

# SE Asia Trip Itinerary

**FEBRUARY 4–16, 2022**



## Day One

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 4

- Arrive at Bangkok International Airport.
- John Shors will meet guests at the airport.
- Since downtown Bangkok is a 45-minute drive from the airport, we will stay at the convenient and comfortable four-star Novotel Airport hotel this first night.

*Note: Flights from America usually arrive in Bangkok in the evening, local time. Some guests will opt to arrive on February 3rd, so that they can relax at the spacious hotel complex for a day before the tour officially begins. John Shors will pick up these guests at the airport on February 3rd, and they will enjoy a free day, on their own, to relax on February 4th.*

# Day Two

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 5

- Enjoy a breakfast buffet at the hotel.
- **9:30 a.m.** - Meet in the lobby, with bags packed.
- Depart on two chartered vans, with a local guide.
- **10:30 a.m.** - Arrive in downtown Bangkok and tour the Reclining Buddha.
- **11:15 a.m.** - Explore the nearby temple complex of Wat Pho.
- **12:15 p.m.** - Enjoy lunch at the wonderful restaurant “Sala Rattanakosin Eatery & Bar.” This high-ranking restaurant features a great view of the Chao Phraya River and the temple of Wat Arun. Here we will enjoy a pre-set, multi-course meal to save time and sample a variety of tastes.
- **2 p.m.** - Guests will have two options:
  - Option One – enjoy an extensive tour of Bangkok’s magical “Grand Palace.” Bring your passport for entry.
  - Option Two – Depart with one of our guides to check into our hotel
- **4 p.m.** – Complete check in at our five-star hotel, The Avani Riverside, located in the “Old City” on the Chao Phraya River.
- **5:30 p.m.** - Take hotel’s boat across the river to enjoy a cocktail at the five-star Oriental Hotel, one of the most famous hotels in the world.
- **7 p.m.** - Enjoy dinner at the five-star Anantara Hotel which is next to our hotel. For this riverside dinner, we will enjoy a high-end buffet dinner.
- **8:30 p.m.** - Return to our hotel



# Day Three

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 6

- Enjoy a breakfast buffet at the hotel.
- **9 a.m.** - Meet in hotel lobby and take vans with local guide to the famous Jim Thompson House. After our tour of the Jim Thompson House, there will be an opportunity to shop for silk products in its high-end store.
- **12 p.m.** - Enjoy lunch at Tealicious Bangkok, where our group will have a special, private meal prepared for us. We will be able to sample more than a dozen appetizers and entrees.
- **2 p.m.** - Take a one-hour river longboat tour of Bangkok's famous canal system.
- **3 p.m.** - Emerge from longboat tour into Bangkok's most famous flower market.
- **3:30 p.m.** - Return to hotel for free time.
- **6:30 p.m.** - Enjoy dinner at one of Bangkok's best restaurants located at the top of our hotel, the beautiful, high-end rooftop restaurant SEEN." At SEEN we will enjoy a special, multi-course meal created just for our group. Please note that there is a "smart casual" dress code for this restaurant.
- Return to rooms



# Day Four

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 7

- Enjoy a breakfast buffet at the hotel.
- 9 a.m. - Meet in lobby, with bags packed, and depart with local guide, via vans for Bangkok's international airport.
- Have a snack/light lunch at the airport.
- Fly from Bangkok via Air Asia to Siem Reap, Cambodia.
  - Departs Bangkok about noon
  - Arrives at Siem Reap around 1 p.m.
- Upon arrival, we will meet our local guide and take vans into the city.
- Stop by local supermarket for snack.
- 2:30 p.m. - Take vans with local guide to Angkor National Museum.
- 4 p.m. - Check into our five-star hotel, the Hotel Sofitel Angkor Phokeethra Golf and Spa Resort.
- 6:30 p.m. - Enjoy a special group dinner at the Sofitel.
- Retire to rooms.



# Day Five

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 8

- Enjoy a breakfast buffet at the hotel.
- 9:30 a.m. - Meet our local guide in hotel's lobby and depart on two vans for a tour of Angkor Thom, the ancient capital of the Khmer Empire.
- 10 a.m. - Explore the spectacular Bayon Temple.
- Walk to The Elephant Terrace
- 12 p.m. - Enjoy a lunch near this temple complex.
- 1:30 p.m. - Vans will take us to the magnificent Ta Prohm Temple.
- 3 p.m. - Return to hotel to enjoy free time.
- 5 p.m. - Depart on vans to Artisans of Angkor to see how local arts are made. Enjoy high-end shopping at the Artisans of Angkor store.
- 6:15 p.m. - Take vans to dinner at Dakshins Indian Restaurant.
- 8 p.m. - Explore Siem Reap's famous "Pub Street."
- 9 p.m. - Meet at designated area and return by vans to hotel. *NOTE: If people wish to stay out later, they are responsible for their own transportation back to the hotel (which is quite easy to arrange).*



