

Bangkok Day Trips



SMILING
ALBINO

Cities are often defined by their skylines or landmarks, but if there was ever a city that screamed out to be defined by its experiences and its assault on the senses, it's Bangkok.

A flat, chaotic spread of concrete encroaching on the surrounding rice fields, Bangkok doesn't generally capture one's imagination driving into town for the first time. But as soon as you step out from your air-conditioned vehicle into the electrifying atmosphere that envelops Bangkok, it grabs you and demands all your senses' attention.

Bangkok



Full Day

Multi Transport

Recommended time: 9:00 - 15:00

This adventure is an outstanding introduction to frenetic Bangkok. Using a variety of local transport styles including as skytrains, tuk-tuks, canal boats and by foot, we get a taste of life in Bangkok. This is an innovative approach to urban travel, avoiding traffic and providing a liberating way to explore the city and its highlights while supporting local businesses.

We can visit:

- Erawan Shrine and Central Business District
- Golden Mount at Wat Saket
- Wat Pho and the Reclining Buddha
- Grand Palace



Full Day

Ancient Ayutthaya

Recommended time: 8:00 - 16:00

The ancient Siamese capital of Ayutthaya was the crowning glory of the kingdom from 1350-1767. Though the city was all but completely destroyed by a Burmese army in 1767. Depart from Bangkok early to spend the morning exploring the prime sites and lesser-known gems, including Wat Mahathat, where the head of a stone Buddha statue is mysteriously entwined by the roots of a Bodhi tree, Wat Si Sanphet, with its photogenic triad of regal stupas, and more.

We'll travel to each of these spots by private van, but 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 charter a private longtail boat ride around the historical island, revealing the blueprint model for its eventual successor, Bangkok.



Full Day

Bangkok High Culture

Bangkok is home to many museums, historical sites and spectacular temples. Much of Bangkok enjoyed a cultural boom during King Rama V's era when the King and many Thais began visiting Europe and bringing home new fashions and ideas. Bangkok modernized during this time with its first paved roads, train stations, banks and European-inspired architecture. This day trip explores the prominent sites and is ideal for gaining an understanding of Thai design, architecture, history and culture. We'll have a private van at our disposal for the day to reach each site in comfort.

Recommended places:

- Marble Temple
- National Museum
- Amulet Market
- Queen Sirikit Museum of Textiles



Full Day

Floating Market

Recommended time: 7:00 - 13:00

We'll meet you early at your hotel and drive 1.5 hours to visit one of the most interesting floating markets west of Bangkok, probably the one you've seen on postcards! It can get chaotic at peak times – 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 earlier.

Either before or after the floating market, we have the opportunity to visit the very photogenic Rom Hub Railway Market where the vendors set up along the train tracks and must retract their sun awnings and pull back their produce from the tracks each time the train passes.

On the way back to Bangkok, we'll enjoy a local lunch at one of our favorite restaurants in the area.



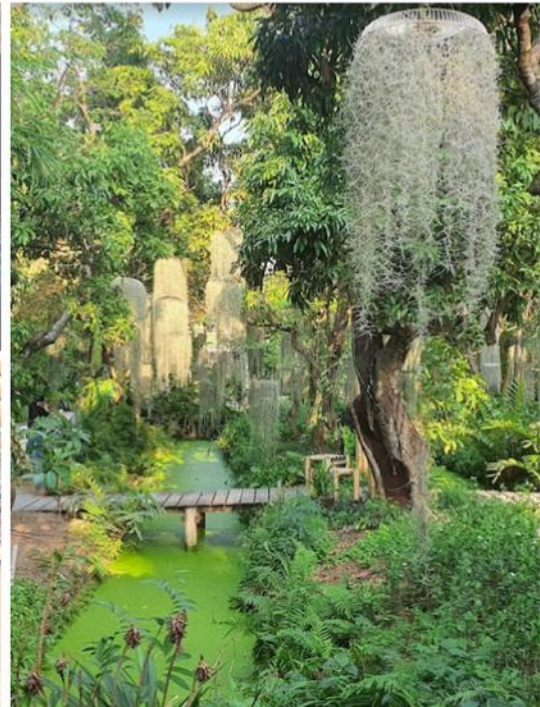
Half Day

Liquid Bangkok

Recommended time: 10:00 - 15:00

Discover the original Bangkok canal-side neighborhoods, the foundation of the city's early development. Chinese, Portuguese, Muslim and European influences blend with Thai communities along Bangkok's famous Chao Phraya River. Using the waterway as our launch point, we'll walk in the steps of early Bangkok merchants, exploring some of these areas well off the usual beaten track:

- Baan Bu (hand-hammered bronze bowl factory)
- Canals of Thonburi (stop and visit a couple of canal-side communities)
- Poomjai Garden lunch - a sustainable organic garden aimed at "re-wilding Bangkok" and preserving native trees, plants, herbs and traditional garden culture of past generations.



