

BRITISH CLUB ACTIVE LIVING SECTION

West of Bangkok Day Trip – Wednesday, 27th November 2024

Itinerary & Briefing Notes

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

08.30 – Depart BC for Wat Tha Mai

(Approximately 1 hour journey, then 1 hour at the Temple)



Wat Tha Mai is a very large, beautiful, and popular Buddhist temple in Samut Sakhon and is a centre of faith for the Tha Mai people (a mix of ethnic Thai and Mon people). It is known for its spiritual atmosphere, very varied and striking architecture, and community activities. Many visitors come for blessings, meditation sessions, and merit-making, drawn by the temple's peaceful environment on the banks of the Tha Chin River.

Architecturally, Wat Tha Mai combines traditional Thai designs with modern elements, featuring intricate carvings and serene landscapes. Beyond spiritual guidance, the temple also supports community efforts, including blood drives, educational support, and charity for the underprivileged.



PLEASE NOTE: When you have finished visiting the Temple, kindly meet at the coffee shop located near to the very large concrete monkey (you really can't miss it!), and from where we will board the bus.

10.30 – Depart for the Woodland Museum

(Approximately 45 minutes journey, then 75 minutes at the Museum)



The Woodland Museum is a treasure trove for anyone interested in the ancient art of wood carving and the intricate beauty of Thai culture. Each of the several galleries within the museum are dedicated to different themes, often drawing from Thai mythology, folklore, and Buddhist spirituality. The carvings themselves are masterpieces—crafted from various woods and capturing everything from mythical creatures and deities to elaborate scenes of traditional Thai life.



You will be taken aback by the detail and size of the carvings, some of which stand several meters high and span entire walls. These pieces have been carefully preserved, with some

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originating from historic periods that make them as much artifacts as artworks. We don't want to spoil for you the delights that you will find with the arrangement of the numerous wooden pieces and carvings as these are brought to life and add an element of mystique to the experience of the visit.

You will find that the Museum is more than just an exhibition; it's a deep dive into the cultural roots of Thailand, offering a thoughtful and immersive journey into the world of art, tradition, and spirituality.

12.30 – Walk to the Woodland Restaurant located riverside

(Approximately 3 minutes journey, then 60 minutes for lunch)



Set amongst the beautiful scenery inside the Museum's compound, we have a reservation in this well recommended restaurant. 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.



13.30 – Depart for the Thai Film Archive & Museum

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

The Thai Film Archive & Museum, now a section of Thailand's Fine Arts Department, is a national institution dedicated to preserving and celebrating Thailand's cinematic history. It was established to protect and document the country's films, which are considered a valuable part of Thailand's cultural heritage, and its mission involves collecting, restoring, and preserving old films, scripts, posters, and memorabilia related to Thai cinema.



Upon arrival and check in we will be issued individual tickets, then invited to see a short introductory movie before moving into the main compound having our tickets scanned to allow entry. The Museum provides insights into Thailand's unique filmmaking style, themes, and the role of cinema in reflecting social and political changes over the years. The exhibits, located in a number of buildings and static displays, include memorabilia such as vintage cameras, projectors, film development machinery, movie posters, and costumes from iconic Thai films.

15.00 – Depart for BC

(Approximately 1 hour journey)