

Family Fun Adventure in Thailand

Highlights

- ✚ Tour of Bangkok, Khao Yai National Park safari, Ban Prasart archaeological excavation site, Phi Mai Khmer Temple Ruins!
- ✚ Bridge over the River Kwai, Lake Safari Thailand houseboat, lake cruising, caves, tribal village, elephant ride, river rafting and much, much more

Itinerary

Day 1 Depart North America

Depart from North America today on an overnight connecting flight to Thailand.

Day 2 Bangkok

Welcome to Bangkok arriving late evening. Upon arrival at Suvarnabhumi International Airport, your local tour guide will greet and escort you to your hotel for check in.

Hua Chang Heritage Hotel (Deluxe)

Day 3 Bangkok

Spend the day visiting Bangkok's magnificent temples including Wat Trimitr with the solid gold Buddha that weighs several tons, Wat Po and the famous reclining Buddha, the sacred Emerald Buddha and the Grand Palace. The palace is considered one of the most sacred sites in the Kingdom and is set in an ancient Thai courtyard. After lunch in a local restaurant, head off on a tuk-tuk to Phahurat Market, in the heart of Bangkok's Little India. Wander around the maze of stalls and shops selling all kinds of fabrics, ornaments and accessories before being taken back to your hotel for a well earned rest.

Hua Chang Heritage Hotel (Deluxe) (Breakfast and Lunch Included)

Day 4 Bangkok - Khao Yai National Park

After breakfast, you will be driven to Khao Yai National Park (about three hours) stopping first at your chosen hotel to check-in and freshen up. Afterwards, a naturalist guide will take you into the park, where a camp lunch of local Thai Food will be set up for you. After eating, head off on foot, onto the grassland of a once a cultivated farming area until you reach the wildlife watchtower and salt lake. You will then be taken to one of the many waterfalls in the park for a swim to cool off from the midday heat. After dinner at the hotel,

you will be met by a guide who will take you back into the park for a night safari. Nocturnal animals you are likely to see include the large Indian civet cat, porcupines, sambar and other deer, and perhaps wild dog or wild elephants at the salt lake. The Greenery Resort (Premier) (Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner Included)

Day 5 Khao Yai National Park

Today stretch your legs with a five kilometre leisurely hike through one of the most scenic trails in the park. Your guide will help you to spot pig-tail monkeys and great hornbills, as well as some of the other amazing wildlife that can be found. After building up a sweat, next stop is Heiw Suwat Waterfall for a much needed swim to cool off before heading back to your hotel for dinner. After dinner, you will be taken out on another night safari into the park.

The Greenery Resort (Premier) (Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner Included)

Day 6 Khao Yai National Park - Korat - Bangkok

After breakfast you will be taken to Ban Prasart archaeological excavation site. Set up as an outdoor museum, it consists of three pits that have been landscaped and are open to the public. Bones and pots have been found dating the site as far back as 3000 years. Then visit Phi Mai Khmer Temple Ruins.

After time to explore and lunch, you will be driven back to Bangkok arriving around late afternoon.

Hua Chang Heritage Hotel Bangkok (Deluxe) (Breakfast and Lunch Included)

Day 7 Bangkok - Kanchanaburi - Khao Laem Lake

After pick up (8:00 - 8:30) you will drive to Kanchanaburi and the infamous 'Bridge over the River Kwai'. After lunch continue to a lake-side village to board a traditional-style Thai houseboat. Spend the afternoon swimming, relaxing on deck or napping in a hammock as the houseboat slowly cruises the lake. In the evening enjoy a delicious Thai dinner.

Lake Safari Thailand houseboat (Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner Included)

Day 8 Khao Laem Lake

After a hearty Western breakfast, go kayaking to the end of a small bay (or by motorboat). Take a short hike through the jungle to a waterfall for a swim and play (please note that there is no water in the waterfall from March-May), then head towards Coconut Island, one

of few inhabited islands in this area. After exploring the island return to the houseboat to relax and swim, then in the afternoon cruise to beautiful spot to anchor for the night.

Lake Safari Thailand houseboat (Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner Included)

Day 9 Khao Laem Lake

After breakfast go on a short kayak adventure into some small caves, then return to the houseboat and head north. In the afternoon a long-tail boat will take you along a narrow river to a tribal village to embark on a jungle elephant trek, followed by rafting downstream.

