

## Colourful Malaysia 9 Days

**\$1,999.00**

Located in Southeast Asia, Malaysia offers you unmatched cultural, religious and geographical diversity. Buildings are of valuable cultural and historical significance with many retaining a unique European and Asian architectural style due to a long history of European colonisation. A cultural melting pot, Malaysia is home to Malays, Chinese, Indians, the indigenous Orang Asli, and people of many other nationalities. As such, this extraordinary variety produces some of the most sumptuous cuisine, sold at street hawker food stalls, and incredibly popular amongst locals and travellers alike.

### Highlights

- Retreat to the serene **Cameron Highlands** and uncover a sea of green rolling tea fields
- Observe the heritage wooden stilt houses at **The Weld Quay Clan Jetties Waterfront Settlement**
- Discover the historical and cultural riches of UNESCO World Heritage Site **Malacca**, which was colonised in turn by the Portuguese, Dutch, and British
- Hop on a 'beca' and speed through the bustling city streets of **Georgetown** in style

In stock

Category: Malaysia, Singapore, & Thailand Tags: Borneo, Chiang Mai, Langkawi, Malaysia, Penang, Singapore, Thailand

### Departures

2017			Package Price
<del>17 Sep</del>	<del>22 Oct</del>	19 Nov	
2018			
11 Mar	10 Jun	16 Sep*	
15 Apr*	8 Jul*	14 Oct	
13 May	12 Aug	11 Nov	
* Peak Season Surcharge: From \$300			<b>From \$1,999</b> per person twin share — Single Supplement \$420

### Package Inclusions:

- China Southern or Malaysia Airlines economy class international airfares, taxes and fuel surcharges departing Sydney, Melbourne or Perth
- 6 nights hotel accommodation
- Transportation & transfers
- Meals as indicated
- Admissions to scenic attractions
- English-speaking tour guide(s)

### Package Exclusions:

- Tipping prepaid in Australia: \$105
- Travel insurance (strongly recommended)
- Personal expenditure and anything not stated

### Price Guide:

- \* Peak Season Surcharge: From \$300
- Interstate Surcharge: Brisbane/Adelaide \$300 (flights may be via Sydney)
- Early Arrival/Stay Behind/Stopover Surcharge: From \$250
- Airline Upgrade (economy class long haul int'l sectors): Singapore Airlines from \$300, Cathay Pacific from \$500 – Singapore & Hong Kong Stopover Packages available upon request
- Pre/Post Tour Accommodation (incl. breakfast): From \$170/twin room/night
- Triple Share: Not available
- Child Price: Same as adult

**Note:** All prices are per person subject to availability plus applicable fare difference. The airline and flights are not available until 1 month before departure and may involve up to 2 transits per leg.

All prices, itineraries, airlines, hotels and cruise ships are subject to availability and change without prior notice. Nexus Holidays reserves the right to provide substitutes of similar standard and adjust the itinerary as we see fit to ensure the smooth running of the tour. Itinerary and sites to be visited are subject to change due to local and seasonal conditions, minimum and maximum numbers, time and other unforeseen constraints beyond our control. Passengers must remain with the tour group at all times and must not deviate from the set itinerary. The total length of the tour in days includes time spent in flight and is subject to change depending on the flight schedule, please refer to the day by day itinerary for the time spent on land. Please check all information before booking. By booking, you accept all **Booking Conditions**.

## Hotel Accommodation

Location	Hotel	Local Rating
Kuala Lumpur	Hotel Capitol Kuala Lumpur or similar	★★★★
Cameron Highlands	Heritage Hotel Cameron Highlands or similar	★★★★
Penang	The Wembley – A St Giles Hotel, Penang or similar	★★★★

## Optional Post-Tour Extension

### Langkawi Island 2 Nights

Langkawi is an archipelago made up of 99 islands on Malaysia's west coast. Surrounded by the turquoise Andaman Sea, on the Strait of Malacca, the main island has an interior which is a mixture of picturesque paddy fields and jungle-clad hills. The shoreline is fringed by powder-fine sand and swaying coconut trees.

