



## Thailand Highlights Dossier Classic Tour | 13 Days | Comfortable

Bangkok – Kanchanaburi – Chiang Rai – Lisu Lodge – Chiang Mai

Thailand weaves a tapestry of glittering temples, lush jungle and golden sunshine, all entwined with a rich heritage that has remained staunchly unchanged for centuries. It is also fun-loving, friendly and exotic – discover more of Bangkok and the northern highlands.

### TOUR HIGHLIGHTS:

- See Bangkok's Grand Palace
- Cross the historic River Kwai
- Explore Ayutthaya
- Meet minority hill tribes
- Discover Chiang Mai
- Prepare a local Thai meal



## Thailand Highlights tour inclusions

- Return international flights, taxes and current fuel surcharges (unless a land only option is selected)
- All accommodation
- All meals
- All sightseeing and entrance fees
- All transportation and transfers
- English-speaking National Escort (If your group is 10 or more travellers)

*Personal expenditures e.g. drinks, optional excursions or shows, insurance of any kind, customary tipping, early check in or late checkout and other items not specified on the itinerary are at your own expense.*

## Classic Tours

These tours are designed for those who wish to see the iconic sites and magnificent treasures of South East Asia on an excellent value group tour travelling with like-minded people. The tours are on a fully-inclusive basis so you'll travel with the assurance that all your arrangements are taken care of. You will be accompanied by our dedicated and professional National Escorts and local guides, whose unparalleled knowledge will turn your holiday into an unforgettable experience.

## Comfortable Tour

'Thailand Highlights' is a **comfortable** tour. Although this is the easiest pace of tour Wendy Wu Tours offers, it still requires a reasonable level of fitness. Accessible to most people with an average level of fitness and average mobility. Tours may involve sightseeing on foot, some climbing of stairs and getting on and off boats.

Our National Escort and Local Guides will always endeavour to provide the highest level of service and assistance; however, they cannot be expected to cater for customers who are unfit to complete the itinerary.

## Country Profile: Thailand

Thailand is a beautiful country, offering travellers stunning scenery from fertile rice fields in the central plains, rising mountains and valleys in the north, to sandy white beaches at famous island destinations such as Phuket in the south. Thailand has an ancient history shaped by war and imperialism, as well as an immersion of culture and faith.

## Joining Your Tour

The tour is 13 days in duration including international flights.

Travellers booked on 'Land Only, the price includes your arrival/ departure airport transfers if arriving/departing on the start and conclusion date of your tour. Please advise your international flight times to reservations. Join the tour on day one in Bangkok and end the tour on Day 12 in Chiang Mai. Please refer to your final itinerary for more specific meeting instructions pertaining to your departure.

## Itinerary Changes

It is our intention to adhere to the day-to-day itinerary as printed; however, the order of events or sightseeing may change as we look to improve our tours or as local conditions dictate. In these circumstances we will make the best possible arrangements maintaining the integrity of your trip.

### Changes:

- Replaced one night in Bangkok with one night in Chiang Rai. Tour length remains the same.
- Replaced the home-stay in Mae Kampong on day eight with Lisu Lodge to improve customer experience

- Replaced Chiang Dao Elephant Camp with Thai Elephant Care Centre on day 10 and removed completely all elephant shows & elephant riding.
- Removed a visit to Talat Warorod market on day 11 due to customer feedback.

### Important Information Regarding Itinerary Changes and Flight Delays

Due to unforeseen circumstances, flights can be delayed, and therefore connecting flights may be missed. If you find yourself in this situation, please contact our Bangkok office on **+84 138 6228 (24 hours)** to urgently advise your arrival details have changed. Please ensure you have your trip number, tour name (both included in your final documentation) and new arrival details (flight number and arrival time) handy to pass on to our local office in Bangkok. This will ensure your National Escort/Local Guide can be informed of your most up to date information and ensure someone is at the airport to meet you on arrival.

