MUSEUM TRAVEL ALLIANCE®
BY ARRANGEMENTS ABROAD

The Golden Thread

Ancient & Modern Art in Bangkok & Singapore

January 11 – 19, 2027



With Christopher Noey, *Lecturer*

Trip *Highlights*

Experience insider access to the **Bangkok Art Biennale**, viewing contemporary installations inside the city's working Buddhist temples.

Stand before the 15th-century Emerald Buddha on a tour of the **Grand Palace**, Thailand's most sacred royal complex, founded in 1782.

Tour the UNESCO-listed ruins of **Ayutthaya**, Siam's ancient capital founded in 1350, then view recovered gold artifacts at the **Chao Sam Phraya National Museum**.

See the 150-foot, gold-leaf-covered Reclining Buddha at **Wat Pho** and join a local scholar of antiques and textiles for a guided tour of the **National Museum Bangkok**, Thailand's largest museum.

Wander through the 250-acre **Gardens by the Bay** and its **Flower Dome**, the largest glass greenhouse in the world, and admire Asia's largest orchid display at the UNESCO-listed **Singapore Botanic Gardens**.

View the world's largest public collection of modern and contemporary Southeast Asian art at the **National Gallery Singapore**.

Savor royal Thai cuisine at **Blue Elephant** in Bangkok, housed in a restored Sathorn Road mansion, and Peranakan dishes at **The National Kitchen by Violet Oon** in Singapore.



Gardens by the Bay, Singapore



Traveling With *You*

Christopher (Chris) Noey is an art historian, author, and Emmy Award-winning producer of films on art and culture. An authority on Asian and Islamic art, he served at The Metropolitan Museum of Art for more than four decades. There, he created video installations for exhibitions and directed the online series *82nd & Fifth* and *The Artist Project*, interviewing 120 contemporary artists about how The Met's collections inspire their work. He has taught at Williams College and the City College of New York.

In 1782, King Rama I founded **Bangkok** and installed the sacred Emerald Buddha at the center of his new capital. Buddhist temples soon rose across the city, and today's artists continue to draw fresh meaning from Bangkok's sacred forms. In **Singapore**, Chinese, Malay, Indian, and Western communities have traded and built together since the 19th century, creating not only an economic powerhouse but also some of Asia's most ambitious

From **January 11 to 19, 2027**, travel with Asian art scholar **Christopher Noey** across both cities, from gilded Thai palaces and the **2027 Bangkok Art Biennale** to Singapore's leading art collections and lush gardens.

Chris will also join the **optional Indonesia postlude to Java and Bali, January 19 to 24, 2027. To reserve your place**, contact the Museum Travel Alliance at Arrangements Abroad: 212-324-1893 or trips@museumtravelalliance.com. We spoke with Chris about what draws him to Bangkok and Singapore.

This program pairs ancient royal monuments with the 2027 Bangkok Art Biennale, Southeast Asia's most prestigious art fair. What connects those two experiences?

Chris Noey: The connection is direct. On our first full day of touring, we'll explore the **Grand Palace**, the site of the nation's most solemn ceremonies, where the King still changes the Emerald Buddha's golden robes each season. That afternoon, insider access to the Bangkok Art Biennale brings the contemporary side into focus. Remarkably, Bangkok's Buddhist authorities have opened active temples for artist presentations of new work from across the Global South, resulting in wonderful collisions of old and new. We also travel north to pastoral **Ayutthaya**, Siam's ancient capital founded in 1350, to walk its UNESCO-listed temple ruins and view over 2,200 recovered gold artifacts at the **Chao Sam Phraya National Museum**.

The program moves to Singapore after four days in Bangkok. What will travelers find there?

Chris Noey: Singapore's Chinese, Malay, Indian, and Western communities have built a futuristic city with extraordinary museums, historic districts, and gardens. At the **National Gallery Singapore**, we'll walk through the world's largest public collection of modern and contemporary Southeast Asian art. We'll explore the city's most iconic site, **Gardens by the Bay**, a 250-acre feat of equatorial engineering, with Supertrees rising above greenhouses that sustain Mediterranean and African plant species. The UNESCO-listed **Singapore Botanic Gardens** played a key role in the region's history, established in an era of colonial competition for spices and strategic resources such as rubber. We'll share an inside look at the VIP Orchid Gardens, which house hybrids named for visiting heads of state, dating back to Agnes Joaquim's 1890s breeding of Singapore's national flower.