Package Price	Single Supplement
From <b>\$499</b> per person twin share Tour will operate with a minimum of 6 persons	\$300

#### Inclusions:

- Penang>Langkawi internal airfares, taxes & fuel surcharges
- 2 nights hotel accommodation
- Meals as indicated
- Coach transportation & transfers
- Admissions to scenic attractions
- English-speaking tour guide

#### Exclusions:

- Tipping prepaid in Australia: \$45
- Travel insurance (strongly recommended)
- Personal expenditure and anything not stated

#### Note:

- Cannot be combined with other post-tour extensions

Location	Hotel Accommodation	Local Rating
Holiday Villa Beach Resort & Spa Langkawi	Grandis Hotel or similar	★★★★

## Optional Post-Tour Extension

### Wildlife Borneo 8 Nights

*Gaya Island, Kinabalu, Selingan Island, Sandakan, Sepilok, Sukau Rainforest, Kinabatangan River, Menanggul River*

As the third-largest island in the world and the largest island in Asia, Borneo is jam-packed with everything a traveller could imagine. Scenic trekking circuits, river safari cruises, and rainforest lodge stays are some of the main drawcards to this region. From shaggy orangutans swinging through emerald-green canopies to the giant carnivorous Rafflesia flower, Borneo, containing 6% of the world's biodiversity, is remarkable.

#### Highlights

- Marvel at the dramatic Mt. Kinabalu from UNESCO World Heritage **Kinabalu Park**
- See friendly orphaned orangutans at **Sepilok Orangutan Rehabilitation Centre**
- Stay in an award winning **Sukau Rainforest Lodge**
- Experience the magic of baby green turtles being released into the sea at **Selingan Island**
- Observe Borneo's diverse wildlife on a river cruise down the **Kinabatangan River**

Package Price	Single Supplement
From <b>\$2,199</b> per person twin share Tour will operate with a minimum of 9 persons	\$600

#### Inclusions:

- Penang>Kota Kinabalu>Sandakan internal airfares, taxes & fuel surcharges
- 8 nights hotel accommodation
- Meals as indicated
- Coach transportation & transfers
- Admissions to scenic attractions
- English-speaking tour guide(s)

#### Exclusions:

- Tour guide(s) & driver(s) tipping payable in Borneo: RM15/person/day
- Travel insurance (strongly recommended)
- Personal expenditure and anything not stated

#### Note:

- Cannot be combined with other post-tour extensions

Location	Hotel Accommodation	Local Rating
Kota Kinabalu	Grandis Hotel or similar	★★★★
Selingan Island	Selingan Island Chalet or similar	★★★★
Sepilok	Sepilok Nature Resort or similar	★★★★
Sukau	Sukau Rainforest Lodge or similar	★★★★

## Optional Post-Tour Extension

### Chiang Mai 4 Nights

Chiang Mai is a land of misty mountains and colourful 'hill tribes'. This city is a playground for seasoned travellers, a paradise for shoppers and a delight for adventurers. Here the curious can expand their horizons with Thai massage and cooking courses. The aesthete will be bowled over by the variety of handicrafts. The wild child will find plenty of

lively nightlife, and the epicure can indulge in wonderful cuisine.

#### Highlights:

- Marvel at the intriguing golden spire of the revered **Wat Phrathat Doi Suthep**
- Encounter Thailand's iconic animals at **Mae Sa Elephant Camp**
- Stroll through **Sankampaeng District** and browse local and traditional handicraft
- Get hands-on experience cooking Thai specialities with a **Cooking Class**

Package Price	Single Supplement
From <b>\$999</b> per person twin share This tour will operate with a minimum of 6 persons	\$300

#### Inclusions:

- Penang>Chiang Mai international airfare, taxes & fuel surcharges
- 4 nights hotel accommodation
- Meals as indicated
- Transportation & transfers
- Admissions to scenic attractions
- English-speaking tour guide(s)

#### Exclusions:

- Tipping prepaid in Australia: \$60
- Optional Elephant Ride (please consult tour guide for available courses)
- Travel insurance (strongly recommended)
- Personal expenditure and anything not stated

#### Price Guide:

- Pre/Post Tour Accommodation (incl. breakfast): From \$150/twin room/night

Location	Hotel	Local Rating
Chiang Mai	Amora Hotel Chiang Mai or similar	★★★★

## Optional Post-Tour Extension

### Thailand Splendours 8 Nights

*Bangkok, Kanchanaburi, Ayutthaya, Pattaya*

Enjoy the highest level of service with deluxe hotel accommodation, ground transfers, friendly tour guides and sightseeing. From the temples and Grand Palace of Bangkok, to the exotic River Kwai and Ayutthaya, then island hopping and snorkelling at Pattaya.

