



Things to Know Before You Go

EXOTIC ASIA

(1/19/2012 updated)

Thank you for choosing RITZ TOURS!!!

PLEASE FIND ENCLOSED THE FOLLOWING TOUR DOCUMENTS:

1. Day-by-Day Itinerary with Hotel Information and Emergency Contact Phone Numbers
2. US domestic and international airline tickets (if applicable)
3. Your Flight Schedule (if applicable)
4. Vouchers (if applicable)
5. Ritz Tours Badge
6. Luggage Tag
7. A Copy of “Exotic Asia - Things to Know Before You Go”
8. Travel Insurance Policy (if applicable)
9. Questionnaire

Upon your arrival, please go through Customs and Immigration on your own. After exiting the Custom area, please look for Ritz Tours representative who will be holding a sign with “Ritz Tours”. Please make sure that you wear your Ritz Tours badge for easy identification.

AN IMPORTANT NOTE ON TIPPING:

Please note that gratuities are not included in your tour cost. They are customary, and their purpose is to encourage and reward quality service. Our tour conductors, local guide, drivers, hotel porters and other service personnel do their utmost to make your trip smooth and pleasant. Gratuities are a way of showing your appreciation and also constitute a large part of their monthly income. However, tips are NEVER mandatory.

Ritz Tours suggests tipping in the following manner (US dollars):

\$6 per person per day (except free day) – to be distributed between driver & guide

Most restaurants will add a 10% service charge to the bill, but if not, a 10% tip is customary. Tipping is not customary in any of the four countries but loose change is happily accepted.

Again, thank you for choosing Ritz Tours as your partner-in-travel. We are confident that your trip will be happy and rewarding. If you need further information, please contact your travel agent or Ritz Tours.



Things to Know Before You Go

Travel Documentation

U.S. Passport must be valid for at least 6 months from the return date of your trip. No visa is required for stays up to 30 days for Thailand, Malaysia and Singapore, and 180 days for Hong Kong. For non-U.S. citizen, please check with the appropriate embassy or consulate for requirements.

Health & Medical Matter

No vaccinations are required for your trip with the exception of anyone traveling from or via an infected area. Due to the length of the trip and local traveling conditions, it is advised that you consult your doctor for existing medical / dental conditions before departure. If you are taking prescription medicine, please pack (in your hand luggage) a sufficient quantity for the duration of the trip. It may also be useful to bring aspirin, over-the-counter medicine for flu, indigestion, motion sickness, etc. In case of illness during the trip, please immediately notify your tour conductor and local guide for assistance. You can also contact the Center for Disease Control (C.D.C.) 404-639-3534 for updated information.

Electrical Requirement

Electrical outlets are rated at 220 volts, 50 cycles per second so a converter is needed to operate a normal 110-volt American appliance. Electrical appliances will also require an adapter that can change the shape of the plug prongs.

Shopping

Although local guides will be happy to assist you with any shopping requirements, Ritz Tours does not assume responsibility for any items purchased at shops while on tour. You are never required to purchase any items while on tour and thus must be responsible for your own purchases. Any after sales correspondence must be between the passenger and the shop in question.

Baggage

Cathay Pacific Baggage allowance:

First class, Business class and Economy class:
Maximum weight 50lbs per bag
Maximum number of checked bags: TWO
Maximum Dimensions per bag: 158cm (62in) length + height + width
Infant ticket holder maximum number of checked bag: ONE, maximum dimension per bag: 115cm (45in)

Inter-Asia flights by Cathay Pacific Airways:

First class, Max. combined weight: 88lbs
Business class Max. combined weight: 66lbs
Economy class Max. combined weight: 44lbs

DO NOT pack medicine, valuables and other personal necessities in checked luggage. Keep them in your carry on bag.

Currency

As of January 2012, the following exchange rate applies:

US\$1.00 = 31.73 (Thailand Baht)
US\$1.00 = 1.29 SGD (Singapore Dollars)
US\$1.00 = 7.76 HKD (Hong Kong Dollars)
US\$1.00 = 3.14 MYR (Malaysia Ringgit)

Clothing

Clothes should be light and loose; natural fibers or blends are best. Sunglasses are essential; light hats are advisable. Shorts are taboo for men and women at temples and mosques. Shoes must be removed upon entering temple buildings, so non-laced shoes (but not sandals without back straps) are best.

A sweater will be handy for cool season nights. Many visitors save luggage space by buying inexpensive vacation clothes both in Thailand and Hong Kong, leaving them behind when they return home.

Climate & Weather

This area's tropical climate is hot and humid, but there are regional and seasonal temperature variations.

Bangkok enjoys three seasons: Hot & dry (March to mid-June; 80-95 °F), Rainy (June to Oct.; 75-90 °F), and Cool (Nov. to Feb; 65-90 °F). In Bangkok, the heaviest rains fall in September and city streets often flood in October and early November.

Singapore: Averages between 73 and 86 °F with November through January receiving more rain than usual.

Kuala Lumpur: Temperatures generally range between 84°F - 95°F during the day and 78°F – 84 °F at night. It may get colder after periods of heavy rainfall. Rainfall occurs mostly between October till March while May till July are generally the drier months. Humidity in the air lies around 80% so it is easy to sweat during the day while walking around.

Hong Kong's summers can reach up to 95 °F with humidity reaching close to 100%. The coldest time of year is between December to February where temperatures may fall to a mild 55 °F. Typhoons with strong winds may occasionally occur from May through October so pack a light waterproof jacket.



Things to Know Before You Go

Useful Thai Phrases

Yes	Chái
No	Mái cháí
Thank you	Khàp khun
No, thank you	Mái ao khàp khun
Hello	Sawàt dii
How are you?	Sabai dee rue?
I'm fine	Sabàay dee
Excuse me	Khǎw thòht
Please	Karuna
When?	Mêu-arai?
Today	Wan ní
Tomorrow	Phrûng ní
I do not understand	Mái Khào jai
I like you!	Phom chawp koon
I cannot speak Thai	Poot passat Thai mai dai
I can speak a little Thai	Poot passat Thai nit noy
No smoking/don't smoke	Haam soop buree

Average Temperatures

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Bangkok	80	83	85	87	86	85	85	84	84	83	81	79
Kuala Lumpur	81	82	83	83	83	83	82	82	81	81	81	80
Singapore	81	82	83	83	83	84	83	83	82	82	81	80
Hong Kong	62	63	67	73	79	83	85	85	83	79	72	65