



# The Bensley Art Trail

Khao Yai - Luang Prabang - Siem Reap - Wild - Bangkok

Southeast Asia • November 28 - December 10, 2023

# The Bensley Art Trail

Join us for an exclusive trip of Bensley-designed hotels in Thailand, Cambodia and Laos and find your long lost artistic child within. Bill Bensley, for the first time ever, is conducting a 12-day tour of some of his favorite resorts while conducting immersive art classes along the way.

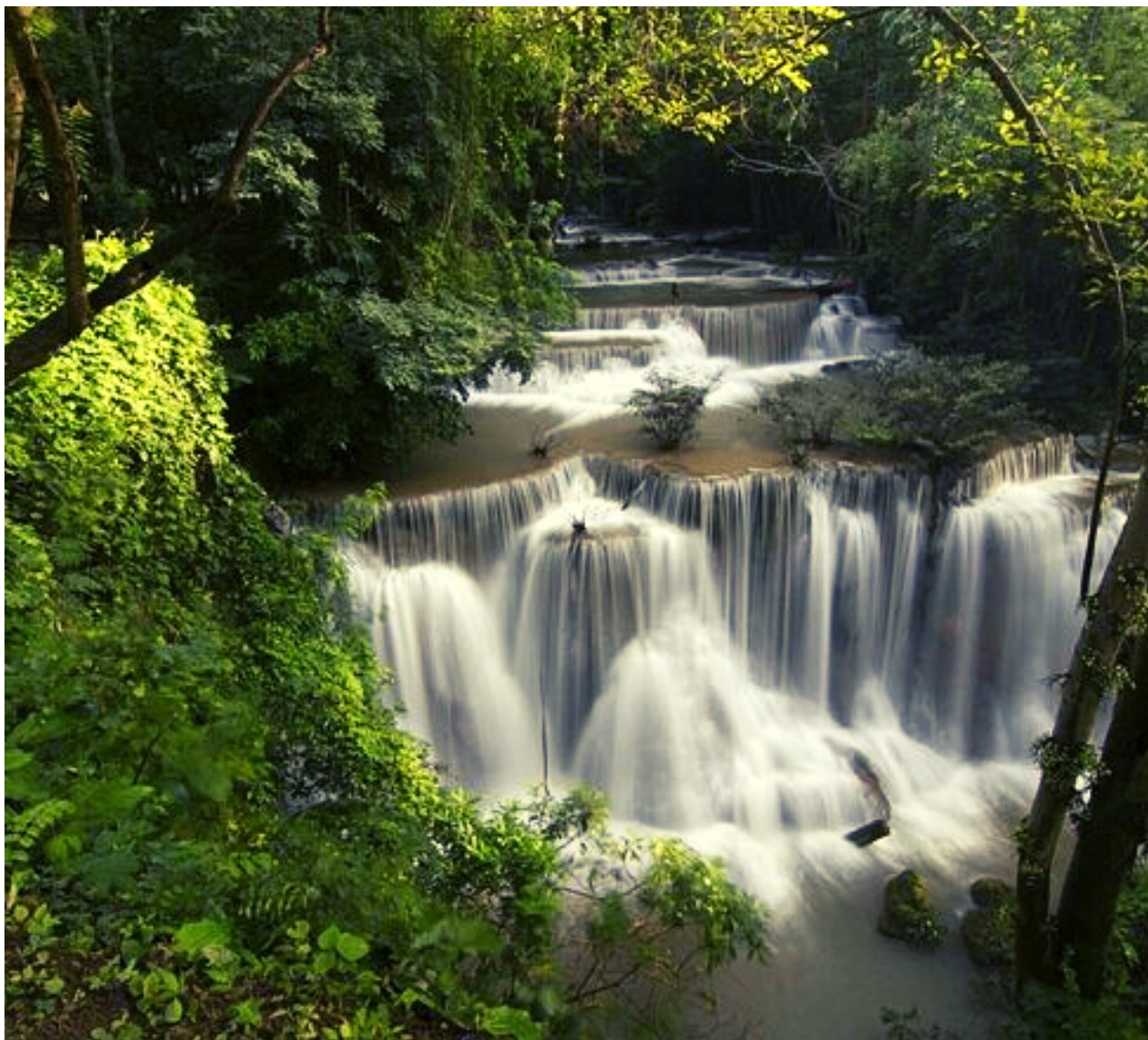
This will be a colorful journey for discerning lovers of art, luxury, design and conservation, culminating in a worthy cause. A selection of art pieces created on the trip will be auctioned with all proceeds going to the [Shinta Mani Foundation](#).



Khao Yai National Park was the first national park in Thailand and is the third largest. The park is known for its wildlife, waterfalls and fantastic hiking trails. Wild elephants can occasionally be spotted and 280 types of birds can be found.

