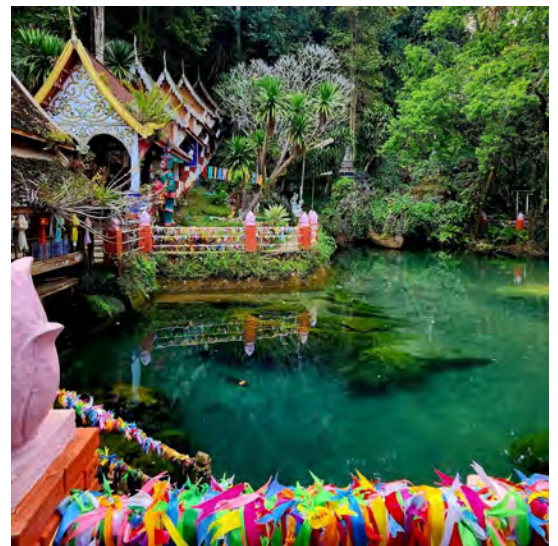


Santa Fe Workshops

THAILAND: Looking Closely

January 10 - 21, 2028

*Bangkok - Nan - Pua - Phrae - Chiang Dao -
Chiang Mai - Bangkok*



**Please note: While we do our best to follow the above itinerary, changes may be made to any aspect of the tour due to a variety of potential situations or unforeseen circumstances.*

January 10th: Bangkok / Arrival Day

- VIP meet and greet at the airport, followed by a private transfer into Bangkok as you get your first look at the city's mix of high-rises, river life, street vendors, and temple roofs
- Check in at our conveniently located hotel
- Welcome dinner at a high-end Thai restaurant, offering a strong first taste of Thailand's food culture

Accommodation: 5 hotel*

Included meals: Dinner

January 11th: Bangkok

- The morning will be yours to recover from jet lag and settle into Bangkok, with your tour leader available to help plan your perfect morning
- Afternoon boat tour on the Chao Phraya River, Bangkok's main waterway, where the city comes alive as we pass temples, homes, boats, and day-to-day scenes on both sides
- Guided visit to Wat Pho, home to the famous Reclining Buddha, where you'll move through one of Bangkok's most important temple complexes with time to notice the scale, textures, and late-day light that make it such a memorable place to shoot
- Stay for Wat Pho's evening chanting, with time to photograph the monks as their voices fill the temple and the softer light brings out the quiet details of the space
- Dinner at a riverside restaurant overlooking Wat Arun, with the temple glowing across the water as Bangkok shifts into evening

Accommodation: 5 hotel*

Included meals: Breakfast, Dinner

January 12th: Bangkok

- Morning visit to Khlong Toei Market, one of Bangkok's busiest active markets, where vendors move quickly through narrow aisles filled with fresh produce, seafood, cooked food, and the constant pace of local trade
- Spend the afternoon with a local Bangkok photographer, heading into less visited parts of the city where everyday life unfolds through neighborhood markets, small temples, working communities, and side streets far from the main visitor areas
- Learn how a professional photographer in Thailand looks for stories, approaches people respectfully, and works with the speed, light, and personality of Bangkok's streets
- End the day at one of our favorite restaurants in the city

Accommodation: 5 hotel*

Included meals: Breakfast, Dinner

January 13th: Bangkok / Nan / Pua

- Early morning transfer to the airport, followed by a 1.5-hour flight north to Nan, a peaceful corner of Thailand where life moves at a gentle pace
- Enjoy lunch in Nan before continuing with a 2-hour drive up to Pua, following roads that lead deeper into rice country, with hills rising behind the fields and small rural communities along the way
- Check into your centrally located hotel
- Photograph sunset over the valley, as the last light settles across the fields and surrounding hills
- End the day with a dinner that introduces the culture and flavors of the Upper Nan Valley

Accommodation: 5 boutique resort*

Included meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

January 14th: Pua

- Begin the day early in the rice fields and village, when the terraces are still cool, the light is soft, and farmers begin moving through the valley
- Visit a Tai Lue weaving community, where master weavers work at the loom and share the stories, symbols, and techniques behind their traditional textiles
- Enjoy lunch featuring regional cuisine
- Continue to the Bo Kluea Salt Wells, where brine is pulled from deep wooden wells and boiled over fire, creating a dramatic setting from one of Nan's oldest trades
- Return to your lodge in the late afternoon

Accommodation: 5 boutique resort*

Included meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

January 15th: Pua

- Begin before sunrise with a drive into Doi Phu Kha National Park, arriving as the first light spreads over the mountains and low mist often hangs in the valleys below
- Take time for sunrise photography from the viewpoint, working with the layers of hills, changing light, and the calm atmosphere of the national park at the start of the day
- Continue with a respectfully arranged visit with the Mlabri community, accompanied by a trusted community representative
- Learn about the Mlabri people, an indigenous community with deep ties to forest life in northern Thailand, and hear about their history, relationship with the land, and how daily life has changed over recent decades
- Enjoy lunch at the village
- Return to the lodge for a free afternoon