# Day Six

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 9

- Enjoy a breakfast buffet at the hotel.
- **9:30 a.m.** - Meet in hotel lobby.
- Take vans with local guide to Angkor Wat where we will enjoy a guided tour of this extraordinary site, considered to be one of the World's Wonders. \_\_\_\_\_ □
- After Angkor Wat, we will stop by a small "Killing Fields" memorial. \_\_\_\_\_ □
- **12:30 p.m.** – We will enjoy lunch at our hotel's outdoor restaurant. \_\_\_\_\_ □
- **2 p.m.** - Half of the group will enjoy a one-hour oil massage at our hotel's spa.
- **3 p.m.** – The other half of our group will enjoy a one-hour oil massage at our hotel's spa.
- **6 p.m.** - Meet in hotel lobby.
- **6:15 p.m.** - Enjoy dinner at the highly-rated French restaurant, L' Annexe. \_\_\_\_\_ □
- **8 p.m.** - Take vans to Phare, The Cambodian Circus. We will all have VIP seats for this wonderful performance. \_\_\_\_\_ □
- **9:30 p.m.** - Van returns to hotel



# Day Seven

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 10

- Enjoy a breakfast buffet at the hotel.
- **10 a.m.** - Our group will split up as people may choose from several options:
  - Participate in a Cambodian cooking class. Guests will learn how to make a variety of Cambodia dishes, which they will then enjoy for lunch.
  - Meet in hotel conference room and enjoy a lecture, “The Greatest Risks and Rewards of Being a Female Leader in Cambodia,” from a panel of Cambodian women thought leaders. A discussion and lunch will follow their presentation.
- **1:30 p.m.** - Our group will split up as people may choose from several options:
  - Take van for about 30 minutes through the Cambodian countryside a special temple called Banteay Srei. This is also called the “Women’s Citadel” as it has many elaborate carvings of women. Tour this small temple with our guide. Briefly stop at the Cambodian landmine museum. Approximate return time to hotel: 5 p.m.
  - Take van to Cambodian mountains to enjoy a hike up to Kbal Spean. Here ancient carvings dominate a riverbed. This one-hour hike requires moderate physical stamina. If time permits, stop by the Cambodian landmine museum. Approximate return time to hotel: 5 p.m.
  - Take tuk-tuks (local taxis) to visit the “Old Market” where Cambodians buy food, textiles, etc. Approximate return time to hotel: 4 p.m.
  - Return to hotel and enjoy an afternoon of golf or poolside activities.
- **6:45 p.m.** - Meet in hotel lobby and take vans to dinner at the Foreign Correspondents Club, one of the city’s landmark eateries.
- **8:30 p.m.** - People can decide whether to return to hotel, visit the “Night Market”, or go again to “Pub Street.” All three options will be available.



# Day Eight

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 11

- Enjoy a breakfast buffet at the hotel.
- Enjoy free time at the hotel. Optional activities include:
  - A morning visit to a local elementary school, allowing participants the opportunity to interact with students, as well as donate much-needed classroom supplies
  - Play golf at the Sofitel’s renowned course
  - Enjoy a quiet morning by the pool
- Have lunch at your leisure at the Sofitel.
- **2 p.m.** - Depart from hotel, bound for Siem Reap International Airport.
- Fly from Siem Reap to Bangkok
- Air Asia #
  - Departs Siem Reap around 5 p.m.
  - Arrives Bangkok around 6 p.m.
- Take shuttle van to the nearby Novotel Airport Hotel, where we previously stayed.
- Check into hotel. Guests may enjoy dinner via room service or at a variety of in-hotel restaurants – Japanese, Thai, or Western.
- Retire to rooms.

# Day Nine

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 12

- Enjoy a breakfast buffet at the hotel.
- 9 a.m. - Depart from hotel, bound for Bangkok International Airport.
- Fly from Bangkok to Singapore via Singapore Air
  - Departs Bangkok around 12 p.m.
  - Arrives Singapore around 3 p.m.
- Meet our local guide and depart airport, bound for downtown Singapore.
- 4:30 p.m. - Check into the five-star Swissotel The Stamford, which is located in the heart of downtown, near the famous “Marina Bay” area.
- 6:30 p.m. - Meet in hotel lobby and walk to nearby, highly rated restaurant.
- Retire to rooms.



