



INSIDER ACCESS & INSPIRATIONS
SOUTHEAST ASIA

CONTENTS



Unlock centuries of history, art, culture and nature with our selection of Insider Access and inspirational cultural moments by Akorn Southeast Asia.

THAILAND [3](#)

VIETNAM [14](#)

CAMBODIA [25](#)

LAOS [34](#)

INDONESIA [44](#)



INSIDER ACCESS & INSPIRATIONS
THAILAND



AKORN MOMENTS THAILAND

"I love taking time to explore the backstreets of Talad Noi. The old neighborhood beside the Chao Phraya River has an interesting mix of trendy cafés, boutique shops, street art and heritage **houses.**"
- Jean-Baptiste Richard, Vice President DMCs – Northeast & Southeast Asia

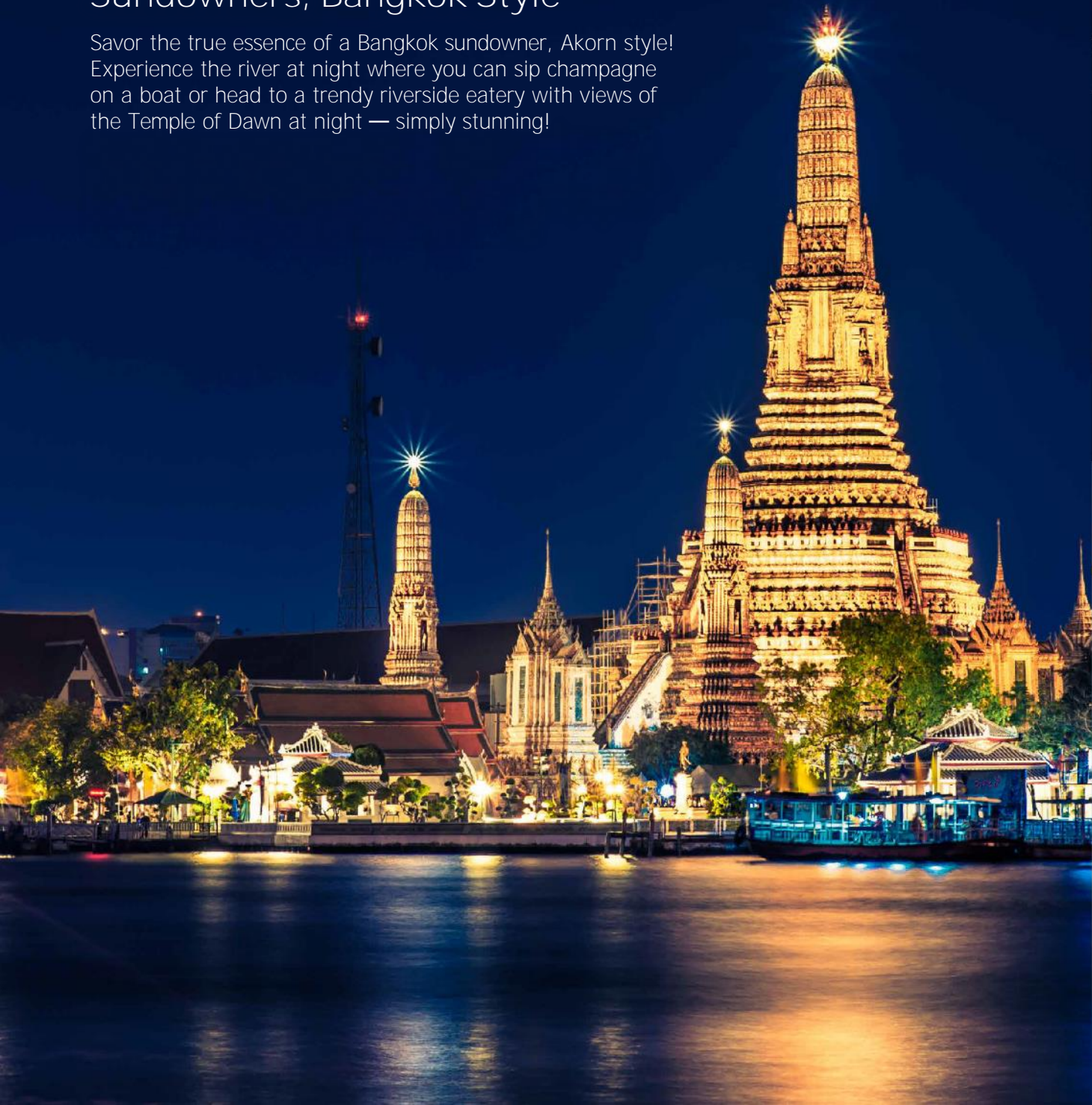
"I highly recommend exploring **Bangkok's** riverside where you can take a boat to discover communities on the canal and admire the beautiful Wat Arun, one of my favorite Thai temples, especially at **sunset.**"
- Cholthicha Martnok, Destination Specialist

"**Chiang** Mai is the gateway to northern Thailand and I love exploring the lush landscapes, small traditional communities and, of course, spending time with the **nation's** largest residents: the Asian **elephant.**"
- Xavier Robles, General Manager, DMC – Thailand

"From my personal experience of traveling around my country, one of my all-time favorites is Chiang Mai in northern Thailand. The perfect combination of charming Lanna culture surrounded by lush nature always fills my soul!"
- Rattasit Wejsuwanmanee, Destination Specialist Supervisor

Sundowners, Bangkok Style

Savor the true essence of a Bangkok sundowner, Akorn style! Experience the river at night where you can sip champagne on a boat or head to a trendy riverside eatery with views of the Temple of Dawn at night — simply stunning!



Gardens and Communities of Old Bangkok

Explore hidden gardens, shrines and residential communities in an old part of Bangkok where you discover a mosque and a Confucian temple as well as old **merchant's** houses, eclectic street art and rice barns.





Morning with Monks: A Bangkok Blessing

Each morning, Thai monks chant ancient Pali scriptures, filling the air with an almost hypnotic sound. Experience an exclusive Akorn morning at a small Buddhist temple just beyond **Bangkok's** Grand Palace walls for an insight into this daily practice and a personal, spiritual blessing from a senior monk.

Thai History and Heritage by Helicopter

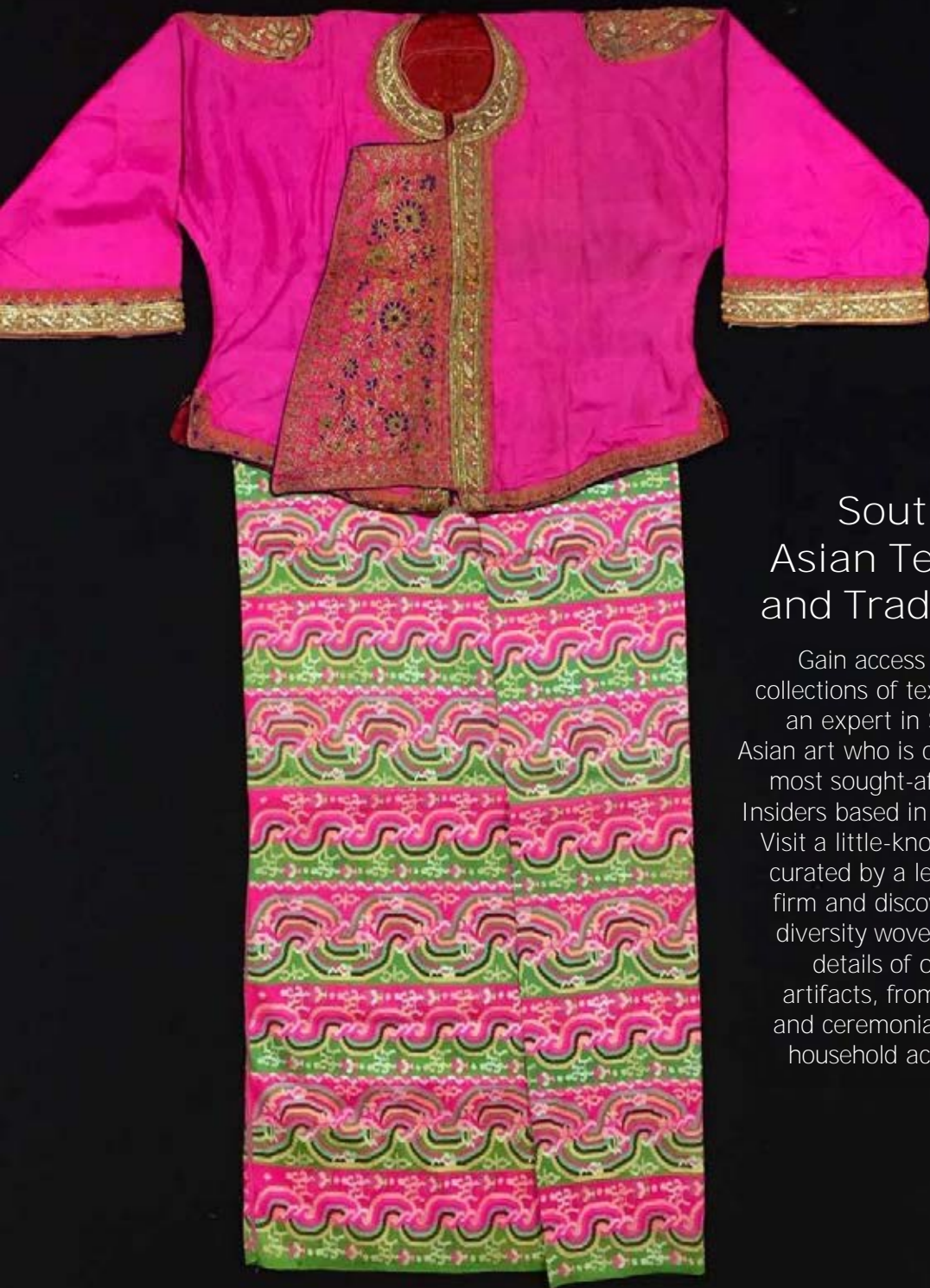
Take off on an exhilarating aerial adventure over the ancient city of Ayutthaya on a scenic helicopter flight for a birds-eye perspective of historical temples, relics and red brick ruins. Watch the landscapes unfold around you as you fly overhead, then head back toward the helipad in Bangkok.



