

G-RAP Global Experience Spring Break Trip (March 21 – April 2, 2018) Includes

- Round trip flights Denver-Bangkok, Bangkok-Denver
- Airline taxes & fuel surcharges
- Intra-flight Chiang Mai-Bangkok
- 11 nights First Class accommodations
 - 4 nights Bangkok (Century Park Hotel)
 - 1 night Ayutthaya (Kantary Hotel)
 - 1 night Sukhothai (Legendha Sukhothai)
 - 2 nights Chiang Rai (Dusit Island Resort)
 - 3 nights Chiang Mai (Le Meridien Chiang Mai)
- Hotel taxes, fees & service charges
- Hotel portorage
- All transfers
- 18 meals: 11 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 4 dinners
- Sightseeing per itinerary in modern air-conditioned motor coach
- Services of Gate 1 English-speaking tour manager throughout
- Entrance fees per itinerary
- Comfortable wireless earphones for enhanced touring
- **Supervision of Professor Artemi Romanov, G-RAP director and group leader**

Special Features

- Visit serene Wat Po, home of the astonishing giant Reclining Buddha, over 150 feet long, Bangkok

- Bang Pa-In Royal Palace, was used as a summer palace by the Siamese royalty, Ayutthaya
- Chai Wattanaram Temple, one of the most impressive remaining monuments, Ayutthaya
- Historical Sukhothai, capital of the first Kingdom of Siam
- House of Opium & Golden Triangle, Chiang Rai
- Wat Phrathat Doi Suthep Temple, the most sacred temple in Northern Thailand, Chiang Mai
- Authentic Thai Dinner at Chiang Mai Private Home

DAY 1, Wednesday - Depart for Thailand

Depart for Thailand

DAY 2, Thursday - Arrive in Bangkok

Arrive in exotic Bangkok, Thailand's capital city; transfer to your hotel. The rest of the day is at leisure to rest, relax and acclimate to the new time zone

Overnight: Bangkok

DAY 3, Friday - Bangkok City Tour

This morning enjoy a city and temple tour of Bangkok, a fascinating mix of ancient and modern. Drive through Chinatown and then on to the colorful Indian Market. Visit serene Wat Po, the oldest and largest temple in the city, with the astonishing giant Reclining Buddha, over 150 feet long and almost 40 feet high. Drive to Royal Avenue where most of the Government offices are located and the King's Palace. Later in the afternoon, enjoy a Welcome Drink and briefing by your Tour Manager on the exciting journey that lies ahead. Tonight, dinner at a local restaurant

Overnight: Bangkok

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 4, Saturday - Full Day in Bangkok

Full day at leisure to explore Bangkok on your own. Or, don't miss the *optional* morning tour of Wat Phra Kaew, also known as the Temple of the Emerald Buddha, and the elaborate 18th century Grand Palace, symbol and

ceremonial heart of the kingdom - together they form the most impressive sights in Bangkok. Despite the proximity of the two, there's a distinct contrast in style between the Thai-inspired Wat Phra Kaew and the European design of the Grand Palace. In the evening, attend the *optional* buffet dinner and stunning performance of the "Journey to the Enchanted Kingdom of Siam". Boasting over 150 performers, this lavish production delves into Siam's history and culture

Optional: Half Day Grand Palace & Emerald Buddha (AM)

Optional: Siam Niramit Show & Dinner (PM)

Overnight: Bangkok

Meals: Breakfast

DAY 5, Sunday - Travel to Ayutthaya, Ayutthaya City Tour

Depart Bangkok to Ayutthaya, the second Siamese capital after Sukhothai for over 400 years, once glorified as one of the largest cities in Southeast Asia. Ayutthaya Historical Park, designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site, lies in the center of the city. Here, you can see the ruins of the former capital and its remaining palaces, monasteries and towers - one can envision the grandeur and splendor that was once the Kingdom of Ayutthaya. Visit Bang Pa-In Palace, a collection of beautiful buildings in various architectural styles, surrounded by a lake. Originally built by King Prasat Tong in 1632, Bang Pa-In served as the Royal Summer Palace for the Thai Kings. Continue to the Chai Wattanaram Temple, built by King Prasat Tong to honor his mother, conceived as a replica of the Angkor Temple - this is a serene place where one can reflect and enjoy the tranquility. Rest of the day is at leisure

Overnight: Ayutthaya

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 6, Monday - Travel to Sukhothai, Sukhothai Historical Park