Outside of the park, wineries, organic farms and farmers' markets can be explored. The area is a popular retreat for those living in Bangkok for fresh air and to enjoy the cooler temperatures at the higher elevations.

# Khao Yai



Day 1 • November 28

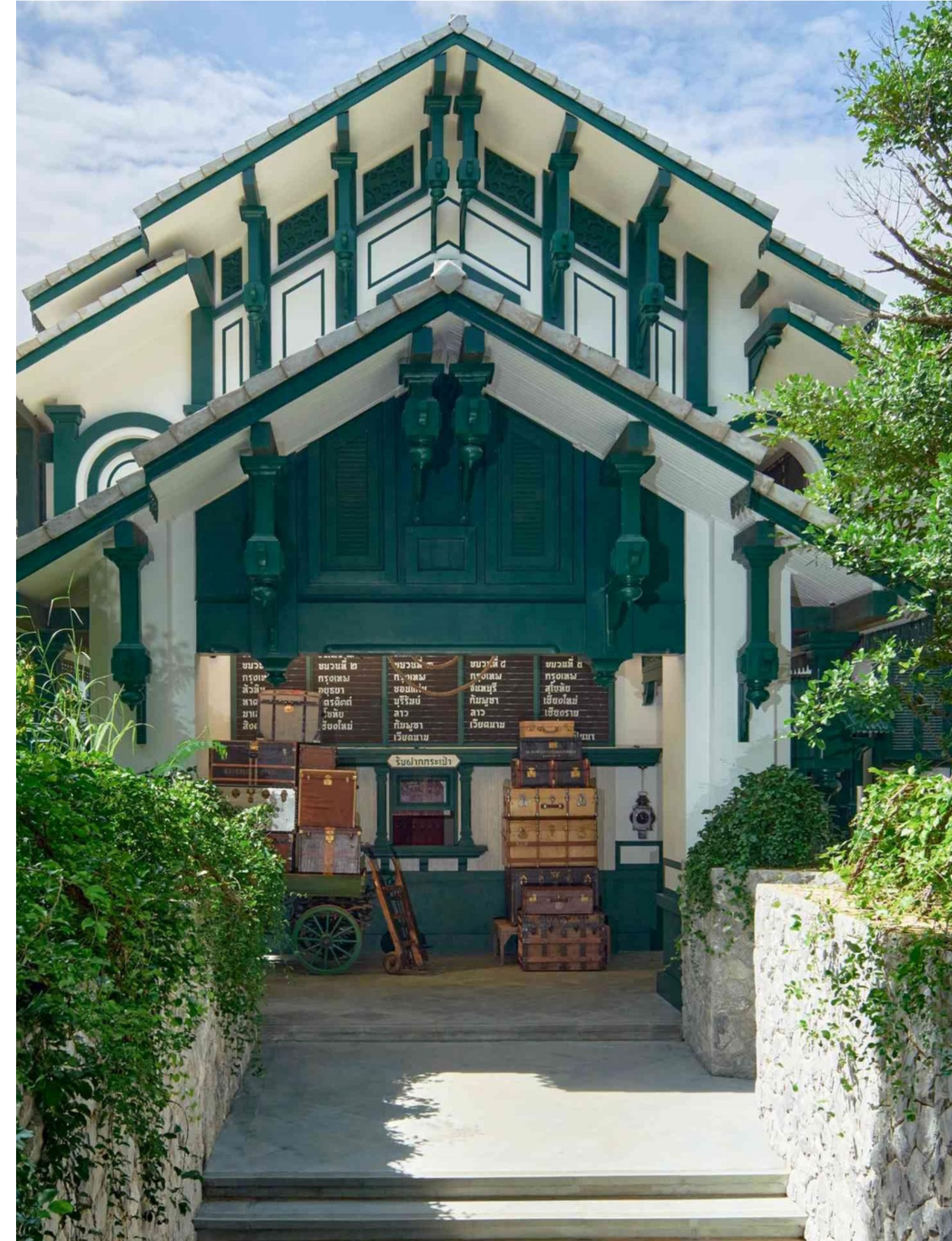
# InterContinental Khao Yai Resort

On Arrival in Bangkok, Fast Track service will be provided to expedite you through the airport. Your personal host will then transfer you to the InterContinental Khao Yai Resort hotel by private luxury van.

InterContinental Khao Yai Resort is a luxurious retreat nestled in the stunning Khao Yai National Park. With its train-themed design and contemporary Thai-inspired architecture, the resort offers unparalleled views of the park's majestic mountains, creating a serene and elegant atmosphere.

The accommodations range from spacious rooms to private villas, each equipped with modern amenities and designed for ultimate comfort. Guests can enjoy the tranquil surroundings from their private balconies or terraces.