Muay Thai Champion Challenge

Get your heart pumping with a fun and energetic workout at a rooftop training venue in downtown Bangkok. Learn to punch and kick like a champion Muay Thai (Thai boxing) fighter with help from a specialized personal fitness trainer. Then soothe your body and soul with a Pure Blend Oil Body Massage and a well-earned smoothie.



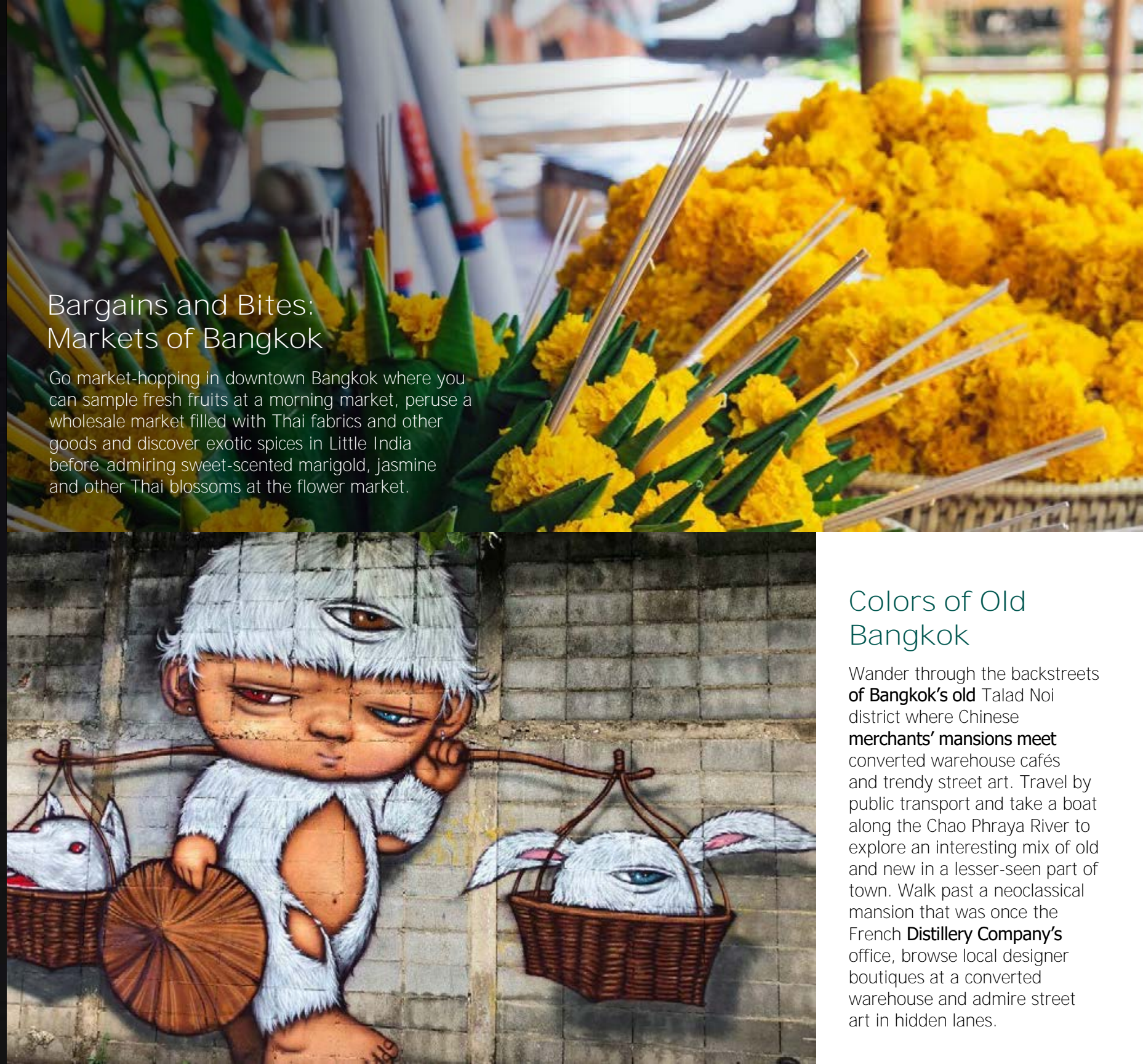


Southeast Asian Textiles and Traditions

Gain access to private collections of textiles with an expert in Southeast Asian art who is one of our most sought-after Akorn Insiders based in Bangkok. Visit a little-known venue curated by a leading law firm and discover ethnic diversity woven into the details of over 2,000 artifacts, from clothing and ceremonial items to household accessories.

Bargains and Bites: Markets of Bangkok

Go market-hopping in downtown Bangkok where you can sample fresh fruits at a morning market, peruse a wholesale market filled with Thai fabrics and other goods and discover exotic spices in Little India before admiring sweet-scented marigold, jasmine and other Thai blossoms at the flower market.



Colors of Old Bangkok

Wander through the backstreets of Bangkok's old Talad Noi district where Chinese merchants' mansions meet converted warehouse cafés and trendy street art. Travel by public transport and take a boat along the Chao Phraya River to explore an interesting mix of old and new in a lesser-seen part of town. Walk past a neoclassical mansion that was once the French **Distillery Company's** office, browse local designer boutiques at a converted warehouse and admire street art in hidden lanes.



Sak Yant: The Sacred Tattoo

This is your chance to experience a sacred **"Sak Yant"** ritual and be inked by a master who has blessed the likes of Angelina Jolie and other international celebrities. This age-old tattoo tradition is believed to bring good luck to the wearer and was used to protect Thai warriors on ancient battlefields.



Bangkok After Dark

Enjoy a progressive dining evening in a trendy old part of town, traveling by electric tuk tuk through the **city's** backstreets. Sip a cocktail at a 200-year-old warehouse beside the Chao Phraya River, taste **Bangkok's** best satay skewers and savor traditional Thai fare and classic, Asian-inspired cuisine at an old Chinese shophouse with a jazzy, modern vibe before ending at the rooftop of a floral studio which transforms into a rustic urban bar at night.

Tribal Culture

Experience ancient hill tribe healing rituals with a village Shaman in a remote ethnic community in northern Thailand and discover curing elements at the **community's** herbal garden. Complete the experience with lunch at a tea plantation, learn all about tea culture in the scenic countryside.



Chiang Mai's Blissful Morning Blessings

Experience the perfect morning with Akorn in Chiang Mai, away from the tourist crowd. Be blessed by a monk and enjoy a picnic breakfast beside a quiet temple overlooking the city. Engage in spiritual traditions and morning rituals during this private journey to lesser-visited temples, a hidden waterfall and the famous Wat Phra That Doi Suthep temple at the top of a mountain.



Northern Thai Foodie Favorites

Spend a day with Akorn's Culinary Insider, a connoisseur of northern Thai cuisine who was once featured in Anthony Bourdain's "Parts Unknown" television series. Taste your way through Chiang Mai, visiting favorite foodie spots, from a fresh food market and an artisanal coffee roaster to a noodle maker, local eateries and a night market.



Cooking at a Thai Home Kitchen

Become your own Thai chef and learn about northern Thai culinary traditions at a home kitchen surrounded by herb and spice gardens. Prepare a selection of local favorites using insights from a professional chef, then enjoy your self-made meal in the scenic garden studio.



The Hills Are Alive

Visit the Mae Rim district of north-western Chiang Mai where sustainable agriculture meets traditional lifestyle. Meet local farmers growing fresh tomatoes, strawberries and artichokes and learn about the Royal Projects, an initiative by the Thai royal family to improve the livelihoods of hill tribe communities.



Tribal Textiles

Make your own traditional Ikat fabric using a typical Southeast Asian tie-and-dye technique. With guidance from our Akorn Insider and textiles expert, learn how to extract natural reds, blues and greens from garden plants and craft your own design piece using age-old practices.



