Offering the intrepid traveler urban sophistication and lush rural landscapes, glittering temples, extraordinary histories, archaeological ruins, glorious architecture, and a rich ethnic diversity of warm and welcoming peoples, the southeastern Asian nations of Thailand and Laos occupy a well-deserved place high on the list of the world’s most fascinating destinations. Join us as we venture to this lovely corner of the globe for three weeks of natural beauty, cultural wonders, culinary discovery, and good old-fashioned travel adventure.

Our journey begins with three nights in **Bangkok**, Thailand, where we explore the temples, markets, monuments, and cultural landmarks of this bustling metropolis. From Bangkok we move to nearby **Kanchanaburi**, where we tour the JEATH War Museum, take a ride on the Death Railway train through the jungle, visit tribal villages, and relax at our floating, electricity-free eco-lodge on the Kwai Noi River.

Next we stop to roam the temple ruins of **Ayuthaya**, the former capital of Siam, as we travel north to **Sukhothai**, the spiritual center of the kingdom and the cradle of Thai culture. Then we venture up to **Chiang Mai** for a bamboo rafting journey up the Mae Taeng River to an orchid farm, spending ample time to poke around Chiang Mai’s world-famous handicraft villages; we follow that with a one-night stay in lovely **Doi Sakhet**.

From there we move up to **Chiang Rai** and a stop at the beautiful Wat Rong Khun temple and Ban Dam Museum before enjoying a relaxing day of leisure at our elephant camp resort!

To cross into Laos we ply the gorgeous **Mekong River** on a two-day cruise to **Luang Prabang**. With several stops en route to learn about the lives of the people living on the Mekong and view the Tam Ting and Tham Phoum Caves, this little segment will be a real delight. In Luang Prabang we explore the monuments and temples of this UNESCO World Heritage Site, and also go further afield to several rural villages so that we can meet the people who live there and learn about their way of life.

For the last segment of our adventure we travel south from Luang Prabang to **Vang Vieng** with stops at local villages and Tham Xang Cave along the way. In Vang Vieng we spend the next morning tubing on the river and the rest of the day leisurely enjoying this spectacular location. We conclude in the lovely and laid-back Laotian capitol of **Vientiane** visiting temples, markets, and museums in this stylish and beautiful city before our flight home.

This is a big trip that is chock-full of wonderful experiences and fascinating educational opportunities. Join us as we explore the cultures, the histories, and the political and religious foundations of the people who call these beautiful countries home.

Visit our webpage [continuingstudies.wisc.edu/classes/travel-thailand-laos](http://continuingstudies.wisc.edu/classes/travel-thailand-laos) for an interactive map, photos, links, and more information about our adventure!

**Travel Director**

Doug Whittle is the UW–Madison director of educational travel for Continuing Studies. He served for two years as a Peace Corps volunteer in Zaire and has traveled independently in Asia, Africa, and Europe as well as throughout both Central and North America. Now in his 12th year, Doug has led over 80 trips on five continents for UW–Madison Continuing Studies.

**~ LIVE & LEARN ~**

**February 16-March 8, 2019**
Mar 4–5 Vang Vieng
We take in the lovely scenery of central Laos as we make our way south, with stops at local villages and a visit to Tham Xang Cave. In Vang Vieng we will go tubing on the river and enjoy some free time to relax in this stunningly beautiful landscape.

Mar 6–7 Vientiane
Visit the Tatel Fish Market in Huay Mor on our way to Vientiane, where we enjoy stops at the Great Stupa, the Luang Stupa, the Museum at the Royal Temple of Wat Pho Khao, and the morning market.

Mar 8 Fly home to the USA via Bangkok

Important Information
PLEASE NOTE – Everyone is welcome to join us. You will enjoy private transportation, beautiful hotels, outstanding historical, natural, and cultural sites, lovely landscapes, and friendly people throughout your journey. Please understand that while both of these countries are friendly and fascinating destinations, in some respects they may be underdeveloped when compared to the USA. There will be the usual amount of walking over varied and uneven surfaces in order to visit many of the sites, and mobility amenities as might be found in the USA may be less frequently encountered on our route. This is a long trip, but we feel that if we’re going this far away, we might as well spend enough time to enjoy the destination. So, get some good rest beforehand and join us!

For information, contact Doug Whittle, 608-263-7787.
Visit our website continuingstudies.wisc.edu/classes/travel-thailand-laos for active links to the websites for these properties!

Payment Information
- Enclosed is a check payable to UW–Madison for the trip deposit of $1000/person.
- *Note: We accept credit cards for all subsequent payments. Future payment schedules and details will be included in your registration confirmation packet. Your deposit is non-refundable. We urge you to purchase trip cancellation as part of your travel insurance to recover your costs if you must cancel your plans to join us. Travel insurance information will be included in your registration confirmation packet.

Return this completed registration form and deposit to:
Pyle Registration Office
Attn: Travel Specialist, 702 Langdon St., Madison WI 53706

For tour information contact:
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Visit us online at: uwtravel.org