

BRITISH CLUB ACTIVE LIVING SECTION

Ayutthaya/Bang Pa In Day Trip – Wednesday, 9th July 2025

Itinerary & Briefing Notes

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

08.00 – Depart the British Club for Wat Niwet Thammaparawat (Approximately 1 hour 15 minutes journey, then 1 hour at the Temple)



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 200m 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, the ancient Lighthouse, and views of the river from the other side of the island where a nice café is located.

We will gather there to together re-cross the river using the cable cars.

10.15 – Depart for the Golden Treasure Exhibition

(Approximately 30 minutes journey, then 60 minutes at the Exhibition)



Since 1969 the Fine Arts Department of Thailand has been undertaking renovations of the ruins, scaling up the project after the site was declared a Historical Park in 1976. This has resulted in the discovery of thousands of ornaments and objects, most made of pure gold, others of silver, together with various pottery items, all testament to the wealth of the city during its prime. All of these formed the basis for the construction and opening in November 2022 of a new fully airconditioned wing at the Chao Sam Phraya National

Museum to house “The Golden Treasure Exhibition” covering 8 rooms on the 2nd floor, displaying 2,244 pieces of the above-mentioned items. There is a lift available if needed.

Please pay the entrance charge: Baht 30 for Thai Citizens, Baht 150 for Foreigners. (Foreigners with Thai ‘pink’ ID cards may be able to get in at the Thai charge).

11.45 – Depart for the Ruanrubrong Restaurant located riverside

(Approximately 15 minutes journey, then 60 minutes for lunch)

We have a reservation in this well recommended riverside restaurant whose food we very much enjoyed on our previous 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.

13.00 – Depart for the “All About Khon” Exhibition

(Approximately 30 minutes journey, then 1 hour at the Exhibition)

The “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’.

There is a lift available if needed.

Please pay the entrance charge: Baht 150 for aged under 60 years, Baht 75 if aged 60 years and older (you may be asked to provide proof) any nationality

14.30 – Depart for the British Club (approx 1 hour 20 minutes journey)