



TREASURES OF THAILAND & PHUKET BEACH

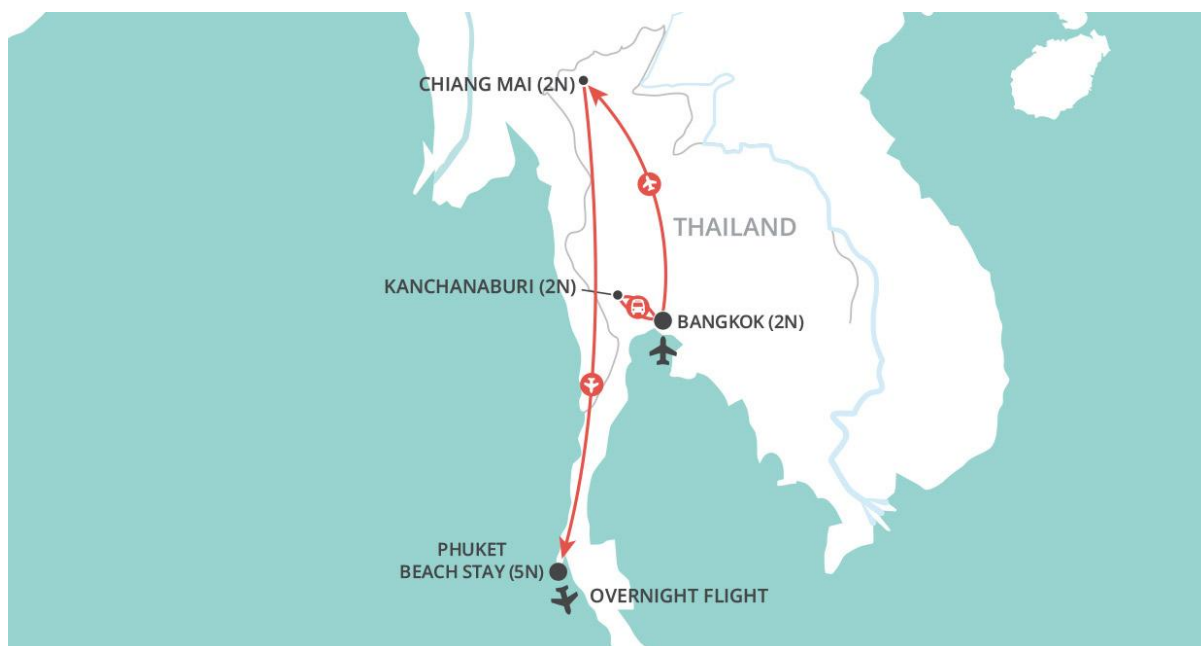
Tour & Beach | 14 Days | Physical Level 1

Bangkok – Kanchanaburi – Chiang Mai – Phuket

Soak up the electric energy of Bangkok, from its golden palaces to its bustling floating markets, then explore the ancient temple ruins of Ayutthaya. Continue to Chiang Mai to spend time with rescued elephants at a sanctuary, before swapping the jungle for the ocean as you head south to Phuket. Here, the turquoise waters and limestone cliffs of the Andaman Sea provide the ultimate tropical finish.

- Explore Bangkok's Grand Palace, temples, and canals
- Witness iconic floating and railway markets
- Discover the poignant history of the River Kwai
- Explore ancient Ayutthaya
- Visit an ethical elephant sanctuary in Chiang Mai
- Relax on the white sand beaches of Phuket

TOUR MAP



TREASURES OF THAILAND & PHUKET BEACH TOUR & BEACH INCLUSIONS :

- Return international economy flights, taxes and current fuel surcharges (unless a land only option is selected)
- All accommodation
- Meals as stated
- All sightseeing and entrance fees
- All transportation and transfers
- English-speaking Local Guides
- Specialist advice from our experienced travel consultants

The only things you may have to pay for are personal expenditures e.g. drinks, optional excursions or shows, insurance of any kind, customary tipping, meals not included, early check-in or late check out and other items not specified on the itinerary.

