



BRITISH CLUB SENIORS SECTION

Bang Pa In Day Trip – Thursday, 21st September 2023

Itinerary & Briefing Notes

**** It's HOT ... Cold Water is available on the bus – please keep hydrated ****

08.30 – Depart BC for the “Khon” Exhibition

(Approximately 1 hour journey, then 1 hour 15 minutes at the Exhibition)



“Khon” Masked Dance Drama of Thailand has been on the UNESCO's representative list of ‘The Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity’ since November 29, 2018. It was first performed in the Royal Court during the Ayutthaya period (1351-1767) and is based on the epic ‘Ramakien’ tales which are reputed to have evolved from the Hindu mythological epic ‘Ramayana’.



The Exhibition is on the 2nd floor of the Learning Center. There is an entry charge: Baht 150 for persons aged 60 or under, and Baht 75 for persons aged 61 and over, of any nationality. Regretfully, the Center does not have any English-speaking guides.

10.45 – Depart for Kong Khong Market

(Approximately 30 minutes journey, then 45 minutes at the market)



your carry bags here!

Opened since 2006 with a ‘traditional’ Thai market concept, this privately owned market provides space for local vendors to earn a living by selling all sorts of artifacts, foods etc. The words "talat kong khong" in Thai means ‘stooping market’ from ancient times when vendors laid their goods on the ground so customers had to stoop down to search for items they wanted to buy. You will likely need

12.00 – Depart for Ruen Thai Gung Restaurant

(Approximately 20 minutes, journey then 1 hour 10 minutes for lunch)



We have a reservation for seating on a pier in the Chao Phraya River in this very large but well organised and well recommended restaurant where we really enjoyed the lunch during our recon trip. Lunch is a set menu to be shared Thai style. Drinking water and ice are included. If you would like any extras or other drinks, please pay separately.

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13.30 – Depart for Wat Niwet Thammaparawat (Approximately 20 minutes journey, then 55 minutes at the Wat)



Located on a small island in the Chao Phraya River and accessed by a short cable car river crossing. After reaching the island, there is a longish walk to the main temple area. The temple was commissioned in 1876 by King Chulalongkorn (Rama V) and designed by Joachim Grassi, one of the first Italian architects employed by the King's government. Believed to be unique in Thailand, the temple, completed in 1878, was built in Gothic Revival style. It is remarkable in that its architecture resembles a European Church, with stain glass windows and a Gothic altar, although the usual cross (as in Christian churches) is replaced by the main Buddha Image.

Outside and surrounding the main Ordination Hall are several shrines and an ancient Phra Sri Bodhi tree whose branches shade the area in front of the Ordination Hall. There is also a stone garden called "Diskul Anusorn" with a large array of limestone, sandstone, and other stones. It also contains the relics of Prince Damrong Rajanubhab and his mother Chao Chom Manda Chum, King Rama IV's favorite concubine, as well as other royal-blooded members of Diskul family.

Walking back to the cable car area, please leave some time to visit the gardens and views of the river from the other side of the island where a nice café is located, and where at the north end of the island a now unused lighthouse can be found.

14.45 – Depart for Wat Bot (Approximately 30 minutes, then 30 minutes at the Wat)



Wat Bot, also known as Wat Luang Po Tho, and located on the banks of the Chao Phraya River, was first constructed by the immigrant Mon ethnic people in 1621 and has been in use since then, although subject to numerous upgrades over the years. The temple's Somdej Phra Buddhachan (Toh Promrangsai) in a preaching posture statue is Thailand's largest, was built in 2006 and stands 28m tall.

The temple complex has the usual market and shops, and there are thousands of fish, eating breads thrown from the riverside pier.

15.45 – Depart for BC (Approximately 1 hour journey)

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