Diving into **Thailand's** Underwater World

Watch the catfish, giant pufferfish weave in and out of underwater gardens as sea turtles, rays and whale sharks glide across the water nearby. The Gulf of Thailand enjoys sunshine and good weather throughout most of the year, from January to September. Take a private speedboat or Catamaran to the Japanese Gardens, just off the coast of Koh Tao, to dive or snorkel in the shallow waters teeming with coral, parrotfish, bannerfish, banded sea snakes and more!

Exclusive Stays

Akorn provides access to a range of top hotels, authentic boutique accommodations and unique villa stays. Ask about our exclusive amenities ranging from complimentary room upgrades, dining credits, welcome amenities and spa privileges. We personally vet every property that we recommend to ensure the best quality and standards to enhance your client's travel experience.

Pa Sak Tong Estate, Chiang Rai

MEET A FEW OF OUR AKORN INSIDERS

*"We know the people who share the same passions as your travelers.
Connect with our circle of Insiders, Experts and Local Tastemakers in Southeast **Asia**."*
- Jean-Baptiste Richard, Vice President DMCs – Northeast & Southeast Asia



Antiques

Specializing in Southeast Asian art, antiques and textiles, our Antiques Insider is an independent scholar who regularly contributes to the Siam Society and Thai Textiles Society. Having grown up in a remote village of northern Thailand, near the Myanmar border, the academic has a unique interest in Shan and Burmese textiles and offers informed perspectives on folk crafts, society and culture.



Traditional Crafts

Showcasing traditional weavers and craft-makers in northern Thailand, our Traditional Crafts Insider is a writer, photographer and filmmaker with a passion for handmade crafts and traditional hill tribe treasures. Having traveled to all corners of the country to collect rare pieces, this arts and crafts enthusiast is based in Chiang Mai and opens the doors to some of the **city's** local designer studios and boutique ateliers.



Cuisine

A celebrated chef and entrepreneur, our Culinary Insider is the founder of the Pok Pok restaurants in New York, Los Angeles and Portland. Originally from the U.S., the James Beard award-winning chef has been tasting, creating and studying Thai food culture since his first visit to Thailand in 1987. Specializing in northern Thai cuisine, the culinary expert led Anthony Bourdain on a Thai culinary adventure during the **"Parts Unknown"** television series and now calls Chiang Mai his permanent home.



Thai Street Food

Having tasted her way around the country, our Thai Street Food Insider is a writer and connoisseur of Bangkok's best eats. The Thai-American author appeared in Netflix's Street Food series and shares her favorite finds in her book, Thailand's Best Street Food. From noodles to desserts or classic Thai salads, she takes guests on a taste adventure to discover some of her favorite local spots, offering personalized experiences tailored to their individual tastes and preferences.



INSIDER ACCESS & INSPIRATIONS
VIETNAM



AKORN MOMENTS VIETNAM

"From thousands of years of history to vibrant cosmopolitan cities, there is so much to discover in Vietnam. Every region from north, central and south has its own special cuisine and even their own variety of pho (noodle soup). My favorite is the southern style which tends to be a little **sweeter**."

- Robert Rankin, General Manager, DMC – Vietnam

"Wandering around the Old Quarter of Hanoi is one of my favorite things to do. The city, with its hundred-year old houses and bustling streets, is known for its great culinary traditions such as bun cha noodles with grilled pork, pho noodle broth, steamed rice rolls and of course, the unique Hanoian egg coffee **drink**."

- Nguyen Thi Hoang Tran, Hanoi Branch Manager

"Whenever I have a chance, I love to hop on my scooter and ride through the countryside of Hue, stopping to enjoy the sunset and a glass of beer at one of my favorite scenic spots overlooking the Perfume **River**."

- Tuan Ngoc Doan, Da Nang Branch Manager

Vietnam Style: Chic and Cheerful

Explore **Vietnam's** trendy boutiques, designer craft stores and social enterprises that are putting Vietnamese artisans in the spotlight. The streets of Hanoi and Hoi An are brimming with innovative locally-made products, from tailor-made fashion to handmade wood and leather crafts, fine silks spun in **Vietnam's** central highlands and fair-trade tea from village plantations.



Inside **Hanoi's** Imperial University

Uncover seven centuries of knowledge at **Hanoi's** Temple of Literature with an Akorn Insider and scholar of Vietnamese history and Confucianism. Learn the hidden meaning behind the phoenix and dragon motifs and the how the five elements of fire, water, metal, wood and earth played a role in shaping this sacred institution that educated Vietnamese royalty for almost 700 years.



Taste of Hanoi

Savor Hanoi specialties like *banh cuon* (steamed rice paper rolls), *bun cha* (rice vermicelli with grilled pork broth) and more on this insider journey to discover the **city's** best street eats and authentic restaurants that only locals know about.

Wings Over Ha Long Bay

Fly by seaplane over Ha Long Bay. The one-hour flight is the fastest way to arrive at the picturesque bay and offers fabulous aerial views along the way. Experience the thrill of landing on water as the seaplane makes its approach towards the marina.



The Simple Life in Ky Son

Escape to Ky Son in the countryside of northern Vietnam near Hanoi where you can enjoy herbal massages and local cuisine at a quiet estate built in the style of Vietnamese tribal homes. Cycle through rice fields and ethnic villages to soak up the rural atmosphere and experience local temples and markets.



Igniting Creativity with Pyrography

Step into the studio and gallery of a Vietnamese artist who popularized the **genre of pyrography, or the "art of wood burning," in his country.** Hear his story during this live demonstration, where you can witness firsthand the artistry and technique behind his celebrated wood-burned creations. Take the opportunity to explore the gallery showcasing his completed works and delve deeper into his artistic journey.

Immersive Highland Culture and Trekking Trails

Trek across **Vietnam's** northern highlands where lush mountains and terraced rice fields are dotted with remote ethnic communities. Home to over 20 minority groups, this region is one of the most culturally diverse and naturally stunning areas of Vietnam. Meet villagers of Tay, Hmong and Xa Pho hill tribes and admire their distinctive costumes and architecture, then retreat to a comfortable, yet rustic lodge overlooking picture-postcard landscapes.



Hue Home and Heritage

Immerse in **Hue's** traditional lifestyle, culture and cuisine at an historic garden estate with four antique-filled houses set around leafy gardens and a half-moon lotus pond. Spend time with the charismatic owner, learning about the story of the house and its place in Hue history and society.



Private Motorbike Adventures

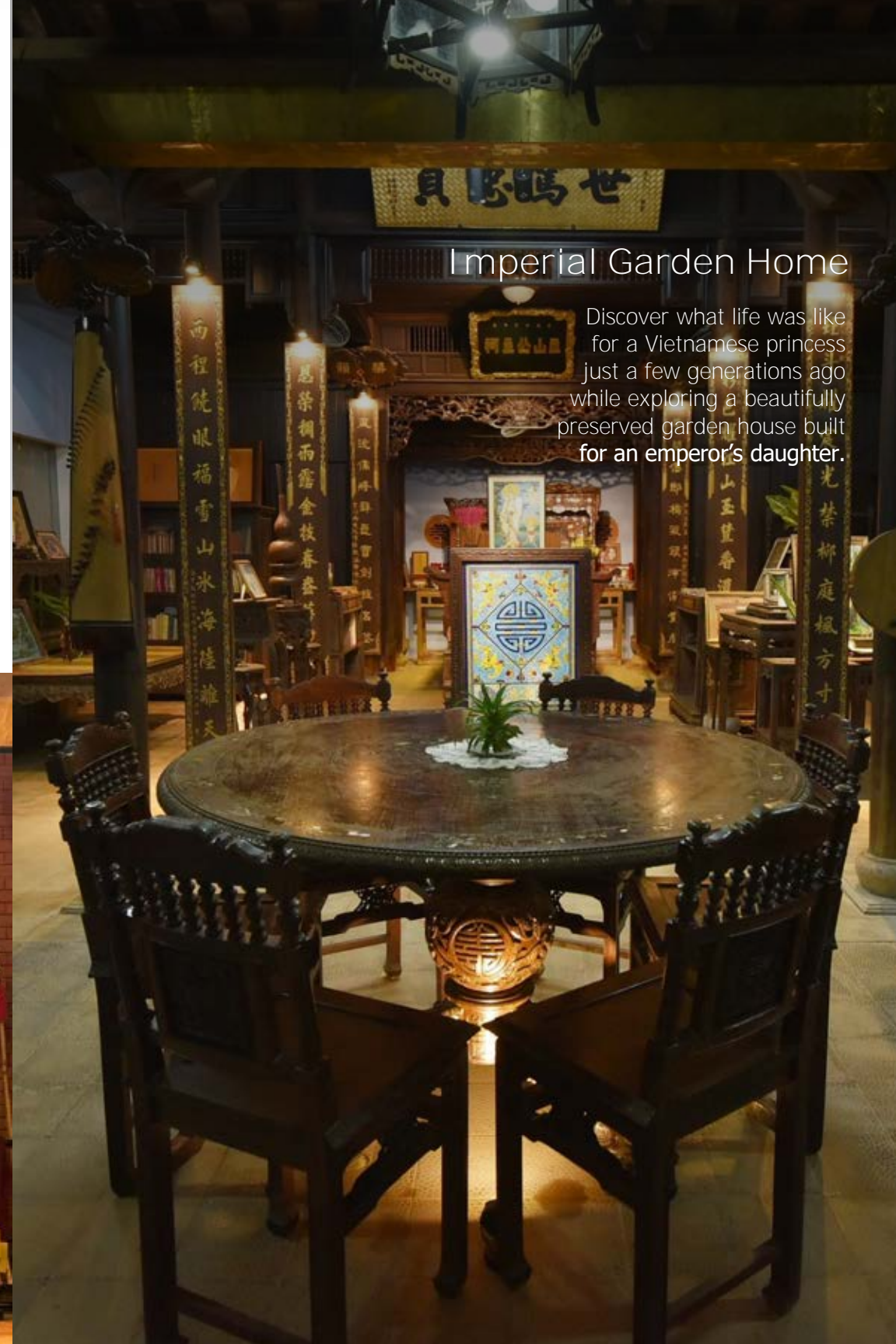
Experience Vietnam as locals do – on the back of a motorbike! Get to the heart of the action in the narrow backstreets of Ho Chi Minh City, the scenic countryside of Hoi An or Hue or the dynamic neighborhoods of Hanoi. Weave in and out of markets, pass by working rice farms and zip through lush forests on one of our exhilarating motorbike or scooter adventures.