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Activity Level: Active

Pace Level: Moderato

Visit Arrangements Abroad's website for more information about Activity and Pace Levels at www.arrangementsabroad.com/faqs.

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Map of the region

Monday, January 11:

Departure

Depart on overnight flight for Bangkok.

Tuesday, January 12:

Bangkok, Thailand **(R)**

Upon arrival, transfer to the **Four Seasons Hotel Bangkok at Chao Phraya River**, recently named to the list of the world's top 50 hotels for the third straight year.

Explore the bustling streets of Bangkok at leisure this afternoon. Later, at the hotel, delight in **a sunset cocktail reception** before visiting the **Four Seasons ART Space**, the hotel's dedicated exhibition area in partnership with the Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA Bangkok). Dinner this evening is at leisure.

Wednesday, January 13:

Bangkok **(B,L,D)**

Rise for **an introductory lecture from Chris Noey**. Then, enter Bangkok's **Grand Palace** to view the revered Emerald Buddha, a 15th-century jadeite statue dressed in seasonal golden robes by the King himself in a centuries-old tradition.

While inside the Grand Palace, visit the **Queen Sirikit Museum of Textiles** and view exquisite royal court fabrics and colorful Southeast Asian textiles.

After lunch, enjoy insider access to the **2027 Bangkok Art Biennale (BAB)**, with special tours, conversations with leading artists, and viewings of ambitious new works in temples and city spaces.

Tonight, attend a festive welcome dinner at **Blue Elephant**. Housed in a historic Sathorn Road mansion, Blue Elephant serves royal Thai cuisine, known for its high-quality ingredients and meticulous preparation.



Manit Sriwanichpoom, *Pink MARS # 09*, 2025, 2026 Bangkok Art Biennale, Thailand, photo courtesy of Bangkok Art Biennale



Ayutthaya Historical Park, Thailand

Thursday, January 14:

Bangkok / Ayutthaya / Bangkok **(B,L)**

This morning, venture north to **Ayutthaya**, Siam's ancient UNESCO-listed capital founded in 1350, and walk among its towering temple ruins with an expert guide. Next, discover glittering gold regalia and ancient Buddha images recovered from temple crypts during a tour of the **Chao Sam Phraya National Museum**.

Upon returning to the city, master authentic Thai flavors during **an optional hands-on cooking class**. Alternatively, dinner and this evening are at your leisure.

Friday, January 15:

Bangkok **(B,L)**

Enter the 16th-century **Wat Pho** temple complex to view its monumental reclining Buddha stretching 150 feet, adorned with gold leaf and auspicious pearl images on its feet.

Then, meet a local scholar of antiques and textiles at the **National Museum Bangkok**, Thailand's largest museum, for a look at royal regalia, court fabrics, weaponry, and musical instruments.

Next, enjoy lunch and a guided visit at the canal-side **Jim Thompson House**, the traditional teak residence of an American military officer turned collector. Explore his Thai antiques, rare Buddhist sculptures, historical paintings, and regional art.

Then, return to the hotel for a lecture and discussion with Chris. Dinner and the rest of the evening are at leisure.

Saturday, January 16:

Bangkok / Singapore **(B,D)**

Check out of the hotel this morning and fly to **Singapore**. Upon arrival, transfer to the **PARKROYAL COLLECTION Marina Bay Hotel** to check in and get settled.

If the schedule allows, explore the nearby **Asian Civilisations Museum**, which features a diverse collection ranging from ninth-century Chinese ceramics and gold to rare Buddhist art. This evening, gather for dinner.



Jim Thompson House, Bangkok, Thailand



Chinatown, Singapore

Sunday, January 17:
Singapore **(B,D)**

Join a guided walking tour through **Singapore's Chinatown** and meander through the streets, temples, and shophouses of one of Singapore's oldest and most culturally rich districts.

