

APSEC 2013 Tour: *Highlights of Bangkok*



December 04, 2013: **Grand Palace and Emerald Buddha + ASIATIQUE The Riverfront**

13:00 Pick up from Pullman King Power Hotel

The Grand Palace is one of the most beautiful samples of an ancient Siamese court. It used to be the Residence of the Kings of Thailand. Here you will see palaces which were used for different occasions: The Funeral Palace, The Reception Palace, The Dusit Throne Hall, The Royal Coronation Hall, and the beautiful Emerald Buddha Temple (Wat Phra Kaew).

The Emerald Buddha Temple, the most sacred temple of Thailand, has the Emerald Buddha image and twelve marvelous pavilions.

Emerald Buddha Hall: The lap of the Emerald Buddha is 48.3 cm. wide, and 66 cm. high including the base. Inside the Emerald Buddha Hall, there are also other interesting items:

1. The gold-covered wooden throne, made in the First Reign (1782-1809), on which the Emerald Buddha sits.
2. The mother-of-pearl door-panels made in the First Reign of Bangkok following the style of the late Ayudhya period.
3. Two large standing crowned Buddha images dedicated to King Rama I "Phra Puttha Yodfa Chulalok" the northern side of the Emerald Buddha and King Rama II "Phra Puttha Lerdla Napalai" on the south.
4. A small bronze Buddha image, called Phra Samputtha Panni, was created in 1830, which has been placed in front of the throne supporting the Emerald Buddha.
5. Ten crowned Buddha images in bronze covered with gold in the attitude of calming the ocean. They were installed in pairs on the base supporting the throne of the Emerald Buddha.
6. Mural paintings inside the Emerald Buddha Hall. The scene of the Buddhist cosmology (the Three `Worlds of Desire, Form and Non-Form) on the western wall behind the Emerald Buddha and that of the Enlightenment of the Buddha on the eastern, or front wall, were painted in the reign of King Rama 1
7. Bronze lion door-guardians. There are altogether twelve, in six pairs. It had been believed that the pairs guard the main central door of the Buddha hall.

Twelve pavilions hosted Buddha images, relics of the Buddha and Tripitaka (the Buddhist Holy Manuscripts) includes Library or Phra Mondop, Ho Phra Monthien Tham, Viharn Yod (the White Viharn), The Viharn Phra Thep, Ho Phra Nak, The Royal Pantheon, Phra Si Ratana Chedi, a model of Angkor Wat, a viharn with a bronze Buddha image called the Gandhara Buddha, Phra Pothithat Piman and a figure of a seated hermit, Monuments for King Rama I, II, III and Ho Rachakaramanusorn.

Source: <http://www.cs.ait.ac.th/wutt/wat.html>

16:30 Leave for the ASIATIQUE

ASIATIQUE The Riverfront: The first and the biggest lifestyle project in Asia on the banks of the Chao Phraya River, and soon to become Bangkok's trendiest landmark. Asiatique offers 40+ restaurants and 1,500+ shops including tourist product shops, fashion and accessories shops, and furniture and home furnishings stores. You may enjoy shopping, walking, or immersing in the magnificence of the authentic architecture in the reign of King Rama 5th in 1907 – 1947.

Source: <http://www.thaiasiatique.com/>



APSEC 2013 Banquet: *Dinner Cruise with Grand Pearl*

18:30 Board the Grand Pearl, the luxury cruise liner on the Chao Phraya River.

You will be welcomed by Grand-Pearl crew in Thai culture ceremony with warm smiles and our special Grand Pearl welcome cocktail.

After departure from the ASIATIQUE, while you enjoy your drinks, the Grand Pearl's captain will guide you up along the Chao Phraya River, where you can appreciate the beautiful night sceneries on both sides of the river. You will have a great opportunity to see the most magnificent night views of Bangkok that includes Wat Kallayanamit, Wat Arun (The Temple of Dawn) , the Grand Palace with Wat Phra Kaew (The Temple of the Emerald Buddha), The Royal Thai Navy Club, Wat Rakankosittaram, and King Rama 8 Bridge. Thereafter, we will return to River City Shopping Complex to enjoy the beautiful decorations and wonderful sight of colored lights on the river side.

Your special dinner is served under moonlight, in a "Live Music" serenade atmosphere along with a Thai Classical Dance Show. Our Thai and International cuisine offerings in a sumptuous buffet with a Sushi corner are prepared especially for you to enhance your experience with us.

21:30 Leave for Pullman King Power Hotel



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