



BEYOND BANGKOK

# BANGKOK THAILAND

SIGNATURE EXPERIENCES

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## **FULL-DAY AND HALF-DAY TRIPS OUTSIDE OF BANGKOK**

WHETHER YOU ARE INTERESTED IN VISITING ANCIENT RUINS, FLOATING MARKETS, OR A NATURAL ESCAPE FROM THE HUSTLE AND BUSTLE OF BANGKOK, WE'VE GOT YOU COVERED.

THE FOLLOWING PLACES ARE SITUATED BETWEEN ONE AND THREE HOURS OUTSIDE OF BANGKOK OFFERING GREAT OPPORTUNITIES FOR FULL DAY OUTINGS.

# ANCIENT AYUTTHAYA

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The ancient Siamese capital of Ayutthaya was the crowning glory of the Kingdom for hundreds of years. Today, our private van will take us to each of these spots and, if you are feeling adventurous, we could do a couple of kilometers on Mary Poppins-style bikes.

We will stop for lunch at a delicious riverside restaurant and, in the early afternoon, enjoy a private longtail boat ride around this historical island. This is the perfect way to cap off our day to Ayutthaya before heading back to Bangkok.

Time: Full-day (08:00 – 16:00)

Explored by: Private minivan, walking, casual cycling (optional), longtail boat

Inclusion: English speaking host, transportation, plenty of snacks, soft drinks and drinking water

Meals: Lunch at a local restaurant

Note: There is a dress code recommendation for Buddhist sites in Ayutthaya of shirts that cover shoulders, and shorts/skirts that cover the knees. No beach sandals, but sport sandals with straps around the heel are okay. It takes approximately 1.5 hours each way to Ayutthaya. Bicycle riding is optional and can cover up to 15 kilometers on flat, paved roads.

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**Insider Tip:** When visiting Wat Chai Watthanaram (usually the last temple of the day) make sure you walk to the less visited west gate. The sun angle makes for great photos.



# THA KHA FLOATING MARKET

We'll pick you up after an early breakfast at your hotel and drive west to visit Tha Kha Floating Market. The market is named after a long water grass native to the area, and retains a distinctive Thai charm seldom found at the more famous floating markets closer to Bangkok.

Postcard visuals abound as vendors trade with each other and hawk goods to locals and visitors along the canal's edge. Board a small wooden paddle boat and cruise through palm plantations and soak-up the rural and old market culture lovingly locked in time.

Before the afternoon heat, we'll transfer you back to your hotel to enjoy the rest of the day at leisure... or we could explore more interesting sites on the way back to town if you so choose.

Time: The market hours are 06:30 - 11:30 (weekends only).

Explored by: Private van, paddle boat and walking

Inclusion: English speaking host, transportation, plenty of snacks, soft drinks and drinking water

Meals: None

Note: It is about a 1.5 hour drive each way from Bangkok to reach Tha Kha. This experience only runs on the weekend.

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**Insider Tip:** Try a refreshing natural coconut, the vendors skillfully chop the top off and fashion a natural spoon out of it for you. Say no to plastic!



# DAMNOEN SADUAK FLOATING MARKET

Damnoen Saduak Floating Market, the largest floating market in the vicinity of Bangkok and probably the one you've seen on postcards! Totally chaotic, small 'klongs' or canals, are filled with small flat-bottom boats jockeying for position, expertly paddled by mature ladies ready to stop and bargain at a moment's notice.

It's colorful, noisy, totally touristy but great fun. If you want a more 'authentic' feel to your visit, it's best to get there as early as you can.

Before the afternoon heat, we'll transfer you back to your hotel to enjoy the rest of the day at leisure... or we could explore more interesting sites on the way back to town if you so choose.

Time: The market hours are 07:00 - 12:00 everyday.

