

OFF TO THAILAND

International Knowledge Tour

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Our educational trip to Thailand was an exciting journey filled with learning, adventure, and cultural experiences. Over the course of seven days, we explored Bangkok and Pattaya, visiting universities, trade exhibitions, industrial sites, and tourist attractions. The trip provided valuable insights into international business, technology, and logistics, while also allowing us to experience Thailand's rich culture, local markets, transportation, and cuisine. From academic interactions at Stamford University to thrilling adventures at Coral Island and Dream World, every moment was a blend of knowledge and enjoyment. *This report highlights our key experiences, reflecting on the lessons we learned and the unforgettable memories we created.*



Educational Trip to Thailand – Day 1 (February 11, 2025)

Our long-awaited educational trip to Thailand finally began on February 11, 2025. The excitement in the air was undeniable as we all woke up early, got ready, and gathered at NJP Station by 5:00 AM. A group of 36 students, along with our teachers, were all set for the adventure ahead. As soon as the clock struck 5:30 AM, the Shatabdi Express departed, marking the beginning of our journey to Howrah.

Lessons in Adjustment and Respect

The train ride started with an unexpected incident that taught us an important life lesson. A disagreement arose with an older passenger over luggage space. He was visibly frustrated, and though his reaction seemed exaggerated, we reminded ourselves that we had no idea what he was going through. Instead of reacting aggressively, we chose to handle the situation with respect, standing up for what was right without being rude. His daughter's efforts to defend him reflected the beautiful bond between a father and his child, reminding us of the depth of parental love. Though the beginning of the journey was a bit dramatic, things settled down, and we quickly

adjusted to our surroundings.



A Fun-filled Train Journey

The rest of the train journey was enjoyable. We played cards, listened to music, and had meaningful conversations with our teachers. From time to time, meals were served, and we made sure not to waste food, keeping in mind the importance of gratitude and mindful consumption. As the train sped through the picturesque landscapes, we felt the excitement of an adventure awaiting us.



Industrial Visit – Vinayak Oil & Fats Pvt. Ltd.

At exactly 1:30 PM, we reached Howrah and took a bus to our first educational stop – Vinayak Oil & Fats Pvt. Ltd. Upon arrival, we were greeted warmly by the company's team, making us feel welcomed and valued. We were led to a meeting room, where they introduced us to the company's history, its products, vision, and mission. As a welcome token, they offered us Sandesh, a famous Bengali sweet, adding a touch of Kolkata's rich culture to our visit.

The real excitement began when we moved to the factory floor. The visit was an eye-opening experience as we got an inside look at the production process of refined oil. We observed different divisions, including:

- Oil Making Unit – Understanding how raw materials are processed to extract oil.
- Chemical Unit – Learning about the refining process and the necessary quality checks.
- Waste Management – Gaining insight into how waste is repurposed to ensure minimal environmental damage.
- Packaging Unit – Witnessing how oil is packed into tumblers, labeled, sealed, and prepared for distribution.

The most interesting part was learning about the challenges workers face in the factory. From safety hazards to quality control issues, the team explained the preventive measures they take to tackle these problems. This visit gave us a deeper appreciation for the effort and precision required in manufacturing and industrial operations.

After the tour, we returned to the meeting room, where all our doubts were patiently answered while we enjoyed samosas and cold drinks. As a parting gift, they presented us with pens engraved with the company's name—a small yet meaningful souvenir of our visit. We left the factory with valuable knowledge and admiration for the industry's work ethic.



Journey to the Airport

The energy among us was at its peak as we boarded the bus to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport. The factory visit had left us so thrilled that we spent the entire ride singing, dancing, and sharing our excitement.

International Travel Experience

For many of us, this was our first time traveling internationally. Going through the check-in and immigration process was a learning experience in itself. From passport verification to baggage

check to immigration procedure, we carefully followed the steps under the guidance of our teachers. Once inside the airport, we had time to explore its vast premises, absorbing the lively atmosphere of international travel.

Soon, it was time to board our flight. As the plane took off, the reality of our journey truly sank in. The flight, though turbulent at times, was a thrilling experience. As we soared above the clouds, our excitement for the days ahead only grew. With eager anticipation, we prepared to land in Thailand, ready to embrace everything the trip had in store for us.



Key Takeaways from Day 1:

- Adaptability & Respect – Learned to balance speaking up while respecting elders in a public travel setting.
- Teamwork & Camaraderie – Strengthened bonding, sharing responsibilities, and group coordination.
- Industrial Exposure – Gained insights into manufacturing, quality control, packaging, and sustainability at Vinayak Oil & Fats Pvt. Ltd.
- International Travel Process – Understood airport check-in, security, immigration, and customs procedures for global travel.

