

Time for Thailand

10 days | Starts/Ends: Bangkok



Explore the treasures of Thailand from the bustling metropolitan capital of Bangkok and the temples of Chiang Mai to the beautiful scenery at Erawan National Park. Visit hill tribes in Chiang Rai and sample culinary delights at exotic night markets throughout the country.

- Mae Rim – meet ethnic minority villagers and learn about traditional life for the hill tribes
- Ayutthaya – discover the ancient ruins and see the iconic Wat Mahatat where the head of a Buddha statue is entwined in the trees
- Kok River – cruise the river in a traditional longtail boat to enjoy scenic country views and villagers going about their lives

- Tipping Kitty: USD\$45-55pp, paid in USD
- Entrance Fees: USD\$55-65pp, paid in USD
- International flights and visa
- Tip for your tour guide. We recommend you allow USD\$3 - 6 per day, per traveller. Tipping your guide is an entirely personal gesture

HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS

Trip Highlights

- Bangkok – enjoy a guided tour as we ride through the streets on tuk-tuks and cruise the labyrinth of canals on a longtail boat
- Chiang Rai – admire the unusual white temple of Wat Rong Khun which depicts scenes from famous movies including Star Wars
- Erawan National Park – stroll through lush forests and swim in the pools beneath the famous waterfall
- Kanchanaburi – pay your respects at the Allied War Cemetery and enjoy a train journey over the iconic 'Bridge over the River Kwai'
- Chiang Mai – explore the golden Doi Suthep Temple and browse the bustling night market for souvenirs and street food

What's Included

- 9 breakfasts, 1 lunch and 3 dinners
- 8 nights 3 - 4 star & Special Class hotels, 1 night floating hotel in the jungle
- Economy class flight Bangkok to Chiang Rai and Chiang Mai - Bangkok
- Airport arrival transfer day 1 & departure transfer day 10
- Escorted by an English-speaking Thai tour guide
- Guided sightseeing - Bangkok, Kanchanaburi, Erawan National Park, Ayutthaya, Chiang Mai and Chiang Rai
- Train ride over the River Kwai and visit to Hellfire Pass
- Cooking class in Chiang Mai
- Longtail boat cruise on the canals of Bangkok and on the Kok River
- All relevant transfers and transportation in private air-conditioned vehicles

What's Not Included

ITINERARY

Day 1 : Bangkok

Saturday. Welcome to Bangkok, the ever-alluring capital of Thailand. Once you've checked in to our hotel, the rest of the day is free until 6pm when you meet your guide for a welcome meeting. We'll make our way to the lively Khao San Road area and enjoy a welcome dinner down the bustling street of Soi Rambuthri. After dinner your guide will assist you back to the hotel, alternatively you can continue the night at one of the many exuberant bars in the area. **Overnight - Bangkok (D)**

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Day 2 : Bangkok



This morning we set off to explore this sprawling metropolis. The first stop is at the 24 hour flower market where you get to view stunning orchids and roses on sale to the local restaurants and florists. We then jump on Tuk Tuks and take an exhilarating ride through the streets of Bangkok to our next stop - Wat Pho, home to the famous reclining Buddha. Then we visit the spiritual and religious heart of the city - the striking Grand Palace. Topped by golden stupas, the complex has been the site of royal coronations and is home to the legendary Emerald Buddha.

After a break for lunch we board a longtail boat and set off on an exploration of the labyrinth of klongs (canals) that criss cross the city. On our journey we'll glide by stilted houses and gleaming temples whilst old men fish and children play about on the waters edge. Disembarking our boats, the rest of the day is at leisure to further explore Bangkok independently. **Overnight - Bangkok (B)**

Day 3 : Chiang Rai



Bangkok - Chiang Rai. This morning we head for the airport before flying north to stunning Chiang Rai. This afternoon we visit the fabulous White Temple of Wat Rong Khun which depicts scenes from movies including the Matrix, Star Wars and Superman! This

temple is far from ordinary and it's white buildings glisten in the bright Thai sunshine.