Package Price	Single Supplement
From <b>\$1,399</b> per person twin share	\$650

#### Inclusions:

- Penang>Bangkok international airfare, taxes & fuel surcharges
- 8 nights hotel accommodation
- Meals as indicated
- Transportation & transfers
- Admissions to scenic attractions
- English-speaking tour guide(s)

#### Exclusions:

- Tipping prepaid in Australia: \$135

- Travel insurance (strongly recommended)
- Personal expenditure and anything not stated

**Note:**

- Not combinable with other post-tour extensions

Location	Hotel	Local Rating
Bangkok	Ramada Plaza Menam Riverside or similar	★★★★
Kanchanaburi	River Kwai Village or similar	★★★★
Pattaya	Jomtien Garden Hotel or similar	★★★★

## Optional Pre-Tour Extension

### Singapore Stopover 2 Nights

Singapore is loved as a 'hot' destination, full of contrasts inside a small area. Gardens by the Bay is a must see attraction in Singapore. It is a massive garden built on 101 hectares of reclaimed land, with a rich diversity of plants as well as decorative lighting. Do not forget about the culinary delights of Singapore. Their food culture is diverse; Chinese, Indian, and Malay dish such as stir fry noodles, roti chennai, and laksa are also well known. You will see hundreds of street foods in China Town.

4 Star Hotel	5 Star Hotel
<p>From <b>\$399</b></p> <p>per person twin share</p> <p>—</p> <p>Single Supplement: \$350</p>	<p>From <b>\$549</b></p> <p>per person twin share</p> <p>—</p> <p>Single Supplement: \$500</p>

**Inclusions:**

- 2 nights hotel accommodation
- Daily breakfast
- Return transfers
- Unlimited rides on SIA Hop-on Bus
- Multi Pass

**Multi Pass Inclusions (subject to change):**

- Singapore Cable Car (Sky Pass)
- National Gallery Singapore
- Sentosa Admission + Admission to 2 out of 8 Attractions (Surrender Chamber @ Fort Siloso, Sentosa Merlion, Wings of Time – Standard seat, Sentosa 4D Adventureland, GoGreen Bi-Pedal Bicycle Ride, GoGreen Segway Fun Ride, Tiger Sky Tower, Skyline Luge Sentosa)
- Alive Museum
- Gardens by the Bay (2 Conservatories)
- National Orchid Garden
- Singapore River Bumboat Tour
- Jurong Bird Park (tram not included)
- Singapore Zoo (tram not included)
- The Original Singapore Walks (choose 1 out of 5 Walking Tours)
- \$5 Chinatown Food Street Voucher
- Singapore Flyer
- Malay Heritage Centre
- Singapore Philatelic Museum
- ClimbMax (choice of 1 course)
- Lee Kong Chian Natural History Museum
- 1-Altitude Gallery & Bar (entry after 6:30pm)
- Satay by the Bay

- Universal Studios Singapore

Local Rating	Hotel Accommodation
★★★★	Four Points by Sheraton Singapore, Riverview or similar
★★★★	Hotel Grand Central or similar
★★★★	Furama City Centre or similar
★★★★★	Mandarin Orchard Singapore or similar
★★★★★	Marina Mandarin Singapore or similar
★★★★★	Swissotel The Stamford Singapore or similar

## Day 1: Australia ✈ Kuala Lumpur

Fly overnight to Kuala Lumpur via connecting cities (Note: some flights may depart one day later).

## Day 2: Kuala Lumpur

Arrive in Kuala Lumpur. Your friendly tour guide will meet you at the airport to transfer you to your hotel.