Morning with a Vietnamese Chef

Discover Vietnamese culinary secrets with a celebrated local chef whose passion for food took him around the world, from Texas to Mexico, Europe and New Zealand. Back in his hometown, the chef offers a private cooking demonstration followed by a freshly prepared Vietnamese lunch at his home and cooking studio in Hoi An.



Imperial Garden Home

Discover what life was like for a Vietnamese princess just a few generations ago while exploring a beautifully preserved garden house built for an emperor's daughter.

Hue's Ancient Martial Arts

Learn the ancient art of Vo Kinh Van An, Hue's 200-year-old martial arts technique which was developed by mandarins in the Nguyen dynasty.



Carving a Life in Ho Chi Minh City

Tucked away in an old part of town, artisans chip away at large stone slabs, slowly shaping the image of Buddha. These images are often used to decorate shrines and temples across the country. Watch the craftsmen perform their sacred work while exploring life and heritage in Ho Chi Minh City's Cholon neighborhood.



Fruits of the Delta

Savor juicy grapefruit, mangoes and coconuts in the Mekong Delta, **Vietnam's "Land of Plenty"**. A few **hours'** drive or a boat ride from Ho Chi Minh City, this agricultural region is filled with sleepy canal-side villages, rice fields and fruit farms. Explore by bike and join one of the farming and fishing families for a home-made lunch featuring fresh fruits and vegetables from the garden.

Secrets of War

Get an inside look at Ho Chi Minh City's hidden wartime history, from a trapdoor leading to an underground weapons bunker, an apartment building that once housed the CIA headquarters and a secret command center located above a pho noodle restaurant.



Paradise Island: Con Dao

Home to some of Vietnam's finest beaches, Con Dao island is a secluded paradise just a short flight south of Ho Chi Minh City. With a sea turtle sanctuary and spectacular diving opportunities, the island is ideal for a relaxed getaway or a back-to-nature experience.



MEET A FEW OF OUR AKORN INSIDERS

*"We know the people who share the same passions as your travelers.
Connect with our circle of Insiders, Experts and Local Tastemakers in Southeast **Asia**."*
- Jean-Baptiste Richard, Vice President DMCs – Northeast & Southeast Asia



Post-War Recovery

Our Post-War Recovery Insider is a U.S. veteran who served as an intelligence analyst during the Vietnam War. After the war, he returned to Vietnam and established Project RENEW to help families who continue to struggle with the aftermath of the war and received a Friendship Medal from the Vietnamese government.



Confucianism

A scholar of Vietnamese history and education, our Confucianism Insider is a researcher and cultural expert who offers specialist knowledge of the Temple of Literature. Focusing on studies of historical documents and Vietnamese Confucian education, she contributes to the restoration and repair of national cultural heritage.



Art History

A self-taught painter, performance artist and practitioner of yoga and meditation, our Art History Insider offers a unique, personal and informed perspective on the influence of culture and society on Vietnamese art through time. Combining her knowledge of Buddhist principles with her artistic expression, she presents an infectious passion for her **nation's** history at the National Fine Arts Museum in Hanoi.



Gastronomy

A charismatic restaurateur and culinary connoisseur, our Gastronomic Insider is a celebrated Vietnamese chef who delivers some of the best dining experiences in Hoi An, on **Vietnam's** central coast. Having cooked his way around the world, from Texas to Mexico, Europe and New Zealand, the chef shares his immense passion for food and offers a unique and personal insight into the **nation's** rich and diverse culinary culture.

Exclusive Stays

Akorn provides access to a range of top hotels, authentic boutique accommodations and unique villa stays. Ask about our exclusive amenities ranging from complimentary room upgrades, dining credits, welcome amenities and spa privileges. We personally vet every property that we recommend to ensure the best quality and standards to enhance your client's travel experience.

Amanoi, Ninh Thuan, Central Vietnam



AKORN DESTINATION MANAGEMENT

INSIDER ACCESS & INSPIRATIONS CAMBODIA



AKORN MOMENTS CAMBODIA

"**Cambodia**, for me, is a Kingdom of Wonder, full of endless discoveries. I love taking a boat out to watch the birds and explore floating homes on Tonle Sap Lake, the largest freshwater lake in Southeast **Asia**."
- Chutima Lai U Dom, Sales Manager

"**Phnom** Penh is a modern city with a small town charm. There are temples and palaces to explore during the day, but the city is at its best when the sun goes down. I like to kick things off with cocktails at a rooftop bar followed by a Cambodian barbecue dinner and more cocktails at a little local speakeasy in Bassac **Lane**."
- Rattasit Wejsuwanmanee, Destination Specialist Supervisor

"**Walking** around the ruins and temples of Angkor is always inspiring. The great Bayon temple is one of my favorites. Its massive stone faces look out from every angle and I feel as though there is always someone watching; **it's** beautiful and mysterious at the same **time**."
- Siriporn Petchtaem, Senior Destination Specialist

Cambodia's Ethical Artisans

Connect with trend-setting ateliers, designers and craftsmen in Siem Reap with an A&K Insider and art curator as your guide. Meet artisans at the forefront of their craft, such as a lacquerware maker and a couture fashion designer who has collaborated with Yves Saint Laurent and Christian Lacroix.



Sunrise with Monks

Experience morning prayers at a hilltop temple that has stood over the landscape for over a thousand years. Hear the **monks'** purification chant fill the air and receive a blessing from the abbot as the dawn begins to spill over the horizon.



The Gift of Clean Water

Get involved with a philanthropic Clean Water project which has impacted the lives of over 22,500 villagers in rural Siem Reap. Your donation helps a local family gain access to clean water and you have a chance to meet them during your time in Cambodia.



● Cambodia's Living Lake

Kayak through mangroves and watch water birds forage for food in the vast expanse of Tonle Sap Lake. A short drive from Siem Reap, the lake is the life blood of the country and many farmers and fishermen rely on its ebb and flow to earn their livelihoods. The best time to visit is between July and February when the water level is high.



Khmer Tastes of Siem Reap

Get ready for a dine around town experience, traveling to some of Siem **Reap's** best restaurants in your own private tuk tuk. The evening includes cocktails at one of Siem **Reap's** funkiest bars, appetizers at a Khmer house and garden, mains at an authentic home-style eatery and dessert at a contemporary Cambodian venue.



Journey to a Lost Temple

This is one of **Cambodia's** best-kept secrets – a magnificent temple that rivals Angkor Wat in both size and grandeur but is far less-visited. Travel past small villages in the remote Cambodian countryside to discover Banteay Chhmar and enjoy a simple lunch amid the 12th-century ruins.



Cycle the Cambodian Countryside

Hop on a bike to explore rice fields and plantations in the rural Cambodian countryside. This is a great opportunity to go beyond the Angkorian temples and explore scenic fields and farmland off the beaten path.

Sunset by Gondola

Take time to slow down and enjoy a sunset gondola ride on the moat of Angkor Thom. Built in a style that dates back to Jayavarman VII, the traditional Khmer gondola takes you on a one-hour ride along the outer wall of the old, 12th-century city.