**Dinner: offsite**



Day 2 • November 29

# Walk with Rangers

InterContinental Khao Yai Resort serves as a comfortable means to discover one of Thailand's best kept secrets. Misty, rolling hills, lower average temperatures, and one of the world's densest concentrations of ozone, makes the surrounding natural enclave on the edge of Khao Yai National Park, quite literally, a breath of fresh air. Local ranger conservationists will host us for today's outing. This morning's trip is designed to allow you to take artistic inspiration from the natural calm and rustic charm of the area, while also giving you a candid look into the ways that local people, park rangers, and conservationists are preserving this precious slice of Thailand.

In the afternoon, Bill will conduct an interactive and in-depth art workshop

**Stay: InterContinental Khao Yai Resort**

**Lunch: offsite**

**Dinner: offsite**



Day 3 • November 30

# Art Workshops

A day of Art workshops around the property

Stay: InterContinental Khao Yai Resort  
Lunch: at hotel  
Dinner: at hotel



**Day 4 • December 1**

# Fly to Luang Prabang

Your host will be waiting for you in the hotel lobby to escort you to Bangkok international airport by private vehicle. We hope you enjoyed Khao Yai!

**Flight: PG941 BKK-LPQ 09:25-11:35 hrs**

On Arrival in Luang Prabang, Fast Track service will be provided to expedite you through the airport. Your personal host will then transfer you to Rosewood Luang Prabang.

**Stay: Rosewood Luang Prabang**

**Lunch: at hotel**

**Dinner: at hotel**



Luang Prabang is a must visit for a variety of reasons: fabulous colonial French-Lao architecture, French-Lao food, spectacular temples and a glimpse of the spiritual seat of traditional Laotian culture. The town, virtually all of which is accessible on foot, features quaint, adorably charming lanes ideal for afternoon strolls or cycling outings. With clean, palm-lined boulevards and of course the romantic views of the Mekong and Khan rivers, Luang Prabang has much to offer the discerning travel enthusiast.

# Luang Prabang





# Rosewood Luang Prabang

Rosewood Luang Prabang is a luxury tent and villa encampment located a 10 minute drive from Luang Prabang. Epitomizing Rosewoods "A Sense of Place" philosophy, the resort is completely immersed within a virtually untouched natural environment. Rosewood Luang Prabang offers 23 spacious deluxe villas garden villas - private pool villas and luxury tents with features such as open-air showers, tubs and living rooms. The 100-square-meter luxury tents with their own private dining areas and wrap-around decks are a first for the highly-reputable Rosewood brand. There are two dining options - a bar and a bistro serving French and Laotian cuisine. The arrival manor also houses the signature Rosewood Spa.



Day 5 • December 2 - Morning

# Tak Bat & Market Stroll

Early wake-up and drive to town center by Tuk-Tuk for Tak Bat. Participate in (or simply witness) tak bat (alms giving) before a casual stroll through the fresh food open air market.



Day 5 • December 2 - Afternoon

# Explore Luang Prabang

Spend the morning discovering Luang Prabang's most notable and interesting sites. The laid back, slow-moving town creates a unique atmosphere reflecting the shimmering haze. Colors take on new identities and descriptions in Luang Prabang.

This all leads up to an afternoon of serious art classes conducted by Bill with you as the orchestra.

Stay: [Rosewood Luang Prabang](#)

Lunch: offsite

Dinner: offsite



**Day 6 • December 3**

# Fly to Siem Reap

Your host will be waiting for you in the hotel lobby to escort you to the airport by private vehicle. We hope you enjoyed Luang Prabang.

**Flight: VN931 LPQ-REP 14:40-16:10 hrs**

On Arrival in Siem Reap, Fast Track service will be provided to expedite you through the airport. Your personal host will then transfer you to Shinta Mani Angkor.

**Stay: Shinta Mani Angkor and Bensley Collection Pool Villas**

**Lunch: at hotel**

**Dinner: at hotel**



Siem Reap is home to roughly 90,000 people and is the commercial hub for exploring Angkor Wat, one of the Wonders of the World. The name Siem Reap literally means 'Siamese defeated', in reference to the Khmers reclaiming the territory from Siam, who conquered the kingdom in 1431. Full control was not back in Khmer hands (under French rule) until 1864.

# Siem Reap



# Shinta Mani Angkor & Bensley Collection Pool Villa

Shinta Mani Angkor, an upscale boutique hotel created by acclaimed architect Bill Bensley, showcases 39 contemporary designed rooms and public spaces in a Khmer inspired design. Shinta Mani Angkor offers a captivating experience, combining a stunning design theme, luxurious accommodations, top-notch facilities, and a prime location. Whether guests are seeking cultural exploration, relaxation, or indulgence, this boutique hotel provides a memorable stay that reflects the beauty and spirit of Cambodia.



