

# DESTINATION ASIA

DESTINATION MANAGEMENT FOR ASIA'S TRAVEL CONNOISSEURS

*EXCEPTIONAL*  
**EXPERIENCES**

*CULTURAL  
WONDERS  
of Asia*

THAILAND | VIETNAM | JAPAN | HONG KONG | INDONESIA | SINGAPORE | CAMBODIA | MALAYSIA | LAOS





# EXCEPTIONAL EXPERIENCES

## *Inspiring Your Next Journey*

Welcome to issue three of Exceptional Experiences, where we turn our attention to intimate encounters that connect with the true fabric of Asia – arts and culture. Asia offers not only a compelling array of artistry, but myriad cultures that pull travellers in, presenting a destination that never fails to enthrall and leave the most wonderful of memories.

From Thailand's cultural treasures made famous by the TV series *The White Lotus*, to refined royal cuisine and personal artist encounters in Cambodia, Asia offers countless opportunities for meaningful discovery. Journey into the heart of Indonesia to learn age-old crafts, connect with Vietnam's vibrant folk traditions, and uncover the soulful artistry of Hiroshima's master craftsmen. Each experience invites you to slow down, engage deeply, and celebrate the enduring beauty of culture across the region.

## *The art of curated experiences*

For close to 30 years, Destination Asia has crafted bespoke travel solutions and offered unparalleled expertise in a region we proudly call home. We continually push boundaries to uncover the most rewarding and unforgettable encounters, paired with private and exclusive properties. The stories shared in this issue are unique and can't be found in any guidebook, ensuring that every journey with us is truly exceptional.

If you see something you like and want to know more, then reach out to our travel planners via the contact page.



# What's INSIDE



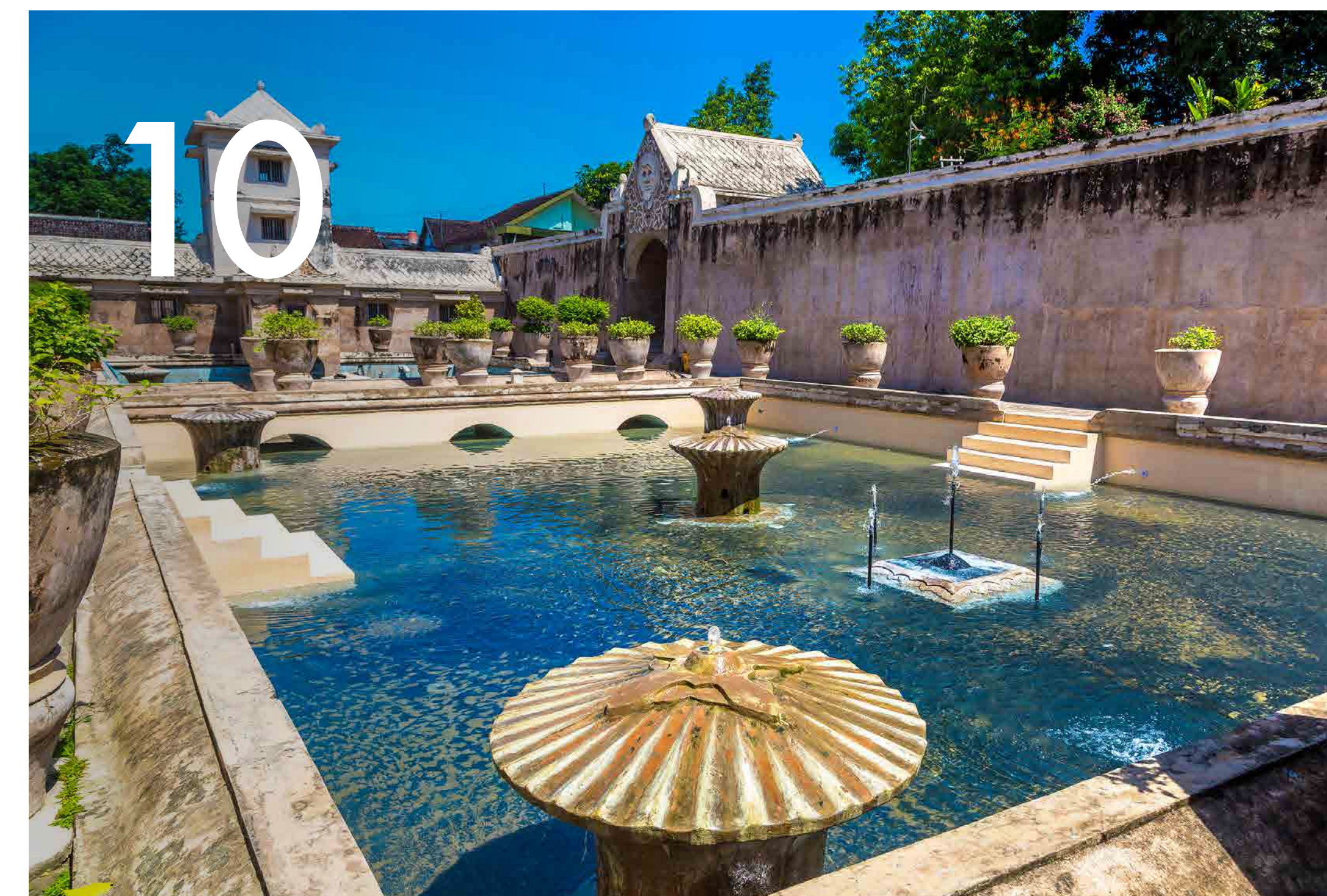
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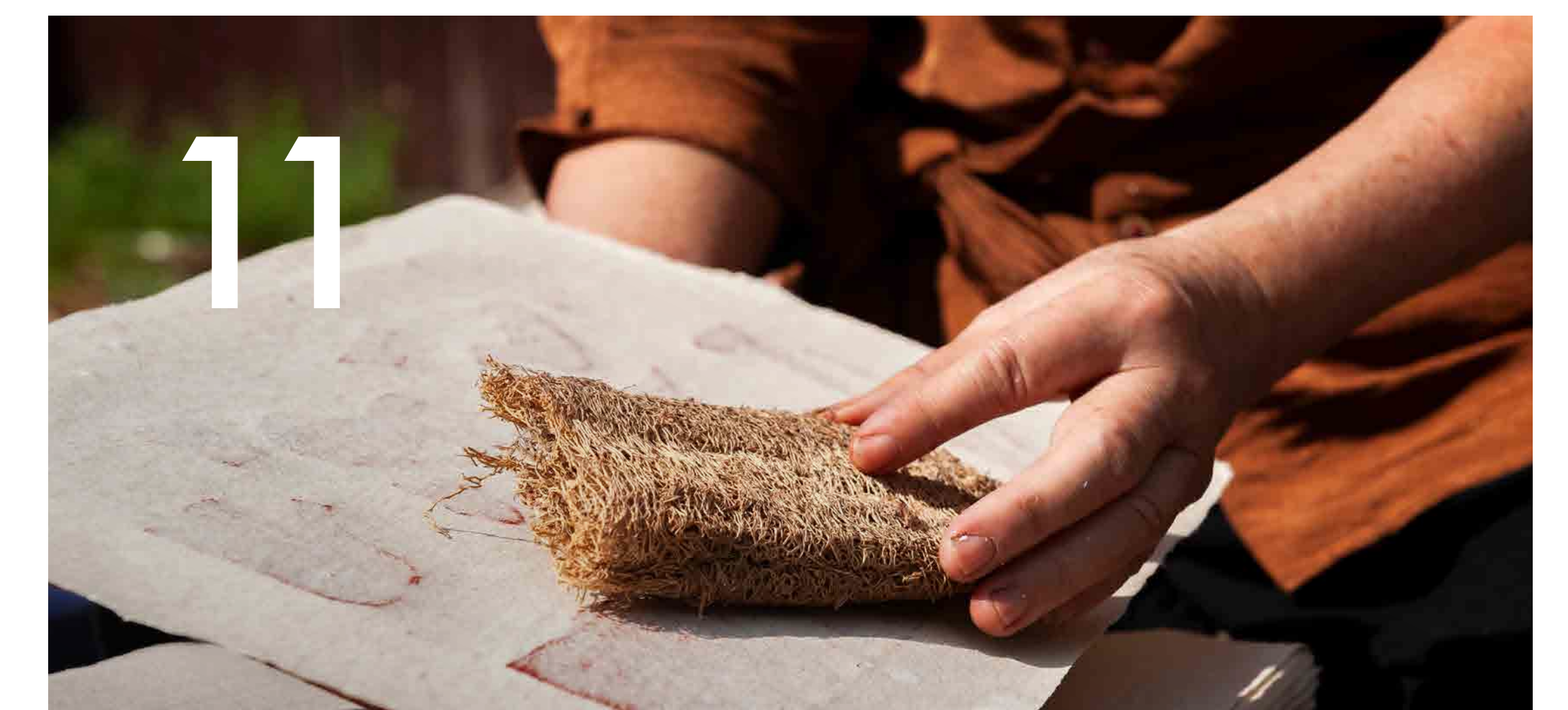
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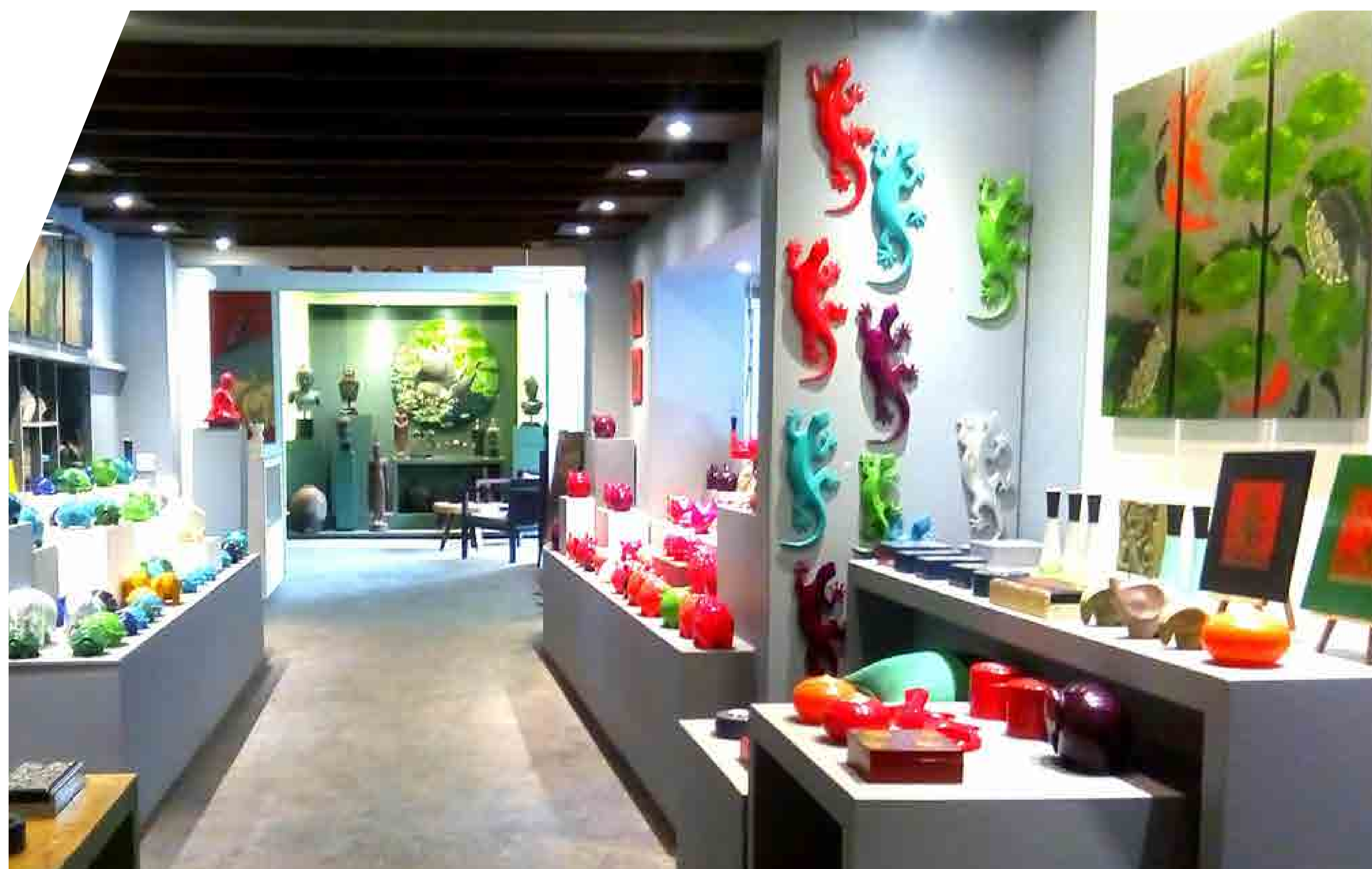