Phnom Penh Perspectives

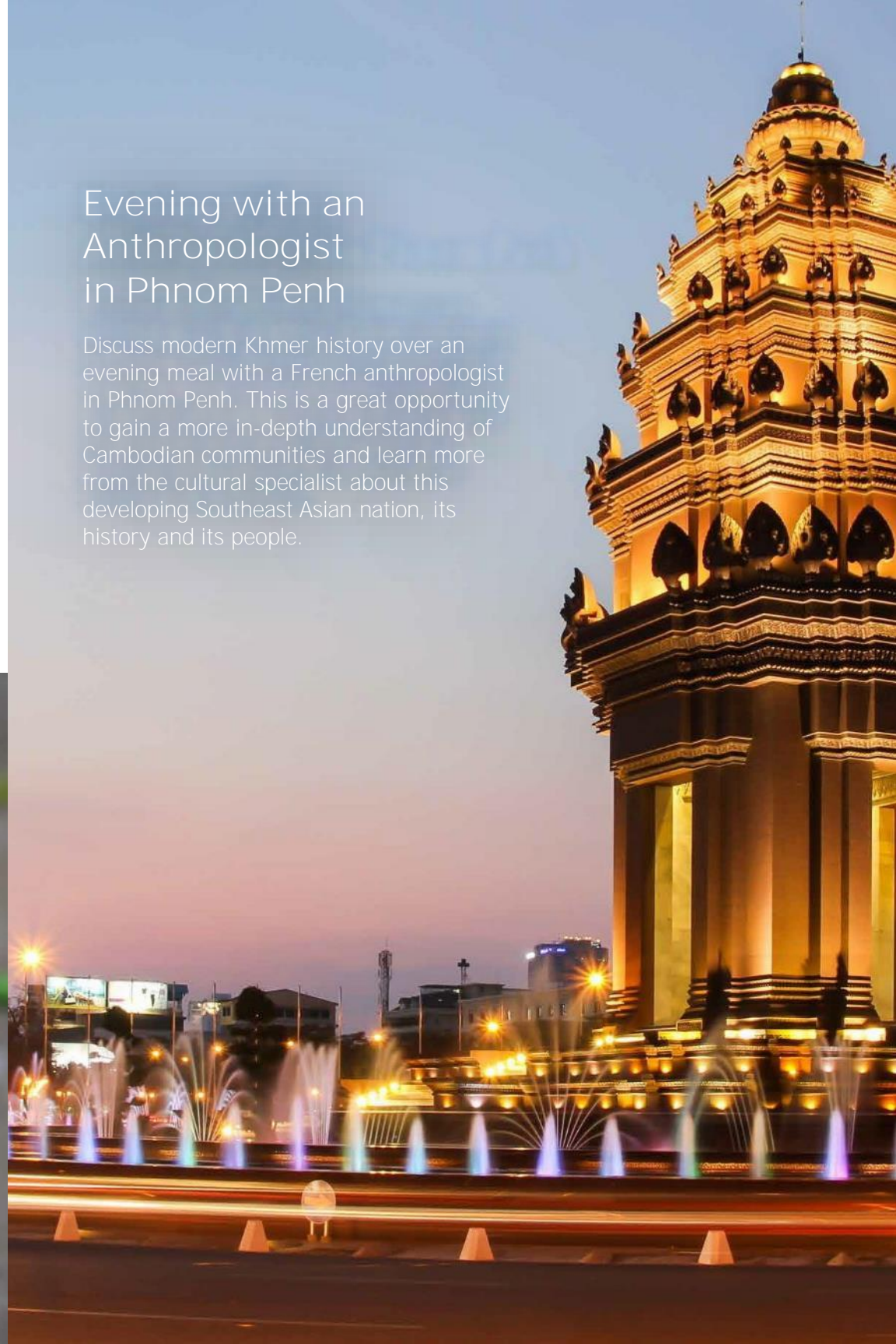
Discover Phnom Penh's multi-faceted story, from its regal, artistic and spiritual heritage to the tragedies that occurred under the Khmer Rouge. Explore centuries of Khmer art, visit the Grand Palace and historical temples and witness the site of the **nation's** greatest tragedy.

Evening with an Anthropologist in Phnom Penh

Discuss modern Khmer history over an evening meal with a French anthropologist in Phnom Penh. This is a great opportunity to gain a more in-depth understanding of Cambodian communities and learn more from the cultural specialist about this developing Southeast Asian nation, its history and its people.

Cooking with a Khmer Chef

Learn the art of Khmer cuisine with a Cambodian chef. Discover how to create authentic local flavors at one of Siem Reap's best restaurants and use time-honored methods to prepare typical Cambodian dishes such as fish amok, pomelo salad or fried vegetables.





Glamping in the Cambodian Wild

Venture into the wild jungles of Cambodia for a luxury tented camp experience just **two hours'** drive from Sihanoukville or one hour by helicopter from Phnom Penh. Bensley Collection - Shinta Mani Wild offers a remote back to nature escape that comes with personal butler service, unlimited spa treatments and immersive jungle activities, including patrolling with wildlife rangers, fishing in a nearby estuary and feasting on a gourmet barbecue in the forest.

MEET A FEW OF OUR AKORN INSIDERS

*"We know the people who share the same passions as your travelers.
Connect with our circle of Insiders, Experts and Local Tastemakers in Southeast **Asia.**"*
- Jean-Baptiste Richard, Vice President DMCs – Northeast & Southeast Asia



Culture

Based in Cambodia since the 1990s, our Cultural Insider specializes in oral traditions, mythology and social structures in modern Cambodia. Originally from France, the anthropologist offers a unique insight into the **nation's** people and traditions and completed a PhD on the spiritual and social dimensions of the Khmer communities living in the immediate vicinity of the ancient temples of Cambodia.



Contemporary Arts

Dedicated to promoting art and artists in Cambodia, our Contemporary Arts Insider is the founder of Anicca Foundation, an organization that highlights the Khmer spirit through all forms of artistic expression, from performance to visual and applied arts. By providing resources and exhibition spaces, the creative director makes an important contribution to the global art scene and facilitates the voices of young, up-and-coming Cambodian artists.



Khmer Crafts, Fashion & Design

Filling an artistic gap no one knew was there, our Khmer Arts, Fashion and Design Insider has been connecting travelers with artisans in Cambodia for over ten years. An avid collector herself, the dynamic curator works with a network of talented artisans in Siem Reap and is always involved in the latest arts, design and fashion trends.



Cuisine

An entrepreneur and specialist in Khmer cuisine, our Culinary Insider is a Chinese-Cambodian chef who trained in high-end hotel kitchens in Phnom Penh before rising to the rank of Executive Chef and developing his own restaurant concept. The chef spent six months traveling around the country, collecting traditional recipes which he showcases on his well-crafted menu using fresh, farm-sourced ingredients.

Exclusive Stays

Akorn provides access to a range of top hotels, authentic boutique accommodations and unique villa stays. Ask about our exclusive amenities ranging from complimentary room upgrades, dining credits, welcome amenities and spa privileges. We personally vet every property that we recommend to ensure the best quality and standards to enhance your client's travel experience.



Song Saa Private Island, Koh Rong Archipelago

A person wearing a traditional conical hat and a light-colored shirt is walking through a field, carrying a long wooden pole across their shoulders. The pole is loaded with several bundles of rice seedlings, each with a dense root system. The person is walking from left to right, and the background is a lush, green field with tall grass and trees.

Akorn

AKORN DESTINATION MANAGEMENT

INSIDER ACCESS & INSPIRATIONS
LAOS

AKORN MOMENTS LAOS



"I love to go off the beaten track and explore the waterfalls and nature trails of southern Laos. **It's** a great place to unwind and simply take in the view of 4,000 islands in the Mekong River."
- Rattasit Wejsuwanmanee, Destination Specialist Supervisor

"Kuang Si Waterfall is my favorite place in Laos. The stunning blue water, gorgeous scenery and tropical forest setting is a vision that I will never **forget.**"
- Cholthicha Martnok, Destination Specialist

"**Luang** Prabang is a great place to slow down and reconnect with the simple life. I recommend waking up early to experience the daily tak bat almsgiving ritual with monks and exploring some of the **town's** beautifully-decorated temples."
- Chutima Lai U Dom, Sales Manager



A Crop to Bowl Experience

Get back to basics with this authentic “**crop to bowl**” experience at an organic Lao family farm. Discover **the farmer’s** prized crops and learn how to harvest rice to make sticky Lao noodles, or kaopun, which you can enjoy with the **family’s** aromatic broth.



A Mid-Life Crisis Turns to Cheese

What happens when a corporate executive from Australia and a pastry chef from the United States bond over a love of cheese? They develop **Laos’** first buffalo dairy farm! Enjoy a private meet and greet with the social entrepreneurs and taste their one-of-a-kind mozzarella, ricotta and feta cheese, plus ice creams and yogurt, all made from sustainably sourced Lao buffalo milk.



A Traditional Lao Blessing

Experience a private baci ceremony, an age-old Lao tradition said to bring good luck and happiness to the community. Join the villagers in a moment of prayer as the elder makes an offering to the spirits. The villagers complete the ritual by tying cotton strings around your wrists as a symbol of their blessings and well wishes.

