

Your passport to adventure

Classic Thailand

Country(ies): Thailand

Tour type: Private

Transport: AC minibus, train & flight

Group size: Min: 1 | Max: 0

Days: 13 days

Start Location: Bangkok, Thailand

End Location: Bangkok, Thailand

Meals: Breakfasts - 11, Lunches - 5, Dinners - 3

Highlights:

Temples & palaces of Bangkok, bridge on the River Kwai, wildlife of Erawan National Park, Chiang Mai gateway to the north, Chiang Rai and the Golden Triangle



Itinerary

Day 1: Arrive in Bangkok, transfer to hotel

Meet & greet at the airport and transfer to hotel.

OVERNIGHT: Bangkok hotel

MEALS: None

EXTRAS: Extra day in Bangkok - pre-tour Single room supplement (THTMCT)

Day 2: Grand Palace & city canal tours

A tour to visit the splendid Grand Palace complex and the Royal Temple of the Emerald Buddha where varied styles of Thai architecture are delicately woven together to enchant the viewer, see also the Coronation Hall. Afterwards transfer to the pier for an excursion by boat on canals of Bangkok's surprisingly rural western suburbs. Enjoy the natural scenery and observe the daily lives of the people who live along the canals.

OVERNIGHT: Bangkok hotel **MEALS:** Breakfast, Lunch

EXTRAS:

Day 3: Kanchanaburi & River Kwai tour

Depart Bangkok for the River Kwai with stops at the cemetery for Allied prisoners for war, JEATH Museum and the world renowned bridge over the River Kwai. Take a train journey on the Death Railway over the bridge and a spectacular wooden viaduct built by the POWs.

Afternoon excursion to Hell Fire Pass Memorial, the largest of 1000 meter series of passes hacked through the mountains by allied POWs building the Death Railway and so named for its flaming torch-lit appearance at night.

OVERNIGHT: Kanchanaburi camp **MEALS:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

EXTRAS:

Day 4: Erawan National Park

Head to Erawan National Park to visit the spectacular Erawan Waterfall, considered by many to be the most beautiful in the country. This 1,500-metre cascade of water breaks into seven separate tiers, each with its own profusion of plant life. Deep, emerald-green pools await those energetic enough to take the well marked trail which goes all the way up to the sixth tier. The first tier is especially good for a swim after the 700-metre climb from the parking area.

OVERNIGHT: Kanchanaburi camp

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

EXTRAS:

Day 5: Ayutthaya temples tour

Depart Kanchanaburi for Ayutthaya, the former capital of Thailand (AD 1350-1767), the site of magnificent ruins and a World Heritage Site.

Transfer to hotel for fresh up and after that transfer to train station for overnight train to Chiang Mai (1st class aircon).

OVERNIGHT: Sleeper train **MEALS:** Breakfast,Lunch

EXTRAS:

Day 6: Doi Suthep temple tour, Kantoke dinner

Arrive in Chiang Mai in the morning, transfer to hotel accommodation. A tour to visit the Temple of Wat Phra That Doi Suthep, spectacularly situated on a mountaintop at an altitude of 3,520 feet. The temple's golden pagoda contains Buddha relics, and attracts Buddhist pilgrims from all over the world throughout the year. Its compound offers an exhilarating view of Chiang Mai city and surrounding countryside. Enjoy Kantoke dinner which is an important part of the northern people's culture and hospitality. The name derives from the individual tables set with a variety of northern dishes served in lacquer ware. During the dinner there will be a performance of traditional northern Thai and hill-tribe music and dancing.

OVERNIGHT: Chiang Mai hotel

MEALS: Dinner

EXTRAS:

Day 7: Tour to Lampang & elephant centre

Depart Chiang Mai in the morning to Lampang, visit the Elephant Conservation Centre to see elephants bathing and demonstrating their skills at hauling lumber. Tour the facilities of the elephant hospital, to which sick and injured elephants are brought from all over the country and also see how young elephants are weaned from their dependence upon humans in preparation for releasing them into the wild. The centre also runs training courses for mahouts and participants can join in at the beginners' level and learn some of the basic techniques of elephant handling. Continue to Lampang city for lunch followed by a visit to one of the most sacred temples in the North, Wat Phrathat Lampang Luang, and the Burmese-style temples Wat Phra Kaew Dontao and Wat Sri Longmuang. Return to Chiang Mai in the evening.

OVERNIGHT: Chiang Mai hotel

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch

EXTRAS:

Day 8: Chiang Mai, free day

Free day in Chiang Mai to enjoy a temples tour, learn how to make Thai cuisine or experience a handcrafts tour.

OVERNIGHT: Chiang Mai hotel

MEALS: Breakfast

EXTRAS:

Day 9: Chiang Rai, Mae Kok river boat trip

Proceed to Chiang Rai and then cruise down the Mae Kok River. Continue by road to to Chiang Rai and check in to hotel.