Explored by: private van, longtail boat and walking

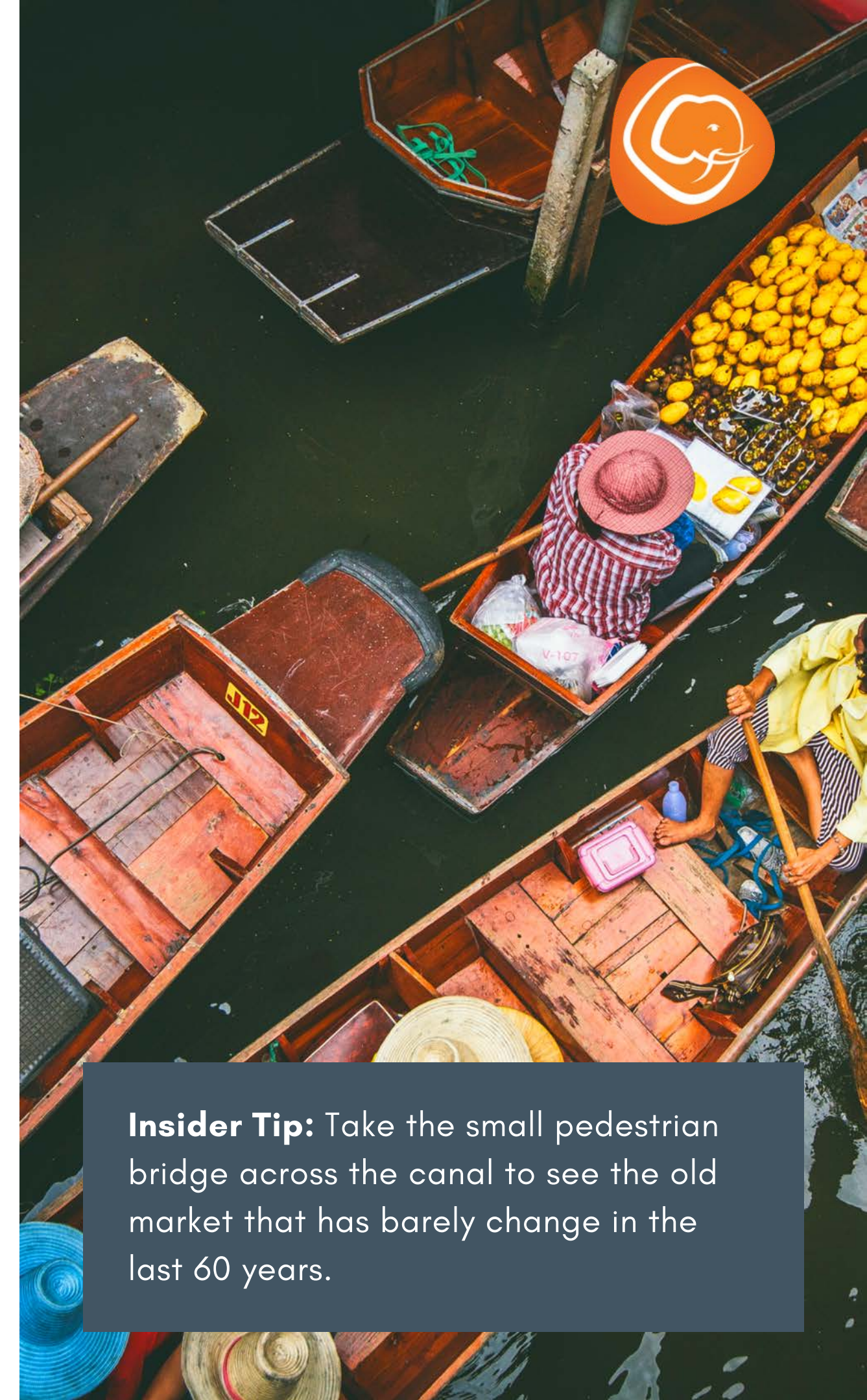
Inclusion: English speaking host, transportation, plenty of snacks, soft drinks and drinking water

Meals: None

Note: It is about a 1.5 hour drive each way from Bangkok to reach Damnoen Saduak.

