

JV EXPRESS 

ASIA ITINERARY

VISIT 3 COUNTRIES



VIETNAM

CHINA

THAILAND



ITINERARY

TUESDAY 28AUG18 ARRIVAL – CHIANG MAI

Upon arrival at Chiang Mai Airport by flight MU 205 (own ticket), welcome by our local Spanish speaking guide and transfer to hotel for check-in.

Early evening, we head south out of Chiangmai to Badoo in Hangdong district. The home you will be visiting belongs to the Raunkaew-Yanon family, who arrived in the area possibly by elephant back, almost 150 years ago. The family is Lanna family, continuing the traditions of many generations in building their homes of teak wood and maintaining the natural surroundings in manner now rarely seen in Chiangmai. You will experience the simple Lanna way of life including the family orchard with many types of fruit such as banana, mango, coconut, whilst the garden is filled with herbs for cooking. You will also have the opportunity to join cooking and escorting with local family. Your evening meal will be served on the second floor terrace of the home of the Raunkaew-Yanon family from where you will enjoy the panoramic view of this Lanna village. The tour is designed to give you a real experience and understanding of Lanna life, the traditions and buildings; the relationship between their religion and ancestors, and the way this all works together with nature. Accommodation at Empress Hotel (Superior room) or similar.

WEDNESDAY 29 AUG18 CHIANG MAI

This morning, you will be transferred to the Elephant Nature Park for a shared full day tour. You will learn about the plight of these elephants and the personal stories of our resident elephants. You will be able to observe the incredible elephants from our viewing platform as they explore the park with their family groups. Upon arrival, you will immediately be greeted by our resident dogs (most of whom have also been rescued) who will be eager for a scratch behind the ears from the new visitors.

Over the next several hours you will hear the personal stories of our rescued elephants as told by one of our expert guides. Throughout the day you will learn about the problems elephants face in Southeast Asia. Occasionally the stories will be interrupted by the noises and interactions between the park's elephants, at which time it is most fun to

sit back and watch everything unfold before your eyes. One of the biggest highlights of a visit to the Park is bath time. An hour or two after arriving at the Park (and again prior to your departure), the elephants and their mahouts will begin walking down to the Mae Taeng River when you will get a chance to go into the river with them. Feeding the animals is another highlight of your tour of the Park. You can expect to have some wonderful photo opportunities during this time. After the elephants have had their snacks, it's time for you to eat too. Taste the special Thai cuisine prepared by our kitchen staff. Towards the end of the day it's time to head back to the hotel. Accommodation at Empress Hotel (Superior room) or similar.

THURSDAY 30AUG18 CHIANG MAI

Breakfast at hotel. One of the most unique experiences in Thailand is a visit to a Buddhist temple to offer alms to the monks. Each morning before dawn, the monks put on their distinctive saffron robes and quietly pad in their bare feet along the streets, carrying alms bowls and receiving boiled rice and condiments from the citizens of Thailand. In return, people receive the monks' blessings. This morning, we too are able to participate in this very special Thai custom by personally presenting alms. Beforehand, our guide leads us on an exploration of the temple. Afterwards, return to your hotel for breakfast.

This afternoon, you will have a private city & temple tour. The city of Chiang Mai has an abundance of beautiful and historic Buddhist temples and this tour takes in the most interesting. One of the highlights is a visit to the 600 year-old temple of Wat Pra That Doi Suthep, near the summit of Doi Suthep mountain. After a drive up the mountain's winding road, the final climb to the site is via a magnificent Naga (dragon-headed serpent) staircase of 306 steps. Inside is an intriguing copper-plated chedi topped by a five-tier gold umbrella which contains partial relics of Lord Buddha. On a clear day, there are incomparable views over the city of Chiang Mai. Other temple visits on this tour include: Wat Phra Singh, housing a very sacred 1,500 year old Buddha image. Continue onto Wororos Market. This fascinating indoor and outdoor market locates local shops, fresh food, cooked food, souvenirs which are in well priced for visitors who are addicted to shopping, for example, fabrics, clothes, herbs, spices and exotic items.

