

JOHNS HOPKINS
UNIVERSITY

Center for Talented Youth

Thailand

Trains, Treks, & Tribes

A Family Adventure

Saturday June 19–Wednesday June 30, 2010

Dear CTY Families,

Experience the trip of a lifetime with your family this summer on an in-depth, action-packed adventure that explores Thailand's northern hill tribe cultures. Through hands-on experience your children will soak up concepts from geography to natural history to world religions in lessons much more memorable than any textbook could impart.

Explore Bangkok by longtail boat, gliding past glittering gold palaces and floating fruit markets. See a performance at the Children's Dance Academy and learn about traditional textile weaving at an art studio. A train to Chiang Mai will access the beautiful, lush northern hills. Meander through the bazaar, visit a sacred mountaintop temple, take a leisurely bicycle journey along the Ping An River and try your hand at the delectable local cuisine with a cooking class.

At the Elephant Camp, feed, ride, and bathe a gentle Asian elephant, and learn about these intelligent, emotional creatures. Take a zip line ride through the rainforest on a spectacular and gradual downhill course that provides a thrilling way to get up close with the area's wildlife. Visit tribal Palaung people on a village trek, and take an easy bamboo raft trip. At the Children's Garden Home, meet orphaned and disadvantaged children who are trained as gardeners in a compassionate environment. In the Golden Triangle area interact with friendly local tribal people and Buddhist monks. Local guides will provide insightful interpretation throughout the journey. Exquisite, culturally authentic accommodations complement a superb itinerary.

Space on this trip is limited, so please register soon to ensure that your family can join this amazing journey.



Sincerely,
Ian Reynolds
Director, Family Academic Programs
Center for Talented Youth
Johns Hopkins University



TRIP AT A GLANCE

Trip Length 12 Days

Cost per person:

\$4,350 (Adults)

\$4,150 (Children 12-17)

\$3,850 (Children under 11)

Includes airfare within Thailand, lovely, authentic accommodations, expert tour leadership, most meals (gourmet cuisine), medical and evacuation insurance, etc. See page 6 for complete list.

International airfare from the east coast approximately \$1,100 for adults. Children under 12 receive a 25% discount.

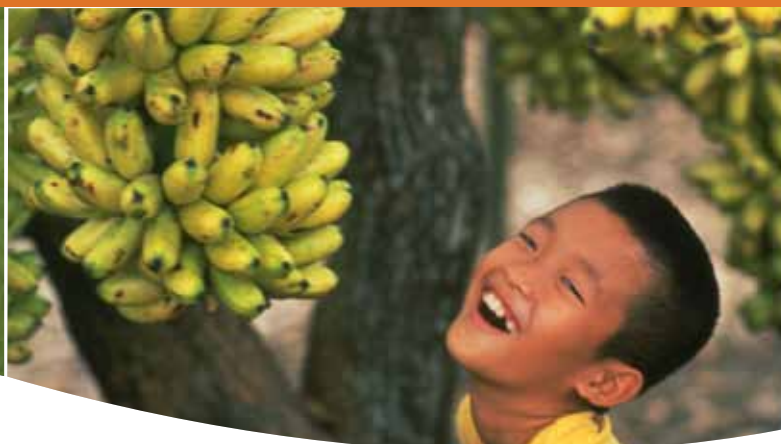
Single supplement \$890

Destinations Bangkok, Chiang Mai
Chiang Saen, Golden Triangle, Mae
Sai, Thaton, Chiang Rai


AsiaTranspacificJourneys

Thailand Trains, Treks, & Tribes

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Daily Itinerary

Saturday, June 19 Depart USA

Fly Washington Dulles to Bangkok via Seoul (suggested flight only).

Sunday, June 20 Bangkok, Thailand

Arrive in Bangkok. You will be met by the guide and driver. Transfer to the hotel with time to relax this evening.

Overnight Royal Orchid Sheraton. Located on the legendary "River of Kings," this hotel combines warm Thai hospitality and upscale amenities in a modern setting. Spectacular panoramic views grace each of its spacious rooms and suites.

Monday, June 21 Bangkok

The epitome of a modern Asian city, Bangkok is a great introduction to Thai culture, history, art, and religion. Today, explore the rich treasures within the river-front temples and palaces, and wander

through the bustling markets and streets.

We will board a longtail boat on the Chao Phraya River (River of Kings), stopping to view the magnificent Royal Barges, and venturing down remote *klongs*, or canals, where the indigenous wooden architecture of old Siam is still very much in evidence.