Start your morning with visit to a local school on the way to Ayutthaya. Travel northward to Sukhothai, birthplace of the Thai nation, founded in the 13th century by King Ramkhamhaeng. The country's first capital was established here in 1238 and lasted over two centuries. Sukhothai is world-famous its over 100 historical sites and treasures, including some of the most beautiful Thai art and architecture in the country, created during the city's "golden era", between the 13th and 14th centuries. Visit the Old Town of Sukhothai with its impressive Historical Park, immaculately restored and set among leafy hills and peaceful lotus ponds, designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site. At this astonishing site,

most of the remains of the original city can be seen. Marvel at the ancient Buddha figures, palaces, temples and historical monuments and feel yourself drift back in time to a bygone era

Overnight: Sukhothai

Meals: Breakfast

DAY 7, Tuesday - Travel to Chiang Rai

This morning, depart Sukhothai and drive to scenic Chiang Rai, the northernmost province of Thailand for overnight

Overnight: Chiang Rai

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 8, Wednesday - Mae Sai Border Town & Golden Triangle

Explore this city that remained completely isolated from the world until the 1920s. Travel to the border town of Mae Sai, at the tip of Thailand. At this border crossing, arrangements may be made to enter Myanmar*. Ascend to the hilltop viewpoint to see the famous "Golden Triangle" of Southeast Asia - meeting point of the borders of Thailand, Myanmar and Laos. The locals call it "Sop Ruak", as this is also where the Mekong meets the Ruak River. Savor a locally prepared lunch in a nearby farming village. Later, a short cruise then takes you along the banks of the Mekong to the small island of Don Sao in Laos; leisure time at the lively markets before returning to Thailand. Continue to the dramatic House of Opium at Golden Triangle Park, offering an informative exhibition on the history of opium which dates back almost 5000 years before returning to Chiang Rai for overnight

** Entering Myanmar (Burma) requires a border crossing fee of approx US\$40, payable locally. The opportunity to cross the border will depend on local conditions and cannot be guaranteed. If the border crossing is not possible, alternate arrangements will be made*

Overnight: Chiang Rai

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 9, Thursday - Travel to Chiang Mai

Morning is at leisure when you have an opportunity to join the *optional* excursion to Mae Salong, still inhabited by hill people, namely the Akha, Long Neck and Salong tribes. Visit one of the tribes to see their unique way of life and learn more

about their culture before driving to Chiang Mai, ancient capital of the Lanna Kingdom. En route, stop at a local gem gallery before arriving in Chiang Mai, cultural heart of Northern Thailand, located in the rolling foothills of the Himalayas. Spend the rest of the afternoon at leisure

Optional: Half Day Mae Salong Hill Tribe (AM)

Overnight: Chiang Mai

Meals: Breakfast

DAY 10, Friday - Full Day in Chiang Mai

Morning at leisure to explore Chiang Mai independently. Or, join the *optional* Elephant Kingdom Tour, where you'll see elephants bathing in the running streams, attend a lecture on the Thai Elephant and learn how the mahout train and care for these majestic animals. In the afternoon, visit Sankampang Street, center of handicrafts, for on-site demonstrations on how the silk, lacquer, silver, wood and bronze wares are made. At the end of the day, pamper yourself with an *optional* Thai massage

Optional: Half Day Elephant Kingdom Tour with lunch (AM)

Optional: Traditional Thai Massage

Overnight: Chiang Mai

Meals: Breakfast

DAY 11, Saturday - Chiang Mai City & Temples Tour, Dinner at Private Home

Morning tour of the most interesting temples in Chiang Mai. Begin at Wat Suan Dok, where the remains of the Chiang Mai Royal family are enshrined. Continue to Wat Phrathat Doi Suthep, Northern Thailand's most sacred temple, containing a holy relic of Lord Buddha. Equally impressive is the mythological Naga (dragon-headed serpent) staircase, with 290 steps leading up to the temple grounds. Visit to a local jade factory, followed by an afternoon at leisure to wander independently in Chiang Mai. Tonight, a unique experience. Join a local Chiang Mai family at an authentic Thai Dinner in their home. Enjoy a tour of the home, conversation about life in Chiang Mai and savor the great flavors of home-cooked food

Overnight: Chiang Mai

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 12, Sunday - Flight to Bangkok

Depart Chiang Mai this morning on your flight to Bangkok; arrive and transfer to your hotel. The remainder of the day is at leisure to enjoy all of the delights of Bangkok on your own. Shop to your heart's content, visit to the many amazing markets, and try some of the fabulous restaurants in this energetic city

Overnight: Bangkok

Meals: Breakfast

DAY 13, Monday - Depart Thailand

Transfer to the airport for your departure flight

Meals: Breakfast

Estimated price per participant is \$1,950.00