Note: rafting can be "easy" from November to June, but is moderately strenuous from July to October. Dinner is onboard the houseboat under a starry night sky.

Lake Safari Thailand houseboat (Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner Included)

Day 10 Khao Laem Lake - Sanklaburi - Hua Hin

Swim, fish, or sunbathe before and immediately after breakfast. Learn the story of the 'sunken temple' as you pass by on the houseboat's last leg to shore. Around 11:00hrs, say goodbye to the on-board crew, and ensure all gear is loaded into the van. You will then walk to a village where local people wearing the traditional Burmese 'Longi' and other tribal identifiers make it seem more Karen, Mon, Lao and Burmese than Thai. Here, visit the temple and a Burmese market before continuing a short drive to Sangkhlaburi town. Learn the unique history of the town from your guide, and walk the long wooden Burmese style bridge.

Meet at the minivan, and then transfer to Hua Hin, check in at your hotel and relax at leisure.

Amari Hua Hin (Breakfast and Lunch Included)

Day 11 Hua Hin

Free day at leisure.

Amari Hua Hin (Breakfast Included)

Day 12 Hua Hin

Free day at leisure.

Amari Hua Hin (Breakfast Included)

Day 13 Hua Hin

Free day at leisure.

Amari Hua Hin (Breakfast Included)

Day 14 Hua Hin - Bangkok

After breakfast you will be transferred to Bangkok's international airport in time for your onward flight. (Breakfast Included)

Extension (Additional \$987 CAD)

Day 1 Bangkok

Today you will get away from the hectic pace of Bangkok and escape to a world unknown to the tourist trail. Spend a day relaxing with a local fisherman and his family, along with your experience guide. Explore a beautiful place full of wildlife, traditional Thai agriculture and view how the locals really live on a daily basis.

The Berkeley Hotel (Breakfast included)

Day 2 Bangkok

Up early today as you will be picked up at 5:00 am for a VIP trip to Tiger Temple. This is a truly once-in-a-lifetime experience that you won't get anywhere else in the world. This is hands on with young tiger cubs and feeding, bathing and walking with the adult tigers.

Don't forget your camera this day. After lunch you will return to Bangkok for free time.

Berkeley Hotel Pratunam (Breakfast included)

Day 3 Bangkok

This is the last full day and your day to shop, explore or relax, as you wish.

Berkeley Hotel Pratunam (Breakfast included)

Day 4 Bangkok - North America

This morning you will be transferred to the airport for your international flight home arriving on the same date as departure.

Price

\$3160.00 (land only) \$2870.00 USD

Pricing is an estimate only and is subject to change based on availability and other factors. You can use this tour as the basis for a custom tour if you would like but pricing for custom tours may differ depending on changes made. Please note below what is included and not included below:

January 1 - April 15 departs Wednesday and Saturday

April 16 - June 14 departs Wednesday

June 15 - July 31 departs Wednesday and Saturday

August 1 - November 29 departs Wednesday

November 30 - December 31 departs Wednesday and Saturday

Included:

- ✓ All hotel accommodation
- ✓ All meals as per itinerary
- ✓ All sightseeing tours as specified by the itinerary
- ✓ Entrance fees as per the itinerary
- ✓ Private, knowledgeable English speaking guides
- ✓ Private air-conditioned transportation with licensed drivers
- ✓ All hotel and airport transfers

Not included:

- ⊗ Travel insurance
- ⊗ International flights
- ⊗ Excess baggage charges
- ⊗ Visa fees (if applicable)
- ⊗ Meals and beverages not specified on itinerary
- ⊗ Items of a personal nature such as laundry and gratuities

Map



Bangkok

Khao Yai National Park

Korat

Khao Laem Kanchanaburi Lake

Hua Hin

Travel Guide

Kingdom of Thailand (Prathet Thai)



Location: Asia

Status: UN Member Country

Capital City: Bangkok (*Krung Thep*)

Main Cities: Chiang Mai, Chon Buri, Phuket

Population: 66,000,000

Area: 513,120 km²

Currency: Baht (THB)

Languages: Thai, Chinese, Malay

Religions: Buddhist, Muslim

Calling code: +66

Drive on the left

As one of the most popular tourist destinations in the world, Thailand has something for everyone with its rich culture and exotic adventures. Whether you are there to relax on one of the stunning beaches in the south, trek through the northern jungle, or indulge in sumptuous cuisine in the bustling capital city, the 'Land of Smiles' is the perfect holiday destination.