Next, visit the dazzling Grand Palace and Wat Phra Keo. The pinnacle of Bangkok-style art and architecture, this complex houses Thailand's most sacred object, the Emerald Buddha, and was the residence of Thailand's royal family until the 1950s.

After lunch at Supatra River House, visit Jim Thompson's House. A blend of East and West, the famous silk house of Jim Thompson has a brilliant array of the finest wares Thailand has to offer. OSS agent Jim Thompson parachuted into Japanese-occupied Thailand at the end of World War II, fell

in love with the land and the people and stayed on until 1967, when he disappeared mysteriously in the jungles of Malaysia.

Back at our hotel, relax in the late afternoon before dinner at the highly acclaimed Blue Elephant Restaurant. After dinner, there will be an optional excursion with our guide to the Suan Lum Night Bazaar located in a corner of Lumpini Park.

Overnight Royal Orchid Sheraton (B,L,D)

Tuesday, June 22 Bangkok/Overnight Sleeper Train to Chiang Mai

After breakfast, explore the Pak Klong Dalat wholesale produce market with its mountains of fish, fowl, fruits, and vegetables.

Journey Beyond the Ordinary™

- Tour leadership by an expert on Thai culture.
- Stay at beautiful, culturally authentic hotels and enjoy great cuisine.
- Get an insider's view of Bangkok by longtail boat.
- Take an overnight sleeper train to the highlands.
- Interact with the locals in hill-tribe villages of the Yao, Akha, Chinese Haw, Lahu and Lisu.
- Ride an elephant through the jungle, feed and bathe her.
- Bicycle through the countryside and zip line through the forest canopy.
- Receive Asia Transpacific Journeys' famously detailed information and personalized service with every aspect of this trip, from beginning until end.





Next, enjoy a walking tour of Chinatown, including a visit to Wat Traimit. See the Golden Buddha—it's made of over 6 tons of solid gold. Sculpted in the graceful Sukhothai-style, the image was rediscovered some 40 years ago beneath a stucco exterior when it fell from a crane while being moved within the temple compound. It has been theorized that the covering was added to protect it from "marauding hordes" during the late Sukhothai period.

After lunch, we will visit the Children's Dance Academy. Meet some of the children and watch as they learn traditional Thai dancing. This evening, check out late from the hotel and transfer to the station for an overnight, air-conditioned train to Chiang Mai. Dinner will be on your own on the train.

Overnight Second Class Sleeper Train to Chiang Mai (B,L)

Thai trains are great fun with good food and icy cold drinks. We chose second class specifically to facilitate interaction with local passengers since first class limits this option.

Wednesday, June 23 Chiang Mai

Breakfast will be on your own on the train. Upon our arrival in Chiang Mai, meet our local staff and begin a city highlight tour.

Chiang Mai was founded in the 13th century and has long played a role in Thai history. Currently a flourishing cultural and economic center, this is a city in transition. Historically influenced by Thai, Burmese, Lao, and hilltribe peoples, its culture reflects an exotic blend of traditions.

This morning, visit one of the town's oldest temples, Wat Phra Singh, a perfect example of Lanna Thai architecture. Next is a visit to Doi Suthep (Hill Top Temple), a wonderfully decorated temple complex bordered by a *naga* balustrade overlooking Chiang Mai.

After lunch at the Galae Restaurant, located at the foot of Doi Suthep Mountain, visit a traditional textile art studio, known for its exquisite silk and tribal-style weaving. The founder, an American, is a leader in the development and exportation of Thai and Lao textiles.

This afternoon, enjoy a cooking class at the Chiang Mai Thai Cookery School, in

a home-style setting. Learn how to cook real Thai food in a traditional setting, with skilled and friendly teachers who can impart the secrets of Thai cooking in a fun atmosphere. Learn to prepare three Thai dishes then enjoy them for your own dinner. Transfer to the hotel.

Overnight Shangri-La Hotel, Chiang Mai (L,D) This luxurious hotel is ideally located within easy walking distance of the city's famous Night Bazaar, museums, temples, shops, and art galleries.