Day 7 • December 4

# Jeep Safari to Remote Temples

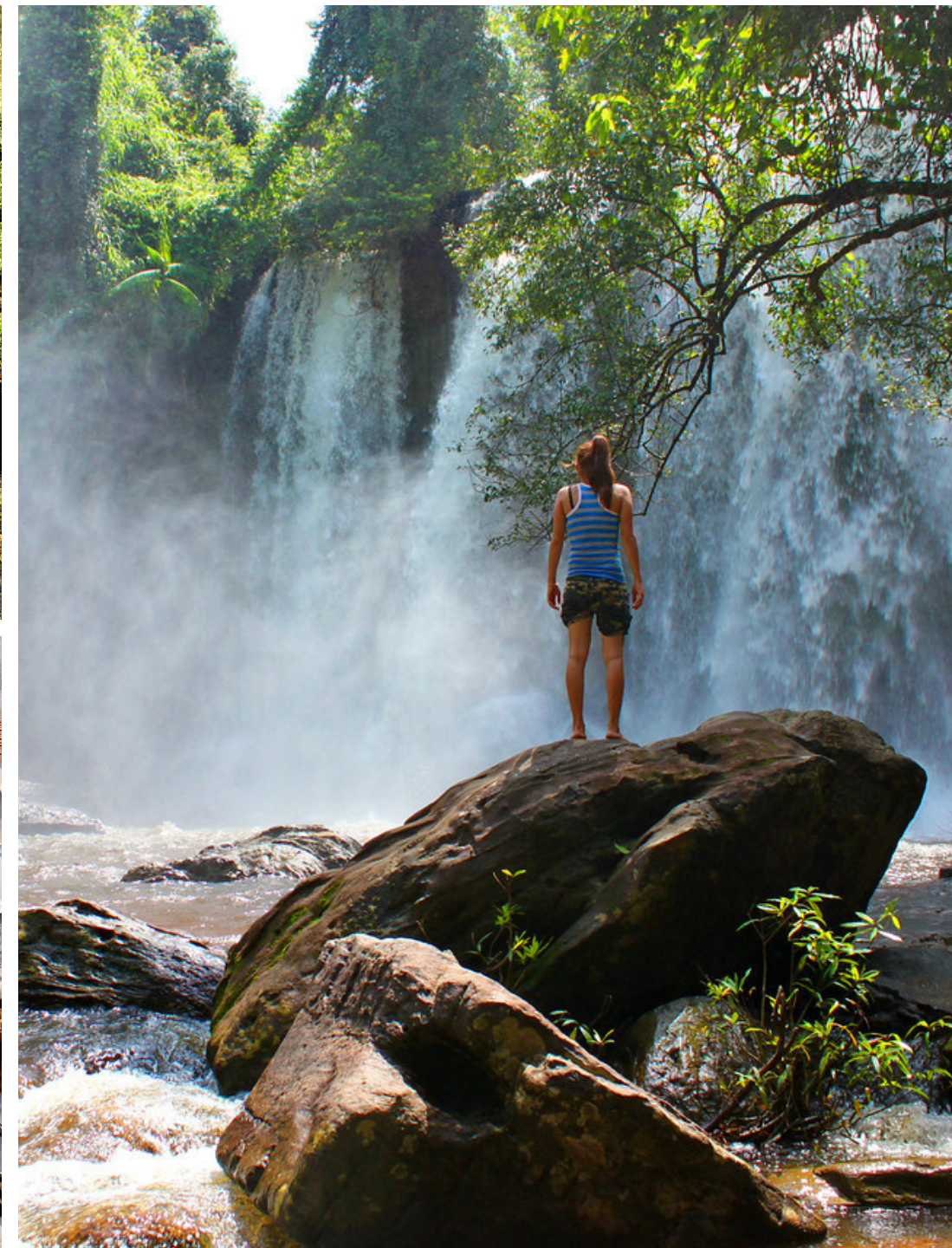
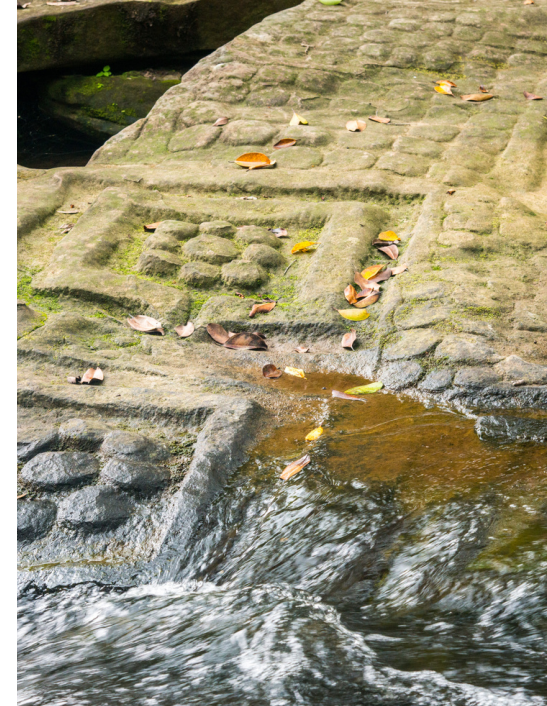
Enjoy a day of exploring by jeep the birthplace of the Angkorian Empire: Kulen Mountain. A magical and mysterious chain of hills 60 kilometers from Siem Reap, Kulen provides a fascinating mix of ancient stone carvings, temples, nature and wildlife.

