



Smiling Albino's

Luxury Spa Adventure

Hua Hin, Bangkok, Chiang Mai, Chiang Rai and Hanoi

World-class spa retreat, big city life, charming mountain villages, quiet solitude, fine dining, and peeled grapes...



Background



This program was designed for a single female traveler who is CEO of a large marketing firm. The objective was a luxury spa-oriented holiday with flexibility for adventure, unique day trips and shopping.

Featuring some of the most outstanding accommodations in the region, this adventure provides a variety of activities, dazzling venues and an educational journey into the heart of Southeast Asia. Designed with a focus on personal time, it also provides the structure and support to capitalize on the spontaneity that is travel. Hosted experiences in Bangkok, Chiang Mai, the Golden Triangle, as well as Northern Vietnam, are complimented by grand spa indulgence at Chiva-Som and Four Seasons Chiang Mai. The adventure coincides with Thai New Year's, adding a festive splash to an already sublime adventure experience.

Day 1:
Welcome to Bangkok!



Meals: Three gourmet spa cuisine meals included daily at Chiva-Som
[Chiva-Som](#)

You'll arrive in style in Bangkok and experience the Smiling Albino difference from the first moment. Upon exiting the aircraft an airport officer will escort you through Diplomatic Customs (no queues), collect your bags and bring you to a chauffeur-driven BMW 7 Series. Your destination, Chiva-Som, is located in the royal city of Hua Hin on the Gulf of Thailand, 185 kilometres (3 hrs) south of Bangkok. Today, enjoy personal a health consultation, get oriented and relax...

Days 2-11: The Chiva-Som Experience



Meals: Three gourmet spa cuisine meals included daily at Chiva-Som [Chiva-Som](#)



About the Chiva-Som

Chiva-Som, or 'Haven of Life', is a luxury destination spa focusing on greater well-being, rejuvenation and vitality. Combining ancient therapies of the East with the latest Western techniques, pamper yourself with an extensive range of over 120 treatments. Inclusive programs range from fitness regimens with Tai Chi, Pilates and personal training classes, as well as mind-body therapy with yogic technologies, therapies and medical services.

Luxurious, modern facilities include outdoor *salas*, a bathing pavilion, beachfront swimming pool, multi-level steam rooms, plunge pools, hydro pools, Watsu pool, high-tech air-conditioned gym and more. The medical facilities and complementary therapies allow full attention to be given to the mind, body and spirit to help you achieve overall health and wellness.

Thai Pavilion

Positioned around the lake, Thai Pavilions offer a peaceful atmosphere featuring luxurious comforts providing a perfect balance between Thai architectural beauty and Western standards. From marble bathrooms to Thai sculptures and individual DVD players in each room, your creature comforts are taken care of.

**Day 12:
Enter Bangkok**



Meals: B, D

[Mandarin Oriental Hotel](#)

A chauffeur and private BMW 7 Series will send you north, up the coast to Thailand's frenetic capital, Bangkok. After ten days indulging in wellness, let loose for a few in one of the world's most spectacular cities. The Mandarin Oriental provides the perfect backdrop for an enchanting exploration of the 'City of Angels'. Sit back, relax, enjoy a swim and get ready for the next stage of your adventure.

**Bangkok at Night
(18:00–23:00++)**



Bangkok is a charming monster, with many curious nooks and crannies, night markets, sky-high rooftop bars, and arresting visuals. This is your chance to experience 'One Night in Bangkok'. Your special host will sweep you out into the streets for an incredible Thai meal at one of city's signature restaurants and then a rambling night on the town. We'll wind things up at legendary Patpong, where night markets collide with colorful characters and rhythmic red-light frenzy. This is a great night to grab Bangkok by the horns and see why it's one of the most fascinating cities in the world after the sun sets! Leave your purse at home.



About The Mandarin Oriental

For almost 130 years royalty, celebrities, dignitaries and distinguished travelers from Graham Greene to Rudyard Kipling have stayed in the legendary Oriental Bangkok on the Chao Phraya River. The historically rich Oriental has been consistently ranked by top publications as one of the world's finest hotels.

Deluxe Garden View

The Deluxe rooms are newly renovated in a contemporary yet lavish style. Touches of the hotel's long and illustrious heritage are still to be seen in the well-loved chandeliers, artwork and teakwood flooring, all complemented by new armoires, ottomans and comfortable sofas, in a mix that is satisfyingly eclectic.

**Day 13:
Bangkok Multi Transport
Adventure**



Meals: B, L

[Mandarin Oriental Hotel](#)

As one of the world's great mega-cities, Bangkok is best seen from an insider's perspective. Home to roughly ten million and affectionately known as the 'City of Angels' it's the largest city in Southeast Asia and also one of the most chaotically-planned. Bangkok can be confusing to navigate, leaving many visitors exhausted with their experience. With this in mind, we've found a way to do justice to this Asian metropolis. Today you'll use the elevated Skytrain rapid transit system, canal boat, motorcycle taxi, three-wheeled tuk-tuk and longtail boat to unravel the layers of the Thai capital.