This evening we visit Chiang Rai night market, which boasts many interesting stalls selling local & national handicrafts and souvenirs. You'll also find a number of street food stalls offering a variety of delicious Thai dishes. **Overnight - Chiang Rai (B)**

Day 4 : Mae Rim

Chiang Rai - Mae Rim. After a leisurely breakfast we set off towards the hill tribe region, located north of Chiang Mai. Reach our accommodation in the afternoon and board a longtail boat for a cruise down the Kok River. Continue into the surrounding countryside and visit some of the nearby hill tribe villages to gain a wonderful insight into the lives of some of Thailand's smaller minority groups. This evening we enjoy a sumptuous meal before being entertained by dancers from the local community. **Overnight - Mae Rim (B, D)**

Day 5 : Chiang Mai



Mae Rim - Chiang Mai. This morning we visit the Araksa Tea Gardens, home to 110 acres of verdant tea plantations. Learn about the history of the tea plantation and their commitment to supporting the local people. You'll also discover the process of tea growing in this area and try your hand at picking before enjoying a cup of the freshest brew.

Later we continue to Chiang Mai and make our way to the imposing Doi Suthep Temple, which stands like a sentinel over the city. The temple is said to have been founded in 1383 and the beautiful golden stupa sitting in the centre of the temple complex is now the main attraction.

This evening your guide will give you an orientation of the sprawling night market of Chiang Mai. A perfect place to shop and try some exciting local food. **Overnight - Chiang Mai (B)**

Day 6 : Chiang Mai Cooking class



This morning we head to a local cooking school to try our hand at preparing tasty local cuisine in a traditional Thai setting. This informative cooking class teaches us how to prepare three of Thailand's most popular dishes that we'll later get to enjoy for lunch.

The rest of the day is free for you to relax and explore at leisure. In the evening we return to the Chiang Mai night market, a haven of souvenirs and works by local artisans. **Overnight - Chiang Mai (B, L)**

Day 7 : Ancient Ruins of Ayutthaya



Chiang Mai - Ayutthaya. This morning we make our way to the airport for our flight south and then drive to the former Thai capital of Ayutthaya.

This afternoon we explore Ayutthaya's famous ruins, visiting the magnificent stupas at Wat Phri Sanphet and iconic Wat Mahatathat where the head of a damaged Buddha statue

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has slowly been embraced and lifted by a nearby tree. This is one of Thailand's most religiously significant places. This evening we continue to Suphanburi for our overnight stay.

Overnight - Suphanburi (B)

Day 8 : River Kwai & Hellfire Pass



Ayutthaya - Kanchanaburi. This morning we drive to the small town of Kanchanaburi. Here we pay our respects to the thousands of Allied POWs who perished in the area under the control of the Imperial Japanese Army. After pausing at the Allied War Cemetery we continue to the infamous 'Bridge over the River Kwai', immortalised by the film of the same name. You have a chance to take pictures before boarding a train for the 2 hour journey which crosses the bridge and follows the tracks dug by the POWs and locals some 75 years earlier.

Disembarking at Nam Tok we have a short drive to 'Hellfire Pass' where the POWs dug through a mountain often using only their bare hands. A fascinating museum at the entrance details the region's history.

After our day's sightseeing, a leisurely longtail boat ride leads us to our fabulous floating jungle raft hotel. To the beauty of a hundred softly glowing lanterns and the sounds of the tropical forest and cool water flowing by we enjoy dinner and a relaxing evening on the deck. **Overnight - Kanchanaburi (B, D)**

Day 9 : Erawan National Park



Kanchanaburi - Bangkok. This morning you might be lucky enough to interact with the local resident elephant who occasionally pops down to the river bank next to the jungle rafts. We then travel on to the beautiful Erawan National Park to explore the rivers, waterfalls and trails on foot. You'll have time to explore the 7 tiers of waterfall, perhaps taking a swim in each of the pools formed by the falls. Departing Erawan we make our way back to Bangkok for our final evening in the capital.

Overnight - Bangkok (B)

Day 10 : Bangkok

Monday. Today marks the end of your Thai adventure. After breakfast and hotel check out we'll transfer you to the airport in time for your onward departure flight. You're most welcome to extend your stay in Bangkok. If choosing to book post tour accommodation with us, a departure transfer to the airport will be offered at the completion of your post tour accommodation arrangements.(B)

HOTELS

Highlighted below are some of the hotels which we frequently use on this tour, though we reserve the right to substitute these hotels to ones of a similar standard.

Please refer to your Tour Voucher for your confirmed arrival hotel and further arrival information.