Educational Trip to Thailand – Day 2 (February 12, 2025)

As the first rays of sunlight lit up the sky, our plane finally landed at Suvarnabhumi Airport, Bangkok. The moment we stepped outside, we were welcomed by the warm and humid Thai air. The exhaustion of traveling with minimal sleep was evident on our faces, but the thrill of finally

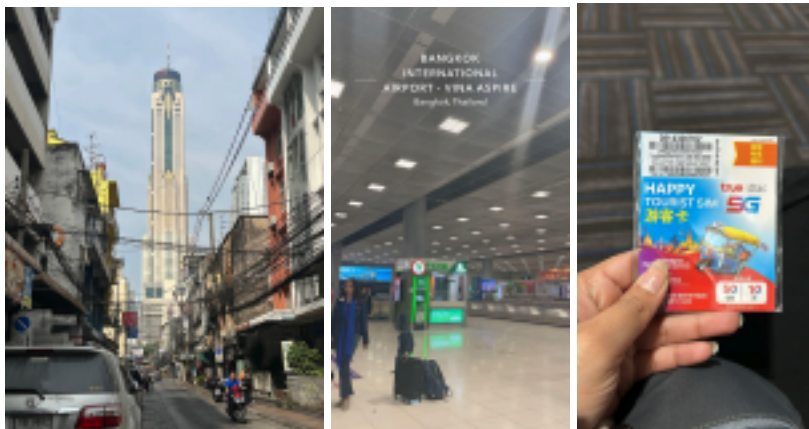
arriving in Thailand overshadowed all fatigue.

Arrival and First Impressions of Bangkok

After collecting our luggage, we met our tour guide, Anita, a cheerful and knowledgeable lady who welcomed us with a warm smile. As we settled into our bus, she began sharing important information about Bangkok and the itinerary for the week. While most of us were struggling to keep our eyes open from exhaustion, her lively spirit and engaging storytelling helped us stay attentive.

As our bus navigated through the streets of Bangkok, we caught our first glimpses of the bustling city. The roads were lined with towering skyscrapers, vibrant street markets, and countless tuk-tuks weaving through the morning traffic. It was a city that never seemed to pause.

By 7:30 AM, we arrived at our hotel, Ramada by Wyndham D'MA Bangkok, situated in a lively neighborhood filled with Indian restaurants, cafés, and markets. Though we were eager to check into our rooms, we had to wait as they weren't ready yet. Instead, we kept our luggage safely in the hotel lobby and freshened up using the general washrooms before heading out for breakfast.



Exploring the Neighborhood

For breakfast, we had a comforting meal of dosa and tea, which felt like a taste of home in a foreign land. This was followed by a free morning where we were allowed to explore the neighborhood on our own. Some students chose to rest in the lobby, but a few of us, too excited to sit still, ventured into the surrounding streets.

One of the first things we noticed was the presence of 7-Eleven stores on almost every street corner. These convenience stores were stocked with everything one might need—from groceries and snacks to personal care products. It was fascinating to see how integral they were to daily life in Thailand.

My friends and I decided to visit Indira Market and Pratunam Morning Market, two of the most popular shopping hubs in Bangkok. The streets were filled with stalls selling clothes, accessories,

souvenirs, and even street food. The energy was infectious, and we quickly realized how different the shopping culture was—bargaining was expected, and vendors were always enthusiastic about showcasing their products.

After a short but exciting exploration, we returned to the hotel, only to find out that we had received permission to use the swimming pool! This gave us another reason to explore the property, which had a cozy yet luxurious ambiance.

Finally, Got Our Rooms

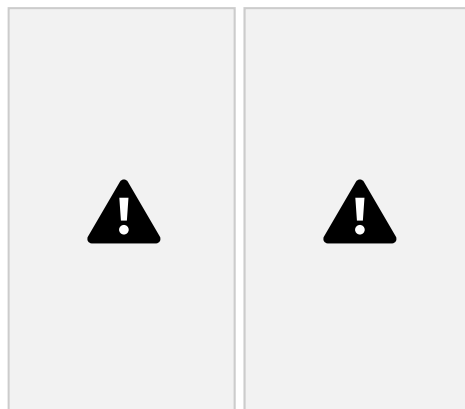
After lunch, by 2:30 PM, our rooms were finally allotted. The moment we entered our rooms, we let out a sigh of relief—it was time for some much-needed rest. The soft beds and air-conditioned rooms felt like heaven.

But rest was short-lived, as we were asked to gather near the hotel gate at 6:00 PM for a surprise planned by our teachers. Though exhaustion still clung to us, curiosity won over, and we all got ready to find out what awaited us.

A Surprise to Remember – Chao Phraya Princess Cruise

By 6:20 PM, we boarded the bus. Some students who didn't make it on time had to find their way to Terminal 21 Mall on their own. This taught us an important lesson in punctuality, as delays in a foreign country can lead to unnecessary hassles.

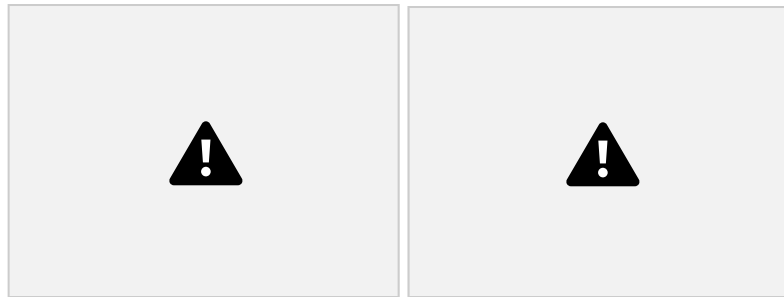
When we reached Terminal 21, we finally learned about our surprise—we were going on the Chao Phraya Princess Cruise! Excitement filled the air as we explored the mall before heading to board the cruise.



We met our guide in the mall, who was there once again, ensuring everything went smoothly. As we stepped onto the beautifully lit Chao Phraya River cruise, the crew greeted us as Indians and Inspirians, making us feel welcomed and special. The cruise was breathtaking—with glittering city lights reflecting off the water and iconic landmarks like the Grand Palace and Wat Arun shining in the night.