Accommodation at Empress Hotel (Superior room) or similar

FRIDAY 31AUG18 CHIANG MAI - BANGKOK

Breakfast at hotel This morning, you will be transferred to Chiang Mai Airport to board on your flight to Bangkok by **TG103 at 1005-1125 (own ticket)**. Upon arrival at Bangkok Suvarnabhumi Airport and after Customs Formality, you will be welcomed by our local guide and transferred to your hotel. ****The check-in time is 14.00 hrs.**

Balance of the day sightseeing to include Klongs Tour & Grand Palace. The Grand Palace is the "must see" attraction in Bangkok. It is an architectural wonder of golden stupas, walls and pillars encrusted in shining and colourful mosaics. Previously the residence of past Kings of Thailand, you will see palaces once used for different occasions; the Reception Hall, the Coronation Hall, the Throne Hall, the Royal Guest House and Wat Phra Kaew. The architecture is predominantly Thai, though there are some European influences. The palace served as the official residence of kings of Thailand from the 18th to the mid-20th century. The most famous building within the palace grounds is Wat Phra Kaew and this is regarded as the most sacred Buddhist temple in Thailand. Continue to Wat Po, with its massive reclining Buddha.

One of the best ways to explore Bangkok is by boat. A cruise along the Chao Phraya River and the canals of Thonburi on the east side of the river reveals a scene that offers a stark contrast to the frenzied activity of the modern metropolis of Bangkok. The city's network of canals earned Bangkok the title of "Venice of the East" we travel along these waterways by long-tail speed boat to see family homes and temples. On the return journey, we stop at the Temple of Dawn (Wat Arun) whose towering spire has become an iconic symbol of Bangkok. There will be ample opportunities to photograph the magnificent multi-coloured porcelain-studded tower of this temple. Afterwards return to your hotel for refreshment and spend the rest of the day at leisure. Accommodation at Rembrandt Hotel (Superior room) or similar.

SATURDAY 01SEP18 BANGKOK

There are countless floating markets throughout Thailand, but the Damnoen Saduak Floating Market is the most famous. Situated 110 km from Bangkok in Ratchaburi province, this market is like a trip back in time to the Siam of

old. You will see colourfully clad merchants paddle along congested canals in sturdy canoes laden with fresh fruit, vegetables and other foodstuff to sell to shoppers on the canal banks. There is lots of activity and bargaining is part of the fun of the sale. This buzzing market is at its best in the early morning before the crowds arrive and the heat of the day builds up. After visiting the market, we continue onto Phra Pathom Chedi in Nakorn Pathom, reportedly the largest pagoda in South East Asia. The golden-tiled dome of the Chedi towers almost 116-metres into the air. ***Note: There will be possible to take an optional paddle boat (at extra cost).** Rest of afternoon you will be at leisure. Accommodation at Rembrandt Hotel (Superior room) or similar.

SUNDAY 02SEP18 BANGKOK – HANOI – NIGHT STREET FOOD TOUR

Breakfast at hotel You will be transferred to Bangkok International Airport for flight to Hanoi Flight Bangkok – Hanoi by **TG560 at 0745-0935 (own ticket)**. **9:35** Meet on arrival at Hanoi/Noi Bai International airport, transfer to hotel for check in and relaxing. (Check in time: 14.00) **16:00** Explore Ha Noi Old Quarter and street food scenes. During three hours, with the company of a Hanoian, you will stroll around the lively streets, taste some local delicacies like Bun Cha (Vermicelli served with aromatic herb and grill pork...), Banh Goi (meat and vermicelli-stuffed dumplings), Oc Luoc (steamed snails)...Along the walk, stop by some hidden cultural sites if interested to learn more about traditional belief and living. Settle down on a plastic stool at the so-called "International crossroad" for a cold glass of Bia Hoi is a great way to enjoy an evening like a local. Lunch and dinner on own arrangement Accommodation at La Belle Vie Hotel (Deluxe room) or similar.

MONDAY 03SEP18 HANOI – FULL DAY CITY TOUR

08:00 Visit the **outside of Ho Chi Minh's Mausoleum (closed on Monday)** and his former residence, One-Pillar Pagoda and Quan Thanh temple. Lunch at local restaurant. Continue to Temple of Literature, then enjoy a panoramic cyclo tour in the afternoon followed by a visit of Ngoc Son Temple and Hoan Kiem Lake. Drop by Thang Long theatre to enjoy the famous Water Puppet Show, a unique Vietnamese traditional art form that takes its origins from rural festivals in Vietnam. Artists - men and

women - stand waistdeep in the water to manipulate puppets, making them move about, talk, laugh and even dance on the water surface. Dinner on own arrangement Accommodation at La Belle Vie Hotel (Deluxe room) or similar.