Time Out with Locals

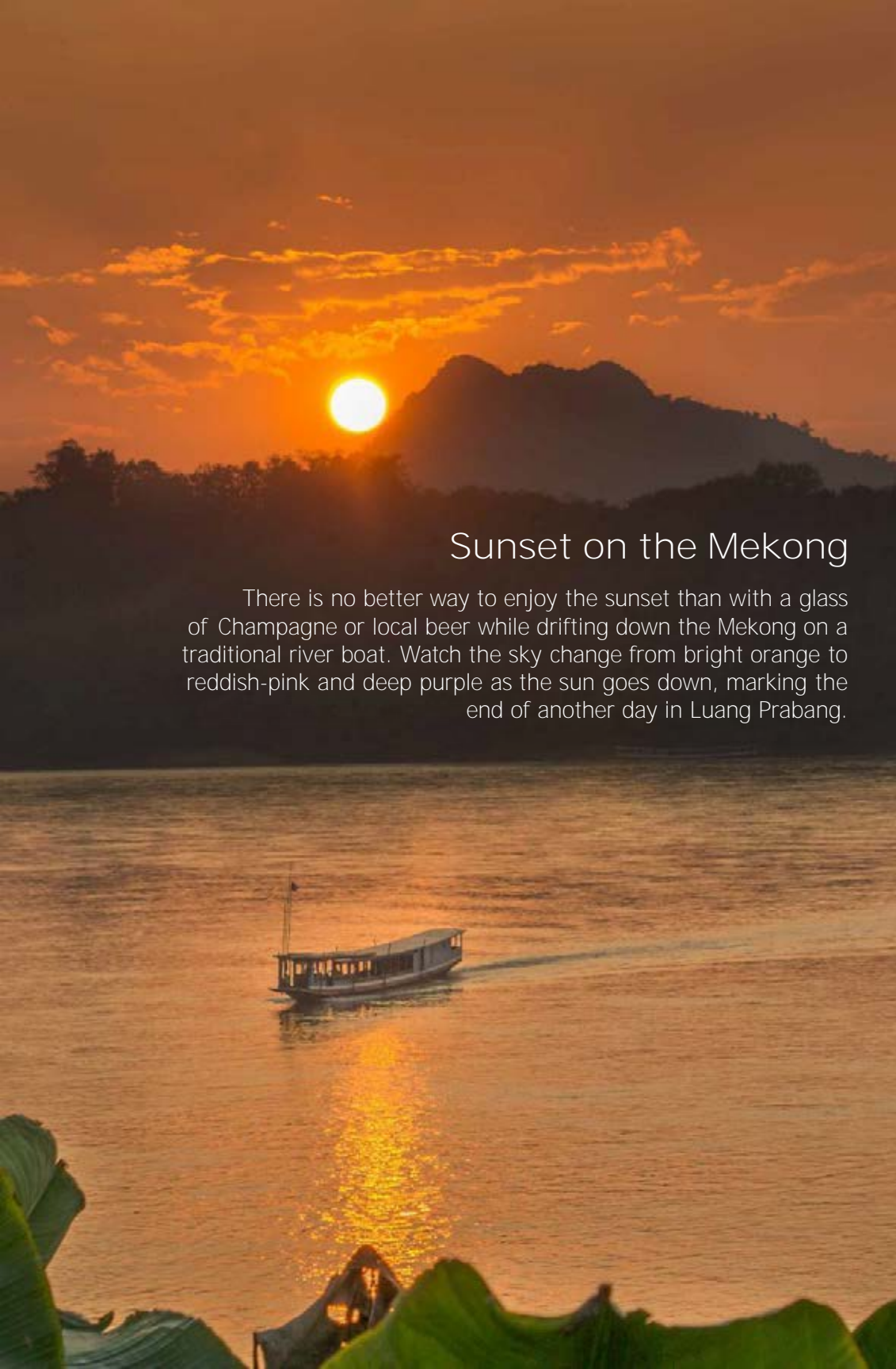
Lao people love their pétanque! Passed down from the French, the garden sport is similar to lawn bowls and is a popular pastime among families and friends. Join Luang Prabang locals for a friendly game to show off your skills or pick up a new trick or two.



The Secret Life of Monks

This is a rare opportunity to see snapshots of a **monk's** life, from sacred pilgrimages to social activities, meditation and portraits captured over 120 years. Gain exclusive access to back rooms containing 35,000 original prints and meet the founder or director of the project for personal anecdotes about the images and how they were painstakingly catalogued and preserved.





Sunset on the Mekong

There is no better way to enjoy the sunset than with a glass of Champagne or local beer while drifting down the Mekong on a traditional river boat. Watch the sky change from bright orange to reddish-pink and deep purple as the sun goes down, marking the end of another day in Luang Prabang.



Flavors of Luang Prabang

For a great local night out, dine at one of our favorite restaurants set in a bamboo garden by the Mekong. Feast on an assortment of melt-in-your-mouth meats and leafy greens grilled to perfection on a charcoal stove in the center of the table. *Sin dad* is a Lao-style barbecue and a local foodie tradition which is simply not to be missed.

From the Village, For the Village

Learn all about Lao weaving traditions with an Akorn Insider and textiles specialist who works with artisans in remote villages of Laos. Discover ethnic crafts and find out how each piece of fabric reveals where it was made through the pattern, material and design.



Picnic at the Plain of Jars

Fly by private helicopter for a private Champagne picnic in the Plain of Jars. Recently added to **UNESCO's** World Heritage List, the megalithic stones date back several hundred years and are an archaeological mystery that captures the imagination.



Laos' Natural Oasis


Hike through mist-covered hills, soak in curative natural hot springs and discover healthy farm-to-table eating on the edge of the peaceful Song River. Just over three **hours'** drive from Luang Prabang, it is easy to see why travelers are rediscovering the wonders of Vang Vieng in central Laos. Surrounded by rice paddies, small villages and blue lagoons, the sleepy haven is perfect for active outdoor adventures, eco-friendly getaways or simply enjoying **nature's** great gifts.



Reflection at a Waterfall

Reconnect with your inner self with a private guided meditation and healthy breakfast in the forest. Overlooking the famous Kuang Si Waterfall, this is the perfect place to find your spiritual inspiration with the sound of cascading water in the background and guidance from an experienced instructor.



A photograph of four elephants in a lush green forest. Three large elephants are in the foreground, partially obscured by tall grass and bushes. A smaller elephant is visible behind them. The background is a dense wall of green trees.

An Elephant Sanctuary

Venture into the remote regions of northern Laos where friendly Lao elephants roam freely in a natural forest. Committed to conservation, education and elephant welfare, this ethical facility is a safe haven for rescued elephants who spend their days foraging in the forest, splashing in the river or munching on fresh fruits. Walk side by side with them and observe the gentle giants in their natural habitat.

A photograph of a scenic view of the Mekong River. In the foreground, a long blue and red boat is on the water. The river flows towards a backdrop of steep, green mountains under a bright blue sky with scattered white clouds.

Cruise the Upper Mekong

Cruise the scenic Mekong River on a private boat, traveling from the border of Thailand to Luang Prabang, the heartland of the old Lao kingdom. Stay overnight at a rustic ethnic lodge by the river, experience traditional culture and explore small craft-making villages and a sacred cave along the way.



Wonders of an Inland Archipelago

In a place that captures the imagination, the mighty Mekong diverges around the crags of 4,000 islands, creating a dramatic and diverse natural eco-system near the southern tip of Laos. Endangered Irrawaddy dolphins like to splash here in the freshwater pools while the roar of Southeast **Asia's** largest waterfall can be heard nearby. Remote and rewarding, this rustic destination offers idyllic boat trips and bike rides as well as jungle treks to scenic waterfalls and coffee plantations. Dolphins can be seen year-round, but are best spotted between January and May.

MEET A FEW OF OUR AKORN INSIDERS

*"We know the people who share the same passions as your travelers.
Connect with our circle of Insiders, Experts and Local Tastemakers in Southeast **Asia**."*
- Jean-Baptiste Richard, Vice President DMCs – Northeast & Southeast Asia



Textiles & Crafts

Social entrepreneur for over a decade, our Textiles and Crafts Insider is passionate about authentic handmade Lao products. Having spent much of her time exploring the most remote areas of the country, the textiles specialist offers a unique perspective on rural Laos and works with ethnic communities to transform their traditional crafts into contemporary lifestyle products.



Agriculture

Life-long friends from the United States and Australia, our Agriculture Insiders have become self-taught farmers, fully immersing themselves and their families in their chosen lifestyle. Driven by a love of cheese, the pair developed a social enterprise to help Lao farmers earn an additional income from buffalo milk which they use to make artisanal cheese, yogurt and ice cream.



Royal Lao Art

Appointed as Luang Prabang's Artist in Residence, our Royal Art Insider is helping to preserve centuries of royal Lao culture and tradition through his intricate stencil work and fine gold embroidery. Having inherited the royal arts traditions from his mother and grandmother, the **artist's** unique work can be seen decorating the walls of **Laos'** sacred temples.



Lao Ethnic Culture

A scholar of sustainable tourism and cultural heritage management, our Lao Ethnic Culture Insider has spent almost 20 years in Laos helping to preserve and celebrate the **nation's** ethnic diversity. A former advisor to the Lao government, she has traveled to remote parts of the country to uncover its rich tribal traditions and co-founded the Traditional Arts and Ethnology Center in Luang Prabang where she leads private viewings for Akorn guests.