# Day Ten

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 13

- Enjoy a breakfast buffet at the hotel.
- 10 a.m. - Meet in hotel lobby and depart with our local guide for a tour of this famous “city-state.”
- Enjoy a walking tour of Singapore’s extraordinary “Gardens by the Bay.”
- Explore the nearby “Cloud Forest.”
- 1 p.m. - Enjoy a simple lunch at this complex.
- 2 p.m. - Return to hotel and enjoy free time. Our centrally located hotel is within walking distance or a short taxi drive of many museums, art galleries, and shops.
- 6:30 p.m. - Meet in hotel lobby and depart for dinner at a nearby restaurant.
- Retire to rooms.



# Day Eleven

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 14

- Enjoy a breakfast buffet at the hotel.
- **9:30 a.m.** - Meet in hotel lobby, and depart with our local guide.
- Two morning options will be provided for guests today:
  - Take taxis to Bukit Timah Nature Reserve (eight miles outside of downtown) and enjoy a hike within Singapore's national park. Enjoy lunch at a nearby restaurant. Return to hotel at 1 p.m.
  - Take taxis to Singapore's famous "Little India" and "Arab Street." These two areas are quite unique, featuring a variety of mosques, temples, shops, restaurants, and sights. Enjoy lunch at a nearby restaurant. Return to hotel at 1 p.m.
- **2 p.m.** - Half of the group will enjoy one-hour oil massages at our hotel's beautiful spa.
- **3 p.m.** - Half of the group will enjoy one-hour oil massages at our hotel's beautiful spa.
- **5:30 p.m.** - Meet in hotel lobby, and walk to the famous Marina Bay Sands Hotel, where we'll have a drink on the top floor.
- **7 p.m.** - Enjoy dinner at Adrift, one of Singapore's top restaurants, conveniently located within the Marina Bay Sands Hotel.
- **9 p.m.** - Watch a spectacular ten-minute light and water show from the waterfront.
- Retire to rooms.



# Day Twelve

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 15

- Enjoy a breakfast buffet at the hotel.
- **9:30 a.m.** - Meet in the hotel lobby and depart with a local guide.
- Two morning options will be provided for guests:
  - Take taxis to The National Museum which features wonderful displays focused on Singapore's interesting and unique history. Enjoy lunch at a nearby restaurant. Return to hotel at 1 p.m.
  - Take taxis to Singapore's zoo, considered to be one of the world's best. Enjoy lunch at a nearby restaurant. Return to hotel at 1 p.m.
- Enjoy free time at the hotel, explore many nearby sights at your leisure.
- **5 p.m.** - Meet in the hotel lobby and depart for Singapore's National Art Gallery. Tour the building, and then enjoy a drink at the gallery's rooftop bar. Then proceed downstairs and enjoy a farewell dinner at National Kitchen, one of the city's top-ranked restaurants.
- Retire to rooms.



## Price of the *dsm* Destinations and John Shors Travel Southeast Asia Trip

- \$9,995 per person, based on double occupancy
- \$12,395 per person, based on single occupancy

### PRICE INCLUDES:

- Accommodations at high-end, five-star hotels (with the exception of the four-star airport hotel, the Novotel, in Bangkok. We'll stay at the Novotel the first night of the trip, and then on Feb 11, before we fly to Singapore).
- All transportation within Thailand, Cambodia, and Singapore, including airfare
- All meals and non-alcoholic drinks
- Fees (temples, tours, guides, etc.)
- Excursions (massages, cooking class, etc.)
- All tips
- A gift package mailed to you prior to our departure

### PRICE DOES NOT INCLUDE:

- International airfare to Bangkok, and returning from Singapore
- Alcoholic drinks
- Activities during free times such as golf, etc.
- Hotel incidentals such as room service, mini bar, Internet and phone charges, laundry, etc.
- Charges incurred if guests arrive a day early or decide to remain in Asia after the tour ends

### ADDITIONAL NOTES:

- John Shors and another American tour guide will accompany the group for the entire trip. The maximum size for any group is 18 guests, plus guides.
- Restaurants, depending on availability, may end up being different than those listed above, but will be excellent.
- Exact tour details may differ slightly from what is listed above, depending on recommendations from local guides.
- Please note that the weather will be in the '80s throughout the trip. Please bring a variety of warm weather attire, but also some business casual clothes to wear at several dinners at high-end restaurants.

To reserve a spot for this tour, a deposit (40% of the overall trip fee) is due to John Shors Travel by August 1, 2021.