The dinner buffet was a mix of Thai and international cuisines. We had the opportunity to interact with other travelers from different countries, sharing stories and exchanging experiences. But the highlight of the night was the dance floor—as soon as the music started, we danced our hearts out, celebrating our first evening in Bangkok in the most unforgettable way.

The surprise planned by Anil Sir and Rahul Sir was beyond anything we had expected. Their thoughtful gesture made us feel truly grateful, and this night became one of the most cherished moments of our trip.



Finally, Rest and Sleep

After two days of continuous traveling, we finally returned to the hotel, exhausted but happy. The moment our heads hit the pillows, sleep overtook us in an instant.

Our journey in Thailand had only just begun, but it had already given us unforgettable memories and invaluable lessons.

Key Takeaways from Day 2:

- Cultural Exposure – Explored Bangkok’s infrastructure, markets, and local lifestyle.
- Independence & Responsibility – Navigated a foreign country responsibly while exploring on our own.
- Memorable Experiences – Enjoyed the Chao Phraya Princess Cruise, experiencing Thai hospitality and entertainment.
- Importance of Surprises – Teachers’ planned surprise added excitement, teaching us to embrace spontaneity.

Educational Trip to Thailand – Day 3 (February 13, 2025)

After a long and exciting first day in Bangkok, we woke up feeling refreshed and ready for another eventful day. The plan for today was particularly special—it involved an academic visit to Stamford International University, followed by an industry conference at Bangkok International Trade and Exhibition Centre (BITEC).



Morning: Breakfast and Departure to Stamford University

We began our day with a hearty breakfast at the hotel's complimentary buffet. The meal was a perfect way to energize ourselves for the day ahead.

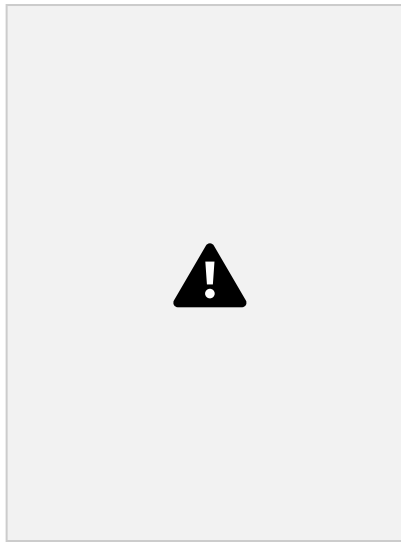
Post breakfast, we took turns leaving the hotel in cabs with our teachers, heading toward Exchange Tower, where Stamford International University was located. The drive through Bangkok's streets was a unique experience—the city had a fast-paced yet organized rhythm, with skytrains running above and motorbikes zipping through traffic.

Academic Visit: Stamford International University

At Stamford University, we were warmly welcomed by two faculty members who introduced us to their curriculum, teaching methodology, and student support system. The discussion was an insightful one, as we got to know:

- How Stamford helps its working students.
- The various courses and specializations offered.
- The admission process, and eligibility for international students.
- The influence of social media and how it is changing education and business strategies.
- The cultural shifts over time and how globalization has impacted Thai education.

The session was interactive, and our questions were met with detailed responses, giving us a clear picture of higher education opportunities in Thailand. It was an eye-opening experience, especially for those considering pursuing further studies abroad.



Industrial Visit: Glassman Asia 2025 at BITEC

After a fulfilling session at Stamford University, we proceeded to the Bangkok International Trade and Exhibition Centre (BITEC) to attend the Glassman Asia 2025 Conference.

BITEC is one of Bangkok's largest exhibition centers, known for hosting global industry events. The Glassman Asia conference focused on advancements in glass manufacturing, sustainable production, and technological innovations in the industry.

As we explored the conference, we witnessed some cutting-edge developments, including:

- Energy-efficient glass technologies for reducing heat absorption.
- Smart glass innovations that adjust transparency based on lighting conditions.
- Eco-friendly glass manufacturing techniques aimed at sustainability.

We also took the opportunity to network with exhibitors, asking about their companies, their role in the industry, and how they are incorporating new technologies to improve efficiency. This interaction enhanced our understanding of the glass industry and the importance of industrial networking for business growth.



Afternoon: Lunch and

By the time the conference
famished! We headed to the

where we got to try a mix of Thai and international dishes. It was fun to compare flavors and
discuss our experiences from the morning visits.

Return to the Hotel

concluded, we were
food court at BITEC,

We returned to our hotel by 6:30 PM, wrapping up the educational part of the day.

Evening: Fun at a Golf Club

With free time at our disposal, my friends and I decided to visit a golf club. Golf is not a sport
many of us were familiar with, but the idea of trying something new excited us.

At the club, we saw a group of experienced players enjoying the game. We observed their
techniques and gradually started mimicking their swings. What started as a casual attempt soon
turned into a fun challenge as we tried to perfect our shots. It was an enjoyable experience,
proving that any sport can be fun when played with friends.



Night Adventure: Sampheng Night Market

Not ready to call it a night just yet, we decided to visit Sampheng Night Market, one of

Bangkok's famous local markets. Unlike the modern malls, this market had narrow alleys filled with small shops and street vendors, selling everything from clothing and accessories to street food and souvenirs.

We wandered through the bustling market, soaking in the lively atmosphere and bargaining for small souvenirs. Some of us tried local street food like Mango Sticky Rice and Thai Tea, while others shopped for gifts to take back home.