Thursday, June 24 Chiang Mai

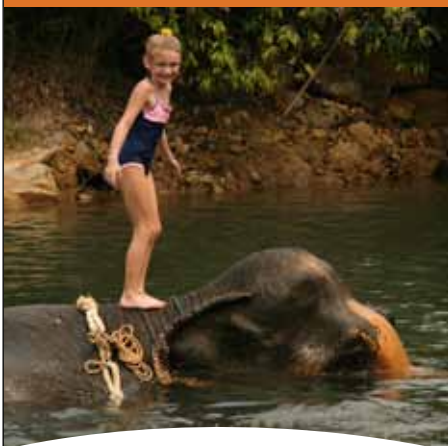
This morning, enjoy a leisurely bicycle journey along the Ping River. Cycle through quiet, narrow roads and local fruit orchards, rice paddies, and small villages. Stop occasionally to visit temples, markets, traditional northern Thai houses, and a local Thai school. The ride will end at the seldom visited ruins of Viang Khum Kaam, which some consider to be the ancient city on which Chiang Mai was built. This bicycle journey is at a very gentle pace with a variety of stops. Good bikes and helmets are used, and technical support is provided.

After lunch, drive to Doi Saket to visit



Tour Leader

Chris Gold was born in South Africa and educated at Oxford University. He rode an ancient British motorcycle across Africa before hitchhiking from London to Bangkok in the late 1970s. He now lives in northern Thailand with an ever-increasing number of orphaned kids adopted from the hill villages along the Burmese border. A veteran tour leader with a wide-reaching knowledge of Asian culture and fluent in Thai, Chris is a superb cultural interpreter who frequently leads tours for many of America's top museums and universities.



the Lahu Helping Hand Project and the Children's Garden Home, which helps orphaned and disadvantaged children from the mountain villages by providing them with housing, food, school, and vocational training. Additionally, all children are trained as gardeners, planting and tending the crops in the beautiful garden setting. This evening, dine at a restaurant accompanied by traditional Thai and Kantoke dance performances.

After dinner, explore Chiang Mai's famous Night Bazaar, a short walking distance from the hotel. Although now a modern center of commerce, this market is in fact the legacy of the original Yunnanese (Chinese) trading caravans which stopped here along the ancient trade route between China and the Burmese coast. There is a fine array of traditional, contemporary, and tribal crafts on display at the market.

Overnight Shangri-La Hotel, Chiang Mai (B,L,D)

Friday, June 25 Flight of the Gibbon Project/Chiang Mai

After breakfast, enjoy a full-day excursion to the Flight of the Gibbon Project, created to enable everyone access to the rainforest in the most exciting way possible.

This unique system enables you to view jungle life from a perspective previously reserved for a select group of researchers. Ascend high into the canopy using a series of tree houses, platforms, cables, and sky bridges.

You'll zip line easily from tree to tree on a

spectacular and gradual downhill course, taking time to linger in your favorite places, soaking up the clean air, and looking for animal life. A safety team will be on hand to teach you how to move through the trees with the speed and grace of a young gibbon.

After returning to Chiang Mai, head to the hotel for an evening at leisure to relax, dine, and explore on your own. There will also be another opportunity to stroll through the Night Bazaar.

Overnight Shangri-La Hotel, Chiang Mai (B,L)

Saturday, June 26 Northern Highlands Hill Tribe Trek

Today, journey to the Northern Highlands. Take an overnight bag for this hill tribe adventure. The rest of your luggage will be transferred to tomorrow night's accommodation.

First, tour the Hill Tribe Ethnographic Museum, an interesting exposition where one can learn about the various minorities that live in this mountainous region. Then visit a small, bustling market.

A hike through the hills of northern Thailand is a delightful way to interact with people whose cultures are vastly different from our own. Enjoy the natural beauty of the mist-shrouded hills, and journey into the tribal world of the diverse and hardy people who migrated into these mountains.

After lunch, begin a trek to a Palaung village, Pang Daeng, one of only five Palaung villages in Northern Thailand. The Palaung

homeland is in the northwestern part of the Shan State in Burma (Myanmar). The Palaung are relatively recent arrivals in Thailand. They crossed the border into Thailand about 20 years ago, unsettled in their homeland by political unrest. They practice a Shan-type of Buddhism mixed with animism and ancestor worship.

Tonight, enjoy a delicious dinner, then sit around the campfire and hear stories of tribal life.

Overnight in a village house in Pang Daeng (B,L,D) Mattresses and good sleeping bags will be provided.

Sunday, June 27 Hill Tribe Trek/Chiang Saen

This morning continue trekking, with a bamboo raft trip down the Ping River. Bamboo is remarkably versatile, providing these hill tribe people with housing, transportation, dinnerware, and often dinner too. Float on the river past beautiful jungle scenery and enjoy the peace and cool of the river.

