

August 3 - 13, 2009

THAILAND: Bangkok and Chiang Mai

“The gift **BANGKOK** offers me is the assurance I will never be bored”.

William Warren, expat author.

* **Half Day City Orientation Tour** through the Royal Grand Palace, the residence of the King of Siam, and the Temple of the Emerald Buddha.

* Exclusive **designer** appointments.

* Exclusive **fashion industry** appointments.

* **Jim Thompson Museum**, carefully preserved teak houses and gardens of the American intelligence agent who launched the export of Thai silk in 1947. Besides the house museum filled with priceless antiques, there is a shop, and a shaded terrace cafe. Jim Thompson mysteriously disappeared in 1967.

* **Chatuchak Weekend Market** is a HUGE market; porcelain, sarong fabrics, antiques, exotic fruits, handicrafts, luggage, orchids. Strong odors and large crowds.

* **River City**, a mall featuring antiques, jewelry store, and more! Easy access by river ferry.

* **Precious stones**, rubies and sapphires especially. Meet a gemologist.

* **Blue Elephant Cooking School** option. Royal Thai cuisine.

The ancient city of **CHIANG MAI** is famed for its handicrafts; silverwork, textiles, pottery, wooden carvings, lavender jade, and gems. Hill-tribe people and many fine temples are found in the northern area.

* **Hill-tribe villages**, meet the people, see the brilliant textiles.

* **Dance performance** of typical Thai and hill-tribe dances, outstanding costumes.

* Not to be missed, the **Night Bazaar**. It is spectacular!!

* Visit a working **Elephant Camp**, ride an elephant through the jungle.

* **Lavender Jade** factory visit.

HONG KONG
August 12 - 15, 2009

- * **Four Star Deluxe Hotel** conveniently located close to great shopping and the Star Ferry shuttling between Kowloon and Hong Kong Island.
- * **Half Day City Orientation Tour** including Victoria Peak, Repulse Bay, Aberdeen where the floating population still live on their sampans.
- * **Jade Market** selling jade of all types, shapes, and prices. Even the experts can not tell the real from the fake. Jade brings you good health.
- * **Stanley Market** at the southern end of Hong Kong. Amazing selections, great buys of famous labels; casual clothes, silks, table linens, sports shoes, children's' apparel. Original local artwork.
- * **Night Market a.k.a. Temple Street Market** fortune tellers, knock off hand bags, watches, and bargains galore.
- * **Yue Hwa Chinese Products Emporium** great antiques department, also crushed pearl cosmetic products.
- * **Chinese Arts and Crafts** featuring quality goods from Mainland China.
- * **Shanghai Tang** 1930s decor, department store. Products and colors are distinctly Chinese influenced by history, art, and folklore.
- * **Tea at the "Pen"** with exclusive international shops to browse.
- * **Man Mo Temple** 1847, dedicated to the gods of literature and war.
- * **Museum of History** outlines 6,000 years of Hong Kong history.
- * **Hong Kong Museum of Art** contains hundreds of oil paintings, drawings, and etchings of old Hong Kong.
- * **Flagstaff House Museum of Tea Ware** originally home (1846) of Commander-in-Chief of British forces, oldest surviving colonial building.
- * Optional day trips: **Canton** Mainland China, **Lantau Island** with Po Lin Buddhist Monastery and the largest outdoor Buddha statue in the world.
- * Reputable **shops** with attractive prices for pearls, gems, linens, silks, custom made, etc.
- * Fabulous **restaurant** suggestions, truly native, excellent prices.