The night ended with a tuk-tuk ride back to the hotel. Tuk-tuks are an iconic mode of transport in Thailand, and the fast-paced ride through the city streets was an adventure in itself.

With a heart full of experiences and a mind filled with new learnings, we finally called it a day.

Key Takeaways from Day 3:

- Exposure to higher education opportunities at Stamford University.
- Learning about the glass industry and sustainable innovations at Glassman Asia 2025.
- Understanding the importance of networking in business and industrial events.
- The joy of trying new activities like golf, learning through observation.
- Experiencing the local culture and street market charm at Sampheng Night Market.

This day was a perfect blend of education, industry exposure, and cultural exploration, making it one of the most well-rounded days of our trip.

Educational Trip to Thailand – Day 4 (February 14, 2025)

After an eventful previous day of academic and industrial learning, we were excited for another day of exploration, learning, and cultural experiences. Today's highlight was FOOD PACK ASIA 2025, an international exhibition focusing on food processing, smart packaging, and logistics solutions.

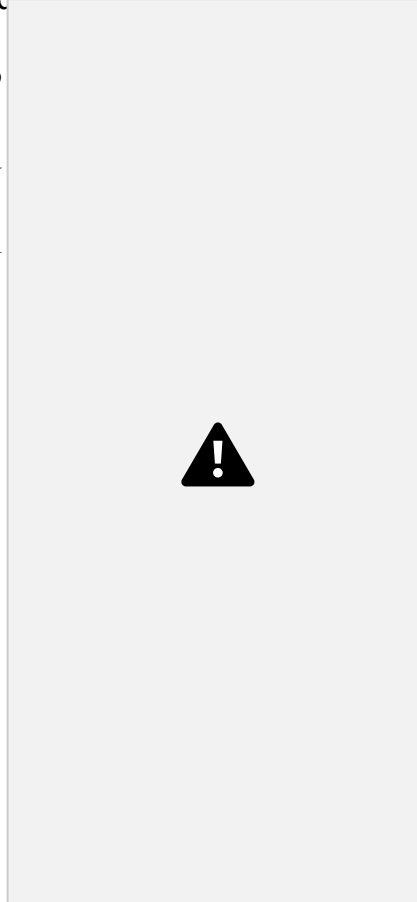
Morning: Metro Journey to BITEC

As usual, our day started with a delicious breakfast at the hotel's complimentary buffet, energizing us for the day ahead. Instead of taking cabs like the previous day, we decided to experience Bangkok's metro system to reach Bangkok International Trade and Exhibition Centre (BITEC).

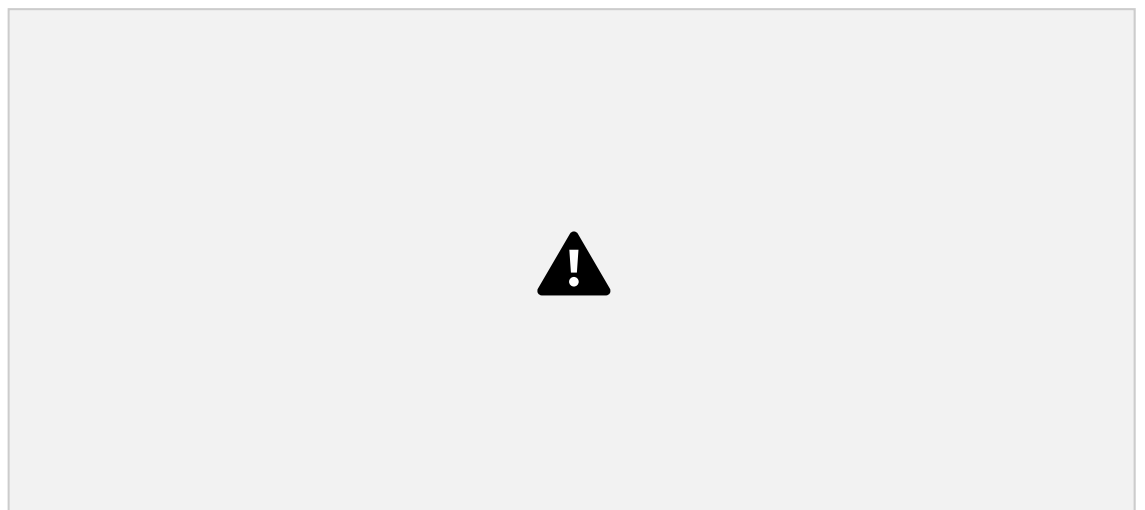
- We boarded the metro from Makkasan Station and got off at Phaya Thai.
- From there, we switched to the Green Line and took another metro train to Bang Na Station.
- After exiting, we followed the Skylink walkway, a well-organized pedestrian bridge that

connects computers directly to BITEC.

This metro
us insights
We observed
people
major role in



journey was a unique learning experience, giving
into Bangkok's efficient public transport system.
how well-managed and clean the metro was, how
followed the rules, and how technology played a
making travel easier.



Industrial Visit: FOOD PACK ASIA 2025

Upon reaching BITEC, we registered ourselves and entered the FOOD PACK ASIA 2025 Exhibition. This event brought together industry leaders in food processing, smart packaging, logistics, and labeling technology.

As we explored the exhibition, we were fascinated by:

- Smart Packaging – New-age packaging solutions that keep food fresher for longer, reduce

waste, and use eco-friendly materials.

