



Smiling Albino's Siamese Dream

**Bangkok, Ayutthaya
and Chiang Rai**

Big city life,
mystical mountain adventure,
activities du jour and chill-out vistas





Background



Smiling Albino's 'Siamese Dream' goes far beyond the scope of any city map or guidebook. Featuring the best of urban and rural areas, we engage you into the very lifeblood that is Thailand. This epic 9-day, multi-activity adventure was designed with an eye to value, authenticity and seamlessness, creating a total quality experience.

You'll experience a colorful concoction of fun in the city that is Bangkok, from 'must see' temples to interesting alley-side bars. Enjoy a day marvelling at the ancient ruins that make up the UNESCO World Heritage site of Ayutthaya before flying to the kingdom's northernmost province Chiang Rai and completely shift gears. Encounter elephants, pedal mountain bikes, drive scooters, board boats and use your feet to explore the farthest reaches along the Thai-Myanmar and Thai-Lao borders. Add it all up and you're sure to agree this adventure really is a Siamese Dream.

This is a thoughtfully-designed adventure with hosted and independent experiences. The program features luxurious and quaint accommodations, a focus on outstanding food, seamless transitions, and the opportunity to meet fascinating local characters along the way.

Prepare to be hosted!

Day 1: Welcome to Bangkok!



We'll be waiting when your plane touches down, brush off the airline pretzel crumbs and welcome you to 'The Land of Smiles'. You'll be whisked to your home away from home and introduced to your surroundings. Upon check-in you'll receive your personalized 'Adventure Kit', containing a custom-designed 'Adventure Handbook', lots of neat tidbits and your complimentary mobile phone if you need one. The phone is yours for your entire journey. Sit back, relax, enjoy a swim and get ready for the adventure of a lifetime.

Day 2: Bangkok Headlights Adventure



Typically the evening begins at 6:00pm and we'll walk through various neighbourhoods followed by some great local food, a cocktail in a unique place, and a nice visit through market areas and historical districts. The best way to do this is by using a variety of local transportation in order to be spontaneous and efficient. The evening winds up at either one of the famous red-light market districts or at a riverside rooftop bar for a wonderful illuminated view of Wat Arun (Temple of the Dawn), or even the Bohemian backpacker community of Khao San Road, depending on your hotel location and interests by that point in the evening.

Explored by boat, walking, three-wheeled tuk-tuk and SkyTrain. The trip can be customized to suit your interests (such as more markets, less red-light, or more culture, less glitz, etc.).

Meals: D

Accommodation: The Majestic Grand or upgrade to The Siam Hotel

Day 3: Bangkok Multi-Transport Adventure



Smiling Albino's Bangkok Multi Transport Adventure is an outstanding introduction to frantic Bangkok, using all forms of urban transport (such as Skytrain, tuk-tuks, walking etc.) to hit the big sights and hidden corners of one of the world's coolest cities. This trip idea is based on an innovative approach to avoid traffic with least environmental damage and a liberate way to get around the city as well as supporting the local businesses. This day can be modified to suit your interests and you can discuss specifics with your host in Bangkok.

Note: The Grand Palace and the Temple of the Emerald Buddha are magnificent and some of Bangkok's must-sees. However, please be aware of the potential for large crowds. There are plenty of historic temples of significance in Bangkok which have lesser crowds. We are happy to take you to alternative and impressive locations if you would rather avoid the crowds at the more popular sites.

Meals: B, L

Accommodation: The Majestic Grand or upgrade to The Siam Hotel

Day 4: Explore Ancient Ayutthaya, Fly to Chiang Rai



The Siamese capital of Ayutthaya was the crowning glory of the kingdom from 1350-1767. Preserved in history, Ayutthaya remains a magnificent site to be seen.

We'll have the option to explore the prime sites by bicycle or walking with support vehicle. Along the way we'll enjoy an authentic 'Isaan' (northeastern Thai) lunch and fill you in on lots of nifty facts. This intimate exploration of Ayutthaya gives you an appreciation for the city's significance to the Thai people.