Accommodation: 5 boutique resort*

Included meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

January 16th: Pua / Phrae

- Start the morning with a relaxed stroll through the rice fields, giving you one last chance to take in the valley before the road journey south
- Drive approximately 2 hours to Phrae, a historic town shaped by the historic teak trade and the wealth it brought to this part of northern Thailand
- Guided walking tour of the old town, where the streets still feel tied to another era through their wooden homes, quiet lanes, and faded merchant charm
- Visit Khum Chao Luang, the former governor's teak mansion, where carved wood, elegant rooms, and old family history help bring Phrae's teak-trading past to life
- Continue through the streets to see beautifully preserved teak merchant houses, with stops at small family-run cafés and bakeries now tucked inside heritage buildings
- Visit a woodworker to learn how teak is still worked today, from raw material to finished pieces made with patience and skill
- End the day with a sunset walk along the Yom River, as the town softens into the evening light

Accommodation: 4* boutique hotel

Included meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

January 17th: Phrae

- Spend the day in Ban Thung Hong, Thailand's best-known indigo village, where the deep blue Mo Hom fabric is part of everyday life and local identity
- Meet artisans producing natural indigo dye from regionally grown plants, capturing the process as cloth is prepared, dipped, lifted, and dried by hand, with the blue slowly deepening at each stage
- Step into cotton weaving workshops where Mo Hom garments are made from start to finish, connecting the dyeing process to the clothing still worn across northern Thailand
- Enjoy a home-hosted lunch with a local family
- Continue into the farming villages beyond Ban Thung Hong, where fields, quiet roads, and everyday work give the afternoon a slower rural feel
- Visit bamboo basket makers for a close look at handmade objects that are still part of daily life in the region

Accommodation: 4* boutique hotel

Included meals: Breakfast, Lunch

January 18th: Phrae / Chiang Dao

- Depart Phrae after breakfast and drive for approximately 4 hours toward Chiang Dao, with several stops along the way to break up the journey and take in the northern countryside
- Stop along the way at a roadside produce market, where seasonal fruit, mushrooms, and hillside ingredients offer a colorful look at what is grown and sold in the area
- Enjoy lunch at a working farm restaurant with wide views
- Check into your mountain resort, a relaxed countryside property with gardens, comfortable rooms, and a farm-to-table restaurant rooted in the local landscape
- Visit the Chiang Dao Caves in the afternoon, entering cool limestone chambers where Buddhist shrines, soft shadows, and rock formations create one of the area's most atmospheric settings
- Spend the rest of the afternoon settling in, with time to rest, explore the resort grounds, and take in the limestone peak that rises above Chiang Dao

Accommodation: 3.5 nature resort*

Included meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

January 19th: Chiang Dao

- Start the day at sunrise beneath the limestone cliffs of Doi Luang Chiang Dao, as the first light reaches the upland and the valley slowly comes awake around the lodge
- Visit an Arabica coffee farm to see how coffee grows beneath the forest canopy, meet the growers, walk through the plantation, and enjoy a tasting while learning how shade-grown coffee and diversified farming are part of this mountain landscape
- Enjoy lunch at a creative garden restaurant, with an intimate, art-filled setting and a chef's table feel
- Visit a temple to learn more about Buddhism in Thailand, including the role of monks, the meaning behind different Buddha images, and the practice of making merit

Accommodation: 3.5 nature resort*

Included meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

January 20th: Chiang Dao / Chiang Mai

- Depart Chiang Dao after breakfast and drive approximately 2 hours to Chiang Mai, following the road into the city for the final chapter of the trip
- Check into your luxury boutique hotel, then enjoy a free afternoon to rest, wander the Old City, browse local shops, or slip into one of Chiang Mai's many cafés
- Gather in the evening for a final dinner at a Michelin-recognized restaurant, celebrating the last night of the trip over excellent food
- Continue to the night markets, where the city comes alive after dark with sizzling food stalls, glowing lanterns, music, and busy lanes full of crafts and street life
- Optional Muay Thai experience for those who want a high-energy final night and a closer look at one of Thailand's most respected combat traditions

Accommodation: 5 boutique hotel*

Included meals: Breakfast, Dinner

January 21st: Chiang Mai / Bangkok / Departure Day

- Morning 1.5-hour flight back to Bangkok
- Finish the tour at Bangkok's Suvarnabhumi Airport for your onward flight back home*

****Please note that your return flight from Bangkok should depart at 3:30 PM or later.***

Included meals: Breakfast

Not Included

- Flights to/from Thailand
- Passport/visa fees (no visa needed for US citizens)
- Meals and activities not mentioned or listed as optional
- Travel insurance (mandatory)
- Gratuities

Participant and Rooms Minimum/Maximum

This tour requires a minimum of 10 participants and has a maximum of 12 participants in order to ensure the best small-group tour experience. Due to the nature and size of the hotels used on this itinerary, there is a maximum of 10 rooms available for paying guests, not including the photography instructor's room. Of those 10 guest rooms, up to 2 can be arranged as twin rooms (2 separate beds) for guests sharing.

Physical Demands: Moderate

While the tour itself is not very strenuous, please note that it does involve full days, some early morning wake ups, regular walking, stairs, temple grounds, market areas, rice fields, caves, national park viewpoints, uneven outdoor paths, and longer drives of up to approximately 4 hours. Some days may include walking for 2 to 3 hours total, broken up with stops for photography, meals, rest, and time in the vehicle. Guests should be comfortable walking on uneven ground, climbing some steps, moving through busy markets, and spending time outdoors in warm weather.

Tour Cost

\$5755 USD per person (single)

\$4855 USD per person (twin-share)

**The tour can operate with less than 10 participants. If there are 8 or 9 guests, there will be a \$300 USD surcharge per person.*