OVERNIGHT: Chiang Rai hotel

MEALS: Breakfast

EXTRAS:

Day 10: Full day Golden Triangle tour

After breakfast visit the famous Golden Triangle, where Thailand, Myanmar and Laos meet. Visit Yao and Akha hill-tribe villages and then continue to the border town of Mai Sai with a stop for lunch along the way. Located just across the Sai River from Myanmar, the town has a thriving market based on cross-border trade.

OVERNIGHT: Chiang Rai hotel

MEALS: Breakfast

EXTRAS:

Day 11: Chiang Rai, free day

Free day to explore Chiang Rai and the surrounding area.

OVERNIGHT: Chiang Rai hotel

MEALS: Breakfast

EXTRAS:

Day 12: Morning flight to Bangkok

Transfer to airport to airport for flight to Bangkok. Upon arrival transfer to hotel.

OVERNIGHT: Bangkok hotel

MEALS: Breakfast

EXTRAS:

Day 13: Transfer to the airport for departure

Free time in Bangkok before transfer to airport for departure flight.

OVERNIGHT: N/A **MEALS:** Breakfast

EXTRAS: Extra day in Bangkok - post-tour

Included:

- All Accommodation
- · All meals indicated in your itinerary
- Airport transfers at the start and end of your trip
- Site entrance fees for all tours detailed in your itinerary
- Qualified tour guide to accompany you on all sightseeing
- Private vehicles for all road journeys indicated
- Comprehensive pre-departure material

Excluded:

- International flights (can be arranged on request)
- Thailand Tourist Visa
- Departure taxes
- Tips
- Meals, drinks & snacks not mentioned in the itinerary
- Any other items not mentioned in the itinerary

Options

Our tours are designed to include all that you need to enjoy a really special time in the destination you're visiting. However, we do also offer some extra options to complement the tour and add some additional sightseeing or activities, or some extra time at either end of the tour.

All accommodation based options (e.g. Single supplements, extra nights, cruise upgrades) should be booked and paid for in advance so that we can make the appropriate arrangements. Other options may either be booked and paid for in advance or while you are on the tour, though we recommend booking in advance to ensure there are no issues with availability.

Many options are priced the same throughout the year, but some may incur single or high season supplements - full details are given on the tour reservation form or on request.

No Options

1. Accommodation

We use good quality hotels rated at the Thai 4 and 5-star level on this tour, together with a river camp and sleeper train. Accommodation is based on twin, triple or double en-suite rooms with air conditioning. Please visit the accommodation tab of this tour for examples of the hotels normally used on this tour. If you have any specific accommodation requests please let us know and we'll be happy to provide you with a customised quotation.

2. Transport

Our trips feature a mix of different transport options. We want you to feel like you're really experiencing the country you're travelling through, but at the same time we want you to finish journeys refreshed enough to enjoy the next stage of the tour. With this in mind we use public transport where we think it offers a good local experience & this may include 2nd class overnight sleeper trains, local buses and local ferries. We also use private transportation including jeeps, song- thaews or pickup trucks, and mini buses for sightseeing tours where required.

Sleeper trains:

The sleeper trains in Thailand are of a good standard and are popular with tourists. Each carriage has its own steward who ensures the train is kept clean and tidy, and from whom meals and drinks can be ordered to your seat. There is also a separate restaurant car. Each carriage will sleep approximately 40 people. On either side of the carriage there are 2 seats facing each other, with a window and small table. In the evening, the steward will convert these seats into beds for you, with a pillow, sheets and a blanket as well as a curtain for privacy.

3. Transfers

The tour includes a 24-hour arrival and departure airport-hotel transfer service in Bangkok airport and all other transfers.

4. Group Size/Tour Leaders/Guides

As we don't offer guaranteed group departures on this tour we can run the itinerary for however many people you happen to be travelling with, starting from 1 upwards. The prices given for this tour are based on a minimum of 2 passengers travelling, so if you have a different number of passengers in your group please contact us for a customised quotation.

In Thailand we provide fully trained, local English-speaking guides for all of the sightseeing tours. At Encounters Travel we only use local guides and reps. We feel this gives you the best experience of the country and the sites you are seeing. Please check our website for more details and profiles of some of our most famous guides.

5. Dates & Prices

This tour is designed as a sample tailor-made tour itinerary. As such we do not offer set group departure dates that you can join. Rather, the tour is available for you to do privately starting on any date of the year. Guideline seasonal prices are given below, based on 2 people travelling. If you would like to adjust the tour itinerary, or there will be more or less people travelling, please contact us and we will customise a price for you. For many people planning a trip to Thailand, the weather will be a determining factor in choosing when to travel. In general there isn't really a 'bad' time to visit Thailand as you'll normally experience a mix of sunshine and rainy days at most times of the year. The high season for travel in Thailand is between November and February when the weather is generally at its best throughout much of the country. In Northern Thailand the dry season is from November to May and then June to October generally experiences heavy rainfall. Please speak with our reservations team who will be happy to help you in selecting an appropriate time for your tour.

Printed on: Wednesday 22nd of October 2025

Note: Please $\underline{\text{download an up-to-date copy}}$ of these tour notes shortly before you travel as itineraries and information does change from time to time.