If we are not advised of late changes and missed connections, Wendy Wu Tours cannot guarantee someone will be able to meet you upon arrival in Bangkok as our local office will have no way of knowing which flight you will be arriving on. Wendy Wu Tours will not be responsible for providing reimbursement of transportation costs from the airport to your hotel in the event that our local office was not advised of changes to arrival time.

## Thailand Highlights Itinerary

### DAY 1: FLY TO BANGKOK

You will be met at Bangkok Airport in the arrivals hall by your Local Guide or National Escort from Wendy Wu Tours. Together with all other group members who may be arriving at a similar time, you will transfer approximately one hour to your hotel and check-in to your room.

#### Destination Information

**Bangkok** - Bangkok has been Thailand's dominant city since the 18<sup>th</sup> century. It was established as the capital after the former capital Ayutthaya was attacked by the Burmese and burned down. The emerging city, which was protected by a wall, was occupied by a large number of stilt and floating houses built to adapt to common seasonal flooding. Up until the Thailand War, Bangkok was still largely undeveloped until it became a popular place of rest and relaxation for the American soldiers, which resulted in a boom of nightclubs, massage parlours and bars. However, in the 80's and 90's, Bangkok underwent rapid modernisation and exploded into the metropolis it is today; a city that is lined with skyscrapers and is full of life. With a population of over seven million, the fast pace of the city can be daunting for the first-time visitor, yet beneath all of the hustle and bustle there are many hidden gems waiting to be discovered, offering a unique taste of Thai culture and history. Bangkok's dazzling neon signs, charming architecture, spicy Thai cuisine and colourful markets make for an exciting first few days of our tour.

### DAY 2: BANGKOK

Enjoy a sightseeing tour of the city today. Tour the Grand Palace, Wat Pho and Chinatown before cruising down Chao Phraya River on a longboat to Pak Khlong Talaat Flower Market, whilst enjoying an alternative view of the city. Sightseeing involves around five hours on foot today and involves hopping on and off the boats, often on unsteady and sometimes slippery surfaces, without handrails or assistance.

#### Destination Information

**Wat Pho** - One of Bangkok's largest temples. Experience the monk's chant as you explore the grounds of Wat Pho, which is over eight hectares. The largest reclining Buddha and the largest collection of Buddha images in Thailand are housed here.

**Grand Palace** - The Grand Palace is the city's most famous landmark. Built in 1782, for 150 years it was the home to the Thai King, the royal court and administrative seat of government. Within the Palace are several impressive buildings, including the Temple of the Emerald Buddha.

**Pak Khlong Talaat Flower Market** - The biggest wholesale and retail fresh flower market in Bangkok.

**Chinatown** - Teeming with market stalls and side street restaurants, Chinatown is a not to be missed experience in Bangkok.

### **DAY 3: BANGKOK TO KANCHANABURI**

Rise early this morning and drive to the Railway Track Market in Smut Songkram and then onto Damnoen Saduak Floating Market where you will travel by a motorised or paddle wooden boats through the canals. Sightseeing involves hopping on and off the boats, often on unsteady and sometimes slippery surfaces, without handrails or assistance. Continue to Kanchanaburi stopping at the famous 'Bridge over the River Kwai' on the way. On arrival in Kanchanaburi, visit the Allied War Cemetery and JEATH War Museum.

#### **Destination Information**

**Railway Track Market** - A open-air market with a little difference. Set on railway track; enjoy the unique experience as you see the vendors quickly pack up their stores as the train approaches the tracks.

**Damnoen Saduak Floating Market** - Step back in time to experience the traditional way farmers would trade their produce. The canals are lined with boats that are paddled by local women and piled high with vegetables, fruit and even souvenirs for the tourists. Sit back and soak up the atmosphere as the locals go about their daily life and entertain with their haggling techniques.

**Bridge over the River Kwai** - The infamous bridge built by prisoners of war during World War II, many of whom lost their lives during its construction.