Then over an iced beer or chilled wine we'll enjoy a picnic lunch prepared by Dean, our master-chef and owner of Miss Wong cocktail bar.

**Stay: Shinta Mani Angkor and Bensley Collection Pool Villas**

**Lunch: offsite**

**Dinner: offsite**



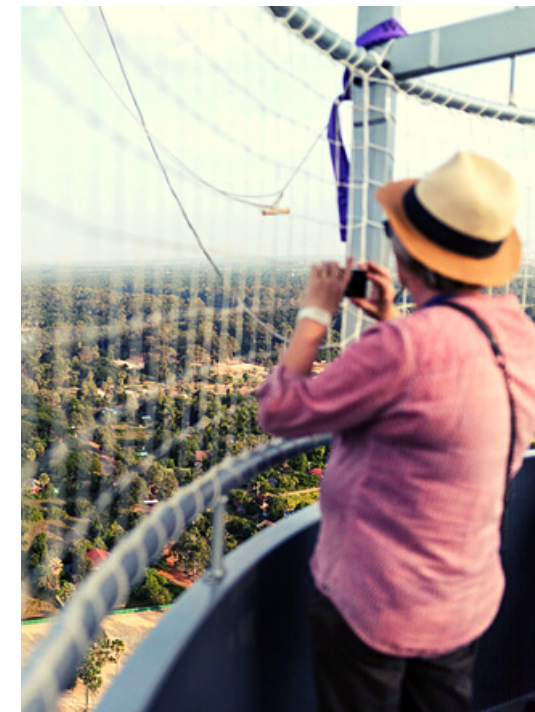
**Day 7 • December 4 - Morning Option**

# Sunrise Hot Air Balloon

**Time: 6:00 - 7:30**

We'll get an early start today and drive 20 minutes to the Balloon launch site. Coffee will be on offer as the balloon is readied for launch. We'll rise roughly 270 meters (886 feet) into the air and cruise for 40 minutes (about 8 kilometers) over gorgeous countryside which provides a very nice view of rural life.

**Stay: Shinta Mani Angkor and Bensley Collection Pool Villas**





Day 7 • December 4 - Option

# Tonle Sap Excursion

Enjoy an adventurous day trip out of Siem Reap to observe local life on the largest freshwater lake in Southeast Asia. The day will begin with a drive through villages and rice fields, before hopping on a private motorboat to gain an interesting look at floating villages, fishing communities, flooded forests, and wildlife. The lake uniquely plays with the daylight, inspiring surreal images.

