

Kasma Loha-unchit
Thailand Travel Adventures
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May 2008

Dear January/February 2009 Southern Trip Member,

Here are the *General Trip Conditions with Addendum and Application to Participate* for Kasma Loha-unchit's January 29 – February 26, 2009 twenty-eight day trip to Southern Thailand. In order to reserve a spot we ask that you return the *Application to Participate* along with a \$400 deposit.

We are glad you've decided to travel with Kasma to Thailand in 2009. If you have not yet read the *Frequently Asked Questions*, we ask that you do so. We will send you a copy if you can not access them online at:

<http://www.thaifoodandtravel.com/travel/tripfaq.html>

Flight Arrangements

For the past several years we have put groups traveling to Thailand on EVA Airlines, an excellent and very reputable airline based in Taipei, Taiwan, found online at www.evaair.com.tw/. In the past decade, it has emerged as the preferred airline among Asian business travelers. In fact, EVA is the airline that we personally have been using for our own flights to and from Thailand, because it offers an intermediate class (Economy Deluxe) between economy and business classes that provides wider seats, more leg room and private video screens permitting passengers to select programs from several channels when they are ready to watch them.

For this 2009 trip we expect it to cost between \$400 and \$500 from San Francisco. Both of us have found it to be worth the price – I am 6' 1" and that extra leg room makes all the difference in the world. Please indicate on the agreement if you would like us to book you on Economy Deluxe.

If you are from outside the area we have a number of options. We could ticket you from SFO and you could make your own arrangements to get there. We can also book you directly from one of the other airports with originating EVA flights – Newark, NJ (EWR), Los Angeles (LAX) or Seattle, WA (SEA) – and add the difference in fare to the total trip price. The other option is to make your own flight arrangements and meet up with the group in Bangkok. If you wish to do this, please let us know on the application: you would simply deduct approximately \$850 from the trip price

(exact amount to be determined at time of final payment).

Travel Insurance

We do not provide travel or cancellation insurance of any kind. If you wish to purchase it on your own, most companies require that you purchase it within two weeks of the date on your check for the initial payment in order to get full coverage, including coverage of pre-existing medical conditions. If you are thinking of getting insurance you should find a plan and make sure of the conditions for payment prior to sending your deposit.

One plan that appears worth investigating is from Travel Guard, found online at: www.travelguard.com. Their phone number is (800) 826-4919.

Probably the easiest way to find and purchase travel insurance is online by doing a search on "travel insurance" at www.google.com.

Please do get in touch if you have any other questions.

We look forward to traveling together in early 2009!

Best,



Michael Babcock (for Kasma Loha-unchit)

Thailand Travel Adventures
Trip C – Southern Thailand
January 29 – February 26, 2009 (28 days)
General Trip Conditions

TRIP PRICE: \$4,350. Subject to change.

*All rates are per person double occupancy, based on a group with 10 to 14 trip members and includes round-trip airfare from San Francisco (SFO). If we are unable to provide you with a roommate, you will need to pay for a single supplement (adds approximately \$1,200). For group size of 10 or fewer, add \$250 per person. *All rates are subject to change as necessitated by unanticipated increases in airline and room rates.*

RESERVATIONS: All reservations require a \$400 deposit per person; of that deposit, \$150 (only) is refundable up until the date of June 15, 2008 – after June 15, the entire deposit is non-refundable. The balance is due not later than November 16, 2008 (75 days prior to departure). No money will be returned after this time. Deposit applies to January 29 – February 26, 2009 trip only; it is non-transferable. A trip minimum of ten persons must be met for the trip to proceed.

CANCELLATIONS/REFUNDS: A deposit refund of \$250 will be made if written request is received by June 15, 2008. After that date, no portion of the deposit will be refundable. Final payment is due (received by us) *no later than 75 days before departure*, which is November 16, 2008. After that time no refund will be made unless the trip is canceled by us, in which case trip members will be refunded in full. During the trip, should a trip member decide to leave the group at any time, a refund will *not* be given for unused portions of the trip package.

TRIP PRICE INCLUDES:

Accommodations: Hotels, or similar lodging, based on two persons sharing a twin-bedded room, hut or bungalow, with private facilities. An exception will be national park housing, where several trip members may need to share dorm-style bungalows. On some national park islands, only tent camping may be available.

Meals: All meals are included – breakfast, lunch and dinner, except for meals trip member chooses to have away from the group.