# A KHMER FEAST

Tastes, textiles & temples | 7 days

Embark on a flavourful journey through Cambodia, where cuisine and culture intertwine in unforgettable ways. Discover a delicious diversity of dishes from humble street snacks to refined Khmer Royal Cuisine, each reflecting the unique spirit of its province. Beyond food, explore this nation's artistic revival, born from resilience and thriving in vibrant cities like Phnom Penh and Siem Reap. Meet the artisans, taste the traditions, gain private access to secluded temples and witness a country reconnecting with its heritage while forging bold new paths. This is more than a culinary tour, it's a window into Cambodia's soul.





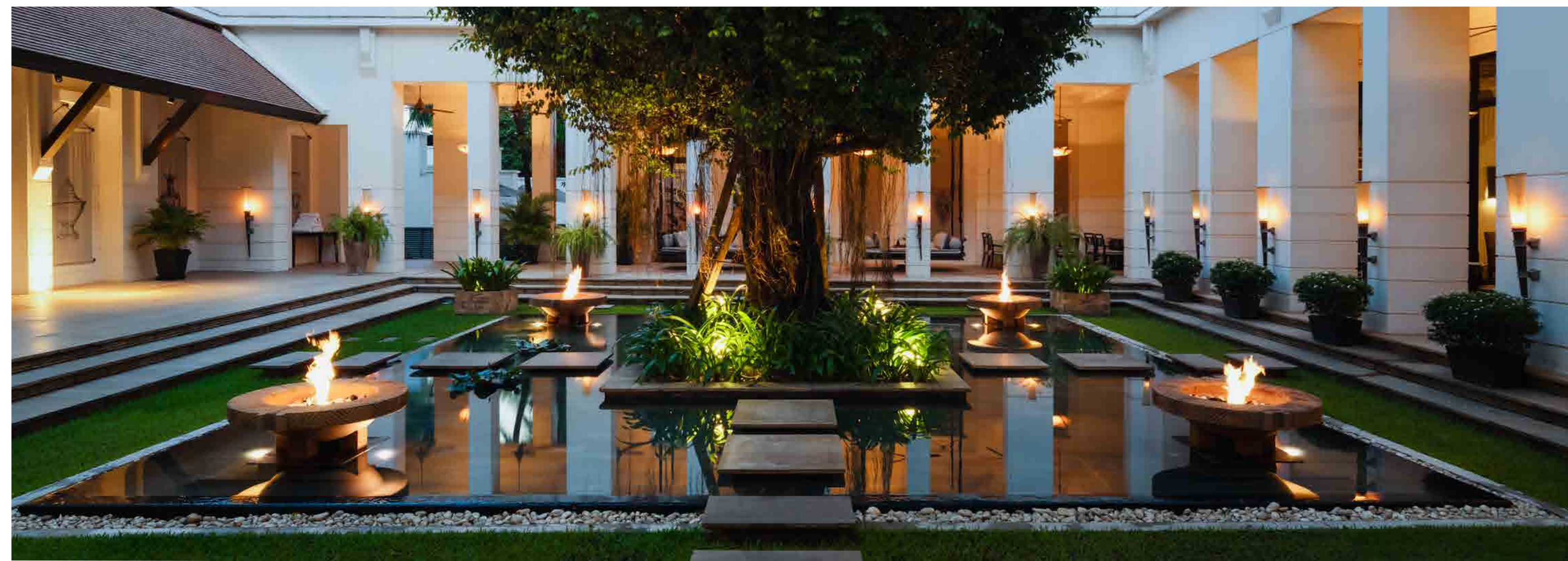
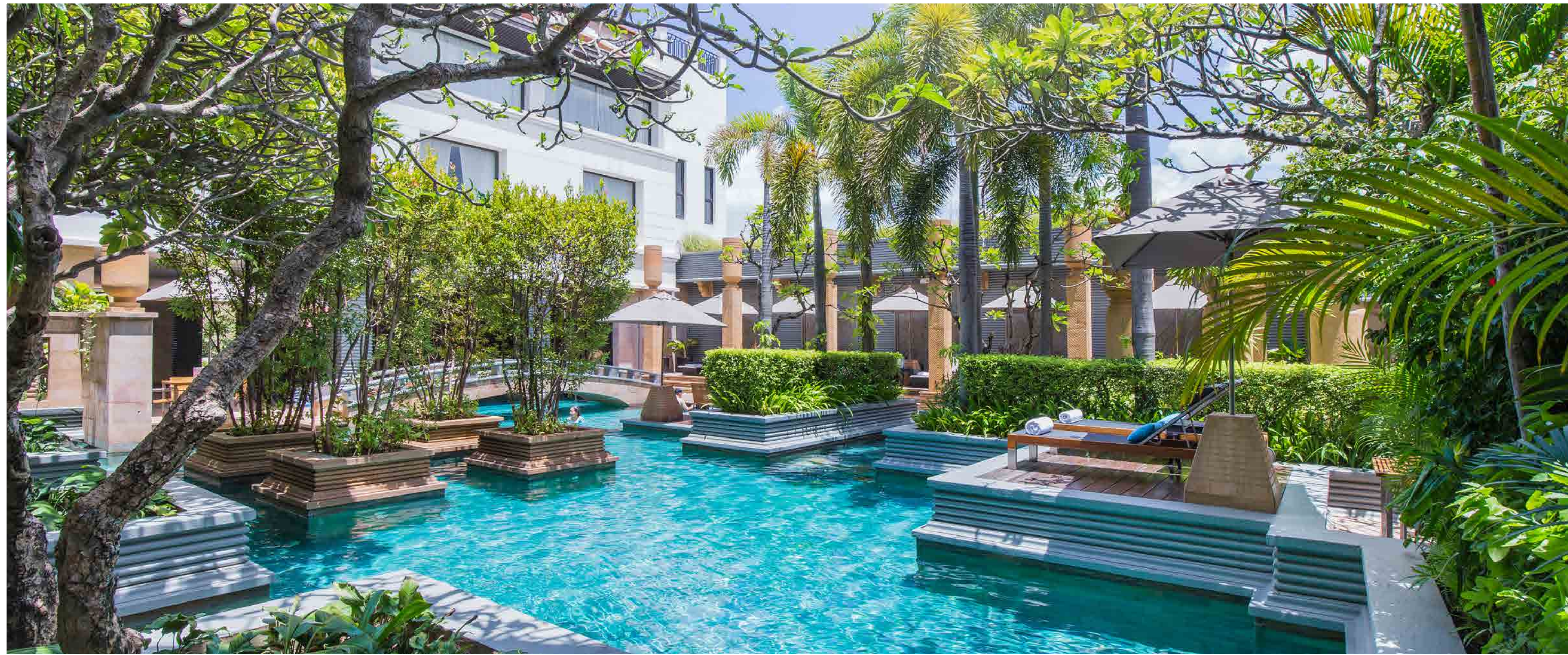
# EXCEPTIONAL TOUCHPOINTS