Stay: Shinta Mani Angkor and Bensley Collection Pool Villas

Lunch: offsite

Dinner: offsite



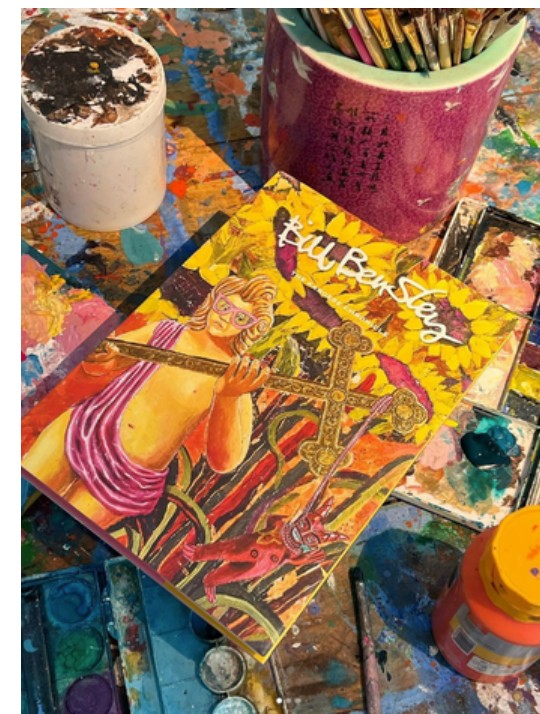
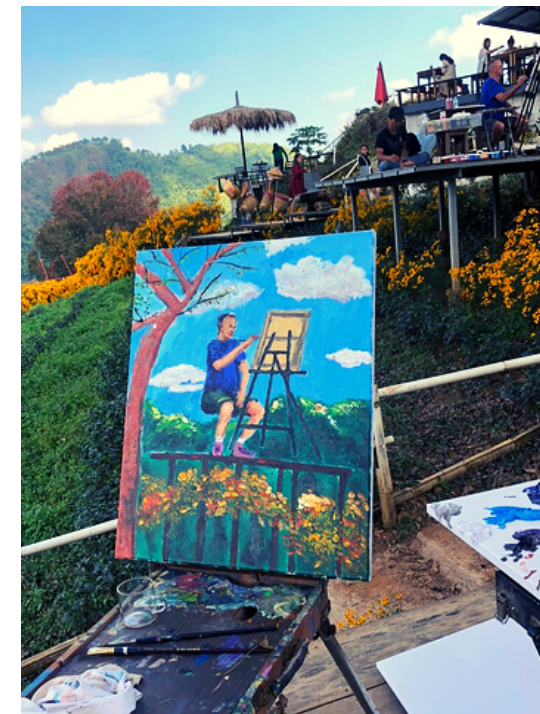
Day 8 • December 5

# Free Art Day

A day of Art workshops around Siem Reap.

Visit the Shinta Mani Foundation Project.

