



Cruise Holidays of Clarkson

*proudly presents*

# THE DELUXE ORIENT EXPERIENCE Nov 2-18, 2012



*On the luxurious Eastern & Oriental Train*

**Visiting**

Bangkok River Kwai Singapore Penang  
Bali Hong Kong





#### Dear Cruise Holidays of Clarkson Traveler,

Each year, Joe and I select a handful of destinations for our group travels that we personally host, and the Deluxe Orient Express tour is amongst our selection for 2012. This voyage departs November 2012.

Our journey will begin in Bangkok where we will spend four days visiting resplendent Buddhist temples, be a guest at the Grand Palace, and dine at traditional Thai restaurants while being entertained by classical Thai music and dance.

We will then take you on a four day journey on the luxurious Eastern & Oriental Train for a unique opportunity to discover more about this beguiling and beautiful part of the world; we will travel from the city into the countryside, filled with rice fields and villages, with a stop at the highlight of the journey-The River Kwai Bridge station.

Singapore is where our nostalgic train ride will come to an end. Here we will spend three glorious days and will visit Sri Maramman Temple, the oldest Hindu temple in Singapore, established by Indian pioneer Naraina Pillai in 1827, and famous for its elaborately-decorated gopuram, or entrance tower. No visit to Singapore is complete without a stop at the Botanical Gardens for a look at the world's finest collections of orchids at the Orchid Garden.

On day 10 of our tour, we fly to the island paradise of Bali, where art, music and dance have enchanted visitors for decades. Here we will see the Kecak dance which depicts an ancient story from the Ramayana; we will feast on exquisite sea food dinner in a beach restaurant while being serenaded by Batak Singers' traditional Balines and Javanese songs.

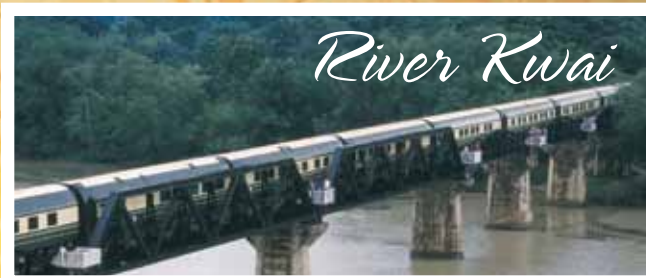
After four rejuvenating days in Bali, we conclude our tour with 4 days in Hong Kong, the city of life where East and West meet to create a fascinating mix of cultures.

Joe and I have had the pleasure of travelling with many of you in the past and we are looking forward to yet another intriguing journey to a destination that promises to mesmerize us with its beauty, history and culture.



**Zaneta & Joe**

## THE EASTERN & ORIENTAL EXPRESS



## THE DELUXE ORIENT EXPERIENCE 2012



### **DAY 1 /NOV 2 TORONTO-BANGKOK (via Hong Kong)**

Our adventure begins this evening when we fly to Bangkok where resplendent Buddhist Temples dominate the magnificent landscape, and where the grace and pride of the Thai people await us. *Transportation: Cathay Pacific Airways Tentative schedule: CX829 YYZ-HKG 0130/0615+1 • CX713 HKG-BKK 0910/1100*

### **DAY 2 /NOV 3 ARRIVE BANGKOK (D)**

On arrival we will be met and transferred to our hotel. The balance of the day is at leisure. Buffet dinner at hotel restaurant. *Accommodation: JW Marriott Hotel or equivalent (3 nights)*

### **DAY 3 /NOV 4 BANGKOK (B/L/D)**

Breakfast is at the hotel. In the morning we will visit Grand Palace & Wat Pho. Grand Palace is one of the most beautiful examples of an ancient Siamese court. Previously the residence of the Kings of Thailand, here we will see the Funeral Palace, the Reception Palace, the Throne Hall, the Coronation Hall, the Royal Guest House, and the beautiful Emerald Buddha Temple. Then, we will visit Wat Pho, the most extensive temple in Bangkok with the colossal reclining Buddha and the chedi of the Kings.

Lunch will be served at Supatra River House Restaurant.

In the afternoon we will visit Thonburi Klongs (Canals). We will travel by long-tailed speed boat on the picturesque Chao Phraya River and its klongs to see family homes and temples along the waterways. On the return journey, we will stop at the Temple of Dawn (Wat Arun) whose 79 metre high spire silhouette has become a symbol of

Bangkok. There will be ample opportunity to photograph the magnificent multi-coloured, porcelain-studded towers.

