



ICONIC INDULGENCE

Step back in time and into one of the most luxurious suites in Bangkok.

BY CLAUDIA DE BRITO



THIS PAGE FROM TOP TO BOTTOM: The hotel lobby's sweeping staircase; one of the luxurious living areas in the two-bedroom Jim Thompson Suite.

OPPOSITE PAGE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT: The spacious second bedroom in the Jim Thompson Suite; lush gardens surround the serene pool area; the Anantara Siam Bangkok's imposing colonial lobby.

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BOASTING ONE OF the Thai capital's most prestigious addresses, the Anantara Siam Bangkok Hotel offers a sophisticated retreat from the bustling city. Located in the heart of central Bangkok's Ratchaprasong district, the property's white columns, Thai statues, landscaped gardens and lotus ponds provide a serene escape for its guests.

The Anantara Siam Bangkok's 354 rooms and suites merge traditional Thai and contemporary style and are accented with teak furnishings, silk fabrics, and enjoy views overlooking tropical gardens, the pool, prestigious local neighbourhood streets or the impressive grounds of Royal Bangkok Sports Club. The most exquisite room in the hotel is The Explorer Suite by Jim Thompson. Widely regarded as the saviour of the Thai silk industry, Jim Thompson, an American entrepreneur, fell in love with Thailand and its culture, eventually making it his home. The Princeton graduate made it his mission to preserve

and revitalise the cottage industry of hand-woven silk, which had for centuries been a household craft in Thailand, but which was in danger of dying out. Working with Thai weavers, he introduced the bright jewel tones and dramatic colour combinations now associated with Thai silk worldwide. His mysterious disappearance in 1967 only added to his legendary status.

Rather than replicate his famous home with teak panelling and furniture, the suite offers a singular guest-room experience, reflecting the feel of a Thai summer home, and has been designed to reflect its namesake's creativity and heritage, while paying homage to his commitment to local industries and arts. The luxurious space, replete with precious Thai artefacts, includes two bedrooms, one with king size and one with double beds, 2 1/2 marble bathrooms, and a large living/dining room. Though all modern comforts are catered to, staying here is akin experiencing time travel. A colonial atmosphere, with tongue-and-groove ceilings, painted panelled walls and polished teak floors provides a backdrop for a collection of furniture, fabrics and precious artworks.

Leisure facilities include a fitness centre and an outdoor pool, which is surrounded by a large sundeck, tropical gardens, a waterfall and lotus ponds. For the ultimate in pampering indulgence, the Anantara Spa offers exotic wellness traditions and trusted ancient therapies from across Asia, combined with Western wisdom. The Siam 2482 massage combines therapeutic traditions from Thailand, Myanmar, Laos and China. A cooling

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footbath infused with peppermint is followed by a bamboo stick massage, stretching and pressure-point stimulation to enhance flexibility and energy flow. Healing herbal compresses are applied to release tension before a full body massage is performed using natural oil drawing on the properties of bergamot and lemongrass. The blissful experience concludes with tiny gold leaf patches placed the left arm and left side of the chest to encourage mindfulness and relaxation.

Parents looking for a stress-free stay can take advantage of the Anantara Siam Bangkok's family-friendly services. Aiming to keep youngsters entertained, children enjoy a welcome amenity kit,

their own bathrobes and bedtime treats, as well as dedicated menus at every hotel restaurant. Older guests are also catered to with award-winning culinary experiences at some of the city's best dining destinations. With ten options, diners are spoiled for choice, and while highlights include the renowned Sunday Brunch and the speciality Thai and Japanese restaurants, Biscotti, its Italian offering, transcends expectations. Outstanding dishes such as black ink angel hair with king crab in a lobster bisque and the black summer truffle risotto with porcini and 16-month Grana Padano are as memorable as they are delicious.

siam-bangkok.anantara.com ■

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