Stay: Shinta Mani Angkor and Bensley Collection Pool Villas



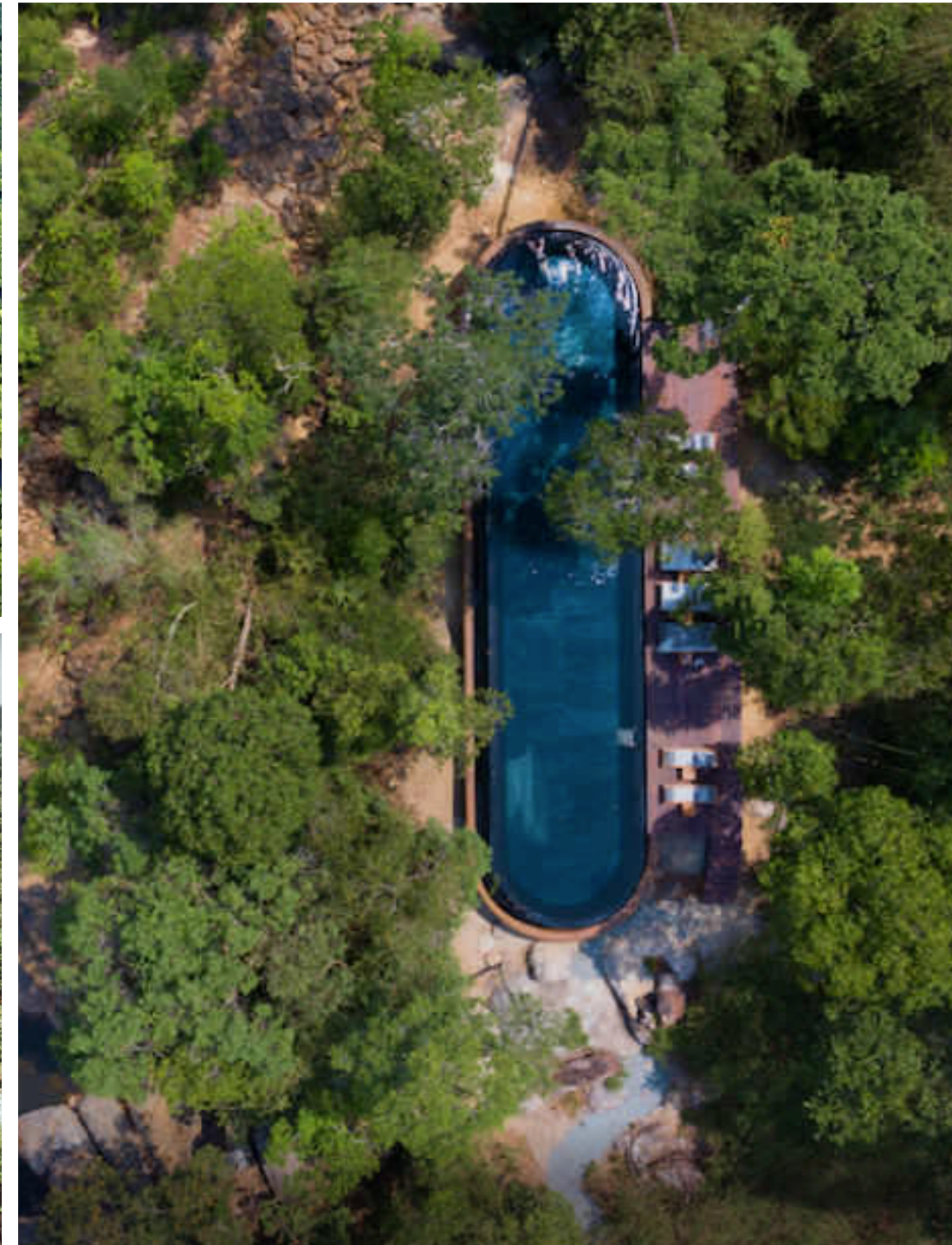
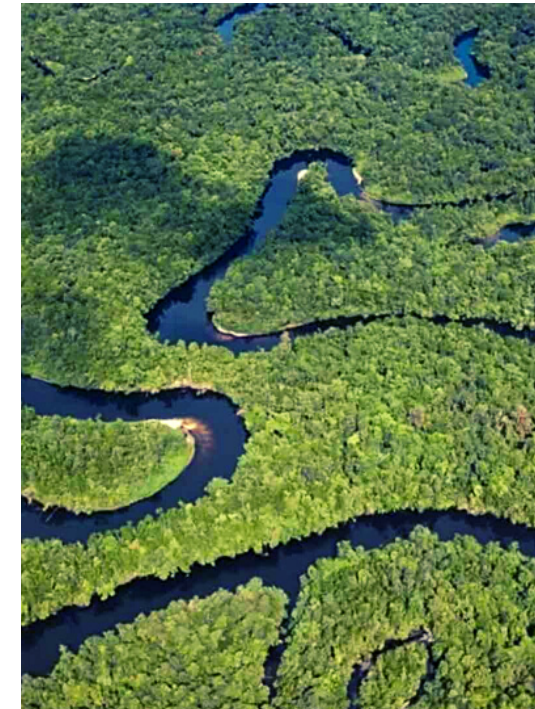
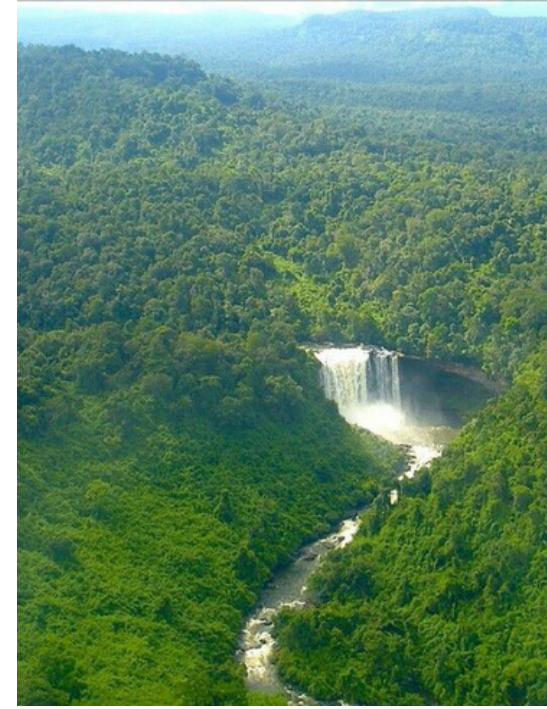
**Day 9 • December 6**

# To The Cardamoms

Your host will be waiting for you in the hotel lobby to escort you to the airport by private vehicle. From here, we'll fly to Sihanoukville where we will be chauffeured to the Cardamom mountains to discover Shinta Mani Wild.

Flight: K6 - 131 - AT7 REP-KOS 10:05-11:15 hrs

**Stay: Shinta Mani Wild – A Bensley Collection**



# Shinta Mani Wild – A Bensley Collection

Shinta Mani Wild is a radical new concept for a luxury camp experience in the Cardamom Mountains, combining world class design, hospitality and conservation. 15,100 sqm, custom designed tents are perched over the swift moving waters and waterfalls, providing a view and experience unlike any other resort in Asia. Each tent has been meticulously designed to invoke the feeling of what it would have been like to be on a luxury safari in the jungles of Cambodia with Jacky O'. The tents are situated on the hillside along a km stretch of river connected by forest paths to the restaurant and bar, in themselves architectural works of art. There are great adventure orientated and environmentally centered activities; forest walks, mountain bike trails and kayaking on calm water 30 minutes down stream. Although, chilling on your private verandah isn't bad either!



Days 10 • December 7

# Wild Excursions

Experience this luxurious jungle retreat and conservation project through a variety of adventures and dining experiences, all designed to inspire and conjure up wild visions. Afternoon art workshops will explore transforming these visions into art.