TUESDAY 04SEP18 HANOI-HALONG

07:30-08:00 Car pick up at hotel and transfer to Halong for an overnight cruise (160km,4 hours). Upon Boarding our boat at Tuan Chau Port – enjoy welcome drink, receive cruise briefing and safety instructions Start your Cruise through Halong Bay, passing the most beautiful and quiet areas including Incense Burner, Dog Stone Islet, Fighting Cock, Finger Islet. In the afternoon arrive at Surprising cave - one of the most spectacular and largest grottoes of Ha Long Bay. The mouth of the grotto is reached by ascending about a hundred stone steps. Later learn the art of Fruit and Vegetable carving lesson led by our Head Chef. During the lesson, the chef will conduct Fruit and Vegetable carving, showing the guests how we decorate and make some traditional Vietnamese food. Evening activities. Board games like cards or Parcheesi are available, as well as massage service (massage service is available throughout the cruise). Also, everyone can try their luck at squid fishing on the boat with help from the crew followed by Happy Hour! Buy one drink – get one free (wine by the bottle excluded). Overnight on board / Indochina Sails Boutique Cruise – shared cruise (Superior carbin).

WEDNESDAY 05SEP18 HALONG-HANOI

In the morning enjoy Tai Chi lesson on the sundeck (lasting for about 30 minutes). Those who choose kayaking through Luon cave area will be ready from 07.15 am at receptionist desk in the first floor. The kayaking fee is \$10.00 per person/ hour (unless pre-booked). Kayakers will depart from the boat in two-seater, self-rowed kayaks, kayaking through the boat and head to the cave. A kayaking tour guide will lead the way. Later we will head to Titov Island. About one hour is spent on the island, allowing time to climb to the peak for a breathtaking 360 degree view of the Bay (there is also an expansive viewing deck half way up). After the climb, there is time left to relax on the beach and have a swim. Upon returning to the boat, guests will have 30 minutes to freshen up and finish packing have breakfast and return to the pier to board your transportation back to Hanoi. The remainder of the day is at leisure and dinner is on own. Accommoda-

tion at La Belle Vie Hotel (Deluxe room) or similar.

THURSDAY 06SEP18 HANOI – KUNMING - XIAN

Breakfast at hotel Free at leisure until departure time for transfer to the airport. Lunch on own followed by transfer to airport for departure flight. Flight Hanoi – **Kunming by MU2576 at 1625-1850 (own ticket)** Connect flight to **Xian by MU2362 at 2130-2340 (own ticket)** Arrival in Xi'an, transfer to hotel by our local Spanish guide Dinner on own arrangement Accommodation at Xian Skytel Hotel (3*/Standard room) or similar.

FRIDAY 07SEP18 XIAN

Breakfast in hotel Visit Terracotta Army Museum Explore one of the most important archaeological finds in the world, With troops, horses and carriages in battle formation. Lunch at a local restaurant In the afternoon Visit Small Wild Goose Pagoda (Not climbing) and City Wall Dinner on own Accommodation at Xian Skytel Hotel (3*/Standard room) or similar

SATURDAY 08SEP18 XIAN – BEIJING

Breakfast at hotel Transfer to the airport Flight Xian – Beijing by MU210 (1200PM-1550PM) in economy class Arrival in Beijing, transfer to hotel by your local Spanish guide Afternoon is free at leisure Lunch and dinner on own arrangement Accommodation at Holiday Inn Express Beijing Minzuyuan (3*/Standard room) or similar