This evening, we will enjoy a delicious genuine Thai style dinner in a delightful Thai atmosphere. The meal is accompanied by Thai classical music and dances. The dancers with their beautiful glittering costumes and graceful movements will stay in our memory forever.

### **DAY 4 /NOV 5 BANGKOK (B/L/D)**

Breakfast at the hotel. Today we will have a full day visit of Damnoen Saduak Floating Market & Rose Garden. This most interesting tour takes us to the rural floating market of Damnoen Saduak situated 110 kms west of Bangkok. The tour includes a visit to Nakorn Pathom, to see 'Phra Pathom Chedi' which is the largest pagoda in Southeast Asia. Lunch will be served at the picturesque Rose Garden Country Resort, where we will also attend the Thai village show which gives us an introduction into Thai culture. We will witness ordination into monkhood, the traditional fingernail dance, Thai boxing, hill tribe dance, sword-fighting, elephants at work and folk dancing. Buffet dinner at hotel restaurant.

### **DAY 5 /NOV 6 BANGKOK-SINGAPORE (ABOARD THE EASTERN & ORIENTAL EXPRESS) (B/L/D)**

In the morning we will proceed on our tour of two of the most unusual Buddhist temples in Bangkok: WAT TRIMIT with Golden Buddha (5½ tons of solid gold), and WAT BENJAMABORPIT, the White Marble Temple - one of the finest examples of Thai architecture. After the tour, we will return to the hotel for lunch.





In the afternoon, we will transfer to Hua Lampong Railway Station for The Eastern & Oriental train, departing in the early evening (5:50 pm per current schedule). After our welcome greeting onboard the gleaming carriages, we will settle into our comfortable compartments. Dinner is served as the train travels from city into the countryside with its ricefields, villages and water buffalo. We will retire to our compartment, transformed into a cozy bedroom by our steward. *Accommodation: The Eastern and Oriental Express Train (3 nights)*

#### **DAY 6 /NOV 7 THAM KASAE-KWAI (B/L/D)**

This morning we should awake early in order not to miss the excitement of the train making its way from Wang Po along the wooden trestle viaduct beside a towering cliff. We arrive at the River Kwai Bridge station, where our guides will meet us and will take us on a short walk down to the jetty to board a local raft for a cruise along the lush greenery of the picturesque Kwai Yai River, passing under the Bridge. On board, a local historian provides a brief overview of the history of the Thailand-Burma railway and the bridge. At the E&O landing point, we will board a motor coach for a brief trip past the North Temple and Chinese Cemetery to the Thailand-Burma Railway Centre. As we explore the informative museum, the historian is available to answer questions. Some of us may wish to visit the Don Rak War Cemetery adjacent to the museum.

We will rejoin the coach for the short ride to the Kanchanaburi railway station to board the Eastern & Oriental Express. Later we will reflect on the day's sights over dinner and relax with a drink in the Bar Car before retiring for the night.

#### **DAY 7 /NOV 8 PENANG (B/L/D)**

After breakfast, served in the comfort of our compartment, the train arrives in Butterworth. Here, coaches take us across to Georgetown, capital of Penang, on the local ferry. First stop is the Kho Kongsi clan house for a tour of the main hall and temple built in the baroque style of the late Ch'ng dynasty. This is followed by a trishaw ride through the interesting districts, passing colourful shops, elaborately roofed temples, famous colonial landmarks and churches, before stopping at the charming "E&O Hotel" for a refreshing drink in Farquhar's Bar.

We will take the short ferry ride back to Butterworth and rejoin the Eastern & Oriental Express where we will spend the afternoon watching the passing scenery from one of the lounge cars or from the open deck of the Observation Car. We will dine in one of the opulent dining cars and spend a relaxing after-dinner evening in the Bar Car with its resident pianist. This is our last night on board.

#### **DAY 8 /NOV 9 ARRIVE SINGAPORE (B/D)**

After breakfast, it's time to leave the train, having crossed the Straits of Johor into Singapore, the city of pirates, poets, merchants and adventurers whose multi-cultural mix creates a colourful and exciting atmosphere. On arrival we will be transferred to our hotel. The afternoon is at leisure. An evening trishaw (a one-man powered pedal vehicle) ride will take us along Waterloo Street, through "Little India", Chinatown, past the City Hall and the Cricket Club. Our trishaw ride will stop at the spot where the founder of Singapore, Sir Stamford Raffles, first landed. Buffet dinner will be at the Raffles Hotel. *Accommodation: Goodwood Park Hotel or equivalent (2 nights)*

## THE EASTERN & ORIENTAL EXPRESS



### **DAY 9 /NOV 10 SINGAPORE (B/L)**

This morning our tour starts with a walk in Chinatown and a visit of the Sri Mariamman Temple. Here we have a brief photo stop at Merlion Park, for a shot of Sir Stamford Raffles statue. We then visit the Botanic Gardens after which we enjoy a dim sum lunch. The balance of the day is at leisure.