Stay: Shinta Mani Wild – A Bensley Collection

**Day 11 • December 8**

# Fly to Bangkok

Your host will be waiting for you in the hotel lobby to escort you to Phnom Penh airport by private vehicle. We hope you enjoyed Cambodia!

**Flight: PG934 PNH-BKK 15:45-17:00 hrs**

On arrival in Bangkok, Fast Track service will expedite you through the airport. Your host will then transfer you to The Siam Hotel by private vehicle.

**Stay: The Siam Hotel Bangkok**

**Lunch: at hotel**

**Dinner: Baan Botanica**



Cities are often defined by their skylines or landmarks, but if there was ever a city that screamed out to be defined by its experiences and its assault on the senses, it's Bangkok.

A flat, chaotic spread of concrete encroaching on the surrounding rice fields, Bangkok doesn't generally capture one's imagination driving into town for the first time. But as soon as you step out from your air-conditioned vehicle into the electrifying atmosphere that envelops Bangkok, it grabs you and demands all your senses' attention.

# Bangkok



# The Siam Hotel Bangkok

Set on 3 acres of verdant frontage along the city side of the Chao Praya River, The Siam is a private 39-room luxury retreat located in Bangkok's royal Dusit district. Designed by internationally acclaimed architect Bill Bensley, the Art Deco inspired, Thai antique infused masterpiece is the Kingdom's premier urban resort. The Siam features Bangkok's most spacious suites while the elongated design of the hotel ensures total privacy from the outside world.





Day 11 • December 9

# Baan Botanica Grand Finalé

For the climatic conclusion to this fanciful trip, Bill invites you in to his Bangkok residence for a grand banquet. An art piece itself, the property is a maximalist assemblage of ideas, paintings, foliage, Jack Russel Terriers and pièces d'art collected and created over decades of world travels. Bill is a notorious host, sure to leave you with a memorable evening.

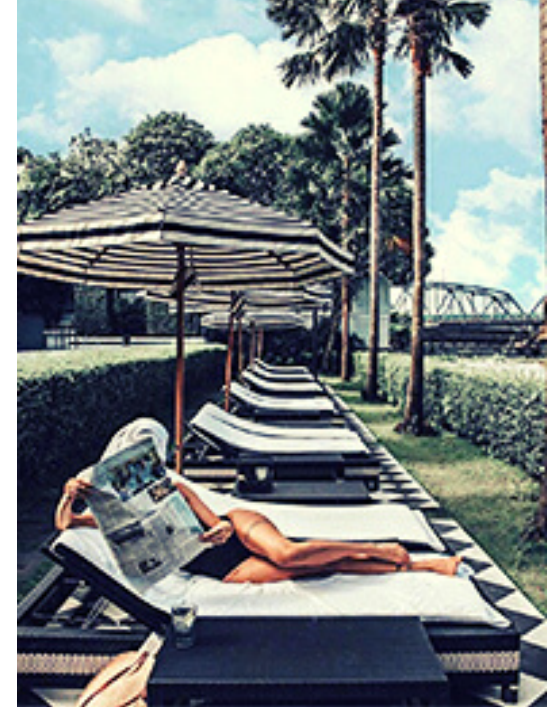
Stay: [The Siam Hotel Bangkok](#)



Day 12 • December 9

# Recovery Day

Day at leisure, enjoy the hotel facilities, have a treatment at the Opium Spa, or catch the shuttle boat into town for some shopping.



Stay: The Siam Hotel Bangkok  
Lunch: at hotel

**Day 13 • December 10**

# Departure Flight

Time to say goodbye. At your designated pick-up time, your host will be waiting for you in the hotel lobby to escort you to the airport by private vehicle.

**Flight: TBD**





# Interested?

The cost for this trip is 25,000 USD /person, double occupancy. Single supplement is 4,500 USD.

All regional flights, transfers, accommodation, meals and activities are included, as is a 10,000 USD per person contribution towards the Shinta Mani Foundation.

**If you have a serious desire to join this adventure, please help us by spending a moment to provide some basic information through this handy online form and submit by 31 August, 2023.**

Or contact: [mahouts@smilingalbino.com](mailto:mahouts@smilingalbino.com)

[Online Form](#)

# The Smiling Albino Difference

AT SMILING ALBINO WE DON'T JUST CONNECT THE DOTS, WE CREATE THEM, AND DELIVER UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCES.

We understand implicitly that a perfect adventure is much more than nice hotels, great meals and hassle-free logistics. For a travel experience to be perfect, all pieces must work together like a symphony. It is the fine details which our guests appreciate most, like cold face towels after a hike, electrolyte beverages for your day cycling, and wine uncorked when the moment is right. From local maps to bottled water and colorful anecdotes on the areas we visit, a Smiling Albino adventure is a thorough, intimately hosted experience.



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