TOUR & BEACH:

These tours are designed for those who wish to see the iconic sites and magnificent treasures of Southeast Asia on an excellent value group tour whilst travelling with like-minded people. You will be accompanied by our dedicated and professional National Escort and local guides throughout the tour section of the itinerary (Day 1 – 7), whose unparalleled knowledge will turn your holiday into an unforgettable experience. The beach segment of the itinerary (Day 8 – 12) will be on a bed and breakfast basis and will allow you to enjoy time at leisure. This well-balanced itinerary combines Thailand's most famous sights with the laid-back island atmosphere of Phuket, offering an ideal mix of exploration and relaxation.

PHYSICAL LEVEL 1:

Our tours come with a physical rating to guide you in selecting a holiday that suits your comfort level. Joining any of our tours involves independent mobility and the ability to stay active throughout the day, which is essential for fully enjoying the unique charm of each destination.

‘Treasures of Thailand & Phuket Beach’ falls under a Physical Level 1 category. This indicates a level of fitness that allows you to comfortably remain on your feet with occasional rests. Expect to effortlessly navigate boarding and disembarking from various modes of transport, including coaches, trains, and boats. You'll be walking around remarkable sites and ascending steps to capture those awe-inspiring views!

Please Consider:

- Sightseeing may often involve walking for a reasonable duration, sometimes over multiple steps, or uneven surfaces.
- Boarding and alighting from various boat sizes independently is part of the experience.

Our National Escort is dedicated to providing a high level of service and support throughout your journey. However, their primary role is to manage the daily aspects of the tour. They are unable to offer extensive personal physical assistance. We kindly ask our travelers to be prepared for the physical aspects of the tour to ensure a comfortable and enjoyable experience for everyone.

ITINERARY CHANGES:

We intend to adhere to the day-to-day itinerary as printed; however, the order of events or sightseeing may change as we look to improve our tours, or as dictated by local conditions. In these circumstances, we will endeavour to make the best possible arrangements whilst maintaining the integrity of your trip.

DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 1: Fly to Bangkok

Meals: D

Fly to Thailand's dynamic capital. You will be met at the airport by your Local Guide or National Escort. Together with all other group members who may be arriving at a similar time, travel to your hotel and check in.

Any time before this evening's dinner and welcome briefing is at leisure to start your explorations.



Destination Information

Bangkok – Bangkok has been Thailand's dominant city since the 18th century. It was established as the capital after the former one, Ayutthaya, was razed to the ground by the Burmese army. It was the centre point of the modernisation of Siam in the late 19th century, leading the introduction of rail transport, the printing press, healthcare and utilities infrastructure. With a population of over 10 million, the fast pace of the city can be intense; however, beneath the hustle and bustle, there are many hidden gems waiting to be discovered.

Day 2: Explore Bangkok

Meals: B, L, D

Begin your exploration in the historic heart of Bangkok. Visit the dazzling Grand Palace, once home to Thai kings, and continue to Wat Pho to see its reclining Buddha.

Step into the bustle of Chinatown, alive with markets and street food, before discovering a different side of the city by longtail boat. Cruise along the Chao Phraya River and its hidden canals, observing traditional riverside life and stopping at the vibrant Pak Khlong Talaat flower market.



Destination Information

Grand Palace – The Grand Palace is the city's most famous landmark. From 1782 until 1925, it was the official residence of the Kings of Siam; it is still used for many royal ceremonies and state events. In the Palace are several impressive buildings, including the Temple of the Emerald Buddha.

Temple of the Emerald Buddha – This royal chapel, found within the grounds of the Grand Palace, is one of the most sacred sites in Thailand. It houses a 26-inch-tall statue of the meditating Buddha; opinions differ as to whether it is made of jasper or jade, but it is believed to date to the 15th century. It is venerated as the palladium of Thailand; a protective figure which secures the country's safety.

Wat Pho – Wat Pho is one of Bangkok's oldest and largest temples. Experience the monk's chant as you explore the grounds of the complex, spread over some 80,000 square metres. The largest reclining Buddha and the largest collection of Buddha images are housed here.

Chinatown – Bangkok's Chinatown is one of the largest Chinatowns in the world, centered around Yaowarat Road in the Samphanthawong District. Established in 1782 alongside the founding of the current capital, the area serves as a major commercial hub for gold shops, traditional Chinese medicine, and wholesale markets. It is internationally recognized for its dense concentration of street food stalls and historic temples, reflecting the long-standing heritage of the city's Thai-Chinese community.