Then, take an inside look at the futuristic 250-acre **Gardens by the Bay**, with its soaring Supertrees. Explore the Flower Dome, the misty Cloud Forest, the world's largest glasshouses, the vertical gardens, and a 115-foot indoor waterfall.

Afterwards, enjoy independent time for the remainder of the day with lunch at leisure. Gather for dinner this evening.

Monday, January 18:
Singapore **(B,L)**

Explore the **Singapore Botanic Gardens** and the world-famous National Orchid Garden, featuring more than 1,500 orchid species and hybrids. Among the highlights is Singapore's national flower, the elegant Vanda Miss Joaquim, set within this celebrated 200-acre UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Next, savor a Peranakan feast at **The National Kitchen by Violet Oon**, located inside the **National Gallery of Singapore**. Then, join a guided tour of the museum, which hosts the world's largest collection of modern Southeast Asian art.

Return to the hotel to attend **a lecture from Chris Noey** before enjoying the evening and dinner at leisure.

Tuesday, January 19:
Singapore / Return **(B)**

Following breakfast, transfer to the airport for the return flight home.

Program Rate
$12,999 per person, double rate
$15,599 single rate

Rate Includes

- Seven nights hotel accommodations as per itinerary
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, R=Reception, D=Dinner). Bottled water, soft drinks, juices, and coffee/tea with all meals; house wine and beer at all included lunches and dinners
- Internal, one-way, economy-class flight (Bangkok-Singapore)
- VIP arrival and departure service for internal flight
- Enrichment program of lectures and talks
- Escorted sightseeing, transportation, and entrance fees for all included visits
- Airport/hotel/airport transfers for participants on arrival and departure days
- Taxes, service, and porterage charges; gratuities to local guides and drivers

NOT INCLUDED IN RATES: International airfare; passport /visa fees; meals not specified; alcoholic beverages other than those noted in inclusions; personal items and expenses; airport transfers other than for participants on arrival and departure days; excess baggage; optional Indonesia postlude; trip insurance; any other items not specifically mentioned as included.

DISCLAIMER: This itinerary is subject to change at the discretion of Museum Travel Alliance. For complete details, please carefully read the terms and conditions at https://www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms-conditions/.

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Front cover: Grand Palace, Bangkok

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Optional Indonesia Postlude in Java & Bali

January 19 – 24, 2027

From Singapore, join Chris Noey on a five-night postlude in **Indonesia**, experiencing Buddhist and Hindu visual traditions at an enormous scale. Over a two-night stay in **Java**, enjoy a tour of the ninth-century **Borobudur**, the world's largest Buddhist temple, walking its three-mile clockwise path past 1,900 Buddha images across nine stone terraces. Nearby, explore **Prambanan**, Indonesia's largest Hindu temple compound, with its towers dedicated to Shiva, Brahma, and Vishnu.

Then, venture to **Bali**, with three nights at a luxurious estate surrounded by rice terraces in the village of **Ubud**. Attend a Hindu purification ceremony led by temple priests and join the founder of the excellent **Agung Rai Museum of Art (ARMA)**, whose collections trace Balinese art from classical works on bark through the postwar era. Go behind the scenes at an artisan workshop where skilled craftsmen create handmade jewelry and embark on a guided walk through UNESCO-listed rice terraces sustained by a 1,000-year-old irrigation system.



Map of the region



Kecak performance, Ubud, Indonesia

Optional Postlude Rate
$6,999 per person, double rate
$8,999 single rate
Rate Includes

- Five nights hotel accommodations as per itinerary
- Six breakfasts, six lunches, one tea, and four dinners. Bottled water, soft drinks, juices, and coffee/tea with all meals; house wine and beer at all included lunches and dinners
- Internal, one-way, economy-class flights (Singapore-Yogyakarta / Yogyakarta-Denpasar)
- Escorted sightseeing, transportation, and entrance fees for all included visits
- Airport/hotel/airport transfers for participants on arrival and departure days
- Taxes, service, and porterage charges; gratuities to local guides and drivers

