



2026 International Geography Championships - Bangkok Pre-Trip

June 30-July 4, 2026

Practicalities, Costs, Details, Terms, and Conditions

Hotels and Room Type / Single Supplement / Tour Costs

1. For the Bangkok Pre-Trip, participants have the choice to stay at one of two hotels. **For both hotels, please do NOT book rooms on your own**; we will take care of that once you register. Both hotels are a 10-15 minute walk from each other and a 10 minute walk from Bangkok Central Pier.

A. [Shangri La Bangkok](#) - This is a [5 star luxury hotel](#), directly on the banks of the Chao Phraya River. Our room block is in the Shangri La Tower.

I. The standard per person price for the entire tour for participants staying at the Shangri La, including accommodations, is \$995 if paid by December 29, 2025 or otherwise \$1145.

II. Extra rollaway beds are available at the Shangri-La. The extra cost for a rollaway bed is \$320 (for 4 nights) if the person using the rollaway is 12 years old or older, or \$200 (for 4 nights) if the person using the rollaway is 11 years old or younger. This surcharge includes breakfast for the person using the bed. These prices increase to \$450 and \$300 respectively if the room class is Executive Suite or Executive Suite Riverview (these two room classes include lounge access).

III. The Shangri La has optional premium rooms available at the following supplemental prices in addition to the standard price for the tour. The supplemental prices are for the room, not per person, so if two or three people are in the room, the surcharge is only calculated once.

- a. Deluxe River View Room: \$150 for the room for 4 nights
- b. Deluxe Balcony Room - \$300 for the room for 4 nights
- c. Executive Suite - \$600 for the room for 4 nights
- d. Executive River View Suite - \$900 for the room for 4 nights

IV. Guests staying at the Shangri La can enjoy these following amenities:

- a. 20% discount on spa a la carte menu, excluding spa promotions, packages and retail products.
- b. 20% discount for all F&B outlets, excluding promotions and Chocolate Boutique.
- c. 20% discount on laundry services, excluding promotions, packages and dry cleaning.
- d. One time mini bar.
- e. Coffee and tea making facility in each guest room with sachets provided and replenished daily.
- f. Six bottles of drinking water, replenished daily.

V. Guests staying in the Executive Suites have these additional amenities:

- a. The option to have breakfast in the Club Lounge on the 24th floor or Next2 Café on the 1st floor from 06:30-10:30 hrs.
- b. Afternoon tea from 14:00-16:00 hrs.
- c. Evening cocktail and canapés from 17:00-19:00 hrs.
- d. A selection of beverages served throughout the day from 06:30-21:00 hrs.
- e. Use of meeting facilities for two hours per day (on availability basis).
- f. 1 Suit or Dress pressing (2 pcs) on arrival day.

VI. If the participant requires a single occupancy room, a single supplement of \$475 USD applies at the Shangri-La. The supplement costs are for the total of 4 nights, not per night. If the single occupancy room is of a premium type, then the additional supplement prices apply for those.

B. [Holiday Inn Express Central Pier](#) - This is a 2.5-3 star standard hotel, a 10 minute walk from the pier, and a 10-15 minute walk from the Shangri-La Hotel.

I. The standard per person price for the entire tour for participants staying at the Holiday Inn Express, including accommodations, is \$795 if paid by December 29, 2025 or otherwise \$895.

II. Extra rollaway beds are not available at the Holiday Inn Express.

III. If the participant requires a single occupancy room (by definition, this also applies to odd-numbered groups of people staying at the Holiday Inn Express), a single supplement of \$275 USD applies at the Holiday Inn Express. The supplement costs are for the total of 4 nights, not per night.

2. The price at both hotels includes accommodation on 4 nights: June 30, July 1, July 2, and July 3, and breakfast on all four of the following mornings.
3. If your family is split up at a hotel (e.g. you are a group of four or more at the Shangri La or a group of 3 or more at the Holiday Inn Express), we will do our best to ensure that everyone is placed in rooms at the hotel that are as close as possible to each other.

Competitions

1. The cost includes 2 competitions (the Transportation Bee and the Asian Cities Bee). These Bees, which will be played on the Buses on July 3 en route to and from Ayuthhaya, and will each have 2 rounds for students, and 1-2 rounds (a second will be played if there is sufficient time and interest) for adults. They are optional, and we need to know at least 24 hours in advance who will be competing so we can ensure proper staffing and logistics, but you do not have to commit to play when you register. We will confirm participation as the tour approaches. The competitions will have prizes, but they are not official IGC medal events.
2. If you wish to drop from a competition, that is your prerogative, but please try and give us as much advance notice as possible, so we can rearrange things fairly for the other players.