Exclusive Stays

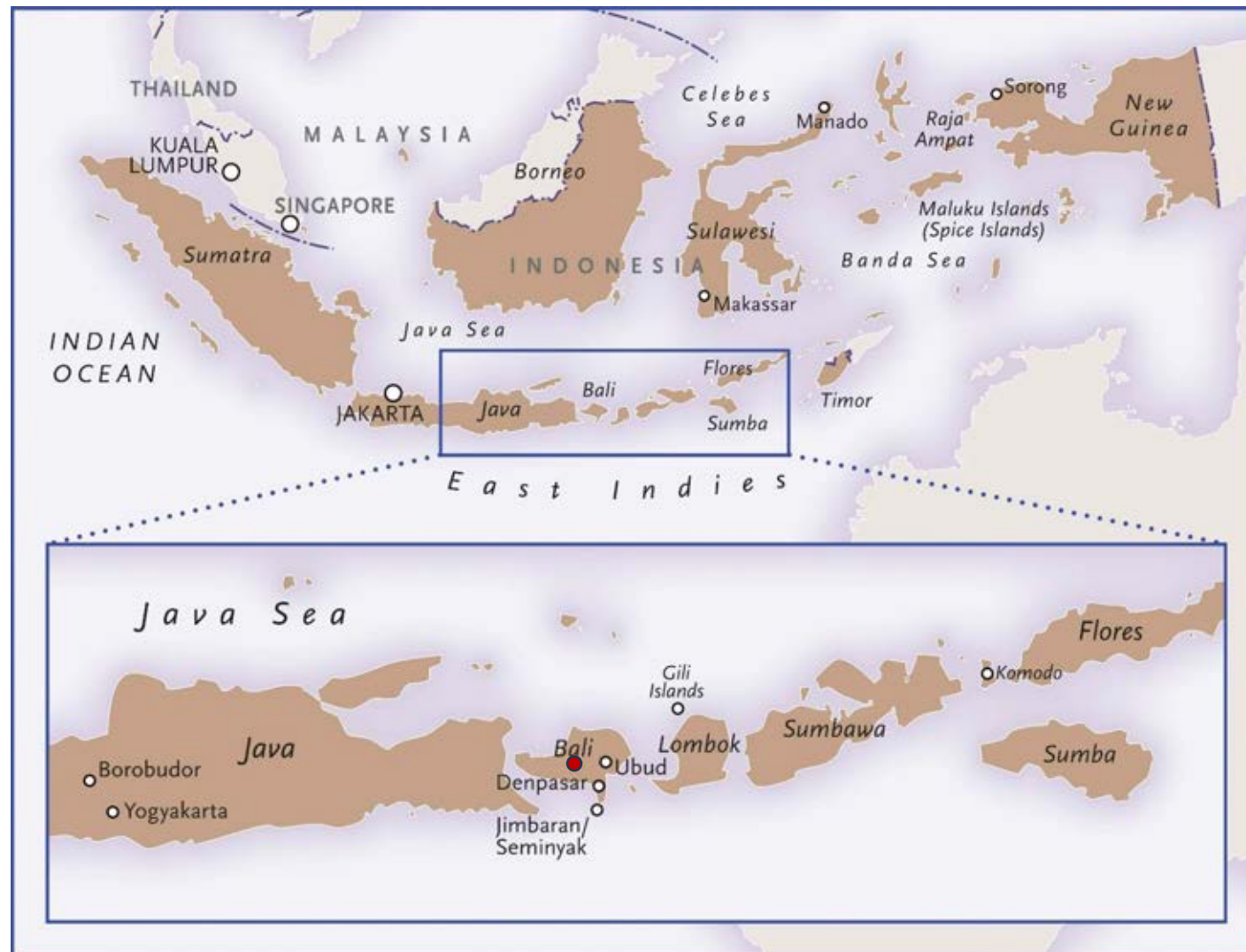
Akorn provides access to a range of top hotels, authentic boutique accommodations and unique villa stays. Ask about our exclusive amenities ranging from complimentary room upgrades, dining credits, welcome amenities and spa privileges. We **personally vet every property that we recommend to ensure the best quality and standards to enhance your client's travel experience.**

Rosewood Luang Prabang



INSIDER ACCESS & INSPIRATIONS
INDONESIA

AKORN MOMENTS INDONESIA



"I love **Bali's** gorgeous beaches and mystical temples. The island is also a great place for outdoor adventures such as climbing to the edge of Mount Batur, an active volcano with an amazing crater **lake.**"

- Justina Puspawati, General Manager, DMC — Indonesia

"As a diving enthusiast, the Komodo archipelago is one of my favorite places. With the amazing visibility, thrilling drift dives and spectacular marine life, you can spend your days swimming with manta rays or trekking the islands in search of Komodo **dragons.**"

Jean-Baptiste Richard, Vice President DMCs — Northeast & Southeast Asia

"Walking through the dreamy green rice fields of Bali, I am always amazed at the beauty and serenity of this place. Every aspect of life here, from art and architecture to agriculture and cuisine, is intertwined in a sense of spirituality which is incredibly uplifting and **inspiring.**"

- Rattasit Wejsuwanmanee, Destination Specialist Supervisor

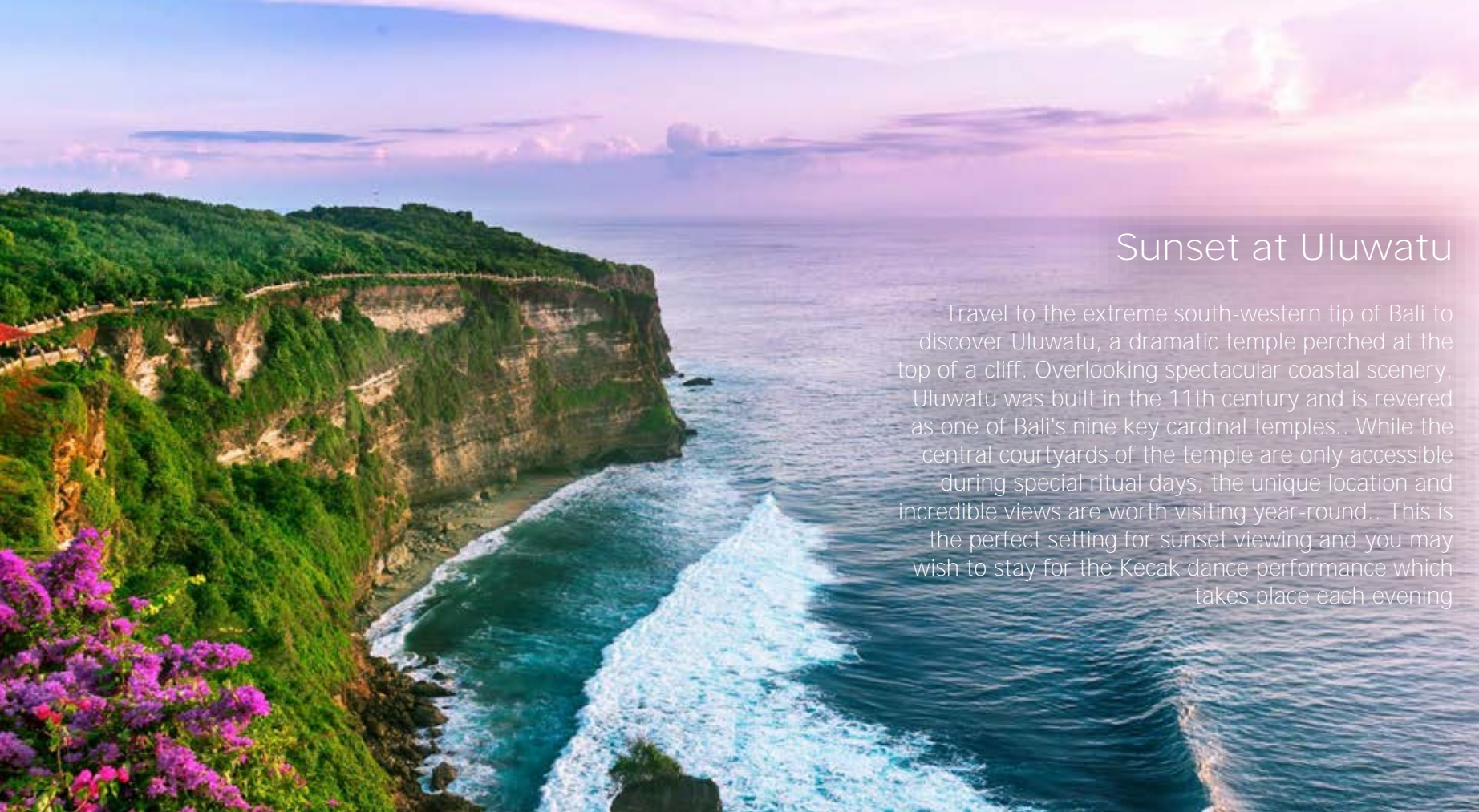
Living on the Edge in Bali

Sip aromatic coffee and savor the sweet oranges that grow on the edge of a volcano. At the foot of Mount Batur, the rich, fertile lands here have inspired generations of artists, musicians and poets. This is one of our favorite places for a bike ride where you can try the Balinese cakes made by a local family and enjoy sweeping views of rice fields and tropical rainforest valleys.



