

2024 ACTIVITIES GUIDE

# LOY PEIA

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## N°1 AYUTTHAYA HISTORIC TOWN

After a scenic drive through the countryside, you will arrive at the mythical Ayutthaya, the former capital of Thailand. Marvel at the UNESCO-listed ruins of temples, palaces and statues that testify to the glory of a bygone era. Explore the majestic Wat Phra Sri Sanpetch with its three iconic stupas, and the Khmer-style Wat Rat Burana. Witness the serene sight of a Buddha head entwined in the roots of a banyan tree at Wat Mahathat. Learn about the rich history and culture of Ayutthaya, from its founding in 1350 CE by King Uthong, to its destruction by the Burmese in 1767 CE, and its influence on modern Bangkok.



N°2

## WAT PHANAN CHOENG

One of the oldest and most revered temples in Ayutthaya, Wat Phanan Choeng is renowned for its stunning architecture and the intricate details of the temple, which was built in 1324, several decades before Ayutthaya was founded. Behold the awe-inspiring sight of the giant Buddha and the two golden Buddha images from the Sukhothai period, and learn about the history and significance of the site that has been a royal temple and a monastery for centuries. As you explore the magnificent grounds, you will witness the restoration efforts of the Sangha and the government to preserve this sacred site.





Nº3

## WAT BOT

No other structure expresses the cultural diversity of Ayutthaya quite like Wat Bot. Built by the Mon ethnic group in 1621, the temple's name reflects the origin of the Mon people, who founded some of the earliest civilizations in Thailand, Myanmar and Laos. In addition to the ancient Mon-style Buddha image, you will see the statue of Luangpu Thian, a respected monk and an educator, displayed in the shrine hall, and the sword of absolute power Phra Saeng Ayasit in one of the temple halls. You will also discover such sacred objects as the lead sculpture of Ya-le, the pet dog of King Rama VI.



## N°4 BANG PA-IN PALACE

Bang Pa-In Palace, the summer retreat of Thai kings since the 17th century, is set in a large serene park amid emerald ponds and waterways. See the diverse styles of temples, palaces and statues that reflect Thai culture. Visit the inner zone reserved for the royal family and the outer zone that's open to the public. Admire intricate shrines and palaces inspired by architectural styles as diverse as Khmer, classic Greek, alpine Swiss and Chinese. Relax at the garden pavilion of Bubpha Prapas and enjoy the view from the tower of Vitule Tassana. Pay respects at the monuments of the royal family who died in a boating accident.



Nº 5  
WAT NIWET  
WORAWIHAN

After taking a charming cable car from Bang Pa-In Palace, you will step into Thailand's only European-style cathedral, Wat Niwet Worawihan, built by King Rama V in 1876 on a private island. Admire a unique Gothic-style ordination hall with stained glass windows, an unusual cross-shaped base for the main Buddha image, and other ancient artefacts. Visit the stone garden with relics of the Diskul family, the descendants of King Rama IV, and a large collection of limestone, sandstone and conglomerate rocks.





## N°6 CANALS OF AYUTTHAYA

Embark on a scenic boat ride that will take you to the most impressive temples of Ayutthaya, such as Wat Yai Chai Mongkon, Wat Phra Si Sanphet, Wat Mahathat, and Wat Chai Wattanaram. You will also visit two hidden gems: Wat Phra Ngam, with its mysterious "Time Portal" gateway, and Wat Na Phra Meru, the only temple that survived the Burmese invasion and preserves the ancient beauty of Ayutthaya. Your tour will end with a relaxing boat ride, where you will witness the local life along the river, seemingly preserved in Siam amber, designed to help you better appreciate this incredible UNESCO World Heritage Site.



Nº7  
**ALMS OFFERING  
(TAK BAT)**

Learn about the ancient tradition of "Tak Bat", the morning alms ritual of the Buddhist monks, and a way to "make merit" by doing a good deed. Every day, between 5:30 a.m. and 8:30 a.m., the monks leave the temple and walk the streets to receive offerings from the people, accepting anything that's given to share with other monks and the needy. In return, they give blessings to the public. There are other ways of making merit, such as releasing birds or fish from captivity, donating money or materials to temples or monasteries, or giving blood at the hospital. Making merit is believed to bring happiness and good karma to the giver.







Nº 8

## POTTERY CLASS AT KOH KRET

Discover the ancient art of pottery making at Koh Kret, a charming island in the Chao Phraya River. Learn from the Mon people, who have inherited this skill from their ancestors and preserved their unique culture and traditions. Experience the joy of creating your own earthenware, with intricate designs inspired by nature. Choose from a variety of shapes and colours, from light orange to black, and admire the beauty and craftsmanship of Koh Kret pottery. Explore the island's rich history and heritage, with its stunning temples, pagodas, and antiques. Enjoy a scenic boat ride along the river to witness the simple way of life of the locals, and take home a souvenir of your own creation.



Nº9

## THAI DESSERT MAKING CLASS

During a visit to Sai Noi Homestay Ecotourism Village, a community recognised by the Thai Ministry of Culture for its efforts to preserve traditional crafts and way of life, you will learn to make "auspicious" Thai desserts that are believed to bring good luck and prosperity, using skills that have been maintained for generations. Explore the authentic lifestyle and history of Sai Noi community, which is hidden from the main tourist trail. Observe how the locals make ancient Mon bricks, practise Thai boxing, and grow heritage plants as you enjoy the warm hospitality.