Royal Princess Larn Luang

Located in the heart of Bangkok Old City, The Royal Princess Larn Luang hotel offers stylish accommodation along with a range of facilities and, most importantly, comfort. The spacious guest rooms are decorated with neutral colours and equipped with modern amenities such as cable TV and internet

access, with wonderful views of either the city or the pool area with its shady palms. The property has four restaurants, offering a range of delicious international cuisine, while tasty cocktails and light snacks are served in the lobby lounge and Princess Club. After a day of sightseeing guests can enjoy a refreshing swim in the hotel's large outdoor pool, or head to the spa and fitness centre, before listening to live music at the Princess Club.



Laluna Hotel Resort & Spa

Set in a stunning lily garden in Chiang Rai, the Laluna Hotel & Resort is the perfect place to soak up the relaxing atmosphere. Each air-conditioned bungalow features cable TV, refrigerator, mini bar and complimentary WiFi. The resort also features an open-air lobby and bar and restaurant to where guests can enjoy a range of local and international dishes. Guests can also enjoy the lagoon style swimming pool and jacuzzi or sit back and unwind with a massage.

Hmong Hilltribe Lodge

Set within the spectacular mountains and rice fields of Mae Rim, the Hmong Lodge offers guests a unique opportunity to experience traditional Hmong culture amidst striking natural beauty. Conveniently located just an hours drive from Chiang Mai, The Hmong Lodge offers travellers the perfect balance of style and comfort and offers them the chance to meet and learn about nearby tribal communities. The comfortable guest rooms are beautifully crafted from wood and have a splash of colour added with the Hmong quilts. The lodge features an outdoor pool, spa and open-air restaurant. Days can be spent with local tribes and exploring the stunning surrounding landscapes while evenings at the lodge can be filled with a barbecue and al fresco dining followed by

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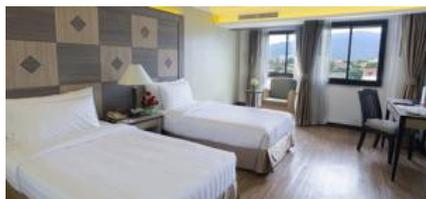
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traditional Hmong performances including dancing.



Amora Hotel Chiang Mai

Close to the Tapae Gate, Amora Hotel Chiang Mai is a modern property with great amenities. Guest rooms are designed in the modern Northern Thai (Lanna) style and come with air conditioning, TV, mini bar and room service. The hotel also boasts a refreshing outdoor pool and fitness centre as well as Chili's restaurant - serving up a delicious array of transitional Thai and international cuisine. The Lobby Lounge Bar and Pool Bar are great places to enjoy a cocktail at the end of the day.



Songphanburi Hotel

Well-located in the centre of Suphanburi, the Songphanburi Hotel offers easy access to many local tourist attractions including the Dragon Descendants Museum and Wat Pa Lelai Woraviharn. Its spacious guestrooms are equipped with all the essential amenities, with WiFi access available. Guests can also take advantage of the refreshing outdoor pool, coffee shop and restaurant, which serves both international and Thai cuisine for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Expect a warm welcome from the friendly team of staff.



River Kwai Jungle Rafts

River Kwai Jungle Rafts Resort offers a unique accommodation experience right on the flowing Kwai Noi River. All floating rooms are tucked into a floating bamboo lodge moored along the historical River Kwai Noi surrounded by lush green mountains and jungle. The walls are weaved from local bamboo decorated with wooden furniture reflecting Mon living style. Each is appointed with en-suite private bathroom, balcony and a hammock. To work in harmony with the natural surroundings, the property does not use electricity and kerosene lamps are provided to light the rooms and evoke a romantic atmosphere.



PRICES / DATES INFO

Departure dates noted with a 'G' are guaranteed to operate. All other departure dates are guaranteed with a minimum of 2 persons. Prices shown are per person when there are 2 persons (or 3 persons if you wish to book a triple) sharing a room. The 'Single supplement' applies for single travellers who require their own room and needs to be added to the per person price. If you are happy to be paired up with another single traveller of the same gender, this can be arranged, thus avoiding the single person supplement.

PRICES / DATES 2019

Date	Twin Share	Single
07 Sep	USD 2,095	USD 2,495
21 Sep	USD 2,095	USD 2,495
05 Oct	USD 2,095	USD 2,495
19 Oct	USD 2,095	USD 2,495
02 Nov	USD 2,095	USD 2,495
16 Nov	USD 2,095	USD 2,495
30 Nov	USD 2,095	USD 2,495

PRICES / DATES 2019

Date	Twin Share	Single
21 Dec	USD 2,095	USD 2,495

PRICES / DATES 2020

Date	Twin Share	Single
08 Feb	USD 2,195	USD 2,595

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