# Day Thirteen

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16

- Enjoy a breakfast buffet at the hotel.
- Flights typically depart from Singapore to America in the early to late morning.
- Car service will be provided to the airport for everyone.
- **TOUR WITH JOHN SHORS TRAVEL CONCLUDES**



# Testimonials for touring with John Shors, Inc.

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Des Moines native and internationally bestselling novelist John Shors has traveled to six continents and more than forty countries. Often these travels were done to research and promote his six novels, most of which are set in Asia. After spending more than two decades exploring some of the most beautiful places on Earth, John founded John Shors Travel in 2014. He has since led many groups of small travelers overseas, acting as a tour planner, guide, and storyteller. Guests of John Shors Travel enjoy wonderful local guides, excellent hotels, award-winning restaurants, and world-class itineraries.

“I have been blessed to travel around the world, and have been with many different tour companies. I’m happy to say that my trip to Cambodia and Vietnam with John was my favorite adventure. He is a delight, is so well organized, and had planned so many wonderful activities. He seems to know the region like the back of his hand, which makes a big difference. Plus, he keeps his group size small, which is really nice. I am recommending his tour to all of my friends.”

– JANE EVANS, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

“I went on an incredible trip to Thailand and Cambodia with John. Traveling with him is like having an adventure with a friend, but also benefiting from the knowledge and experience of a great guide. To have an author lead us through exotic countries, about which he has written, is like becoming one of the characters in his books. I’m so excited that he decided to share his world with us. Our adventure to Southeast Asia was the trip of a lifetime!”

– LISA WENZEL, HUNTERSVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA

“Reading John Shors’ books, and then traveling with him to the places he writes about, brought his stories to life as he shared his insights, knowledge, and passions. It was a life-affirming and exhilarating experience to hear him describe and explain, share and enjoy, his many inspirations. Traveling with him was an adventure and a one-of-a-kind vacation. The variety of activities and the personalized touches John added, as we journeyed together, created memories that I’ll cherish for the rest of my life.”

– ROBERTA KNOX, NEWPORT BEACH, CALIFORNIA

“For me, the highlights of the extraordinary tour that John provided involved his very personal and imaginative touches. For instance, we loved the glorious rooms at the Majestic Hotel in Saigon, the wonderful dinner cruise there, the remarkable care of his support staff in Cambodia, and our magnificent elephant rides. Also, our experience with John was very interactive and enjoyable. We appreciated his patience, flexibility, engaging spirit, and attention to detail, all of which provided us with a trip of a lifetime.”

– RICHARD DUBUSC, SHORT HILLS, NEW JERSEY

“My husband and I agree that our trip to Vietnam and Cambodia was the best-managed tour that we have ever taken. It was pure pleasure to be able to focus on enjoying the tour with its excellent accommodations, food, and local excursions. John Shors went out of his way to help us with Internet connections, as well as shopping and shipping. We give him our highest recommendation.”

– NANCY BATTLEGA, CENTENNIAL, COLORADO

“Traveling with John Shors is both a special privilege and pleasure. I just returned from an 11-day trip in Thailand, led by John. His planning, attention-to-detail, and responsiveness are outstanding. His itinerary featured a wide variety of thoughtfully selected, well-executed, top-notch attractions. As we walked around on Koh Phi Phi island, where his novel *Cross Currents* is set, I was able to vicariously relive that compelling story. Traveling with an author like John provides an added dimension not possible to duplicate in other packaged tours. If you are seeking a first-class, five-star adventure to treasure in the years ahead, then I would whole-heartedly recommend touring with John Shors.”

– ANN KELSEY, NEW BERN, NC

“I have been inspired to travel to two Asian countries because of John’s books. After reading *Dragon House*, and learning that proceeds from his book went to Blue Dragon Children’s Foundation, I traveled to Vietnam to see for myself the street kids of Vietnam. John not only painted the picture perfectly of the needs of these misplaced children, but is actively helping them through awareness and financial support. When the chance came to travel with John to India on a literary tour of the places in India that appear in *Beneath a Marble Sky*, I jumped at the opportunity. This time instead of a camera crew, I brought my daughter so that she could experience John’s storytelling and exceptional skills as a travel guide. He made everyone on the trip feel safe, important, and fulfilled. We can’t wait for the next big adventure!”

– LORI DANIEL, PRODUCER CNN, ATLANTA, GEORGIA

“My husband and I had the privilege of visiting Vietnam and Cambodia with John Shors recently. This was our first trip to Asia, so having John as a guide was amazing to say the least. Before we left, he sent a very thorough itinerary detailing all of the tours, restaurants, hotels, etc. we would be going to. It included everything you would want to see or do and then some. Everything he had planned looked amazing, and exceeded our expectations once we were there. I can’t imagine a better experience for our first time in Asia, or a better guide. We will definitely be taking more trips with John.”

