

THE PENINSULA

B A N G K O K

THE PENINSULA BANGKOK LAUNCHES TWO NEW PENINSULA ACADEMY PROGRAMMES ~“A Walk into Bangkok’s Past” and “Siam’s Treasure”~

Originally introduced at The Peninsula Hong Kong in 1997 to give guests an insight into Hong Kong’s unique blend of Eastern culture and Western style, the highly popular Peninsula Academy programme has now been expanded to incorporate the group’s nine hotels in Asia and the USA.

The Academy’s learning and activity programme was created to give guests a personalised introduction to key aspects of each Peninsula location’s culture, history, heritage, lifestyle, cuisine, arts and so much more through individualised classes, tours and activities, all presented from a local perspective. Meanwhile, younger guests are not forgotten either, with the Kids’ Academy to give a fun insight into the various Peninsula destinations.

In 2011, The Peninsula Bangkok introduces two new Peninsula Academy programmes – “A Walk into Bangkok’s Past”, or the *Kudee Chin* Tour, and “Siam’s Treasure”, or the National Museum and National Art Gallery Tour – which join the existing 13 Peninsula Academy programmes.

The Peninsula Academy Programmes at The Peninsula Bangkok

- Thai Architecture and Traditional Thai House Tour
- Thai Flower Arrangement and Flower Market Visit
- Fruit and Vegetable Carving
- Canal Tour Along the Chao Phraya River
- The Siam Journey
- Thai Tea Appreciation
- Culinary Journey
- Thai Home-Style Cooking Class
- Behind the Scenes with The Peninsula Chefs
- Chinese Cooking Class: the Art of Dim sum
- Thai Traditional Dessert-Making

THE PENINSULA

B A N G K O K

THE PENINSULA BANGKOK LAUNCHES TWO NEW PENINSULA ACADEMY PROGRAMMES – 2

The Peninsula Kids' Academy Programmes at The Peninsula Bangkok

- Junior Chef
- Diva for a Day

“A Walk into Bangkok’s Past” – the *Kudee Chin* Tour

Guests will travel to the Bangkok of the past along the tranquil riverside where historic neighbourhoods that date back more than two centuries have maintained the diverse cultural heritage of three religions and four beliefs (Theravada Buddhism, Mahayana Buddhism, Christianity and Islam). This melding of multi-ethnic cultures and religions formed the basis of the distinctive character of this riverside community that surrounds Wat Kalayanamit and is known today as *Kudee Chin* (meaning ‘Chinese shrine’ in Thai). Guests will see and learn about the unique architecture of temples from the different religions, ranging from the Santa Cruz Church and Wat Kalayanamit (a Buddhist temple) to the Bangluang Mosque.

The three-hour “A Walk into Bangkok’s Past” programme begins at 10:00 am and is priced at THB 2,500* per person.

Participants who would like to experience more of the traditional Thai lifestyle seen along the Chao Phraya River can reserve the five-hour programme, which includes a tour of the residences of Klong Bang Luang and the traditional ways of life of its residents. Klong Bang Luang is filled with the memories of Bangkok’s past, including “The House of Artists”, a 200-year-old wooden house, surrounded by a wooden pagoda that was renovated by a group of artists and is now a gathering place for those who love art, as well as working artists. Before returning to the hotel, guests can enjoy a Thai Puppet Show that is performed every day except Wednesdays from 2:00 pm at “The House of Artists”.

The five-hour “A Walk into Bangkok’s Past” programme begins at 10:00 am and is priced at THB 4,500* per person, including a Peninsula lunch box.

THE PENINSULA

B A N G K O K

THE PENINSULA BANGKOK LAUNCHES TWO NEW PENINSULA ACADEMY PROGRAMMES – 3

In the three-hour programme, guests travel aboard The Peninsula Bangkok's own boat and also enjoy a walking tour. The five-hour programme features travel on The Peninsula Bangkok boat, a walking tour and a long tail boat ride for the small canal section. Both programmes require reservations to be made at least two working days in advance and are available for a minimum of two people.

“Siam’s Treasure” – the National Museum and National Art Gallery Tour

On this tour, guests will learn about Thai history at the National Museum and National Art Gallery, which houses the largest collection of Thai art and artifacts in the country. The tour guide will offer a glimpse into the history of Thailand from the Sukhothai through to the Rattanakosin periods based on the art pieces and national collections in the museums. In addition, the Archaeological and Art History collection will reflect on the ways of life in Thailand and Southeast Asia of the past. Guests will also hear fascinating stories behind the antique pieces from their guides, who will share their insight into Thai culture, traditions and beliefs.

The half-day “Siam’s Treasure” programme begins at 9:30 am and is for a minimum of two people. It is available only from Wednesday to Sunday and reservations must be made at least two working days in advance. The tour is priced at THB 4,000* per person. Guests on this fully escorted tour enjoy comfortable transportation by hotel van.

“A Walk into Bangkok’s Past” and “Siam’s Treasure” are part of the Peninsula’s Art of Hospitality programme that aims to educate guests about the hotel’s extensive art collection as well as the local art and culture scenes. The Art of Hospitality, in turn, is part of the innovative Enriching Your Life campaign which was created to enhance guests’ stay at each Peninsula property with memorable experiences.

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THE PENINSULA

B A N G K O K

THE PENINSULA BANGKOK LAUNCHES TWO NEW PENINSULA ACADEMY PROGRAMMES – 4

For more information, please contact the hotel on +66 2861-2888, e-mail us at pbk@peninsula.com or visit the hotel website at www.peninsula.com/bangkok

**Price is subject to prevailing taxes and service charge.*

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About The Hongkong and Shanghai Hotels, Limited (HSH)

Incorporated in 1866 and listed on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange (00045), HSH is a holding company whose subsidiaries, associates and jointly controlled entity are engaged in the ownership and management of prestigious hotel, commercial and residential properties in key destinations in Asia, the USA and Europe, as well as the provision of transport, club management and services. The hotel portfolio of the Group comprises the Peninsula Hotels in Hong Kong, Shanghai, Beijing, New York, Chicago, Beverly Hills, Tokyo, Bangkok, Manila and Paris (opening in 2013). The property portfolio of the Group includes The Repulse Bay Complex, The Peak Tower and The Peak Tramways, St. John's Building, The Landmark in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam and the Thai Country Club in Bangkok, Thailand.

For further information, please contact:

Ms Chaleenuch Visith

Director of Public Relations

The Peninsula Bangkok

Telephone +66 2626 1919

Fax +66 2861 2361

Email cvisith@peninsula.com

Website www.peninsula.com

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