- Complete Logistics Solutions – The role of technology in food supply chains, ensuring safe and timely deliveries.
- Food & Beverage Machinery – Advanced machinery used in food processing, ensuring automation, efficiency, and hygiene.
- Printing & Labeling Technology – The latest innovations in food labeling, helping brands provide clear, attractive, and informative packaging.

This visit helped us understand how food reaches consumers, the importance of proper labeling, and how technology is shaping the food industry.



Afternoon: Lunch & Return to the Hotel

After hours of engaging learning at the exhibition, we took a break and had lunch at BITEC's

food court. The food court had diverse meal options, including Thai curries, sushi, noodles, and sandwiches.

By mid-afternoon, we returned to our hotel, where we were given free time to rest and explore.

Evening: Rooftop Café at State Tower

Since we had free time, my friends and I decided to experience Bangkok's fine dining culture. We headed to the State Tower, home to one of Bangkok's most famous rooftop cafés.

The journey itself was an adventure! We opted for the famous tuk-tuk rides, Bangkok's iconic three-wheeled motorized vehicles. The ride was fast, thrilling, and full of fun, with the city lights adding to the excitement.

Upon reaching the State Tower, we were mesmerized by the breathtaking view of Bangkok's skyline. The luxury of the café, the ambience, and the panoramic night view made the experience surreal. We decided to explore Thai cuisine, ordering traditional dishes like:

- Tom Yum Soup – A hot and sour Thai soup.
- Pad Thai – Stir-fried rice noodles with tofu and peanuts.
- Thai Green Curry – A creamy and aromatic coconut milk-based curry.

The dinner was a blend of flavors and experiences, allowing us to appreciate Thai culture through its food.



Night: Return to the Hotel & Reflections

After a memorable evening, we returned to our hotel, reminiscing about the day's experiences. The visit to FOOD PACK ASIA 2025 gave us valuable industrial exposure, while the rooftop café experience allowed us to soak in the beauty of Bangkok.

With full hearts and satisfied appetites, we called it a day, excited for the adventures ahead.

Key Takeaways from Day 4:

- Public Transport Learning – Understanding Bangkok’s metro system and infrastructure.
- Industry Exposure – Learning about food processing, logistics, and packaging at FOOD PACK ASIA 2025.
- Cultural Exploration – Experiencing Bangkok’s famous tuk-tuk rides and fine dining.
- Culinary Experience – Tasting authentic Thai dishes and understanding food presentation in luxury dining.

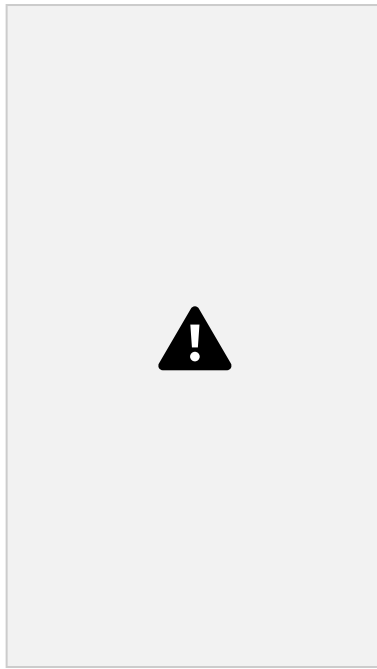
This day was a perfect mix of learning, adventure, and cultural immersion, making it another unforgettable experience!

Educational Trip to Thailand – Day 5 (February 15, 2025)

After exciting days in Bangkok, it was time to explore Pattaya, a vibrant coastal city known for its ports, beaches, and local markets. Today’s journey included a visit to Laem Chabang Port, a delicious Indian lunch, and exploring Pattaya’s lively markets and beaches.

Morning: Journey from Bangkok to Pattaya

We woke up early, packed our bags, and had breakfast at the hotel. After checking out of Ramada by Wyndham D'MA Bangkok, we boarded our bus for Pattaya—a journey of approximately 2 hours.



Midway Stop: Visit to Laem Chabang Port

On our way to Pattaya, we made a stop at Laem Chabang Port, Thailand's largest deep-sea port and one of the busiest in Southeast Asia. The officials at the port were gracious enough to admit us for a guided tour, making it an insightful experience.

Here's what we explored at the port:

- **Introduction & Briefing:** The officials welcomed us and explained the importance of Laem Chabang Port in global trade. We learned that it handles millions of containers annually, supporting industries such as automobile exports, electronics, and food processing.
- **Container Terminal Visit:** We saw massive cranes loading and unloading containers from cargo ships. It was fascinating to watch the precision and speed of operations, making us appreciate the complexity of international trade and logistics.
- **Automobile Export Area:** Since Thailand is a major hub for car manufacturing, we got a glimpse of the huge parking lots filled with cars ready to be shipped overseas. ●
- **Sustainability Efforts:** The officials also spoke about how the port is working on eco-friendly shipping solutions, reducing carbon footprints, oil spills, and waste management.

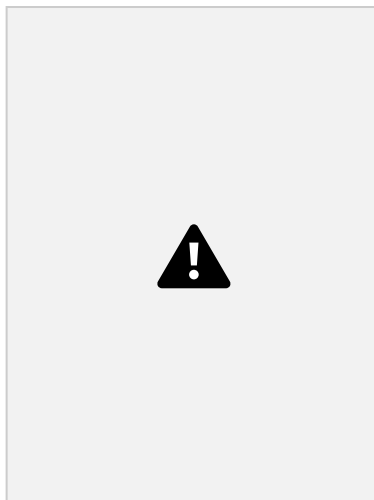
This visit helped us understand the role of ports in global supply chains and the importance of logistics and trade in economic growth.