### **DAY 10 /NOV 11 SINGAPORE-BALI (B/D)**

After breakfast, we transfer to the airport for our morning flight to Bali, a beautiful isle where art, music and dance have enchanted visitors for decades. Upon arrival we will transfer to our hotel.

In the evening we will see the Kecak (Monkey) dance which features as many as 100 men swaying and chanting to the hypnotic music. This famous Balinese dance depicts an ancient story from the Ramayana when King Rahwana captures Sita, Rama's wife. The dance shows the battle between Rahwana and Hanoman, leader of apes.

We will then drive to Jimbaran for a seafood dinner right on the beach. The crashing of the surf against the white sands of the beach compliments the serenade of the Batak Singers with their sweet music and dancing. Lobster, king prawns, snapper, squid and a delicious assortment of Balinese condiments are enjoyed by all. *Accommodation: The Westin Hotel or equivalent (4 nights)*

### **DAY 11 /NOV 12 BALI (B/L)**

This morning is at leisure. After lunch we take a trip to the cool mountain region of Ubud, an excellent way to begin our journey in Bali. Ubud has inspired European artists since the start of the last century, and it is on this tour that we visit the studios and galleries of several of these prominent pioneers. Equally enchanting are the studios of Balinese painters, a number of whom have staged a renaissance in Balinese art by combining a traditional Balinese approach with European techniques. Other highlights are Batubulan (meaning 'stone moon'), Celuk and Mas, where stone carvings come alive and silverworks and woodcarving will surprise and amaze us. Finally, we visit the Ubud markets – a colourful and exotic display of Bali's arts and crafts, fruits, spices and much more. Return to hotel.

### **DAY 12 /NOV 13 BALI (B/L/D)**

Today we drive to Kehen Village and the ancient village of Penglipuran, and continue on to Kintamani. The highlight of this tour is the magnificent spectacle of Mount Batur, an active volcano alongside Lake Batur. This marvel of nature is breathtaking. Gunung Kawi Sebati, a spring water temple, was built in the 16th century surrounded by lush trees and tropical plantation. Touring continues to Tegalalang, a magnificent rice terrace. On this tour we also visit holy springs at Tampak Siring. Lunch is at a local restaurant, and dinner at the hotel.

### **DAY 13 /NOV 14 BALI (B)**

Today we have a day at leisure to explore the city on our own.





#### DAY 14 /NOV 15 BALI-HONG KONG (B/Inflight D)

In the late morning we transfer to the airport for our flight to Hong Kong, "the city of life", where east and west meet to create a fascinating mix of cultures. On arrival we will transfer to our hotel. *Accommodation: Harbour Grand Kowloon or equivalent*

#### DAY 15 /NOV 16 HONG KONG (B/L)

An orientation of the city will take us to an Island Tour that begins with a drive through the Central District, then on to the famous fishing village of Aberdeen, whose people have adapted to the way of life on the river. Repulse Bay is next with its stretch of golden sandy beaches making it the most picturesque area in Hong Kong. Our Island Tour ends at Victoria Peak for a panoramic view of the harbour, mountains of Kowloon and the islands of the South China Sea. Lunch will be at Mijas Spanish Restaurant in Stanley Market. The balance of the day is free for shopping or exploring.

#### DAY 16 /NOV 17 HONG KONG (B/D)

Today, we have a day at leisure for us to explore the city on our own.

We will re-join our group in the evening for a Farewell Buffet Dinner at the hotel; including unlimited drinks of local wine, beer and juice are included with dinner.

#### DAY 17 /NOV 18 HONG KONG-TORONTO (B)

Today we transfer to the airport for our flight to return home. *Transportation: Cathay Pacific Airways • Tentative schedule: CX826 HKG-YYZ 1635/1905*

### Prices

Package pricing in Canadian Dollars

Cat	Double	Single
<b>Pullman</b>	<b>\$8,990</b>	<b>\$13,500</b>
<b>State</b>	<b>\$9,990</b>	

Payments: Deposit: \$1,500 pp  
 Final Payment: July 15, 2012  
 Air Credit: \$1,500 pp  
 Business Air Upgrade: \$3,900 pp (for long legs only and subject to availability)