*on your journey*

- 1 Explore the wonders of Phnom Penh with local insights that help navigate, connect, and dive into this vibrant capital.
- 2 Gain a rare and personal perspective of Cambodian royalty, stories no history book can match, shared by those who lived them.
- 3 Explore sustainable luxury at Samathea, where ancient lotus weaving supports communities and showcases Cambodia's natural elegance and innovation.
- 4 Connect with Cambodia's creative pulse through the stories of emerging artists shaping the country's powerful artistic renaissance.
- 5 Enjoy private access to Bakheng Temple, guided by a lead restorer sharing expert knowledge and behind-the-scenes restoration details.

*Want to know more about this delicious experience?  
Get in touch with our team.*





## PARK HYATT SIEM REAP

### Cambodia

Park Hyatt Siem Reap, an Oasis of Enrichment near the iconic Angkor Wat, is a serene haven where rare and unexpected pleasures are artfully woven into every stay, and guests unlock unique and enriching moments. Designed by Bill Bensley, the hotel reflects Khmer artistry through architecture and landscaped gardens. Guests can indulge in cultural experiences, rejuvenating spa therapies and exceptional cuisine. Every detail from personalized service to curated design offers a journey of discovery. Blending heritage and sophistication, we offer a deeply enriching Cambodian escape.

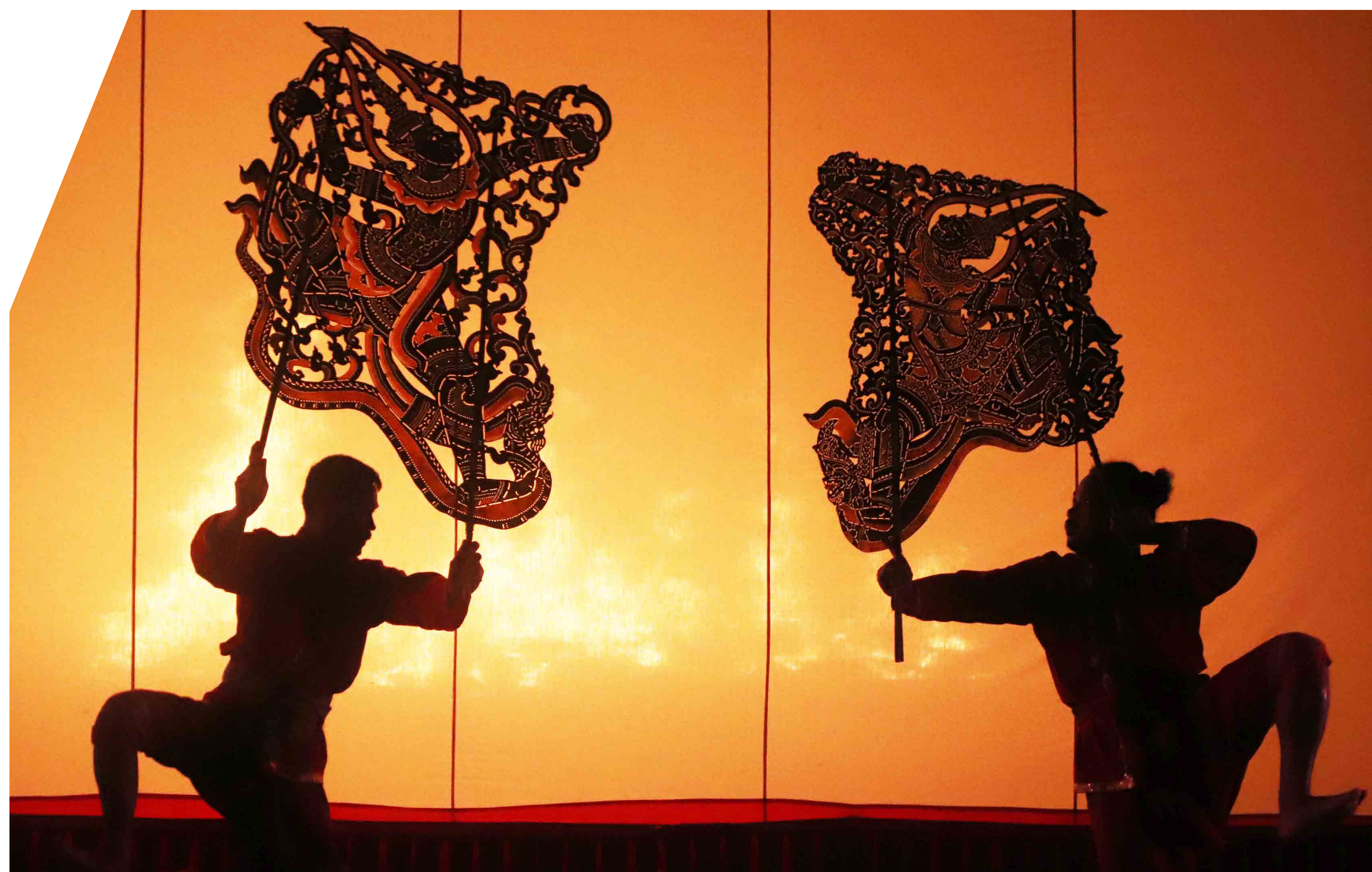




# ANCIENT TREASURES

A tale of unique crafts | 10 days

Discover the rich cultural treasures of Thailand through inspiring experiences that celebrate art, tradition, and creativity. Marvel at the original mural paintings at Wat Suwannaram, Rattanakosin-era masterpieces featured in The White Lotus. Be captivated at the Shadow Puppet Museum, showcasing intricate handcrafted puppets. In Sukhothai we reveal the sacred craft of amulet making and create your own keepsake. Cruise aboard Thailand's most spectacular riverboat, a floating artwork by Thai artist Chalermchai Kositpipat. Finally, explore Chiang Rai's breathtaking three coloured temples of white, black, and blue – each a unique vision by Thailand's most renowned artists.