– LISA SUTTON, DES MOINES, IOWA

# Testimonials for touring with John Shors, Inc. (continued)

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“Traveling with John Shors—who is the most considerate and detail-oriented guide ever—created the most personal, effortless, and worry-free travel experience that I could have asked for. Each day as I enjoyed the land and people around us, I never worried about questions like ‘What will we do tomorrow?’ or ‘Where will we go, or what will we eat, or will we be safe?’ because John had taken care of everything. His knowledge and thoroughness allowed me to appreciate each setting in all of its beauty, and I felt like I was walking through his novels, which added a new and unique dimension to my journey. His presence gave our trip an extra, special meaning that would have been impossible to experience without his guidance.”

– FRITS HUIJSKENS, JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA

“I do not normally ‘do tours’, preferring to travel on my own, usually with my husband in tow. I am what you might call a seasoned traveler, taking one to two major journeys per year. However, the format of John’s trip to SE Asia allowed me to experience all of my travel needs and desires while having everything made easier in the process. Our journey was more like getting together with a small group of friends but having everything taken care of for us. John was very thorough in selecting the best hotels, restaurants, local guides, drivers, and itineraries. He was always on top of everything. Most important, John is a super and caring person. This is a trip that I will long remember, not only for the sites explored, but for the wonderful experiences that comprised this journey.”

– LINDA KATZMAN, SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

“I have been on three of John’s wonderful trips, and have traveled with him through Cambodia, Vietnam, China, and Eastern Europe. I am always impressed with his ability to provide his guests with the perfect mix of sightseeing and relaxing, personal time. I know that so much work goes into his trips, and I appreciate his meticulous planning. I’m already looking forward to our next adventure!”

– TINA HOOK, EATONTON, GEORGIA

“Traveling under the planning and care of John Shors makes for the best trip you can imagine. He does all of the work, making everything appear effortless, all the while paying such close attention to each individual in the group. For our trip to Eastern Europe, John had every detail planned to a T before we set off, but he also stayed fluid during our trip, making minor adjustments to the itinerary based on the needs of our group. One of my favorite things about John’s trip was his openness to serendipity. One night our group ended up singing, dancing, and clasping hands with 17 Iranian veterinarians on a beautiful dinner cruise down the Danube—a step in the direction of world peace. John is a gentle peacemaker—and he loves to have fun!”

– JUDY GOODWIN, DES MOINES, IOWA

“We had an exciting trip to SE Asia. John planned an amazing itinerary that we all enjoyed, including perfect local guides, hidden restaurants, and interesting sights. It was an incredible journey that brought John’s books to life.”

– TRACY LEWIS, STATESBORO, GEORGIA

“Despite having a well-organized and planned itinerary, John was willing to make several adjustments to accommodate individual requests made by members of our group. He also gave us a nice mix of options and was quite flexible with his plans.”

– DENNIS FARRELL, RYE, NEW YORK

“John, thank you so much for a fantastic vacation. The simple fact that I really am having a hard time deciding what the best part was, says it all. Every aspect of the trip came off without a hitch (at least as far as I could tell). We had a wonderful group of people to travel with, as well as enjoyed the best food, the best hotels, and the very best parts of Thailand and Cambodia. I know you were working hard behind the scenes to have everything run perfectly and I really appreciate it. It will be a trip that will be remembered for a long time.”

– JODY HENDRYX, SEDONA, ARIZONA

“We were a group of 11 (3 couples, 5 singles) traveling to Thailand and Cambodia. John managed a superb job of integrating traveling elegance and comfort with local, real activities, and people. Everything went without a hiccup. He even made some last-minute changes to planned events (adding a hilarious and delicious Thai cooking class in Bangkok). His contacts with local people are deep and wide, and dramatically increased the experiences we shared.”

– ANGIE LONGENECKER, ENCINITAS, CALIFORNIA

“We were lucky to have John lead our entire extended family on an unforgettable trip to SE Asia. He was able to find great activities, restaurants, and hotels that provided fantastic experiences for all three generations of us. He was also flexible enough to make changes if necessary due to weather or the unanticipated. We knew we could count on him to take total care our family. We all loved being with John.”

– NANCY GREEN, DES MOINES, IOWA

“I went with John to Thailand and Cambodia, and am so thankful that I was a part of this wonderful adventure. We enjoyed so many amazing experiences and settings. What I also really appreciated was the pacing of the trip. We definitely covered a lot of ground, but John is also careful to weave some free time into each day, so that people can relax if they want to. He also does a great job of creating activities that really bond the group members together, which makes traveling in a small group even more fun.”

– SHERRY CLARK, BOULDER, CO