## Day 3: Kuala Lumpur 🚌 Malacca 🚌 Kuala Lumpur (B, L)

This morning, travel to Malacca (a UNESCO World Heritage Site), a city with a history of colonisation by the Portuguese, Dutch and British. Many of the buildings including churches here are a cultural blend of 18<sup>th</sup> century European and Asian architectural styles. Visit **St. Peter's Church**, the oldest operational Catholic Church in Malaysia, where various celebrations are held. Afterwards, visit **Porta De Santiago**, a fortress that was built by the Portuguese to secure their position in Malacca. Later on, take a stroll through **St Paul's Church**, a historical church ruin on the summit of St. Paul's Hill. Proceed to the Dutch administrative building known as **Red Square** or 'Stadthuys' before exploring the finest Chinese temple in Malaysia – **Cheng Hoon Teng Temple**. The peaceful unity of Taoism, Buddhism and Confucianism found in the same complex is a unique feature of this temple. Take a stroll along **Malacca River** before returning to Kuala Lumpur.

## Day 4: Kuala Lumpur 🚌 Cameron Highlands (B, L)

Begin your journey today to the Cameron Highlands. Enjoy the crisp air and breathtaking views of verdant tea plantations 5000ft above sea level. On the way, stop by **Iskandar Waterfall** passing by gurgling jungle streams. Some of the main attractions in this area include **Rose Garden**, green rolling hills of lush **tea plantations** as well as a **butterfly farm**. The cooler climate due to the high altitude and abundant water is perfect for cultivating tea, and is also the perfect environment for a number of unique species of flora and fauna. Take a sip of your favourite tea (own expense).

## Day 5: Cameron Highlands 🚌 Penang (B, L)

Enjoy breakfast with a free morning at your own leisure. Travel to Penang.

## Day 6: Penang (B, L)

Explore Penang Island today. First stop will be **Tropical Spice Garden**, an award-winning landscaped tropical garden that is home to more than 500 species of tropical plants and herbs from around the world. Next, visit **Penang Craft Batik Factory** and learn how the pioneers of batik manufacturing create quality batik garments using complex prints and patterns. Afterwards, taste juicy tropical fruit at the **Penang Tropical Fruit Farm**. The farm grows 370 edible fruit species including exotic ones such as durian. Stroll through **The Weld Quay Clan Jetties Waterfront Settlement**, a living heritage that served as one of the main Southeast Asian ports for trading, before visiting **Khoo Kongsi**, the extravagant clan house of the most distinctive Chinese clan association in Malaysia. The building is most famous for its gorgeous gold decorations and detailed ornamental carvings. Walk down **'The Street of Harmony'**, a street with a variety of places of worship grouped together, including Kapitan Keling Mosque, Kuan-Yin-Ten – a Chinese temple and a symbol of pride, compassion and love – and St George's Church; Southeast Asia's oldest Anglican Church. In the afternoon, visit **Kek Lok Si Temple**, where a magnificent 30.2m tall bronze statue of Guanyin and the temple's pagoda decorated with 10,000 statues of Buddha are the main drawcards for many Buddhist pilgrims. Ride a **funicular train up Penang Hill** for a fresh breeze and a stunning panoramic view of Georgetown.

## Day 7: Penang (B, Food Sampling)

Free time during the day at your own leisure to explore Georgetown. Penang is the home of some of the finest oriental cuisine and is a gourmet's paradise. The tour continues in the evening. **Hop on a beca**, an open-fronted pedal-powered ride, and speed through the bustling streets of Georgetown. Take a closer look at Kapitan Keling Mosque, Kuan Yin Teng and St George's Church. Afterwards, explore Penang's famous **Red Garden Food Paradise** offering a one-stop destination for delicious local and international hawker food.

## Day 8: Penang ✈ Australia (B)

Transfer to the airport for your homebound or onward flight via connecting cities.

## Day 9: Australia

Arrive home this morning.

## Optional Post-Tour Extension

### Langkawi Island 2 Nights

Langkawi is an archipelago made up of 99 islands on Malaysia's west coast. Surrounded by the turquoise Andaman Sea, on the Strait of Malacca, the main island has an interior which is a mixture of picturesque paddy fields and jungle-clad hills. The shoreline is fringed by powder-fine sand and swaying coconut trees.

