. Fun doesn't begin to describe it."

### **ACCOMMODATIONS**

"How you manage so many 5-star properties on these trips shocks me. But please, please, please keep it up!"

### **FOOD**

"I have never eaten so well so often so happily. When you people claim that you are foodies, you aren't kidding."

### **OVERALL VALUE**

"We have never had a better vacation at any price."

river cruise boats. On a different note, seeing how many travelers can't always find as much vacation time as they really want, we have developed a series of 6-day or shorter quick trips that go as far afield as Iceland, the Galápagos and Morocco.

### **Final thoughts?**

It's always an honor to win recognition. But, for all of us at Classic Journeys, the biggest privilege is to share the dreams of our guests and make those dreams come true. That connection is the best feeling of all.