**Kanchanaburi** - One of Thailand's largest provinces, rich in history and which boasts undeniable scenic beauty.

**Allied War Cemetery** - Pay respect to the graves belonging to British, Dutch and Australian prisoners who died while building the bridge.

**JEATH War Museum** - The Museum displays many artefacts, photos and stories of the prisoners of World War II. There are graphic images of the terrible conditions and torment that the young men faced and the stories of those who survived; some group members may find this upsetting and confronting.

### **DAY 4: KANCHANABURI TO BANGKOK**

This morning visit Hellfire Pass, a dramatic part of the railway that literally cuts through mountain, and take a three kilometre walk through the pass. Explore the Hellfire Pass Memorial Museum, which tells the stories of human suffering at the hands of this engineering feat before boarding the train at Nam Tok Railway Station and travel back to Bangkok where you will have lunch on arrival. This

evening, enjoy a delicious Thai meal for dinner and watch a performance of traditional Thai dancing.

*Please note the three kilometres walk will be on uneven ground, involves some steep steps and it is likely to be humid, be prepared for mosquitoes! If you do not wish to take part, you will still be able to see the pass on a 15-minute walk from the museum or you may remain in the museum area independently, please be aware that the group will be gone for around two hours.*

#### **Destination Information**

**Hellfire Pass** - Was constructed for the Burma to Thailand railway by Prisoners of War. This part of the railway was particularly hard to build due to its remoteness and the scale of rock-cutting required. It took only six weeks to build this section, as the prisoners were forced to work 16-18 hour days and throughout the night. Its name derived from the eerie glow produced by the torches at night, reflecting off the gaunt faces of the prisoners.

### **DAY 5: AYUTTHAYA TO CHIANG RAI**

Discover the historical highlights of Ayutthaya by minivan on a day trip to the ancient capital of Thailand. Departing from Bangkok in the morning, drive one and half hours to Bang Pa-In Palace, boasting a mix of European, gothic and Thai-Buddhist architecture. There's time to explore the vast grounds that include several temple complexes, Wat Phra Sri Sanphet, a temple that forbids monks to enter (due to its 'royal' status), and then on to Wat Chai Wattanaram, a Buddhist temple in the city of Ayutthaya Historical Park on the west bank of the Chao Phraya River, outside Ayutthaya island. Sightseeing will involve around three hours on foot today. Enjoy lunch at the local restaurant and take the road trip back to Bangkok. Transfer to the airport for your one hour and 20 minute flight to Chiang Rai.

#### **Destination Information**

**Ayutthaya** - The former Thai Kingdom capital city from 1350 to 1767. It ultimately suffered destruction at the hands of the Burmese. On arrival visit the largest temple of Wat Phra Sisanphet, which was used as the Royal Temple Palace by several kings. The following sight is Wat Chai Wattanaram where the construction patterns are very interesting. Then continue to Bang - Pa - In Summer Palace, which served as the Summer Palace for many Thai monarchs from the 17<sup>th</sup> century. This structure has a captivating collection of marvellous pavilions in a variety of Thai, Chinese, Italian and Victorian architectural styles.

### **DAY 6: CHIANG RAI**

This morning, stop at the area known as the 'Golden Triangle' the point where the borders of Thailand, Laos and Myanmar meet. Upon arrival, enjoy a boat ride crossing the

Mekong River to Laos where you visit Don Sao Island. There is a small market on the island, selling Lao clothing, handicrafts and postcards, which you can send home with a Lao postmark from the small post office located here. Continue to Mae Sai, the northernmost point of Thailand and an important trading city on the Thai-Burmese border. Learn about its history and visit the local market, where you'll be able to purchase budget jewellery imported from Myanmar (Burma), Chinese goods and all sorts of delicious local eats for your ride back to Chiang Rai. This evening, explore the colourful night market in Chiang Rai.

#### **Destination Information**

**Chiang Rai** - The northernmost province of Thailand sharing borders with Myanmar and Laos, and also one of the most ethnically diverse provinces in Thailand. The province is abundant with natural scenery; lush rice terraces, hills scattered with orchids and the mountains of Myanmar and Laos are visible in the distance.