Schedule and Itinerary Changes

1. IAC reserves the right to make schedule and itinerary changes that we believe are in the best interests of the tour. This can include changes due to weather, traffic, road closures, health emergencies, unexpected closings at sites, unexpected opportunities to visit additional sites that are not yet listed, and further reasons. *Please note in particular that traffic in Bangkok is often unpredictable and heavy; the schedule has taken this into account, but we cannot guarantee precise timings nor be responsible for delays due to traffic.*
2. That said, we will endeavor to adhere as closely as possible to the itinerary that has been posted. If it is not possible for our group to visit a particular site, we will do our best to provide an alternate experience that is comparable in general cost and visit type.

Tour Expectations

1. There are three days worth of activities. However, it is possible that our group may be divided into 2 or 3 smaller groups which would do the program of activities in different order. In particular, some groups may do the Day A itinerary on July 1 and others may do the Day Itinerary on July 2, with the reverse then being true for the alternate day. Everyone will be given the chance to do identical activities (some activities are optional).
2. The tour is open to all families with a child aged 8-18 who is enrolled in primary or secondary school during the 2025-26 school year, including those who are not participating in the 2026 International Geography Championships. Indeed, prior experience at IAC events at any level is not a prerequisite, but note that you must have a child coming along on the tour to

take part in it, as this tour is specifically designed for families with children who are interested in the history, geography, and culture of Southeast Asia.

3. Participating families are welcome to invite family friends; there is a limit of 15 people who can be associated with any one family.

4. The Pre-Tour is NOT open to Competing Students aged 18 or 19 who are attending IGC unaccompanied.

Payment and Refund Policies

1. **The price includes the following:**

- a. All tours, tour guides and entry fees for listed sightseeing
- b. 4 nights lodging
- c. Breakfast on all days from July 1-4 (4 breakfasts)
- d. One dinner buffet (on the Chao Phraya Dinner Cruise)
- e. Boat travel to select destinations throughout the tour
- f. Coach bus travel to select destinations throughout the tour
- g. Two Bee competitions (Transportation Bee and Asian Cities Bee). These are optional, and are also open to interested family and friends. Adults will compete in a different division than students.

2. Please note that the price does NOT include travel to the JW Marriott Khao Lak Resort and Spa from Bangkok, nor airport transfers, nor travel to Bangkok. However, we will provide advice on booking travel arrangements to everyone who registers. A cab ride to or from the main international Airport (Suvarnabhumi - BKK) to either the Shangri La or the Holiday Inn Express takes 40-90 minutes (it is heavily dependent on traffic) and should cost approximately \$40-50 USD. A cab ride to or from the secondary airport (Don Mueang - DMK) to either the Shangri La or the Holiday Inn Express takes 30-75 minutes (it is also heavily dependent on traffic) and should cost approximately \$30-40 USD.

3. All foreign travelers must complete a [Thailand Arrival Card](#) before coming to Thailand; this does not cost anything though.

4. The price is the same for all people who come on the tour, regardless of age. Tour participants must be at least 6 years old; the tour is not designed to be enjoyable for or accommodating to very young children. The recommended minimum age is 8.

5. Tipping is not expected at any point (with the exception of your personal expenses such as taxis, lunches and dinners, though this is really optional at all times in Thailand and reserved for good service, unlike in North America). IAC will tip the bus drivers and tour guides (this is included in the cost) on behalf of the group at the end of the journey.

6. Space is only reserved once you have submitted payment, and we have confirmed receipt of this. Once you register, you have 30 days (with the exception of once we hit our

capacity; see below) to submit your payment; if it is not received during this time, then your registration will be cancelled.

Note that if you wish to receive the early registration discount, then **payment must be received by December 29** (i.e. you will need to send a wire transfer or check a few days before then). Simply submitting the registration form by December 29 does not count: payment must be received on our end for the discount to apply.

7. We will close the tour registrations once the maximum number of online registrations have been submitted (this is currently set at 200). Thereafter, everyone who has registered will have a maximum of 10 days to submit payment; if payment is not received during this time, the tour will be reopened on a first-come, first-served basis.

8. Refunds will be provided in full, minus a \$100 processing fee per person until April 1. From April 1-June 1, refunds will be provided minus a \$300 processing fee per person. From June 1, no refunds are available except where proof is provided of a death or serious illness / medical condition. Even these cases however are still subject to a \$300 processing fee per person due to our need to book rooms, tour guides, and bus space and an inability to receive refunds for fees we must pay in advance.

Other / Various

1. There will be a good amount of walking expected of participants. Participants should be advised that if this presents a problem due to mobility or endurance issues, certain sites and walking tours might not be possible. We will try and be as accommodating as possible, but we cannot delay the group due to an inability to keep up. Please note that most tour destinations have limited or no wheelchair accessibility.

2. The tour will be conducted in English. We will have guides on the tour who, at a minimum, will be fluent in Thai, French, German, and likely several other languages.

3. Thai Baht is the local currency; we recommend obtaining Baht from ATM machines which are common throughout Bangkok and can be found adjacent to the hotels.

4. No vaccines are required or necessary for Thailand.