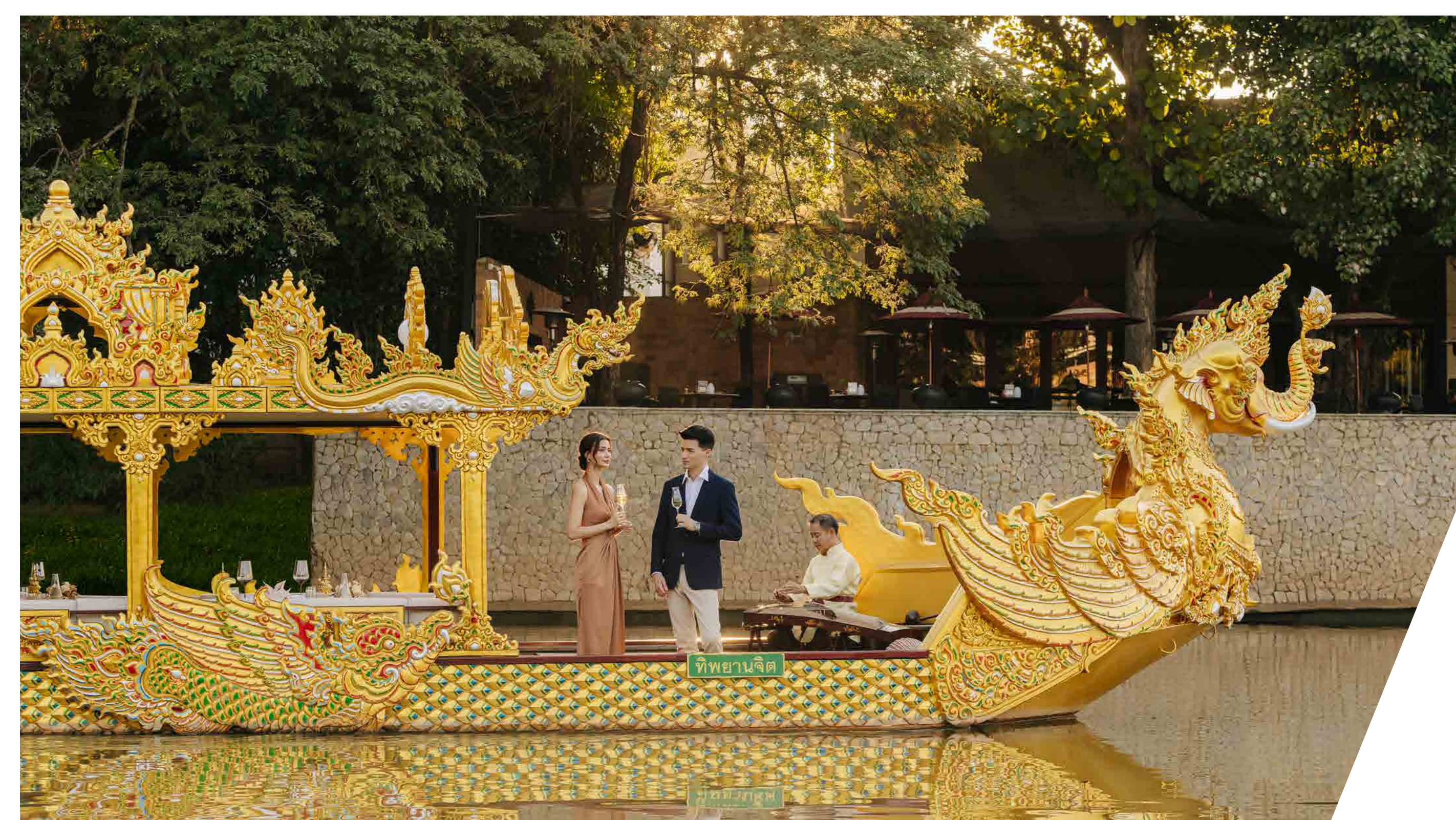
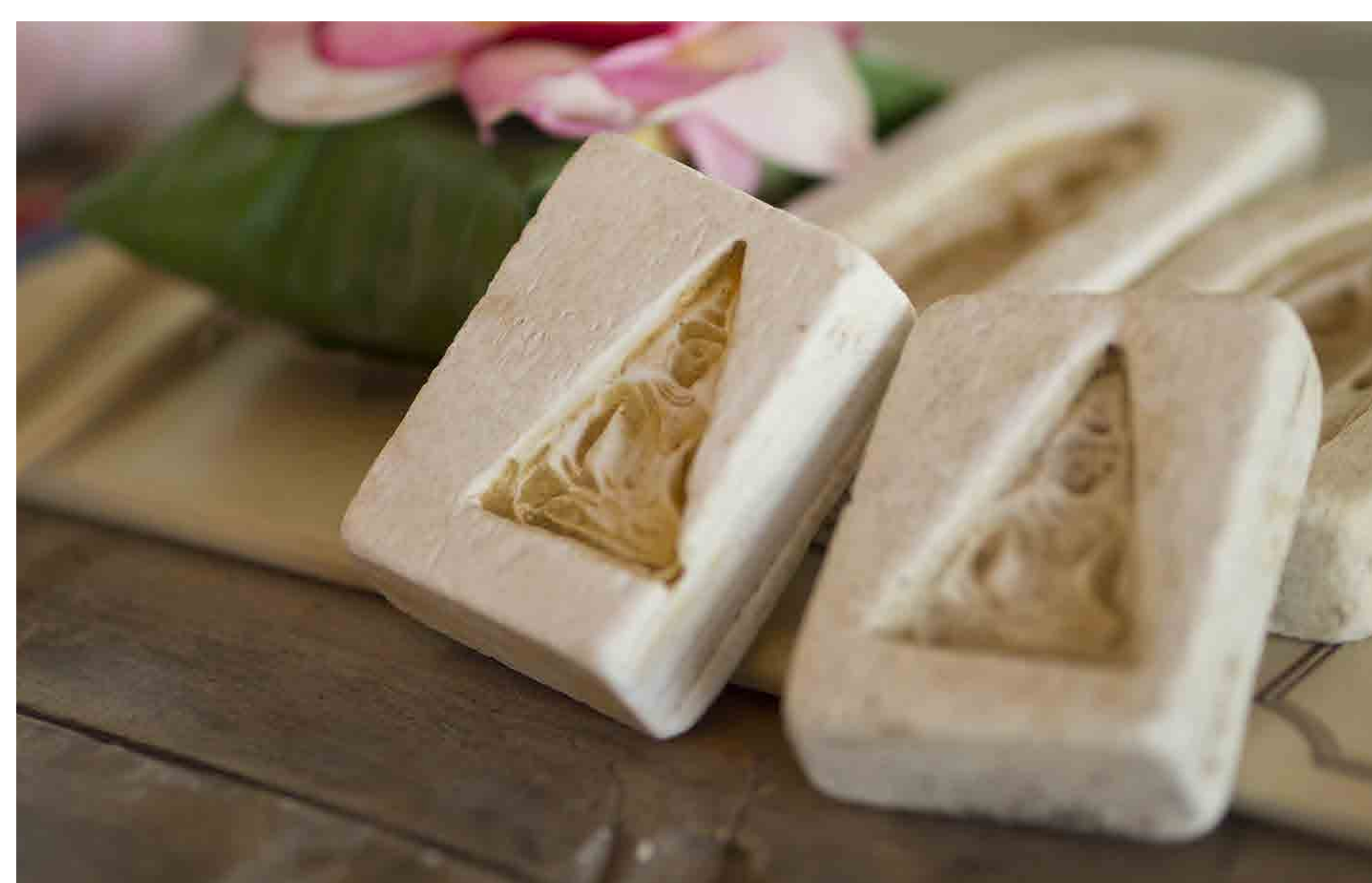