After exploring we'll bring you to the airport to catch an early evening flight to Chiang Rai. Here you'll check into the gorgeous 'Legend Resort & Spa', set on the banks of the Mae Kok River.

Riding: 15 km (paved roads)

Meals: B, L

Accommodation: The Legend Resort & Spa

Day 5: Bikes, Boats, Villages & Caves



After a great breakfast in Chiang Rai we'll head out to a cave temple on the outskirts of town where we'll find our mountain bikes waiting patiently for us. After checking out the temple inside the cave, we'll cycle up the Kok river through fertile farmland and creaking bamboo stands to a riverside hilltribe settlement. This Karen village is surrounded by limestone mountains, a light lunch and we'll continue an epic day in the saddle. If you're up for more cycling, we'll navigate small back roads leading out of the village, up and over some medium-grade mountains, passing by Ahka and Lisu villages. When we've had enough biking, we'll place our bikes on a private longtail boat and head back down river to Chiang Rai town and our resort.

After some afternoon rest at the resort, we'll head out for a northern feast and the night markets.

Riding: 25-50 km, sealed road, dirt road, manageable hills

Note: non-cyclists can enjoy all of today's activities by private van transport

Meals: B, L, D

Accommodation: [The Legend Resort & Spa](#)

Day 6: Doi Mae Salong “Chinatown”



Today, we'll drive up to Doi Mae Salong for some tea tasting and a bit of easy hiking through tea terraced plantations and local villages.

Doi Mae Salong, one of the Kingdom's most stunning destinations - this dramatic mountain region was settled first by indigenous hilltribe groups such as the Akha and Lahu peoples, and more recently by Chinese settlers who fled the Communist Revolution in China in 1949. Once opium country, Doi Mae Salong is now home to Thailand's premier Oolong tea production. We'll arrive early enough for a nice nature hike through terraced tea and rice plantations, taking in hilltribe villages and rolling mountains around the Doi Mae Salong area.

After lunch, transfer to the Anantara Golden Triangle.

Enjoy the hotel's facilities at leisure.

Meals: B, L

Accommodation: Anantara Golden Triangle

Days 7-8: Enjoy the Golden Triangle



Enjoy your package inclusions at Anantara Golden Triangle... full program of elephant activities, Golden Triangle Excursion, Hall of Opium visit, one spa treatment etc.

Note: Meals and activities are included in the Anantara's Discovery Package

- Accommodation
- Breakfast following morning at Sala Mae Nam A La Carte
- Dinner (evening of arrival) at restaurant of your choice
- A la Carte Lunch following day at Sala Mae Nam Restaurant
- Beverages (non alcoholic, house wines, house beer and house spirits and select cocktails)
- In room Minibar and Internet Access throughout resort
- Ticket to Opium Museum (one time per person per stay)
- One Activity (per person) for each night stayed. Choice of:
 1. **Spa Treatment**
 2. **Elephant and Mahout Training or Walking with Giants**
 3. **Golden Triangle Discovery Excursion**
 4. **Spice Spoons Cooking Class**

Meals: B, L, D

Accommodation: Anantara Golden Triangle

Day 9: Return to Chiang Rai, Fly Back to Bangkok



Today, we'll shuttle back to Chiang Rai to catch an afternoon flight to Bangkok, arriving at 5pm. We'll make a few stops en route such as the White Temple (Wat Rong Khun) and a local art cooperative if you like.

We hope you'll keep in touch. Pope kan mai krup (until we meet again)!

Meals: Meal: B, L

The Smiling Albino Service Difference



We understand implicitly that a perfect adventure is much more than nice hotels, great meals and hassle-free logistics. For a travel experience to be perfect, all pieces must work together like a symphony. It is the fine details which our guests appreciate most, like cold face towels after a hike, electrolyte beverages for your day cycling, and wine uncorked when the moment is right. From local maps to bottled water and colorful anecdotes on the areas we visit, a Smiling Albino adventure is a thorough, intimately hosted experience. You'll be treated with executive care during your Smiling Albino adventure.

We look forward to hosting you!

The Team at Smiling Albino

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"See a different part of the world, differently."
