



# Asia's Best

- Raffles Singapore
- Eastern & Oriental Express
- Mandarin Oriental Bangkok

**9 days – 12 to 20 August 2009**

Return to the charm and romance of a bygone era on our journey through the heart of Singapore, Malaysia and Thailand onboard the luxurious Eastern & Oriental Express train.

**TOUR COST Land only**

**AUD\$8,990 per person twin share**

**AUD\$1,990 per person single supplement**

## Raffles Hotel Singapore

Declared a National Monument in 1987 and beautifully restored for its reopening in 1991, Raffles Hotel is renowned and loved for its inimitable style and excellence in service and facilities. Named after Sir Stamford Raffles, the founder of modern Singapore, the hotel has evolved since its original opening in 1887 into one of the world's most beloved grand hotels.

## The Eastern & Oriental Express

Originally built in Japan in 1972, the Eastern & Oriental Express has been remodelled and rebuilt to offer excellence in comfort, style, charm and luxury. At its maximum length, the Eastern & Oriental Express is a quarter mile long with 22 carriages featuring 2 restaurants, saloon car, reading room, 2 bars and boutique. Features of our guest compartments include two single beds that convert to a sofa/chairs during the day, en suite shower, WC and washbasin, small wardrobe, personal safe and hairdryer. Services include lunch and dinner, continental breakfast and afternoon tea served in your compartment and a 24 hour steward service.

## Mandarin Oriental Bangkok

For more than 130 years distinguished travellers have followed the legendary Chao Phraya River, through the heart of Bangkok, to the doors of one of the world's most luxurious hotels, Mandarin Oriental, Bangkok. A paragon of contemporary luxury and rich in history, our hotel is filled with stories of the celebrated guests who have considered us home during their world travels.

## Itinerary

### Day 1 – Wednesday 12 August 2009 – Arrive Singapore

Arrive in Singapore this afternoon and transfer to the world famous Raffles Hotel. Check into your Courtyard Suite then join us for a Singapore Sling at the Long Bar before enjoying panoramic views and the culinary delights served in the impressive Equinox Restaurant.

### Day 2 – Thursday 13 August 2009 – Singapore

This morning we explore the city on our tour that features Merlion Park, Thian Hock Keng Temple and views of the city's monuments from our private coach. Enjoy lunch at leisure and shopping in Little India before returning to our hotel. Enjoy a wonderful fusion of Chinese food and ambience tonight at My Humble House.

### Day 3 – Friday 14 August 2009 – Singapore

We visit Singapore's popular leisure resort, Sentosa this morning for a half day tour including a cable car ride and the Dolphin Lagoon, then enjoy lunch overlooking the marina at Oneo 15 restaurant. Relax this afternoon before our final dinner in Singapore at Raffles Hotel.

### Day 4 – Saturday 15 August 2009 – Depart Singapore

Transfer to Keppel Road station this morning and board the luxurious Eastern & Oriental Express train. Settle into your State compartment and join us for lunch in one of the opulent dining cars as our train crosses to Malaysia via the causeway of the Straits of Johor.

### Day 5 – Sunday 16 August 2009 – Butterworth

Our train travels through lush rainforests and Malaysia's west-coast towns this morning, with a stop in Butterworth to take the ferry to



## Itinerary continued

Penang for a guided tour of colonial Georgetown. We rejoin the train and continue into Thailand where the scenery changes from limestone massifs and rice fields to include wing-roofed Thai temples.

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### Day 6 – Monday 17 August 2009 – Arrive Bangkok

View the famous River Kwai Bridge, enjoy a cruise on the river aboard a local raft, travel by coach to visit the Thailand-Burma railway museum then return to the train for our final journey to Bangkok. We arrive in the afternoon and transfer to the magnificent Mandarin Oriental Bangkok to check into our Superior River Wing rooms. Tonight we cross the river for a spectacular Thai dinner and cultural show at Sala Rim Naam Restaurant.

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### Day 7 – Tuesday 18 August 2009 – Bangkok

We leave from our hotel's pier this morning on our private, beautifully restored Manohra boat for a day on the Chao Phraya River including visits to spectacular temples, Royal Museum, Royal Palace grounds and a small boat trip along the canals to view typical Thai life. A BBQ buffet awaits tonight on our hotel's Riverside Terrace.

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### Day 8 – Wednesday 19 August 2009 – Bangkok

Discover the art of preparing fine Thai cuisine by leading Thai chefs in our morning cooking class. Enjoy your creations for lunch before an afternoon at leisure to shop and explore Bangkok. Our farewell dinner is served tonight in the opulent Le Normandie considered by many to be the finest French dining experience in Asia.

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### Day 9 – Thursday 20 August 2009 – Depart Bangkok

Following breakfast on The Verandah and a leisurely morning at our hotel, depart by private coach for Bangkok Airport and your return flight home to Australia with Singapore Airlines.

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## Tour Cost Inclusions

- 8 nights accommodation as per itinerary (twin share or single supplement)
- All transfers in Singapore and Bangkok on air conditioned coach or mini bus
- All meals – breakfast, lunch and dinner
- All wines with lunch and dinner
- Complimentary tea, coffee & water available at all times onboard the train
- All touring and sightseeing activities in Singapore and Bangkok including any entrance fees
- All excursions off-board the train
- All tipping and taxes
- Fully escorted by Tour Manager
- All baggage handling by Tour Manager and local porters
- Personal Tour compendium with daily itinerary, travel tips and more
- Group photograph and DVD of tour photos

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## Tour Cost Exclusions

- Airfare ex Australia, airport and departure taxes
- Any tours or activities outside the published itinerary
- All transfers outside the group transfers
- All other beverages not included with the itinerary including bar service onboard the train
- Excess baggage
- Travel Insurance
- Passport and/or visa fees
- Anything of a personal nature

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## Deposit and Payment Details

Completed Booking Form and AU\$1000 deposit is required per person. Final payment is due 60 days prior to the nominated departure date.