SUNDAY 09SEP18 BEIJING

Breakfast at hotel Full day tour to Tiananmen Square, Forbidden City and the Summer Palace Tiananmen Square is the largest public square in the world. It has long been a gathering place for locals and visitors alike. On the north side of the square is Tiananmen Gate (the Rostrum). It was from the balcony of the Rostrum on October 1, 1949 where Mao Zedong, chairman of the Communist Party, proclaimed the founding of the People's Republic of China. The Forbidden City (Imperial Palace), directly behind the Rostrum, was home to 24 emperors beginning with its creation by Emperor Yongle in 1420 until the last Qing emperor, Puyi, left in 1924. The entire complex consists of 8,706 rooms in which an estimated 8,000 to 10,000 people lived including 3,000 eunuchs, as well as maids and concubines, all within 170 acres. Lunch at a local restaurant fol-

lowed by a visit to the Summer Palace Summer Palace Drive to Northwest Beijing to visit The Summer Palace is one of the finest landmarks in Beijing. It has long been a royal garden and was considerably enlarged and embellished by Emperor Qianlong in the 18th century. It was later abandoned. Dinner on own Accommodation at Holiday Inn Express Beijing Minzuyuan (3*/Standard room) or similar

MONDAY 10SEP18 BEIJING

Visit the Mutianyu section of the Great Wall, one of the great wonders of the world. Mutianyu Great Wall Located in Huairou County about 45 miles from Beijing, Mutianyu Great Wall enjoys a long history and is part of the glorious culture of China. It connects Juyongguan Pass in the west and Gubeikou Great Wall in the east. The wall was first built in Northern Qi Dynasty (550 - 557). Lunch at a local restaurant Afternoon will be followed by visiting the Temple of Heaven The Temple of Heaven is a sequence of temples and altars set in a park. Twice a year during imperial times, the emperor and a magnificent procession of some 1,000 eunuchs, courtiers, and ministers would leave the Forbidden City for the temple. Dinner on own Accommodation at Holiday Inn Express Beijing Minzuyuan (3*/Standard room) or similar.

TUESDAY 11SEP18 BEIJING

AM Visit Silk Market followed by lunch at a local restaurant. In the afternoon walk through the modern Sanlitun area then, visit the tea house and tasting the chinese tea culture. Dinner on own Accommodation at Holiday Inn Express Beijing Minzuyuan (3*/Standard room) or similar WEDNESDAY 12SEP18 BEIJING - DEPARTURE [B/-/-] Transfer to the airport for departure flight by MU271 PEK-PVG at 1305-1520 & connect flight MU297 PVG-JFK at 1910-1015.

WEDNESDAY 12SEP18 BEIJING - DEPARTURE

Transfer to the airport for departure flight by **MU271 PEK-PVG at 1305-1520 & connect flight MU297 PVG-JFK at 1910-1015**

End of service.

Program includes:

- Air fare to and back to NYC (JFK airport and to all the cities included in the itinerary)
- 3 nights in el Chiang Mai at Empress Hotel in Standard room
- 2 nights en Bangkok at hotel Rembrandt Hotel in Standard room
- 2 nights en Hanói at hotel La Belle Vie Hotel in Deluxe room
- 1 night e in Halong en Indochina Sails Boutique Cruise – shared cruise (Superior carbin)
- 2 nights in Xian en Xian Skytel Hotel in standard room
- 4 nights inBeijing Holiday Inn Express Beijing Minzuyuan in standard room
- Meals as described in the program
- Transfers and tours with Licensed Spanish speaking guide
- All hotel taxes & daily breakfast

PRICE FOR PERSON DOUBLE ROOM:**\$ 3,590.00****ADDITIONAL SINGLE ROOM SUPPLEMENT:****\$ 720.00****Not included:**

- Tips and gratuities to guides, drivers, hotel staff and restaurants
- Travel insurance
- Any ítem not specified in the program
- Visas
- Early check-in and late check out
- Extras and items of personal nature

Air Portion:

- China Eastern 298Z 27AUG JFK SHANGHAI departs at 145A arrives at 455A 28AUG
- China Eastern 205R 28AUG SHANGHAI CHIANG MAI departs at 1000A arrives at 125P
- China Eastern 2576R 06SEP HANOI KUNMING departs at 425P arrives at 650P
- Thai Airways 103K 31AUG F Chang Mai Bangkok departs at 1005A arrives at 1125A
- Thai Airways 560H 02SEP S Bangkok Hanoi departs at 745A arrives at 935A
- China Eastern 2362B 06SEP KUNMING XIAN departs at 930P arrives at 1140P
- China Eastern 2107B 08SEP XIAN BEIJING departs at 1200N arrives at 155P
- China Eastern 271B 12SEP BEIJING SHANGHAI departs at 105P arrives at 320P
- China Eastern 297Z 12SEP SHANGHAI JFK departs at 710P arrives at 1015P