Best time to go

Anytime is a good time to visit Thailand. The high season is typically November through April when it is a bit dryer and cooler. To avoid the crowds, go from May to October.

General Information

Passport and visa

A passport with at least six months validity from the date of entry is required. Visitors from most countries who arrive in Thailand without a visa will be granted a 30 day stay if they have proof of an onward ticket and adequate funds. Some nationalities will need to pay around 1000 THB for a visa on arrival. A very select few nationalities cannot apply for a visa on arrival. We advise that you contact the Thai embassy or consulate in your country of origins for complete information. For longer stays, a visa should be applied for before departure. You need to enter Thailand within 90 days of the visa being issued, otherwise it will be invalid.

Money

Major credit cards are accepted by hotels and large shops but cash, in the form of the local currency Thai Baht, is the preferred tender elsewhere. Traveller's cheques are not generally accepted outside of hotels, so change them for cash at a bank exchange which you'll find in most tourist spots. ATM's are also widely available and accept most international cards. Several banks have restrictions on ATM card use abroad, thus we advise to verify this with your bank before departure.

Post and telecommunications

The Thai postal service is very reliable and there are also courier services widely available. Calling abroad is easy but expensive. Internet access is available in all major tourist places and you will find WiFi in most cafes in more built up areas.

Transportation

Traffic in Bangkok can be very bad, especially during the rainy season. Using the Metro or Sky Train is by far the fastest and most convenient way to get around. However, these do not cover the entire city. If using a taxi, try to make sure you get one on the meter. Tuk-tuks are another way of getting around. These motorised, three wheel cars tend to be more expensive than meter taxis, and prices are negotiated beforehand.

Motorbike taxis: Travel by motorbike in Thailand is not safe and under no circumstances is this sanctioned or recommended. Please note that travel by motorbike is not usually covered by insurance. Please check the fine print of your travel insurance policy to be sure of your coverage.

Health and Safety

Climate

Thailand has a tropical monsoon climate.

April and May are the hottest months of the year when even the locals complain about the heat.

June sees the beginning of the South West Monsoon, and brings with it the rainy season, which continues intermittently until the end of October.

From November to the end of February, the weather is cooler and less humid.

The North and North-East are generally cooler than Bangkok in the winter and hotter in the summer. In the far north, around Mae Hong Son, temperatures can occasionally drop as low as 20C.

Health and wellbeing

Healthcare in Thailand is some of the best in South East Asia, with most hospitals offering a Western level of service. However, be aware that it can be expensive. Each traveller is responsible for his or her own health. First and foremost, make sure that you have travel insurance for your trip.

Vaccinations

Before travelling to Thailand, please ensure you have adequate protection against disease. Contact your doctor for the latest medical advice on the vaccinations you need, no less than two months before your departure. Be aware that there is malaria risk in rural parts of Thailand.

Travel insurance (compulsory)

We do everything possible to ensure a safe and enjoyable trip. However, travel inevitably involves some risk and this should be recognised by holidaymakers. Travel insurance is a cost effective way of protecting yourself and your equipment should any problems occur such as cancelled trips, delays, medical emergencies, baggage loss or damage. It also gives you peace of mind. Please make sure your travel insurance covers all activities planned on your trip.

Culture & Customs

Etiquette and cultural differences

Experiencing different cultures is one of the joys of travelling, and it is important that these differences are respected. Thailand has cultural norms and taboos which we encourage visitors to understand and abide by.

Try not to get angry. Losing face by shouting or becoming abusive is one of the biggest faux pas in Thailand. It is extremely impolite and unlikely to achieve a positive outcome.

Refrain from public displays of affection, they are considered offensive. It is rare to see couples holding hands. However, it is quite common for friends of the same sex.

It is polite to remove your shoes before entering a house – look for shoes at the front door as a clue.

Thais greet each other with a slight bow and a prayer-like gesture, with the younger or lower-ranked person usually initiating the gesture. For foreigners and business, handshakes are acceptable.

