



Jungles & Beaches

Country(ies): Thailand

Tour type: Private

Transport: A/C minibus, sleeper train, local ferry & flight

Group size: Min: 2 | Max: Any

Days: 11 days

Start Location: Bangkok, Thailand

End Location: Bangkok, Thailand

Meals: Breakfasts - 9, Lunches - 3, Dinners - 3

Highlights:

Spending the night in Khao Sok National Park's unique tree and raft houses, experience river canoeing & jungle walks, Ko Samui's idyllic beaches



Itinerary

Day 1: Arrive into Bangkok, transfer to hotel

Upon arrival our staff will meet you at the airport and transfer you to your hotel in Bangkok for the start of your trip.

OVERNIGHT: Bangkok hotel

MEALS: None

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

Day 2: Bangkok canal & city tour, overnight train to Surat Thani

Today we discover historical Bangkok as we enjoy a traditional long-tail boat tour of the city's old canals, stopping off at lively river markets to view the rituals of daily life that have hardly changed in hundreds of years. We finish with a visit to the iconic Temple of Dawn (Wat Arun) before transferring to the station with time for a snack before boarding the overnight train to Surat Thani.

OVERNIGHT: On board sleeper train

MEALS: Breakfast

EXTRAS:

Day 3: Arrive in Surat Thani, transfer to Khao Sok

Arriving into Surat Thani this morning we then make the short journey into Khao Sok National Park. This verdant and tropical rainforest will be our home for the next 3 nights as we discover the flora and fauna unique to this part of the world. In the afternoon we take to the river for 2 hours of canoeing (or tubing!) and also visit a local temple famous for the monkeys that are kept here. Later you'll experience the night-time jungle up close by sleeping in tree houses.

OVERNIGHT: Khao Sok tree-house

MEALS: Lunch.Dinner

EXTRAS:

Day 4: Khao Sok National Park

We start today with a 4-hour guided trek through the beautiful Khao Sok national park whose rich flora and fauna is famous throughout Thailand. After lunch we back to your tree house via Mai Yai waterfall and spend the evening relaxing after a long day and enjoying eating some local specialities.

OVERNIGHT: Khao Sok tree-house **MEALS:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

EXTRAS:

Day 5: Khao Sok National Park

Leaving our tree house accommodation this morning we travel to Cheow Lan Lake and our raft houses, surrounded by the spectacular limestone cliffs and forested scenery. After lunch we trek through the nearby jungle to a beautiful local lagoon where you have the chance to explore a stunning cave, famous for its stalactite and stalagmite formations. Then, return to the Raft house for dinner and to relax under the stars.

OVERNIGHT: Khao Sok raft-house **MEALS:** Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner

EXTRAS:

Day 6: Khao Sok, travel to Ko Samui

Today we swap the rainforest for the beautiful tropical island of Ko Samui on the South China Sea. Departing Khao Sok we travel back to Surat Thani from where we catch the ferry to the island and transfer to the hotel.

OVERNIGHT: Koh Samui hotel

MEALS: Breakfast

EXTRAS:

Day 7: Ko Samui, free time

The next 3 days are yours to explore the sun-drenched island of Ko Samui at your own leisure. With many incredible dive sites dotted around the island this is a great place to arrange any diving or snorkelling options or just relax on one of the islands many golden and idyllic beaches.

OVERNIGHT: Ko Samui hotel

MEALS: Breakfast

EXTRAS:

Day 8: Ko Samui, free time

Today and tomorrow are both free days on Ko Samui. The island offers so many options to fill these days - you may want to relax on the beautiful beaches or head out to one of the incredible dive sites. We would be happy to suggest some options for you to fill these days.

OVERNIGHT: Ko Samui hotel

MEALS: Breakfast

EXTRAS:

Day 9: Ko Samui, free time

Today is your last day in beautiful Ko Samui. Don't miss the opportunity to catch your last rays of sunshine before heading but to Bangkok.

OVERNIGHT: Ko Samui hotel

MEALS: Breakfast

EXTRAS:

Day 10: Ko Samui, fly to Bangkok

Saying farewell to our tropical island paradise we transfer to the airport for the short flight back to Bangkok. Upon arrival we transfer to the hotel.

OVERNIGHT: Bangkok hotel

MEALS: Breakfast

EXTRAS:

Day 11: Bangkok, departure transfer to the airport

Free day, transfer to the airport for departure flight.

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

EXTRAS: Extra day in Bangkok - post-tour

Included:

- All accommodation as stated in the itinerary
- All transport and transfers
- 24-hour airport arrival & departure transfer service
- Services of a local tour guide during sightseeing and activities
- Admission fees, with instruction where necessary
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary

Excluded:

- International flights (available on request)
- Visa fees
- Travel insurance (compulsory, available on request)
- Meals not indicated in the itinerary
- Drinks, snacks and other personal expenses (e.g. laundry)
- Tips for tour leader, rafting guide and park guide
- Any other items not mentioned above

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 3-star level on this tour, together with tree houses and raft houses in Khao Sok National Park. Hotel rooms all have air-conditioning and en-suite bathrooms.

Khao Sok Tree houses:

There are 7 individual tree houses and 1 tree house with 3 individual rooms. They are up quite high in the forest canopy complete with sturdy stairs and handrails. One of the tree houses is at a lower level for those with a fear of heights. Facilities are basic but comfortable with private toilet and cold water shower, double bed and mosquito net. Our backdrop is a limestone mountain with interesting caves to explore. About 100 metres away is the dining and relaxing area located in a classic Thai house.

Khao Sok Raft houses:

On the Raja Phraba lake, there are 7 individual raft houses and 1 raft house with 3 rooms. Each of the individual raft houses has a double bed and the 3 roomed raft house has double and single beds that can be configured into different combinations as required. All rooms have mosquito nets. There are shared toilet facilities nearby. The dining and relaxing area located in a separate raft house.

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

Our Thailand small-group departures to have a maximum of 12 travellers.

Private and tailor-made tours are available for any number of travellers and we will provide a price based on the number of people in your party.

At Encounters Travel we aim to only use local Thai 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

We run regular small-group departures on this tour starting on Sundays throughout the year. All departures are guaranteed to run with a minimum of 2 people. Departure dates and prices are listed on our website and on a separate dates & prices sheet available on request.
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Note: Please <u>download an up-to-date copy</u> of these tour notes shortly before you travel as itineraries and information does change from time to time.