Day 3: Bridge over the River Kwai**Meals: B, L, D**

Travel southwest to witness one of Thailand's most unique sights, the Maeklong Railway Market, where stalls are swiftly dismantled as trains pass through. Continue to the famous Damnoen Saduak Floating Market, where traders sell goods directly from wooden boats along narrow canals.



Journey onwards to Kanchanaburi, a region steeped in wartime history. Visit the Thai-Burma Railway Centre to learn about the construction of the Death Railway, before seeing the iconic Bridge on the River Kwai and paying respects at the Allied War Cemetery.

Destination Information

Maeklong Railway Market - A open-air market with a little difference – set on the railway track! Enjoy the unique experience as you see the experienced vendors quickly pack up their stores as the train approaches.

Damnoen Saduak Floating Market - One of Thailand's most famous floating markets, consisting of a maze of narrow canals lined with sampans (small wooden boats) piled high with colourful fruit, street food and souvenirs. Hop in a longtail boat and soak up the atmosphere, watching as the traders entertain passersby.

Thai Burma Railway (Death Railway) - Japan invaded the then-neutral Thailand in 1941, and subsequently invaded Burma (now Myanmar), with the aim of seizing control of Burma from the UK. Japan's project aimed to connect Bangkok to Rangoon (Yangon) by rail to supply their troops. To complete such a huge undertaking, Japan used the forced labour of approximately 250,000 Southeast Asian civilians and over 60,000 Allied prisoners of war, who suffered under the brutal conditions. Over 100,000 of the victims died in its construction.

Allied War Cemetery – The last resting place of almost 7,000 prisoners of war. The graves here belong to British, Dutch and Australian PoWs who died while building the railway; the remains of the Americans were repatriated.

Day 4: Death Railway

Meals: B, L, D

This morning, visit Hellfire Pass, one of the most dramatic and moving sections of the railway, cut through solid rock under brutal conditions. Walk through the pass and explore the memorial museum, gaining a deeper understanding of this poignant history.

Later, enjoy a scenic train journey along the Death Railway, hugging cliffs and crossing wooden viaducts, with sweeping views over the surrounding jungle-clad valley.

**Destination Information**

Hellfire Pass - Constructed for the Burma Railway during the Japanese occupation of Thailand in the Second World War. This remote part of the railway was particularly hard to build due to the scale of rock-cutting required. Its name derived from the eerie glow produced by the torches at night.

Day 5: Ayutthaya

Meals: B, L, D

Travel to Ayutthaya, the former capital of Siam and now a UNESCO-listed archaeological site. Discover atmospheric temple ruins, including Wat Chaiwattanaram, with its Khmer-style towers, and Wat Phra Sri Sanphet, once part of the royal palace complex.

Continue to the elegant Bang Pa-In Summer Palace, a striking blend of Thai, Chinese and European architecture set within landscaped gardens. Later, return to Bangkok and fly north to Chiang Mai.

**Destination Information**

Ayutthaya – Founded in 1350, Ayutthaya served as the second capital of the Siamese Kingdom and grew into a global center of trade and diplomacy before its destruction in 1767. Today, the Ayutthaya Historical Park is a UNESCO World Heritage Site featuring expansive ruins, including monumental brick towers (prangs) and significant Buddhist monasteries.

Chiang Mai – Nestled among high mountains, Chiang Mai is the largest and most culturally significant city in northern Thailand. The city was founded in 1296 and was the capital of the Lanna Kingdom after Chang Rai. During the 20th century, Chiang Mai became a thriving centre for handicraft pottery, weaving, silverwork and woodcarving; however, tourism took over in the 1960s as the main source of income. Today, Chiang Mai is famous for its hilltribes, tea plantations and elephants.

Day 6: Elephant Sanctuary

Meals: B, L, D

Spend the morning at an ethical elephant sanctuary, where rescued elephants roam freely. Learn about conservation efforts and observe these gentle animals up close in their natural environment, a memorable and responsible wildlife experience.



In the afternoon, ascend the winding road to Wat Phra That Doi Suthep, one of northern Thailand's most sacred temples, perched high on a mountainside with sweeping views over Chiang Mai.

This evening, enjoy a traditional Khantoke dinner, accompanied by colourful performances showcasing northern Thailand's hill tribe cultures.

