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5D4N *Vientiane to Bangkok*

Siam Tulips Season Special Tour

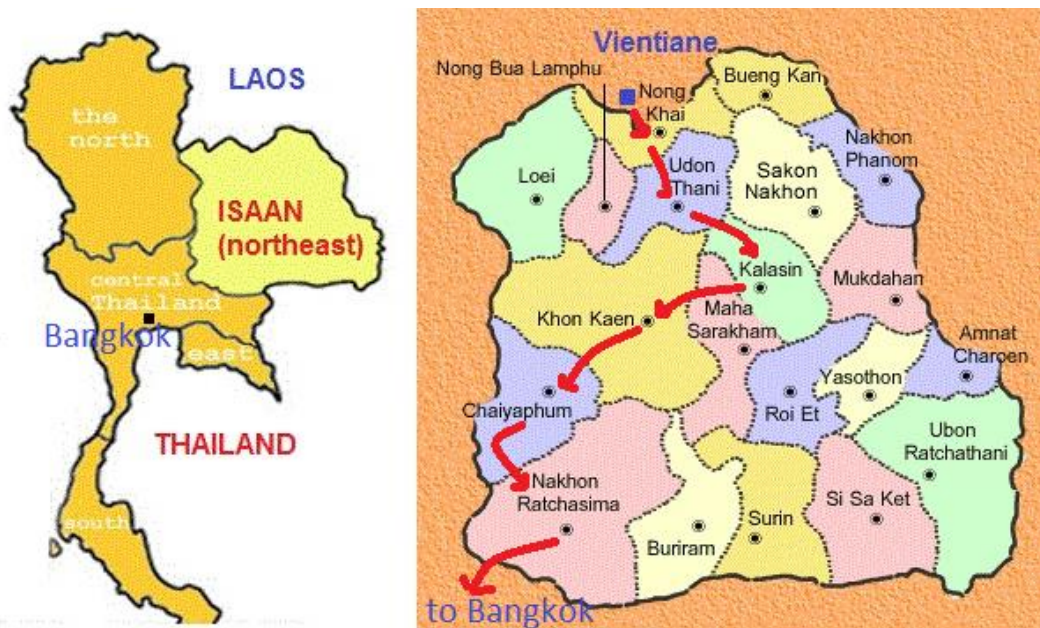
Across 6 provinces of North East Thailand...

Departures: JULY 7 JULY 14 JULY 21 JULY 28

Extension in Vientiane or/and Bangkok can be arranged...



Embark on a special journey between 2 capital cities, Vientiane of Laos & Bangkok of Thailand, **across 6 provinces of North East Thailand** (Isan region):



- 1) **Nong Khai** - the Mekong Riverside Indochina Market, with goods from 3 countries; Thailand, Laos and Vietnam.
- 2) **Udon Thani** - the UNESCO World Heritage archaeological site of Ban Chiang, famous for the strikingly patterned pottery unearthed there.
- 3) **Kalasin** – discover dinosaurs at the Sirindhorn Dinosaur Museum.
- 4) **Khon Kaen** – Phra Mahathat Kaen Nakhon of Wat Nong Waeng, a nine storey stupa enshrining the holy relics of Lord Buddha.
- 5) **Chaiyaphum** - **PINK SIAM TULIPS**, the **STONEHENGE** of Thailand (1 of 7 Wonders of Thailand) & **WHITE SIAM TULIPS** (only at Sai Thong National Park).



Curcuma alismatifolia, **Siam tulip** or summer tulip (Thai pronunciation "**Dok Krajiao**"); tropical plant native to Laos, North Thailand & Cambodia. Despite its name, it's not related to the tulip, but to the ginger species such as turmeric.

MORE ON THE FLOWERS HERE:

<http://www.nationmultimedia.com/travel/A-tale-of-two-sisters-30182556.html>

- 6) **Nakhon Ratchasima (Khorat)** – visit the Angkor-period stone temple of Phimai and the largest banyan tree grove of Thailand, Sai Ngam.

DAY 1: Vientiane - Nong Khai – Ban Chiang – Udon Thani

(L/D)



Depart KLIA2 on 6.40am Air Asia flight to Vientiane, Laos. Arrival 8.20am and transfer to **Nong Khai province** of Thailand by crossing the Mekong River using the Thai-Lao Friendship Bridge. Lunch in Nong Khai town. Visit the **Mekong Riverside Indochina market**.

Transfer to **Udon Thani province's** Ban Chiang district to visit **UNESCO World Heritage Ban Chiang** archaeological site. At the museum, marvel at the strikingly patterned pottery and daily tools unearthed from pre-historic times. Nearby at Wat Pho Si Nai, is a site of an actual excavation preserved for viewing. Transfer to Udon Thani city for dinner and then visit **UD Town** shopping mall. Overnight in Udon Thani.

DAY 2: Udon Thani – Kalasin Dinosaur Museum - Khon Kaen

(B/L/D)



Morning, visit **Ho Chi Minh Museum**. Ho Chi Minh had stayed in Udon Thani for 3 months among the local Vietnamese community before he slipped back into Vietnam to continue his struggle to end French rule of his homeland. Then transfer to **Kalasin province** to visit **Sirindhorn Dinosaur Museum**, displaying excavated dinosaur fossils from the surrounding region. There was even an earlier cousin of T-Rex (Tyrannosaur) local to the area, *Siamotyrannus isanensis* ("Siam" is Thailand's old name, "Isan" is the local name of North East region).

