

NORTHERN THAILAND, LAOS & CAMBODIA

21 FEBRUARY - 6 MARCH 2026



FROM
£5,980
PER PERSON

Tour Leader: Chris Caldicott


The Ultimate
TRAVEL COMPANY



Our captivating tour journeys through Thailand, Laos and Cambodia, encompassing some of the most fascinating parts of each country and exploring their historic and cultural heritage. Beginning in Chiang Rai in northern Thailand with its ancient temples, we set sail across the Thai / Lao border on a two-day cruise in a traditional river boat along an enchanting stretch of the Mekong River. We pass through the breath-taking scenery of Laos, a land of mountains, rapids, gorges, jungle, un-spoiled riverside villages and sacred caves filled with Buddhas. We arrive at Luang Prabang the former capital and the jewel of Laos with its dazzling wood-carved monasteries and French colonial architecture. We spend a couple of days exploring this enchanting sleepy city and discovering its ancient Buddhist traditions.

We then fly to Cambodia arriving in Siem Reap for a highlight of our tour and Asia's most magnificent archaeological remains – the Khmer Temples of Angkor – a great complex of Hindu and Buddhist temples built between the 7th and 11th centuries. Our final stop is Phnom Penh, once considered the Pearl of South-East Asia and one of the most beautiful cities in the Orient. Despite its recent turbulent history, it still retains an eccentric colonial charm with Khmer Royal buildings sitting alongside French villas.



Wat Rongkhun, Chiang Rai



Long Neck Karen



Pak Ou Buddha Caves

14-DAY ITINERARY, DEPARTING 21 FEBRUARY 2026

21 February London / Bangkok

Suggested flights (not included in the cost of the tour) Thai Airways TG 911 departing London Heathrow at 11.50 hrs.

22 February Bangkok / Chiang Rai

Arrive in Bangkok at 06.15 hrs and connect to TG 130 departing Bangkok at 08.10 hrs arriving Chiang Rai at 09.40 hrs. On arrival, group transfer to the Legend Hotel where two nights are spent. The boutique hotel is located just outside the main city centre on the banks of the Mae Kok River and is surrounded by lush gardens. Facilities include a riverside restaurant, a spa and an infinity-edged swimming pool.

Lunch under own arrangements. Afternoon orientation tour of Chiang Rai visiting Wat Rongkun, known as the 'White Temple'. This quirky masterpiece is the work of local artist, Chalermchai Kositpipat. Its design is richly symbolic of Buddhist teachings and contains many beautiful statues. Also visit Black House (Baan Dam Museum) designed by artist Thawan Duchanee and Blue Temple (Wat Rong Suea Ten). Welcome dinner at the hotel.

23 February Chiang Rai

Drive to Doi Tung on the Thai/Lao border and visit the Mae Fah Luang Botanical Gardens, named after the late Princess Mother who was passionate about gardening

and preserving the region's natural beauty. Visit The Royal Villa which was the home of Princess Srinagarindra, the mother of King Bhumibol. Drive up to the peak to visit Wat Phra That Doi Tung, a twin Lanna-style chedis purportedly erected in 911, with beautiful views of the surrounding area. Return via the Long Neck Karen Village. The Karen people are a tribal group who have historically lived in the hills in Myanmar (formerly Burma) on the other side of the Thai border. Best recognised for their elongated necks, the Karen women wear heavy brass rings around their necks, forearms and shins. The women have a rich history of crafting from wood carving to weaving.

Lunch in a local restaurant. Return to the hotel. Dinner under own arrangements.

24 February Chiang Rai / Pakbeng

After an early breakfast at the hotel, transfer to Houei Say Pier, passing through the immigration formalities at the Thai/Lao border. Board a traditional wooden Mekong river boat for a two-day cruise downstream on the beautiful Upper Mekong River to Luang Prabang, today travelling as far as Pakbeng. Stop to observe rural life along the river at some Hmong, Yao and Khmu ethnic minority villages.