# EXCEPTIONAL TOUCHPOINTS

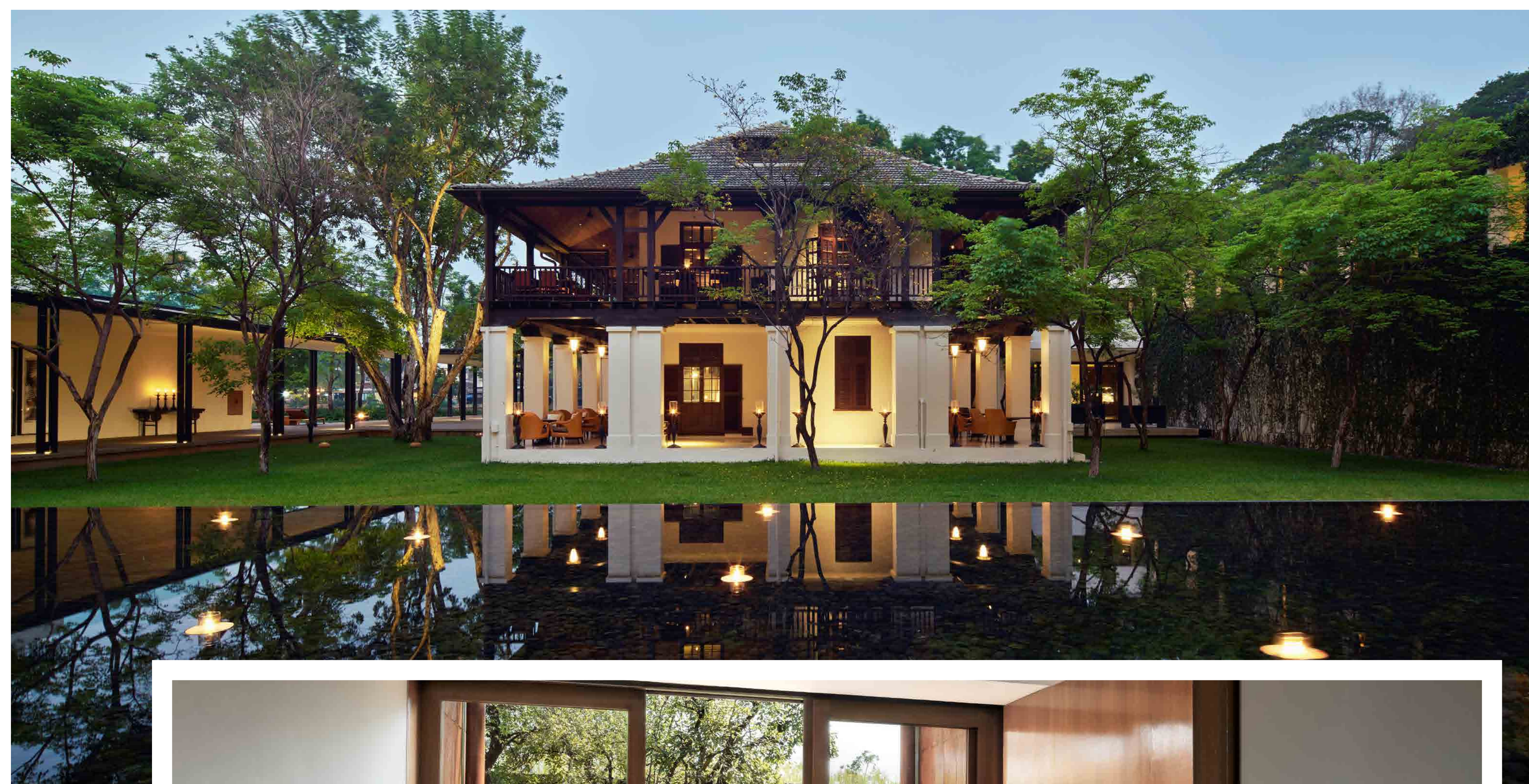
*on your journey*

- 1** Uncover the hidden beauty of Wat Suwannaram, home to exquisite, 80% preserved Rattanakosin-era murals featured in the TV series *The White Lotus*.
- 2** Explore the enchanting Shadow Puppet Museum and try traditional Thai instruments at a local music school in Ratchaburi.
- 3** Create your own sacred amulet in Sukhothai at a renowned studio preserving Thailand's centuries-old spiritual and artistic tradition.
- 4** Cruise aboard Thailand's most artistic riverboat, designed by Chalermchai Kositpipat, where divine cuisine and creativity meet on water.
- 5** Marvel at Chiang Rai's vibrant white, black, and blue temples - stunning expressions of modern Thai artistry and spiritual vision.



***Want to know more about this cultural experience?***  
***Get in touch with our team.***

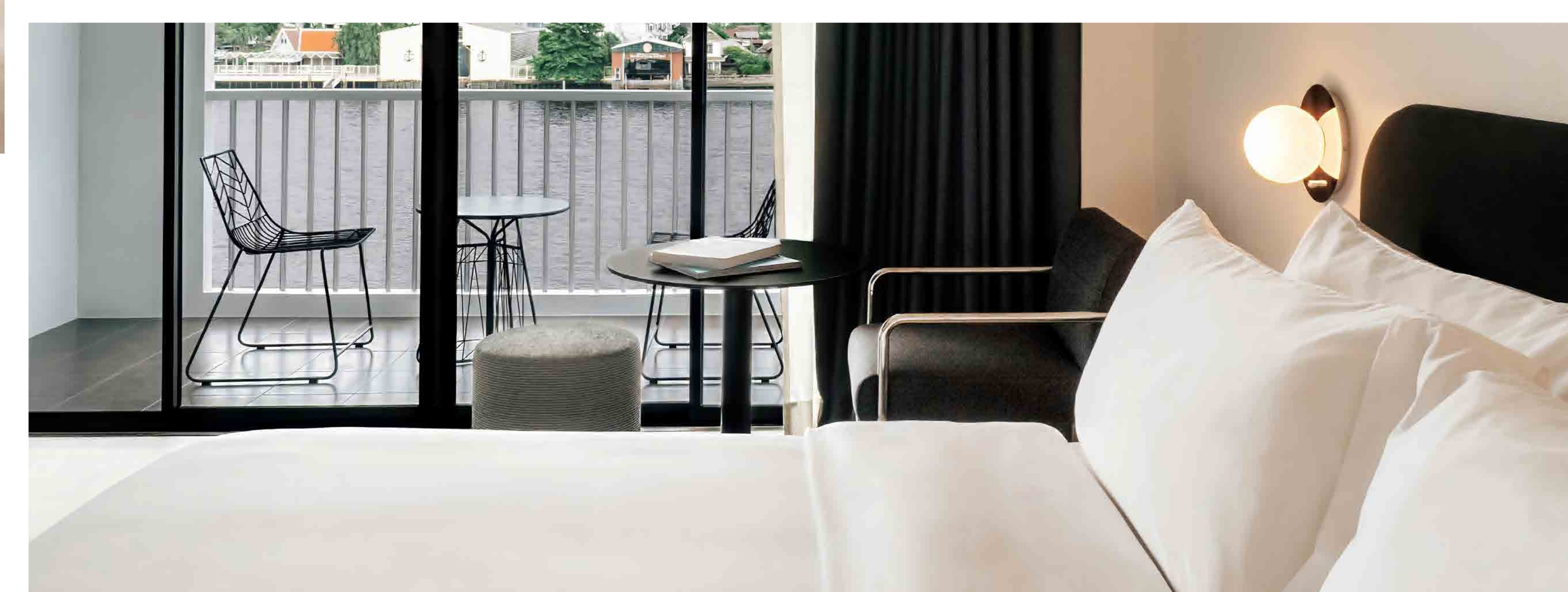
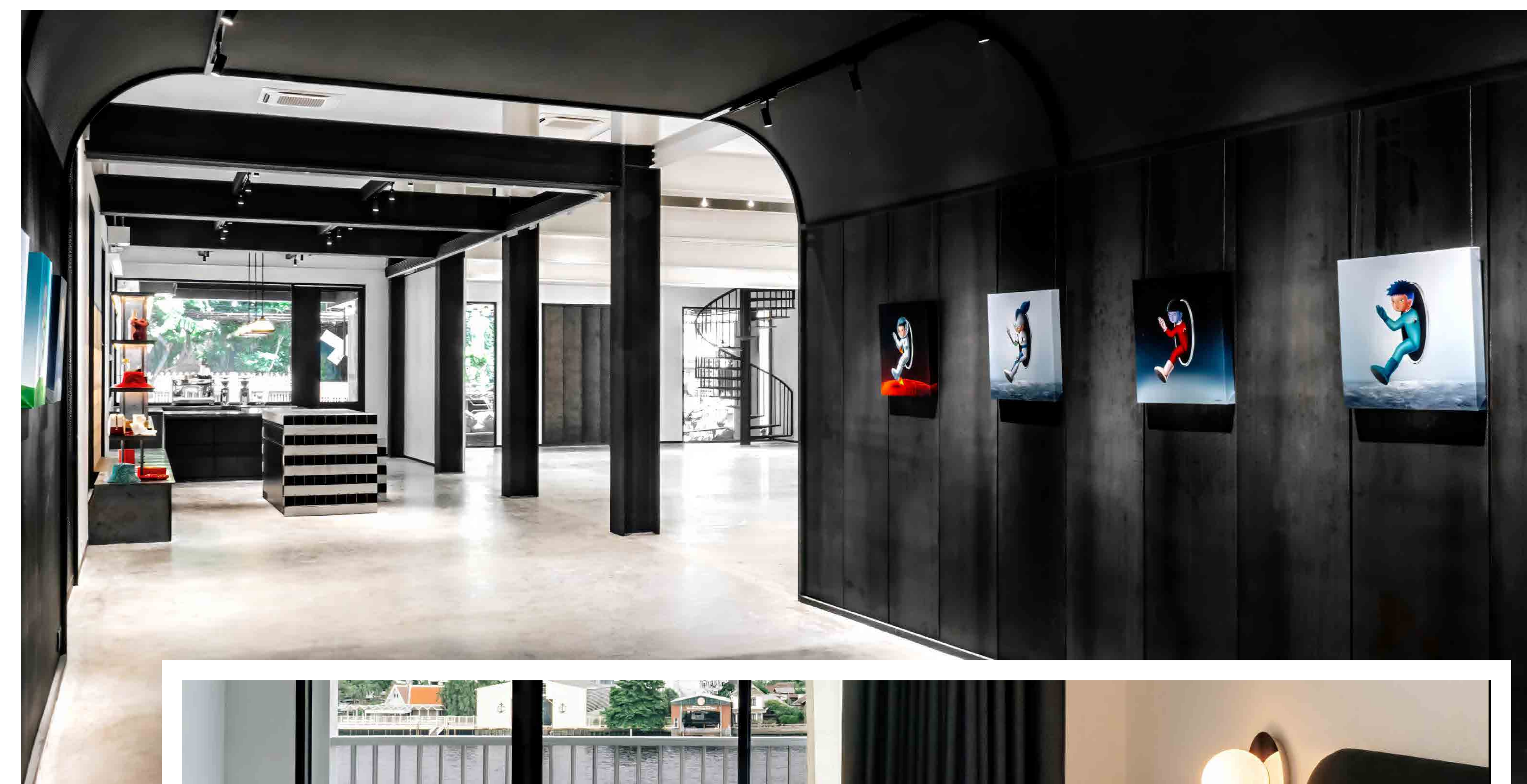