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**Insider Tip:** Take the small pedestrian bridge across the canal to see the old market that has barely change in the last 60 years.



# FLOATING MARKETS DAWN TO DUSK

Visit one of the famous floating markets outside Bangkok. Postcard visuals abound as vendors trade with each other and hawk goods to locals and visitors along the canal's edge.

Board a small wooden paddle boat and cruise through palm plantations and soak in old market culture lovingly locked in time. Continue with visits to local temples and historical sites before checking out the vintage Maeklong Railway Market.

The day finishes at Amphawa Floating Market. A new take on Thai floating markets, this afternoon and nighttime market offers both modern and traditional market items sold out of local Thai riverside homes.

Time: Full-day, 07:30 - 16:30 (weekend only)

Explored by: Private van, paddle boat and walking

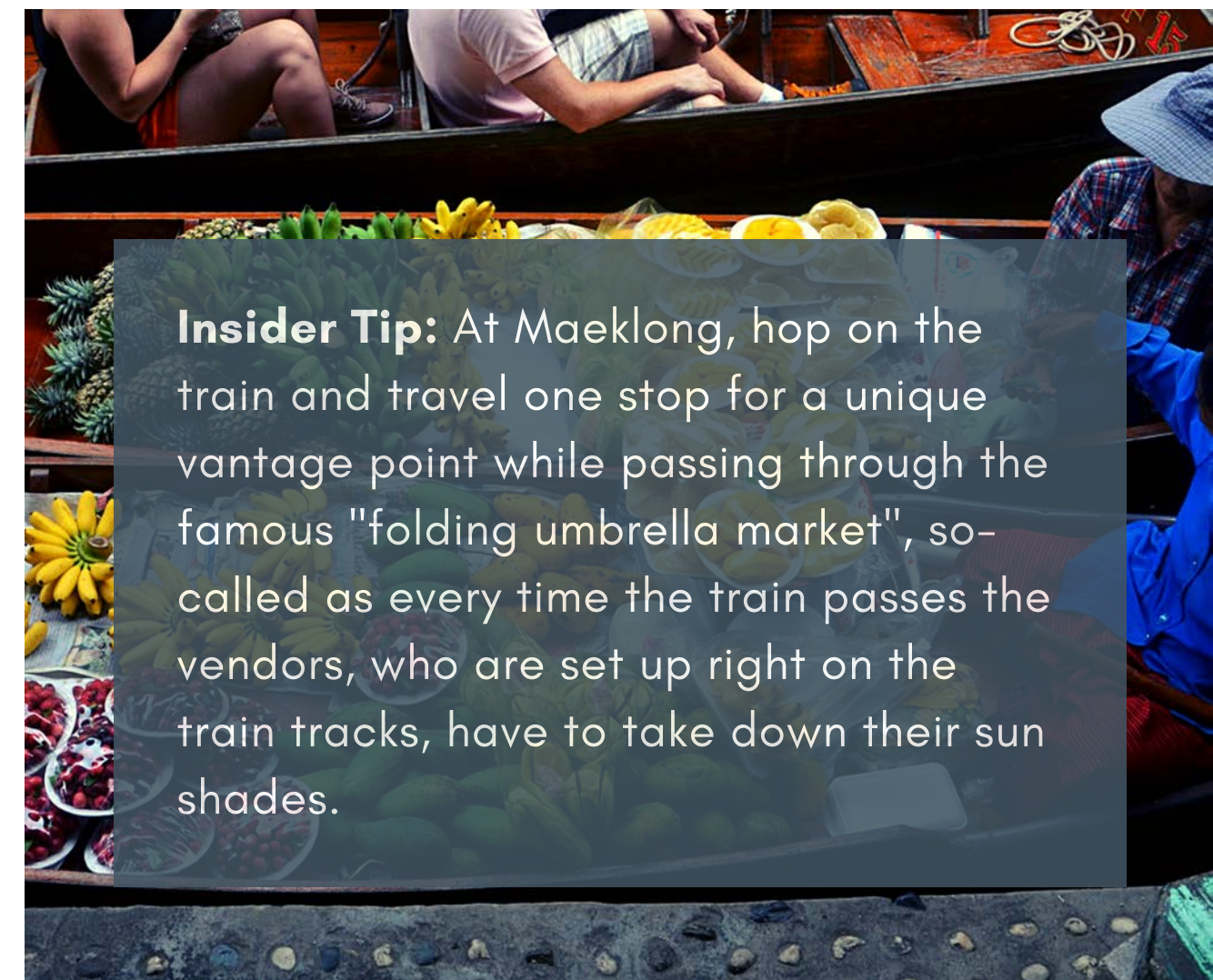
Inclusion: English speaking host, transportation, plenty of snacks, soft drinks and drinking water