## Day 8: Penang ✈ Langkawi

Fly to Langkawi. Your friendly tour guide will meet you at the airport and transfer to the hotel.

## Day 9: Langkawi (B, L)

This morning join a **Mangrove Safari** by boat cruising through protected mangroves, lush aquatic forests and blue lagoons. Appreciate the natural wonders of the marine ecosystem, and wildlife from thick mangrove trees to majestic soaring eagles such as the Brahminy Kite Eagle, the symbol of Langkawi. Journey on to see some dramatic **limestone karst formations** that were created over millions of years. Head further to **Bat Cave** where a large population of Malaysian fruit bats hang upside down from the ceiling. Afterwards, spend some time at a **fish breeding farm** to have a closer look at the marine life. Put your hands into the water and **feed stingrays** and watch a white-headed eagle feeding in the geopark water area. These predators can reach up to 200km/h to pick up their prey. Retreat to **Tanjung Rhu**, an island resort at an isolated beach, perfect for swimming and sunbathing. Today's last stop is at one of Langkawi's oldest seafood restaurants for lunch, the **Floating Fish Farm Restaurant**. This open-air eatery affords a spectacular view of the Andaman Sea.

## Day 10: Langkawi ✈ Australia

Transfer to the airport for your homebound or onward flight via connecting cities.

## Day 11: Australia

Arrive home this morning.



## Optional Post-Tour Extension

### Wildlife Borneo 8 Nights

*Gaya Island, Kinabalu, Selingan Island, Sandakan, Sepilok, Sukau Rainforest, Kinabatangan River, Menanggul River*

As the third-largest island in the world and the largest island in Asia, Borneo is jam-packed with everything a traveller could imagine. Scenic trekking circuits, river safari cruises, and rainforest lodge stays are some of the main drawcards to this region. From shaggy orangutans swinging through emerald-green canopies to the giant carnivorous Rafflesia flower, Borneo, containing 6% of the world's biodiversity, is remarkable.

#### Highlights

- Marvel at the dramatic Mt. Kinabalu from UNESCO World Heritage **Kinabalu Park**
- See friendly orphaned orangutans at **Sepilok Orangutan Rehabilitation Centre**
- Stay in an award winning **Sukau Rainforest Lodge**
- Experience the magic of baby green turtles being released into the sea at **Selingan Island**
- Observe Borneo's diverse wildlife on a river cruise down the **Kinabatangan River**

### Day 8: Penang ✈ Kota Kinabalu

Fly to Kota Kinabalu. Your friendly tour guide will be waiting at the airport to transfer you to the hotel.

### Day 9: Kota Kinabalu 🚢 Gaya Island 🚢 Kota Kinabalu (B, L)

Today we travel to **Gaya Island**, which is surrounded by protected mangroves, lush tropical rainforest and sheltered coral reefs, just 30 mins away from Kota Kinabalu. On arrival, go on an adventure on a **jungle trail** and discover Borneo's unique tropical plants. Enjoy a picnic lunch box for lunch. Spend the afternoon at your leisure on a beautiful beach, swimming, and snorkelling or just relaxing, before taking a boat back to Kota Kinabalu.

### Day 10: Kota Kinabalu 🚌 Mt Kinabalu 🚌 Kota Kinabalu (B, L)

Today, travel to the foothills of **Mt. Kinabalu** at 1500m in the UNESCO World Heritage Kinabalu Park, which houses more than 4,500 species of flora and fauna. En route, stop by **Pekan Nabal Market** and sample local and seasonal tropical fruit. From the foothills, marvel at majestic views of Mt Kinabalu, the highest mountain in Malaysia (4,095m). Later, visit **Kinabalu Natural History Gallery** and **Mountain Garden**. If weather permits, go on a guided tour to explore the verdant forest laced with crisp mountain air. Today's last stop is **Poring Treetop Canopy Walk** where suspended bridges across the canopy at 41m high offer a different view of the jungle.