#### **DAY 7: CHIANG RAI**

This morning drive one and half hours to Mae Salong Mountain, renowned for its hill tribes and tea plantations. From the base of the mountain travel by truck to a plantation where you will have an opportunity to sample local tea. Enjoy lunch at a mountaintop restaurant before an excursion to Mae Salong, visiting a tea plantation, a Yao Tribe and an Akha village known as Ban Lorch. Sightseeing today will include approximately three hours on foot.

#### **Destination Information**

**Mae Salong** - Once known as a centre for opium trade in the golden triangle, Mae Salong is now associated with tribal villages and for the production of excellent local tea.

#### **DAY 8: LISU LODGE**

Depart Chiang Rai and take a short 30-minute drive to explore the Wat Rong Khun or 'White Temple'. Next, stop at a local market, then continue to Chiang Mai, where you will spend the night at the Lisu Lodge. As the name suggests, the lodge is located at a Lisu hilltribe village. You will be guided through the village by some of the locals before having dinner at the terrace of one of the wooden houses, while being entertained by children from the local village who will perform some Lisu folklore.

*Built in traditional Lisu style with an eye for western comforts, the guest cottages overlook the lush fields and hills surrounding the valley. Each guest room has an en-suite bathroom. The cottages include electric fans (but no air con), a mosquito net, a universal power outlet at the headboard, two complimentary bottles of water, a hair dryer, hot water for showers, toiletries and slippers, towels and a shower cap. You will need to pack an overnight bag*

*for tonight's homestay as your main luggage will be left in safe storage and collected tomorrow.*

#### **Destination Information**

**White Temple** - One of the most recognisable temples in Thailand, the White Temple is a contemporary Buddhist and Hindu temple designed by Thai artist Chalermchai Kositpipat in 1997.

**Lisu Lodge** - Named after the Lisu hill tribe village, the lodge is also part of a community-based project that aims to conserve the natural heritage of the hill tribes in Chiang Mai. The lodge is operated by Lisu hill tribe villagers who will take care of you during your stay.

#### **DAY 9: LISU LODGE TO CHIANG MAI**

Have breakfast from the lodge's organic farm and begin the one hour drive to Chiang Mai, stopping at a handicraft village where you can buy lacquer products, silk, furniture and souvenirs. Upon arrival, check into your hotel and later visit the ancient city of Wiang Kum Kam, continue to Wat Chedi Luang and Wat Phra Singh. Sightseeing will be approximately two hours on foot today.

#### **Destination Information**

**Chiang Mai** - Located among tall mountains, Chiang Mai is the largest and most culturally significant city in northern Thailand. The city was founded in 1296 and was the capital of the Lanna Kingdom, which was eventually occupied by the Burmese. For the next 200 years Chiang Mai was virtually abandoned until it was again taken over by Siam in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. During the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Chiang Mai became a thriving centre for handicraft pottery, weaving, silverwork and woodcarving. Today, Chiang Mai is famous for its hilltribes, tea plantations and elephants.

**Wiang Kum Kam** - In 1984, just outside the modern Chiang Mai metropolitan area, archaeologists uncovered the remains of this city, which was said to have been buried underground by years of flooding. Nearly 20 temple sites have been uncovered in the area, many in ruins, except for two that are still actively used today.

**Wat Chedi Luang** - Where the famous 'Emerald Buddha' was once enshrined.

**Wat Phra Singh** - Founded in the 14<sup>th</sup> century to enshrine the ashes of King Kam Fu.

#### **DAY 10: CHIANG MAI**

After breakfast, you will visit the Thai Elephant Care Centre. The centre is located in the beautiful Mesa valley and is the peaceful final resting place for older elephants. You will be met by one of the local caretakers at the gate and he will guide you and explain about the centre and its inhabitants,

and you will of course have a look at the impressive animals and their lifelong caretakers. After the visit, have lunch and continue to Mae Daeng to enjoy an exciting rafting trip on the river. Return to Chiang Mai later this afternoon.

