TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY
AGRICULTURE IN THAILAND
Please make sure your passport has:

- No tears and at least six months of validity after return to the USA
- At least two empty pages for visas, more if visiting multiple countries

Don’t forget to:

- Sign up for travel miles before you depart and make sure your miles are on your tickets
- Take a sweater for the flights
- Drink plenty of water on the flight and after you arrive

ITINERARY

SAT JULY 21: USA – BANGKOK, THAILAND [D]
- Flight details TBD; not included in land quote. See below
- Upon arrival, proceed through customs, meet guide, and transfer to hotel for check-in
- Welcome dinner at local restaurant
- Overnight at I Residence Hotel Silom: http://silom.iresidencehotel.com/

SUN JULY 22: BANGKOK FULL DAY TOUR [B/L/-]
- Breakfast at hotel
- Full-day city tour via boat, train, and tuk tuk:
  - Jim Thompson House, with its traditional Thai architecture, houses a large collection of artifacts and artwork
  - Take a boat ride along the Chao Phraya River towards the Grand Palace, home to the Wat Phra Kaew and Emerald Buddha dating back to the 14th Century
  - Ride a tuk-tuk to Wat Pho, to view the reclining Buddha, then finish the day with the highly skilled Wat Pho masseurs at the temple’s massage school
  - Please note: Visitors should wear long pants, shoes that cover the heel, and shirts that cover the upper arm (no vests).
- Lunch at local restaurant, dinner on your own
- Overnight at I Residence Hotel Silom

MON JULY 23: TRADITIONAL COOKING CLASS & MAHASAWAT CANAL [B/L/-]
- Breakfast at hotel
- AM: Head to the Baipai Cooking School for a hands-on experience that incorporates traditional techniques to make Green Chicken Curry, Pad Thai, and Tom Yum Kung
- PM: Explore the countryside along the Mahasawat Canal in Nakhon Pathom. Cruise along the narrow canal (‘klong’) in a long-tail boat and view orchid and lotus flower farms, rice paddies, and traditional houses in this agriculturally rich ‘fruit belt,’ afterwards, ride through one of the orchards on a tractor as the locals do
- Lunch at local restaurant, dinner on your own
- Overnight at I Residence Hotel Silom

TUES JULY 24: BANGKOK – CHIANG MAI (1.5HRS) [B/-/D]
- Breakfast at hotel
- Check out of hotel and meet local guide for transport to airport
- Flight from Bangkok – Chiang Mai TBD; cost included in quote
- Upon arrival in Chiang Mai, meet with guide and transfer to hotel for check-in
- Visit a collection of food stalls enjoyed by locals, where you can try favorites like Thai curry fish cake, sticky rice with pork and crispy fried munch
- Pick up a fruit shake as you make your way to Wat Chedi Luang, a 15th Century stupa; sample some famous Thai noodles here before heading onto another of Chiang Mai’s most famous food streets for pork skewers, pork leg with rice and coconut desserts
• Afterwards, hop on board a local truck to a hidden bar that’s well known with locals
• Overnight at Amora Hotel Chiang Mai: https://www.amorahotels.com/chiangmai

WED JULY 25: CHIANG MAI FULL DAY TOUR [B/L/D]
• Breakfast at hotel
• Depart along the scenic route to the Phrao district to Sri Lanna National Park, then
• follow your guide to waterfalls, natural springs, and a tour of the green rice paddies
• Lunch at local restaurant
• Visit Ban Thungdang - a typical farmers’ house - for some afternoon tea and a chat
  with locals; continue on to Ban Patang to see how rice is produced in even more detail,
  from being cultivated in the paddies to being pounded in the mills. Roll up your sleeves
  and try your hand at traditional rice planting and pounding!
• Stop off at the local villages of Ban Na Meng and Ban Pa Ha before heading back
• Traditional Khantoke dinner with live dance and music performances
• Overnight at Amora Hotel Chiang Mai

THUR JULY 26: CHIANG MAI COFFEE TOUR & JUNGLE TRAIL [B/L/-]
• Breakfast at hotel
• Depart for the rural village of Ban Mae Klang Luang where locals descend from the
  Karen ethnic minority; learn from local villagers about coffee making and participate in
  each step of the process- roasting, winnowing, grinding, tasting!
• Set off on a gentle 2-hr trek through the paddy fields and rice terraces before stopping
  at Pha Dok Seaw Waterfall for a refreshing swim
• Lunch at local restaurant
• Continue on via private transfer to Mae Ya Waterfall, in Inthanon National Park
• Dinner on your own
• Overnight at Amora Hotel Chiang Mai