Afternoon: Lunch at Mumbai Masala

After the port visit, we continued our journey to Pattaya. By the time we reached, we were hungry and excited for lunch. We stopped at Mumbai Masala, a famous Indian restaurant in Pattaya, known for its authentic North Indian flavors. This meal felt like a comforting break from Thai cuisine, giving us the energy to continue our day.

Evening: Hotel Check-In & Rest

Post-lunch, we headed to our hotel, Centara Pattaya, where we checked in and rested for a few hours. The hotel had a beautiful pool, comfortable rooms, and easy access to the beach.



Night: Exploring Pattaya Night Market & Pattaya Beach

As the sun set, we left for Pattaya Night Market, known for its street food, souvenirs, and local crafts.

- Local Street Food Tasting: Some of us tried Thai mango sticky rice, coconut ice cream, and grilled seafood.
- Shopping: The market had handmade jewelry, Thai spices, souvenirs, and clothing at reasonable prices. We enjoyed bargaining with the local vendors.
- Live Music & Street Performers: We saw talented street musicians and fire performers, adding to the lively atmosphere of the market.

After exploring the market, we walked towards Pattaya Beach. The sound of waves, the cool breeze, and the city lights reflecting on the water made it a perfect place to relax. Some of us even sat by the beach, sharing our favorite moments of the trip so far.

By midnight, we returned to our hotel, tired yet satisfied with another amazing day.



Key Takeaways from Day 5:

- Understanding Global Trade & Logistics – Learning how Laem Chabang Port manages international trade, container handling, and automobile exports.

- Authentic Indian Meal in Thailand – Enjoying a comforting meal at Mumbai Masala.
- Exploring Local Culture – Shopping at Pattaya Night Market and experiencing Thai street food.
- Relaxing at Pattaya Beach – A peaceful end to a fun-filled day.

With our Pattaya adventure just beginning, we looked forward to more exciting experiences in the coming days!

Educational Trip to Thailand – Day 6 (February 16, 2025)

Our second day in Pattaya was filled with adventure, water sports, and thrilling experiences. We visited the stunning Coral Island, indulged in water activities, and later, enjoyed a high-speed Go-Karting session.

Morning: Coral Island Adventure

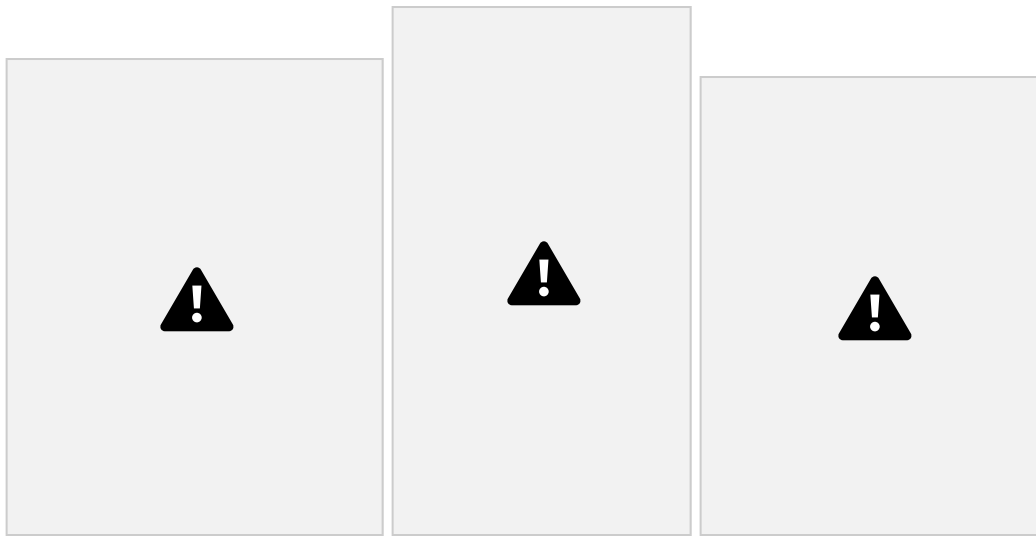
We started the day early, had breakfast at the hotel, and then headed to Pattaya Beach. From there, we boarded a speedboat that took us to Coral Island (Koh Larn), a breathtaking island known for its crystal-clear waters, white sandy beaches, and thrilling water sports.

On the Boat: While traveling, the instructors introduced us to the various water activities available. We had to decide which ones we wanted to try. Many of us fought our fears and took part in thrilling water sports:

- Parasailing (Flying over the ocean with a parachute attached to a speedboat) - It gave us an incredible aerial view of the ocean. The feeling of flying was both exhilarating and nerve-wracking!
- Underwater Sea Walk (Walking on the seabed with a special helmet to see marine life up close) - It was a surreal experience, as we saw colorful fish and corals up close while walking on the ocean floor.
- Jet Ski Ride (Riding high-speed water bikes across the waves) - It made us feel like action heroes as we sped through the waves.
- Banana Boat Ride (A fun group ride on an inflatable banana-shaped boat that gets pulled by a speedboat) - It was hilarious! We screamed as we bounced over the waves and got thrown into the water.

Coral Island Experience: As soon as we reached the island, we were mesmerized by its scenic beauty—clear blue waters, lush green surroundings, and a peaceful yet vibrant environment.

After these activities, we relaxed on the beach chairs, soaked in the sun, and enjoyed fresh coconut water before returning to Pattaya by boat.