## ANANTARA CHIANG MAI RESORT

Thailand

With its unique culture, verdant surrounds and laidback rhythm of life, Chiang Mai has beguiled travelers from far and wide for centuries. Located just a few minutes from the centre of the city and from the airport, Anantara Chiang Mai Resort immerses guests in all the locale has to offer, a boutique haven where heritage meets the contemporary overlooking the Mae Ping River. The resort's 84 rooms & suites are housed in a low-rise building wrapped around a garden courtyard. With sleek contemporary design, each boasts a feeling of space and serenity.



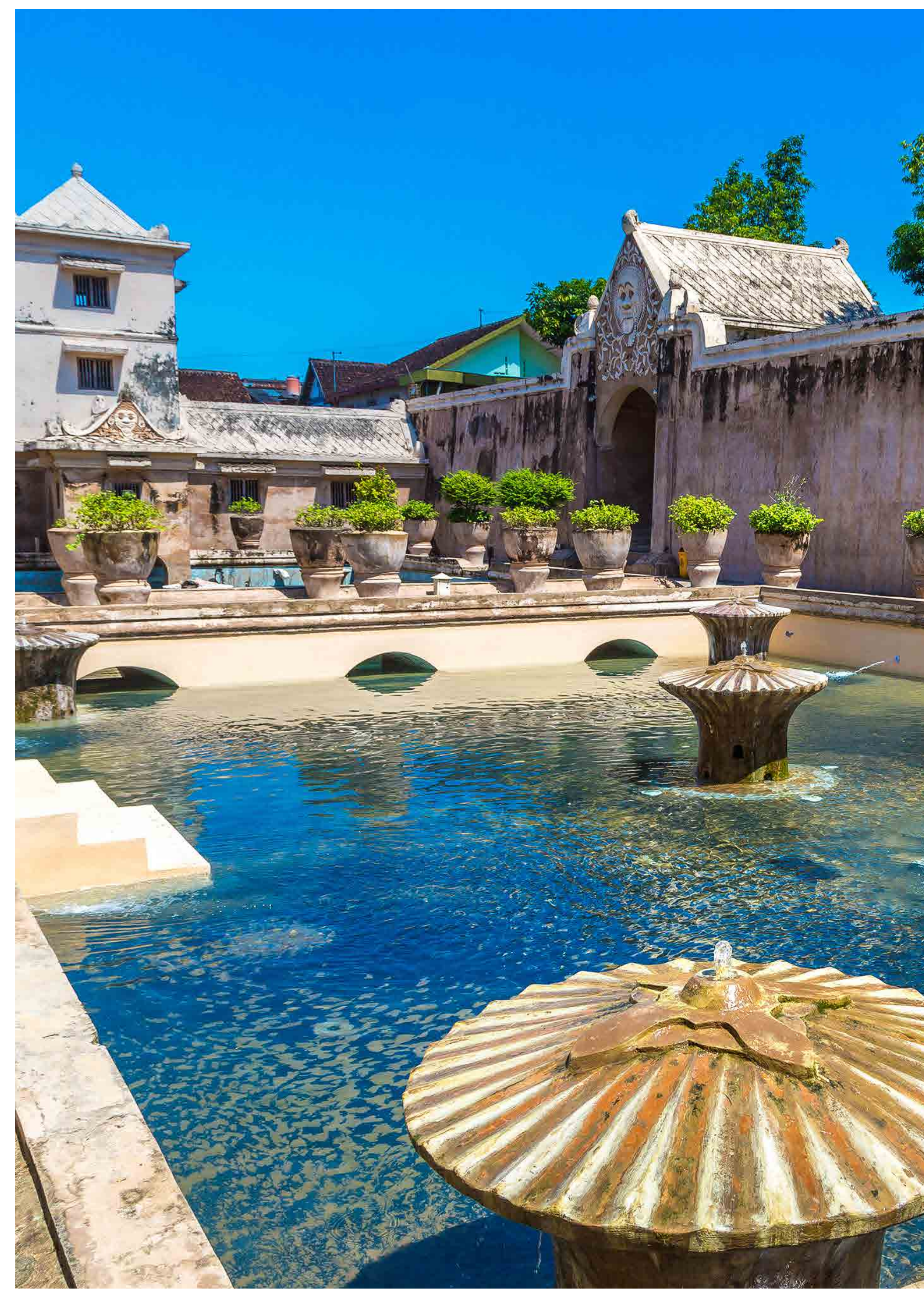
## THE STANDARDX, BANGKOK PHRA ARTHIT

Thailand

The StandardX, Bangkok Phra Arthit brings the brand's rebellious spirit to the city's old town—part hotel, part living gallery. Think of it as a blank canvas: rotating exhibitions at 1010 Art Space, artist-designed façades by Gongkan and MRKREME, and permanent works woven throughout guest rooms and public spaces. With 62 art-inspired rooms, two bold culinary concepts, and a street-side mural that stops traffic, it's crafted for the creatively curious. Set riverside, it captures Bangkok's raw edge in full color.







# SYMBOLS OF HERITAGE

## Royal rhythm of Yogyakarta | Full-day

Step into the cultural heart of Yogyakarta on a soulful journey through royal heritage, sacred art, and timeless architecture. Explore charming streets by traditional becak (cycle rickshaw), taking in the city's rhythm at a gentle pace. Venture through the regal Kraton Palace and the enchanting Taman Sari Water Castle, once a royal retreat of hidden chambers and pools. Meet master Keris makers and witness the forging of this mystical, UNESCO recognized tradition, rich in symbolism and pride.

### Exceptional Touchpoints *on your journey*

- \* Ride a traditional becak through Yogyakarta's lively streets and experience the city's local charm from a slower, nostalgic perspective.
- \* Witness the ancient forging of the spiritual Keris blade, a sacred Javanese craft recognized by UNESCO for its cultural significance.
- \* Wander the Sultan's secret royal garden, with bathing pools, tunnels, and mysterious chambers echoing Yogyakarta's regal past and architectural grace.

***Want to know more about this royal experience?  
Get in touch with our team.***





# ARTISTIC CULTURE

## Vietnam's living soul | Half-day

Step into Vietnam's rich artistic world, where over 2,000 years of creativity come to life through immersive cultural experiences. From traditional painting and water puppetry to folk music and architectural wonders, this journey near Hanoi explores Vietnam's soul through its art. Discover the depth of its performing arts, the elegance of Champa sculpture, and the refined beauty of Indochinese design. With each encounter, whether ancient or modern, you'll gain new insight into Vietnam's enduring spirit and expressive heritage. This is Vietnam, seen through its most captivating and creative traditions.

### Exceptional Touchpoints *on your journey*

- \* Visit Dong Ho Village to explore traditional folk painting, where vibrant colors and age-old techniques reflect Vietnam's rich cultural heritage.
- \* Enjoy a magical evening of water puppetry, where handcrafted puppets and folklore come alive through movement, music, and masterful storytelling.
- \* Join a professor-led journey through Vietnam's poetic Hát Bội opera and unique Indochinese architecture, blending performance with historical perspective.