Destination Information

Elephant Sanctuary – Located in the lush mountains of Northern Thailand, Chiang Mai's elephant sanctuaries provide a protected environment for rescued elephants to live away from the logging and riding industries. Visitors can observe these gentle giants in their natural habitat while participating in ethical interactions like preparing supplemental food and walking alongside them through the forest.

Wat Phra That Doi Suthep – On top of a mountain overlooking the city, Wat Phra That Doi Suthep is one of Northern Thailand's most sacred and visually stunning temples. Visitors can reach the golden shrine by climbing a 306-step staircase flanked by ornate Naga serpents or by taking a convenient cable car. The site features a gleaming copper-plated chedi, emerald Buddha statues, and a panoramic viewing terrace that offers breathtaking views of the entire Chiang Mai valley.

Day 7: Fly to Phuket

Meals: B

Transfer to the airport and fly with the rest of your group, to south to Phuket, Thailand's largest island. On arrival, transfer to your resort and enjoy the rest of the day at leisure.



Please note, all guided touring ends on this day. On arrival in Phuket, you will be met by a representative who will escort you to your transfer. The remainder of your time on tour will be at leisure. Should you need any further assistance, an English-speaking representative will be contactable.

You will be travelling to Phuket with the same companions as on the previous days of your tour.

Destination Information

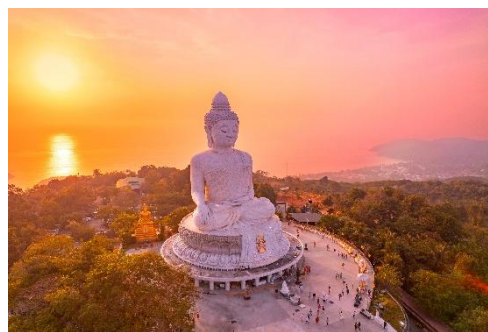
Phuket – Phuket is Thailand's largest island, located in the Andaman Sea and characterized by its mountainous terrain and world-famous white-sand beaches. The island serves as a major travel hub, offering a mix of luxury coastal resorts and the historic Old Phuket Town, which is known for its well-preserved Sino-Portuguese architecture.

Days 8- 11: **Phuket Beach Stay**

Meals: B

Begin your free time in Phuket by relaxing on the soft sands of Kata Beach or take a stroll along the coastline.

You may wish to visit the Big Buddha, where panoramic views stretch across the island, or explore the colourful streets of Old Phuket Town, known for its charming architecture and laid-back cafés. Alternatively, stay in your resort and enjoy a traditional Thai massage or spend time by the pool soaking up the tropical sunshine.



Phang Nga Bay is also just a short boat trip away, famous for its limestone karsts and emerald waters—ideal for a relaxed day of scenic cruising. For a cultural touch, visit Wat Chalong, the island's most important Buddhist temple, or browse local markets for handicrafts and souvenirs.

Days 12-14: **Depart Phuket**

Meals: B

Transfer to the airport for your return flight, arriving home the same or following day.

TREASURES OF THAILAND & PHUKET BEACH TRAVEL INFORMATION

VISAS:

New Zealand passport holders do not need a visa for Thailand if they are travelling for less than 30 days for tourist purposes.

However, all guests travelling to Thailand must complete a mandatory Digital Arrival card (online e-immigration application) within 3 days prior to their arrival. Please see this website for further details: <https://tdac.immigration.go.th/arrival-card/>

Please note the visa procedures and requirements may change at any time. These changes are often made by the relevant embassy or consulate; Wendy Wu Tours acts as a third party and has no influence on the process of a visa. Wendy Wu Tours does not accept responsibility for lost or undelivered items.

INSURANCE:

We strongly recommend that you take out a policy as soon as you pay your deposit. Wendy Wu Tours cannot in any way be made liable for any additional cost incurred by the customer on any tour due to the customer not having adequate travel insurance.

We also encourage all customers to take a copy of their travel insurance documents (especially relevant international contact numbers) with them while on tour. We advise that you check the inclusions and procedures for lodging claims prior to your departure. These documents should be stored separately from the original.

EATING IN SOUTHEAST ASIA:

Southeast Asia is home to an incredibly rich food history. The local cuisine is known for its intense flavours, spices and some of the freshest ingredients you can find. In general, meals include either rice or noodles and are packed full of flavour. Lemongrass, ginger, lime leaves, coriander, fish sauce and soy sauce are used in most local dishes. Whilst Southeast Asian food has a reputation for being hot and spicy, each region actually has its own distinct characteristics.