Afternoon: Relaxing & Exploring Pattaya

We returned to our hotel, after lunch, tired but thrilled, and took a few hours to rest and freshen up.

Evening: Go-Karting & More Tuk-Tuk Rides

In the evening, we decided to add day by going Go-Karting. The well-maintained, and the short of a mini F1 race! Some of competitive, while others just racing at high speed.

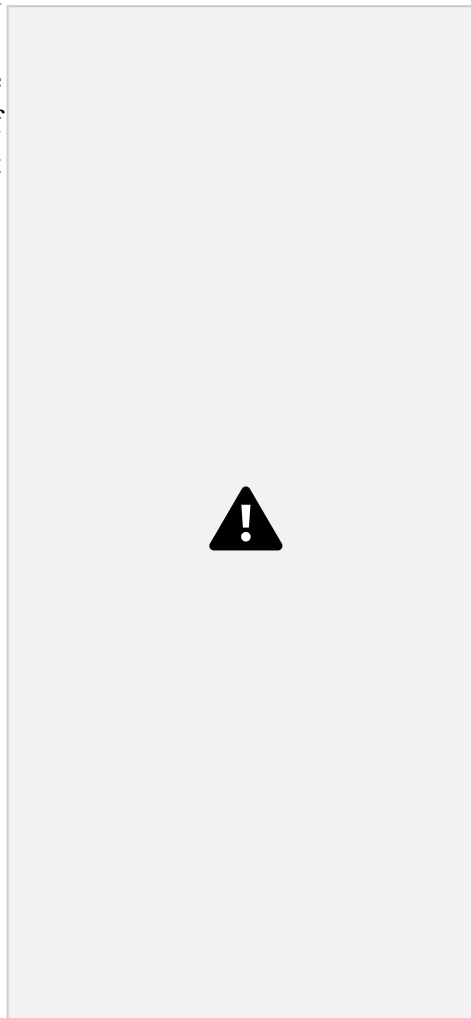
We traveled around Pattaya in different from the ones in

- Bangkok tuk-tuks had used mainly for short tuk-tuks were bigger, more shared taxis, making them convenient for group travel.

more adventure to our track was experience was nothing us were super enjoyed the thrill of

tuk-tuks, but they were quite Bangkok.

compact designs and were distances. ● Pattaya open, and worked like cheaper and more



Key Takeaways from Day 6:

- Overcoming Fears & Trying WaterSports – From parasailing to underwater walking, we pushed ourselves out of our comfort zones.
- Experiencing Thailand's Island Beauty – The clear waters, coral reefs, and stunning beach made Coral Island a dream destination.
- Go-Karting Thrills – Enjoying high-speed racing fun with friends.
- Learning About Local Transport – Experiencing the difference between Bangkok and Pattaya's tuk-tuks.

After such an adventurous and exciting day, we returned to the hotel, tired but happy, looking forward to our last day in Thailand!

Educational Trip to Thailand – Day 7 (February 17, 2025)

Our last day in Thailand was filled with thrill, adventure, and luxury, as we visited Dream World Bangkok, explored a high-end shopping mall, and finally headed back home.

Morning: Dream World Bangkok – A Day of Adventure

We woke up early, got ready, and checked out from Centara Pattaya Hotel. After breakfast, we boarded the bus and left for Dream World Bangkok, one of Thailand's most famous adventure parks.

All-Access Fun: Upon arrival, we were given bands that allowed us access to all the rides. From

roller coasters to water rides and fantasy-themed attractions, the park was filled with excitement.

Some of the most thrilling rides we tried:

- Sky Coaster – A high-speed roller coaster that gave us an adrenaline rush.
- Hurricane – A spinning ride that twisted us in every possible direction!
- Super Splash – A water ride that drenched us completely but was so much fun.
- Snow Town – A winter wonderland where we experienced artificial snow and freezing temperatures.

The inner child in all of us came alive, and we had the most carefree and joyful time.

Evening: Exploring a Luxe Shopping Mall

After leaving Dream World, we headed to a luxury shopping mall in Bangkok. This mall had all the high-end brands, from Gucci, Prada, and Louis Vuitton to Rolex and Chanel. The mall was so huge that it was impossible to explore it completely. However, we still tried! We walked through different sections, admired the grand architecture, and saw some of the most expensive products we had ever come across. The experience of being in such a luxurious setting was memorable.



Night: Departure from Thailand

After our mall visit, we headed to Suvarnabhumi Airport to board our flight back to India. The airport itself was huge and impressive. We completed our immigration and baggage check-in process and finally boarded our flight.

Return to India: The Journey Back Home

We landed at Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport, Kolkata, at 2:30 AM. After collecting our luggage and clearing immigration, we exited the airport by 3:30 AM. From there, we traveled to Howrah Station, where we boarded the Vande Bharat Express at 5:30 AM.

Exhaustion hit us all at once, and the moment we sat on our seats, we fell into deep sleep. Time passed quickly, and before we knew it, we reached NJP (New Jalpaiguri). And just like that, our unforgettable trip to Thailand came to an end.



Key Takeaways from Day 7:

- Reliving Childhood Joy – Dream World brought out the childlike excitement in all of us.
- Experiencing Luxury – Visiting a high-end mall made us appreciate Thailand’s modern and luxurious lifestyle.
- Returning with Unforgettable Memories – Every moment, from the adventures to the simple tuk-tuk rides, made this trip truly special.

