

Fall 2001 – THAILAND “Thai One On”

Like multicolored gems adorning an heirloom necklace, Asia’s sparkling cities are intriguing at a distance and enchanting up close. Unlike more orderly Asian cities like Tokyo or Hong Kong, Bangkok was a study in chaos – a surreal mix of wildly careening automobiles, placid temples, overflowing markets and modern skyscrapers. The energy and excitement of this great Asian city is hard to describe, as is the serenity of Chiang Mai’s landscape dominated by bamboo and rice terraces and the stunning beaches along Southern Thailand.

Highlights included:

- Visiting Bangkok’s most important wats, hidden temples, haunting ruins, silent monasteries, ancient palaces, enchanting architectural masterpieces with sparkling pinnacles and curling roofs and lively night markets.
- Exploring soon-to-be-extinct klong canals by traditional long tails boat and racing through streets via tuk-tuks.
- Gnawing on some of the best cuisine ever to pass your lips in all of South East Asia.
- Floating through the Damnoen Saduak Floating Market, purchasing silk and eating stinky, but delicious Durans.
- Absorbing the mysterious spiritualism and intriguing beauty of Chiang Mai.
- Taking private cooking lessons with celebrity Thai chef Somphon Nabnian.
- Trekking through the hill tribes of Northern Thailand bordering Myanmar by way of pachyderm (elephant) back, rickety bamboo rafts and a long 8-hour, arduous, wet and dry trail by foot.
- Snorkeling through the amazing Marokot Cave and all around the Wan, Ma and Cheuk Islands.