### Day 11: Kota Kinabalu ✈ Sandakan 🚢 Selingan Island (L, D)

Board a flight from Kota Kinabalu Airport to Sandakan. Travel to **Selingan Island** by boat. Spend today at your own leisure. You may go on a walk and explore the island or otherwise, go swimming and snorkelling (rental gear is available on the island). Selingan Island is known as Turtle Island for its efforts to rescue endangered green and hawksbill turtles. After dinner, **observe Green Turtles** lay eggs and rangers transplanting the eggs to the hatchery and releasing the baby turtles out on their first journey into the sea.

### Day 12: Selingan Island 🚢 Sandakan 🚌 Sepilok (B, L)

Return to Sandakan by boat today. Stroll through a **town market** lined with stands that sell local fish, assorted snacks and seasonal fruit. Next, visit **Puu Jih Shih Buddhist Temple**, a relatively new Buddhist temple adorned with elaborate golden Buddha statues and dragons. As the temple is situated on top of a hill, enjoy panoramic views of Sandakan Bay. Later, learn the history of one of the oldest buildings in Sandakan at **St. Michael's and All Angels Church**. Also,

visit **Agnes Keith House**, the former residence of the famous American author. Learn about her books and her family life as you explore the house, which is furnished with reproduced colonial furniture, genuine antiques and other objects of significance. Afterwards, explore a unique floating village on stilts – **Sim Sim Water Village**. Before lunch, proceed to **Sandakan War Memorial Park** erected to commemorate those who lost their lives during World War II. Final stop is at the **Rainforest Discovery Centre** where you can wander through the botanical wonderland and catch a bird's eye view from the canopy walk bridge.

### Day 13: Sepilok 🐼 Sukau (B, L, D)

Head to **Sepilok Orangutan Rehabilitation Centre** this morning and learn how orphaned orangutans are cared for and rehabilitated. You may have the chance to see them during feeding time. Next, visit the **Borneo Sun Bear Conservation Centre**, where you can see the world's smallest bear. Transfer to Sandakan by boat to check in to the multiple award-winning **Sukau Rainforest Lodge** accommodation nestled on the banks of Borneo's Kinabatangan River, which is home to an extravagant host of wildlife. Hop on a short **River Safari Cruise** in the evening.

### Day 14: Sukau 🐼 Kinabatangan River 🐼 Sukau (B, L, D)

Take a **Safari River Cruise** on **Kinabatangan River** to Oxbow Lake to see Borneo's diverse wildlife refuge: saltwater crocodiles, colourful birds, and occasionally the Asian elephant can be sighted. Proceed to **Hornbill Boardwalk** for an educational tour. In the afternoon, join an **Orangutan Talk Activity** before taking **another river cruise** to spot more wildlife.

### Day 15: Sukau 🐼 Menanggul River 🐼 Sukau (B, L, D)

Take an early morning **Safari River Cruise** along the **Menanggul River** in search of **proboscis monkeys** and other wildlife. After, travel on land to **Gomantong Caves** soaring up to 90m high, where various bats and birds can be seen. Return to Sukau.

### Day 16: Sukau 🐼 Sandakan ✈️ Australia (B)

Return to Sandakan by boat before transferring to the airport for your homebound or onward flight via connecting cities.

### Day 17: Australia

Arrive home this morning.

## Optional Post-Tour Extension

### Chiang Mai 4 Nights

Chiang Mai is a land of misty mountains and colourful hill tribes, a playground for seasoned travellers, a paradise for shoppers and a delight for adventurers. Here the curious can expand their horizons with Thai massage and cooking courses. The aesthete will be bowled over by the variety of handicrafts. The wild child will find plenty of lively nightlife, and the epicure can indulge in wonderful cuisine.

#### Highlights:

- Marvel at the intriguing golden spire of the revered **Wat Phrathat Doi Suthep**
- Encounter Thailand's iconic animals at **Mae Sa Elephant Camp**
- Stroll through **Sankampaeng District** and browse local and traditional handicraft
- Get hands on experience cooking Thai specialities with a **cooking class**

## Day 8: Penang ✈ Chiang Mai

Fly to Chiang Mai. Your friendly tour guide will meet you at the airport and transfer you to the hotel.