*Please note that in the rainy season, between June and August, bamboo rafting may not be possible for safety reasons.*

#### **Destination Information**

**Thai Elephant Care Centre** - A care centre dedicated to looking after elderly elephants in their final stage of life.

#### **DAY 11: CHIANG MAI**

Enjoy a cooking class where you will learn to cook traditional Thai cuisine and enjoy your creation for lunch. Later, drive one hour to Wat Doi Suthep where you will have the option of climbing the Naga staircase 300 steps to the top, or catch the cable car to visit the exquisite golden

pagoda. This evening we enjoy a typical Thai (Kantoke) dinner while watching a performance of traditional song and dance from Northern Thailand by various hill tribes.

#### **Destination Information**

**Talat Warorod** - Chiang Mai's oldest and largest market. Stroll parades of stalls selling an assortment of items, from woks, toys and pickled tea leaves.

**Wat Doi Suthep** - One of Thailand's most sacred temples. Tucked away in the mountains at 1,056 metres above sea level, it offers a panoramic view of Chiang Mai.

#### **DAYS 12-13: CHIANG MAI TO AUSTRALIA**

Today you will be transferred from the hotel to the airport, according to the departure time of your flight home.

*Please note if you have made a 'Land Only' booking that your arrangements end after checking out in Chiang Mai.*

## **THAILAND HIGHLIGHTS TRAVEL INFORMATION**

### **Visas**

Australian passport holders do not need a visa for Thailand if they are travelling for less than 30 days for tourist purposes.

### **Insurance**

We strongly encourage all customers to take a copy of their travel insurance documents (especially relevant international contact numbers) with them while on tour. We advise that you check the inclusions and procedures for lodging claims prior to your departure. These documents should be stored separately from the originals.

### **Eating in South East Asia**

South East Asia is home to an incredibly rich food history. The local cuisine is known for its intense flavours, spices and some of the freshest ingredients you can find. In general, meals include either rice or noodles and are packed full of flavour. Lemongrass, ginger, lime leaves, coriander, fish sauce and soy sauce are used in most local dishes. The food has a reputation for being hot and spicy, each region actually has its own distinct characteristics.

Your itinerary has been carefully crafted to introduce you to a range of local dishes and we hope that you enjoy the culinary adventure ahead. All meals (excluding drinks) are included in our fully inclusive group tours from dinner on the day of your groups' arrival until breakfast on your day of departure. When dining in Thailand, although some restaurants have adopted a western approach to dining, expect some restaurants to follow the traditional communal style of eating. Typically, this will mean each diner has their own small bowl and may serve themselves from a variety of shared dishes. At some local restaurants, appetizers and main courses might be served when they are ready instead of following a particular order.

Determining when it's appropriate to use chopsticks, forks or spoons can be challenging for some travellers, even other Asians, as each country has different customs. In Thailand, dishes are normally placed in the centre and people serve food for themselves with their own chopsticks and bowl. In Thailand and some other countries in South East Asia, fork and spoon are used for most dishes and chopsticks are typically provided to eat noodles. Usually chopsticks or other utensils are provided to scoop the food into your bowl to prevent your own chopsticks from touching the food that remains on the table. Dining in Thailand is fairly casual with not too many rules. Leaving food on the plate is not considered rude.

Please refer to your travel guide for more information on Thai cuisine, including information for travellers with restricted diets.

## Accommodation

Your accommodation is selected for convenience of location, comfort or character, and can range from a business hotel in one city to a family run guesthouse in a smaller town. In more remote areas, accommodation may be of a lower standard and may not have all western amenities. Hotels are generally rated as local three to four-star standard, but please note that there is no international classification system for hotels and differences in facilities and quality do exist between Australia and South East Asia. All group tour hotels have private western bathroom facilities, air conditioning, TV and telephone. Plumbing and electricity supplies can be erratic and quite often the power in hotel rooms is turned off while guests are out of the room. If you experience any difficulty, please speak to your National Escort/Local Guide.