As we stepped out of the train at NJP, we realized how much we had experienced in just a week. Thailand gave us memories that will last a lifetime.

Comparing Thailand & India

Our trip to Thailand highlighted several notable differences between the countries, which are from the perspective of a small town girl from Siliguri

Infrastructure and Traffic Management

The most striking contrast was Thailand's well-planned infrastructure—wide, well-connected roads and an efficient public transport system including metros, tuk-tuks, and ferries. Siliguri's efficient public transport system includes totos, buses, autos, city-autos and rickshaws but infrastructure is still developing, and traffic management challenges often necessitate active enforcement by traffic personnel. Unlike India, where smooth roads are a rare treat, Thailand's roads are well-maintained, ensuring hassle-free commuting. Their traffic management is so disciplined that we hardly saw traffic policemen, as people follow rules responsibly. Strict lane discipline, pedestrian priority, and penalties for traffic violations contribute to a well-ordered system—something India can improve upon.

Language Preferences

Another noticeable difference was language preference. In Thailand, the Thai language predominates in daily interactions, reflecting a strong cultural identity. In Thailand, locals prioritize their native Thai language, making communication difficult at times. In contrast, India places immense importance on English, often considering those who don't speak it as less educated.

Market Practices

Thai market vendors typically adhere to fixed pricing policies and may exhibit a direct demeanor, which can be perceived as rudeness by those accustomed to more flexible bargaining cultures. In India, the ethos of "customer is king" prevails, with vendors often engaging in polite services and negotiations to accommodate customers.

Indian Presence in Thailand

The presence of Indians in Thailand was quite evident. Be it tourists, working professionals, or entrepreneurs, Indians significantly contribute to Thailand's economy. The Indian community has a significant presence in Thailand, approximately 46,326 individuals of Indian origin reside in Thailand, engaging in professions ranging from business to entertainment.

In 2023, Thailand welcomed around 1.6 million Indian tourists, underscoring India's importance to Thailand's tourism industry.

This influence is evident in the numerous Indian-owned establishments, including major clubs in Pattaya and a variety of Indian restaurants and businesses catering to the diverse needs of both locals and tourists.

Cultural Celebrations

Thailand's enthusiastic celebration of Valentine's Day is prominently displayed through extensive advertising and themed decorations in public spaces, including airports, malls, and metro stations. In Thailand, huge billboards, photo booths, mall decorations, and street setups openly celebrated love, making it a nationwide event. Indian culture is rooted in stories of divine love, from mythologies to movies, still public displays of affection and Valentine's Day celebrations remain conservative and limited to a few brand promotions.

Public Cleanliness

Despite Thailand's image of being cleaner than India, cigarette leftovers and red spit stains from betel nut chewing were commonly found on roads. It reminded us that true hygiene is not just about perception but collective responsibility.

Sports Culture

Cricket does not hold significant popularity in Thailand. However, it became a conversation starter with people from different nationalities like Australians and Pakistanis, helping us bond over our love for the game, showcasing how sports can bridge cultural gaps.

Areas Where India Excels

India's rich cultural heritage and historical landmarks far exceed what Thailand offers in terms of diversity and depth. Additionally, India's festivals and community celebrations are grander, bringing people together in a way that Thailand's events cannot match.

Another key strength is India's warmth and hospitality. In Thailand, service often felt transactional, whereas in India, guests are treated with genuine care and respect, embodying the spirit of "Atithi Devo Bhava" (Guest is God).

Overall Learning from the Trip

- **Global Exposure:** The trip provided firsthand experience of international markets, industries, and education systems, broadening our understanding beyond textbooks.
- **Business Insights:** Observing trade exhibitions like Glassman Asia 2025 and Food Pack Asia 2025 gave us insights into industry trends, technological advancements, and global

business networking.

- **Cultural Adaptation:** We learned how Thailand's culture, language, and traditions shape their business environment and daily interactions, making us more adaptable to diverse settings.
- **Public Infrastructure & Traffic Discipline:** Thailand's efficient transport system and disciplined road culture showed the importance of structured urban planning and strict adherence to rules.
- **Consumer Behavior:** Unlike India, where bargaining is common and customer service is polite, Thai vendors follow fixed pricing and can be direct or even rude. This highlighted how consumer behavior varies by region.
- **Importance of Tourism & Indian Influence:** The presence of Indian-owned businesses and a large number of Indian tourists in Thailand demonstrated the economic impact of Indian travelers and professionals abroad.
- **Networking Skills:** Engaging with university professors, exhibitors, and professionals improved our confidence in initiating conversations and making meaningful connections.
- **Personal Growth & Overcoming Fears:** Trying new activities like parasailing, go-karting, and water sports pushed us out of our comfort zones and boosted self-confidence.
- **Teamwork & Independence:** Managing schedules, navigating metro routes, and exploring new places independently taught us problem-solving, teamwork, and decision-making.
- **Marketing & Branding Observations:** Thailand's extensive use of marketing strategies, such as Valentine's Day-themed advertisements in public places, showed us how businesses capitalize on occasions to boost sales.

This trip was a blend of learning, fun, and personal development, preparing us to think globally while valuing our roots.

Our educational trip to Thailand was a journey of learning, adventure, and cultural exploration. From industrial visits and trade exhibitions to local markets and adventure activities, each experience enriched our understanding of global business and diverse cultures.

This trip taught us adaptability, independence, and the value of cultural diversity. We returned not just with memories but with a broader perspective on global business, social etiquette, and personal growth.

THANK YOU!