

2024 Tour Program

Day 1

Depart hotel: 7:00am

Finish: 4:30pm approx.

Depart Bangkok for Kanchanaburi on the River Kwai and the Kanchanaburi Railway Station. Join the **train on a still operating section of the Burma-Thailand Railway** leaving at Tham Krasae, the site of the spectacular **Wang Pho Viaduct**. Here the POW's built a series of bridges where the railway hugs the cliffs on one side and a steep drop to the River Kwai on the other. Enjoy lunch and take time to explore the viaduct and Krasae Cave.

A short drive away is the Australian Government supported **Hellfire Pass Interpretive Centre**. Displays, photos and dioramas depict the construction of the railway through this mountainous section and the hardships that the POW's had to endure. Walk down the stairway from the Centre to the disused railway bed below and proceed to **Hellfire Pass**. Be amazed at how this huge railway cutting was built with little more than basic hand tools while the POW's worked 16 to 17 hours a day. Take time for some quiet reflection on the sacrifices of the POW's at the Weary Dunlop and the Hellfire Pass Memorials.

Return to Kanchanaburi and your overnight accommodation.

Meals: Lunch

Hotel: U Inchantree Resort, Kanchanaburi (or similar)

Day 2

Depart hotel: 9:00am

Finish: 5:30pm approx.

The first stop of the day is the **Kanchanaburi War Cemetery**. Walk around these beautifully landscaped grounds where nearly 7,000 POW's are buried or commemorated and begin to understand why the railway became known as the "Death Railway".

Next visit the nearby **Thailand-Burma Railway Centre**, a museum of world renown overlooking the war cemetery. Dioramas, artefacts (retrieved from various camps and work sites along the railway) and personal stories of POW's, all combine to give you a better appreciation of the railway story.

Price (Per Person):

2 Persons (1 Room): **\$650**

3 Persons (2 Rooms): **\$560**

4 Persons (2 Rooms): **\$490**

Prices valid to: 31st Dec. 2024

From/To: Bangkok

Duration: 2 Days

Departs: On request

Departure: Guaranteed

Inclusions:

- Pick-up/Drop-off at your Bangkok hotel
- Accommodation (1 Night)
- Meals as indicated (Note: Drinks not included)
- Experienced, English-speaking guide
- Comfortable, air-conditioned car/minivan with driver
- All touring as indicated
- Train & long tail boat rides
- Entrance fee - Thailand-Burma Railway Centre



Day 2 (Cont'd)

Enjoy a **long tail boat ride on the River Kwai** to the **Bridge over the River Kwai**. Join others making the return pilgrimage across the bridge before having lunch at the **Floating Restaurant** beside. A fitting way to end your short time at the River Kwai while savouring the sight of the Bridge.

After lunch, begin your journey back to Bangkok. On the way, 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

Exclusions:

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