Rest assured that all hotels used by Wendy Wu Tours are regularly inspected by our staff and our partners to ensure that standards meet your needs

Please note double bed requests can be made at time of booking but cannot be guaranteed.

## Transport

**Coaches:** Coaches with air conditioning are used on our group tours for city sightseeing, short excursions to the countryside and longer transfers where necessary. Roads in South East Asia have generally improved over recent years, but traffic and/or weather conditions may extend driving times. Road construction work usually covers an enormous section of road - not just one or two kilometres as you may be used to. For this reason, the timings listed in the itinerary are approximations only.

**Seatbelts:** Please note that seatbelts are not compulsory by law in South East Asia and therefore the local people largely choose not to wear them. For this reason, some vehicles may not be fitted with seatbelts or they may be hidden underneath protective seat covers. It is recommended that where seatbelts are available customers must use them and remain seated at all times while the vehicle is moving. If you have any concerns, please notify your National Escort/Local Guides.

**Air:** Internal flights are based on economy class, with reputable airlines. Pre-flight seat allocation is not available on international and internal flight sectors.

## Development in Thailand

Although Thailand is developing quickly, it still lacks the international standards of civil infrastructure and tourist facilities. Concepts of personal responsibility are also different to those in Australia. Consequently, tourist and public facilities may not uphold the same safety standards as in Australia; for example, you may see a hole in the road without a warning sign or safety barricade. All of our suppliers meet local safety standards as a minimum. We want you to have an enjoyable holiday so we ask that you take extra care, use your common sense, refer to notices and follow advice from your National Escort or Local Guides.

## Thailand Public Holidays

If you are travelling within the below 2018 Thailand Public Holidays please note that celebrations can last a couple of days and during these times some businesses will be closed and coach, air and train travel may be affected. Chakri Memorial Day - 6<sup>th</sup> April, Songkran Festival 13<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup> April, Labour Day - 1<sup>st</sup> May, Coronation Day - 5<sup>th</sup> May, , the Queen's Birthday - 12<sup>th</sup> August, Chulalongkorn Day - 23<sup>rd</sup> October, the Kings Birthday - 5<sup>th</sup> December.

## Souvenirs

We want to be able to give you an opportunity to buy souvenirs so we include some stops at museums or exhibitions which demonstrates a craft or product unique to that region with pieces available to buy. We understand that souvenir hunting is not for everyone so we aim to take you to places, which hold local interest. We trust you will enjoy these opportunities to learn about local arts and crafts and understand their historical and cultural importance

## Group Size

Most of our groups consist of 10 travellers or more and will be accompanied by both a National Escort/Local Guides. There will usually be no more than 29 travellers in each group although you may encounter other Wendy Wu tour groups while you are travelling.

All our departures are guaranteed to operate with a minimum of eight travellers booked (unless cancelled due to factors beyond our control). However, at our discretion we may operate departures with a smaller group size as we try to operate advertised departures wherever it is viable to do so. For groups with fewer than 10 travellers, departures will operate with Local Guides only.

## Tipping Policy

Local tipping is customary in Asia. However, this can often lead to awkwardness in knowing when it is appropriate to tip and how much, as well as ensuring you have a suitable amount of change available at the time. For your convenience, with years of experiences in providing the best customer service, Wendy Wu Tours operates a kitty system on our Group Tours so your National Escort will look after this aspect of your trip for you. It also ensures that the amounts paid are reasonable for you but still fair for the local people. The amount is stated on each Group Tour page will be advised again on your final documentation. Tipping is paid in US Dollars, MYR or other local currencies as specified. Any additional tipping on any of our tours is welcomed at your discretion. Further guidance for tipping contributions will be outlined in your final documentation.

## Packing List and Climate

You will find a complete packing list and a helpful climate chart in the 'Suggested Packing List', which will be included in the pre-departure information link sent within your deposit documentation. Seasonal weather patterns can be quite unpredictable. Up to the minute information on worldwide weather can be found on [www.weather.com](http://www.weather.com).