Meals: Lunch at a local restaurant

Note: Driving to Tha Kha takes around 1.5 hours, as does the return trip to Bangkok from Amphawa. This excursion is only available on weekends.

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**Insider Tip:** At Maeklong, hop on the train and travel one stop for a unique vantage point while passing through the famous "folding umbrella market", so-called as every time the train passes the vendors, who are set up right on the train tracks, have to take down their sun shades.



# FLOATING MARKET AND MANGROVES

Enjoy one of Thailand's icons, a traditional floating market, where vendors trade with each other and hawk goods to locals and visitors. We board a small wooden boat and cruise through palm plantations and soak in old market culture lovingly locked in time.

After a delicious lunch at a local eatery, it's time for mangrove planting, monkey watching and water (mud) skiing. From the Mangrove Forest Conservation Centre we travel through a mangrove forest out to the shallow Gulf of Thailand. Our hosts will lead us in a reforestation project, planting mangrove saplings. This is great, very muddy fun and a way of giving back at the same time.

After this rewarding effort, we'll have the option for a bit of unique recreation, water skiing across the shallow mudflats behind a speeding longtail boats.

Time: Full-day, 07:00 – 16:00

Explored by: Private van, longtail boat, paddle boat and walking

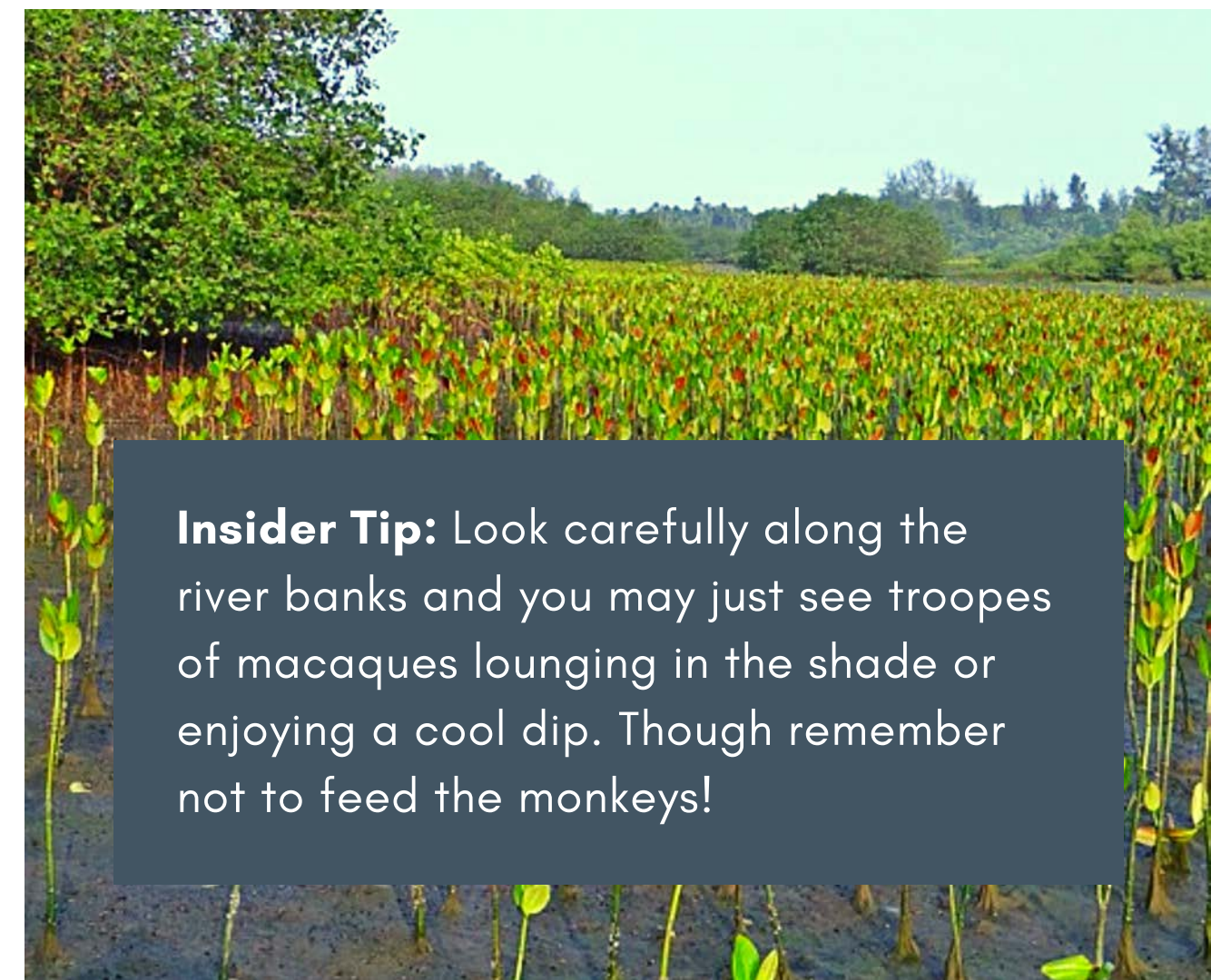
Inclusion: English speaking host, transportation, plenty of snacks, soft drinks and drinking water

Meals: Lunch at a local restaurant

Note: You need to be prepared to get muddy when planting mangroves and mud skiing. There are facilities for showering and freshening up. Please bring a towel and a change of clothes. Driving takes around 1.5 hours each way from Bangkok.