Early this afternoon, transfer to Thaton for lunch at the Maekok River Village Resort. After lunch, we'll board a longtail boat for a one-hour trip on the Kok River. Disembark at the Lahu village of Pha Tai and transfer by vehicle to our resort. There will be time to relax before dinner.

Overnight Anantara Resort & Spa (B,L,D) The award-winning Anantara Resort & Spa is an intimate retreat in the heart of the Golden Triangle, set riverside amidst two hundred acres of tropical gardens hosting



splendid views. Rooms are finished in silks, regional cottons, wooden accents, and Thai artwork.

Monday, June 28 Elephant Camp/ Chiang Saen

Early this morning, take part in a mahout training program at the Anantara's working Elephant Camp and conservation center, operated in conjunction with the Thai Elephant Recovery Center in Lampang.

This program is designed for those who would like to get a feel for the bond between elephant and *mahout* (master). The emphasis is on an enjoyable time for you and your elephant.

The first task for the day is to meet your elephant. Introduce yourself with a snack or two to ensure your friendship gets off on the right foot. The professional mahout will then ride her back into camp, while you get used to being up close with three tons of character with a constantly exploring trunk.

Back at camp, feed her once again before walking her to the bathing area and helping to wash the night's mud away. After the bath, enjoy a coffee or a cool drink while the elephant dries off. Spend some time meeting rescued baby elephants from the streets of Bangkok or watching the mahouts' wives weaving the silk produced in the elephant camp.

Next, the mahout will demonstrate the basics of climbing up, driving the elephant, and a few tricks. Over the next hour or so, learn a series of driving exercises in camp, always accompanied by sugar cane for the

elephant. Once comfortable, take a short ride in the jungle that surrounds the camp then ride up to the hotel in time for breakfast. Afterwards, enjoy a one-hour elephant safari from the resort into the surrounding forest and hills.

After lunch on your own, enjoy a half-day exploration of the Golden Triangle, a spectacular area near the borders of Thailand, Laos, and Burma. Stop at Doi Tung, a mountain with wonderful views of the surrounding countryside. Here, visit the impressive Mae Fah Luang flower garden, located next to the Royal Villa and Wat Prathat Doi Tung (a smaller version of Chiang Mai's Doi Suthep temple).

Next, stop at the Burmese border town of Mae Sai, whose history is steeped in opium smugglers and renegade bandits. Now a sleepy village, it stands at the crossroads where Thai meets Burmese culture. After dinner, the evening is at leisure to relax.

Overnight Anantara Resort & Spa (B,D)

Tuesday, June 29 Chiang Saen/Bangkok

After breakfast, visit the Hall of Opium, an excellent museum focusing on the history of the Golden Triangle and the opium trade.

Next, visit the historic old city of Chiang Saen, with its ancient walls, interesting museum, and numerous temples. Visit Chedi Luang and the forest monastery of Wat Phra Ngao where we'll have a chance to talk with locals and Buddhist monks. After a wonderful farewell lunch at a popular restaurant, we'll transfer to the airport for the flight to Bangkok.

Fly Chiang Rai to Bangkok. After collecting our luggage, transfer, via hotel shuttle, to the airport hotel for day rooms. The evening is free to relax and dine on your own, and prepare for tonight's journey home.

Novotel Suvarnabhumi Airport Hotel (B,L)

Late tonight, transfer back to the airport for your flight home.

Wednesday, June 30 Fly Home

Fly Bangkok to Washington Dulles via Seoul (suggested flight only).



Frequently Asked Questions

1. How strenuous is the trip?

This is a moderate touring program with wonderfully comfortable accommodations. Expect some day hikes/walks over uneven terrain. Bamboo rafting, elephant riding, and zip lining are suitable for the inexperienced, but may prove adventurous for some. Conditions can be hot and humid.

2. Where do we stay?

Accommodations on this trip are picked for ambiance, location, beauty, and authentic style. There will be western-style baths and air conditioning throughout.

3. What about the weather?

Thailand has a tropical climate. Expect plenty of sunshine, some rainfall, and temperatures ranging from 70 degrees F to 95 degrees F. Bangkok will generally be humid because of its location on the Chao Phraya River. Chiang Mai and the highlands can be cooler, and may have nighttime temperatures as low as 50 degrees F.

4. Should I exercise before going on the trip?

Most reasonably fit people will have no problem completing the activities in this program. But the answer is yes. It is always good to begin a journey in as good a shape as possible. It will contribute to your general well-being and enjoyment of the trip. More important than your physical condition, though, is a flexible attitude.