## Day 9: Chiang Mai (B, D)

Chiang Mai is the cultural and business centre of northern Thailand. Enjoy a half-day sightseeing tour visiting the region's most iconic temples. First up is a visit to **Wat Phra That Doi Suthep**, one of the most sacred temples, with its architecture retaining a distinctive northern Thailand flair embellished with ornate decoration including a giant gold spire and statues of a white elephant and a green glass Buddha. Thereafter, explore **Wat Chedi Luang**, an age-old temple with its four sides guarded by large Naga Serpent staircases. Then explore **Wat Phra Singh** or The Temple of the Lion Buddha. This temple complex is considered to be the most revered temple in Chiang Mai and is a residence for hundreds of novices and monks. Afterwards, wander through the memorial garden of **Wat Suan Dok**, where white *chedis* (Buddhist stupas) stand. Enjoy a free afternoon at your own leisure. In the evening, transfer from the hotel to enjoy the **Khantoke Dinner with Thai Classical Dance Show**.

## Day 10: Chiang Mai 🚐 Mae Sa Valley 🚐 Chiang Mai (B, D)

Meet the iconic Thai elephants today at **Mae Sa Elephant Camp** located in the scenic Mae Sa valley. Elephants are trained to work with timber loggers to drag the fallen trees away. Observe the trainers in the camp demonstrate the skills and intelligence of these gentle creatures. For adventurous travellers, an elephant ride is available as an optional program (at your own expense). Next, visit **Meo Hill Tribal Village** to meet Hmong Hill Tribe who migrated to North Thailand after being driven out of Laos, before visiting an **Orchid Farm** on the way back, to admire a spectacular range of exotic and colourful flowers.

## Day 11: Chiang Mai (B, D)

Chiang Mai's cultural history is rich as it is extraordinary. It is no wonder why **Sankampaeng District** is the heart of the handicraft industry; most of Thailand's handicrafts are from this area. Wander around stores selling silk, traditional umbrellas, paintings, cotton weaving, lacquer ware and more. Join a **cooking class** later today and learn how to cook local Thai cuisine. Enjoy your own self-cooked meal for dinner.

## Day 12: Chiang Mai ✈ Australia (B)

Transfer to the airport for your homebound or onward flight via connecting cities.

## Day 13: Australia

Arrive home this morning.

## Optional Post-Tour Extension

### Thailand Splendours 8 Nights

*Bangkok, Kanchanaburi, Ayutthaya, Pattaya*

Enjoy the highest level of service with deluxe hotel accommodation, ground transfers, friendly tour guides, and sightseeing. Experience everything from the temples and Grand Palace of Bangkok to the exotic River Kwai and Ayutthaya, then island hopping and snorkelling at Pattaya.

**Highlights:**

- Relax on a cruise along **Chao Phraya River** and witness ancient temples and modern landmarks
- Explore **Damnoen Saduak Floating Market** by riding a boat along the small canal
- Marvel at ancient architecture in **Ayutthaya Historical Park** listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site
- Pray to golden Buddha at **Wat Sothon Wararam Worawihan Temple**

## Day 8: Penang ✈ Bangkok

Fly to Bangkok, Thailand's capital city. Upon arrival, you will be warmly greeted and transferred to your hotel.

## Day 9: Bangkok (B)

Bangkok radiates modernity, but with deep roots in Buddhist tradition. After breakfast, explore the city starting with the **Reclining Buddha**, a signature sight of Thai Buddhism. Take a stroll through **China Town**, and visit the largest local **wholesale flower market** at Paklong Talat. In the afternoon, take a **boat ride along the Chao Phaya River and canals by local speed boat**. Visit **Wat Arun**, the Temple of Dawn, one of Thailand's best known landmarks built in the 17th century by King Taksin. Spend your evening at leisure, or enjoy an **optional Thai dinner** (\$45) while watching Thai classical dance at the Silom Village Restaurant.

## Day 10: Bangkok (B)

Enjoy the day at leisure or join our optional **Bangkok Day Tour & Boat Ride along the River of the King** (\$60). During this optional tour we visit the Grand Palace and the Emerald Buddha Temple. Regarded as the most sacred Buddhist temple in Thailand, the emerald Buddha housed in the temple is a potent religio-political symbol and the palladium of Thai society. Explore the city on your own this afternoon, or watch an optional **Siam Niramit Light & Sound Show** (\$65), a world class showcase of Thai culture with incredible visual effects, followed by a classic Thai dinner.