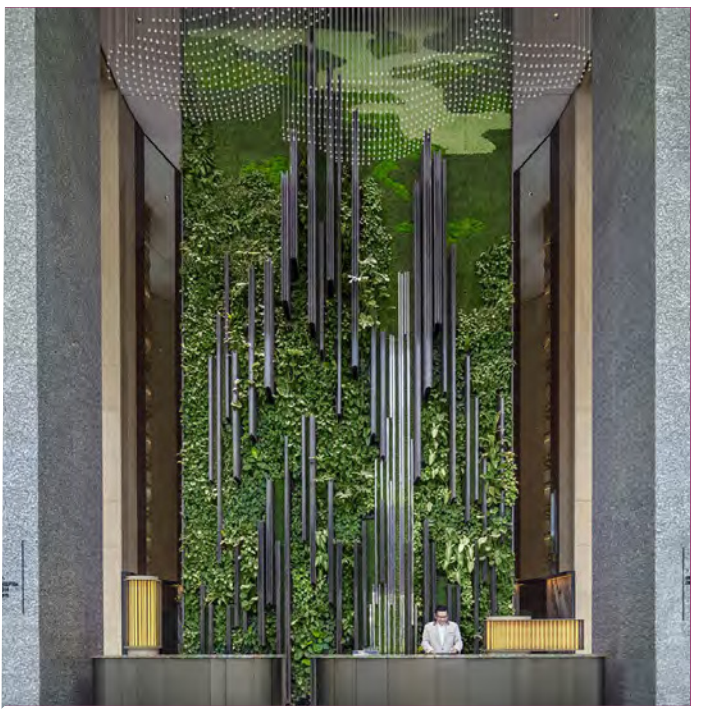
NOT INCLUDED IN RATES: See main program for exclusions

Accommodations

Main Program

Four Seasons Hotel Bangkok Chao Phraya River
Located in Bangkok's riverside creative district, this hotel ranked second on T*he World's 50 Best Hotels List 2025*. This stylish urban sanctuary offers river views, outdoor lap and infinity pools, multiple dining options, and green courtyards.

PARKROYAL COLLECTION, Marina Bay Singapore
This "Garden-in-a-Hotel" features a spectacular 21-level atrium, over 2,400 indoor plants, a rooftop urban farm, a mineral water pool with 1,380 fiber-optic lights, and a luxurious spa, offering an eco-conscious experience with panoramic city views.



PARKROYAL COLLECTION, Marina Bay Singapore

Optional Postlude

Plataran Heritage Borobudur
Cultivated elegance meets colonial charm at this unique hotel set amid rice terraces, with the Borobudur Temple at your doorstep and the legendary Menoreh Hills as your backdrop.

Tanah Gajah, A Resort by Hadiprana, Ubud
This art-filled luxury resort in Ubud, Bali, is nestled within 5 hectares of lush tropical gardens and rice paddies. Formerly the private estate of renowned designer Hendra Hadiprana, it offers intimate, butler-serviced suites and pool villas featuring authentic Balinese architecture and curated art.

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RESERVATION FORM

To reserve a place, please call Museum Travel Alliance at 212-324-1893 or 855-533-0033; email: trips@museumtravelalliance.com; or complete and return this form with your deposit of $2,000 per person (of which $1,000 is non-refundable for administrative fees) to *Arrangements Abroad*. Mail to: Museum Travel Alliance, 260 West 39th Street, 17th Floor, New York, NY 10018-4424.

Name(s) in full as on passport(s). Please print.

Address

City State Zip

Telephone (mobile) (home)

E-mail

ACCOMMODATIONS

Hotel room preference ❒ One bed ❒ Two beds ❒ Single

I wish to share a room with

OPTIONAL POSTLUDE IN JAVA & BALI

❒ I/ we would like to join the Optional Java & Bali Postlude

Hotel Room Preference ❒ One bed ❒ Two beds ❒ Single

FORM OF PAYMENT

❒ Enclosed is my check (payable to *Arrangements Abroad)*

❒ Debit card ❒ Credit card

Name on debit/credit card

Debit/credit card number

3- or 4-digit security code Expiration date

I/We confirm that I/we have carefully read and agree to the Terms & Conditions of this Program (see https://www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms-conditions/ to review or call for a copy). I/We agree to full payment by check, wire transfer, or credit card 120 days prior to departure. Each participant must sign below.

Signature (required) Date

Signature (required) Date