Day 14:
Free Day in Bangkok



Meals: B
[Mandarin Oriental Hotel](#)

So many things on offer – from the luxuriance of the Oriental Hotel’s many facilities, to fascinating art and antique shops around the capital, we’ll prepare a list of suggested places to go and a hot list of art galleries and antique dealers as well. Enjoy the day basking in Siamese luxury. We’ll be on standby to take you where you want to go.

Songkran

As an added cultural bonus during your stay in Bangkok, these three days fall within Thai New Years. Referred to as Songkran, the annual celebration represents the transition to the first day of the Thai lunar New Year. In former times, locals sprinkled or spilled a bit of scented water over the hands or shoulders of elders and friends to ask them forgiveness for coarse or wicked speaking.

The festival has undergone changes and modern interpretations over the last 50 years, today amounting to the world’s largest, unorganized water-fight. Sixty-three million Thais arm themselves with water guns, hoses, buckets and an unimaginable slew of contraptions designed to hurl water with maximum soaking force. The rules of engagement state that if you’re in the kingdom, you’re fair game. This is unavoidable. Smile.

**Days 15-21:
Northern Thailand
Adventure**

The next six days bring you in touch with some of the most memorable venues in northern Thailand. The cultural capital of Chiang Mai is famous for antiques, tribal art and the constant reminders of the ancient Siamese dynasty that forms the bedrock of northern Thai culture. Your stay is highlighted by the luxurious surroundings of the Four Seasons Chiang Mai, set amidst mountain rice terraces, the agricultural seed of the kingdom. Weaving your way up into the northernmost province of Chiang Rai, the allure of the Mekong River and the romantic gateway to Indochina provide the backdrop for several inspired days exposing the rich fabric of northern Thai life.

**Day 15:
Fly to the Kingdom of
Lanna**



Enjoy a relaxing morning at the Oriental and we'll prepare a private BMW 7 Series to shuttle you to the airport for your mid-morning flight to Chiang Mai.

**Days 15-17:
Four Seasons Chiang
Mai**



Meals: B daily
[Four Seasons Chiang Mai](#),
Mountain View Room

After a few days wrestling Bangkok, you'll no doubt enjoy a couple with no agenda – and The Four Seasons Chiang Mai is certainly the place for that.



About the Four Seasons Chiang Mai

Spacious Lanna-style pavilions furnished in a style consistent with a luxurious northern Thai home overlook terraced rice fields and the mountains in the beautiful Mae Rim Valley, minutes from the artistic and cultural heritage of Thailand's northern capital. Each pavilion features polished teak floors, rich Thai cotton decorations and beautiful Siamese art under a vaulted ceiling with cooling overhead fans. From the Thai cooking school to the acclaimed spa and flawless service, this outdoor oasis is a signature Four Seasons experience.

Chiang Mai has much to do, but the best use of time is to make a few stops at its exquisite galleries and antique villages, plus the dreamy mountain temple of Doi Suthep. Should you wish to get out and conquer Chiang Mai, we'll have our best van, driver and local host on stand-by with a suggested itinerary which covers the must-do's and also all the cool things to check out, like art studios, hip galleries, cafes, etc. Chiang Mai boasts a world-famous night bazaar jam-packed with shops, open market stalls, bars and nightly events.

Day 18:
To the Golden Triangle



Meals: B, L
[Anantara Spa & Resort, Golden Triangle](#), Suite

Chiang Rai is the northernmost province in Thailand, and the Golden Triangle lies roughly 220km north of Chiang Mai. A morning spent driving through sleepy towns brings you through a valley of flat farmland where Thailand, Myanmar and Laos converge along the legendary Mekong River. Your next three nights are perched in a suite at the northernmost edge of the kingdom at the Anantara Golden Triangle Resort.



About Anantara Golden Triangle

The Anantara is a luxury lodge nestled over the confluence of the Mekong and Ruak rivers, in the famous Golden Triangle.

The resort includes traditional spa facilities, as well as an infinity pool, fitness center, sauna, squash and tennis courts and a Thai cooking school. The dramatic high column-lined entrance featuring wooden carvings and artwork throughout the property are reminiscent of a Lanna palace, appropriate for a luxury hotel perched at the gateway to Indochina.

If you're up for an adventure then tonight affords a special time to dine on legendary Mekong river fish and spicy soup along the river! Otherwise the Anantara's restaurants are among the finest in northern Thailand. Wine aficionados have been seen acting rather giddy by the vintage stock in the hotel's cellar.

**Days 19-20:
The Golden Triangle,
Mekong River and the
Anantara...**



Meals: B, L daily
[Anantara Spa & Resort,
Golden Triangle](#), Suite

If you're keen to get out and see some remote mountain communities, stroll through Ahka and Lahu hilltribe villages, then we'll strike up the band. One of the Anantara's advantages is that it provides easy access to nearby towns in the region. With the comforts of luxury at night, let's get out and conquer the hills during the day!