***Want to know more about this vibrant experience?  
Get in touch with our team.***





# DESIGN CROSSROADS

## Hong Kong's artistic heritage | Half-day

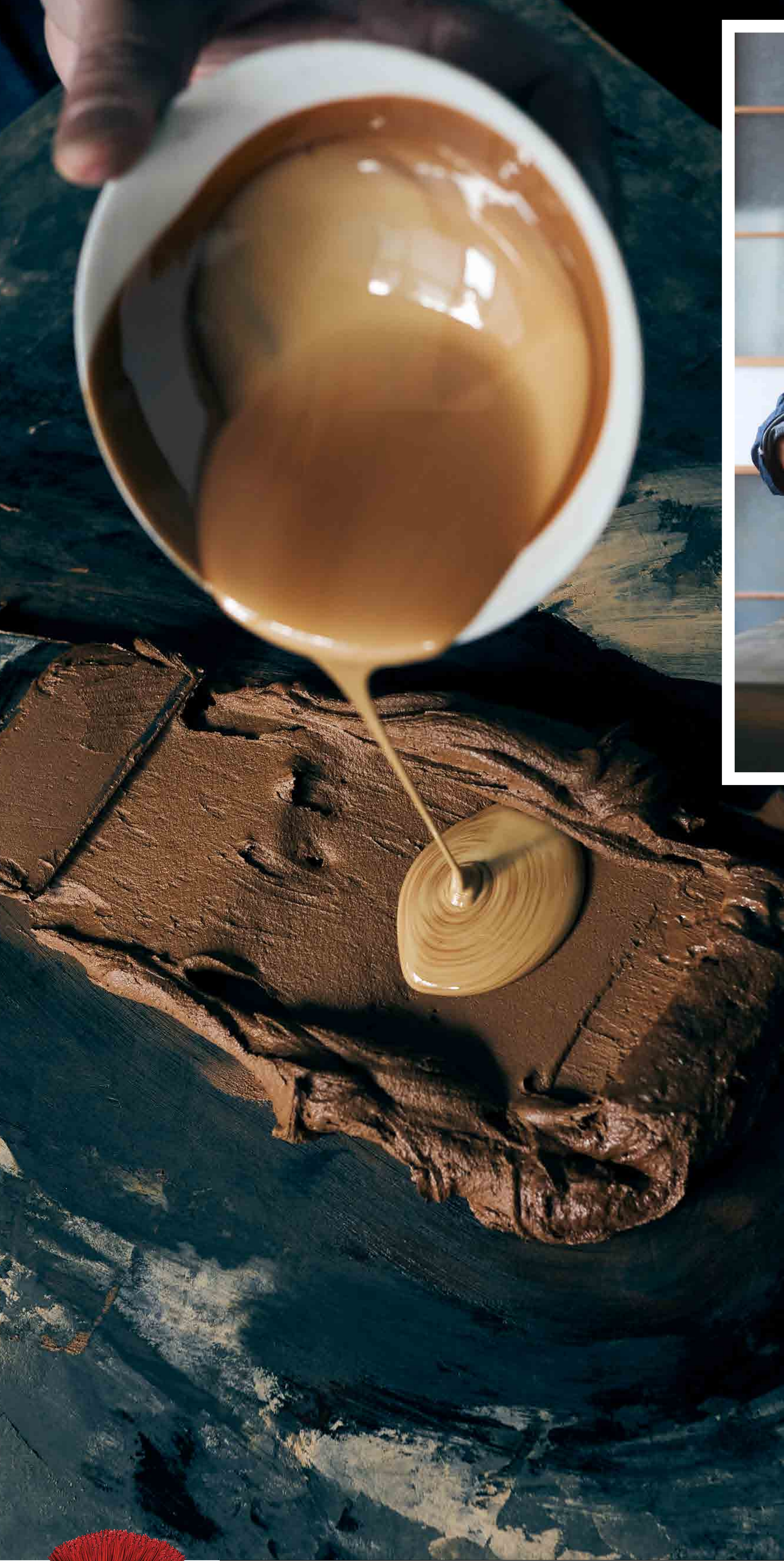
Discover the creative pulse of Hong Kong on a vibrant journey through its art, history, and cultural innovation. Begin at PMQ, a dynamic design hub where local artists and makers blend heritage with modern flair. Continue to the Hong Kong Arts Centre for a guided dive into the city's diverse cultural programming. Wander SoHo's colorful streets, alive with murals and street art, before trying your hand at a traditional craft in a hands-on workshop. End your exploration over lunch at an art-themed café celebrating local talent and flavour.

### Exceptional Touchpoints *on your journey*

- \* Experience a hands-on workshop where Chinese calligraphy or paper cutting offers deep cultural insight and a meaningful creative keepsake.
- \* Explore PMQ's studios and galleries, where local designers fuse Hong Kong's historical charm with contemporary artistic expression.
- \* Discover the heartbeat of Hong Kong's art scene through engaging exhibitions and programs at this renowned cultural institution.

***Want to know more about this diverse experience?  
Get in touch with our team.***





# SOULFUL ARTISTS

## Layers of Japanese craft | Half-day

Step into the heart of Japanese craftsmanship with an intimate studio visit in Hiroshima, guided by master lacquer artist Naoya Takayama. A fourth-generation artisan, Takayama shares the intricate world of Hiroshima Butsudan (sacred lacquered altars), with deep personal insight and skill. Watch centuries-old techniques come to life, try your hand at lacquer processing, and connect with the artistry behind each piece. From the shimmer of lacquer to the quiet elegance of a handcrafted cup, this experience offers a glimpse into Japan's enduring artistic heritage.

### Exceptional Touchpoints *on your journey*

- \* Visit Naoya Takayama's studio and witness four generations of lacquer artistry come alive through traditional tools and expert hands.
- \* Explore the spiritual and historical importance of Hiroshima Butsudan, intricately crafted lacquered altars rooted in Japanese tradition.
- \* Enjoy a drink from handcrafted lacquerware, an elegant moment that reveals the sensory beauty and depth of Japanese craftsmanship.

***Want to know more about this traditional experience?***  
***Get in touch with our team.***





# INTRICATE ANTIQUITIES

## Singapore's Peranakan treasures | Full-day

Step into the vibrant world of Peranakan Chinese heritage with a visit to the Straits Enclave in Joo Chiat. Housed in a beautifully restored 1928 shophouse, this private museum invites you to explore a treasure trove of cultural stories, exquisite antiques, and age-old craftsmanship. Led by a passionate expert in Nyonya beading, you'll uncover the intricacies of traditional embroidery and experience the elegance of Peranakan living. Round off your visit with a tasting of colourful kuehs and tea, a delicious finale to a journey through time.

### Exceptional Touchpoints *on your journey*

- \* Explore the fine art of Nyonya beading and embroidery containing intricate, expressive techniques once used to adorn cherished everyday items.
- \* Interact with vintage artefacts and heirlooms that tell the story of Singapore's layered Peranakan history through craftsmanship and design.
- \* Savour sweet and savoury Peranakan kuehs paired with tea—a delicious ritual that completes this rich cultural encounter.

***Want to know more about this vibrant experience?  
Get in touch with our team.***





# HERITAGE & HARMONY

## Penang's living tapestry | Half-day

Kick off this cultural journey in Penang with a walk down Harmony Street, where four distinct houses of worship reflect Malaysia's spirit of coexistence. Along the way, indulge in local breakfast delights like flaky roti canai and frothy teh tarik. Step into the Pinang Peranakan Mansion, a beautifully preserved home celebrating Straits Chinese heritage through ornate furnishings and traditions. Wind your way to Khoo Kongsi, a magnificent clan house filled with carvings and stories that reveal the pride and prosperity of Penang's Chinese community.

### Exceptional Touchpoints *on your journey*

- \* Experience Malaysia's religious harmony on one street where a mosque, church, Hindu temple, and Taoist temple peacefully coexist.
- \* Taste roti canai with curry and sweet teh Tarik, a beloved Malaysian breakfast that adds flavour to your cultural stroll.
- \* Admire Penang's diverse landmarks from colonial churches to ornate clan houses, each a window into the island's layered history.

*Want to know more about this Peranakan experience?*  
***Get in touch with our team.***





# TIMELESS CHARACTER

## Spirit of Luang Prabang | Half-day

Uncover the soulful charm of Luang Prabang with a journey that blends hands-on tradition, spiritual connection, and architectural beauty. Explore Ban Chan village, where generations of pottery-makers guide you through ancient clay techniques. Receive a traditional Lao blessing from a local monk, believed to cleanse past misfortune and invite good luck. Then, explore Luang Prabang's lesser-known streets on an expert-led walking tour with Mr. Francis Engelmann, a local heritage specialist.