#### INCLUSIONS:

- Scheduled transpacific flights on Cathay Pacific Airways or similar
- Orient Express Train from Bangkok to Singapore on selected cabin category
- English-speaking guide
- Meals according to itinerary
- Flight from Singapore-Bali on Garuda Indonesia
- Ground transportation in private Air-conditioned coach
- Sightseeing incl. admissions fees according to itinerary
- Accommodation in hotels as mentioned or equivalent
- Immigration Assistance at the airport in Bali
- Fee for Indonesian visa-on-arrival
- Bali airport departure tax

#### CANCELLATION CHARGES ON LAND ARRANGEMENTS

From booking – July 14, 2012	\$100 pp
From July 15 – September 14	50% of tour cost
September 15 – Departure	100 % of tour cost



*Great Wall, Beijing*

## Optional Pre-Tour **Beijing**

**Oct 31 Hong Kong - Beijing** Fly from Hong Kong to Beijing. Arrive Beijing. Meet on arrival and transfer to the *Renaissance Beijing Capital Hotel* (3 nights). Meals today are on your own.

**Nov 1 Beijing (B/L/D)** Today enjoy a full day of sightseeing, including visits to Tiananmen Square, The Forbidden City (UNESCO) and the famous Summer Palace (UNESCO), where, weather permitting, you will enjoy a boat ride on the Kunming Lake. A Chinese Lunch is served at a local restaurant. For dinner, enjoy a Welcome Peking Duck Dinner including unlimited Chinese tea and a glass of wine, beer or soft drink.

**Nov 2 Beijing (B/L/D)** Your full day of sightseeing today features the Great Wall (UNESCO), the Sacred Way, and the Ming Tomb at Changling (UNESCO). You will also drive by the Beijing 2008 Olympic Site-The Bird's Nest and Water Cube-with spectacular opportunities for photography. Enjoy a Chinese Dinner followed by a Kung Fu show.

**Nov 3 Beijing / Hong Kong / Bangkok (B)** This morning transfer to the airport for a flight to Hong Kong (to connect your flight to Bangkok)

### Pre-Tour Beijing Pricing:

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Double Occupancy: CAD\$ 1,399 pp

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Single Occupancy: CAD\$ 1,699 pp

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### INCLUSIONS:

- Round trip airfare Hong Kong-Beijing-Hong Kong based on Dragon Air.
- Air taxes Hong Kong-Beijing-Hong Kong
- 3 nights hotel accommodation with daily ABF at the Beijing Capital Renaissance Hotel or similar.
- Sightseeing as listed above with private coach/driver/English Speaking local guide.
- 2 lunches and 1 dinner at local Chinese restaurant, 1 Peking Duck Dinner at Quanjude Restaurant.
- Round trip airport/hotel transfers.
- 2 bottles of water each day each person on bus (1 bottle for arrival or departure day).

### Exclusions:

- Meals not indicated.
- Personal consumptions and gratuities to driver/guide/porters.



*Summer Palace, Beijing*





*Pullman*

**Pullman Compartments**, each 5.8 square metres in size. Daytime seating converts to one upper and one lower bed at night.



*State*

**State Compartments** are 7.8 square metres in area. Daytime seating converts to 2 single beds at floor level at night.

All compartments are air-conditioned, have an en suite shower room, washbasin and WC. During dinner your steward will transform your compartment from daytime seating to a comfortable bedroom. Large windows offer excellent views of the ever-changing countryside.



*Dining*

**Dining** Chefs on board the Eastern & Oriental Express are internationally renowned for their ability to create a tantalising variety of Eastern and European dishes, using the finest fresh seasonal ingredients. Service equals the world's finest restaurants. Lunch and dinner are served in the two Restaurant Cars.

Each morning a breakfast of freshly baked croissants, coffee or tea, juice and fruit is delivered to your compartment and for those passengers wishing to rise early to take advantage of the beautiful scenery, tea and coffee will be served for you in the Observation Car from 7 am onwards. Afternoon tea, in true colonial style, with aromatic Earl Grey tea and cakes will be served in your compartment.



*Saloon*

**Saloon** At the end of your day relax and socialize with your fellow passengers in the Bar Car and listen to the sounds of the piano from the resident pianist. The bar is open throughout the day and late into the night for the service of cocktails, aperitifs and liqueurs and local entertainment is performed in the evenings.



*Observation*

**Observation Car** As you journey through the tropical countryside and jungle terrain, past ancient temples, rivers and rice paddies experience the ever-changing scenery from the open-sided Observation Car.

Customarily, the dress on board during the day is nice casual with a jacket and tie at dinner required for gentleman and similar attire for ladies.