A visit to the Golden Triangle wouldn't be complete without a fast-paced blast in a Mekong river boat down to a Laotian trading port. We'll also visit the important 'Hall of Opium' for a fascinating look at this drug's storied history and will encourage everything from a hearty cycle along the Mekong to a bohemian riverside Thai hippy village, or an exhilarating hike over steep hills to sip Oolong tea in the far-flung Chinese mountain village of Doi Mae Salong. A couple of days to see the real deal, and get a workout at the same time!

Day 21:
Goodbye Thailand, Hello
Vietnam



Meals: B, L
[Sofitel Metropole Hanoi](#)

Enjoy a relaxing morning in Chiang Rai then we'll shuttle you to the airport for your flight to Bangkok and onwards to a whole different world... northern Vietnam!

Welcome to Hanoi

Hanoi is hot for a variety of reasons: a vibrant, youthful economy, fabulous colonial French-Vietnamese architecture, Vietnamese food (a reason to go all on its own) and a glimpse of a culture in transition at the political seat of Vietnam.

Upon arrival in Hanoi, a Smiling Albino host will be waiting for you at the airport and transfer you to the Sofitel Metropole. We'll pre-arrange fast-track visa service to speed you through the sometimes labyrinthine maze of immigration cues at Hanoi airport.



About Metropole Hanoi

The Metropole Hanoi is a French colonial-style building which has stood proudly since 1901. The hotel has a rich history and a century-long tradition of welcoming ambassadors, writers, heads of state, and entrepreneurs. Features include a beautiful interior garden, excellent French cuisine at Le Beaulieu, and Hanoi specialties at the Spices Garden. Located in the heart of downtown, the Metropole blends the hospitality of Vietnamese people with European luxury heritage.

Day 22:
Hanoi on foot



Meals: B, L

[Sofitel Metropole Hanoi](#)

In the morning (not too early) you'll be met by a fun host who will take you to the city's landmarks: Ho Chi Minh's Mausoleum, the Presidential Palace, One Pillar Pagoda, Temple of Literature and the infamous Hanoi Hilton.

Hanoi is great for wanderlust shopping and great bargains can be found on silk, lacquer ware and a host of other fine items. Keep your eyes peeled!

In the afternoon enjoy a short walk in the old 'French Quarter' and around Hoan Kiem Lake. If you're keen we'll coordinate a charming one-hour *cyclo* (three-wheeled rickshaw) ride through some of Hanoi's prominent communities. Then for a neat artistic experience, we'll send you to a Vietnamese Water Puppet Theater to take in a short show.

This is a fun town, the restaurants are superb and simply walking the streets is an eye-popping adventure. In any event, your guide will be on-hand to help orchestrate the day.

Day 23:
More Hanoi



Hanoi is often referred to as the ‘Paris of Asia’ in terms of architecture, cuisine and shopping, so a couple of afternoons with an open schedule to really sink your teeth into the city are a good idea. With the list we’ll provide of our favorite places to eat, shop and stroll, our suspicion is that you’ll be up to your ears in spring rolls and art galleries until the moment you leave!

Day 24:
Hanoi to Bangkok



Meals: B
[Novotel Suvarnabhumi Airport](#)

Want a neat suggestion this morning? Take a visit to the Vietnam Women's Museum for an interesting viewpoint on feminism, Vietnamese-style.

In the early evening a private car will take you to the airport for your flight to Bangkok where you'll overnight in a Jr. Suite at the lovely Novotel Suvarnabhumi for your final night in Southeast Asia.



About the Novotel Suvarnabhumi

The Novotel Suvarnabhumi is a short walk (or use the complimentary shuttle service) from Suvarnabhumi International Airport. Rooms and suites feature slick, contemporary design, an outdoor pool and luxurious spa with steam and sauna. If you're leaving early, there simply is no better place to stay.

**Day 25:
Homeward Bound**



Stroll across the hotel grounds and into the passenger terminal for your flight home and back to reality. Here our time together comes to a close and we bid you farewell. *Pope Gan Mai Nai Krub* (see you again next time)!

**Price: Approx. \$1,000US/day
For a solo traveler**

INCLUDING:

This thoughtfully designed adventure is inclusive of meals as outlined, all logistics, admissions, 24 nights of world-class accommodations, two domestic and two international airline tickets, airport transfers, Fast Track Custom services, equipment rentals, supreme Western, Thai and Vietnamese hosts, mobile phone, comprehensive 'Adventure Kit' and all taxes. Prior to your trip you'll receive a comprehensive e-package with every conceivable detail outlined, from what to pack, what to read, where to eat, shop and drink to how to make the most of your time and all of your colleagues jealous.

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. We will also provide you with a complimentary mobile phone for your use throughout your stay. You'll be treated with executive care during your Smiling Albino adventure.

We look forward to hosting you!

The Team at Smiling Albino

Smiling Albino - Bangkok, Thailand
info@smilingalbino.com - www.smilingalbino.com

Ph: +66-2-107-2540

"See a different part of the world, differently"