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**Insider Tip:** Look carefully along the river banks and you may just see troops of macaques lounging in the shade or enjoying a cool dip. Though remember not to feed the monkeys!



UPDATED

# KANCHANABURI DAY TRIP

World-famous for the location of the movie “The Bridge on the River Kwai”, Kanchanaburi is the ideal place for a quick and convenient escape from the city. Our first stop will be the Thailand-Burma Railway Center, a museum where you will begin to appreciate the remarkable history surrounding the role of allied POWs in Thailand during the Second World War.

We will then head to Krasae Cave, which is located along one of the most scenic stretches of the historic railway and houses a sacred Buddha Statue. From here we will cap of the morning with a thrilling one-hour long train ride, rattling along through the mountainous landscape in true Thai style. Time permitting, we can visit the stunning Sai Yok Noi waterfall before a visit the famous bridge on the River Kwai when the crowds have mostly left and we can enjoy it in more peace.

Time: Full-day, 07:00–18:00 (an early start is necessary due to lengthy transfer time)

Explored by: Private van, local train, and walking

Inclusion: English speaking host, transportation, plenty of snacks, soft drinks and drinking water

Meals: Lunch at a local restaurant

Note: The drive to and from Kanchanaburi takes around two-and-a-half to three hours each way. Train schedules in Thailand are not always reliable and the flow of the itinerary above may need to be adjusted.

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**Insider Tip:** For the short train trip, we recommend riding in 3rd class rather than 2nd. The open windows and strolling food vendors create a more authentic experience.





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AT SMILING ALBINO WE DON'T JUST CONNECT  
THE DOTS, WE CREATE THEM, AND DELIVER  
UNFORGETTABLE MOMENTS.

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