Buffet-style lunch on board. Arrive at Pakbeng before sunset and

overnight at the Sanctuary Pak Beng Lodge on the banks of the river. Each room has its own private balcony overlooking the river and the hotel offers spa treatments. Dinner at the hotel.

25 February Pakbeng / Luang Prabang

Visit the Mekong Elephant Park at Pakbeng, a sanctuary for rescued elephants. Continue cruising down the Mekong with a stop at a Hmong village, with a population made up of three different ethnicities – Lao Loum, Tai Lue and Shan – to observe the process of making traditional rice alcohol.

Buffet lunch on board. Stop at the mouth of the Nam Ou River for a visit to the extraordinary Pak Ou Buddha Caves, one of the most respected holy sites in Laos, dating back thousands of years. The two caves, cut into a cliff, are a Buddhist sanctuary and contain over 4,000 Buddha icons. Positioned around 50 feet above the river, the caves provide views of the spectacular limestone cliff faces. Arrive in Luang Prabang at Le Calao pier before sunset. Transfer to the boutique Satri House hotel, former residence of Prince Souphanouvong, where three nights are spent. Located close to the heart of the city, the hotel's facilities include a restaurant, garden bar, library, outdoor swimming pools and spa. Dinner at the hotel. Option to visit the buzzing H'mong Night Market.



Angkor Wat



Kuangsi Waterfalls



Ta Prohm

26 February Luang Prabang

Full-day tour of the ancient royal city of Luang Prabang, Laos' cultural capital, surrounded by mountains at the junction of the Mekong and its tributary, the Khan River. Visit a selection of the city's many Buddhist temples, considered amongst the most beautiful in Laos, including Wat Mai Temple, once the residence of the head of Laotian Buddhism; Wat Xieng Thong, said to be the most beautiful temple in town; and Wat Visoun, the oldest temple in the city dating back to the 16th century.

Lunch at a local restaurant. Visit the National Museum, the former Royal Palace, housing a collection of valuables including the famous Prabang Buddha statues and gifts from foreign dignitaries. Climb the 328 steps up Mount Phousi, a 100m-high hill in the centre of the old town, at sunset for stunning views of the surrounding temples and hills. Dinner under own arrangements.

27 February Luang Prabang

This morning wake before dawn to witness and participate in offering alms to hundreds of saffron-robed monks in the Tak Bath ceremony (procession of monks). Devoted residents of Luang Prabang kneel on the sidewalk, bearing food in their hands, which they offer to the monks as they walk by in a procession. Return to the hotel for breakfast. Drive to Kuangsi Waterfalls, which, although not very high, is spectacular and really beautiful

with its green surroundings. Stop en-route to visit a small village of the H'mong hill-tribe, probably the best-known minority group in Laos and also the Free the Bears project, home to a group of rescued Asiatic Black (Moon) Bears and one Malayan Sun Bear. At the waterfalls there will be time for relaxing, a swim in the cool water, or a walk along the forest trails.

Lunch at a local restaurant.

Afternoon at leisure. Option to visit Big Brother Mouse Project which publishes books for local children or the Ok Pop Tok Craft Studio. Dinner under own arrangements.

28 February Luang Prabang / Siem Reap

Morning at leisure. Lunch under own arrangements.

Transfer to Luang Prabang Airport for a Vietnam Airlines flight to Siem Reap, Cambodia. Transfer to the Shinta Mani Angkor where three nights are spent. The Shinta Mani is an upscale boutique hotel created by acclaimed architect Bill Bensley with contemporary designed rooms and public spaces in an Angkorian-inspired design in a tranquil and leafy setting and a swimming pool and spa. Dinner at the hotel.