A Ritual Balinese Blessing

Go on a quest for purification amidst Bali's natural grandeur. Stemming from the word "lukat" in Kawi-Bali which means cleaning and purifying, Melukat, is a sacred cleansing ritual deeply ingrained in Balinese culture. In this ceremony, immerse yourself in holy waters, believed to cleanse the body, mind and soul from impurities and negative energies. As you partake in meditation and whisper prayers, the gentle flow of water becomes a conduit for renewal, washing away the burdens of those who seek inner peace and harmony.



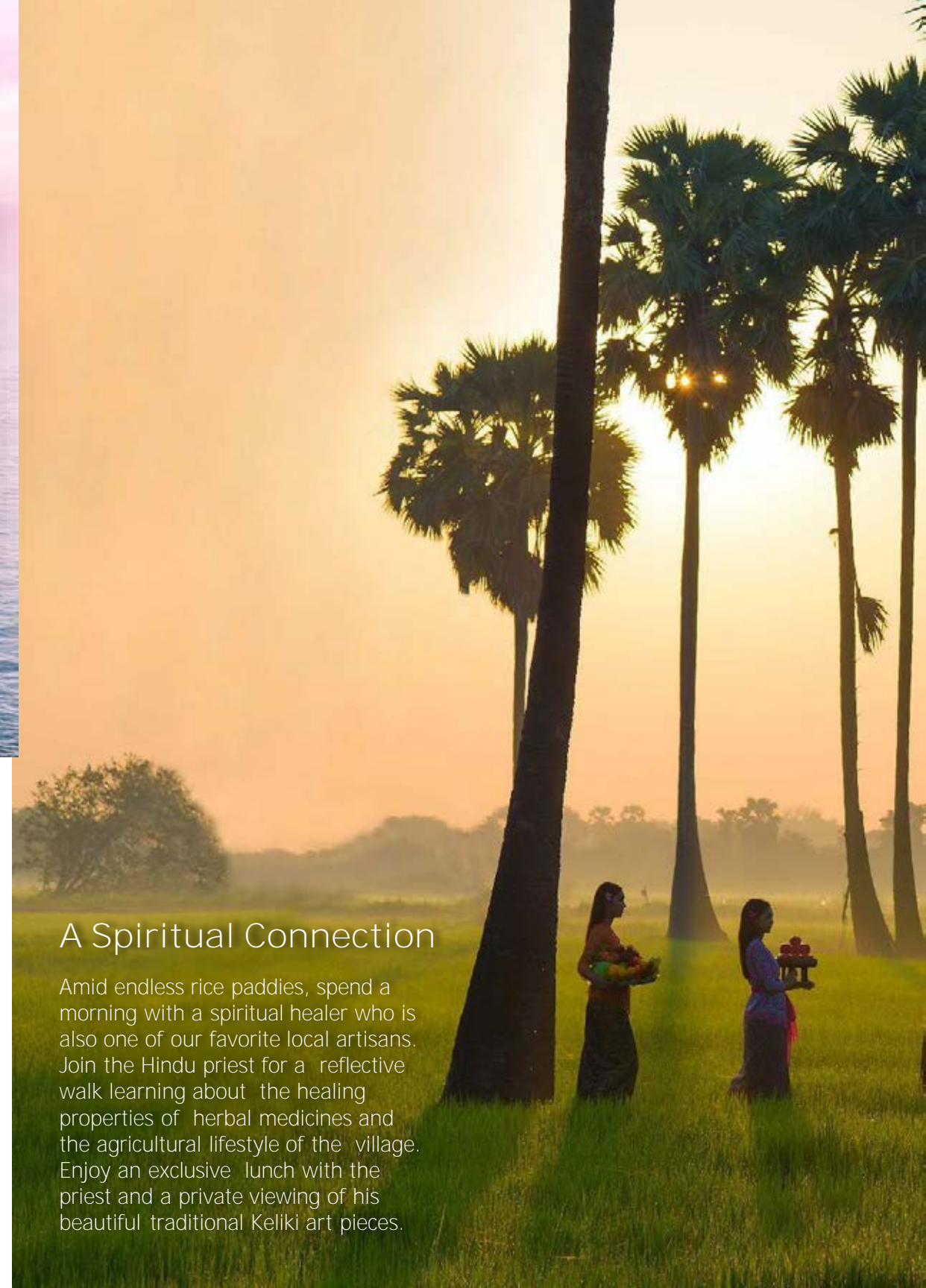
Sunset at Uluwatu

Travel to the extreme south-western tip of Bali to discover Uluwatu, a dramatic temple perched at the top of a cliff. Overlooking spectacular coastal scenery, Uluwatu was built in the 11th century and is revered as one of Bali's nine key cardinal temples.. While the central courtyards of the temple are only accessible during special ritual days, the unique location and incredible views are worth visiting year-round.. This is the perfect setting for sunset viewing and you may wish to stay for the Kecak dance performance which takes place each evening



Best of Balinese Cuisine

Learn how to make your own *sambal* (a blend of fresh spices including chili, ginger, turmeric and lemongrass) and plate up traditional dishes such as coconut-spiced chicken and *tempeh kecap* (fried soybean in a sweet soy sauce) during a hands-on experience in a Balinese kitchen.



A Spiritual Connection

Amid endless rice paddies, spend a morning with a spiritual healer who is also one of our favorite local artisans. Join the Hindu priest for a reflective walk learning about the healing properties of herbal medicines and the agricultural lifestyle of the village. Enjoy an exclusive lunch with the priest and a private viewing of his beautiful traditional Keliki art pieces.



Surf's Up!

Ride some of the **world's** most coveted waves, including the Occy's Left, which forms exciting ripple walls and heaving barrels just off the coast of Nihi Sumba. Novices and first-time surfers can enjoy calmer waters at the **island's** Coconut Cove with qualified instructors on hand to help you improve your surf game.



The Rhythm of Bali

Feel the beat of traditional gamelan music playing in the background while you learn the steps of a Balinese dance.

With help from some of the **island's** most well-known performers, this intimate experience offers an insight into the richness of Balinese culture where history, art and religion converge. This ritual dance is often performed at special ceremonies; women perform a welcome dance and men perform a warrior dance.



The Spirit of Adventure

Set sail into an Indonesian paradise, following the trail of an ancient spice route where most of the **world's** nutmeg, pepper and cloves are produced. Enjoy some of the **world's** best diving and snorkeling in the coral triangle and admire the colorful Birds of Paradise flying overhead on a private chartered cruise around Raja Ampat or the Maluku islands (Spice Islands), a place of incredible marine bio-diversity.

Lombok Beach Stay

Go remote and enjoy a relaxing beach stay on beautiful Lombok island. Quieter and less developed than nearby Bali, the island is easily accessible by flight from Bali or Singapore and is ideal for honeymooners and active escapes. Spend the days snorkeling or diving in the nearby Gili Islands or enjoy inland adventures to discover the **island's** waterfalls, volcanoes and crater lakes.



Finding Nemo in Indonesia

Sea turtles, whale sharks, ribbon eels and mola molas are just some of the many incredible species you will find in the vast oceans of Indonesia. For experienced divers or beginners, private PADI-certified diving courses can be arranged in some of the **world's** most captivating waters.



Back to Nature in Borneo

Meet the natives of Indonesian Borneo who live in the lush forest canopy, swinging from tree to tree and feast on wild figs, durians and leaves. The orangutans of Borneo are fascinating creatures, highly intelligent and simply adorable! Explore the jungles on your own privately chartered river boat or stay at one of our preferred ecolodges with a visit to the **world's** most renowned Orangutan Research Center. Trek with a ranger to observe the primates while learning about their daily habits and playful nature. You may also catch sight of other native wildlife along the way.

Exclusive Stays

Akorn provides access to a range of top hotels, authentic boutique accommodations and unique villa stays. Ask about our exclusive amenities ranging from complimentary room upgrades, dining credits, welcome amenities and spa privileges. We personally vet every property that we recommend to ensure the best quality and standards to enhance your client's travel experience.

Nihi Sumba, Sumba Island



Akorn's Premium Private Yachts

Akorn offers a selection of yacht journeys in Indonesia, including private charters. From small, cozy cruisers to premium superyachts and traditional phinisi schooners, our private journeys explore remote parts of Indonesia and are perfect for families. Cocktails and gourmet meals are served by your dedicated on-board crew while you hike jungle-covered islands, kayak in open seas, swim with manta rays and dive magnificent coral reefs..

Prana by Atzaro

OVER 30 YEARS OF LUXURY TRAVEL EXPERTISE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Singapore
thailand@akorndmc.com

Vietnam
vietnam@akorndmc.com

Myanmar
myanmar@akorndmc.com



akorndmc.com

