

2025 Tour Program

Day 1: Thursday, 24th April 2025

Depart Mercure/ Ibis Siam Hotel, Bangkok: 7:00am

(Please note: The Mercure/ Ibis Bangkok Siam Hotel is the only pick-up / departure point in Bangkok)

Finish: 5:00pm approx.

Gather in the concierge area of the Mercure/ Ibis Bangkok Siam Hotel (your Bangkok pick-up point) by 6:30am. Meet the other members of the tour before boarding your minivan/bus for the trip to Kanchanaburi, about 3 hours after leaving Bangkok.

Board the mid-morning **train** at Kanchanaburi Railway Station and **ride on an original section of the Burma-Thailand Railway** passing over the Bridge over the River Kwai, through the Chungkai Cutting (the first cutting on the southern end constructed by the POW's) and over the spectacular Wang Pho Viaduct. Leave the train at Tham Krasae for a closer look at the **Wang Pho Viaduct**. Here the POW's built a series of bridges with towering cliffs on one side and a steep drop to the River Kwai on the other.

After lunch, travel further north to an area rarely visited by Australians but significant to the POW's story when constructing the railway. Inside the picturesque **Saiyok National Park**, is an area known as **Kinsaiyok** which was a major railway junction on the Burma-Thailand Railway. Stop at the site of the railway station where the remnants of the coal dumps still exist. See examples of the teak trees and understand why they were used in the building of bridges and viaducts along the railway. Visit the Japanese and POW's camp site areas and the **Japanese Ovens**. Afterwards, discover the natural beauty of the park at the **Saiyok Waterfalls** on the River Kwai itself.

Return down the highway to your overnight accommodation, uniquely situated on floating rafts out over the River Kwai. This 3 Star Resort provides good quality ensuited and airconditioned rooms that are a tranquil oasis while you watch the river flow by. Take time to relax, join in some of the resort's water activities on the River Kwai itself or have a refreshing drink at the bar

(Please note: Floating raft accommodation is limited and subject to availability. It will be offered on a 'first come first serviced' basis. Alternate 'land based' accommodation will be provided in lieu.)

Meals: Lunch, Dinner

Hotel: Boutique Raft River Kwai Resort (or similar)

Price (Per Person):

1 Person (1 Room): **\$1,200**

2 Persons (1 Room): **\$910**

3 Persons (2 Rooms): **\$1,010**

4 Persons (2 Rooms): **\$910**

Prices valid to: 31st Mar. 2025

From/To: Bangkok

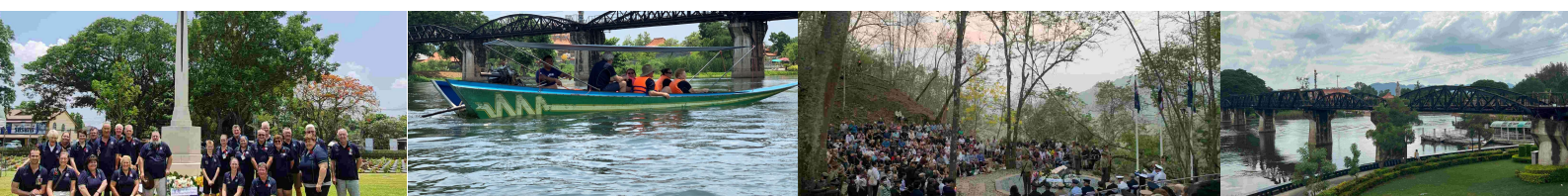
Duration: 3 Days / 2 Nights

Departs: 24th April 2025

Departure: Guaranteed

Inclusions:

- Accommodation (2 Nights)
- Meals: Breakfast (2), Lunch (3), Dinner (2). *Please note: Drinks not included*
- Experienced, English-speaking guide
- Comfortable, air-conditioned minivan/bus with driver
- All touring as per program
- Long-tail boat and train ride



Day 2: Friday, 25th April 2025

Depart hotel: 2:15am

Finish: 1:30pm approx.

An early start for what will be an emotional and memorable day. Travel to **Hellfire Pass** (about 25 minutes) for the **Anzac Day Dawn Service** at the **Hellfire Pass Memorial**. Afterwards, in the light of day, examine Hellfire Pass and take in the amazing views of the River Kwai valley below, from the old track bed. Mingle with other travellers at the **Gunfire Breakfast** before exploring the exhibits at the **Hellfire Pass Interpretive Centre**.

Travel to Kanchanaburi (about 1 hour, 15 minutes) and the **Kanchanaburi War Cemetery**. Join in a **private Wreath Laying Ceremony** at the cemetery's Cross of Sacrifice and then take time to walk around the beautifully landscaped grounds where nearly 7,000 POW's are buried and begin to understand why the railway became known as the "Death Railway".