1 March Siem Reap

Early morning walking tour of the beautiful and haunting Ta Prohm, built by King Jayavarman VII in 1186, as a shrine for his Queen Mother. The temple complex is overgrown with gigantic fig trees and is

considered the best example of how Angkor may have looked when it was discovered. Continue to Sala Kdei, a traditional Cambodian house, for refreshments. Walk to Banteay Kdei, which was used as a Buddhist monastic complex until the mid-20th century. Continue to the small, semi-ruined Ta Nei temple, displaying classic Jayavarman VII artistry, and the vast cloistered Preah Khan. Visit the local food market to sample local delicacies such as edible insects and durian.

Return to the hotel for lunch under own arrangements. Visit the Angkor National Museum which houses many artefacts from the Khmer civilization. Private drinks reception at the home-atelier of the Cambodian artist and designer Lim Muy Theam. Dinner at the hotel.

2 March Siem Reap & Angkor Wat

At sunrise visit Angkor Wat, the largest religious monument in the world whose famous silhouette never fails to impress. The god-king Suryavarman II ordered its construction in the 12th century and dedicated the temple to the Hindu deity with which he identified – Vishnu. Return to the hotel for breakfast followed by a visit to nearby Tonle Sap Lake with its floating villages.

Lunch under own arrangements. Remainder of afternoon at leisure. Dinner at a local restaurant. See a performance at the Phare Circus.



Traditional Mekong River Boat

4 March Phnom Penh

Tour of Phnom Penh including the National Museum, with its stone, wood and bronze sculptures; the Royal Palace which includes the Chan Chaya pavilion, the 1930s Khemarin Palace, the Officers' Club and Phochani (Throne) Hall with its glazed roof tiles; the adjacent Silver Pagoda – a royal chapel built in 1962 with 5,000 silver floor tiles in the main temple statuary and royal artefacts; and Wat Phnom, a temple set on a hill, which has views over the city.

Lunch under own arrangements. Afternoon at leisure to enjoy the hotel's facilities or relax by the pool. Dinner under own arrangements.

5 March Phnom Penh

Visit the infamous Tuol Sleng Museum of Genocide Crimes, a chilling memorial to the genocide that took place here under Pol Pot's regime.

Lunch under own arrangements. Afternoon at leisure or, alternatively, option to explore the colourful Russian Market. Farewell dinner at a local restaurant.

6 March Phnom Penh / Bangkok / London

Group transfer to Phnom Penh airport. Suggested flights (not included) Thai Airways TG 587 departing Phnom Penh at 09.45 hrs arriving Bangkok at 10.55 hrs. Connect to Thai Airways flight TG916 departing Bangkok at 13.20 arriving London Heathrow at 19.35 hrs.



TOUR PRICES PER PERSON

Tour Price	£5,980
Single Supplement	£1,575

Please note we have not included the cost of the flights in the tour price. Please contact us for prices should you wish to book them through us.

PRICE INCLUDES

- Accommodation throughout as shown in the itinerary
- Breakfast daily; 5 lunches; 8 dinners
- All entrance fees, visits and excursions as per the itinerary
- Group transfers and all transportation as detailed in the itinerary
- Gratuities in restaurants for included meals
- Gratuities to driver/s and guides
- Portage
- Local English-speaking guide/s
- The services of your tour leader throughout

PRICE EXCLUDES

- International flights
- Travel insurance
- Meals 'under own arrangements'
- Items of personal expenditure (e.g. telephone calls / laundry etc.)
- Visas
- Government levies or taxes introduced after costing and publication of this programme on 30/04/25





YOUR TOUR LEADER

Chris Caldicott

Since travelling to some of the most remote parts of the world as Photographer-in-Residence to the Royal Geographical Society, Chris Caldicott has continued his globetrotting lifestyle as a freelance photographer, writer and lecturer specialising in food and travel. He has had several books published about food, travel and the spice trade and visited 118 countries on assignments to capture evocative images and write about memorable experiences for publications such as Vanity Fair, Condé Nast Traveller, The Sunday Times, Harpers Bazaar, Tatler, House and Garden and The Telegraph.

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