Continue to **Khon Kaen province**. On arrival at Khon Kaen city, visit **Phra Mahathat Kaen Nakhon** of lakeside Wat Nong Waeng, a nine storey stupa enshrining the holy relics of Lord Buddha. After dinner, visit **Ton Tann Night Market**. Overnight in Khon Kaen.

DAY 3: Khon Kaen – Phu Laen Kha - Tat Ton Waterfall – Chaiyaphum (B/L/D)



Transfer to **Chaiyaphum province** to visit **Chan Daeng** rock formation area located in **Phu Laen Kha National Park**; a large stone terrace with many rocks in bizarre shapes. There are distinguished and unique Chan Daeng (*Dracaena Loureiri Gagnep*) trees growing on a large boulder.

Next is **Mo Hin Khao**, the **“STONEHENGE of Thailand”**. Listed as of **one of the Seven Wonders of Thailand**, it means **“Hill of White Rocks”**; it is an impressive and eerie stone formation that has been compared to England’s Stonehenge. The row of stones are said to glow on auspicious days in the religious calendar, illuminated by the full or waning moons. Formed over millions of years, the rocks were long hidden by thick jungle until re-discovered. Continue to **Tat Ton Waterfall**, most beautiful during the June – August wet season.

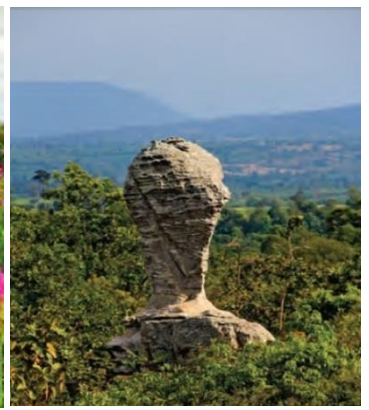


Arrive Chaiyaphum town to visit **Phaya Lae Monument** (dedicated to the first governor of Chaiyaphum) and **Prang Ku** (a stone sanctuary from the Khmer period that was an ancient ‘medical clinic’). After dinner, visit **Chaiyaphum Night Market**. Overnight in Chaiyaphum.

DAY 4: Chaiyaphum – Sai Thong National Park - Pa Hin Ngam – Khorat(B/L/D)



Transfer to **Sai Thong National Park** for **White Siam Tulips**. Next visit **Hum Hod Cliff** (“hum” means testicle, “hod” means shorten), the name comes from the reaction of standing on this frightful cliff, since the cliff is very narrow and small! Then soak yourself at **Wang Sai Pond**, which is fed by the waters of a waterfall cascading down several levels of limestone pools.



Afternoon, visit **Pa Hin Ngam National Park** to see **Pink Siam Tulips** (an unique spectacle seen only during the wet season when they bloom) and **Rock Formations** (“Pa Hin Ngam” means **Forest of Beautiful Stones**).



Transfer to **Nakhon Ratchasima province** (also known as **Khorat**) for dinner. Then visit **Khorat Night Bazaar**. Overnight in Khorat.

DAY 5: Khorat – Phimai – Bangkok Don Muang airport/hotel drop-off (B/L)



Visit **Thao Suranari monument**, dedicated to a Thai noble lady and heroine who managed to evict invading Laotian army from Khorat city in 1826. Then visit **Phimai Temple**, one of the largest Khmer temples of Thailand. It marks one end of the Ancient Khmer Highway from Angkor and dates from the late 11th to the late 12th century, built in the Baphuon, Angkor Wat and Bayon styles. Drop by adjacent **Phimai Museum** where many important carvings and lintels are exhibited. Then visit **Sai Ngam Banyan Tree**, the largest banyan tree grove of Thailand, where the single tree has spread out to fully occupy an island in the middle of a pond.

Transfer to **Bangkok** with lunch en-route. On arrival drop off at **Don Muang Airport** for your evening flight home OR at your **hotel** if you are extending stay.

RATES: per person, twin share basis, according to group sizes as below, valid for JULY 2018 travel.

8 paxs group (9 seater VIP van): **RM 1690 /pax**

6 paxs group (9 seater VIP van): **RM 1890 /pax**

Single Supplement: RM 300

Rates & itinerary subject to change in FOREX rates, unforeseen surcharges, weather, local conditions, etc.

INCLUSIVE:

- a) Airport transfers and tour excursion on private basis using 9-seat VIP van
- b) 3 star hotel accommodation with daily breakfast
- c) Meals as indicated in itinerary above
- d) English or Mandarin speaking tour guide
- e) Entrance fees for attractions as per itinerary
- f) 2 x 500ml bottles of drinking water /person/day

EXCLUDING:

- a) Air ticket, airport taxes & fuel surcharges.
- b) Travel insurance
- c) Malaysian passport holders don't need visa to enter Laos and Thailand; other nationalities to be advised. Laos Customs Border crossing fee of 50 baht /person applies at Thai-Lao Border; please pay direct at counter.
- d) Tipping recommended minimum: 300 baht/traveller for whole tour for tour guide; 200 baht /traveller for whole tour for driver.
- e) Expenses of personal nature such as optional activities not part of itinerary, laundry charges, room mini-bar charges, tipping for hotel/restaurant/etc. staff.