## Day 11: Bangkok 🚗 Kanchanaburi (B)

This morning, after breakfast, transfer to the city of Kanchanaburi. Along the way, visit the **Damnoen Saduak Floating Market** with a boat trip along the small canal. You will have some free time to browse through the vendors. Continue the journey to the provincial capital Kanchanaburi. Upon arrival, visit a **WWII cemetery site** and the bridge at the Kwai River, and **ride a mini train over the bridge**. Learn about the history of the bridge at the **Death Railway Museum** at the WWII War Memorial.

## Day 12: Kanchanaburi 🚗 Ayutthaya (B, L, D)

Depart Kanchanaburi for the historic city of Ayutthaya, the second Siamese capital after Sukhothai for over 400 years, and once the largest city in Southeast Asia. Start the city tour by visiting the **Ayutthaya Historical Park** in the city centre, a designated UNESCO World Heritage Site. The remains, characterised by the reliquary towers and gigantic monasteries, give an idea of its glorious past, Envision the grandeur and splendour that once was the Kingdom of Ayutthaya, as you walk through the ancient town. After lunch, continue to the **Chai Wattanaram Temple**, built by King Prasat Thong, a commoner who overthrew the previous king and took his throne. Here, you can enjoy the peaceful and tranquil surroundings of ancient Siam before dinner.

## Day 13: Ayutthaya 🚗 Pattaya (B)

Transfer to Pattaya after breakfast. Start your morning with a visit to the illustrious **Bang Pa-In Royal Palace**, a lakeside complex used as a summer dwelling by the Siamese royalty and their consorts, created by King Prasat Thong in 1632. Continue to drive to Pattaya. Stop by a **Gem Gallery** en route, visit a Theme Park- Dark Ride into a spectacular show on the glittering world of gems.

## Day 14: Pattaya (B)

After breakfast at the resort, enjoy a day of leisure. You may also join an optional day cruise to the **idyllic beaches of Koh Larn (Coral Island)** (\$55), relax on the white sand and enjoy a seafood lunch there. This former sleepy fishing village boasts translucent blue waters, brimming with an abundance of coral and marine life.

## Day 15: Pattaya 🚌 Bangkok (B)

Have a restful morning at leisure and check out of the resort. Transfer to Bangkok in the afternoon, visit the province **Chachoengsao** en route in south-central Thailand, east of Bangkok. It is an agricultural hub centred on the Bang Pakong River, which runs the length of the province. The main town, also called Chachoengsao, sits on the river's edge. It's known for the stately **Wat Sathon Wararam Worawihan temple**, which has an important Buddha image, making the temple is one of the most famous in Thailand. Continue the drive to Bangkok airport. We will check in at airport hotel for rest.

## Day 16: Bangkok ✈ Australia

Transfer to the airport for your homebound or onward flight via connecting cities.

## Day 17: Australia

Arrive home this morning.

## Optional Pre-Tour Extension

### Singapore Stopover 2 Nights

Singapore is loved as a 'hot' destination full of contrasts inside a small area. Gardens by the Bay is a must see attraction in Singapore. It is a massive garden built on 101 hectares of reclaimed land with a rich diversity of plants and decorative lighting. Don't forget about the culinary delights of Singapore. Their food culture is diverse – Chinese, Indian and Malay dishes such as stir fry noodles, laksa, and roti chennai and are well known. You will see hundreds of street foods in China Town.

## Day 1: Australia ✈ Singapore

Fly to Singapore via connecting cities and transfer to your hotel for rest.

## Day 2: Singapore (B)

Today is free at your leisure. You may choose from a variety of activities covered by your Multi Pass (Note: transportation is not included, however, most venues are covered by the SIA Hop-on Bus).

## Day 3: Singapore ✈ Kuala Lumpur (B)

After breakfast, fly to Kuala Lumpur. Upon arrival, you will be warmly greeted and transferred to the hotel.