Transportation: Round-trip airfare from San Francisco for the selected tour dates and land transportation by motorcoach, car, van, minibus, train, boat or other local conveyance while in Thailand are included. *Air travel arrangements will be made through a licensed travel agent.*

Services: Services of bilingual guides and entrance fees to places visited are included.

TRIP PRICE DOES NOT INCLUDE:

Excess baggage fees, forwarding of baggage, baggage loss, charges for inoculations, medical expenses, travel insurance, items of a personal nature such as laundry, beverages, optional trips, meals away from the group, special arrangements, airport taxes, charges and tips for room services and drivers.

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Trip C – Southern Thailand
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TRAVEL INSURANCE PROTECTION: Travel insurance is available from several insurance carriers to provide protection in a variety of situations if you are unable to make the initial departure or forced to leave the trip prior to end. Medical expense and accidental injury protection, baggage insurance and medical evacuation coverage are also available and advised.

TRAVEL DOCUMENTS/HEALTH REQUIREMENTS: U.S. citizens are required to possess a valid passport. A visitor's visa will be automatically granted upon arrival in Thailand and is good for 30 days, sufficient to cover the length of the trip. If you are not a U.S. citizen, you are responsible for determining and fulfilling any visa requirements. Check with the Public Health Department for current recommended or required vaccinations.

RESPONSIBILITY: Kasma Loha-unchit Clark, operator of this trip, the travel agent, trip escorts, trip organizers, sponsors and assistants act only as agents for the passengers in regard to travel whether by railroad, bus, motorcars, boats, airplanes, or animal rides and assume no liability for any injury, damage, loss, accident, delay or irregularity which may be occasioned either by reason of defect in any vehicle or through acts of default of any company or persons engaged in conveying the passengers or in carrying out the arrangements of the trip. We can accept no responsibility for losses or additional expense due to delay or changes in train or other services, sickness, weather, strikes, war, quarantine, uncontrollable events or other causes such as not meeting the trip minimum. All such losses will have to be borne by the passengers as trip rates provide arrangements only for the times stated. Baggage is at owner's risk. The trip organizer accepts no responsibility for securing, handling, or possession of passports or travel documents; nor for the accuracy of information given regarding such documents. It is the responsibility of the passenger to make sure that he/she is in possession of the proper travel documents and is in compliance with the current carrier and government regulations. Right is reserved at our sole discretion to withdraw any trip, and to make any changes in the itinerary we deem necessary or desirable, and to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of the trip at any time should such person's health, mental condition, physical infirmity or general deportment impede the operation of the trip or the rights, welfare or enjoyment of other trip members. Rates, costs, and schedules are subject to change. The airlines concerned are not to be held responsible for any act or omission or event during the time the passengers are not on board their plane or conveyance. The passage contract ticket in use by airlines concerned, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between airlines and passengers.

TRIP INFORMATION: Further information, including deadlines, travel arrangements, inoculations, clothing suggestions, trip itinerary, and other items of interest to trip members will be provided upon receipt of application and deposit.

Addendum
General Trip Conditions
Trip C – Southern Thailand
January 29 – February 26, 2009 (28 days)

This page lists the areas that have caused some difficulty on past trips. By signing the **Application to Participate** you signify your acceptance of these conditions.

Food

All meals provided on the trip will be Thai and other Asian food. Kasma does all the ordering for the entire group. You must love Thai food. Since the food is served “family style,” we cannot accept anyone who has special dietary needs – including food allergies, strong food preferences or not eating a specific food be it animal (pork, chicken, fish, shellfish), vegetable(such as onions or peanuts) or grain (wheat). Many Thai dishes are hot and spicy so you must enjoy food that is at least a 5 on a heat scale of 1 to 10. Remember, a 5 in a Thai restaurant may be more spicy than the equivalent dish in the United States! It is important that you like rice, fish, pork, shrimp and other seafood. Because of the culinary focus of the trips, market walks are a highlight and we will frequently be eating our way through the markets, sampling street food.

Lodging

For the most part, we stay in comfortable, moderate lodgings close to our activities. We do not stay in international 4- or 5-star hotels, or hotels that resemble, for instance, the Holiday Inn. While traveling in the South we will stay on islands where the accommodations can be very basic. On the islands electricity is often by generator and may be available as little as 4 hours or less in the evening. Often top sheets are not used and only a blanket is provided. Most of the islands do not have hot water, which should not be a problem in a tropical country. During this 28-day trip of southern Thailand, on national park islands we may stay in dormitory-style accommodations or tents. In some places you will need to carry your own luggage.