## Luggage

All travellers are limited to two items of luggage each; a suitcase with a maximum weight of 20kg and one piece of hand luggage with a maximum weight of five kilograms. It is essential that your luggage is lockable. Please note that authorities will only allow bottles onto the aircraft if they have been checked in as main baggage. Bottles in hand luggage may be confiscated.

## Exchanging Cash

Australian Dollars can be easily exchanged in Thailand, provided notes are new and undamaged. We suggest exchanging your money before travelling to remote areas and smaller towns, as exchange facilities can be limited. Your National Escort will remind you to do this before departure.

## Personal Expenses & Optional Tours

You will need to take some extra money to cover drinks, laundry and souvenirs, plus any additional sightseeing that may be offered to you. Based on the advice of previous customers an approximate amount of AUD\$250 per person, per week should be sufficient; however for those that cannot resist a bargain, consider allocating a higher amount.

Optional tours may be offered in each city you visit during your tour at an additional cost. These are not included in the standard itinerary and will only be available if time permits. Each option will be arranged locally by your National Escort/Local Guide.

## Climbing Steps

Sightseeing at nearly all of the palaces, fortresses and some temples involves climbing quite a number of steps. These palaces were built to provide defense against potential invaders so nearly all of them stand on top of a hill, while the interiors have layers of narrow hallways and steps to slow down the advance of enemies once they were inside. The steps tend to be quite large, not level and sometimes without handrails. Hindu and Buddhist temples or pagodas also tend to be built at an elevation,



as this is the most auspicious position according to ancient beliefs. This means you sometimes need to walk from the bus park to the entrance, and/or need to climb some steps inside.

People with knee or hip injuries, who have poor balance or are otherwise unable to complete these activities independently should consider the suitability of this itinerary carefully.

### Cultural Difference

Thailand has many religions, cultures and histories. Please be considerate of the local beliefs and customs and dress with consideration.

### Appropriate Dress

When visiting temples or mosques, both men and women should dress in conservative, non-revealing clothing. Full-length trousers with a shirt or t-shirt for men; and pants or skirts well below the knee with a top that covers the shoulders and upper arms for women. Women might also consider carrying a 'modesty shawl' in their daypack – this could be a sarong or light scarf – which they can wear over their shoulders and heads to feel more comfortable while sightseeing at mosques.

Religious sites and homes throughout South East Asia – for Hindus, Muslims or Buddhists to name a few – require all visitors to remove their shoes to enter. Even if you then need to walk outdoors, over hot or rough ground, you will not be allowed to wear shoes. You will often find shoe storage rooms near the entrance of a site where it is customary to leave your shoes near the entrance. Occasionally there are 'shoe minders' who will offer to keep your shoes safe for a 'tip' – this is not compulsory so each customer can choose to tip for this service or not. If you do not want to remove your shoes, you will have to remain outside.

We recommend shoes that easily slip on and off, and carry a pair of thick socks in your daypack, which you can wear to protect your feet from any rough or hot surfaces. The following itinerary will indicate when you need to consider this.

### Vaccinations and Your Health

We recommend that you contact either your GP or Travelvax (1300 360 164) for advice on vaccinations and travel health. Travelvax has a comprehensive website that you may also find useful [www.travelvax.com.au](http://www.travelvax.com.au).

### Before You Leave

We strongly recommend registering your travel plans with [www.smartraveller.gov.au](http://www.smartraveller.gov.au) as in the event of an emergency, Australian Consular assistance will be more readily available. You can also access the Australian Government's travel advisory service for up to date information about your destination on the same website.

### After Your Booking

Once you have booked with Wendy Wu Tours, you will receive a confirmation invoice with deposit documentation via email. This includes important information and links to access the visa application form and instructions sheet online (if applicable). Your final documentation pack will be sent to you approximately four weeks prior to departure.

**Updated: 4<sup>th</sup> October 2017**