



# Bangkok 2012... "Land of a 1,000 Smiles"

Make plans now to visit Thailand . . . the "Land of a Thousand Smiles". The RI Board selected **Bangkok**, the vibrant capital of Thailand, as the site for the 2012 Rotary International Convention. Known as the "City of Angels", Bangkok's culture, cuisine and traditions attract millions of international visitors annually and have earned it the top rating of "World's #1 Best City" for the past three years by *Travel + Leisure* magazine.

Thailand is ready and waiting to welcome you to their amazing country. The Thai government has rolled out the welcome mat for Rotarians worldwide by providing Rotary International with a \$9.4 million grant to help underwrite convention expense resulting in the lowest convention registration fee in 25+ years (**\$160**) if you register by **Dec. 1, 2011**.

## Why attend a Rotary Convention?

If you ask Rotarians why you should attend an International convention, you'll get many opinions but in almost every case they'll tell you it is an unparalleled opportunity to do the following:

- Learn about successful and innovative projects that your club can replicate.
- Learn firsthand about all of the changes that are happening in Rotary
- Be inspired and motivated by internationally known speakers
- Build lifelong friendships with people who share your vision for a better world
- Experience the true "internationality of Rotary" in a place where the entire Rotary world comes together.

## Visa Requirements

Rotarians from the US and Canada visiting Thailand will be able to do so with no difficulty. First, make sure your passport is current and won't expire either just prior to or during your trip. Second, the US and

Canada are on the list of countries that are "exempt" and do not require an entry visa as long as your stay in Thailand will **not be more than 30 days**. If you are planning an extended stay, an appropriate entry visa must be obtained in advance (4-6 months is recommended) from a Thai diplomatic or consular mission.

## Get the "basics" out of the way

Be sure to take care of the following very important tasks early to insure your convention experience will be everything you anticipate once you arrive. If, in the end it is not possible for you to attend, you can cancel everything as long as you do so before March 1, 2012.

- **REGISTER ONLINE:** (using Member Access) before December 1 to be sure you'll receive the early registration discount (\$160). After this date, registration increases significantly. Register online at <http://www.rotary.org>
- **RESERVE YOUR HOTEL ROOM!** This is very important. Some hotels are already sold out. Hotel rates in Bangkok are much lower than for the past few RI conventions. Book your reservation now to ensure that you will get the hotel that you want.
- **ORDER YOUR HOC EVENT TICKETS:** Visit the Host Organizing committee web site <http://www.rotaryconvention2012.org> to order tickets for the various events that the HOC is planning. These, too, traditionally sell out early so reserve them early.
- **MONITOR AIR FARE:** Sign up to get notifications of fare changes on a web site like <http://www.airfarewatchdog.com> and be sure to use the RI Convention discount with United and the Star alliance partners.

**Next Month . . .** Peace Symposium, International Institute, transportation info and more . . .