Temple visit etiquette

Foreigners are always welcome in temples. However, it is important that a few simple rules of etiquette are followed:

Dress appropriately and act with the utmost respect when visiting Wats and temples.

Do not wear shorts or tank tops and make sure your shoulders and knees are covered.

Remove your shoes and hat before going into a monastery.

If you sit down in front of the dais (the platform on which the Buddha's are placed), sit with your feet to the side rather than in the lotus position.

Never point your finger or the soles of your feet towards a person or a figure of the Buddha.

A woman may accept something from a monk but should never touch a monk.

Show Respect and turn off mobile phones, remove headphones, lower your voice and avoid inappropriate conversation.

Food and drink

Thailand's cuisine is regarded by many people as some of the best in the world. Rich with citrus, coriander and liberal helpings of fresh chillies, the food has a characteristic tang that many fall in love with. Like all other Buddhist countries, vegetarian food is available in most restaurants.

Here are some popular dishes:

Tom Yum Goong (spicy shrimp soup)

Pad Thai (Thai style fried noodles)

Som Tum (spicy green papaya salad)

Khao Pad (fried rice)

Gaeng Keow Wan Kai (chicken green curry)

Khao Niao Mamuang (sticky rice in coconut milk, served with mango)

Water

It is not advisable to drink tap water in Thailand. Bottled water is recommended but do check the expiry date before opening. Ice is widely used and is produced with treated water.

Public holidays

There are many public holidays in Thailand. The main one is the Thai New Year called Songkran. Songkran is celebrated all over the country, with its highlight in Chiang Mai where celebrations go on for over a week. Many Thai people travel back to their hometowns to visit local temples during this time. Be aware that this can make transportation more difficult. The most notable way of celebrating Songkran is by splashing water on each other. Large water fights break out across the country and innocent bystanders are favoured targets. Store your valuables and electronics carefully!

Helpful tips

Donations and gift giving

Although there is poverty in certain areas of Thailand, please read the following points about donations and gift giving.

Do not give money to people begging, especially children. This reinforces the belief that begging is an acceptable way to make a living. If children make money from begging, their parents are less likely to send them to school. Children working on the streets are also vulnerable to abuse. Giving money and goods to beggars can accentuate an unequal relationship between locals and visitors, with tourists being seen as purely money givers.

Do not give sweets to children in villages that we visit.

Do not feel that you necessarily have to give material things. Sometimes, giving your friendship, time and interest to locals can be the best gift of all.

Tipping

Tipping is a personal matter and travellers are encouraged to tip any amount they feel is appropriate. For your convenience, we have included a suggested tipping guide below:

Bellboy: 10-20 baht per suitcase / bag

Chambermaid: 20 – 40 baht per day

Guides: 100 – 150 baht per day for guides (depending on group size and performance)

Drivers: 100 per day, per person

Restaurants: in smart establishments you may find that the tip is already included in the bill. In local restaurants tips are not expected but you may wish to leave loose change on the table.

Price guide

Generally, things are cheap in Thailand. However as a tourist you will get overcharged if you are not careful. Haggling is considered a sport when it comes to non-food products. Always stay calm and polite and you'll be surprised at the discounts you may get. Be aware that many items for sale on street stands are counterfeit.

Street food

Phad Thai: THB 25 –50

Rice dish: THB 30 – 60

Restaurants

Western dishes: from THB 150

Thai dishes: from THB 80

Drinks

Soft drinks THB 10 – 20

Beer: THB 50 – 70

Fruit juice: THB 20 - 30

Water: THB 10 - 15

Other Items

DVDs (real): THB 100 - 200

SIM card: THB 100

Mobile phone: from THB 1000

TRAVEL
LTD

Pre-departure checklist

Travel insurance

Passport with at least six months validity from date of entry

Photocopy of passport

Visa or visa on arrival

Vaccinations

ATM cards/travellers cheques

All relevant tickets Reconfirmed

flights Lightweight clothing

Long-sleeved shirts and trousers (recommended for evenings)

Electrical adaptor: 220V, 50Hz; 2 pin plugs

A small bag/backpack for day and overnight trips

Appropriate shoes for trekking, cycling and walking

Insect repellent

Sunscreen

Medication/first aid kit

Please note: *Domestic airlines impose restrictions on baggage at approx 20kg maximum, so travel lightly where possible. Also be aware that train and boat cabins have limited space.*

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