FRI JULY 27: CHIANG MAI MAHOUT TRAINING [B/L/-]
• Breakfast at hotel
• Spend the morning at Baanchang Elephant Park, which serves as a conservation park
  for animals that have been mistreated in circuses or logging camps
  o Don a traditional ‘mahout’ uniform and receive an introduction on how to
  command the elephants. Learn a few words/noises that the animals can
  understand and respond to. Other activities include bathing, trekking and
  relaxing
  **Recommended: bring towel, extra clothes, camera, mosquito spray
• Group lunch at local restaurant, dinner on your own
• Overnight at Amora Hotel Chiang Mai

SAT JULY 28: CHIANG MAI – CHIANG RAI [B/L/-]
• Breakfast at hotel
• Private transfer to Chiang Rai {4hrs}, located near the intersection of Thailand, Laos and
  Myanmar
  o Visit Wat Rong Khun (the White Temple), representing purity and wisdom and
    designed by one of Thailand’s most famous artists, Chalermchai Kositpipat
  o Learn about the surrounding area and opium history at the Hill Tribe Museum
  o Explore Wat Phra Kaew, the Temple of the Emerald Buddha, which dates back
    to Chiang Rai’s founding
• Group lunch at local restaurant, dinner on your own
• Overnight at KhamThana Hotel Chiang Rai
SUN JULY 29: CHIANG RAI [B/-/-]
- Breakfast at hotel
- Full day at leisure
- Lunch and dinner on your own
- Overnight at KhamThana Hotel Chiang Rai

MON JULY 30: LAOS BORDER CROSSING, MEKONG RIVER [B/L/-]
- Breakfast at hotel
- Depart early for a full day excursion to the **Golden Triangle** - the spot where Thailand, Laos, and Myanmar intersect
  - Cross the **Friendship Bridge** into Laos - a country known for its colonial history, mountainous scenery, and Buddhist culture; **visit** with a local hill tribe
  - **NB. Visa Fees NOT included; about $35 per passport**
  - Return into Thailand to check out the viewpoint at the junction of the Mekong and Ruak Rivers
  - Stop at the **Chiang Saen National Museum** in Chiang Saen, a small village known for its numerous temples and ruins
  - Visit with the **White Hmong** tribespeople - Chinese migrants who have established simple, self-sustaining villages in the area
- Lunch at a local restaurant, dinner on your own
- Overnight at KhamThana Hotel Chiang Rai

TUES JULY 31: CHIANG RAI - BANGKOK [B/-/-]
- Breakfast at hotel
- Morning at leisure
- Meet local guide for transfer to airport to catch **flight to Bangkok**; arrival and check-in
- Lunch and dinner on your own
- Overnight at I Residence Hotel Silom

WED AUG 1: UNIVERSITY SCHOLARS LEADERSHIP SYMPOSIUM [B/-/-]
- Breakfast at hotel
- Morning at leisure and check out of hotel
- University Scholars Leadership Symposium--TBD
- Lunch and dinner on your own
- Overnight at ---TBD (arranged by university)

THUR AUG 2 – TUES AUG 7: UNIVERSITY SCHOLARS LEADERSHIP SYMPOSIUM [-/-/-]
- University Scholars Leadership Symposium--TBD
- Breakfast, lunch and dinner on your own
- Overnight at ---TBD (arranged by university)

WED AUG 8: BANGKOK - PHUKET [-/-/-]
- Check out of USLS and transfer to airport to catch **flight to Phuket**; arrival and check-in
- Afternoon at leisure
- Breakfast, lunch and dinner on your own
- Overnight at Kata Palm Resort & Spa

THUR AUG 9: PHUKET HERITAGE TOUR [B/L/-]
- Breakfast at hotel
- Spend the morning visiting the “wet market” where you will hear the history of the town as a major trading port and explore the Sino-Portuguese streets
- Visit **Chin Pracha House** with its vintage floor tiles, artifacts and old photographs
- Learn about the influence of China at the **Thai Hua Museum**
- Stroll among the art galleries, shops, cafes and temples toward the **old Post Office** and Phuket’s first hotel, built in 1929
- Enjoy a specialty lunch of **Hokkian Mee** (Chinese noodles)
• Ride the “Blue Bus” back to your hotel
• Dinner on your own
• Overnight at Kata Palm Resort & Spa

FRI AUG 10: PHUKET FREE DAY [B/-/-]
• Breakfast at hotel
• Full day at leisure
• Lunch and dinner on your own
• Overnight at Kata Palm Resort & Spa

SAT AUG 11: PHUKET - BANGKOK [B/-/-]
• Breakfast at hotel
• Private transfer to Phuket airport to catch flight to Bangkok
• Lunch and dinner on your own
• Overnight at I Residence Hotel Silom

SUN AUG 12: BANGKOK - USA [B/-/-]
• Breakfast at hotel
• Transfer to airport to catch flight back to USA