Wake-up Time

Thailand is a tropical country that can get very hot in the afternoons. In order to take advantage of the cooler mornings, most days will begin fairly early – breakfast at 7:00 a.m. is not uncommon. The mornings we leave Bangkok we usually leave at 5:30 or 6:00 a.m. in order to avoid rush-hour traffic.

Restroom Facilities

All of our hotels have western-style toilets that allow sitting. While on the road we will quite often encounter Asian-style toilets in gas stations and many restaurants. These toilets require the user to squat (much like you do when you go camping). If we need to stay in tents on one national park island, the nearest rest room may have only Asian-style toilets.

Itinerary

The itinerary **is** subject to change and activities may be altered. Since the itinerary is geared toward “off-the-beaten track” travel, we do not spend much time in Bangkok and do not always visit many of the better known tourist sites, such as Wat Phra Kaeo (the Grand Palace), in Bangkok. Because we book airplane tickets as a tour we may be unable to accommodate requests for different departure dates. If you want to make your own travel arrangements you are responsible for joining up with the group in Bangkok and may deduct a certain amount (approximately \$950) from the total price of the trip.

Boats

While journeying in the south we spend a fair amount of time on boats. Many of these boats are of the “longtail” variety, requiring the passenger to wade into ankle- to knee-deep water in order to climb into the boat; ladders are occasionally available. Luggage may occasionally get wet from salt spray. On this 28-day trip of southern Thailand we will also use larger boats that often require climbing over other boats and/or using narrow ladders in order to embark and disembark. You may need to carry your own luggage on and off the boats.

Snorkeling & Swimming

On the Southern trip we spend a fair amount of time snorkeling and swimming in the ocean. If you do not know how to swim or are not an avid snorkeler, we cannot accept you for this trip.

Thailand Travel Adventures
Application to Participate
Trip C – Southern Thailand
January 29 – February 26, 2009 (28 days)
(to be completed and signed by every trip member)
Please print clearly.

Name: _____ Trip Date: Jan. 29 – Feb. 26, 2009
(name as it appears on passport)

Address: _____ Home Phone: _____
_____ Work Phone: _____

Occupation: _____ Email Address: _____

Birthdate: _____ Physical Health: _____

Special Needs: _____

I would prefer my address/phone number not be given out to other trip members.

Trip Price: TBA. \$4,350. Subject to change. Trip price also adjusted based on options selected below. For a group of 10 people or fewer, add \$250, subject to change.

_____ **Please book my flight on EVA originating from** _____. If other than San Francisco (SFO), trip price will be adjusted based on fare difference.

_____ **I prefer Economy Deluxe airfare** (Adds estimated \$400 to \$500 to trip cost.)

_____ **I will make my own flight arrangements** (Subtracts approx. \$950 from trip cost.)

_____ **I prefer single supplement** (May not always be available; adds approximately \$1,200.)

Deposit Enclosed: \$400 – \$250 is refundable prior to June 15, 2008; nothing after. Non-transferable

Balance is Due: On November 16, 2008 (75 days prior to departure).

The name above is the name on my passport and can be used for airplane reservations.

I have read the *Frequently Asked Questions* found online at <http://www.thaifoodandtravel.com/travel/tripfaq.html>, the attached General Trip Conditions (front and back) and the Addendum and understand the conditions of the trip.

I have been informed that the accommodations for the trip will not be in international chain hotels, but rather, comfortable, moderate lodgings most conveniently situated for me to experience the local culture or the country's natural areas.

I understand that the meals provided will be Thai and other Asian food served in restaurants where local people dine. I love spicy Thai food and can eat spicy food that is at least 5 on a scale of 1 to 10. I do not have any special dietary needs or food allergies. I eat pork, chicken, beef, fish and shellfish (including shrimp).

Because of the personal nature of the trip, I will be kind and considerate of other trip members, the trip leader and assistants. For my benefit and the benefit of other trip members, I understand that any trip member who disrupts group harmony may be asked to leave the trip without refund at the discretion of the trip leader

(Signature, should match passport)

(Date)

Please make check payable to :

Kasma Loha-unchit Clark

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Phone: (510) 655-8900

email: kasma@earthlink.net

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