Half Day

Cycling Bangkok's Riverside

Recommended time: 8:00 - 12:00

This half-day city cycling adventure explores the maze of small streets and hidden alleyways to avoid much of the hustle and bustle of the modern city of Bangkok. We'll make our way upriver through the European heritage neighbourhood and old markets to Rattanakosin Island, skirting the Grand Palace and Wat Pho as we go. We'll hop on a cross-river ferry and visit an historic community on the Thonburi side of the city, which was the capital of Siam prior to Bangkok, and explore an old artisan community and a less visited royal temple with fabulous murals before dropping you off back at your hotel before lunch.



Half Day

Cycling Thonburi's Riverside

Recommended time: 8:00 - 12:00

This half-day city cycling adventure explores the less-visited Thonburi side of Bangkok's Chao Phraya river. Once the capital of Siam, Thonburi is home to many important historical sites, scattered along the riverside, that predate Bangkok and are best visited by bicycle. We'll navigate the quieter streets, alleys and pathways to find the back entrances of these incredible sites. By day's end, you will have seen more of historical Siam than most residents have!



Half Day

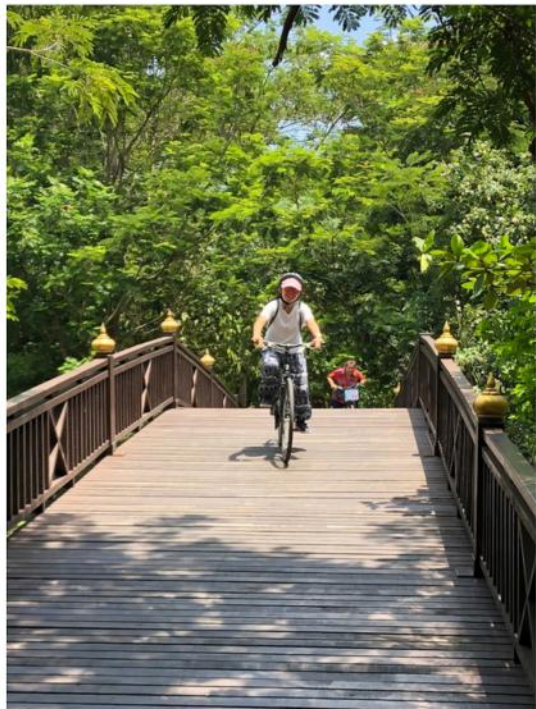
Cycling Bangkok's "Green Lung"

Recommended time: 10:00 - 15:00

Explore the hidden jungles of Bangkok on a cycling adventure into the inner city oasis of Bang Krachao. Reached by boat or bridge, this island is often referred to as the "green lung" of Bangkok. A quaint law of allowing no buildings taller than a palm tree have kept property developers at bay.

We'll explore the nature, villages, temples and markets of this laid-back island at a leisurely pace, stopping occasionally to try new tastes, discover artisanal endeavors or if we're lucky, to catch a glimpse of a kingfisher perched in the trees.

The cycling is flat along small paved roads and raised concrete pathways through the cool, green mangroves. This is a perfect day for those who want some light activity and are in search of Thailand's hidden secrets.



Evening

Headlights

Recommended time: 17:00 - 21:00

This is your chance to experience 'One Night in Bangkok'. We'll begin the evening at dusk to capture the magical hour when the natural light begins to distort the city into its after dark alter-ego. We'll walk through various neighborhoods, followed by some great local food, a beverage in a unique place, and a nice visit through market areas and historic districts. The best way to do this is by using a variety of local transportation in order to be spontaneous and efficient. The evening can then wrap up with a nightcap in some cool local bars in a restored neighborhood near Chinatown or a rooftop riverside bar with stunning evening views.

Explored by: walking, three-wheeled tuk tuk and possibly SkyTrain

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

Meals: dinner will be a series of street food tastings



The Smiling Albino Difference

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

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.



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