### Exceptional Touchpoints *on your journey*

- \* Join a local family in Ban Chan to shape clay by hand and learn pottery traditions passed down through generations.
- \* Receive a sacred blessing from a Buddhist monk, followed by a heartfelt conversation about his life and spiritual practices.
- \* Walk with UNESCO expert Francis Engelmann through Luang Prabang's quiet alleys and discover its colonial and Laotian architectural gems.

***Want to know more about this enchanting experience?  
Get in touch with our team.***

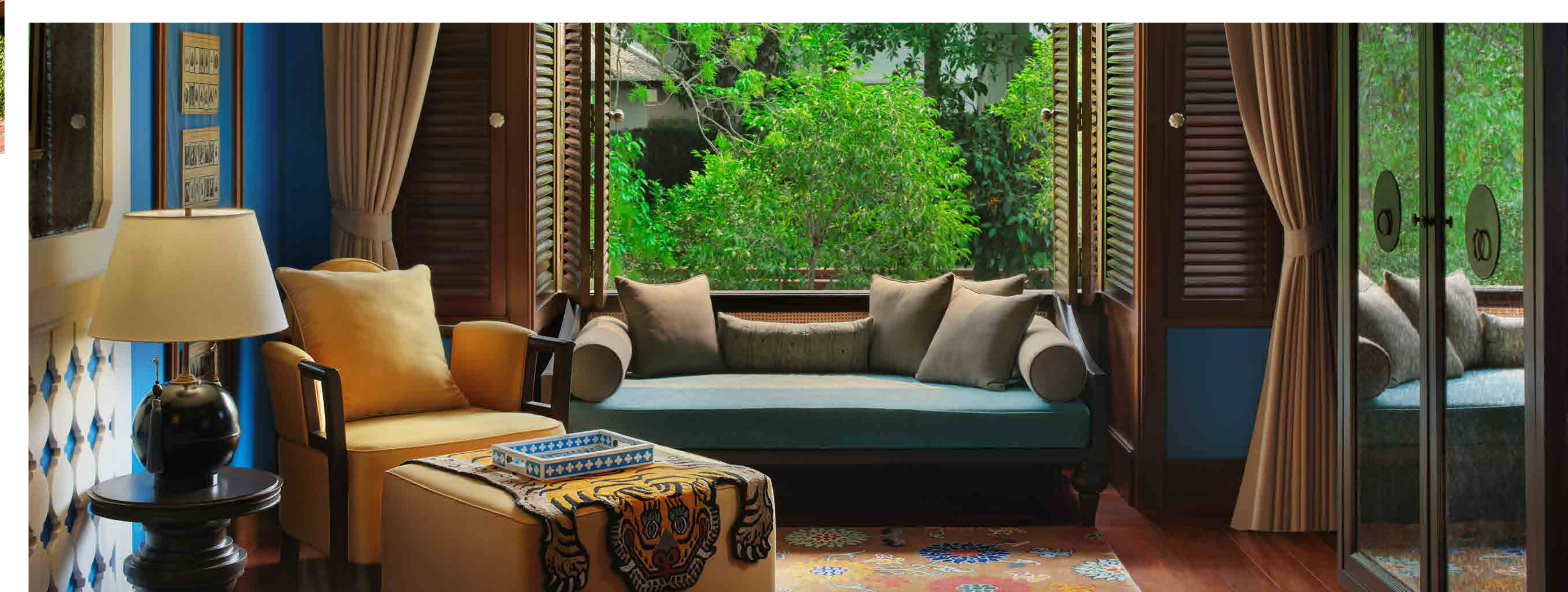
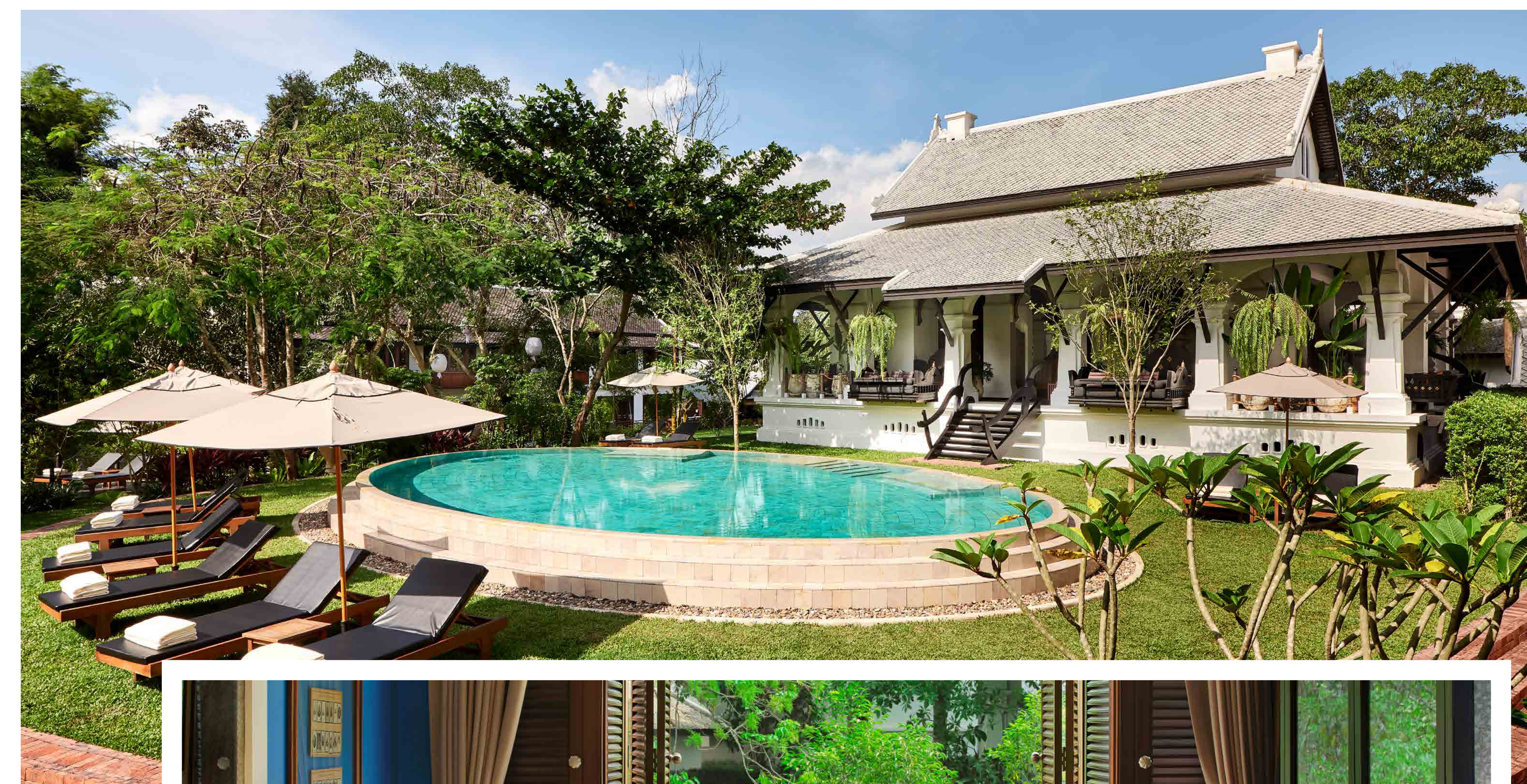




## HARBOUR GRAND KOWLOON

Hong Kong

Harbour Grand Kowloon offers 967 elegantly appointed rooms and suites with sweeping views of Victoria Harbour. Indulge in refined leisure, from our rooftop pool and panoramic fitness centre to gourmet experiences at four exquisite restaurants, featuring handcrafted pastries, a premium grill with fine wines, authentic Japanese barbecue, and international buffets. Retreat to the exclusive Harbour Club Lounge for breakfast, afternoon tea, and evening delights. Just steps from MTR Whampoa, it is the perfect waterfront escape for unwinding or exploring the city in comfort.



## ROSEWOOD LUANG PRABANG

Laos

At the heart of Rosewood Luang Prabang's design philosophy is a commitment to preserving and celebrating the cultural identity of Laos. Located in the countryside surrounding the historic royal settlement of Luang Prabang, a river—emanating from a flowing waterfall—runs through the heart of this exotic estate. Designed by Bill Bensley, the resort embodies a narrative of cultural fusion and adventure, inspired by the legacy of French explorers in Laos and the traditions of local tribes, culminating in uniquely distinctive accommodation designs.







# LET'S START PLANNING

*Get in touch with one of our specialists*

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