Your itinerary has been carefully crafted to introduce you to a range of local dishes and we hope that you enjoy the culinary adventure ahead. All meals (excluding drinks) are included in our fully inclusive group tours from dinner on the day of your group's arrival until breakfast on your day of departure. When dining in Southeast Asia, although some restaurants have adopted a western approach to dining, expect some restaurants to follow the traditional communal style of eating. Typically, this will mean each diner has their own small bowl and may serve themselves from a variety of shared dishes. At some local restaurants, appetizers and main courses might be served when they are ready instead of following a particular order.

Determining when it's appropriate to use chopsticks, forks or spoons can be challenging for some travellers, even other Asians, as each country has different customs. In Vietnam, dishes are normally placed in the centre and people serve food for themselves with their own chopsticks and bowl. In Thailand and some other countries in Southeast Asia, fork and spoon are used for most dishes and chopsticks are typically provided to eat noodles. Usually chopsticks or other utensils are provided to scoop the food into your bowl to prevent your own chopsticks from touching the food that remains on the table. Dining in Southeast Asia is fairly casual with not too many rules. Leaving food on the plate is not considered rude.

Those with dietary requirements - just make sure to inform your booking agent of any specific requirements well in advance of your trip. Please read your travel guide, which you will receive with your final documents for more information about eating in Southeast Asia. We recommend that when it comes to Asia food, you stay open minded and try to be adventurous!

GROUP SIZE:

Most of our groups consist of 10 travellers or more and will be accompanied by a National Escort. There will usually be no more than 28 travellers in a Classic Tour group, although you may encounter other Wendy Wu tour groups while you are travelling.

All our departures are guaranteed to operate with a minimum of 8 travellers booked (unless cancelled due to factors beyond our control). However, at our discretion we may operate departures with a smaller group size as we try to operate advertised departures wherever it is viable to do so. For groups with fewer than 10 travellers, departures will operate with local guides only.

ACCOMMODATION:

Your accommodation is selected for convenience of location, comfort or character, and can range from a business hotel in one city to a family run guesthouse in a smaller town. In more remote areas, accommodation may be of a lower standard and may not have all western amenities.

Hotels on our tours are generally rated as local three to four-star standard, but please note that there is no international classification system for hotels and differences in facilities and quality do exist between New Zealand and Southeast Asia. All group tour hotels have private western bathroom facilities, air conditioning, TV and telephone. Plumbing and electricity supplies can be erratic and quite often the power in hotel rooms is turned off while guests are out of the room. If you experience any difficulty, please speak to your National Escort/Local Guide.

BEYOND KATA RESORT INFORMATION IN PHUKET:

Set right on the sands of Kata Beach, Beyond Kata offers a relaxed beachfront stay on Phuket's west coast. The resort is surrounded by tropical gardens, with comfortable rooms featuring air-conditioning and private balconies. Facilities include a swimming pool, spa, fitness centre, and a choice of three restaurants and bars.

The resort is around one hour from Phuket International Airport and about 25 minutes from Patong Beach, giving you easy access to livelier areas while still enjoying a quieter setting. The shops, cafés and restaurants of Kata Beach are just a short walk away, making it easy to explore at your own pace. Take in panoramic views from Karon Viewpoint, visit the iconic Big Buddha, or discover the island's spiritual side at Wat Chalong. For something more local, wander the colourful streets of Old Phuket Town or enjoy a quieter stretch of sand at Kata Noi Beach.

With its beachfront location and convenient setting, Beyond Kata is a great option for those looking to combine relaxation with easy access to some of Phuket's key highlights.

PORTERAGE:

Please be aware that portering is not included on our tours in Southeast Asia. You will therefore need to be able to handle your own luggage within the hotel and when using transportation like trains and coaches.

TRANSPORT:

Coaches: Coaches with air conditioning are used on our group tours for city sightseeing, short excursions to the countryside and longer transfers where necessary. However, mini buses may be used for smaller groups (under 10 passengers). In parts of Northern Thailand – where roads are often narrow, steep, or poorly maintained – smaller vans or minibuses are frequently required. Depending on group size, in areas where large coaches cannot operate, the group may be split into separate vehicles. Roads in Southeast Asia have generally improved over recent years, but traffic and/or weather conditions may extend driving times.