5. What about shopping in Thailand?

Superb opportunities exist to purchase quality tailored clothing, textiles, art, religious objects, wood, and stone carvings, furniture and spices. Please buy cautiously: gemstones or antiques may not be authentic. Please refrain from buying anything derived from endangered species.

INCLUSIONS

Guaranteed departure with a minimum of 15 passengers.

Internal flights within Thailand.

Twin sharing accommodations. Note: In the unlikely event that specified hotels are not available for a given departure, we reserve the right to make suitable same-class substitutions without notice. Single Supplement: A single supplement must be paid under the following conditions: 1. If single accommodations are requested, or: 2. If we cannot match you with a same gender roommate, or: 3. If you reject your roommate either before or during the trip (a room of your own is not guaranteed in this instance, and is subject to availability).

Meals as designated on the itinerary, when taken with the group. Non-alcoholic beverages, bottled water, and local beer included with all group meals. Bottled water included during all touring.

Airport transfers for group flights; all transfers to and from hotels for group activities and sightseeing tours unless you separate from the group after the completion of the group activity.

All tips for ground staff, drivers, and hotel porters, etc. Members requiring special or additional services from ground staff should plan to tip accordingly.

Entrance fees, camera fees, visa fees, domestic and international airport departure taxes for group flights, domestic permits.

Predeparture materials, including background information, packing list, reading list, cultural primer, and medical information. Additionally you will receive a customized Travel Guide booklet.

A \$75,000 Emergency Medical Evacuation policy, and a \$2,500 Emergency Medical Insurance and assistance policy.

EXCLUSIONS

International airfare. Estimates do not include current taxes and surcharges, and are subject to change without notice.

All snacks and extra personal beverages, etc. other than during designated group meals.

Passport, video fees, excess baggage fees, laundry, medical and evacuation expenses, and any other items of a personal nature not specifically included above.

Tips for your tour leader are not included but are greatly appreciated. We suggest as a guideline the figure of \$12-15 per person per day.

ADDITIONAL INSURANCE OF ANY KIND, including trip cancellation/interruption/delay, additional medical, and lost baggage insurance. (We highly recommend that you purchase these items!)

Any and all expenses resulting from delays arising beyond our direct control due to bad weather, trail, river, sea, and/or road conditions; sickness; government action; and any other transportation delays for any reason beyond our direct control. Sufficient funds should be carried for this possibility. Credits may not be available for group arrangements missed for the above reasons.

Optional activities, free-day activities, including any additional stopover arrangements not specifically included in the group itinerary. We can of course make additional arrangements for you. Extra charges will apply.

Note: Prices subject to change. Itinerary and all terms & conditions subject to change without notice, either before departure or after commencement of the program. Due to frequent changes in air schedules and the complex nature of this itinerary, the possibility does exist that the order of events may change from what is reflected herein. All programs are subject to the 'Terms and Conditions' and 'Responsibilities' sections of Asia Transpacific Journeys' sign-up packet.

Registration Form

Registration is limited, and participants will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. All deposits will be processed automatically: your registration is secured when you have received written confirmation. We highly recommend that you register early.

Please make _____ reservation(s) for *Thailand—Trains, Treks, and Tribes*

Please print name exactly as it appears on passport:

CTY Registrant:

First Name Last Name

Student ID / Age / Grade Date of Birth

Other Registrants:

First Name Last Name

Age / Grade Date of Birth

First Name Last Name

Age / Grade Date of Birth

First Name Last Name

Age / Grade Date of Birth

First Name Last Name

Age / Grade Date of Birth

Address

City / State / Zip

(_____) _____ (_____) _____
Home Phone Office Phone

Email



For more information or to sign up contact:

CTY Family Academic Programs
McAuley Hall
5801 Smith Ave, Ste 400
Baltimore, MD 21209

Phone: 410-735-6115
Fax: 866-832-8621
ctyfam@jhu.edu
www.cty.jhu.edu/family/fieldstudy.html



Non-refundable deposit (due immediately):

\$ _____
of registrants _____ @ \$500

Method of payment

Check/Money Order
Payable to JHU/CTY

(There is a \$50 fee on all returned checks)

Visa

MasterCard

We only take Visa and MasterCard

Card Account Number

Exp. Date

Name of Card Holder

Authorized Signature

Please submit registration only **ONCE** via fax OR mail to prevent duplicate charges.

MAIL TO:

CTY Family Academic Programs
P.O. Box 64300
Baltimore, Maryland 21264

Credit Card Registrations ONLY

FAX TO: 866-832-8621