Visit the **JEATH Museum**, a pictorial display of the construction of the Burma-Thailand Railway before boarding a **long tail boat for a ride on the River Kwai** gaining a unique perspective of the Bridge over the River Kwai from the river itself. On a hot day, the boat ride is not only a lot of fun but is also cooling as you speed along the river.

Enjoy a relaxing **early lunch at the Floating Restaurant** with views of the bridge. After, visit the **Bridge over the River Kwai** and observe the war damage that can still be seen today but largely goes unnoticed. Then make the return walk across the bridge.

Travel the short distance to your 4 Star accommodation with views from your balcony, overlooking the River Kwai.

With the early start, the rest of your day is free. Perhaps relax by the hotel's pool or try one of the many bars close-by and share stories with other Anzac Day travellers. Tonight, join your fellow tour members at the **tour dinner** at the hotel.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Hotel: Natee, The Riverfront Hotel (or similar)

Day 3: Saturday, 26th April 2025

Depart hotel: 9:00am

Arrive **Mercure/ Ibis Bangkok Siam Hotel, Bangkok**: 5:30pm approx.

(Please note: The Mercure/ Ibis Bangkok Siam Hotel is the only arrival / drop-off point in Bangkok)

A short distance away, stop at the **Kanchanaburi Skywalk**. A recently opened attraction that provides incredible views of Kanchanaburi, the mountains of the Kwai valley to the north and the confluence of the Kwai Rivers.

Then travel across the other side of the River Kwai, to the **Chungkai War Cemetery**. This was the site of the Chungkai POW railway construction camp and later, a hospital

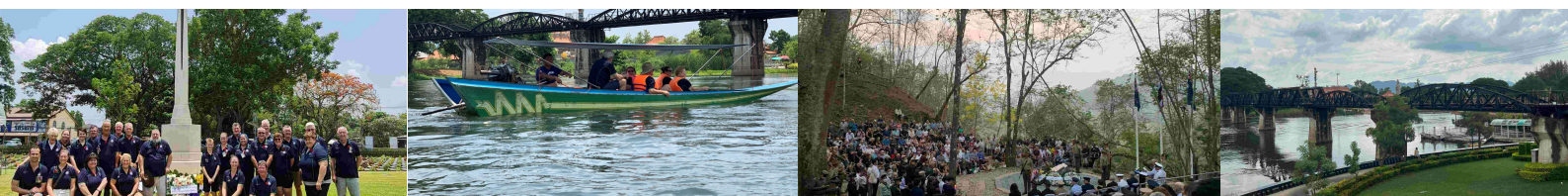
Inclusions (Cont'd):

- Historic War Tours - Burma-Thailand Railway historian
- Entrance fees to parks and museums
- Historic War Tours – Anzac Day Polo Shirt

Exclusions:

- Airfares, passport and visas
- Bangkok accommodation
- Meals, drinks and services not mentioned
- Comprehensive travel insurance
- Personal expenses (e.g. telephone, internet, laundry, drinks, souvenirs etc.)
- Tips to Guide and Driver

Please note: It is a requirement of Historic War Tours that all customers have comprehensive travel insurance while on tour.



Day 3 (Cont'd):

camp. As a mark of respect to those buried here take a moment of quiet reflection, then see the remnants of the death trenches that fortunately, were never used.

Return to Kanchanaburi and as a fitting way to end our time in Kanchanaburi, the River Kwai and the Burma-Thailand Railway, visit the **Thailand-Burma Railway Centre**. This world renowned museum features dioramas, artefacts (retrieved from various camps and work sites along the railway) and personal stories of POW's, all combining to give you a great appreciation of the railway story.

After lunch, depart for Bangkok and the Ibis/Mercure Bangkok Siam Hotel (your Bangkok drop-off point). On the way, discover your birth Buddha and colour when you visit the **Phra Pathom Chedi** at Nakhom Pathom, the largest Buddhist Pagoda in Thailand. Nearby, was a large POW hospital camp where the well-known Australian railway doctor, Weary Dunlop, was based from mid-1944 until the end of the war. The chedi is a substantial landmark and was clearly visible to the men at the camp.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Hotel: Own arrangement

Pick-up / Drop-off Point in Bangkok:

There will be only one pick-up/drop-off point in Bangkok – the **Mercure/ Ibis Bangkok Siam Hotel**.

Situated in central Bangkok, the Mercure/ Ibis Bangkok Siam Hotel is two hotels (the Mercure and the Ibis) and together, offer a good variety of accommodation levels at reasonable prices. The hotels are within easy walking distance to the BTS and the shopping centres of MBK and Siam Centre. The off-street driveway provides a convenient pick-up/drop-off for taxis or Grab (Thailand's equivalent of Uber) should you wish to travel to other areas of Bangkok.

For those wishing to stay somewhere else, **please plan to arrive at the Mercure/ Ibis Bangkok Siam by 6:30am on the 24th April.**