Road construction work usually covers an enormous section of road - not just one or two kilometres as you may be used to. For this reason, the timings listed in the itinerary are approximations only.

Planes: Internal flights are based on economy class, with reputable airlines.

TIPPING POLICY:

Tipping while on holiday is common in most parts of the world and Southeast Asia is no exception. However, it is not always clear who it is appropriate to tip and how much. Furthermore, travellers may not have the right amounts of cash available at the right time. In order to avoid any inconvenience Wendy Wu Tours operates a tipping policy where a stated amount is given to your national escort at the beginning of your tour and tips are disbursed to local guides and drivers throughout your tour. The amount is designed to be at a reasonable level for travellers while being fair to the local people and includes a gratuity for the National Escort.

If you are travelling in a smaller group with local guides only, then tipping is paid in each destination. To be fair to the guides we ask for slightly higher amounts per traveller with small groups.

We generally find that most customers appreciate the convenience of our tipping policy but we do recognize that it may not suit everyone. However, as this is a group tour we ask that everyone follows the same protocol to be fair to other group members and to ensure smooth operation of your tour.

DEVELOPMENT IN SOUTHEAST ASIA:

Although Southeast Asia is developing quickly, it still lacks the international standards of civil infrastructure and tourist facilities. Concepts of personal responsibility are also different to those in New Zealand. Consequently, tourist and public facilities may not uphold the same safety standards as in New Zealand; for example, you may see a hole in the road without a warning sign or safety barricade. All our suppliers meet local safety standards as a minimum. We want you to have an enjoyable holiday, so we ask that you take extra care, use your common sense, refer to notices and follow advice from your guide.

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS:

If you are travelling within the below Thailand Public Holidays, please note that celebrations can last a couple of days and during these times some businesses will be closed and coach, air and train travel may be affected. Chakri Memorial Day - 6th April (if 6th April falls on a weekend, Chakri is observed on the following Monday); Songkran Festival usually 12th – 16th April; Labour Day - 1st May; Coronation Day – 6th May; the King's Birthday – 29th July; the Queen's Birthday - 12th August; Chulalongkorn Day – 23rd October.

SOUVENIRS:

We want to be able to give you an opportunity to buy souvenirs, so we include some stops at museums or exhibitions which demonstrate a craft or product unique to that region with pieces available to buy. We understand that souvenir hunting is not for everyone, so we aim to take you to places, which hold local interest. We trust you will enjoy these opportunities to learn about local arts and crafts and understand their historical and cultural importance.

CLIMBING STEPS:

Sightseeing at nearly all of the palaces, fortresses and some temples involves climbing quite a number of steps. These palaces were built to provide defense against potential invaders so nearly all of them stand on top of a hill, while the interiors have layers of narrow hallways and steps to slow down the advance of enemies once they were inside. The steps tend to be quite large, not level and sometimes without handrails. Hindu and Buddhist temples or pagodas also tend to be built at an elevation, as this is the most auspicious position according to ancient beliefs. This means you sometimes need to walk from the bus park to the entrance, and/or need to climb some steps inside.

People with knee or hip injuries, who have poor balance or are otherwise unable to complete these activities independently should consider the suitability of this itinerary carefully.

VACCINATIONS AND YOUR HEALTH:

We recommend that you contact either your doctor or local Health Centre for advice on vaccinations and travel health. Safe Travel has a comprehensive website that you may also find useful www.safetravel.govt.nz

BEFORE YOU LEAVE:

We strongly recommend registering your travel plans with www.safetravel.govt.nz as in the event of an emergency, New Zealand Consular assistance will be more readily available.

Up until the day you travel, it is vital you keep up to date and familiarised with the entry requirements as these can change at short notice. You are personally responsible for completing any entry forms, conducting any covid tests (if necessary), etc and adhering to countries' specific entry requirements.

You can also access the New Zealand Government's travel advisory service for up-to-date information about your destination on the same website.

AFTER YOUR BOOKING:

Once you have booked with Wendy Wu Tours, you will receive a confirmation invoice including a visa application form (if applicable), and a help sheet. Your final documentation pack will be sent to you approximately 2-3 weeks prior to departure.

Updated: August 2026